Hope from Nigeria

By Sean Gallagher

SEELYVILLE—As Father Dominic Chukwudì ministers in the small west-central Indiana towns of Brazil and Seelyville, it is hard to notice behind his quiet, gentle demeanor that he was born in a world filled with violence.

This peaceful priest has come into the world 40 years ago when his home country of Nigeria was wracked by a civil war in which millions died. “My father was killed in the war,” said Father Chukwudì. “He was a civilian. They raided my town, and they had many people killed. I was in my mother’s womb [at the time]. He died two months and eight days before I was born.”

Father Chukwudì didn’t allow the tragedy that marked his birth to fill him with despair. Instead, he chose hope and answered God’s call to the priesthood.

For the past two years, Father Chukwudì, currently the administrator of Annunciation Parish in Brazil and Holy Rosary Parish in Seelyville, has shown his dedication to his vocation by ministering in an archdiocese half a world away from his home.

Father Chukwudì is not alone. Ten other Nigerian priests are serving in the archdiocese as either parish administrators, associate pastors or hospital chaplains. And 18 women religious from Nigeria are now ministering here as well.

Tremendous growth

Father Chukwudì’s story of new life arising out of death and destruction in part encapsulates the recent history of the Church in his home country.

The Diocese of Issele-Uku, for which Father Chukwudì and several other priests serving in the archdiocese were ordained, was established in 1973, three years after Nigeria’s civil war ended. In 1980, it numbered 64,000 Catholics, which made up 16 percent of the population of the area.

Just 26 years later, Issele-Uku had grown to 300,000 Catholics. They accounted for 31 percent of the region’s population.

State of the archdiocese

RIDGEWOOD, N.J. (CNS)—In these dark, unstable economic times, with the unemployment rate on the rise and stock market value on the decline, a ministry at a parish in the Newark Archdiocese is providing a ray of hope.

The Career Resources Ministry at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Ridgewood was started in the fall of 2001 following the 9/11 tragedy as a way to help those who lost their jobs because of the terrorist attacks.

Now the ministry, through a series of workshops, is helping people who are seeking employment in this recession by providing them with tools and encouragement to find a new position.

“We give people the tools to find a job. It is more of a ‘how-to’ group than a networking group,” explained Ed McCabe, a career coach, senior counselor and master trainer at Lee Hecht Harrison, a management firm. He is one of the ministry’s founders.

An ominous sign of the economic turmoil is the increasing number of attendees at the workshops. They are encouraged to bring their resumes for review.

“I have been receiving many resumes via e-mail,” said McCabe, who volunteers his time. “We don’t have enough people helping out. [The current economic situation] is scary and sad.”

According to a Dec. 5 report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor, the national unemployment rate has reached 6.7 percent, with job losses widespread across major industry sectors.

Other statistics show that as of October the five states with the highest rate of unemployment are Rhode Island (9.3 percent), Michigan (9.3 percent), California (8.2 percent), South Carolina (8.0 percent) and Nevada (7.6 percent). The unemployment rate in Indiana in October was 6.4 percent.

The ministry at Mount Carmel advertises throughout the archdiocese, but the workshops are gaining popularity through word of mouth. The sessions are open to nonparishioners and non-Catholics throughout the four counties of the archdiocese, which is part of the ministry’s interfaith community outreach.

Chain crew members Ed Tinder and Steve Taylor have been a team on Colts’ sideline for 25 years

By John Shaughnessy

Even when he’s within inches of quarterback Peyton Manning and head coach Tony Dungy, Ed Tinder constantly strives to stay calm, focused and professional as he works along the sidelines at the Indianapolis Colts’ home games.

Tinder has kept that detached approach during nearly all the moments of the 25 seasons that he—the executive director of the Catholic Youth Organization in Indianapolis—has worked as a member of the chain crew for Colts’ home games.

Of course, there was that one, very visible,
Coming to Indiana

Issele-Uku priests started coming to Indianapolis in 2006 after Bishop Elue made an offer to Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein to send them here. He had come to Indianapolis in 2005 to visit Father Benjakont Okonkwo, a chaplain at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis and the first Issele-Uku priest to minister here.

That same year, the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy, the first indigenous Nigerian women's religious order, expanded their presence in the archdiocese. Now 15 sisters from the order living in three convents in Indianapolis.

Sister Jennifer Otuonye was its first member in Indianapolis, coming here in 2001 to study at the University of Indianapolis.

She also ministered at St. Paul Hermitage in Beech Grove and cared for the father of Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general. She eventually met Msgr. Schaedel, who later helped her order establish its formal presence in the archdiocese.

The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy are now ministering in Catholic schools, hospitals and Catholic Charities agencies.

Sister Jennifer is amazed at what has happened simply because she came here to study.

"God works in a mysterious way," she said. "I don't know what he's planning for you. You might be planning something else, but God may be planning something different for you." Msgr. Schaedel also sees the hand of God at work in the arrival of so many Nigerian priests and religious to central and southern Indiana.

"It has been an amazing example of Providence at work," said Msgr. Schaedel. "The priests we have at the moment from Nigeria are working well, and fast becoming a part of our local Church.

Broadening our vision

Pat A. M Trọng, a member of the Holy Rosary Priests in Issele-Uku, also appreciates the ministry of Father Chukwudi in his parish.

"It broadens our knowledge," he said. "The Church isn't just a church in Nigeria or isn't just a church in Archdiocese of Indianapolis or the Church in the United States. It's a worldwide Church. It encompasses all. (With him here), it makes it not home.

Father James Farrell visited Nigeria in 2006 with Father Chukwudi when both priests were ministering at St. Barbara's Parish in Indianapolis.

"I think we have to be encouraged by [the Nigerian priests] and by the Church and for society," said Father Farrell, now director of Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis.

"They come from poverty, a poor nation. (But) you don't experience them as despairing individuals. They come with a great sense of hope and expectation. I think that this is a witness to us, particularly as we're facing economic hard times. We need to begin to realize that we need to put our faith in something beyond the stock market.

Encouraging others to put their trust in God is precisely what the newest Nigerian religious in the archdiocese want to do.

Three members of the New Evangelization Sisters, an order founded in Issele-Uku 15 years ago, began their ministry at St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis this summer. It is the first time that the fledgling order has sent its members on mission outside Africa. Two are ministering at the parish school. The third, Sister Pedro Callista Opara, is a pastoral associate at the parish focusing on evangelization.

"It's going to be fruitful. Very fruitful. Very positive," Sister Pedro said. "I think that the Church here loves us. And we are happy. Even just our presence might have an impact.

Katherine M. Kuan agrees. A St. Lawrence parishioner, she works alongside the other two New Evangelization Sisters in the parish's daycare ministry.

"The kids over at St. Lawrence adore these women," she said. "They attack them with huggs. And that's been [true] since day one."

Mutual benefits, mutual desires

Many of the Nigerian priests and religious spoke about how their experience here will help them when they return home.

"When you come to America, you see that they do things differently and you think, 'OK, this might be a better way to do it' because they're more advanced than us in technology and everything," said Sister Jennifer. "So we'll try to implement that back in Nigeria."

"Since we came here, we've learned so many things about the life of the people here, even the way they do things," said Sister Pedro. "We'll pick the good aspects of what we have seen and internalize them."

Father Chukwudi ultimately sees the relevance for the ministry of Nigerian priests here, even the way they do things, said Sister Pedro. "We'll pick the good aspects of what we have seen and internalize them."

"The longing of people to come close to God is everywhere," he said. "People here long to be close to God. Likewise, people back home in Nigeria long to be close to God. We share the same faith and values."

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does not edit captions from online sources.

New Evangelization Sister Jennifer Otuonye leads an Advent prayer service on Dec. 3 at St. Lawrence School in Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)

"My bishop believes in the universal call of the Church to be a missionary Church," said Michael Odogwu Elue, has extended this continued from page 1

"I value the relationships I have made and the interviews I have landed," she said. "Career Resources has provided a comfortable environment that is suitable in this fast-paced world." 

Offical Appointment


This appointment is from the office of the Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., Archbishop of Indianapolis.

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Detroit religious leaders urge action to save auto industry

DETROIT (CNS) — Detroit-area religious leaders convened by Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida emerged from a Dec. 4 meeting to call on Washington lawmakers to provide federal assistance to stabilize the American automobile industry.

“There is great concern for the countless individuals and families who are under great stress because of the uncertainty of our economy,” Cardinal Maida said at a media briefing following the meeting.

“They need to hear words of hope and encouragement. This is a time to stand in solidarity with all who are suffering the loss of jobs or homes, and all those who are anxious about what will happen in the future to the automobile industry in metro Detroit,” he said.

Cardinal Maida said both business and labor leaders had expressed fear of what could happen if there is no government action. “The alternative is not only unwise; it is unthinkable. If nothing is done, one can only imagine what would happen to all of us who call this corner of Michigan home,” he added.

The 11 religious leaders represented local Catholics, Protestants, Jews and Muslims. Cardinal Maida said they had also discussed various ways each faith community has been responding to requests for assistance to people in need — a situation exacerbated by the economic crisis — and how they can work together on programs and projects.

“We committed ourselves to keep our lines of communication open between and among our faith communities. When and where we can collaborate, we will,” the cardinal said.

Besides bringing together the representatives of the various faith communities, Cardinal Maida also released to the press the text of a pastoral letter on the economy, “Christ will,” the cardinal said.

In it, the cardinal offered hope and encouragement to those suffering hardships, and urged all local Catholics to prepare to celebrate Christmas this year when economic conditions are so grim.

He noted the loss of jobs, homes, pensions and personal investments and the fact that the automobile industry, “our primary employer,” is suffering “major challenges.”

