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Giving thanks to God—and you

Blessings are numerous for local Church in 2008, page 10.

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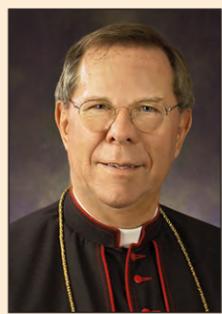
November 21, 2008

Vol. XLIX, No. 8 75¢

U.S. bishops voice hope for Obama administration, point to possible obstacles to desired unity for all

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Last week, the bishops of the Catholic Church of the United States met in Baltimore for our annual fall assembly.



There has been much discussion about the recent election and how it might affect life issues. The bishops voiced hope for President-elect Barack Obama and his administration at our meeting, but we also pointed out possible obstacles to our desired unity.

We welcome this historic moment of transition in our country's history, and we look forward to working with our new

president and Congress.

The unity that we desire will be impossible to achieve, however, if the new administration aggressively seeks pro-abortion policies. Such policies can only alienate all of those Americans who believe that life begins at conception and ends with a natural death.

As Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, said, "The common good is not the sum total of individual interests; it is achieved in the working out of a common life based upon good reason and good will for all."

I agree wholeheartedly with Cardinal George and would like to share with you a statement that the bishops unanimously approved given by Cardinal George concerning this matter.

The statement follows.

"If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labor; if the Lord does not watch over the city, in vain does the watchman keep vigil" (Ps 127, vs. 1).

"The Bishops of the Catholic Church in the United States welcome this moment of historic transition and look forward to working with President-elect [Barack] Obama and the members of the new Congress for the common good of all.

"Because of the Church's history and the scope of her ministries in this country, we want to continue our work for economic justice and opportunity for all; our efforts to reform laws around immigration and the situation of the undocumented; our provision of better education and

adequate health care for all, especially for women and children; our desire to safeguard religious freedom and foster peace at home and abroad. The Church is intent on doing good, and will continue to cooperate gladly with the government and all others working for these goods.

"The fundamental good is life itself, a gift from God and our parents. A good state protects the lives of all. Legal protection for those members of the human family waiting to be born in this country was removed when the Supreme Court decided *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. This was bad law. The danger [that] the Bishops see at this moment is that a bad court decision will be enshrined in bad legislation that is more radical than the 1973 Supreme Court decision itself.

"In the last Congress, a Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) was introduced that would, if brought forward in the same form today, outlaw any 'interference' in providing abortion at will. It would deprive the American people in all 50 states of the freedom they now have to enact modest restraints and regulations on the abortion industry.

See BUECHLEIN, page 2

See related editorial, page 4.



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, seated in the third row, joins Bishop Placido Rodriguez of Lubbock, Texas, center, and other U.S. bishops in reviewing a proposed statement on the U.S. political situation on Nov. 11 at the meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore.

Economic statement, blessing in the womb, Missal translation approved by U.S. bishops

BALTIMORE (CNS)—While a statement concerning fears about laws and changes in regulations on abortion that might advance under a new Democratic-run Congress and White House was the major news that came out of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' annual fall meeting on Nov. 10-12 (see above story), the U.S. bishops took action in several other areas.

Among other meeting actions, the bishops approved a statement on the economy, a blessing for children in the womb and a second section of the *Roman Missal* translation. They gave five task forces the authority to develop Church priorities up to 2011 on issues ranging from strengthening marriage to addressing cultural diversity in the Church. They also approved a budget of

\$144 million, a 2.25 percent increase from 2008, and they elected a conference secretary-elect and chairmen-elect for five committees: pro-life activities, cultural diversity, communications, doctrine and national collections.

In their statement on the economic crisis, approved on Nov. 11, they reminded people that "we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. We are all in this together."

Adopted in a voice vote, the brief statement released by Cardinal Francis E. George on behalf of the bishops noted that "hard times can isolate us or they can bring us together.

"As pastors and bishops, we see the many human and moral consequences of this crisis," the statement said. Though the impact of the crisis is greater in some regions of the country, families all across the nation are losing their homes, workers are losing their jobs and health care coverage, retirement savings are

threatened, and people are losing the sense of hope and security, it continued.

But the Church will continue to "reach out to those in need, stand with those who are hurt, and work for policies that bring greater compassion, accountability and justice to economic life," the statement said. The bishops concluded by offering prayers for anyone who is "hurting, anxious or discouraged in these difficult times."

Despite some continued criticism that the latest English translation of the third edition of the *Roman Missal* is plagued by obscure wording and sentences that are too long, the U.S. bishops approved another lengthy section of the translation on Nov. 11.

Needing affirmation by two-thirds of See BISHOPS, page 2

Parishes offer practical and spiritual support for the unemployed

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The impact of the wave of layoffs in firms, factories, financial companies and the automotive industry can be felt in parish halls or church basements across the country on any given weeknight.

That is where many of the newly unemployed go for practical and sometimes spiritual advice.

Just outside Detroit, at St. Andrew Parish in Rochester, a job support group began last year with about 20 participants. Now, at least 80 people attend the twice-monthly meetings, according to Betty Dobies, chair of St. Andrew's Career Mentoring Ministry, which has a partnership with 13 church groups in the Detroit area.

"We started out thinking we'd review resumes and interview techniques, but we found that the main thing people really need is support," Dobies said.

During the sessions, parish volunteers, See UNEMPLOYED, page 11

BUECHLEIN

continued from page 1

“FOCA would coerce all Americans into subsidizing and promoting abortion with their tax dollars. It would counteract any and all sincere efforts by government and others of good will to reduce the number of abortions in our country.

“Parental notification and informed consent precautions would be outlawed, as would be laws banning procedures such as partial-birth abortion and protecting infants born alive after a failed abortion. Abortion clinics would be deregulated. The Hyde Amendment restricting the federal funding of abortions would be abrogated. FOCA would have lethal consequences for prenatal human life.

“FOCA would have an equally destructive effect on the freedom of conscience of doctors, nurses and health care workers

whose personal convictions do not permit them to cooperate in the private killing of unborn children. It would threaten Catholic health care institutions and Catholic Charities. It would be an evil law that would further divide our country, and the Church should be intent on opposing evil.

“On this issue, the legal protection of the unborn, the bishops are of one mind with Catholics and others of good will. They are also pastors who have listened to women whose lives have been diminished because they believed they had no choice but to abort a baby. Abortion is a medical procedure that kills, and the psychological and spiritual consequences are written in the sorrow and depression of many women and men. The bishops are single-minded because they are, first of all, single-hearted.

“The recent election was principally decided out of concern for the economy, for the loss of jobs and homes and financial security for families, here and around the

world. If the election is misinterpreted ideologically as a referendum on abortion, the unity desired by President-elect Obama and all Americans at this moment of crisis will be impossible to achieve.

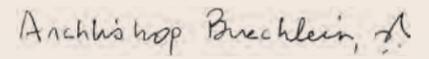
“Abortion kills not only unborn children; it destroys constitutional order and the common good, which is assured only when the life of every human being is legally protected. Aggressively pro-abortion policies, legislation and executive orders will permanently alienate tens of millions of Americans, and would be seen by many as an attack on the free exercise of their religion.

“This statement is written at the request and direction of all the Bishops, who also want to thank all those in politics who work with good will to protect the lives of the most vulnerable among us. Those in public life do so, sometimes, at the cost of great sacrifice to themselves and their families; and we are grateful. We express again our

great desire to work with all those who cherish the common good of our nation. The common good is not the sum total of individual desires and interests; it is achieved in the working out of a common life based upon good reason and good will for all.

“Our prayers accompany President-elect Obama and his family and those who are cooperating with him to assure a smooth transition in government. Many issues demand immediate attention on the part of our elected ‘watchman’ (Ps 127). May God bless him and our country.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Indianapolis
Nov. 17, 2008

BISHOPS

continued from page 1

the 264 Latin-rite U.S. bishops, or 176 bishops, the heavily amended translation of the Proper of the Seasons—made up of the proper prayers for Sundays and feast days during the liturgical year—received 189 votes in favor and 30 against. During the bishops’ meeting in Orlando, Fla., in June, the document failed to get the required two-thirds majority.

Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship, called the translation “a step forward in the continual renewal of the liturgy” and said no document was ever likely to receive the unanimous support of the bishops.

The translation now goes to the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments for “*recognitio*,” or confirmation. The first section of the missal came before the bishops in 2006, and was confirmed by the Vatican earlier this year.

To fill a gap in existing prayer books, the U.S. bishops overwhelmingly approved a liturgical service in English and Spanish for blessing children in the womb.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., praised the new blessing as “a tangible way to witness pastorally and sacramentally to the life of the unborn child,” and said it could also serve as an opportunity for parishes to bring together expectant couples for mutual support.

The document also must be sent to the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments for “*recognitio*,” or confirmation. The English-language version was approved 223-1, and the Spanish-language version 224-0.

The U.S. bishops later chose the Revised Grail Psalter produced by the monks of Conception Abbey in Missouri for liturgical use in the U.S.

The Nov. 12 vote was 203-5 in favor of accepting a

recommendation of the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship to adopt the Grail Psalter for use in all liturgical settings. The decision also must be confirmed by the Vatican.

There was little debate before the vote and no amendments could be made to the translated psalms.

In an action related to key priorities established earlier by the bishops, the prelates agreed to grant five task forces the authority to tackle issues ranging from strengthening marriage to addressing cultural diversity in the Church through 2011, and approved a host of goals for each task force for the next year.

The task forces are on faith formation and sacramental practice, strengthening marriage, the life and dignity of the human person, cultural diversity in the Church, and the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

The task forces are expected to come back to the 2009 fall general assembly with detailed reports about meeting the American Church’s agenda on these issues, said Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., conference vice president.

“It’s a tremendous investment for the conference,” Bishop Kicanas said. “These are more than goals and objectives. These are lifelong challenges.”

Several U.S. bishops who attended the Oct. 5-26 world Synod of Bishops on the Bible in Rome discussed the moving experience they had and their rediscovery of the beauty of the word of God. They also said Pope Benedict XVI was present during much of the synod and was attentive to what was being said.

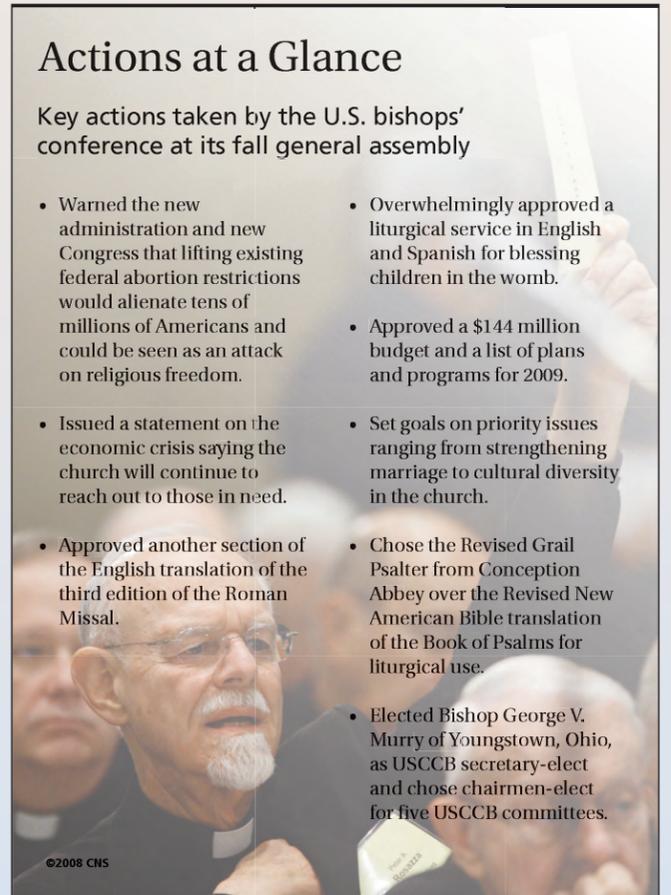
Almost lost in the busy Nov. 11 afternoon session was the 2009 USCCB budget. The bishops approved a budget of \$144 million, a 2.25 percent increase from 2008.

In one of the few votes on the meeting’s first day, on Nov. 10, the bishops agreed to a revised process for submitting “*varia*”—new issues that an individual bishop or group of bishops would like to see considered by the

Actions at a Glance

Key actions taken by the U.S. bishops’ conference at its fall general assembly

- Warned the new administration and new Congress that lifting existing federal abortion restrictions would alienate tens of millions of Americans and could be seen as an attack on religious freedom.
- Issued a statement on the economic crisis saying the church will continue to reach out to those in need.
- Approved another section of the English translation of the third edition of the Roman Missal.
- Overwhelmingly approved a liturgical service in English and Spanish for blessing children in the womb.
- Approved a \$144 million budget and a list of plans and programs for 2009.
- Set goals on priority issues ranging from strengthening marriage to cultural diversity in the church.
- Chose the Revised Grail Psalter from Conception Abbey over the Revised New American Bible translation of the Book of Psalms for liturgical use.
- Elected Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, as USCCB secretary-elect and chose chairmen-elect for five USCCB committees.



full body. The new process was designed to allow for flexibility, but conform to criteria established under the USCCB reorganization last year.

The bishops also decided by voice vote to review the USCCB regulations on statements and publications in light of the reorganization. Revised regulations were expected to be submitted to the full body in June. †

Report sexual misconduct now

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct by a person ministering on behalf of the Church, or if you know of anyone who has been a victim of such misconduct, please contact the archdiocesan victim assistance coordinator:

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jlink@archindy.org



Readers are invited to share favorite Christmas memories

Favorite Christmas memories are worth telling again and again.

The Criterion invites you to submit a brief story about a special holiday memory for possible inclusion in the annual Christmas Supplement, which will be published in the Dec. 19 issue.

Your Christmas story may be written about a humorous or serious

topic related to your faith, family or friends.

Submissions should include the writer’s name, address, parish and telephone number, and should be mailed to The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or sent by e-mail to criterion@archindy.org by the Dec. 4 deadline. †

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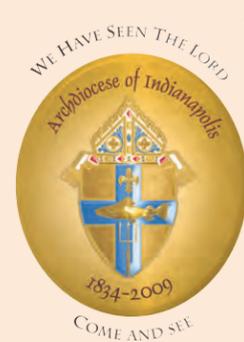
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New hymn text celebrates archdiocese's 175th anniversary

By Sean Gallagher

On May 3, 2009, thousands of Catholics across central and southern Indiana will



gather at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis for a Mass that will celebrate the 175th anniversary of the founding of the archdiocese. At that time, they will join voices in singing a hymn text composed by

Benedictine Father Harry Hagan specifically for the anniversary.

"Come and See the Many Wonders," which is set to the hymn tune "Beach Spring" by B. F. White, alludes to the theme of the 175th anniversary, "We have seen the Lord: Come and see."

In a recent interview with *The Criterion*, Father Harry spoke about the hymn text.

"It tries to celebrate this fact that many people have created this tradition, which we, today, have inherited," he said. "Therefore, it is up to us to hand the tradition on and also to add to the tradition."

The text includes references to the first bishop of Vincennes, the Servant of God Simon Bruté, and Indiana's first saint, St. Theodora Guérin, the foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

"I thought about trying to name all different kinds of people or different kinds of occupations," said Father Harry, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad. "In the end, it became clear that I was going to leave out somebody. So I limited myself to Bishop Bruté and St. Theodora."

Charles Gardner, executive director for



Fr. Harry Hagan, O.S.B.

the archdiocesan secretariat for spiritual life and worship, asked Father Harry to compose the text.

"I think it's a great match and a great opportunity," said Gardner about the text. "I think it works. It just works."

"As a pastoral musician, I'm dedicated to having texts that are strong, that really say something but that also work."

Father Harry said he is looking forward to when many people across the archdiocese sing the text.

"It will make me happy," he said. "When you write a text like this, it's nice when people use it. You try to make it so that it will serve well."

"The test is kind of in the eating of the pudding."

For Sandra Bierly, the "pudding" tasted pretty good.

"I think it's going to change their hearts and make a difference," said Bierly, a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany. "It's just such a beautiful hymn."

Father Harry Hagan, who wrote it, just touched everything."

Bierly sang the text when she was present at a Mass on Oct. 28 at Huber's Winery in Clark County to celebrate the successful conclusion of the Legacy for Our Mission: For Our Children and the Future campaign.

As Bierly was singing the hymn at the end of the Mass, her thoughts turned to how the Church in Indiana began in a small way, but has grown over the past 175 years.

"I could only think about how that little mustard seed has spread all over the state," Bierly said. "It's huge, and it's going to get bigger."

Father Harry intended the text to help those who sing it turn their thoughts to the future of the archdiocese.

The first three stanzas of the hymn text begin with the word "come," but Father Harry chose to begin the fourth and final stanza with the word "go."

"It kind of invites people to come and see what's happened, but then to go forth," Father Harry said. "So I hope people will

Come and See the Many Wonders

175th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Text by Harry Hagan, OSB
© 2008 Saint Meinrad Archabbey

BEACH SPRING
B.F. White, 1944



Come and see the man-y won-ders God has worked through many hands.



Come and count the man-y bless-ings, wo-ven from so man-y strands.



We have seen the face of Je-sus who has dwelt a-mong us here,



Christ the source of all our bless-ings, bless-ings of so man-y years.

