‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.’

(Mt 1:23)
The Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein declared himself in regular treatment and his prognosis, including the June 20 diagnosis, was chronicled on a blog run by cardiologist and Catholic Center are closed from Dec. 24 to Jan. 4 for Christmas holiday. The Criterion is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January. Mailing address: TheCriterion@archindy.org. "TheCriterion@archindy.org", 317-236-1570, 317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548. The Criterion is also available online at www.archindy.org/archbishop.

The archdiocese this year, a story followed closely by the ordination of the archdiocese's first-class of permanent deacons and local pilgrimages to see Pope Benedict XVI in New York and Washington. Working in tandem with the custom of other news agencies, including Catholic News Service (see story, page 3), The Criterion editorial staff votes each year for the top 10 stories that have appeared in the archdiocesan newspaper. Many of the stories selected this year were actually made up of several individual articles, and you can read them all by logging on to www.CriterionOnline.com and checking out the list there. So, amid the more than 475 locally produced news stories this year, here is our top 10:

1. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein is diagnosed with cancer. On Jan. 16, the archbishop received a medical report that he had Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer affecting the lymph nodes, which is commonly known as Hodgkin's disease. A novena was quickly organized for Catholics in central and southern Indiana to pray for a recovery. Buechlein, his culmination was at a Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral on June 28 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. On Feb. 11, the head of Our Lady of Lourdes and also the Church's observation of the Day of the Sick. More than 200 people also logged on to www.archindy.org/archbishop and offered prayers and messages of support for the archbishop.

The archbishop's schedule was severely curtailed for part of the year as he underwent chemotherapy and radiation therapy treatments. The Criterion published updates on the archbishop's prognosis, including the June 20 announcement that his cancer was in full remission after the completion of his treatments. "I am humbled and profoundly grateful to all of you for the countless prayers and expressions of support you extended to me during the last five months," he wrote. Archbishop Buechlein resumed his regular schedule in the fall.

2. History is made as 25 men are ordained permanent deacons. After four years of preparation, 25 men became a part of history when they became the first class ordained to the permanent diaconate in the archdiocese during a June 28 Mass at the cathedral.

The new permanent deacons will be ministering in parishes and in the broader community in such places as jails, prisons, hospitals and nursing homes,” wrote reporter Stan Galloway in the archdiocesan newspaper.

"They will be able to baptize, witness marriages and preside over funeral services. At Mass, they will be able to proclaim the Gospel and preach, but will not be allowed to serve as consecrate and celebrate the Eucharist.

Criterions coverage throughout the year, which can also be found online at www.archindy.org/archbishop, not only gave the background on the history of the diaconate, it explored the roles that the deacons would play and included brief biographies of each deacon candidate.

Shortly after the ordination, 18 other men began formation to be ordained deacons in 2012. On a sad note, Deacon Ronald Stier, who was ordained in June and minster in the Richmond Catholic Community, died on Aug. 24 after a two-year struggle with pancreatic cancer.

3. Local Catholics, including youths, travel to New York and Washington to see Pope Benedict XVI. Many archdiocesan Catholics participated—either by pilgrimage or prayer—in what may have been the biggest national Catholic news story of the year: the apostolic visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the United States. Our special coverage included eight stories in the Aplus 25 issue focusing on the many people from our archdiocese who went to New York for a papal Mass at Yankee Stadium in Washington, DC. The papal Mass in the final month of the year was an archdiocesan history book, written to commemorate 175 years of growth and to highlight all 151 parishes in the archdiocese.

The book is available for $31.50 at www.archindy.org/175th. Additional resources for the anniversary year are also located on that site, including a special hymn composed for the anniversary.

5. Two men are ordained the archdiocese’s newest priests. News coverage and two online photo galleries followed the priesthood ordination of two sons of the archdiocese: Fathers Aaron J. Jenkins and Joseph Newton.

"The pair were ordained on June 7 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Joe and Aaron, the heart and soul of a priest is being a friend of Jesus, and being a friend of Jesus means being a man of prayer," Archbishop Buechlein told them during his homily. Qualifying Pope Benedict XVI, he added, “always think back to this moment” that “is full of mystery because this is the origin of your new mission.”

Our coverage also included detailed profiles of the new priests.

6. Archdiocese hosts National Catholic Educational Association Convention. The archdiocese hosted, for the first time, the National Catholic Educational Association’s annual convention in downtown Indianapolis at the end of March.

More than 8,000 delegates from all over the United States attended the event, which included two special supplements in our newspaper and more than 20 news stories before and after the event.

The convention was a success, and a chance for archdiocesan efforts for excellence in education—from our record-setting number of Blue Ribbon schools to the first year of Providence Cristo Rey High School, to the ongoing celebration of the 2006 canonization of education role model St. Thérèse Guerin—to shine.

Everything about the convention, including more than 30 photo galleries, can be found at www.archindy.org/ncea.

7. Carmelites leave Indianapolis and seminarians move into old convent. For more than 75 years in Indianapolis, the Carmelite Sisters of the Menoraty of the Resurrection sold their property to the

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis, P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-1410. 317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548. jlink@archindy.org

The Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center will be closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 4 in observance of the holidays. A archdiocesan agencies will reopen at 8 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 5.