“While many of us have lived through other times of downsizing and economic downturns, this time, the prospects for recovery require radical changes. Things in Michigan will probably never be the same,” he said.

But the cardinal said the people of Michigan, like those throughout the world, have “tenacity, perseverance and determination,” and are “ready to do whatever it takes to survive, even to thrive.”

“Do we believe, as we all have the more reason to see these challenging times as an opportunity to be resourceful,” Cardinal Maida said.

He reminded everyone the economy is about people, not just money, and that all of them “have a responsibility to one another” and that God desires “we live as his family supporting one another.”

He included “prayerful reflections” for readers to consider, such as:

• “When I make decisions about economic matters for myself and my family and my co-workers, in what ways do I take into account the larger common good?”

• “How might I show charity to others immediately around me?”

• “Do I believe in the power of prayer and that in many ways prayer is our greatest resource?”

“Do we all need to receive and we all need to give,” he said, adding that there is “no shame” in needing help.

But even when people do not have “the economic means” to give to others, Cardinal Maida said, “every one of us has the ability to pray and find a way to be of service.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE: The text of Cardinal Maida’s pastoral letter on the economy is available online at www.aodonline.org.)

For more information about ELM, contact Ed Isakson at 317-236-1594 or log on to www.archindy.org/layministry.

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The Church in central and southern Indiana

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Spring 2009

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• Examining the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church.

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Class dates:
January 29
February 5, 12, 19, 26
March 5, 12, 1, 9, 26
April 2

Location
Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center
1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN
Time: 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Cost: $225.00
T

Today, Dec. 12, is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Last Tuesday, Dec. 9, was the feast of St. Juan Diego.

Anyone who doubts that miracles occur should go to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City and see the image of Our Lady on Juan Diego’s tilma, or cloak.

A miracle is defined as the transcending of a law of nature resulting in an unexplained occurrence that glorifies God. Just the fact that Juan Diego’s tilma continues to hang there today must be considered a miracle.

It was made from the maguay cactus plant, a material that resembles burlap, and would normally deteriorate in 20 or 30 years. Yet today it shows no signs of deterioration. It is also not suitable for a painting since it has no sizing. No artist would have chosen it.

Furthermore, artists who have examined it cannot explain why the colors show no sign of fading. They remain as brilliant as ever. The image in the painting does not penetrate the threads of the cloth, but lies on top of it like the emulsion of a photographic print. It can be nothing short of miraculous.

The appearance of Our Lady to Juan Diego in 1531, and her miraculous image on his tilma, resulted in the conversion to Christianity of about 8 million indigenous natives within a few years.

The Indians saw in Juan Diego’s tilma a catechism leading them to the true God. The image of the lady with the robes she wore, the angel below her, the moon she stood on, the other details in the painting, all had a meaning for the natives.

It was especially significant to the Indians that the Mother of God chose a humble 57-year-old Aztec Indian peasant to spread the faith of the people who had conquered them. Juan Diego was among the first Christian converts after the Franciscans arrived in 1523.

He was baptized and received his Christian name, along with his wife, Maria Lucia, and his uncle, Juan Bernardo, when he was 48. Maria Lucia died in 1529, and Juan Diego lived with his uncle tillman.

Juan Diego was headed to Mass on Dec. 9, 1531. As he reached the top of a hill called Tepeyac, he first heard music and then saw a beautiful lady who called him by his name. She identified herself as “the ever-Virgin Mary, the Mother of the true God,” and said that she wanted a temple to be built on Tepeyac hill, the site of a shrine to the Aztec goddess Tonantzin.

Juan hurried to see Father Juan de Zumarraga, the Franciscan priest who had been appointed bishop but who had not yet been consecrated. He listened to Juan Diego with considerable doubt, as anyone might do when someone says he or she has seen a vision of Mary. He told Juan Diego to ask the lady for some roses.

Although there had never been roses on the hill and to cut the roses he would find there, and gather them in his tilma, Juan did as he was told. And the day after December, Juan found them there. He cut them and took them to Mary, who carefully rearranged them in his tilma and told him to ask the bishop to consecrate them as a shrine to the Aztec goddess Tonantzin.

Bishop Zumarraga immediately ordered the construction of a chapel to house Juan Diego’s tilma. The small chapel was enlarged in 1537, a basilica was built in 1579 and the present basilica was completed in 1576. After the first chapel was built, Juan Diego lived in a one-room abode butt next to it. He died there in 1548 at age 74 and was buried at the base of Tepeyac hill.

Our Lady of Guadalupe was designated patroness of Latin America by Pope Pius IX in 1821 and patroness of all the Americas by Pope Pius XII in 1945.

The United States has largely failed to establish any reasonable legal or ethical framework to regulate its own multibillion dollar infertility industry, and the result has been aptly described as a kind of “Wild West of infertility,” a lawless frontier where nearly anything goes, including the routine freezing of scores of humans who are still in their embryonic stages. Indeed, this practice remains one of the great ongoing humanitarian tragedies of our time.

Not much ethical reflection is needed to appreciate the serious injustice involved in freezing another human being. The freezing and storing process subjects embryonic humans to significant risk, and up to 50 percent of embryos may not survive the process.

In many cases, stored embryos end up being abandoned by the couples who create them, committed to a kind of perpetual stasis, and locked in time in the harsh wasteland of their liquid-nitrogen ovens.

Countless parents then find themselves caught in agonizing dilemmas about what to do with their offspring held in suspended animation. This injustice—once it has been fostered upon human embryos—is then used by others to argue on behalf of even more egregious offense against their dignity, namely, the destructive strip-mining of embryos to acquire their stem cells.

The argument that embryos will “just be thrown away anyway” has been very effective in convincing lawmakers and politicians to rally on behalf of scientists who desire to destroy human embryos for research.

By appealing to a kind of American pragmatism that tries to “maximize return on investments,” the embryo’s subjugation has become nearly complete in our society as he or she is reduced to a mere “thing,” an object to be manipulated—valuable primarily for how he or she can serve the interests and desires of others.

Dr. Chi Dang, a professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, building on the argument that frozen embryos will otherwise be discarded, put it this way during a recent interview: “The question is: Is it ethically more acceptable to destroy these embryos by pouring acid on them or do you destroy these clusters of cells to create new cell lines that could benefit us in the future?”

By promoting such false dichotomies and constructing these kinds of ethical sand castles, we have begun to dig into a kind of complacency, a deadening moral slumber regarding our most basic duties toward the weak and smallest of humans.

Writing in the New York Times, Gary Rosen once observed that even a basic country like France in 1971 ought to be enough to let us see the problem here, namely, that we should not be treating other people as a means to our own ends, but as ends in themselves.

Even the most basic ethics can be hard to square with the efficient, cold, clinical discussions of “harvesting embryos” and “deploying clusters of cells.”

While the language of embryonic stem-cell scientists and their supporters remains thoroughly professional, it still evades, in the words of Rosen, “an unmistakable whiff of cannibalism.”

In the United States today, we urgently need embryo protection laws. The temptation to dehumanize animals and babies is a perennial one, heartbreaking back to the time in our country when slaves could be coerced into third-fifths of a person for purposes of congressional representation.

Treating embryos as zero-lifes of a person constitutes an even more deplorable human rights violation. The smallest members of our human family deserve legal protection.

Laws like those in Germany and Italy, while they would not stop every injustice done to embryos, could go a long way toward stemming our cruelty and assuring that further forms of laboratory barbarism and human exploitation do not become commonplace.

(Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., earned his doctorate in neuroscience at Yale University and did post-doctoral work at Yale University and did post-doctoral work at The New York Times. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. For more information, log on to www.rcbioethics.org.)
ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO DANIEL M. BEUCHLEIN, O.S.B.

EL COMPROMISO DE LOS OBISPOS ES TRABAJAR CON AQUELLOS QUE VALORAN EL BIEN COMÚN

I

o es de sorprender que en la reunión de noviembre los obispos de Estados Unidos tomamos conciencia de la crisis económica que actualmente nos va tocando en nuestro país y al mundo. Resulta evidente que esta crisis estaba muy presente en la mente de los obispos durante los recientes comicios nacionales y locales.

Apreciamos que estén al tanto de que el presidente de nuestra Conferencia Episcopal de Indiana, el Cardenal Francis George de Chicago, publicó una declaración dirigida al presidente electo Barack Obama, indicando la profunda preocupación que embarga a los obispos en relación a la dignidad de la vida humana, desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural.

Concretamente la declaración expresaba una preocupación grave ya que el nuevo presidente declaró en una reunión con Planning Parenthood que su primer acto ejecutivo sería firmar la Ley sobre la aborto, de Planned Parenthood que su primer acto

en la crisis económica, el cardenal escribió en nombre de todos los obispos: “Esta situación preocupante y complicada pone de manifiesto una verdad universal: Todos somos hijos de Dios, somos cuidadores de nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Estamos juntos en esta situación. Los momentos difíciles pueden alejarnos, pero los hermanos y hermanas, los trabajadores están perdiendo trabajos y prestaciones de salud, y muchas personas están perdiendo el sentido de esperanza y seguridad.”

En el marco de una época de tensión económica, el cardenal escribió en nombre de todos los obispos: “Esta situación preocupante y complicada pone de manifiesto una verdad universal: Todos somos hijos de Dios, somos cuidadores de nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Estamos juntos en esta situación. Los momentos difíciles pueden alejarnos, pero los hermanos y hermanas, los trabajadores están perdiendo trabajos y prestaciones de salud, y muchas personas están perdiendo el sentido de esperanza y seguridad.”