Come and see the men and women called by Christ and by him sent. They proclaimed the Kingdom's coming in his Word and Sacrament. Sing of Bishop Bruté's witness, filled with gentle humbleness, And Saint Theodora's courage, hallmark of her holiness.

Come and tell the many stories, stories filled with faith and prayer. With great hope the Church has planted; now the harvest we must share. See the wondrous gifts they left us in each church and school and place Where the Church in Indiana comes to meet Christ face to face.

Go and live as Christ's disciples. Go and be his face and hands. And proclaim in every parish that God's love is Christ's command. Raise a song of glad thanksgiving. Let it ring that all may hear. For the Father, Son, and Spirit have so blessed us through these years.

This hymn may be reprinted and used by parishes and institutions of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for the 175th anniversary year. The title and subtitle may be reset, but the author and copyright information must be printed as given.

go forth and carry on the tradition ... which [they] have inherited."

For Gardner, part of adding to that tradition is helping the Church in central and southern Indiana to grow.

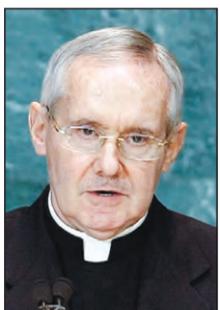
"The last verse is future oriented," he said. "I think it should help people to be

confident and look to the future, where we're still going, and to have a sense of mission."

(To learn more about the anniversary hymn and to read its text, log on to www.archindy.org/175/hymn.html.) †

Faith can help build brotherhood of humanity, cardinal tells U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (CNS)—People of faith can help build a brotherhood of



Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran

humanity that can reach across international borders to achieve world peace, the president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue said in an address to the United Nations General Assembly.

"Religions, despite their weaknesses and contradictions among their followers, are the harbingers of peace and reconciliation," Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran said on Nov. 12 during the General Assembly's high-level meeting on the culture of peace.

The cardinal also urged world leaders to promote opportunities for people of different faiths to come together so they can overcome indifference, build respect for diversity and promote the sacredness of life.

The cardinal was one of more than 70 speakers to address the world body in a two-day meeting that explored various means to bring peace to the world and greater understanding among the world's many faith traditions.

The meeting was convened in an effort to bridge the widening gap between faiths and cultures as extremists exploit religious differences.

In addressing the General Assembly, the leaders presented a unified message calling for the celebration of cultural and religious

differences, and the condemnation of extremists who use violence to exploit religion for their own purposes.

Among others addressing the General Assembly were King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines, President Shimon Peres of Israel, Prime Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority, King Abdullah bin Al-Hussein of Jordan, President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan and President Tarja Halonen of Finland.

Cardinal Tauran said people who gather for worship are "teaching the language and gestures of peace."

"They endeavor to listen to the other, to understand the other, to trust before judging," he said. "These are attitudes educating people to allow peace to flourish."

"Believers must be consistent and credible," the cardinal added. "They cannot make use of religion to oppress freedom of conscience, to justify violence to spread hate or fanaticism, or to undermine the separation between the political and religious."

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia told the meeting's opening session that religion should not be turned into instruments that cause misery.

"Terrorism and criminality are the enemies of every religion and every civilization," the Saudi leader said.

Israeli's Peres later followed and, in his remarks, invoked the memory of Abraham, who called his brother Lot to peace and reconciliation, and said their example can serve as an inspiration for the world.

He reminded the General Assembly that a basic tenet of faith is that humans were created in God's image and that to harm a

man is to harm God.

Peres also reaffirmed his government's commitment to continue peace negotiations with the Palestinian Authority as well as recent outreach efforts with Syria.

Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority concurred that his government is prepared to continue peace negotiations with Israel. He called upon the international community to support efforts to bring a lasting and just peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

"The people of Palestine—Muslims and

Christians—aspire to peace and justice, and are committed to the principles of coexistence and tolerance," Fayyad said.

Addressing the meeting on Nov. 13, President George W. Bush said the United States remains committed to promoting religious liberty worldwide.

"One of the defining features of any democracy is that it makes room for people of all backgrounds and all faiths," the president said. "Democracies allow people with diverse views to discuss their differences and live in harmony." †

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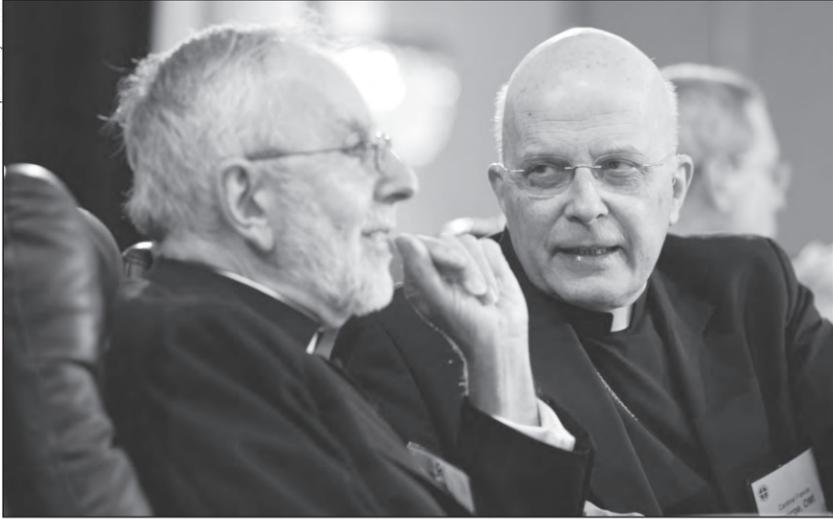
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Editorial



Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, right, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, talks with conference vice president Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., on Nov. 10 before the opening session of the U.S. bishops' general fall meeting in Baltimore.

No mandate for abortion

The fall meeting of the U.S. Catholic bishops has been held during the second week in November for many years. That is always after the political elections. The bishops cannot be accused of trying to influence the elections as they would be if their meeting were to be just prior to the elections.

This year, as our news stories report, the bishops discussed the results of the elections at length, both in executive session and in their open sessions, especially when giving Cardinal Francis E. George, the president of the bishops' conference, advice on what he should say in a public statement about the elections.

Cardinal George subsequently issued the statement in his own name, but at the request and direction of all the bishops.

The advice boiled down to an acknowledgement of the historical significance of the election of the nation's first African-American president, but a denial that this was a mandate for Obama to carry out the promises he made to ensure that abortion on demand remains legal.

Cardinal George said that the bishops hope to work with the new administration in such areas as economic justice, immigration reform, health care for the poor, education, religious freedom and the furthering of peace. However, they made it clear that they are united in teaching and defending unborn children from the moment of conception.

During the presidential campaign, in July 2007, Obama told a Planned Parenthood group, "The first thing I'd do as president is sign the Freedom of Choice Act [FOCA]."

This act, if passed in the same form as it has been introduced in the past, would override any state laws that might restrict abortion in the event that *Roe v. Wade* is overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Of course, FOCA would first have to be passed by both houses of Congress. So far, it has failed to get out of committee.

The bishops were correct when they stated that this election was decided mainly on the basis of voters' concerns about the economy, the loss of jobs and homes, and financial security for families.

Unlike the 2004 election, when exit

polls found that most people voted on "values" issues, this year those issues took a backseat to our country's economic problems. Many voters, too, voted for Obama because he is a charismatic and articulate young man as contrasted with Sen. John McCain, who is 72.

There is no evidence at all that the majority of those who voted for Obama did so because they agree with his positions on life issues, such as unlimited abortion or embryonic stem-cell research.

FOCA would legally codify a "fundamental right" to abortion throughout the nine months of pregnancy. No governmental body—at any level—would be able to "deny or interfere with" this right. State laws that currently limit abortions in some way—such as informed-consent and parental notification laws, laws that prohibit partial-birth abortions, and those that protect infants born alive after a failed abortion—would be invalid. All Americans would be forced to subsidize and promote abortion with their tax dollars.

The act would also end conscience-protection laws, which means that Catholic hospitals, doctors, medical students and health care workers would be forced to participate in abortions in many places. This, clearly, would create a crisis in Catholic hospitals throughout the country.

Although polls indicate that most Americans oppose making abortion illegal, they also indicate that most people agree that there should be some restrictions, especially after the child in the womb is viable.

If Obama tries to keep his pledge to Planned Parenthood, it would severely divide our country.

The majority of those who identify themselves as Catholics voted for Obama, just as did the rest of Americans. They did not do so, though, because they want unrestricted abortion.

As Cardinal George's statement said, "If the election is misinterpreted ideologically as a referendum on abortion, the unity desired by President-elect Obama and all Americans at this moment of crisis will be impossible to achieve."

—John F. Fink

Parish Diary/Fr. Peter Daly

Economy affords us opportunity to put Christ back in Christmas this year

This year, we will be singing, "Have yourself a very little Christmas."



The lyrics have changed with the economy.

Given the dismal state of the economy, generations of preachers may at last get their wish. Christmas will be less commercial. The celebration of the birth

of Jesus will not be so materialistic.

We cannot take much credit for this. (We don't have any credit left anyway.) People will be downsizing their Christmas celebrations out of necessity, not a newfound asceticism.

My good friend, Msgr. Jack Myslinski, says, "Never confuse lack of opportunity with virtue."

That is true. We may not be able to take much credit for it, but this year we may finally do what we should have done all along. We may put Christ back into Christmas.

The great saints all recognized that sometimes we do things with mixed motives. Perhaps we are simplifying Christmas out of necessity rather than virtue. But, as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta would say, "Be good anyway."

This crisis presents us with an opportunity for spiritual realignment.

So here are some suggestions for having ourselves a very little Christmas:

- First, buy things that people need anyway. Buy stuff they will use every day. If they need a new mattress, buy one. A mattress will be used every single day. Nothing is more appreciated than a good night's sleep. They will think of you in their dreams.

People used to buy useful gifts. Remember getting socks and underwear?

- Second, give time instead of stuff. There probably are people in your life who you have been intending to "get caught up with." The Christmas card is not enough. There are probably a couple of people who would enjoy a visit.

It does not have to be a dinner out. It doesn't have to be elaborate. Go for a cup of coffee and a good conversation. That will be a great gift.

- Third, pay some bills. Nothing makes me feel better than knowing that I am caught up on my bills. You could relieve somebody's anxiety this Christmas by paying his bills. Then, instead of going into post-Christmas depression about all the bills, he will have euphoria because he owes less, not more.

So pay somebody's electric or gas bill for Christmas. Make one month's payment on someone's college loans. You will feel good. The beneficiary of your kindness will feel better. And our economy will be much better with less debt.

- Fourth, recycle. I don't mean recycle at the dump. I mean recycle your stuff to others. If your niece or nephew has been admiring that clock on your mantel, give it to them. What's the point of waiting until you die? Inspire them to say "thank you" now. They might actually start coming to visit. They might get to like you. Wouldn't that be a great payoff for all that dust-covered stuff?

- Finally, fill up your time with real preparation for Christmas. Hang out in church instead of shopping malls. We have a lot going on. We have Advent. We have Mass every day, and special penance services and healing services. We celebrate St. Nicholas Day and Our Lady of Guadalupe. We have children's choirs and Christmas concerts. It is free. It is good for you spiritually.

You don't have any money to spend anyway.

Perhaps necessity is pushing you to simplify this Christmas and make it less commercial and materialistic. But that is OK. While lack of opportunity is not virtue, sometimes virtue can grow out of necessity.

So rewrite the lyrics this year: "Have yourself a very little Christmas."

(Father Peter Daly writes for Catholic News Service.) †

Letters to the Editor

To truly make a difference in society, we must change one American at a time

Change. That is what the Jews wanted when they welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna!"

They believed that the Messiah would be the Savior who would take over the nation and lead them to peace and prosperity.

And such is the cry of the American people, so ready for change, so eager for a new leader who will take over and create a nation of peace and prosperity.

But is this a realistic view of how true, lasting change takes place within a society? Can a political messiah honestly change a society without society itself making changes?

If Americans want prosperity, how willing are we to change our financial behavior? Are we willing to take more responsibility for living within our means? Are we willing to buy only what we can afford and stop buying as much as someone is willing to lend us?

If Americans want a better health care plan, do we plan on taking better care of our own health? Will we commit to eating better, moving more, and giving our minds and bodies time to rest?

If Americans want to protect the environment, are we willing to buy less, thereby reducing how much we throw away? Are we willing to reduce our demand for resources by choosing smaller houses, smaller cars, driving less or using public transportation?

If Americans want to live in a more peaceful, secure environment, are we willing to be more peaceful ourselves? Can we learn to covet the witty insult less and humble kindness more? Would we be willing to spend more time examining our own faults and weaknesses, and less time shining a spotlight on the sins of others?

If Americans want social justice, are they willing to be fair and merciful themselves? Will we give up an attitude of entitlement that leads us to spend all our time and resources on ourselves, and replace it with a sense of gratitude for God's blessings that inspires us to share in the spirit of love and charity?

Are we willing to protect the lives of the unborn, the sick, the imprisoned and the elderly instead of viewing them as a cost and burden to us?

Jesus knew that lasting change does not come through political conquest. He chose instead to start a grassroots movement that would change the world.

Emperors, kings and governors were not among his hand-picked change agents. It started with 12 uneducated, weak and sinful men, who dedicated their lives to sharing a belief that they were willing to die for.

This is what America needs to do if we really want change. We must change one American at a time.

Kathy Tierney
Indianapolis

ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO DANIEL M. BUECHLEIN, O.S.B.



SEEKING THE FACE OF THE LORD

BUSCANDO LA CARA DEL SEÑOR

Thoughtful spirit in students' letters offers a good example

Earlier in this school year, I received letters from the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders at St. Mary School in Aurora.

The seventh- and eighth-graders had written before when they learned of my cancer last spring.

The intent of their recent letters was to tell me they were happy that I am in remission, and that they continue to pray for me. They also made a point of saying they pray daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Several of the seventh-graders said they look forward to receiving the sacrament of confirmation next May 3 during the celebration of the archdiocese's 175th anniversary in Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

The eighth-graders were looking forward to seeing me at confirmation on Sunday, Oct. 12.

I feel bad that I was not able to confirm them and others, too. I have had to invite substitutes to stand in for me at the fall confirmations because recovery from the effects of chemotherapy and radiation therapy has been slow.

I enjoy letters from our youths. I am always fascinated by what they want to tell me. Here are a few samples.

In a spirited testimony of faith, Adam wrote: "Hi! Did you know that we are praying for you each day? Twelve people [sixth-graders] praying for a great guy like

you might actually work. God can work in mysterious ways. We are also praying for good vocations to the priesthood. ..."

Josh wrote: "My class prays for you to recover and I think it worked. ... I am very glad that you feel better and still continue to be our bishop."

Hannah wrote: "God is a big part of my life. He has helped me through everything. I will keep praying for you and hope you will pray for us, too."

Some students tell of their love and concern for others. Sara wrote: "I love my family, even though my brothers Ben and Alex can be a pain. I also love my friends. They are a little goofy like me, but I love them. You are in our prayers. God bless!"

Brad wrote: "One of my friend's mom is in a hospital. She is not doing good. If you could pray for her. ... She has cancer, too. My best friend just had his birthday today."

Cancer is on the mind of Jeremy, too: "Do you know what's weird? My grandpas both had cancer. One of them is dead, the other is in good health. I think my great uncle has cancer, but no one else. They're about all the people I know who have cancer."

Most of the students wrote about their participation in sports. Jeremy's letter went on to say: "I like to play sports like soccer, baseball and basketball. I also do Tai-Kwan-Do, swimming and drumming. I consider two of those sports, but I'm not sure you do."

The Colts and Bengals got quite a bit of coverage. Jonathon commented: "One of the reasons I like it here at St. Mary's so much is that our principal is a huge Colts fan, just like me. ... Please remember him in your prayers, as well as us."

Luke wrote: "My favorite sports are soccer and wrestling. But I like to watch all sports from football to NASCAR. My favorite team is the Cincinnati Bengals. I know the Colts might be your favorite team, but I won't hold that against you. God bless, and I'm praying for you."

Jonathon tells the benefits of being in the eighth grade: "I'm in the 8th grade. Being in 8th grade is awesome! We get to be first in line at lunch and, on Fridays, we get to run errands for our teacher. We also get to participate at Mass more. At every school Mass, four of us are collectors."

Food became an item for a couple of students. Leonardo wrote: "What kind of food do you like to eat? My favorite food is Mexican food. Have you ever heard of Molle? It is really good. The ingredients are chocolate, toasted peppers, toasted bread crumbs, water and nuts. Even though it sounds weird, it is delicious. Well, I hope

you feel better."

Angelo wrote: "My favorite food is hot wings. I love it when the wings are so hot that they bring a tear to your eye. ... I can't wait to write to you again. We will continue to pray for you."

Adam's remarks seem to typify all of the letter writers. "People tell me that I am really industrious and inventive. I like to make people laugh, and I'm pretty good at it. God bless you, Archbishop Daniel."

The balance of lighthearted and thoughtful spirits is a good example for all of us, especially in gray November! †

Do you have an intention for Archbishop Buechlein's prayer list? You may mail it to him at:

Archbishop Buechlein's
Prayer List
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

Archbishop Buechlein's intention for vocations for November

Catholic high schools: that they may be a continued source for promoting the Catholic values of service and giving of one's life as a gift for others, especially as priests or religious.