De hecho, presentamos la declaración “como siervos de Jesús, nuestra esperanza,” en la cual expresamos nuestro apoyo decidido para las personas de nuestras respectivas diócesis que se ven afectadas por las consecuencias actuales de la crisis económica.

Señalamos que, como pastores y obispos, observamos muy cercanamente las consecuencias sociales, humanas y morales producto de esta crisis. “El impacto es claramente mayor en aquellos con menos recursos: aquellos que habitan en nuestra parroquia, en nuestro barrio, en nuestra ciudad y en todo el país. Pero el bien común no es solamente la responsabilidad de los que tienen más; es nuestro deber como cristianos ayudar aquellos que se han visto afectados por esta crisis.”

En el estado de Illinois, el Cardenal George concluyó su declaración diciendo que “el afecto correspondiente es el resultado de una verdadera fe en el Jesús que es el Redentor nuestro: ‘ya sufrí, pero también victorioso’.”

Hablado en nombre de los obispos de EE.UU., el Cardenal George concluyó su declaración diciendo que “el afecto correspondiente es el resultado de una verdadera fe en el Jesús que es el Redentor nuestro: ‘ya sufrí, pero también victorioso’.”

Nuestra declaración asume que “el bien común” es el resultado de un trabajo conjunto entre los hombres y mujeres que, en nuestra humanidad, somos sus hermanos y hermanas. A esta tarea nos llamamos como pastores y obispos, y en nombre de los obispos de Estados Unidos, prometemos que “ofreceremos nuestras oraciones para que la presencia de Jesús sea fuente de esperanza para todos.”

ARCHBISHOP BUECHLEIN’S INTENTION FOR VOCATIONS FOR DECEMBER

Catholic Grade Schools: that they may teach our children the Catholic faith and assist them in hearing and answering God’s call to service in the Church, especially as priests or religious.

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

THE CRITERION FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2008

PAGE 5

Seeking the Face of the Lord

Búsqueda la Cara del Señor

El compromiso de los obispos es trabajar con aquellos que valoran el bien común

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

List of Oraciones del Arzobispo Buechlein

P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

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

Escuelas primarias católicas: que ellos puedan enseñar la fe católica a nuestros niños y puedan ayudarles a oír y contestar la llamada de Dios para servir en la Iglesia, sobre todo como sacerdotes o religiosos.

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en diciembre

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

List of Oraciones del Arzobispo Buechlein

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Events Calendar

December 12
Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 399 E. Meridian St., Greenwood. All school bilingual Mass, re-enactment of the miracle of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe and flags of the American procession. 9 a.m. Information: 317-881-1300 or bmoain@dioc.org

December 12-January 10
Saint Meinrad Archabchaby Library, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad.

Crèches display, free. Information: 800-682-0988 or news@stmeinrad.edu

December 13
St. Roch Parish, Family Center, 3603 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Single Seniors, meeting, 1 p.m., age 50 and over. Information: 317-784-1102.

December 15
MK V.S. Divine Mercy and Glorious Cross Center, Reesville, 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.

December 16
St. Malachy Church, 933 E. County Road 750 North, Brownsburg. Church dedication, V.Mass, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechter, celebrant, 6 p.m. Information: 317-852-3195.

December 17
St. John the Evangelist Church, 256 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. Organ recital, Tom Nichols, organist, 11:30 a.m. Information: 317-635-2021.

December 18
St. Meinrad Archabchaby Library, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. Selections from Handel’s “Messiah,” Southern Indiana chapter of A Southern Guild of Organists will present New Albany High School a cappella choir, area singers, 2 p.m., no charge. Information: 800-662-9988 or news@stmeinrad.edu

December 19-21
Saint Meinrad Archabchaby, 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 Archabchaby, 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

January 17
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. "Why Is Bacon Sacred?" Jeanne Hunt and Franciscan Sister Kathleen Mula, presenters, 9:30-12:30 p.m., $35 per person includes continental breakfast and lunch. Information: 317-545-7681 or gpao@archind.org.

January 20

January 26
Holy Name of Jesus Church, 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. Christmas Concert XLVII, 6-8 p.m., information: 317-787-1682.

Retreats and Programs

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., $49 per person. Information: 812-933-6437.

December 14
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. "Evening Scripture," 4-8 p.m. Information: 812-933-6437.

December 18
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 65th St., Indianapolis. "Day of Silence," 8 a.m.-4 p.m., $35 per person includes continental breakfast and lunch. Information: 812-307-1411 or spirituality@thedome.org

Crèches display

An exhibit on display with dozens of other handmade crèches at the Saint Meinrad Archabchaby Library in Saint Meinrad. The crèches represent a variety of artistic expressions from cultures around the world depicting the birth of Jesus more than 2,000 years ago. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For library hours, call 812-357-6401 or log on to www.stmeinrad.edu.

Thanksgiving volunteers

Tyrone Neal, left, Marvin Barst, William Witt and Paul Gyuym, members of St. Rita Parish in Indianapolis and St. Rita Council #97 of the Knights of Peter Claver, open hundreds of cans of gravy on Nov. 26 at Butler University in Indianapolis. The men were volunteering during the Mozel Sanders Thanksgiving Day dinner in which 35,000 free dinners were prepared and distributed throughout Indianapolis. The Knights are collecting toys for the Indianapolis Fire Department’s annual charity holiday toy drive this month.

Top CFO

Jeffrey Stumpf, archdiocesan chief financial officer (CFO), gives a presentation at the American Catholic Community Foundation annual meeting on Oct. 24, 2007. Stumpf was recently named one of the top three CFOs for an Indiana non-profit organization by the Indianapolis Business Journal. In honoring Stumpf, the IJB noted that he has worked hard to improve the archdiocese’s financial position to the point where it has earned the highest Moody’s credit rating of any diocese in the country. He has also helped the archdiocesan with millions of dollars through self-insurance. Stumpf has served as the archdiocese’s CFO for 10 years.

Editor emeritus publishes book on St. Thomas More

St. Thomas More: Model for Modern Catholics (St. Pauls, 2009) is the latest book written by John Fink, editor emeritus of The Criterion. Books by Fink previously published by St. Pauls and its sister publisher, A Boa House, include Biblical Women: Feminism in a Patriarchal Society (2008) and Jesus in the Gospels (2006). More was chancellor of England in the 16th century. His dispute with King Henry VIII over the ending of the king’s first marriage and papal primacy resulted in More’s ultimate condemnation and execution as a martyr. The early 20th century British Catholic writer G.K. Chesterton said after a visit to More’s home that “he is more important at this moment than at any moment since his birth. … But he is not quite so important as he will be in a hundred years’ time.” Pope John Paul II named St. Thomas More the patron saint of journalists.

John Fink

Fink’s 139-page paperback book about St. Thomas More, which sells for $14.95, can be purchased by calling 800-343-2522 or logging on to www.stpauls.us.

Page 6 The Criterion Friday, December 12, 2008
St. Anne parishioners to break ground on new church in March

By Mary Ann Wyand

St. Anne parishioners in New Castle are journeying through their second Advent season without a church, and are looking forward to celebrating the birth of Christ as a faith community.

They will gather this Christmas Mass in a Bundy Auditorium at New Castle High School again this December instead of in the basement of the St. Anne Parish Life Center, where they celebrate weekend liturgies with Father Joseph Ruttenberg, sacramental minister, and Franciscan Sister Shirley Gerth, parish life coordinator.

And they are excited about the ground-breaking ceremony for their new church on March 29, 2009, and the start of construction on April 14, 2009.

It has been nearly two years since their beloved church was destroyed by an arson fire during the early morning hours on Holy Saturday, April 7, 2007.

The historic Henry County landmark is gone forever, and now even the charred shell of the brick church completed in 1924 is coming down as a demolition crew prepares the site for the groundbreaking and new construction next spring. Demolition work started on Nov. 17.

"Seeing this demolition is actually harder for me than two years of looking at the [gutted] walls of the church," Sister Shirley said in a telephone interview on Dec. 3. "It's just a mess out there. I will be very happy when this work is completed. At least half of the walls on each side are down. They have had to use a blowtorch to cut the steel beams. It looks like it's going to be at least six weeks of work. They had to use a sledge hammer on the steeple and bring it down by hand because they couldn't get the [wrecking] equipment that high."

After the Masses on Nov. 12-16, Father Ruttenberg and Sister Shirley led the parishioners in a farewell ritual for the old church, which focused on "a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to rebuild" from Ecclesiastes (Ecc 3:1-3).

A pastoral era in St. Anne Parish's history is being transformed into a new time of waiting, a time of rebuilding and growth, a time of hope for the future of the faith community in an area of east-central Indiana that is only 2 percent Catholic.

The time capsule was recovered from the church's cornerstone and will remain sealed until sometime in 2009. The 10-foot-tall metal cross erected on top of the church steeple is in storage now, and parishioners would like to incorporate it into the design of the new church.

Parishioners have raised nearly $700,000 from fundraising, donations and pledges during their "Rebuild My Church" campaign to supplement the archdiocesan insurance settlement.

A architectural plans for their new $3 million church will feature a handicap-accessible worship space that includes some of the traditional design elements of their former church.

Eric Atkins, director of the archdiocesan Office of Management Services and an architect, said on Dec. 3 that a comprehensive engineering analysis of the gutted church determined that new construction would be the best option for the parish.

"There were extensive studies done on the structure after the fire on what would need to be done to restore the building," Atkins explained. "The studies over a period of months were also done to help determine the total dollar loss for the insurance claim. It was determined that the actual reconstruction cost to restore the church would be pretty substantial, yet we would still be faced with significant accessibility challenges because of the way the original building was configured."

St. Anne's staff and building committee discussed the parish's needs with archdiocesan representatives over a period of months, he said, while the insurance company negotiated the settlement.

Atkins said the new church will sit at an angle on the existing site at 102 N. 19th St., with the church entrance facing the Parish Life Center and closer to the parking lot behind the former school building.

He said the church will accommodate 350 people within the nave of the building with pews focused in a semicircular fashion around an elevated sanctuary. A replica of the former stained-glass rose window will be installed above the sanctuary at the south end of the church.

"The floor of the nave has a slight slope to it," Atkins said. "The sanctuary will be elevated two steps up to the altar and ambo, and will be fully accessible with a ramp on the back side of the sanctuary. Behind the sanctuary wall will be a small sacristy for storage of sacred vessels."

He said construction of the new church is expected to be completed in the spring of 2010, hopefully in time for Easter.

"The parish has gone through an emotional experience," Atkins said. "It's been a long process for them. They are very anxious to get the new church under construction and get it completed so they can worship in their parish church again."

"The parish building committee has done an admirable job of researching and exploring all the different options and providing a clear direction for the parish," he said. "Sister Shirley has done a tremendous job of helping the parish through a tragic episode. She has been very instrumental in helping build community through this tragedy and guide the parish in a new chapter in its history." 

Pope names Spaniard to succeed Cardinal Arinze at worship congregation

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Spanish Cardinal Francisco Arinze as prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, and has named Spanish Cardinal Antonio Canizares Llovera as his successor.

Appointed bishop of Agana in March 1992, the Vatican said Cardinal Arinze was retiring after six years as head of the congregation and a total of 23 years at the Vatican. He celebrated his 68th birthday on Nov. 3, and the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on Nov. 23.

Cardinal Arinze, 63, is a specialist in catechesis and has served as a member of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith since 1995 when the office was headed by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict. He also is a member of the Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei," which oversees the pastoral care of Catholics attached to the use of the Tridentine-rite Mass.

Cardinal Arinze was ordained in Toledo, Spain, on Oct. 31, 1945, Cardinal Canizares was ordained in 1970 after studying at the seminary in Valencia and earning a doctorate in theology with an emphasis on catechesis from the Pontifical University of Salamanca.

A appointed bishop of Avila in March 1992, he drafted documents for the Spanish bishops' conference on subjects ranging from ecclesiology and the sacraments to sexual and medical ethics. He was named archbishop of Granada in December 1996 and was transferred to Toledo six years later.

From 2005 until earlier this year, he served as vice president of the Spanish bishops' conference. Pope Benedict named him a cardinal in 2006.

Cardinal Arinze was the last active cardinal in the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments who participated in the Second Vatican Council as a bishop. Pope Benedict attended, but as a theological expert. 1
Point of pride: Glendon glad to have served as Vatican ambassador

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—When Mary Ann Glendon leaves her post as U.S. ambassador to the Holy See on Jan. 19, she will end a term that was the finestest on record yet one of the most active.

Since her arrival in Rome last February, Glendon has been kept busy, first by Pope Benedict XVI's trip to the United States in April, a return visit to the Vatican by President George W. Bush in June, five major embassy-sponsored conferences and the daily rounds of diplomatic obligations at one of the world's premier listening posts.

In early December, she was co-hosting a Rome symposium on "Philanthropy and Human Rights," which featured nine expert speakers from around the world. Like many of the embassy's events, its editorial line largely reflected the Bush administration's views on social and economic questions.

Glendon is unabashedly proud of having served under Bush, and she believes the last eight years have seen a convergence of U.S. and Vatican positions in such areas as humanitarian assistance, the role of faith-based institutions, religious freedom and the place of religion in civil society.

"How lucky I've been to have served here at a time when relations between the United States and the Holy See have been so close and productive," she said in an interview with Catholic News Service.

The pope's U.S. trip in April, she said, was particularly interesting to her because the pontiff made a point of praising the American model of religious freedom. Sometimes described as "positive secularism," it is a model that gives religious values a significant voice in the public square rather than excluding them on the grounds of Church-state separation.

That is a subject that has been on Glendon's mind for years as an academic. She has warned that this American model is "fading for its life" today against persistent efforts to limit religion's influence on government.

It just happens that the American model of religious freedom is also the topic of the U.S. Embassy's big last big conference under Glendon, to take place on Jan. 13 in the presence of other diplomats accredited to the Holy See and Vatican officials.

A mong the speakers is Philip Hamburger, who is widely considered to be the leading scholar on separation of Church and state in the United States. A topic present will be Joseph Weiler, an expert on religion and European society; Richard Garnett, who has written on law and religious freedom; and Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican's top interreligious dialogue official.

Glendon is already excited about the lineup.

"It doesn't get any better than that. It's going to be the grand finale. It's going to be fantastic. Be there or be square," she said.

The conference marks the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Holy See. It is also the last in a series of embassy conferences commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Glendon said she came to the ambassador's post knowing it would be a steep learning curve and decided to set an ambitious agenda based on those two anniversaries, convinced that human rights was an area where U.S. and Vatican interests coincided.

But her job hasn't been all scholarly speeches and diplomatic formalities. In recent weeks, Glendon has begun hosting movie nights at her home for friends of the embassy, serving popcorn and screening such modern classics as "D Brother, Where Art Thou." Next up is "South Pacific."

In November, she hosted a soprano and pianist concert featuring classical music by American composers or by Italian composers who worked in the works of art.

Two more concerts are in the works.

Glendon said one of the best things about being an ambassador has been the endless variety of people and events.

"You never know what the day will bring, and the job varies with what's going on in the world," she said.

She also enjoyed the sense of teamwork at the embassy, she said.

"Professors are generally one-person operations. You sit in an office, you prepare your classes, you interact with your students. Here, I had an opportunity to work with a very enthusiastic, intelligent and skilled team of young foreign service officers. I worked with a team like that since I practiced law," she said.

**COLTS** (continued from page 7)

very notable exception to staying calm and impartial.

It happened when Colts' running back Joseph Addai scored what would be the game-winning touchdown near the end of the American Football Conference championship game against the New England Patriots in January 2007—the game that sent the Colts onward to the Super Bowl victory that year.

"You can't get caught up in the emotional reflection. Come and renew yourself with quiet reflection," Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House says.

The retreat is a 12-hour program from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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"You don't really get to know the players and the coaches, but you get a sense of what is in their hearts," Tider says. "These players and coaches are a bunch of good guys. There are people in that organization who make it what it is. [Head coach] Tony Dungy and [president] Bill Polian are the best.

"Every team has a personality. I've seen some good ones and some bad ones. The state of Indiana can be proud of this team. It comes from the top down. It comes from the people [that] Dungy and Polian bring in. The character of people marks high with them."

The experience has left its mark on Tider, too. It's given the former college football player and the former head high school football coach some interesting perspectives and interactions.

His favorite memory involves a small moment with Addai, the Colts' running back.

"It was after the game," he recalls. "A most everybody had left, but we didn't want to leave. They were about to turn out the lights, and we were still standing there on the field."

A nother favorite memory involves a small moment with A'dia, the Colts' special teams player.

"Last year, I had a bad cough for two home games in a row," Tider says. "I coached him again. At one point during the second game, I coughed, Joseph A'dia was standing nearby and he said, 'You still have that cough. You should see a doctor about that.'"

"It was one of the rare times Tider didn't mind being noticed on the sidelines. "It's all very cool," he says.

December 18, 2008
January 19, 2009
March 16, 2009
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

$25 per person per day includes a private room to use, continental breakfast and lunch.

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www.archindy.org/fatima
Pro-life supporters outraged by Planned Parenthood’s holiday gift certificates

By Mary Ann Wyand

Pro-life supporters reacted with shock and outrage at the recent news that Planned Parenthood of Indiana is selling holiday gift certificates for “reproductive health services” that include abortion.

Planned Parenthood is the nation’s largest abortion provider.

In Indiana, Planned Parenthood operates abortion clinics in Bloomington, Indianapolis, Avon and Merrillville as well as 33 smaller sites, which they describe as “health centers,” where they sell artificial contraceptives that function as chemical abortifacients. The Planned Parenthood gift certificates are being advertised as “the gift of health,” and can be redeemed for “services or the recipient’s choice of birth control method,” according to their press release, which has generated local, state and national media coverage. Servants of the Gospel of Life Sister Diane Carollo, the director of the archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry in Indianapolis, and members of the Servants of the Gospel of Life called the bill “an assault on life.”

“In the Indiana Department of Health women’s health report for 2007, the last year for which data is available, we estimate they will abort over 400 babies between now and Christmas while they are selling their holiday gift certificates,” Tuttle said. “While most of us are spending the next month preparing to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Tuttle said, “Planned Parenthood of Indiana is sinking to new lows in sacrilege.”

“There is no moral difference between abortion and suicide,” Tuttle said. “While most of us are spending the next month preparing to celebrate the birth of our Savior, in Indiana more are spending the next month preparing to celebrate the birth of their Savior.”

The archbishop is asking Catholics to pray for the “fetal victims who are aborted as a result of these bills,” Tuttle said.

“Their audacity to offer lethal gift certificates “for women’s health” during her interview on the news program, “I thought it was outrageous to see Planned Parenthood would have the audacity to offer lethal gift certificates for Christmas holiday,” Sister Diane said.

“Abortionists, they do [cervical] Pap smears and breast exams, but it’s a fact that these certificates could be used to procure an abortion.”