La sensibilidad de las cartas de los estudiantes resulta un buen ejemplo

Al principio de este año lectivo recibí cartas de los estudiantes del sexto, séptimo y octavo grado de la escuela St. Mary en Aurora.

Los alumnos del séptimo y octavo grado me habían escrito antes cuando se enteraron de mi cáncer la pasada primavera.

La intención de sus cartas más recientes era contarme lo contentos que estaban por la remisión de mi padecimiento y que continuaban rezando por mí. También pusieron de manifiesto que rezaban a diario por las vocaciones al sacerdocio y la vida religiosa.

Varios de los estudiantes del séptimo grado dijeron que esperaban con ansias recibir el sacramento de la confirmación el próximo 3 de mayo, durante la celebración del aniversario de los 175 años de la arquidiócesis en el estadio Lucas Oil.

Los alumnos del octavo grado esperaban con expectación verme durante la confirmación el domingo 12 de octubre.

Lamento no haber podido confirmarlos tanto a ellos como a otros. He tenido que contar con la colaboración de sustitutos que me relevaron durante las confirmaciones del otoño ya que la recuperación de los efectos producidos por la quimioterapia y la radiación ha sido lenta.

Disfruto las cartas de nuestros jóvenes. Me encantan las cosas que desean compartir conmigo. He aquí algunos ejemplos.

En un testimonio de fe lleno de espíritu, Adam escribió: "¡Hola!" ¿Sabía que rezamos por usted todos los días? Las oraciones doce personas [alumnos de sexto grado] por un hombre tan especial como usted seguramente funcionarán. Dios puede obrar en formas misteriosas.

También rezamos por las buenas vocaciones al sacerdocio. ..."

Josh escribió: "Mi clase reza por su recuperación y yo creo ha funcionado. ... Me alegra mucho que se sienta mejor y que siga siendo nuestro obispo."

Hanna escribió: "Dios es una parte importante de mi vida. Me ha ayudado en todo momento. Seguiré rezando por usted y espero que usted rece por nosotros también."

Algunos estudiantes hablan de su amor y su preocupación por los demás. Sara escribió: "Amo a mi familia, a pesar de que mis hermanos Ben y Alex son un fastidio. También quiero a mis amigos. Son un poco tontillos como yo, pero los quiero. Usted está en nuestras oraciones. ¡Que Dios lo bendiga!"

Brad escribió: "La mamá de uno de mis amigos está en el hospital. No está nada bien. Tal vez usted pudiera rezar por ella. ... Ella también tiene cáncer. Hoy fue el cumpleaños de mi mejor amigo."

El cáncer también está presente en los pensamientos de Jeremy: "¿Sabe qué es extraño? Mis dos abuelos también tuvieron cáncer. Uno de ellos murió, el otro goza de buena salud. Creo que mi tío abuelo tiene cáncer, pero nadie más. Creo que esas son todas las personas que conozco que tengan cáncer."

La mayoría de los estudiantes habló sobre su participación en los deportes. En su carta, Jeremy proseguía: "Me gusta practicar deportes, tales como fútbol, béisbol y baloncesto. También hago Tai-Kwan-Do, natación y percusión. Considero que dos de ellos son deportes, pero no sé si usted también."

Los Colts y los Bengals recibieron amplia cobertura. Johnathon comentó: "Una de las razones por las que me gusta tanto St. Mary es que nuestro director es un gran fanático de los Colts, como yo. ... Por favor recuérdelo en sus oraciones, al igual que a nosotros."

Luke escribió: "Mis deportes favoritos son fútbol y lucha libre. Pero me gusta ver todos los deportes, desde fútbol americano hasta NASCAR. Mi equipo favorito son los Bengals de Cincinnati. Sé que tal vez los Colts sean su equipo favorito, pero no se lo tomaré en cuenta. Que Dios lo bendiga y rezo por usted."

Jonathon habla acerca de los beneficios de estar en el octavo grado: "Estoy en octavo grado. ¡Es estupendo estar en octavo grado! Somos los primeros de la fila en el almuerzo y los viernes hacemos diligencias para nuestra maestra. También participamos más en la Misa. En cada Misa de la escuela cuatro de nosotros recogemos la limosna."

La comida fue un tema de conversación para un par de estudiantes. Leonardo escribió: "¿Qué tipo de comida le gusta comer? Mi comida favorita es la mexicana. ¿Alguna vez ha oído sobre el mole? Es muy bueno. Lleva los siguientes ingredientes: chocolate, pimientos tostados, migas de pan tostado, agua y nueces. A pesar de que suena raro, es delicioso. Bien, espero que se sienta

mejor."

Angelo escribió: "Mi comida favorita son las alitas de pollo picantes. Me encanta cuando están tan picantes que sacan lágrimas de los ojos. ... No veo la hora de escribirle otra vez. Continuaremos rezando por usted."

Las observaciones de Adam parecen representar a todos los escritores de cartas. "La gente me dice que soy verdaderamente dedicado e inventivo. Me gusta hacer reír a la gente y lo hago muy bien. Que Dios lo bendiga, arzobispo Daniel."

La proporción de alegría de corazón y de sensibilidad nos da un buen ejemplo a todos, ¡especialmente durante este noviembre gris! †

¿Tiene una intención que desee incluir en la lista de oración del Arzobispo Buechlein? Puede enviar su correspondencia a:

Lista de oración del Arzobispo
Buechlein
Arquidiócesis de Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

Traducido por: Daniela Guanipa,
Language Training Center, Indianapolis.

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en noviembre

Las escuelas secundarias católicas: que ellas sean una fuente continua para promover los valores católicos de servir y dedicar su vida como regalo a los demás, especialmente en el cargo de sacerdotes o religiosos.

Events Calendar

November 21

Northside Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, Mass, 6:30 a.m., followed by buffet breakfast, Dr. James Trippi, cardiologist and president of Gennesaret Free Clinic, presenter, \$14 members, \$20 non-members. Information and registration: www.catholicbusinessexchange.org.

November 22

Roncalli High School, 3300 Prague Road, Indianapolis. **Annual food drive for St. Vincent de Paul Pantry**, 8 a.m. Information: 317-787-8277 or info@roncallihs.org.

St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish, 3033 Martin Road, Floyd Knobs. **"Harvest of Abundance,"** dinner, dancing, \$40 per person. Information: 812-923-3011.

November 22-23

St. Barnabas Parish, 8300 Rahke Road, Indianapolis. **Outreach ministry, "A**

Different Kind of Giving" market, shop for Christmas presents that have a purpose, market open after all Masses. Information: 317-882-0724.

St. Margaret Mary Parish, 2405 S. Seventh St., Terre Haute. **Craft fair, bake sale and noodle sale**, Sat. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Information: 812-232-3512.

November 23

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. **Altar Society, annual bazaar and chicken noodle dinner**, crafts, bake sale, 12:30-4 p.m. Information: 317-784-5454, ext. 2.

Bishop Chatard High School, 5885 N. Crittenden Ave., Indianapolis. **Chatard-A-Bration, "Good Vibrations," women's shopping brunch**, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., \$5 per person. Information: 317-251-1451, ext. 2264.

Providence Cristo Rey High School, 75 N. Belleview

Place, Indianapolis. **Open house**, 1-3 p.m. Information: 317-860-100 or astinson@providencecristorey.org.

Oldenburg Academy, 1 Twister Circle, Oldenburg. **Orchestra Musik Fest, concert**, 3 p.m., no charge. Information: 812-934-4440.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **Organ concert**, Mark Hatfield, guest organist, 3 p.m., no charge. Information: 800-682-0988 or news@saintmeinrad.edu.

Mother of the Redeemer Farm, Sacred Heart Chapel, 8220 W. State Road 48, Bloomington. **Traveling missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, veneration**, 9 a.m.-noon. Information: 812-825-4642 or www.maryschildren.org.

St. Lawrence Church, 6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis. **Traveling missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, veneration**,

6 p.m. Spanish Mass. Information: 317-546-4065 or www.saintlawrence.net.

MKVS, Divine Mercy and Glorious Cross Center, Rexville, located on 925 South, .8 mile east of 421 South and 12 miles south of Versailles, Mass, 10 a.m., on **third Sunday holy hour and pitch-in**, groups of 10 pray the new Marian Way, 1 p.m., Father Elmer Burwinkel, celebrant. Information: 812-689-3551.

November 24

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Volunteers and Friends of Fatima, monthly Mass**, 9 a.m., continental breakfast following Mass, no charge. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima.

November 24-26

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 1530 Union St., Indianapolis. **Parish Mission, "The Life, Writings and Theology of St. Paul,"** Franciscan Friar Bill Burton, presenter, 6:30-8 p.m.

Information: 317-638-5551 or sheartparish@sbcglobal.net.

November 25

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Ninth annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**, Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, president, James T. Morris, speaker, 6:30 p.m., prelude music featuring Indianapolis Children's Choir and Cathedral Parish *Laudis Cantores* choir, canned goods and money donations for Interfaith Hunger Initiative and Gleaners Food Bank. Information: 317-634-4519.

November 26

Vito's, 20 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis. **Theology on Tap, Series on "The Theology of the Body,"** 7 p.m. Information: <http://indytheologyontap.com> or call 317-413-6097.

November 27

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 30 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis. **Irvington area churches, annual Community**

Thanksgiving dinner, 11 a.m., serving noon, carry-out and delivery available, reservations due by Nov. 25. Information and reservations: 317-356-7291.

November 27-28

Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. **Traveling missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, veneration**, 24-hour eucharistic adoration, 11 a.m. Thurs.-10 a.m. Fri. Information: 317-926-1963.

November 29

St. Simon the Apostle Church, 8155 Oaklandon Road, Indianapolis. **Taize service**, 7 p.m. Information: 317-826-6000, ext. 156, or hrepp@saintsimon.org.

SS. Francis and Clare Parish, 5901 Olive Branch Road, Greenwood. **Family Advent carol festival**, 7 p.m. Information: 317-859-4673 or janet@francisandclare.org. †

Retreats and Programs

November 21-22

Monastery Immaculate Conception, Kordes Center, 841 E. 14th St., Ferdinand, Ind. **"Journaling: Praying the Scriptures of Our Lives,"** Benedictine Sister Maria Tasto, presenter. Information: 812-367-1411 or spirituality@thedome.org.

November 21-23

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Hope Happens: The 'Small s' Sacraments,"** Kathy Coffey, author, \$150 per person, \$280 per married couple. Information: 317-545-7681 or spasotti@archindy.org.

November 22

Monastery Immaculate Conception, Kordes Center, 841 E. 14th St., Ferdinand, Ind. **"Alcoholics Anonymous Reflection Day,"** Benedictine Sister Mary Claude Croteau, presenter, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., \$80. Information: 812-367-1411 or spirituality@thedome.org.

November 24

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Annual Day of Reflection on the Psalms,"** Father William Munshower, presenter, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.,

\$35 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or spasotti@archindy.org.

November 28-30

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **"Raving over Raphael,"** Benedictine Father Noël Mueller, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

Mount St. Francis Retreat Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mount St. Francis. **"Serenity Retreat."** Information: 812-923-8817 or retreats@mountsaintfrancis.org.

December 5

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **"First Friday reflection,"** 1-3 p.m. Information: 812-933-6437.

December 5-7

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"An Advent Retreat for Women,"** Jesuit Father Benjamin Hawley, presenter, \$150 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or spasotti@archindy.org.

December 6

St. Lawrence Parish, Father Conen Hall, 6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis. **One-day**

retreat, "Touch My Heart," New Evangelization Sisters of Mother of Perpetual Help, presenters, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., free-will offering. Information: 317-845-9070.

December 8

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **"Men's Night,"** Franciscan Father Carl Hawver, presenter, 7-8:30 p.m. Information: 812-933-6437.

December 10

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **"Leadership in the Eyes of St. Benedict,"** Benedictine Sister Carol Falkner, presenter, 7-8:30 p.m. Information: 317-788-7581.

December 13

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **Day of Reflection, "Advent Joy and Anticipation as a Way of Life,"** Franciscan Sister Barbara Leonhard, presenter, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., \$40 per person. Information: 812-933-6437.

December 14

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **"Evensong Scripture,"** 4-5 p.m. Information: 812-933-6437.

December 18

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E.

56th St., Indianapolis. **"Day of Silence,"** 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$25 per person includes continental breakfast and lunch. Information: 317-545-7681 or spasotti@archindy.org.

December 19-21

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **"A Monastic Christmas,"** Benedictine Brother Christian Raab, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

January 9-11

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **"The Book of Genesis: Stories of Creation and Faith,"** Benedictine Father Eugene Hensell, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu. †

Grants

The American Association of the Order of Malta, the American branch of an international Catholic chivalric and fraternal organization, recently awarded **Catholic Radio 89.1 FM** in Indianapolis a \$10,000 grant to serve the evangelization efforts of the Catholic Church by expanding their Spanish language broadcasts and current agreements to reach a greater number of households. †



Statue dedication

Tyler Braun, a sophomore at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, prayerfully touches a bronze statue of Blessed Pope John XXIII during a dedication ceremony for the statue on Oct. 28, the 50th anniversary of the pope's election. He is a member of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis. The statue was made in Italy and donated to the school by Roncalli's chaplain, Father James Wilmoth, who also serves as pastor of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis. Roncalli High School is named after Pope John, whose baptismal name was Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli.



Bus blessing

Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, right, blesses a new 2008 Ford Bus for A Caring Place Adult Day Services program of Catholic Charities Indianapolis on Nov. 12. Catholic Charities Indianapolis received a grant to pay for the 15-seat vehicle through the Indiana Department of Transportation's 5310 program, which assists nonprofit agencies to obtain grants to serve the state's vulnerable population. Among the group who attended the groundbreaking ceremony are Lula Emile-Baxter, left, program director of Adult Day Care Services; Benedictine Brother Anthony Streit, bus driver; David Siler, executive director of the Secretariat for Catholic Charities and Family Ministries; and Daughter of Mary Mother of Mercy Sister Obinna Okpala, who ministers at A Caring Place.

Before recent voter issues, CCHD had cut off ACORN funds

BALTIMORE (CNS)—The Catholic Campaign for Human Development cut off funding earlier this year to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, known as ACORN, for reasons unrelated to the organization's current troubles over voter registration and partisan politics, reported the chairman of the U.S. bishops' subcommittee on CCHD.

Bishop Roger P. Morin

In a report to the bishops on Nov. 11 during their annual fall meeting in Baltimore, Auxiliary Bishop Roger P. Morin of New Orleans explained that CCHD, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program that funds community development

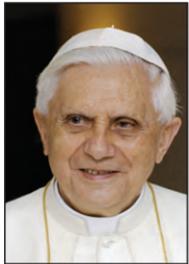
programs around the country, this summer suspended \$1.13 million in previously authorized grants to ACORN affiliates. No new applications from ACORN for the coming year were approved, he added. ACORN has been under scrutiny in the last few months, most visibly for problems with its voter registration efforts. ACORN's voter registration programs in several states are being investigated after some of its workers were found to have made up names on registration forms. The false names were discovered before the forms were turned in to government entities. But Bishop Morin explained that the CCHD action followed the revelation on June 2 that Dale Rathke, the brother of ACORN founder Wade Rathke, had embezzled nearly \$1 million from the organization and its affiliates in 1999 and 2000. Dale Rathke stepped down from his position with the national organization in June

when the matter became public. No charges were filed against him. That revelation "raised questions about transparency and governance of ACORN," Bishop Morin told the bishops. CCHD commissioned a forensic audit to determine whether any of the Church's funds had been stolen or used inappropriately. The final report of the auditors is still pending, but Bishop Morin said the work so far has concluded that "our funds were not involved with those embezzled at the national office." Though financial accounting at the national level of ACORN was apparently flawed, the bishop said CCHD funds for local programs did reach the intended recipients. Nevertheless, Bishop Morin said, "we thought it important" to remove ACORN affiliates from CCHD funding. At a press conference following the session with the bishops, Bishop Morin said ACORN's organization is so complex that

"we couldn't feel assured that we could vet all of [the individual affiliates] to be able to work with them." CCHD grants to ACORN affiliates have in the past funded local programs to create job opportunities and to combat low wages and crime, he said. Recent ACORN projects to receive CCHD funds included programs to improve housing opportunities for the poor and raise funds for Hurricane Katrina relief. In response to questions at the press conference, Bishop Morin and Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, clarified that CCHD was created to help develop grass-roots projects for people to help their own communities, not to directly aid the poor. Charitable programs of the Church are handled through other agencies, such as Catholic Charities. †

More must be done to prevent children's suffering, death, says pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—More must be done to remedy the poverty, conflicts and neglect that lead to the suffering or death of millions of children around the world, Pope Benedict XVI said.



Pope Benedict XVI

The pope said he hoped the gross imbalances between developed and under-developed countries and the rich and poor would be "repaired as soon as possible with resolute action in favor of our smallest brothers and sisters."

Many children around the world urgently need help, the pope said on Nov. 15 during a private audience with participants of a Vatican-sponsored conference on "The Pastoral Care in the Treatment of Sick Children." Participants in the Nov. 13-15 conference, sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, discussed ways the Church and Catholic health care workers could address the medical, pastoral and spiritual needs of sick children and their families.

"I am thinking, above all, about the little ones who have been orphaned or abandoned because of poverty and the breakdown of the family; I'm thinking of the young innocent victims of AIDS or war and the many armed conflicts under way in different parts of the world; I'm thinking of the infants who die as the result of poverty, drought and hunger," the pope said, noting that 4 million newborns die within the first month.

"The Church does not forget her smallest children," he said. While the Church applauds what the world's richest nations are doing to improve living conditions in poorer countries, it also urgently calls for greater attention to children so that they "may look at life with trust and hope," said the pope.

A child's full human

dignity must be recognized and respected at every stage of development, even in the womb, he said. The weaker a human seems, the more precious that person is in the eyes of God, he said. Pope Benedict said that work must continue to be done to prevent childhood diseases by offering proper medical care, improved

hygiene and better living conditions. He also noted the difficulties that health care workers and families face in finding the right balance between insisting on and discontinuing therapies. He said that, as medical personnel try to guarantee the appropriate treatment for the needs of their smaller patients, they also must resist

"succumbing to the temptation of experimentalism" or treating sick children merely as objects for research. The pope underlined the emotional trauma that illness has on a child's family and urged medical personnel to use "the language of tenderness and love" when communicating with their patients.

During his address on Nov. 13, Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, head of the health care council, condemned "inappropriate prenatal genetic manipulation," the lack of health care and using economic arguments to decide whether to cure a child or not. Another conference participant, Vito Ferri, a psychologist who

specializes in treating cancer patients, told Vatican Radio that a child's debilitating illness hits the whole family like "an existential earthquake." Families today already are fragile with little outside support, and many often are abandoned to deal with a crisis on their own, he said in a Nov. 14 interview with Vatican Radio. †

SHARE IN THE CARE December 14, 2008 RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS



From left to right, Sister Mary Lucien Dippel, O.S.B., Sister Mary Carol Messmer, O.S.B. and Sister Marie Olinger, O.S.B.

All three Sisters of St. Benedict are charter members of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove. They taught in schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Evansville before retiring.

About 58 percent of women and men religious are past 70; 7 percent are past age 90, More than 4, 900 need skilled nursing care. Even at advanced ages, many work in compensated or volunteer ministry that benefits others.

Religious institutes are financially autonomous and responsible for the support of their members. Income sources include compensated ministry, government benefits and investment return.

Most elderly religious receive, on average, a Social Security benefit of just \$4,402 per year. Community living provides some economies of scale, but health care and living costs in most religious communities far exceed income.

Ninety-five percent of donations to the National Religious Retirement Office aid elderly religious.



Sister Mary Lucien Dippel, O.S.B.

"When I celebrated my diamond jubilee and my picture was in The Criterion, a girl I had taught at St. Anthony School [then] in Jeffersonville way back in 1948 saw it and wrote to me. I had her in my second-grade class. We moved [the parish church and school] out to Clarksville and our first school year was in 1949. We had only four classrooms and we were crowded. We had more than 220 [students] in four classrooms. One sister had 72 [students] in her room. One year I taught 60 students in second grade."

"The first sisters came up in 1956 and then our first summer up here was 1957. If you were missioned in the archdiocese that meant you came up here."



Sister Mary Carol Messmer, O.S.B.

"I taught mostly in southern Indiana, just two parishes in the archdiocese that I taught in. I last taught at [the former St. John School in] Starlight for 35 years. I retired from the classroom in 1993 then the pastor asked me to stay on and work in the parish office so I came home [to the monastery] in 2005."



Sister Marie Olinger, O.S.B.

"Last year, I was standing in line at a craft store and the lady in front of me said, 'Oh, Sister Marie! ... Another lady was behind me. When I left, she called my name as we got outside. She said, 'Could you be the Sister Marie that taught me at St. Benedict School in Evansville?' That was in 1948. And I said, 'Yes,' and we stood and talked for about 45 minutes or an hour."

"I had 67 kids in the first grade one year at Christ the King School in Evansville."

Catholic Conference launches online tool for grassroots effort

Special to *The Criterion*

Catholics across Indiana can engage their elected officials in a new and powerful way through an online tool offered by the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC).



Glenn Tebbe

Capitol Advantage, the software tool launched by the Indiana Catholic Conference and now available on the ICC Web site, www.indianacc.org, allows visitors to enter a Legislative Action Center and engage in a variety of grassroots activities in a few simple keystrokes. One of the key features of the software allows visitors to quickly identify and contact their elected officials.

By clicking "Legislative Action Center" on the ICC home page, the visitor has information and quick access to government officials. The center includes these choices: Elected Officials, Issues, Election and Media.

Under the "Elected Officials" menu, for example, visitors are able to access the "Indiana Legislative Directory" for

state officials; or select "President" to access the president of the U.S., federal agencies and a congressional directory; or select the "Supreme Court" for contact information for the U.S. Supreme Court.

In addition to contact information for each office holder, biographical information and links to other useful Web pages for individual members of the Indiana General Assembly or the U.S. Congress, governmental agencies and the U.S. Supreme Court are available.

Visitors to the center also have the option to join the action network. By joining the action network, members will begin receiving a weekly electronic newsletter called "Legislative Update" when the Indiana General Assembly is in session during the months of January through May 2009.

Those receiving the "Legislative Update" remain current on the issues and in tune with the ICC's efforts in the legislature.

The ICC also sends periodic electronic "Action Alerts" to network members who, when called upon via e-mail, will assist the Church's legislative efforts at the statehouse by contacting lawmakers.

"When the Indiana General Assembly is in session, getting input from

constituents in a timely manner on legislation that is being created is vital to the process," said Glenn Tebbe, ICC executive director. "When Catholics contact their representatives in unison with the work of the Catholic Conference, it allows the Church to be more effective in shaping morally sound public policy."

"The use of this software by Catholics has the potential to significantly impact the Church's role in the public policy arena," Tebbe explained. "It is my hope that our faith community will seize the opportunity to take advantage of this online tool."

Tebbe added, "Catholics that have a particular charisma in pro-life, social justice, education, immigration reform, health care or family life issues will be able to stay connected and be counted when important legislative decisions are made on priority issues the Church is following."

Want to know what the current issues are or how elected officials voted on abortion legislation? Select "Issues" from the menu in the Legislative Action Center.

Under "Issues," individuals can look up voting records under "Key Votes" for members of the Indiana General Assembly (state senators and state representatives) or members of Congress

(U.S. senators and U.S. representatives) on legislation affecting the unborn, families in poverty, capital punishment, same-sex marriage, the common good, education and immigration reform.

Also under the "Issues" menu, visitors can view current legislation, legislative alerts and updates, and get tips on contacting legislators via phone, mail or in person.

Other features include a "Tell a Friend" option, which allows visitors to e-mail friends or family members about legislative alerts or updates further expanding those who can become informed and involved in the legislative process.

Want to write a letter to the editor or put a call into a talk radio program to voice a concern from a Catholic perspective? Contacting the media is made easier than ever by selecting "Media" from the menu in the Legislative Action Center. Contact information is available for major newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations in the state, including e-mails, addresses, phone and fax numbers.

While the role of the ICC is to serve as the official voice of the Catholic Church in the public policy arena primarily in Indiana, those visiting the ICC Web page will also be notified

about important federal legislation that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is concerned about. The Web page also offers the means to contact members of Congress.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us that, "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent to the dignity of the human person. ... As far as possible, citizens should take an active part in public life" (#1913, #1915).

Since its inception in 1996, more than 1,200 organizations nationwide have used Capitol Advantage's online tool to engage millions of interested citizens in the public policy process.

There are 11 other state Catholic conferences that use Capitol Advantage, including California, Kentucky, the District of Columbia, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York and Wisconsin. Six other Catholic Conferences use similar online systems.

Christopher Leifeld, executive director for the Minnesota Catholic Conference, said that in the two years since the Capitol Advantage software was made available in his state, they have had more than 1,500 subscribed users. More than 450 of the subscribed users have sent e-mail messages to government officials.

"We have editable messages. So many of the messages sent by users are personalized, resulting in greater impact," Leifeld said.

(To explore the ICC's new online public policy tool, log on to the ICC Web site at www.indianacc.org. Click on "Legislative Action Center.") †

"My heart surgery at St. Francis was the difference between life and death."

At 33 years old, Chris knew he would eventually need surgery to replace a calcified heart valve. However, he had no idea how urgent it was until his wife encouraged him to attend an *Ask the Doc* program and to have a cardiac screening, sponsored by the St. Francis Heart Center. "Your symptoms begin so gradually, you think what you are feeling is normal," he said. With only a small incision, Chris was able to make a quick recovery. Thanks to the work of the heart team at St. Francis, Chris can rest assured he will be there to watch his three small children grow up. "I told them Daddy's heart had a bad boom-boom before, and has a good boom-boom now."

St. Francis is the leader in total heart care for South Central Indiana with:

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- The most advanced and innovative repair techniques that set new standards for heart valve treatment
- The Midwest Heart Valve Center—the only dedicated heart valve center in Indiana

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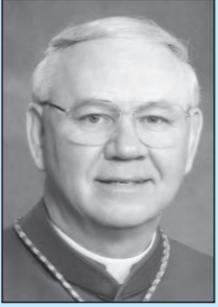
Chris, heart valve replacement patient

Chris participated in the first-of-its-kind innovative research study, which may allow more patients to avoid long-term use of blood thinners.

 ST. FRANCIS HEART CENTER

By receiving Eucharist, Catholics can 'transform world,' bishop says

ST. LOUIS (CNS)—The purpose of the Eucharist is seen in the actions of the saints, Bishop Paul A. Zipfel of Bismarck, N.D., told a gathering of the Gateway Liturgical Conference in St. Louis on Nov. 7.



Bishop Paul A. Zipfel

"The bread and wine are transformed in order to transform us so that we can transform the world," he said during the annual conference sponsored by the St. Louis archdiocesan Office of Sacred Worship.

Using St. Francis as an example, he said: "He regularly received the Lord and was changed. Then, he was able to change the world by his life and love. He was able to perceive Christ's presence in everyone, and people, in turn, could see Christ's presence in him."

Bishop Zipfel also used the example of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, India. When asked how she was able to care for the poorest of the poor without becoming burned out, she responded by simply pointing to prayer before the Eucharist, he said.

"She saw in the Eucharist a gift and a relationship, but also a responsibility. That is the astounding beauty of this most central sacrament," said Bishop Zipfel, a native of St. Louis who was an educator, parish pastor and auxiliary bishop of the St. Louis archdiocese before being named to the North Dakota diocese in 1996.

He said he thinks of Mother Teresa when he is challenged by some people who think the social justice teaching of the Church—preaching the dignity of all human life, economic justice and the preferential option for the poor—is allowed to infringe, as they put it, on the celebration of the Mass.

"There are more than a few Catholics who have the attitude that such things do not belong at the Eucharist. They do not want any of this seemingly extraneous material to get in the way of the prayerful reception of their Lord and Savior."

Such an attitude misses the depth of the Eucharist, Bishop Zipfel said. "There is no more intimate meeting with the Lord than at holy Communion. But, such a meeting pushes us to another level. The Catholic faith is not just a 'me and Jesus' experience.

"The Eucharist forms us into a community, the Church, which is something much bigger than ourselves," he continued. "Finally, the Eucharist pushes the individual believer and the whole community to make a difference. It commits us to the transformation of the world."

The Mass brings people into communion with Christ, with their brothers and sisters, and especially

with the poor and all those who suffer, Bishop Zipfel said.

"It reminds us that Christ became poor by taking our flesh, and he embraced the cross," he said. "The Lord identified with the poor and disadvantaged so fully that he would even tell his disciples, 'Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me.'"

The poor with whom Mother Teresa would serve "were Christ; they were tabernacles. She would do what she did because she had learned to recognize the Lord in them, the poorest of the poor."

The bishop reminded his audience that if the world today could be reduced to a global village of 1,000 people, 6 percent would control half of the income. In the village, 30 percent would be hungry, 60 percent would live in shantytowns and 70 percent would be illiterate.

The person formed by the Eucharist sees each person, rich or poor, as a gift, Bishop Zipfel said. In the Gospels, he noted, Jesus' words, actions and presence changed everyone he met.

The Gospels, Bishop Zipfel said, are full of people's encounters with Jesus and how his words, actions and presence changed everyone he met. The bishop pointed to the two followers' encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus, and how he explained Scripture and then broke bread with them.

"For 2,000 years, we Catholics have done precisely this at Holy Mass. ... In this way, no matter when or where we live, the risen Christ comes into our midst even as he did for those two disciples," he said.

In his talk, Bishop Zipfel urged people "to be drawn more deeply into the mystery of God's love with open minds, with open hearts, with open hands and with open eyes."

The Eucharist, he said, "is central to our Catholic identity. The greatest gift that Christ left his Church is the very presence of Christ in our midst."

That gift, Bishop Zipfel said, "has lifted and carried countless Christians throughout the centuries in the face of great struggle and opposition." †

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Actually, we don't mind if you compare. Because for the last four years, when HealthGrades—America's leading independent healthcare ratings company—has compared hospitals for overall heart care, St. Vincent Heart Center of Indiana has been named #1. No hospital in the 10-state region has earned this honor four years in a row: 2006, 2007, 2008, and now 2009. When the experts compare, there's simply no comparison. **The best heart care in Indiana. Period.**



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Vatican opens Pope Benedict bookstore outside St. Peter's Square

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In a world filled with conflicting messages, people should be able to find books that explain Catholic Church teaching near every Catholic Church, said the Vatican secretary of state.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Pope Benedict XVI's top aide, spoke at the Nov. 18 opening of the Pope Benedict XVI International Bookstore just outside St. Peter's Square.

The store is a joint operation of the Vatican publishing house, the Vatican newspaper's photographic service, and the Vatican's stamp and coin office.

The Vatican publishing house also operates the tiny Pope John Paul II International Bookstore in St. Peter's Square and the Pope Paul VI International Bookstore near Rome's Spanish Steps in the building that houses the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

In addition to books, including those by the pope, the new Pope Benedict bookstore will sell collectable Vatican stamps and coins and photographs of the popes taken by the all-access photographers of *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper.

After leading a short prayer service, asking God to bless the new store and all who will work there, Cardinal Bertone said people from around the world come to St. Peter's Square for the Sunday Angelus or the weekly general audience and are "enlightened and comforted" by the words of Pope Benedict.

Like the pope, he said, "this bookstore hopes to present to the modern world the truth present for all eternity in the word of God."

In a world of competing and confusing messages, the cardinal said, "today it is important that alongside places of worship, there are open places where people can find help in understanding the Word of God, Jesus Christ." †

Giving thanks to God—and you

Blessings are numerous for local Church in 2008

Criterion staff report

Once again this Thanksgiving, most people will bow their heads for a moment and give thanks to God for the blessings in their lives. Looking back upon the past year, the archdiocese can also count its blessings in many ways.

As we list some of the remarkable blessings for the Church in central and southern Indiana in the past year, we start with a heartfelt thanks to each of you for the faith you have and the faith you live. We wish you and your family a happy and blessed Thanksgiving and a joyful Advent.

Here are 10 reasons to give thanks as an archdiocese for what has truly been a special year:

Sharing a legacy

Anna Molloy was a 12-year-old girl who helped the poor from her wheelchair.

Ninety-three-year-old Lucious Newsom spent the last 20 years of his life feeding the needy in Indianapolis and nourishing the souls of the volunteers who helped him.

Joan Byrum was a 74-year-old woman who dedicated 20 years of her life as the volunteer president of Right to Life of Indianapolis.

Those three members of the archdiocese died in the past year, leaving a touching legacy of the difference that each child, woman and man can make in the world.



Teenagers from St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg get ready to take part in the 35th annual March for Life on Jan. 22 in Washington, D.C.

Making history, offering a future

In March, the archdiocese welcomed 7,000 Catholic educators from across the country to the National Catholic Educational Association Convention—the first time in the 105-year history of the association that the convention was held in Indianapolis.

Yet even more important are the daily efforts of the 1,900 staff members who educate the more than 23,000 students in the 71 Catholic schools in the archdiocese, and the sacrifice of the parents who make it possible for their children to attend Catholic schools.

Beginning a new era

On June 28, history was made at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis when Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein ordained 25 men from central and southern Indiana as the first class of permanent deacons in the archdiocese's history.

They will be able to baptize, witness marriages and preside over funeral services. The deacons can also preach, share the Gospel, teach the faith, and take part in and lead many ministries of charity.

Giving from the heart

In September, the archdiocese celebrated the success of the archdiocesan capital campaign that is known as Legacy for Our Mission: For Our Children and the Future. More than 33,000 Catholics in the archdiocese pledged \$104 million to the campaign, which involved about 14,000 volunteers. Another \$10 million was pledged by corporations and foundations.

Taking one for the team

Once again, just as it has done for nearly 70 years, the Catholic Youth Organization has helped shape the lives of children and teenagers through sports, science fairs and music contests—thanks to the help of about 2,500 volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to about 20,000 boys and girls each year. All that, plus you can get a drink and popcorn for about \$2 at many school gymnasiums.

Going the extra mile

The commitment of young people is often inspiring, especially when they literally “go the extra mile” to live their faith. Several hundred teenagers from the archdiocese participated in the 35th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., in January to show their support for the unborn. And 44 youths set aside proms, sports and other commitments to travel to New York to see Pope Benedict XVI in April.

Carrying the torch

This year, six archdiocesan priests celebrated 50 years in the priesthood: Father Francis Eckstein, Msgr. Harold Knueven, Father Herman Lutz, Father J. Joseph McNally, Father William Munshower and Father Harold Ripperger.