This Christmas, “there will be 6,000 fewer babies in Indiana” because of abortions in Planned Parenthood clinics in the state during 2008, Sister Diane said. “Nationwide, there will be approximately 290,000 fewer babies because they were aborted in Planned Parenthood facilities.”

Right to Life of Indianapolis president Marc Tuttle, who is also an missionary to abortion-bound youth to figuratively place their unborn babies upon the manger like baby Jesus.

For more information about the pro-life Christmas cards on Dec. 13 in front of the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic, contact Elizabeth Kane at 317-528-9000 or catholiccicilic@aol.com.

Catholics.

Servants of the Gospel of Life Sister Diane Carollo, director of the archdiocesan pro-life office, is distributing factual information for participants to use when calling and writing letters or postcards to President-elect Barack Obama and members of Congress in Washington, D.C.

“This radical pro-abortion legislation would make abortion a fundamental right that would eliminate all existing pro-life laws and policies that have been enacted since 1973, the year the U.S. Supreme Court issued Roe v. Wade,” a Servant of the Gospel of Life emphasized in a Dec. 3 letter to pastors and parish life coordinators of archdiocesan parishes.

“We need to keep in mind that FOCA would have devastating effects on our Catholic hospitals and social services agencies,” the archbishop explained. “Establishing abortion as a fundamental right precludes individuals and groups from exercising their right to freedom of religion and freedom of conscience.”

He said the archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry is providing instructions about the postcard and phone campaign to parish leaders.

“I ask all of us to voice clearly our opposition to policies, laws and executive orders that would ensure abortion as a fundamental right,” Archbishop Buechlein wrote, “and at the same time assure our constitutional rights as American Catholics.

Wanted: Your participation in campaign to oppose federal abortion rights legislation

By Mary Ann Wyand

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops unanimously voted to initiate a pro-life campaign to prevent the passage of the proposed “Freedom of Choice Act” (FOCA) as part of official business during their annual fall meeting on Nov. 10-12 in Baltimore. A Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein is asking Catholics to pray for the “fetal victims who are aborted as a result of these bills,” Tuttle said.

“This year, however, Americans will also be confronted with the most radical piece of legislation that is being lobbied for by pro-abortion groups,” she noted. “The Freedom of Choice Act,” which was co-sponsored by President-elect Barack Obama, the frightening reality is that President-elect Obama promised Planned Parenthood that he would strive to make FOCA the law of the land.”

Sister Diane explained that “if enacted, FOCA would attempt to prevent Catholics from practicing their faith according to their consciences, which should be formed by Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium of the Church, and not by politicians, Catholic or otherwise, who instead may worship a particular political party’s platform on abortion rights.”

The National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, on behalf of the U.S. bishops, is distributing the pro-life postcard campaign materials to every diocese in the country.

“We must not fail to make our Catholic voice heard in Washington,” Sister Diane emphasized. “If we fail silent on our opposition to FOCA and it becomes the law of the land, we will be silenced as Christians and alienated from the American political and legal process in the near future.”

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The Criterion Friday, December 12, 2008

Page 9
Advent penance services are scheduled at archdiocesan parishes

Parishes throughout the archdiocese have scheduled communal penance services for Advent. The following is a list of services that have been reported to The Criterion.

Batesville Deanery
Dec. 14, 1 p.m. at St. M. aurice, Napoleon
Dec. 13, 4 p.m. at Immaculate Conception, Milford
Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. Louis, Batesville
Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg
Dec. 17, 6 p.m. at St. Nicholas, Ripley County
Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Dover
Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County
Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Greensburg
Dec. 19, 7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Lyons

Bloomington Deanery
Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford
Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. John the Apostle, Bloomington
Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. Jude, Spencer

Connersville Deanery
Dec. 15, 7 p.m. for St. Michael, Brookville, and Holy Guardian Angels, Cedar Grove, at Holy Guardian Angels, Cedar Grove
Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Cambridge City
Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at Holy Family, Richmond

Indianapolis East Deanery
Dec. 15, 7 p.m. for Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Bernadette and St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) at St. Theresia of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower)
Dec. 16, 1:30 p.m. at St. Philip Neri
Dec. 17, 7 p.m. for SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Mary and Holy Cross at Holy Cross
Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Rita

Indianapolis North Deanery
Dec. 14, 6 p.m. deanery service at St. Matthew
Dec. 17, 6 p.m. deanery service at St. Matthew
Dec. 17, 7 p.m. deanery service at St. Matthew

Indianapolis South Deanery
Dec. 13, 9:30 a.m. at St. Barnabas
Dec. 15, 6:30 a.m. at Nativity of Our Lord
Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Jude
Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. Mark the Evangelist
Dec. 22, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood

New Albany Deanery
Dec. 13, 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyds Knobs
Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Lanesville
Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, New Albany
Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Ewing
Dec. 21, 4 p.m. at Holy Family, New Albany

Terre Haute Deanery
Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Spencer

Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Corydon

Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Jennings County, at St. Joseph, Jennings County, at St. Joseph, Jennings County

Tell City Deanery
Dec. 14, 2 p.m. deanery service at St. Paul, Tell City
Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m. deanery service at St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad

Advent resources are available on archdiocesan Web site

During the season of Advent the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will have a special Web page at www.archindy.org/advent. The page contains various Advent resources, including links to the daily readings and reflections from Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, penance service schedules, images of past Criterior Christmas Supplement covers and links of interest to other Advent Web sites.

U.S. nun murdered in Brazil in 2005 honored with U.N. human rights prize

The awards were presented at a ceremony in New York for International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10 to mark the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In a Dec. 4 statement, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur expressed gratitude that Sister Dorothy was being honored posthumously with the award.

“Through her life and teaching, many people learned to appreciate and claim their human rights,” the statement said. “Since her martyrdom, … [Sister Dorothy’s] message, service and convictions resound around the world, drawing attention to the circumstances in the Brazilian Amazon.”

Sister Dorothy’s death sparked an international outcry. She was killed on Feb. 12, 2005, in Amapa, a remote community in the Amazon region. She was 73 years old.

“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 now 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:

• Nationally renowned heart surgeons and cardiologists that treat high-risk, complex cases
• The Midwest Heart Valve Center—the only dedicated heart valve treatment center in Indiana

I wanted to say thanks to all of my doctors and hospital staff there, my family and friends. They were all so great! My recovery was amazing. I think all of the doctors and nurses there are very special people who need to be recognized. Chris participated in the first-of-its-kind innovative research study, which may allow more patients to avoid long-term use of blood thinners.

Are you at risk? Get your FREE Healthy Heart Kit and find out. Call 1-877-888-1777 or visit HeartAttackCare.net today.

ST. FRANCIS HEART CENTER
Dear Friends in Christ:

As we wait with joyful anticipation for Christmas, many people are surely more amorous than usual this Advent season due to the uncertain economic climate. Let’s remember to pray for everyone who is hurting economically and to do what we can to help those in need. By working together to be good stewards of what God has given us, we move closer to fulfilling Jesus’ teaching that we are all brothers and sisters and everyone is our neighbor.

Here is our annual archdiocesan accountability report. In this report, you will find an accounting of our stewardship of the human, physical and financial resources for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for the 2008 fiscal year. We’ll also take a brief look at the year ahead.

It is a privilege to lead this archdiocese as we mark the 175th anniversary of its founding. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated clergy and religious, lay leaders and parishioners. As we celebrate our rich Catholic heritage in central and southern Indiana, let us pray that God continues to bless our efforts to build upon the strong foundation our ancestors left us.

Archdiocese’s 175th anniversary

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis, originally established as the Archdiocese of Vincennes, was founded on May 6, 1834, by Pope Gregory XVI. Like our ancestors 175 years ago, we continue to invite everyone to learn about the Catholic faith and to follow Jesus Christ. It is also a time for all Catholics in the archdiocese to renew their commitment to continue growing in faith and holiness throughout their lives. The theme for our anniversary year is “We Have Seen the Lord Come and See.”

We officially launched the anniversary celebration with a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Sept. 17-27. Forty-two pilgrims from across the archdiocese joined me as we visited ancient sites in Israel, Jordan, Jordan and Jordan. Each day as we walked where Jesus once walked, we prayed for special intentions for our archdiocese and its people. It was fitting that we explored the place where the Catholic Church was born as we began a year of solemnly celebrating the founding of our local Church.

I will be leading pilgrimages in March and April of 2009 to Vincennes, Ind., to reflect on the founding of this archdiocese. It will be a great opportunity to see where our first bishop, the Servant of God Simon Bruté, began building our archdiocese with few resources in what was then truly a frontier land.

Our 175th anniversary celebration will culminate in a solemn Mass on Sept. 3, 2009, at the new Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. We expect that as many as 50,000 people will attend this Mass. For more information about upcoming celebration and special events for the upcoming year, please visit the archdiocesan Web site at www.archindy.org.

Legacy for Our Mission Campaign

I’m pleased to report that the Legacy for Our Mission capital stewardship campaign was an overwhelming success. More than 33,000 Catholics from across central and southern Indiana pledged nearly $104 million. The goal was $100 million. In addition to the $104 million pledged, we also received $10.4 million in corporate gifts.

Thank you all for helping to make this campaign such a success. Your contributions will benefit all 151 parishes and the many ministries we carry out throughout the archdiocese. We can find a more detailed financial accounting in the Chief Financial Officer’s letter in this report, which explains how money from this campaign is already being put to good use.

The success of Legacy for Our Mission is surely evidence that all things are possible with God. We thank God for all the blessings he has given us, knowing that everything we accomplish is only possible through God’s grace.