We remember two priests who died, Father Charles Chesebrough and Msgr. Bernard Schmitz, and take note of their lifetime of service to the archdiocese.

This year, two priests were ordained in June: Father Aaron Jenkins and Father Joseph Newton.

Extending a hand

When floods devastated many communities in southern and central Indiana in June, officials from Catholic Charities and volunteers from many parishes rushed to help.

As the faltering economy continues to hurt families, the volunteers at the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry in Indianapolis continue to serve more than 2,100 households each week.

They're just two examples of a reality that continues to inspire: When there are others in need, the ones who often step forward to help are the people who realize just how blessed their own lives are.

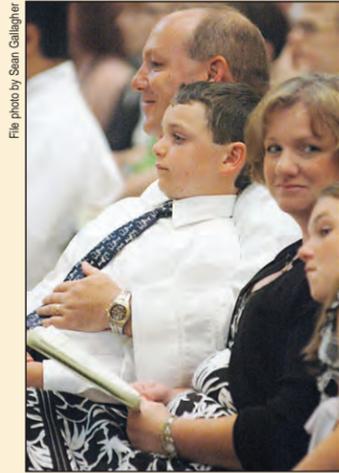
Passing the baton

One era of faith opened the door for another era of faith in the archdiocese this summer.

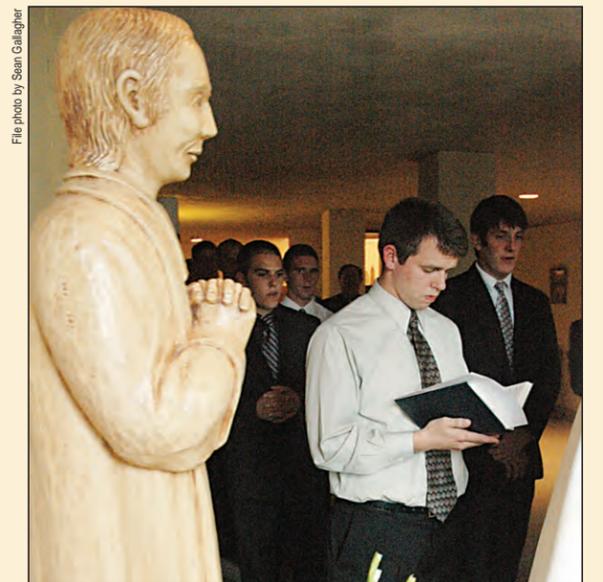
For more than 75 years, the cloistered Carmelite nuns lived in the Monastery of the Resurrection in Indianapolis, offering their gift of contemplative prayer for the world. At the end of June, they moved to the motherhouse grounds of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in Oldenburg.



Dominican Sister Diana Dolorita, a catechetical minister in Curacao in the Netherlands Antilles, receives Communion on March 25 from Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general, during the opening Mass of the National Catholic Educational Association's annual convention at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.



Collin Henn sits on the lap of his father, deacon candidate David Henn, near the start of a June 28 liturgy at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis during which he and 24 other men were ordained as the first class of permanent deacons in archdiocesan history. Also seated next to David Henn are, from left, his wife, Mary Ellen, and his daughter, Sydney.



Seminarian Benjamin Syberg, a junior at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, prays the litany of the saints while he processes through the seminary's hallways on Sept. 8. On that day, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein dedicated the former Carmelite Monastery of the Resurrection as a seminary. Syberg is seen walking by a statue of the Servant of God Simon Bruté, the first bishop of the Diocese of Vincennes, which later became the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Later in the summer, seminarians moved onto the campus left behind by the Carmelites as the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary opened there.

Celebrating the journey

In September, the archdiocese began the celebration of its 175th anniversary when Archbishop Buechlein led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Before the journey, the archbishop shared these words of thanksgiving for the past and hope for the future: “It is fitting that we begin the observance of our 175th anniversary with a pilgrimage to the place where Jesus was born, and where our Catholic faith and Church have their roots.

“We will be keeping all of the members of our local Church in our thoughts and our prayers as we make this journey to thank God for all of the blessings we have received and to ask him to guide us through the next 175 years.”

Happy Thanksgiving. †

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Mass Daily at 8am and noon
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Great Catholic Programs 24 Hours a Day



UNEMPLOYED

continued from page 1

including career advisers, licensed counselors and human resource specialists, are paired with job seekers. Guest speakers also give tips on updating resumes and on networking.

Dobies, a St. Andrew parishioner and retired sales manager who worked at Xerox and AT&T, said that for many people attending these sessions this is their first experience with unemployment. It might also be the first time for them to be looking for a job since they were initially hired.

“What they don’t know is that the job market has changed so much,” she told Catholic News Service in a Nov. 12 telephone interview. She noted that landing a job is often based more on networking than anything else. “Resumes are not enough,” she stressed.

“A lot of people have no idea what to do,” she said of those who have lost their jobs after decades with the same company.

In Michigan, these jobs have predominantly been in the automotive industry. The car giants Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp., slammed by huge losses, have closed factories and laid off thousands of employees already and may announce more cuts by the end of the year. The companies are waiting to hear if they will be given a federal bailout.

“We find people not in Michigan don’t really understand how dramatically this is affecting people,” Dobies said, adding that often those who have lost their jobs can’t easily pick up and move to work elsewhere because they often can’t sell their homes.

Like many other Michigan natives, Dobies comes from a family whose members have worked in the automotive industry for generations. She said she “never would have guessed” that the car industry would be in trouble.

“It’s so encompassing,” she said. “The auto industry is tied to suppliers all over

the world.”

But Detroit is not the only place feeling the effects of the nation’s troubled economy. Construction companies, retailers, mortgage bankers, securities firms, the motel industry, appliance factories, shipping companies and steel plants all have cut jobs this year.

During the month of October alone, manufacturing jobs decreased by 90,000, construction by 49,000, retail by 38,000 and the financial industry by 24,000. Only the health care and mining industries gained employees in this time period.

According to the U.S. Labor Department statistics released on Nov. 7, the jobless rate rose to 6.5 percent in October when employers fired 240,000 workers. That figure put the total number of unemployed Americans past 10.08 million, the highest level in 25 years. One year ago, the jobless rate was 4.8 percent.

Gene Gilbert, one of the coordinators of the St. Basil Job Search Support Group in Brecksville, Ohio, said he sees the effects of frequent layoffs in the Tuesday night meetings at his parish, where participants range from “high-level CFOs to part-time employees,” and sometimes both husbands and wives are unemployed.

In Ohio, 7,000 job cuts were recently announced by the international shipping company DHL. Other layoffs in the state have come from Whirlpool Corp.; *The Plain Dealer*, Cleveland’s daily newspaper; and steel companies and auto parts factories.

CNS photo/Jim West



Resource manager Nicole Palomba, right, talks with job seekers during a career counseling session at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Rochester, Mich., on Nov. 13. During the sessions, parish volunteers who are career advisers, licensed counselors and human resource specialists are paired with job seekers.

Gilbert, who retired in 2002, knows what it is like to lose a job; he was laid off in 1993 from a longtime job. But he also knows a job loss today is far different than it was a decade ago.

When he was laid off, he received one year’s severance pay and was guaranteed help with finding a new job.

“That was back when companies were still taking better care of their employees,” he said, noting that employees who lose

their jobs today frequently do not get a severance package and are highly unlikely to get help finding another job.

‘A major thing our Church stresses is there are basically two commandments: Love the Lord and love your neighbor as yourself. Right now, our neighbors are hurting in so many ways.’

—Gene Gilbert

He said that parish job support programs are “filling a void.” The St. Basil group, formed about five years ago, is part of a group of four parishes in the Employment Network Ministry of the Cleveland Diocese.

“A major thing our Church stresses is there are basically two commandments: Love the Lord and love your neighbor as yourself. Right now, our neighbors are hurting in so many ways,” Gilbert added.

“We want to make sure they have as much help as they can get in this stressful period. It’s one of the biggest crises people can go through when their very livelihoods are in jeopardy,” he said.

Dobies agreed the Church can play a key role in helping people find jobs and also maintaining their self-confidence.

“One of the main things job seekers need is hope—the belief they can find another opportunity and that their lives are not over,” she said. †

Michigan priest posts advice to unemployed on parish Web site

WASHINGTON (CNS)—One of the top items on the parish Web site for St. Joseph Church in Lake Orion, Mich., is certainly a sign of the times.

“Struggling with unemployment? St. Joseph Church can help,” it reads.

The link leads readers to three audio files with speakers offering spiritual and practical advice and discussing the emotional toll of losing one’s job. A fourth audio, scheduled to be posted soon on the site, will discuss job loss from an entirely different perspective: how a manager copes with the task of firing employees.

Father Michael Verschaeve, pastor at St. Joseph Parish, posted the links on the Web site—www.stjosephlakeorion.org—in late October.

He said the audio links were something parish leaders thought they should provide as a way to reach out to the Church community located near the Chrysler headquarters and a General Motors assembly plant.

The auto industry has faced huge losses this year, and

GM in particular has gone through a dramatic reduction of its factory workforce with buyouts and early retirement offers.

In 2003, the automotive company had about 125,000 U.S. employees. By the end of 2008, that number is expected to be 62,500. Earlier this year, the company announced it was closing four plants where pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles are built, but it has yet to fully make cuts at factories that produce engines, transmissions and other parts.

Among parishioners at St. Joseph are both managers and factory workers in the auto industry. Although some have lost their jobs, others are in a time of uncertainty, Father Verschaeve told Catholic News Service on Nov. 10 in a telephone interview.

“We’re waiting for the other shoe to drop—what will happen with Chrysler and General Motors,” he said, noting that more job cuts are anticipated. Although U.S. car companies are seeking a federal bailout, it is not clear if

Congress will approve it.

The priest said the mood was “very dour” as people waited and wondered if they should take the proposed buyouts. The “holding pattern creates anxiety as well,” the priest added.

Yet amid the economic uncertainty, parish giving has not decreased.

“People are still generous,” he said, adding that in tough times “people turn to the Church and focus on things that are important.”

Father Verschaeve, who delivers the Web audio address on “The Spiritual Challenges of Being Unemployed” on the parish site, advised listeners to “cry out to God” with their complaints, saying it is “good for the soul.”

He also urged them to find their strength in God and others, and to recognize that “sometimes after traumatic events we can find moments of grace. ... A new challenge to grow emerges.” †

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thieves, looters and worse. Concerning the safety of her children, Inbranie said, "They're afraid 'cause anyone can come in on us. I can't sleep. Anything I hear I just jump up. Who am I gonna turn to for help? There's no neighbor I can call out to."

"Mommy, when are we gonna come out of here?" 5-year-old Lotoya Persaud frequently asks her mother. "I don't know what to do," her tearful mother responds. "I ain't got nothing."

"This, rather, is the fasting that I wish... sheltering the oppressed..."
(Isaiah 58:6a, 7b)

Upon returning from church, the Persaud family discovered that soot and ash were all that remained of their home in Guyana — it had been consumed by a fire. In a desperate attempt to find shelter, Inbranie Persaud and her two daughters transferred chickens they were raising from a large pen to a smaller chicken coop.

elements. Here Inbranie and her girls would find little rest and even less peace. In a matter of two hours, this poor family's source of shelter went from little to nothing.

The girls continuously cried while their mother prayed over them the first night in the coop. The entire family slept on a rotted mattress as mosquitoes

swarmed around them. Inbranie fervently prayed as the smell of smoke and burnt wood wafted throughout the coop. "God, please protect us," Inbranie sobbed. "It's only the girls and I in here. We have nothing... we have nothing."

The Persauds were not only left unprotected from the elements, but vulnerable to

A new, protective home would be a miracle for a family like the Persauds. Unsheltered families like this throughout the Caribbean and Latin America pray for the miracle of

The large pen then became their only shelter from the



"God, please protect us," Inbranie Persaud sobbed. "We have nothing... we have nothing."



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little to nothing

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Inbranie found the remnants

of her church hymnal amid the rubble of her former home. Standing atop its vacant grounds, Inbranie said, "I'm praying that we can come out of this [chicken coop] as fast as we can. I really, really need help. I thank God for anyone who can help me."

The brochure enclosed in this publication contains more information on how you can help suffering families in need of safe housing. Every gift will make a tremendous difference

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Advocates call for making hunger a top priority

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Almost half of American voters say they are living paycheck to paycheck as food prices rise and the country's economic woes deepen, reports the Alliance to End Hunger.

In an Election Day survey of 1,000 voters nationwide, the alliance found major concerns developing around what it calls "food insecurity." Three in five voters—59 percent—said they were impacted by high food prices. Slightly less than half—49 percent—said they see hunger growing worse. Nearly one in five—19 percent—say they fear that they or someone they know will go hungry.

Additionally, almost everyone responding—94 percent—said they believe hunger is just as much of a problem in other countries.

Such responses show an underlying lack of confidence in current economic conditions, anchored in part by a 7.5 percent increase in

food prices during the last year. They also do not bode well for a quick financial recovery unless any new economic stimulus plan is directed to the lower end of the economic ladder, said the Rev. David Beckmann, alliance president.

"When we talk about the economic crisis, we're not giving enough attention to the fact that people who are getting hardest hit by the crisis are people who are not able to feed their children any more," Rev. Beckmann told Catholic News Service during a break in the alliance's annual meeting on Nov. 6, when the findings were released.

"The moral imperative is clear," he said,

explaining that the country must make ending hunger and overturning poverty domestically and internationally a priority. That comes, in part, by creating broader awareness of poverty and building support for aid and development programs, especially around food, he said.

A Lutheran minister, Rev. Beckmann believes worldwide hunger deserves the same attention, especially as some parts of the world are experiencing food shortages. Rioting over food shortages has occurred across Africa, southern Asia and Haiti throughout 2008.

"This is not about the stock market. This is about child death," he said.

The survey's results parallel the realities on the ground among Catholic Charities agencies across the country. An October survey of 44 local Catholic Charities operations by Catholic Charities USA found that 88 percent of

the agencies reported significantly more families and individuals seeking assistance. The number of people seeking food assistance is up at three-quarters of the agencies.

Leading the way were senior citizens, the working poor and the middle class as they turned to Catholic Charities agencies for food and for help with utility, rent and mortgage payments.

Gus Hernandez, senior family resource specialist at Catholic Charities in Fresno, Calif., said the agency's client base has nearly tripled during 2008 from 40 to 50 families a day to an average of 143 a day. The agency has reduced its



Children eat lunch at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit on Nov. 13. A survey says almost half of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck as food prices rise and the country's economic woes deepen. The soup kitchen is operated by the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph, and got its start during the Great Depression of 1929.

operating hours to prevent its shelves from going bare on any one day.

"We've been proactive," Hernandez said. "We just conducted a food drive last weekend, and we'll have another in the next two weeks. The community has responded well to our request. It's been a good collaboration."

Likewise, Catholic Services of Utah has seen a 185 percent increase in requests for food boxes. In Omaha, Neb., five times as many people have turned to Catholic Charities for housing assistance as they struggle to combat unemployment and higher food prices.

The crisis facing low-, moderate- and middle-income families presents the country with the opportunity to make fighting hunger and poverty a priority, the alliance's Rev. Beckmann said.

The alliance, of which the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is a part, has targeted 2015 for eliminating child hunger in the United States. The advocacy group also called for major policy changes to reduce global hunger and poverty over the same period.

Sen. Dick Lugar, R-Ind., and Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., have been congressional allies in the fight against hunger both in the U.S. and around the world. Joining the alliance's annual meeting, the two legislators called on President-elect Barack Obama to appoint a "food czar" to oversee domestic and international food policy.

The position is called for in the Global Food Security Act, which was introduced in Congress earlier this year, but has not been acted upon. Lugar said he plans to reintroduce the bill in the next Congress.

McGovern called hunger a "political condition."

"We have the opportunity to redefine our priorities, not only domestically but globally.

... We have the ability to solve hunger. What has been a problem for a long time is that we haven't been able to muster the political will," he said.

Rev. Beckmann finds that the legislation will be a much-needed boost to ending food insecurity for millions of people worldwide, not just in the U.S., and for helping begin an economic turnaround in the global financial crisis.

"With just a little bit of facilitation, we can free up the intense desire of poor people around the world to get out of poverty. That is tremendous motivation for economic recovery. They really are a buoyant part of the global economy," he said.

Between 1990 and 2005, the number of people living in extreme poverty—those living on less than \$2 per day—declined by 500 million worldwide, thanks to local and regional initiatives that promoted development, self-sufficiency and education. While the trend has slowed since 2006 because of the economic downturn, Rev. Beckmann is hopeful that attacking hunger globally will lead to a quicker turnaround.

"I believe that God is moving in our time to liberate people from hunger, poverty and disease," he said. "The progress that the world is making is an experience of the saving God in our history. Right now, poor and hungry people are suffering a big setback, but I remain really hopeful. This is God moving in our time."

(Editor's note: Information about Catholic Charities USA's Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America can be found online at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org. The Alliance to End Hunger's "Blueprint to End Hunger 2008" can be found online at www.bread.org/learn/us-hunger-issues/blueprint10-16-08.pdf.) †

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Holy Rosary Parish in Seeleyville marks 100 years of faith

By Sean Gallagher

SEELEYVILLE—On Oct. 7, 1908, the feast of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, Father John Walsh celebrated Mass for the first time in the partly completed church of the then-Diocese of Indianapolis' newest parish, located just east of Terre Haute in the town of Seeleyville.

Because of the feast day, the parish came to be known as Holy Rosary Parish.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein was the primary celebrant on Oct. 11 at a Mass in the same church that celebrated the Terre Haute Deanery faith community's 100th anniversary of its founding.

The archbishop was joined on the occasion by many of the parish's members and its administrator, Father Dominic Chukwudi.

"It was a time of joy for me to be present when the parish celebrated its 100th anniversary," said Father Chukwudi.

"The people were enthusiastic about the celebration. It was a very colorful celebration."

It was also a special day for parishioner Donna Novotney, 79, whose father-in-law helped build the church.

"I thought about that [during the centennial Mass]," said Novotney. "I just wondered what the differences were. Maybe it was completely done and probably had wood walls on the inside. I know that at the first Mass, they sat on logs."

Many of the first members of the parish were Eastern European immigrants, primarily Czechs and Lithuanians. They came to the town to work in nearby coal mines.

Within a decade of the parish's founding, the mines were in decline and many Catholic families moved to find work elsewhere.

But enough Catholic families remained in Seeleyville that, following the challenges of the Great Depression and World War II, they were ready to respond to the active leadership of Father Leo Schellenberger, who was appointed pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in 1947.

"He was a stern and a loving pastor," said Novotney, who married her husband, Paul, at the parish church shortly after Father Schellenberger's arrival. "He guided the children and made better people out of them. He was stern with the

children, and they listened to what he said."

Although he had a reputation for being severe at times, Novotney said Father Schellenberger helped the parishioners grow closer together like a family.

"After he got here, we had bake sales and dinners and all of that," she said. "It really brought out a sense of family. People would look forward to our dinners and our barbecues."

After the centennial Mass, parishioners enjoyed another dinner, this time to honor their community's first 100 years.

Displayed at the celebration were several historic photos of the parish and old news articles about it.

"[The display] made me realize that, from the beginning, they were a group of people who brought their hearts and their minds together to work for the parish and to be a family," said Father Chukwudi. "There is a continuity from the earliest members of the parish to this year."

It was that sense of family in the parish that greeted Pat Armstrong and her family when they moved to the area in the mid-1970s.

"It was a very friendly, warm, welcoming parish," said Armstrong, 66. "The people spoke to you. They shook hands. They said, 'How are you? Are you new here? Have you just moved in or are you visiting?'"

"It's like home. It's as much like home as my house or going back to my parents' home."

From its beginning, Holy Rosary Parish has always remained a relatively small parish. Today, it numbers some 84 households.

Its church, totaling only 18 pews, can comfortably seat 125 people.



Members of Holy Rosary Parish in Seeleyville kneel in prayer while Father Dominic Chukwudi, administrator, prays the eucharistic prayer during a Nov. 9 Mass at the parish's church. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein was the primary celebrant of an Oct. 11 Mass at the parish that celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding.

But, according to Armstrong, that allows parishioners to know firsthand how their efforts contribute to the life of the community.

"I did things that I had never done before," she said. "I got to wash the linens. I helped set up the altar. I helped clean up the church. I've done all the things that, in a big parish, someone is hired to do, for the most part."

Armstrong, who describes herself as Holy Rosary's "general flunky," has done volunteer bookkeeping for the parish for 25 years. She also serves on Holy Rosary's parish council and finance committee.

With the parish centennial now behind her, she is looking forward to its future.

"We're looking forward to the next 100 years. We're looking forward to celebrating our 125th anniversary and our 150th," Armstrong said. "I don't plan to be here for the 150th, but there will be others who will be." †

Christmas Shopping Guide. See pages 16, 17 and 18 for more Christmas shopping advertisers.

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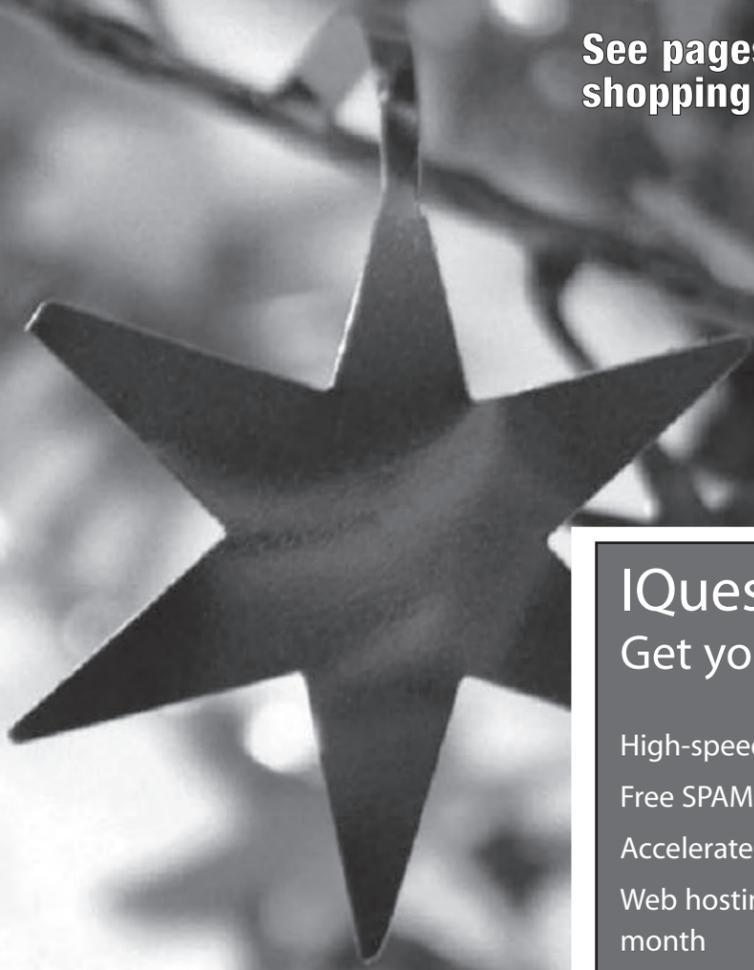
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Children's book aims to start movement about baseball, giving

BASKING RIDGE, N.J. (CNS)—Two New Jersey Catholic mothers of Little League baseball players are celebrating what they characterize as their “miracle—a one-in-a-million shot”—the publication of a hardcover children’s book they wrote together.

Titled *A Glove of Their Own*, the 32-page hardcover volume of rhyming poetic verse is the first published book for Debbie Moldovan and Keri Conkling. The poem is a fictional vignette about a group of about 10 boys and girls in the 8 to 12 age range, who are playing baseball with a scant amount of worn-down baseball equipment. Most don’t have their own mitts and have to borrow and share.

But an older man watching them play brings them a full bag of baseball gear that he had kept from his days as a coach. The gift brings joy to the boys and girls, and inspires the narrator, a child, to give back to other people and causes.

The book arose from an event in the Moldovan family three years ago. The 39-year-old mother of two boys and one girl asked her son, Tyler, what he would like to do for his upcoming ninth birthday. He didn’t want presents, he told her, just friends to come to his house and play baseball in his backyard.

Moldovan and her husband, Rob, held what they called a “grand-slam birthday party” in their Basking Ridge backyard. The 17 boys who attended played Wiffle ball, kept track of the game on a wooden scoreboard built by Rob Moldovan and brought along their extra baseball equipment for donation to kids who did not have their own.

Some 100 pieces of equipment—gloves, cleats, baseball pants and more—were given to Pitch in for Baseball in Fort Washington, Pa., a charitable

organization for improving the lives of children in need through baseball.

After the party that same day, moved by the abundance of generosity and pure baseball bliss she witnessed, she went to her computer and wrote a poem in two hours. It was, she said, a “story that had to be told.”

“Knowing there were kids in our country and all over the world who wanted to play baseball, but had little or no equipment was upsetting to me,” said Moldovan, who has also written about a dozen unpublished poems. “I couldn’t get the thought out of my head that every child should have ‘a glove of their own.’ I saw the joy that baseball brought to my children and wanted all children to have that experience.”

Moldovan let the poem sit quietly on her computer for about two years because “it was a really personal story,” said the mother of Tyler (now 12), Austin, 10, and Cayla, 7.

Enter 37-year-old Conkling, the mother of 7-year-old Holly and 5-year-old Will, who became “instant friends” with Moldovan in September 2006. One day in September 2007, while Conkling visited her friend’s house, Moldovan shared her baseball poem. Conkling read it and was instantly moved. She also saw how the story could be improved by adding more emotions about the children.

“Keri added such soul to the book,” Moldovan said. “She added the whole idea of kids playing and envisioning themselves as Major Leaguers.”

Bob Salomon, a Little League coach and friend of Conkling’s, read the manuscript too, and “my whole arm was full of goose bumps,” he said. “I knew when she read the story I was going to bring it to a national level.”

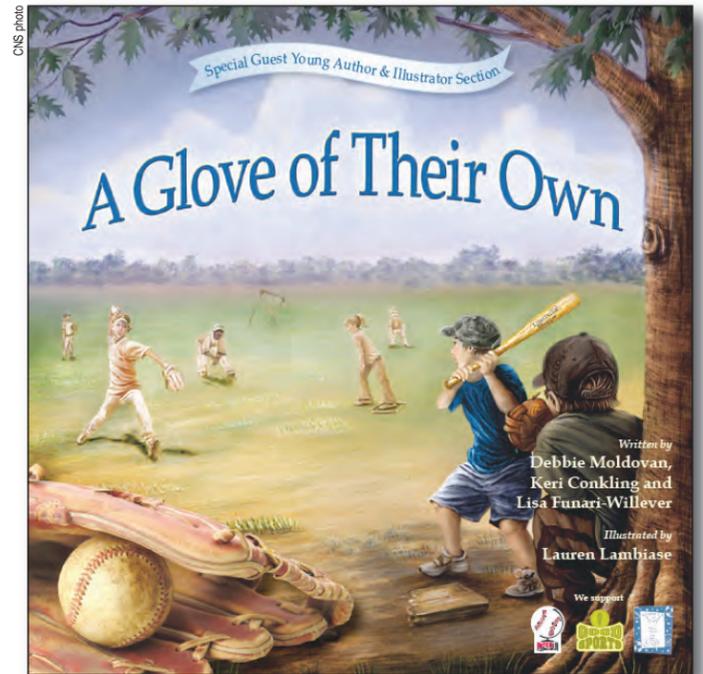
Despite having no experience in the publishing industry, he started researching children’s book publishers and came across Franklin Mason Press in Trenton, a company with a dual mission: to produce high-quality books and support children’s charities with donations from each book sold.

Lisa Funari-Willever, founder of Franklin Mason Press and the mother of an 8-year-old Little Leaguer, knew right away that *A Glove of Their Own* had potential. She became the third author of the book, providing editorial adjustments.

“She made the book sing,” said Moldovan.

The thing about this book is that “everybody’s heart is in the right place,” Funari-Willever said. “There’s always some book proposal I receive that stands out each year. This was the one. I think it will be as popular with adults as children.”

Franklin Mason Press has chosen three charitable organizations—Good Sports, Pitch in for Baseball and Sports Gift—to be its designated partners for this book. Ten cents from the sale of each



book will automatically be donated to each charity. And when each organization sells books through its membership or fundraisers, the publisher will donate \$3 per book.

“Our entire story is about divine intervention, the little miracles which happened to us from the very beginning,” said Moldovan. “It’s just a matter of all of us keeping our eyes open and realizing how God brought us together to do something bigger and better than we knew we could.”

(Editor’s note: *A Glove of Their Own* costs \$15.95. Copies may be ordered online at www.agloveoftheirown.com or www.franklinmasonpress.com.) †

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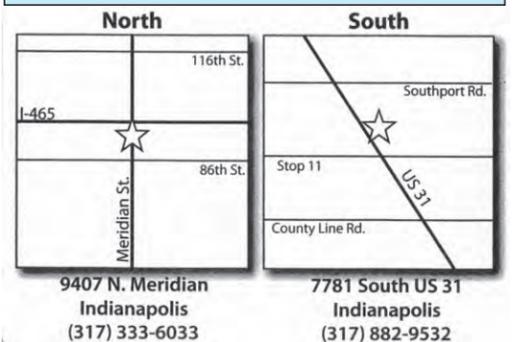
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Evangelizing Hispanics, young adults key to Church growth

By David Gibson

Adam Ruiz made about “2,000 home and neighborhood visits” between 2001 and 2005 as part of his ministry in the Hispanic community of Shelbyville, Ky. Strongly motivating him, he said, was “a desire to draw close to the people where they live” and hear their questions.

The story of Ruiz’s ministry at Annunciation Parish, a Hispanic ministry center “for the 60,000 Latinos in the Archdiocese of Louisville,” is told in *Shaping Catholic Parishes: Pastoral Leaders in the 21st Century* (Loyola Press, 2008). The people Ruiz visited began to trust him, he explained, then began telling their stories and revealing their suffering.

“When the people shared their stories with me, they essentially were inviting me to find a place alongside them in their journey of faith,” Ruiz explained.

Ruiz pursued a “conversation” with his community’s Hispanic people by seeking them out. Recent research suggests that this kind of conversation is vital for 21st-century parishes and their people.

The “U.S. Religious Landscape Survey,” released in February 2008 by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, reached beyond Catholicism, but what it said about those entering and leaving the Catholic Church in the U.S. drew widespread attention.

One survey conclusion was that “Latinos, who already account for roughly one-in-three adult Catholics overall, may account for an even larger share of U.S. Catholics in the future.” Latinos now actually represent some 45 percent of Catholics aged 18 to 29.

The survey indicated that “the Catholic share of the U.S. adult population has held fairly steady in recent decades, at around 25 percent.” Yet, it said, “roughly 10 percent of Americans are former Catholics.”

How, then, does the Catholic population remain steady?

The survey concluded that the large number of Catholic immigrants helps answer this. Immigrants tend, statistically speaking, to replace those leaving the Church.

Here are two points suggested by these findings:

- First, a rapidly growing portion of the U.S. Catholic population is Hispanic.
- Second, the nation’s adult population includes many people raised Catholic who, for various reasons, are not practicing

Catholics today.

At the end of February 2008, a discussion of the Pew survey was issued by the Washington-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. CARA wanted especially to clarify, in light of certain news reports, that “there is no reason to believe that there has been some recent mass exodus from the Catholic faith.”

CARA, a research center dedicated to Catholic studies, said “a methodological issue” in the Pew survey led to underestimating the Catholic population and the Church’s rate of retaining members.

But while there were points of disagreement, there also were important points of agreement between the Pew survey and CARA. Moreover, CARA may valuably have cast light on today’s at-risk Catholics by analyzing the age at which former Catholics stopped considering themselves Catholic.

In all this, CARA called particular attention to teenagers and young adults. It indicated, for example, that some 55 percent of those who stopped thinking of themselves as Catholic in years past did so between the ages of 18 and 39.

Changes in the Catholic population “have been incremental,” occurring “most often among young adults and teens,” CARA said. It proposed this as “a primary area” for study directed at reducing losses.

As such, recent research suggests that parishes are challenged nowadays to pursue conversations with Hispanic Catholics in their midst, while also pointing toward other essential conversations—with unchurched



Young men and women from the Washington area attend a Catholic prayer rally in New Jersey last year. Latinos make up 45 percent of U.S. Catholics aged 18 to 29.

Catholics, teenagers and young adults, for example.

How might a parish conversation with young adults take shape?

... recent research suggests that parishes are challenged nowadays to pursue conversations with Hispanic Catholics in their midst, while also pointing toward other—essential conversations—with unchurched Catholics, teenagers and young adults ...

Some insist that the Church should reach out to young adults wherever they are found. The well-known “Theology on Tap” program does precisely that, meeting young adults in popular gathering places.

But contemporary young adults also are found online, some commentators stress.

Timothy Muldoon, a theologian at Jesuit-run Boston College, has written that a parish Web site’s “appearance and content” quickly indicate to young people whether the parish is

likely to be a place where “they will be nourished” (*America*, July 21, 2008).

The story of one parish’s easy-to-

negotiate young adult Web site is another ministry story told in *Shaping Catholic Parishes*. John Brust, who serves on the young adult community’s steering committee at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in San Francisco, where he shares his technological expertise, said its young adult ministry offers “a path for young Catholics looking for a transition back to the Church.”

The parish Web site states that “people become part of the St. Vincent’s young adult community for various reasons.” The community appears to recognize, as many leaders affirm, that one size doesn’t always fit all in ministry. Young adults, after all, include singles, students, members of the workforce, married couples and parents.

Adam Ruiz pursued a conversation with Hispanics in homes and neighborhoods. St. Vincent de Paul Parish initiates a conversation with young adults online. These are contemporary stories about parishes reaching out to people wherever they are found.

(David Gibson served on the Catholic News Service editorial staff for 37 years.) †

Discussion Point

Eucharist, Internet keep young adults Catholic

This Week’s Question

As a teen or young adult, what keeps you connected to your Catholic faith?

“First and foremost, the Eucharist. I can never get over the awesomeness of the sacrament and how much God must really love us to make himself present to us in such a humble and perpetual state. Secondly, I feel connected ... by the rich and long tradition behind it. Nothing can be so assuring or expel more doubt of a divine origin than the fact that a Church composed of sinners ... has stood through such fire and hard times and still manages to grow and thrive.” (Grant Irwin, Chatsworth, Calif.)