Contributions to the Legacy for Our Mission campaign are being used by parishes to renovate churches, schools and parish centers. Some parishes are paying off outstanding construction loans. More than $1 million has been used for high school capital building projects.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars are already going to help support our ministry programs—everything from providing shelter for the homeless to caring for girls and young women who are dealing with crisis pregnancies.

Poor children in the center-city in Indianapolis are getting a chance to go to a Catholic school—one of our Mother Theodore Catholic Academies because of your support of the Legacy for Our Mission campaign. For many of these children, this will be the opportunity that helps them break free from the cycle of poverty.

We also used funds from the Legacy for Our Mission campaign to purchase the former Carmelite Monastery near Marian College to use as the new home for our Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary.

You can find dozens of stories about how parishes and agencies throughout the archdiocese are using funds raised through Legacy for Our Mission on the archdiocesan Web site at http://archindy.org/legacy/stories.html.

One of the most satisfying results of this campaign is that roughly 14,000 people in parishes throughout the archdiocese volunteered to make it such a success. The blessings that will come from their commitment, interest in their parishes are still to be seen and will be astounding.

Vocations

We currently have 25 seminarians in formation. We are blessed to have a great group of future pastors who are bright, committed and caring men. Two men to the priesthood in 2008 and we expect to ordain five men in 2009. This will be our largest ordination class since 2002 when we also ordained five men.

The archdiocese was also blessed this past year with the ordination of 25 permanent deacons on June 28 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. This was our first class of permanent deacons. The new deacons are ministering in parishes and in the broader community in such places as jails, prisons, hospitals and nursing homes.

As permanent deacons, these men will baptize, witness marriages and preside at funerals. At Mass, they will be able to proclaim the Gospel and preach, but will not serve as celebrant or consecrate the Eucharist. In the ministry of the Word, the deacons will teach the faith and provide pastoral guidance. The deacons’ primary ministry, however, will be focused on charity.

On a sad note, Deacon Ronald Stier, who was a member of the first ordination class, died on Aug. 24 from pancreatic cancer. He was 71. He ministered at the Richmond Catholic Community parishes of Holy Family, St. Andrew and St. Mary, and at the Wayne County Jail.

A second group of 18 men have already begun formation classes for the permanent diaconate. We expect to ordain these men in 2012.

Pray that God will bless our archdiocese with more vocations and pray for all men and women who are discerning a call to the priesthood, permanent diaconate and religious life.

Catholic Charities

This past year was extremely busy for our Catholic Charities agencies due to worsening economic conditions in the country and severe flooding that hit central and southern Indiana.

Thousands of households across the archdiocese were affected by flooding that ravaged many communities on June 6-7. It was the worst flooding seen in the state in more than 100 years. At least 2,500 homes were damaged in Columbus. More than 2,500 homes were damaged in the Terre Haute area and another 1,500 in the Monroe County area. One family, from Greenwood in the north to Edinburgh in the south, hundreds of families were severely affected by the flooding.

Catholic Charities and parishioners throughout the archdiocese responded by helping families with financial support and by providing shelter. Volunteers also collected food, water and clothing and helped with the cleanup.

During the past year, our six archdiocesan Catholic Charities agencies went through a process to review each of the nearly 35 programs they operate to serve the most vulnerable in our communities. Motivated by a call issued by Pope Benedict XVI in his Dec. 25, 2007 encyclical “Deus caritas est” (“God is Love”) to ensure that no member of God’s family goes without the necessities of life, Catholic Charities is working to see that in the Church we are providing the best and right kind of services.

One of the things we learned from this review process is that Catholic Charities needs to collaborate more closely with parishes in the archdiocese. We hope to greatly enhance this collaboration in the future with a program called SHINE, which stands for Spreading Hope In Neighborhoods Everywhere. This social ministry renewal effort will involve parishes, schools, agencies, hospitals and other social service institutions throughout the archdiocese.

You will be hearing more about SHINE in the upcoming year, but to learn more now about how you and your parish can become involved, visit the archdiocesan Catholic Charities Web site at www.CatholicCharitiesInd.org.

Annual Appeal changes

Now that the Legacy for Our Mission campaign is winding down, although it is still much work to be done in seeing that the pledges are fulfilled, we have spent much of the past year examining how to refine and improve our stewardship operations.

It’s been 10 years since we combined our local parish stewardship initiative with the United Catholic Appeal into what we know now as Called to Serve: Parish Stewardship and United Catholic Appeal. I believe it is time to freshen up our annual appeal.

In 2009, we will be rolling out some enhancements to the appeal to re-emphasize stewardship principles, refresh communications, and illustrate the fact that every parish—and, thus, every parishioner—has a role to play in the ministries of our archdiocese. With the help of a consulting firm, we have been conducting a survey and meeting with various groups throughout the archdiocese to gather input about the best ways to raise funds for all of the archdiocese’s various ministry needs. You will be hearing more about this next year.

Catholic education and faith formation

Our archdiocesan schools and faith formation programs continue to receive much attention. More than 7,000 Catholic educators met in Indianapolis March 25-28 for the 105th annual Convention of the National Catholic Educational Association and the National Association of Parish Catechetical Directors Convention. It was the first time the Archdiocese of Indianapolis hosted this important gathering of catechetical leaders. We received excellent reviews from those who attended. Hosting this national convention laid the foundation for further relationships that will benefit our students and schools for years to come.

Our archdiocesan schools have been recognized as among the best academically in the United States. Our Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guidelines and Faith 2000 assessment instrument for religious education have made us a national leader in faith formation.

Conclusion

The deepening economic crisis in the United States will almost certainly bring more pain to people in the archdiocese as jobs are lost. We must continue to put our hope in God. We will continue to be good stewards of all the resources of our archdiocese. We will use our ministry resources to the best of our ability to help care for those most in need.

Let us all continue to work for the common good of the archdiocese and our society. Thank you for your support and God bless you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Indianapolis
The Catholic Community Foundation is a separate, not-for-profit corporation administered numerous individual endowment funds for the benefit of parishes, schools, agencies, and other institutions affiliated with the archdiocese. As of June 30, 2008, the Catholic Community Foundation comprised 356 separate endowment accounts and 106 charitable gift annuities worth $149.7 million.

The Catholic Community Foundation, Inc.

Asset Allocations as of June 30, 2008
Cash and Investments = $149,710,382

Fund Performance
Composite -1.9%
Equity -13.4%
Fixed 8.8%

Summary of Financial Status

Chancery and Certain Entities of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$42,779,420</td>
<td>$26,922,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>154,956,031</td>
<td>164,442,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions, net</td>
<td>47,526,040</td>
<td>42,333,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposit and loan fund, net</td>
<td>23,083,717</td>
<td>21,398,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts due from parishes and other archdiocesan entities, net</td>
<td>4,344,164</td>
<td>4,079,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>307,731</td>
<td>363,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, net</td>
<td>3,349,536</td>
<td>2,745,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total receivables, net</td>
<td>$76,611,188</td>
<td>70,920,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>1,315,358</td>
<td>1,268,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land, buildings and equipment, net</td>
<td>15,320,669</td>
<td>15,102,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS:</td>
<td>$281,649,213</td>
<td>$281,649,213</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities:
- Accounts payable and accrued expenses | $5,958,629 | $5,594,354 |
- Capital campaign due to parishes | 32,069,477 | 24,061,574 |
- Bonds payable | 49,919,113 | 50,993,530 |
- Reserves for self-insurance | 132,000,000 | 2,319,000 |
- Other liabilities | 4,705,614 | 3,484,702 |
- Deposit and loan fund payable | 49,164,392 | 41,059,269 |
- Total liabilities | $143,712,429 | 127,712,429 |

Net Assets:
- Unrestricted | $152,142,528 | 153,936,784 |
- Temporarily restricted | 32,009,146 | 30,727,322 |
- Permanently restricted | 19,937,543 | 19,510,632 |
- Total net assets | $281,649,213 | $281,649,213 |

Support and Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUPPORT AND REVENUES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessments</td>
<td>$9,865,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service fees</td>
<td>22,172,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital campaigns and contributions</td>
<td>19,619,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Catholic Appeal</td>
<td>3,841,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales of goods and services</td>
<td>4,441,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program service fees and other</td>
<td>5,240,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other public support</td>
<td>5,182,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income and investment return</td>
<td>(9,338,392)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total support and revenues</td>
<td>$61,024,288</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXPENSES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and wages</td>
<td>12,996,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee benefits and taxes</td>
<td>3,878,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care costs</td>
<td>11,249,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement plan contributions</td>
<td>1,937,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of equipment and supplies sold</td>
<td>1,644,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and supplies</td>
<td>1,925,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property insurance</td>
<td>1,665,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>1,069,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs and maintenance</td>
<td>1,008,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy costs</td>
<td>1,197,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>6,396,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad debts</td>
<td>4,164,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional services</td>
<td>4,992,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific assistance</td>
<td>927,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>4,415,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital campaign funds donated to parishes and others</td>
<td>812,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2,344,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>62,819,544</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS: Beginning of year</td>
<td>153,936,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS: End of year</td>
<td>$152,142,528</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Catholic Community Foundation reflects the activities of the chancery of the archdiocese and certain affiliated agencies with direct accountability to the Most Reverend Daniel M. Burke, O. S. B., Archbishop of Indianapolis. The information presented has been derived from the audited financial statements and does not include the activities of parishes, missions and schools of the archdiocese. All significant transactions among entities detailed in this summary have been eliminated. The complete audited financial statements are available for public inspection at www.archindy.org/financial/archdiocese.html.
Combined Statement of Activities by Secretariat, Vicariate and other operating groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT AND</th>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chancery</td>
<td>$14,587,721</td>
<td>$3,774,454</td>
<td>$10,813,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy and Parish Life Coordinators</td>
<td>4,339,207</td>
<td>4,247,307</td>
<td>91,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual Life and Worship</td>
<td>815,385</td>
<td>977,051</td>
<td>(161,666)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Education and Faith Formation</td>
<td>9,188,487</td>
<td>10,609,243</td>
<td>(1,420,756)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Ministry and Pastoral Services</td>
<td>233,079</td>
<td>354,212</td>
<td>(121,133)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Charities and Family Ministries</td>
<td>9,839,975</td>
<td>8,980,402</td>
<td>859,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>1,928,322</td>
<td>2,126,394</td>
<td>(198,072)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance and Administrative Services</td>
<td>2,484,921</td>
<td>3,698,439</td>
<td>(1,213,518)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship and Development</td>
<td>2,497,422</td>
<td>1,942,024</td>
<td>555,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicariate Judicial</td>
<td>266,915</td>
<td>369,473</td>
<td>(102,558)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Shared Services and Support</td>
<td>27,686,159</td>
<td>23,280,996</td>
<td>4,405,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Community Foundation and ADLF</td>
<td>(591,920)</td>
<td>14,187,801</td>
<td>(14,779,721)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy for Our Mission Capital and Endowment Campaign</td>
<td>4,103,865</td>
<td>4,741,993</td>
<td>(638,128)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliminations</td>
<td>(16,355,250)</td>
<td>(16,471,245)</td>
<td>115,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Total June 30, 2007</td>
<td>$61,024,288</td>
<td>$62,818,544</td>
<td>$(1,794,256)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Breakdown of Change in Net Asset Results for the year ended June 30, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(in thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Shared Services and Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Community Foundation, ADLF, Investing and Debt Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital, Grant and Endowment Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other reconciling items and eliminations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Change in Net Assets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Archdiocese of Indianapolis Values

† Prayer and spiritual growth
† Lifelong learning and sharing our faith
† Parish and family, the individual and community
† Compassion and respect for human life and all creation
† Justice and consistent moral standards
† Proactive leadership and shared responsibility
† Vital presence in urban, suburban, and rural neighborhoods
† Stewardship

**Property Insurance Expense**
1998 through 2008

**Clergy and Lay Health Care Expense**
1998 through 2008

**Parish Sunday and Holy Day Collections**
1998 through 2008

**Legacy for Our Mission Capital and Endowment Campaign**
$1,000,000,000 goal through 10/31/08

**2007 Called to Serve/United Catholic Appeal**
through 10/31/08
We find ourselves in the midst of great uncertainty, dramatic change and rampant fear in our economy and our financial markets. Our archdiocese has experienced unemployment, reduced ability to obtain credit to fund business operations or refinance existing loans, and non-stop speculation on the effects of this financial turmoil on our charitable organizations. Economic conditions challenge the financial position of our ministries, especially the contributions they depend on, while at the same time creating a greater need for many of our charitable services.

Some interesting factors include:
- We’ve experienced the worst 10-year period in U.S. stock market history.
- Several prestigious firms such as Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers, some with histories of more than 100 years, no longer exist. As a result of failing for a long period of time, their businesses came to an end almost overnight.
- Revenue from investment management, which had been growing, tends to decline somewhat during economic recessions. Giving to churches, however, tends to hold up relatively well during difficult economic periods.
- Inflationary concerns throughout much of 2008 seem to have largely given way to concerns about deflation. We do see this as a bit in planning for capital facility projects, labors have decreased from bussier times and we’re starting to see a reduction in some materials prices as well.
- The Indiana Pacers are back in the NBA playoffs. Our parishes’ Obama platform are not yet clear. Early promises to raise taxes have changed to views of cutting taxes for middle and low-income taxpayers and deferring any plans for increases for higher taxpayers. It will be important to monitor how specific changes may impact core charitable organizations as major campaign gifts and estate planning. (As always, we ask that you remember the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, its Catholic Charities agencies and your parish in your will.)

As we enter the 2008-2009 fiscal year as we worked to build a sound financial footing. The archdiocese has much to be thankful for: stable dollars requested was able to be awarded.

### Legacy for Our Mission Campaign

In the fall of 2005, Archbishop Buechlein launched the Legacy for Our Mission Campaign. As noted in Archbishop Buechlein’s letter, this accomplishment was the result of a combined effort of local parish needs and archdiocesan ministry needs. The $100 million goal for the parish endowment and the archdiocesan ministry endowment was exceeded with pledges totaling $103.9 million. The strong campaign results have been achieved because parishes and the archdiocese followed clear strategy, had good leadership, and had good implementation throughout the local campaigns.

### Accounts Related to Sexual Misconduct

In 2008, we spent $170,000 for legal fees to defend the archdiocese from sexual misconduct lawsuits. In 2007, $156,000 was also spent for these purposes.

### Insurance Plans and Parish Services

The archdiocese operates several insurance plans, employee benefit plans, and agencies against catastrophic losses and will help to mitigate the financial risk from any sexual misconduct lawsuits.

### Chancery Fiscal Year 2008 Operating Results

The chancellor and agencies of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis completed 2007-2008 with break-even operations which was consistent with the expectations for the year as determined through the budgeting process. This represents the fourth consecutive year with break-even operations or better for the archdiocese. We started the 2008-2009 fiscal year with a break-even budget which would seem to indicate that the archdiocese has a bit more stability in its operations than in previous years.

As mentioned previously, our break-even operating budget for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008, will be funded to achieve sound financial footing. We enter the 2008-2009 fiscal year with a break-even operating budget.

### Endowments

- **Home Missions** 1,000,000
- **Making a Difference** (Financial aid to Catholic school students) 2,500,000
- **Prest Retirement** 1,000,000
- **Cemeteries** 700,000
- **Catholic Charities capital** 1,250,000
- **High School capital projects** 925,000
- **Mother Theodore Catholic Academies** 5,000,000
- **Permanent Funds** 50,000
- **St. Mary’s Child Center capital** 3,820,000
- **Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic capital** 1,000,000

### Expenses Related to Sexual Misconduct

In order to maintain large increases in healthcare costs and 2007-2008 fiscal year which translates into lower premiums paid by our parishes, schools, and agencies against catastrophic losses and will help to mitigate the financial risk from any sexual misconduct lawsuits.

### Chancery Fiscal Year 2008 Operating Results

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008, parish stewardship, through Sunday and holy day collections, continued to grow. Total collections for the year were $3.7 million, an increase of 2.4 percent throughout the archdiocese at a rate of 2.0 percent. This compares with a growth rate of 2.5 percent in parish Sunday and holy day collections.

### Insurance Plans and Parish Services

The archdiocese operates several insurance plans, employee benefit plans, and other services on behalf of parishes, schools and employees. Two of the most significant plans are the lay employee health insurance plan and the property insurance plan. Both have seen significant changes in recent years.

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### Accounts Related to Sexual Misconduct

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WASHINGTON (CNS)—Despite the small number of credible cases of clergy sexual abuse reported in 2007, “we dare not become complacent” on the issue, said Bishop Blase J. Cupich of Rapid City, S.D., the new chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People.

“In 2007, there were 12 credible instances of minors being abused. That’s 12 instances too many,” Bishop Cupich said in a Dec. 8 letter to his fellow bishops.

“However, even with the small number in a Church of 67 million people, we dare not be complacent. The effects of the sin and crime of sexual abuse by a cleric are so horrific that we need to make sure that efforts to protect young people continue,” he said.

In his letter, he outlined the steps the Church had taken to prevent abuse from 2003 through 2007, when the last audits of U.S. dioceses’ safe environment programs were completed. A audits of how each U.S. diocese and eparchy has dealt with clergy sexual abuse have been conducted since 2003. Bishop Cupich said the 2008 audits were close to completion. In that five-year period, he said the Church had trained more than 1.8 million clergy, employees and volunteers in parishes in how to create safe environments and prevent child sexual abuse.

Bishop Cupich added that the Church also had prepared more than 5.8 million children to recognize abuse and protect themselves, and had run criminal record checks on more than 1.3 million volunteers and employees, 162,700 educators, 1,000 clerics and 4,955 candidates for ordination.

“The child protection efforts outline specific steps to be followed so that decisions on what constitutes appropriate behavior between an adult and child are not based on biases or personal interpretations,” he said.

“These efforts also emphasize respect for boundaries between persons and empowerment of young people to resist what makes them uncomfortable,” he said. “If we are to err in establishing and enforcing policies, it must be on the side of caution.”

These programs, Bishop Cupich added, “are the envy of all other organizations that work with children.”

“At the start of 2009, I urge dioceses and parishes to make sure their safe environment programs are of the highest standards,” he said.

“I ask bishops and pastors to make sure that safe environment programs are in place in all Church entities,” he continued. “I encourage parents to cooperate and support these efforts and to make known to Church leaders their concerns and suggestions for improving and fully observing our safe environment protocols.”

(Victims of sexual abuse in archdiocesan parishes, schools and agencies should call 1-800-545-9000 or write to their local diocesan office. For more information about the archdiocesan sexual misconduct policies, go to www.archindy.org/about.)

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**We ‘dare not become complacent’ on abuse**, says South Dakota bishop
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— Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein

On controversial topics, the archbishop continues to “shoot straight from the shoulder” with his characteristic forthrightness.
Faith

Saints’ lives of holiness are miraculous witnesses of faith

By Fr. Robert L. Kinast

One of the great moments in sports broadcasting occurred at the end of the 1980 Olympic hockey game between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. As the final seconds ticked off and the U.S. was assured of its upset victory, sportscaster Al Michaels shouted, “Do you believe in miracles?”