“The Internet is both the catalyst that first connected me to my faith and the instrument that maintains that connection. Growing up, ... I went to a Catholic school and ... to church every Sunday, [but] my faith wasn’t really mine. [In] college, my faith was tested, and I went to the Internet for answers. ... The information I

found there lit a fire within me and changed me from someone ... merely going about the motions to a man with convictions, ... inspired by the Church.” (Nicholas Hardesty, Owensboro, Ky.)

“Because I have traveled a lot doing internships over the past few years, one of the first things I do when I move into a new area is find the nearest parish and make an appointment to see the priest. The local parish community and interactions with a good priest [help me stay] connected to my faith.” (John Souder, Maryville, Tenn.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: What comes to mind when you think of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph?

To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to cgreene@catholicnews.com or write to *Faith Alive!* at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. †



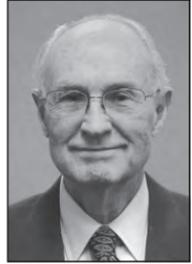
File photo by Sean Gallagher

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Possible saints: Maria Luisa Josefa

(Twenty-sixth in a series of columns)

Venerable Maria Luisa Josefa was Mexican rather than American, but she spent five years in Los Angeles.



She and her Carmelite community fled there when Mexican President Plutarco Elias Calles enforced anti-Catholic laws in 1924. Church properties were confiscated and priests and nuns exiled. Many

Mexicans were martyred, and 25 of them were canonized in 2000.

Maria's parents owned an extensive ranch near Atotonilco el Alto, 50 miles east of Guadalajara, Mexico, where she was born in 1866. They called her Luisita.

It was still the custom then for parents to choose a husband for their daughters and, when she was 15, they chose a physician, Pascual Rojas, who was 30. They opened the first hospital at Atotonilco, which flourished under Luisa's leadership.

After 14 years of marriage, Pascual died.

They had been unable to have children. After Pascual's death, Luisa decided to fulfill a longtime desire and entered the convent of the Discalced Carmelites of St. Teresa at Guadalajara, taking the religious name Maria.

Without her leadership, the hospital floundered and the townspeople asked Archbishop Jose de Jesus Ortiz Rodriguez to urge her to return. He did and, after much prayer, she believed that it was God's will for her to return to the hospital. She also opened a school for poor girls, and volunteers soon joined her in this work.

In 1904, Maria and seven of the volunteers dedicated themselves to caring for the poor. Three years later, there were 20 women. A new archbishop, Francisco Orozco y Jimenez, then told them that, if they were living like religious, they should become religious and he recommended the Sisters Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. So Maria again left the hospital, taking 19 women with her.

Without these women, the inevitable happened—the hospital was again nearly collapsing. Within months, the archbishop told Maria that she must return to her work of caring for the sick and educating the young.

Once again, she obeyed the archbishop, but only five of the 19 women returned with her.

Just as before, as Maria restored the hospital and school, young women joined her. And, just as before, the archbishop accused the women of trying to live as nuns. This time he suggested that Maria should found a third-order Carmelite community, with the sisters wearing the Carmelite habit but spending time doing apostolic work. In 1920, the Vatican approved this community and Maria Luisa founded the Carmelite Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

Four years later, she and her sisters fled to Los Angeles. She returned to Mexico in 1929, after President Calles was overthrown, and worked there until her death in 1937.

Father Vincent O'Malley wrote in *Saints of North America*: "Her life evidences development in personality and flexibility in responding to the changing demands of times, archbishops and governments. Wife, widow, in and out of two religious communities, and foundress of a Carmelite community with two branches, she leaves a legacy of trying to discover and do God's will." †

The Bottom Line/Antoinette Bosco

A man who rescues the helpless

Frank Weller, a respected Catholic humanitarian, is a remarkable man in many ways.



A convert to Catholicism, he is a pastoral counselor at his parish, a member of the Knights of Columbus and the owner of a leather goods store where among items to be

sold are tables with food, warm clothing and blankets for the homeless who gather in the downtown area.

But Weller isn't running the store these days. He has turned that responsibility over to his son so that he can continue to answer "a spiritual call" to save young horses. He has even written a book, *Equine Angels* (Lyons Press), which features gorgeous photos of horses who, when just foals, were destined to be slaughtered. Today, however, they live with loving families, thanks to Weller.

I met Weller several years ago when I was a newspaper editor in Connecticut doing a story about a family TV documentary he was producing. It was about a horse "rescuer" named Helen Meredith, who had saved many foals from a slaughter auction.

These beautiful animals were called "Premarin foals" because they were "the byproduct of the drug industry's need for pregnant mare urine, or PMU ... used to create human hormone replacement therapy medication for more than 60 years," Weller told me.

I felt chilled as Weller explained why the foals born to the pregnant mares were considered disposable, "auctioned for slaughter each year in the tens of thousands."

Meredith herself was buying the foals so that they could live, and had saved 160 of them when Weller met her. Almost immediately he, too, became a horse rescuer. He founded Equine Angels Rescue Sanctuary (EARS) to rescue foals and find "loving forever homes" for them.

Weller's work was nationally recognized when he received the American Red Cross Hero Award in April 2007 for putting a spotlight on rescuing PMU foals.

I related so strongly to this work because of an experience I had as a very young child in my hometown of Albany, N.Y.

In those days, milk trucks were driven by horses. One day, I saw where a horse had fallen, hit by a car, his blood staining the street red.

I cried and asked my mother if the horse would be taken to the doctor.

She told me no, and that the horse would have to be shot.

This was my first experience of mourning the loss of one of these beautiful creatures given to the world by God.

For Weller, the work of rescuing the horses is "a spiritual journey," as all the work he has done in his life has been.

Several years ago, Daughters of Wisdom Sister Rosemarie Greco, director of Wisdom House, an interfaith retreat ministry in Litchfield, Conn., determined that too much good work by God-loving people goes unrecognized. She began an annual Wisdom Award event to honor such people.

Weller was one of the first chosen because "of the type of humanitarian qualities that come from the depths of his own spirit—the way he makes God present in society and in his own life," she said.

(Antoinette Bosco writes for Catholic News Service.) †

The Joyful Catholic/Rick Herman

Like Jesus, love people first, teach them later

If someone you know is difficult to teach, this story is for you.



I had the good fortune recently to be seated at dinner next to a popular and beloved old priest.

Digging for gold, I asked him about his early years.

"My first job," he replied, "was teaching high school. I hated the noise and confusion. But

once I discovered the secret of teaching, I loved it."

I looked up from my salad and asked, "OK, what is the secret?"

He smiled and said, "I discovered that once my students knew I loved them, I could teach them *anything*."

That discovery, he explained, was the most valuable lesson in his life, better than anything he learned in seminary, and the secret to his success and joy as a priest.

As dinner ended, I thanked him wholeheartedly.

Driving home that night, I pondered his words in amazement. This is not the way of the world, I thought, this is the wisdom of Jesus.

This is how we are taught by the Greatest Teacher Who Ever Lived. He loves us first then later he teaches us.

A kind lady who runs a popular daycare program voices the same wisdom. When asked how she does it, she says, "I just show all the children how much I love them, then we get along just fine."

Our human nature is fallen and rebellious. Stubborn as mules, we need to be convinced and won over before we open our minds and hearts.

Lifeless as Adam on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, we need God to reach out and touch us.

Each of us needs the love of God to awaken us from darkness and give us life.

In other words, we are able to love and learn only after we are first loved by God.

As St. John says, "We love because He first loved us" (1 Jn 4:19).

I remember how difficult it was for me when I first started teaching, and how it became easy when I realized I was not the most important person in the classroom.

My students showed me it is not about me. They practically hollered in my ear: I don't care how much you *know* until I know how much you *care*.

This is confirmed by my friend, Charlie Hiemenz, an all-time favorite third-grade teacher. He says, "No one believes the message until they believe in the messenger."

If someone in your life is difficult to teach, perhaps you need to show them more love.

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

Learning through faith, stoicism and kindness

In an issue of *Reminisce* magazine, I read a letter from a reader in Walworth, N.Y., who asked if other readers remembered getting their hair "permed" with a particular type of machine.



Patricia Suhr shared a photo of such a machine found in her uncle's shop in Fairport, N.Y.—one of

his first purchases in the late 1940s.

Yes, I remembered so I wrote to Patricia about my experience.

I received a "permanent" from a similar machine. It was just before I started first grade at St. Bernard School in St. Louis.

I remember cringing when I saw the frightening machine. It was scary, with thick, very long electrical cords hanging from above. The console below resembled controls on airplanes that I had seen in movies.

The beautician rolled my hair on curlers with strong, smelly chemicals. She attached the curlers to the electrical cords, which were so heavy that I could not hold my head straight.

I cried so Mom convinced the woman to perm my hair in three procedures rather than one in order to get the job done with less discomfort. This took longer, but made me more comfortable—and Mom was patient.

Truth be known, I stopped crying because Mom promised me a pair of roller skates if I could be brave. The skates taught me yet other lessons about stoicism because at first I fell more than I skated.

Also, happily, my mother learned to give me "Toni" home perms—not at all frightening. She obviously had not enjoyed my machine perm experience either.

Looking again at the photo of the intimidating machine reminded me of how awkwardly other things were done in earlier years, even when seeing a doctor on rare occasions.

The first medical experience I recall was scarier than the perm. Because I had severe

ear pain and a fever in the middle of the night, my father took me to a hospital by way of public transportation.

I cried at that visit and all subsequent ones, being more frightened than anything else. On the last visit, I was stoic, but it was the only examination that did not hurt whatsoever.

Neither Mom nor Dad ever purposely hurt me or my siblings. Both had soft hearts that sheltered us from pain.

Still, from them I learned to "roll with the punches" and to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

This "Golden Rule" came from Jesus Christ. "Consider others as yourself" came from Buddhism, and before that "the world is built on kindness" was a basic tenet of Judaism.

I am grateful for lessons in life, but realize I still have much to learn through faith and the "school of hard knocks."

(Shirley Vogler Meister, a member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †

Feast of Christ the King/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008

- Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
- Matthew 25:31-46

This weekend closes the Church's liturgical year of 2008.



Next week, a new year will begin with the First Sunday of Advent.

Closing the year means that the Church has led us through 12 months of careful instruction about Jesus.

The feast of Christ the King joyfully summarizes the lessons

of the past year. The Lord is king! He reigns! He lives!

The first reading comes from the ancient Book of Ezekiel.

In this reading, God speaks in the first person, promising protection of the flock, in other words, the people of God. He is the shepherd, seeking the lost, caring for the injured, rescuing the imperiled.

Also, God will distinguish between the sheep and others who assume other identities because of their voluntary unfaithfulness.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second reading.

This selection is a proclamation of the Resurrection, and of the role of the Lord as Redeemer of humankind. He is the Risen Lord, the first of those who will rise to everlasting life.

Those who will follow Jesus in being raised from the dead are "those who belong" to Christ, in other words, those persons who have admitted God, through Jesus, into their lives, and who have received from the Lord the gift of grace, eternal life and strength.

The reading frankly admits that forces hostile to God are at work in the world. These forces cannot be dismissed as insignificant. However, they are by no means omnipotent.

In and through Jesus, the power and life of God will endure. God will triumph over all evil. No one bound to God should fear the powers of evil, although all must resist these powers.

For its final reading on this great feast, the Church offers us a passage from St. Matthew's Gospel.

It looks ahead to the day when God's glory will overwhelm the world, to the day when Jesus will return in majesty and glory.

This expectation was a favorite theme in the early Church, in the community that surrounded and prompted the formation of the Gospels.

The reading repeats the description given in the Book of Ezekiel.

In Ezekiel, God, the shepherd, separates the sheep from the goats, the good from the unfaithful.

In this reading from Matthew, Jesus promises a final judgment that will separate the faithful from the sinful.

Beautifully in this reading, the Lord defines who will be judged as faithful and who will be seen as unfaithful.

The faithful will not be those who only give lip-service to their belief in God, but those who—in the model of Jesus—give themselves to care for the troubled and the distressed, who bring relief and hope to others.

Reflection

Sixty years ago, the parents of the current British monarch enjoyed the people's highest esteem because of their uncompromising commitment to the well-being of the nation.

At the height of the German blitz, the bombing of London and other major cities in the United Kingdom, the rumor spread that the Royal Family as well as the government officials would flee the country.

One day, arriving on the scene of a horrendous bombing, Queen Elizabeth, the wife of King George VI and mother of Elizabeth II, was confronted with the question of whether or not she and her husband would send their young daughters to Canada.

Moreover, would she and the king flee the country with their children?

Elizabeth, better known in later years as the Queen Mother, answered, "My daughters will not leave without me. I shall not leave without the king. And the king? The king will never, never leave you!"

If we are Christians truly, come what may, Christ the King will never, never leave us. He will bring us to the glory of heaven after the wars of Earth are ended. †

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to faith or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the "My Journey to God" column.

Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions.

Send material for consideration to "My Journey to God," *The Criterion*, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org. †

Daily Readings

Monday, Nov. 24
Andrew Dung-Lac, priest and martyr
and his companions, martyrs
Revelation 14:1-3, 4b-5
Psalms 24:1b-4b, 5-6
Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday, Nov. 25
Catherine of Alexandria, virgin and martyr
Revelation 14:14-19
Psalms 96:10-13
Luke 21:5-11

Wednesday, Nov. 26
Revelation 15:1-4
Psalms 98:1-3b, 7-9
Luke 21:12-19

Thursday, Nov. 27
Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23;
19:1-3, 9a
Psalms 100:1b-5

Luke 21:20-28
Thanksgiving Day
Sirach 50:22-24
Psalms 138:1-5
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Luke 17:11-19

Friday, Nov. 28
Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21:2
Psalms 84:3-6a, 8a
Luke 21:29-33

Saturday, Nov. 29
Revelation 22:1-7
Psalms 95:1-7b
Luke 21:34-36

Sunday, Nov. 30
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7
Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

Hierarchy of Church doctrines vary in relation to foundations of faith

QIn a recent column about heresy, you wrote that "Catholic beliefs are taught with varying degrees of authority" and that there is a "hierarchy of truths" in Catholic doctrines.

AI find it difficult to accept some teachings, but I thought everything in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, for example, must be believed by the faithful.

Is there such a thing as a "range" of required teachings or are they all one level to be accepted by everyone the same way? (Missouri)

AThere is in Catholic theology what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#90, #234) calls a hierarchy of doctrines since they vary in their relation to the foundations of the Christian faith.

This means that some doctrines are more closely linked to divine revelation in the Scriptures or in Christian tradition while others are to some degree deductions from those directly revealed by God.

As an obvious example, the doctrine of the Incarnation, which says that Jesus is a divine person with two natures—both human and divine—is more directly revealed than belief in guardian angels.

Over the centuries, Catholic theologians have assigned to individual doctrines what are called theological notes, indicating the connection they have to basic Christian revelation.

These notes are determined, for example, by the source of the teachings, how they developed in the Church's tradition, how they relate to other dogmas and so on.

These notes range from "defined faith" to dogmas "of faith because of ordinary teaching of the universal magisterium" to doctrines that are "common and certain" and all the way down to teachings that are "offensive to pious ears," with at least a dozen other categories in between.

Several years ago, for example, someone claimed that the impossibility of ordination of women was an article of faith because it was in the catechism. Since the bishops of the world had been consulted before publishing the catechism, so the argument went, the

teaching was infallible.

Others replied that, using that criterion, every statement in the catechism would be an infallibly defined article of faith.

In 1993, however, when asked a similar question about the theological weight of doctrines in the catechism, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who was prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith before his selection as Pope Benedict XVI, explained, "The individual doctrines that the catechism affirms have no other authority than that which they already possess."

In other words, while some teachings are clearly articles of Catholic faith—the primacy of the pope for one—determining the theological note of others may require serious study and research concerning their development in the teaching history of the Church. The mere fact that they are in the catechism is not sufficient to make such a judgment.

QI am 77 years old, have been Catholic all my life and enjoy reading about the saints.

I understand that Sunday Masses are special because they are always a commemoration of Easter and the Resurrection.

This past June, however, the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul was celebrated on Sunday. This is the first time that I've experienced Mass celebrated for individual saints on Sunday.

Can you explain? (Illinois)

AYou're right. It's rare, for the reason you mention, that other feasts replace a Sunday Mass proper to the season.

However, any feast ranked as a "solemnity"—there are, I believe, 16 of them—replaces the Sunday liturgy if it falls on a Sunday.

Three solemnities—Pentecost, the Holy Trinity and Christ the King—are, of course, automatically on Sunday anyway. And, as you know, a few of them, some holy days of obligation and others, may be transferred to Sunday.

The feast of St. Peter and St. Paul is a solemnity. A few of the others are the feasts of St. Joseph, the birth of John the Baptist, All Saints and Corpus Christi.

Adjustments to this arrangement may occur if the feasts fall during special seasons, for example, during Lent. †

My Journey to God

Intimacy (A Prayer)

You, O Lord, my God
Sear me with eyes of truth, eyes of love.

Dare I touch the hem of that intimacy
Or
Break the seal on the alabaster jar?

Self-inflicted wounds of
Disobedience, worldly wants and denial
Wait for debridement.
Wait for the soothing salve of the Holy Spirit.
Wait to be converted into the real me.
The facade burned away by the gift of The loving flame of God.