Today, almost any event that is unexpected and implausible qualifies as a miracle. Not so in the canonization process of the Catholic Church. In that context, miracles are not only expected, they’re required and must be more than implausible. After a rigorous examination, they must be explainable only as a sign of a person’s sanctity.

Miracles have always been associated with holiness in the Christian tradition, beginning with St. Peter’s healing of a crippled beggar (Acts 3:1-10) and St. Paul’s resuscitation of Eutychus, who fell asleep on a window sill during the Apostle Paul’s instruction and fell to his death three stories below (Acts 20:7-12).

Saints’ lives of holiness are miraculous witnesses of faith by a miracle, usually as the result of prayerful petitions from the faithful, the congregation recommends that the pope declare the person blessed.

This third phase of the process is called beatification. It involves an official public ritual with the pope presiding.

As devotion to the blessed continues and further evidence of the person’s heroic virtue is gathered, including a second miracle after the declaration of beatification, the pope may declare the person a saint.

This takes place at a papal Mass after which the person’s name is placed in the calendar of saints and full devotion is permitted.

In the current process, two miracles are necessary. But what counts as a miracle?

Three of the most common miracles are cures of physical ailments. These are the easiest to verify because there is no known medical or physiological explanation for the healing.

In many such cures were ascribed to St. Wenceslaus after his brother murdered him. A blind woman received her sight, a crippled man was healed and a pagan prisoner’s shackles kept falling off after he prayed to St. Wenceslaus for deliverance.

Resurrection of the dead is less common.

In one reported case, a woman was able to eat by her own hand after praying to St. Alphonsus Liguori and St. Paul of the Cross.

The next morning, the lake had dried up.

The bodies of some saints, such as St. Catherine of Siena, have never decomposed.

The dried blood of others, such as St. Januarius, the patron of Naples, liquefies on the anniversary of his death.

Many saints, St. Joseph of Cupertino among them, levitated during meditation.

A very few, most notably St. Francis of Assisi, bore the stigmata of Jesus’ wounds.

For St. Augustine of Hippo, there was no need to identify the cause of a particular miracle because he was already convinced that God was the ultimate cause of every beneficial event. His feast is celebrated on Aug. 28.

Thus, the person blessed.

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Despite the enthusiasm aroused by alleged miracles, the Congregation for Causes of Saints in Rome is extremely demanding regarding explanations and evidence. Miracles are not an end in themselves. In the canonization process, they serve two purposes: to confirm the candidate’s life of heroic virtue and service, and to benefit others.

The real miracle, therefore, is a person’s life of holiness and the example that it sets for others to follow.

(Father Robert L. Kinast is a pastoral theologian in Prairie Village, Kan.)
Our Turn/Theresa J. Borchard

Working toward a ‘safe environment’ in our parishes

It’s not every Tuesday night that I sit down with a couple of my girlfriends to watch a video about childhood sexual abuse. But I am glad that I do. As a member of the Archdiocese of Baltimore’s Maryland for Men, requires that any person volunteering at its facility to be safe from sexual abuse. The church needs to complete a “safe environment” training program before that person is allowed to perform duties.

I was going to read a few stories to a classroom of first-graders. In order to walk into my son’s classroom, I had to fill out an application that asked me to look out for and what to do in a difficult situation. That is a lot of effort for a half-hour reading gig. But what it says to me is that the Church is serious about trying to get it right from now on. I was proud of my parish for broaching the topic, and I realized that the elephant in the living room, or media center, school

The history of programs like I just completed date back to June of 2002 when the U.S. bishops gathered in Dallas to respond to the clergy sex abuse crisis in the Church.

A few housing stories of victims and perpetrators were told to the bishops enacted Article 12 in the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Upholding the Integrity of the Sacrament” (Cynthia Dewes, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greenscrape, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.)†

Cynthia Dewes

Celebrating Advent or trappings, Christmas is a promise

Christmas marks God’s intervention into our world. With Christ’s birth, we are invited to believe that we can be better than that. Christ’s radical message is that our human failings, good will prevail if we let it. We need to respond to God’s invitation to let the light of hope shine.

Rather, it means we can hope. Instead of mourning in the face of domestic violence or the problems of the present, we can look forward with confidence to ultimate joy and affirmation.

No matter what age we live in, the world seems to be full of problems. If it isn’t war, it’s the economy, natural disasters, political oppression, genocide, or just plain human meanness. How are we to handle all the way from international schemes and national imperatives to dysfunctional families and unmanageable students, such as killing babies before they are born. The best part of waiting for Christmas, however, is the holy time of Advent. This wonderful opportunity for spiritual preparation and enlightenment seems placed in the middle of a relentless parade of these days. I like doing penance, it has largely fallen out of favor in our feel-good-situated culture.

The idea of preparing ourselves for the holiday by considering the purpose of life or a meaningful way to spend the time is simply not on most people’s agenda.

Rather, they are caught up in gifts and food and entertainment. Santa Claus, Rudolph the red-nose, and trips to Cancun or Aspen seem to trump the baby Jesus at every turn.

So how should we be spending the weeks before Christmas? Surely there is nothing wrong with the usual fun things we do. But if we think about the holiday as even more than generosity, peace and good will toward everyone, we might be surprised at the richness of our experience. We might even “meet” Jesus for the first time.

When God created a human person, that is a big deal. Easter, the death and resurrection of God as Savior, is the ultimate. But Christmas is the one that has to predate it. In effect, it is the beginning of our redemption story, and certainly worth a hundred hours.

Christmas is more than feeling expensive and generous, more than sipping angels and cherubs admiring a cute infant. It’s not every Tuesday night that I sit down with a couple of my girlfriends to watch a video about childhood sexual abuse. But I am glad that I do. As a member of the Archdiocese of Baltimore’s Maryland for Men, requires that any person volunteering at its facility to be safe from sexual abuse. The church needs to complete a “safe environment” training program before that person is allowed to perform duties.

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My Journey to God

Bernadette of Lourdes

Bernadette must have gazed in wonder At the task the Virgin Mary entrusted to her To be heralded By the mother of God Who represented God’s generosity and love A task that would reach out to all pilgrims Did she quail From accepting such a request from the eternal divinity To an earthy child’s immortality Did she hesitate At the sight of the Virgin M other before her Fearing that she would not be able to do as she was asked Then resolutely The Virgin M ary’s voice broke upon Bernadette Resounding deeply within her child-like heart In the fertile silence of her soul So that M ary’s request might be planted there Like a seed in a fertile field Did she act Following the Virgin M ary’s dictate To place a rock in the middle Of the water To bring forth the healing waters’ flow To comfort a Church be built upon the holy site So that pilgrims might come from afar To be healed by the waters of Lourdes. By Thomas J. Rillo

Church events with gambling may offend some parishioners

During a parish planning meeting, we discussed a parishioner’s letter protesting a planned parish outing to a gambling casino. Their comments ranged from “gambling is not a sin unless it is excessive or causes problems for the individual,” to “gambling is a sin and we shouldn’t sponsor such an event.”

Our pastor pretty much agreed with the first opinion that gambling in itself is not a sin, but it could become sinful when it starts to hurt someone. That could have ended the matter, but after further discussion we decided to ask your views on gambling.

A to sound to me as if your discussion pretty much covered the territory. Gambling—playing for stakes, as we usually think of it—from coin- operated slot machines to roulette, can be purely pastime entertainment. Outright fraud is immoral and usually illegal, and any socially used gambling is not a sin. But, in the end, the Lord will prevail. We must be faithful, as Paul counseled the Thessalonian Christians, but we will not be patient in vain.

Always the good teacher, always interested in guiding us to reality and nothing else the Church, through this Gospel, instructs us to look for Jesus, as Jesus itself is, and not to create our own version of the M esiah.

Jesus reflects God’s love. We must reflect Jesus. We must overcome selfishness and sin. This is the purpose of Advent.†

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. Poems and reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions. Send material for consideration to The Criterion, P.O. Box 1371, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail in care of jdieten(aol.com)†
AGNEY, Georgina, 82, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, Nov. 27. Wife of George Agney. Nov. 17. Wife of George Agney. AGNEY, Georgina


HUNTER, James R., 82, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Terre Haute, Nov. 22.


KOPON, Kenneth, 99, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, Nov. 13.


witte, Helen A., 89, St. Mary, Richmond, Nov. 25. Sister of Lawrence Witte. Aunt of several. 

Franciscan Sister Carolyn Bissmeyer taught music

Franciscan Sister Carolyn Bissmeyer died on Nov. 23 at St. Clare Hall, the health care facility for the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, at the motherhouse in Oldenburg. She was 91.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Nov. 26 at the motherhouse chapel in Oldenburg. Burial followed at the sisters’ cemetery.

The former Rita Augusta Bissmeyer was born on Oct. 25, 1917, in Cincinnati, Ohio. She entered the Oldenburg Franciscan community on June 29, 1937, and professed her final vows on Aug. 12, 1943. Sister Carolyn taught music in secondary education and served as an organist. From 1956-66, Sister Carolyn served as director of formation and motherhouse minister for the Franciscan community.

Sister Carolyn returned to teaching in 1966 and taught music at Marian College in Indianapolis until 1980. In 1976, she was promoted to associate professor in the Marian College music department. She also taught music at the former Immaculate Conception Academy in Oldenburg, now called the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception.

Sister Carolyn also served as a music teacher at two Catholic high schools in Ohio. In 2002, she retired to the Franciscan motherhouse, where she served her community as a piano accompanist for the Sisters’ Choir. Surviving are many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

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