My soul,

Enduring the refined elegant touch,
At last free to delight in the heat of the eternal.

My heart, my inner self,
Joyous with an everlasting love.

A turn from calamity to clarity.
A oneness of spirit and soul.
A need to become united with the essence of God
Living within everyone.
A willingness to extend my hand, regardless
Of the consequences.
A yearning to surrender to your will
O Lord, my God.

By **Trudy Bledsoe, O.C.D.S.**

(Trudy Bledsoe is a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis and the secular order of Discalced Carmelites.)

Rest in peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in *The Criterion*. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.

BABCOCK, Robert Thomas, 41, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, Nov. 6. Son of John and Phyllis Babcock. Brother of Linda Bunch, Bill, John and Michael Babcock.

BISHOP, Sharon Ann, 58, St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville, Oct. 21. Mother of Kim Snowlor-Davis and Johnathan Bishop. Sister of Janice Estep, Patricia Humphrey, Donna Williams, Deborah Raymond, Daniel, Gary, John and Larry Ragland.

BOWE, Aileen Marie, 82, St. Joseph, Sellersburg, Nov. 7. Sister of Martha, Carl and Herman Bowe. Aunt of several.

BRETTHAUER, Agnes (Carr), 87, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Nov. 8. Mother of Andy, Bob, Pat and Tom Brethauer. Sister of Rose McGill. Grandmother of three.

BROTHERS, Helen E., 71, St. Mary, North Vernon, Nov. 8. Mother of Helen Mateer and Judy Miller. Sister of Betty Overman and Frank Oravec. Grandmother of four.

CHAB, F. Alan, 85, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Nov. 7. Husband of Marian Chab. Father of Julie Duncan, Lisa Melloy, Carol and Rollin Chab. Grandfather of six.

DAHLEM, Joann E., 75, Prince of Peace, Madison, Nov. 7.

DICKMAN, Bruce E., Sr., 77, Holy Family, Oldenburg, Nov. 7. Husband of Eileen Dickman. Father of Linda Case, Mary Jo Kuntz, Bruce Jr., Jerry, Joe and Kurt Dickman. Brother of Helen and Juanita Nobbe and Larry Dickman. Grandfather of 17. Great-grandfather of one.

ESHELMAN, Robert H., 81, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Nov. 7. Father of Dr. Lyn Irving, Jon and Col. Mark Eshelman. Brother of Col. Charles Eshelman. Grandfather of eight.

FERRARI, Esther, 89, St. Joseph, Universal, Nov. 3. Mother of Mary Bianchetti, Marco Brazzale, Virginia Dagley, Bob and Jerry Ferrari. Grandmother of six.

FORD, Louise (Keene), 91, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Nov. 4. Mother of Jane Bachert, Joanne Brezette, Mary Queisser, John, Joseph and Michael Ford. Grandmother of 15. Great-grandmother of 13.

GHEEN, George David, Jr., 87, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, Nov. 9. Father of Catherine Blewitt, Suzanne Winninger, Patricia, Bill and Dennis Gheen. Brother of Mary Margaret Cangany. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of three.

GLIVA, Edward J., 83, St. Gabriel the Archangel, Indianapolis, Nov. 4. Husband of Betty Gliva. Father of Cathy Golden, Peggy Stuck, Pam White, Ed, John and Tom Gliva. Brother of Dolores Novy. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of four.

HAWKINS, Lawrence Edmund, 64, St. Joseph, Indianapolis, Oct. 31. Father of Beth and Eddie Hawkins. Brother of Jeanne Van Tyle, Karen Teague, Janet Zetzel, James and William Hawkins. Grandfather of three.

HENNINGER, Lillian J., 85, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, Nov. 4. Mother of Georgia May Smith, Father George and Jeffery Henninger. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of five.

HENSLEY, Christopher D., 41, St. Michael, Brookville, Nov. 6. Husband of Amy Hensley. Father of Andrew, Jacob and Kelsey Hensley. Son of Gilbert and Juanita Hensley. Brother of Regina Hensley.

HIATT, Russell T., 81, Prince of Peace, Madison, Nov. 9. Father of Pamela Couper, Sandy Silvernale, Diana, Phillip and Stephen Hiatt. Brother of Sara Malon, Sue Neihaus, Mary, Jerry, John and Merrill Hiatt. Grandfather of eight. Great-grandfather of two.

HINES, Bette (Connell) Mosier Trinkle, 86, Holy Family, New Albany, Oct. 28. Mother of Jeanie Geron. Sister of Mary Katherine Pottinger. Grandmother of two. Great-grandmother of four.

HOFF, Stanley A., 61, St. Peter, Brookville, Nov. 6. Husband of Ann Hoff. Father of Ragena Riehle, Aaron and Jeff Hoff. Son of Blanche Hoff. Brother of Alvin and Raymond Hoff. Grandfather of 10.

KEGLOVITS, Louis, 81, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, July 4. Husband of Lorraine Keglovits. Father of Valerie Eaglin, Marisa Potter and Mark Keglovits. Brother of Theresa DePaulo, Agnes Kozero, Stella

Nemeth and Joe Keglovits. Grandfather of 11. Great-grandfather of 11.

MURPHY, Joseph G., Jr., 68, St. Gabriel the Archangel, Indianapolis, Nov. 5. Father of Sally Gross, Bridget Ikerd, Christie Clements and Michael Murphy. Grandfather of four.

NIEHOFF, Jerome A., 67, St. Anne, Hamburg, Nov. 9. Husband of Rosalia Niehoff. Father of Gary and Larry Niehoff. Brother of Mary Ann Lows, Norma Maddux and Donald Niehoff.

PRESUTTI, Lucy, 85, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Oct. 25. Sister of Adelina Hickson. Aunt of several.

RIEDMAN, Richard W., 72, St. Michael, Brookville, Nov. 9. Father of Cynthia Fohl, Diana Kunkel and Randall Riedman. Brother of Phyllis Clark, Thelma Karbowski, Dorothy and Harry Riedman. Grandfather of four.

STURWOLD, Andrew Joseph, 89, St. Mary, Greensburg, Nov. 8. Husband of Florence Sturwold. Father of Glenda Nieman, Carole Nobbe and Marjorie Schwegman. Grandfather of eight. Great-grandfather of 14.

THORP, Robert Lowell, 82, St. Gabriel the Archangel, Indianapolis, Nov. 6. Husband of Rose Marie Thorp. Father of Therese Elder, Liza Frazier and Anne Marie Thorp. Brother of Martha Van Lue and Charles Thorp. Grandfather of three.

TIBBS, John Joseph, 20, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Oct. 23. Son of James and Veronica Tibbs. Brother of Mary Evrard, Cheri Pond, Angie Ransdell and James Tibbs Jr.

VEROSTKO, Eugene A., 81, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Terre Haute, Oct. 29. Father of Sandra Dunn, Gayle Fountain, Daniel, Gary and Paul Verostko. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of two.

VOLZ, Robert, 79, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, June 28. Husband of Shirley Volz. Father of Bernard, Mark and Michael Volz. Son of Thelma Volz. Brother of Mary Kachel, Bernard and Richard Volz. Grandfather of seven. Great-grandfather of three.

WHITSETT, Patricia Ann, 65, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, Sept. 10. Wife of David Whitsett. Mother of Donna Dauby and David Whitsett. Sister of eight. Grandmother of four.

WOLFERST, Sharon L., 70, St. Louis, Batesville, Nov. 4. Husband of Renate Wolferst. Father of Ilona Kusnierz and David Wolferst. Brother of Jack and Jim Maple. Grandfather of five. (correction) †



Christ the King

The feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King will be celebrated by the Catholic Church on Nov. 23 this year. Jesus is depicted on the cross above at historic St. Patrick Church in Indianapolis. St. Mary parishioner Roberto Aguayo of Indianapolis, left, holds a large crucifix as he stands in silent witness on Sept. 21 in front of the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Indianapolis at the start of the "40 Days for Life" prayer vigil there, which ended on Nov. 2. Pro-life supporters were able to help save the lives of 12 unborn babies in Indianapolis during the peaceful, pro-life prayer campaign, which included countless rosaries prayed there in late September, October and early November.

Pope says the experience of suffering is needed in order to understand the beauty of life

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The beauty and promise of life cannot be understood without the experience of suffering, Pope Benedict XVI said at his Nov. 5 weekly general audience.

The pope focused on St. Paul's emphasis on the Resurrection as the key to understanding Christ and the eternal life to which all people are called.

The death and resurrection of Jesus have important consequences, he said, for the way that Christians are called to live their faith in daily life.

"We are called to participate with our whole being in the entire event of the death and resurrection of Christ," Pope Benedict said. "We have, the Apostle says, died with Christ, and we believe we will live with him."

The affirmation that those who have been baptized into Christ's death will rise with him implies that there will be suffering, but that suffering and death will not have the last word, the pope said.

"To live with faith in

Jesus Christ," he said, means "having to renounce things each day. It implies suffering. Christianity is not the path of ease, but is more like a challenging climb.

"Only by plumbing the depths of suffering," certain of future resurrection, "do we find the deepest meaning of life, its beauty, its great hope and promise," he said.

The pope said Christians cannot understand who Jesus really is without believing that he truly suffered, died and rose from the dead.

"For St. Paul, the real identity of Jesus is revealed in the Resurrection even more than in the Incarnation" because it proves that he was not simply an extraordinary man, the pope said. "He is God."

Pope Benedict said that the New Testament letters of St. Paul obviously were responses to "doubts and concrete questions" about Christ's identity and about his death and resurrection.

In the Resurrection, he said, "there lies the solution to the problem posed by the

drama of the cross. By itself, the cross cannot explain the Christian faith; it would remain a tragedy, an indication of the absurdity of existence. The paschal mystery consists in the fact that the Crucified One is risen."

Pope Benedict said that in responding to people's questions about the truth of the Resurrection, St. Paul did not speak simply from his own experience, but rather relied on the teaching of the first Apostles and the tradition they already had begun handing on.

"In this way, St. Paul offers a model for all times on how to do theology and how to preach," the pope said. "The theologian and the preacher do not create visions of the world and of life. They serve the truth that has been transmitted."

Pope Benedict said the task of those who teach and preach "is to help us understand today, behind the ancient words, the reality of God with us and of true life." †



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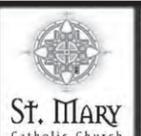
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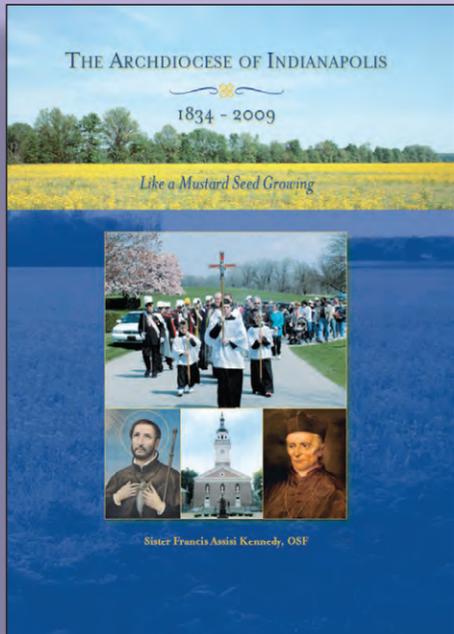
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St. Martin de Porres celebration brings diverse Church together

By Mary Ann Wyand

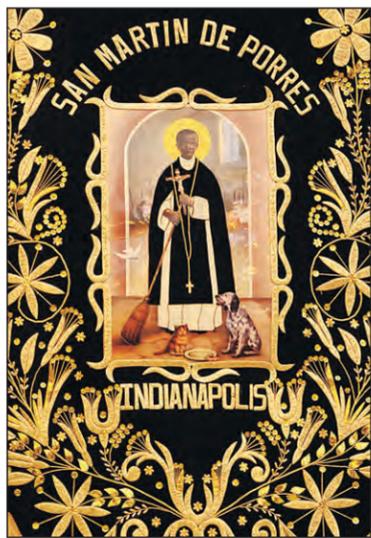
Eva Morales smiled as she graciously welcomed guests and efficiently arranged ethnic dishes on the food table at the start of the *convivencia*, a social gathering after the fifth annual archdiocesan celebration of the feast of St. Martin de Porres.

The coordinator of religious education at St. Patrick Parish in Indianapolis was happy to see more than 200 Latino, African-American and Anglo-American Catholics worship God and celebrate the humble life of St. Martin de Porres in sacrament and song on Nov. 3 at the historic Indianapolis South Deanery church.

"It means that it is possible for us to be together," Morales said. "We are one Church. We have one God, and we all worship in our [own] ways, but at the same time we can be celebrating together. The music was like angels, ... music from drums and different instruments, and people playing them and singing. ... It was like a piece of heaven here."

The readings for the feast day Mass were joyful and inspirational as Father Arturo Miguel Ocampo, St. Patrick's pastor and the principal celebrant, led the gathering of Catholics from Indianapolis-area parishes in worship.

A passage from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians encouraged people to place their trust in God and rejoice because "the Lord is near" (Phil 4:4-9).



This banner of St. Martin de Porres was handmade by Juan Migel Diaz Carbajar of Lima, Peru, and given to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis by St. Mary parishioner Jamie Torpoco of Indianapolis. The feast day celebration brought together Latino, African-American and Anglo-American Catholics for worship, and was sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry.



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The Gospel reading from Matthew emphasized the greatest commandment—Christ's call to love God—and then to love your neighbor (Mt 22:34-40).

The multicultural assembly took that Scripture advice to heart as they recalled the devotion of St. Martin de Porres, who dedicated his life to serving God despite being mistreated because he was biracial.

The son of a Spanish gentleman and freed black slave from Panama who immigrated to Lima, Peru, Martin was born in 1579 and became a lay brother of the Dominican Friary in Lima at age 15. He wanted to become a priest, but was denied his dream because of the color of his skin.

"We feel very happy for being able to share the Good News of the Gospel with African-Americans and Anglo-Americans and our brothers and sisters in the Hispanic community as well," Deacon Emilio Ferrer-Soto said in his homily.

"One of the songs familiar to the African-American community begins with the words 'Come and go with me to my Father's house, where there is joy,'" he explained. "Those words come to mind today as we gather in this celebration. Indeed, there is joy in this house today. In spite of all the challenges and burdens of life, we still find a great joy. ... You, dear brothers and sisters, are a joyful people, and the whole Church needs that joy today."

Deacon Ferrer-Soto reminded the people that, "Certainly, at this holy Mass, we have so many reasons to praise our Lord, Jesus Christ, our Savior. ... Tonight we have come together as brothers and sisters in one multicultural community—or better, one multicultural family—to listen to God's word and receive the Eucharist. ... The Lord speaks to us in many special ways, and calls us to worship together regardless of the color of our skin and our culture."

On this feast, Catholics celebrate the holiness of Jesus realized in St. Martin de Porres, he said, as well as the power and the wisdom of the Gospel demonstrated in the life of Martin, who was canonized by Pope John XXIII—now Blessed John XXIII—46 years ago.

"We know that our Peruvian brothers and sisters are very happy to celebrate with us," Deacon Ferrer-Soto said. "The Lord of the Miracles continues doing miracles in and out of Peru, and all of this thanks to the intercession of St. Martin de Porres. ... The example of Martin's life is ample evidence that we can strive for holiness and salvation as Christ Jesus has shown us, first, by loving God ... and, second, by loving your neighbor as yourself."

The Church rises up men and women outstanding in holiness, he said, people like St. Martin de Porres, to inspire us and help us grow in holiness.

"We cannot say that we love God with our being and not strive to love each other," the deacon said. "This is what it



Father Arturo Miguel Ocampo, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Indianapolis, was the principal celebrant for the fifth annual archdiocesan celebration of the feast of St. Martin de Porres on Nov. 3 at St. Patrick Church in Indianapolis. Concelebrants from Indianapolis parishes were Father Kenneth Taylor, pastor of Holy Angels Parish; Father Steven Schwab, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish; and Franciscan Father Thomas Fox, Hispanic ministry assistant for the archdiocese, who is in residence at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. Deacon Emilio Ferrer-Soto, left, and Deacon Oscar Morales, right, assisted with the multicultural liturgy. Rev. Samuel Ruiz, a Lutheran minister standing behind Father Ocampo, was a special guest at the liturgy.



St. Monica parishioner Maria Pimental-Gannon of Indianapolis proclaims the first reading during the fifth annual archdiocesan celebration of the feast of St. Martin de Porres on Nov. 3 at St. Patrick Church in Indianapolis.

truly means to be a Christian. ... We must act like Jesus. "Recently, we have seen and heard of so many acts of violence in our city, but also in our surrounding communities and indeed throughout the world," Deacon Ferrer-Soto said. "These incidents sadden us, and we often ask what we can do to promote peace and end violence. ... Peace and love begin by the way we think, speak and act toward our family, co-workers and neighbors. ... We must follow the lesson of love given by St. Martin de Porres.

"There should be tears in our eyes whenever we see young people dying ... from problems related to drugs, gangs, domestic violence, child abuse and many other problems that we know exist in our communities," he said. "... We have one Father. ... All of us belong to the family of God, in which there is only one color, and that is the color of the human race. We are all the children of God, and Jesus is our big brother. ... Because God has loved us so perfectly, so powerfully, in Christ Jesus, we must, in turn, love each other." †

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