The archdiocese is served by the National Catholic Educational Association’s annual convention in downtown Indianapolis at the end of March.

More than 8,000 delegates from all over the United States attended the event, which included two special supplements in our newspaper and more than 20 news stories before and after the event.

The convention was a success, and a chance for archdiocesan efforts for excellence in education—from our record-setting number of Blue Ribbon schools to the first year of Providence Cristo Rey High School, to the ongoing celebration of the 2006 canonization of education role model St. Thérèse Guerin—to shine.

Everything about the convention, including more than 30 photo galleries, can be found at www.archindy.org/ncea.

7. Carmelites leave Indianapolis and seminarians move into old convent. For more than 75 years in Indianapolis, the Carmelite Sisters of the Menoraty of the Resurrection sold their property to the

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis, P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-1410. 317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548. jlink@archindy.org

The Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center will be closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 4 in observance of the holidays. A archdiocesan agencies will reopen at 8 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 5.
WASHINGTON (CNS) — The election of the first African-American president and controversy surrounding the role of Catholic voters in the U.S. campaign topped the religious news stories of 2008, and Pope Benedict XVI and President-elect Barack Obama were the top newsmakers, according to the annual poll conducted by Catholic News Service.

The global economic crisis took second place among the 31 news stories on the ballot. Pope Benedict's six-day visit to the United States in April came in third.

Most first-place votes on the newsmakers list went to either Obama or Pope Benedict, with the pontiff edging out the president-elect by a small margin. Catholic voters were a distant third.

The poll was the 47th annual survey conducted by CNS. This year’s ballots were distributed on Dec. 5, and the deadline for returns was Dec. 11.

The 2008 campaign began more than a year before the Nov. 4 election of Obama and Sen. Joseph Biden, the first Catholic vice president in U.S. history. The U.S. bishops' "Faithful Citizenship" document, issued late in 2007, emphasized a wide range of issues and prompted debate over whether Catholics could vote for candidates committed to keeping abortion legal.

The economic crisis, which Church leaders said arose from distorted values, strained the resources of Catholic charitable agencies after the near-collapse of the U.S. financial system and the resulting mortgage crisis. Worldwide, a global food shortage had been reaching crisis proportions even before the economic downturn.

Highlights of Pope Benedict's April 15-20 U.S. visit were a private meeting with victims of clergy sex abuse, Masses at baseball stadiums in Washington and New York and a solemn visit to ground zero to pray for victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. Rounding out the top five for religious news stories were abortion-related developments, including comments by Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that Church leaders said misrepresented Catholic teaching, and global tensions affecting Iraq, Afghanistan, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Zimbabwe and elsewhere.

Pope Benedict took first place in the CNS poll for his travels to France and Australia, as well as the United States, and his participation in World Youth Day, the Synod of Bishops on Scripture and a year dedicated to St. Paul. Obama, who received the support of 54 percent of the Catholic electorate despite his stand on abortion, was second.

Catholic voters were the third top newsmakers of 2008, with the missionary pope, in fifth place, followed by Iraqis, in fourth place and Iraqi Christians, in fourth place. Catholic voters, in third place, received 155 votes; Pope Benedict in second place, 181 votes; the United States in April came in third, 130 votes; and Iraqis, in fourth place, received 117 votes.

Top newsmakers of 2008, with the missionary pope, in fifth place, followed by Iraqis, in fourth place and Iraqi Christians, in fourth place. Catholic voters, in third place, received 155 votes; Pope Benedict in second place, 181 votes; the United States in April came in third, 130 votes; and Iraqis, in fourth place, received 117 votes.

Top Stories

1. ELECTIONS

Barack Obama defeats John McCain to become first African-American president in U.S. history.

DAYS OUT: 
2. ECONOMIC CRISIS

3. ABORTION

4. IRAQI CHRISTIANS

5. GLOBAL TENSIONS

Top Newsmakers

1. POPE BENEDICT XVI

2. PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA

3. CATHOLIC VOTERS

4. ST. PAUL

5. IRAQI CHRISTIANS

STORIES

1. ELECTIONS, 272 (14).
2. ECONOMIC CRISIS, 255 (10).
3. PAPAL VISIT, 230 (5).
4. ABORTION, 125.
5. GLOBAL TENSIONS, 114.
6. WORLD YOUTH DAY, 81.
7. IMMIGRATION, 69.
8. SYNDICATE OF BISHOPS, 67.
9. NATURAL DISASTERS, 66.
10. SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND ADOPTION, 59 (1). One first-place vote also went to the crisis in Zimbabwe.

NEWSMAKERS

1. POPE BENEDICT XVI, 135 (18).
2. PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA, 102 (10).
3. CATHOLIC VOTERS, 66 (1). One first-place vote also went to the crisis in Zimbabwe.
4. ST. PAUL, 28.
5. IRAQI CHRISTIANS, 23.

Elections, economic crisis top stories of 2008, pope top newsmaker
A woman prays in the grotto of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, West Bank, on Nov. 30. The grotto is built over the site traditionally believed to be the birthplace of Jesus.

Bethlehem in 2008

As we again prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem next Thursday, what progress has been made to improve the lives of today’s residents of Bethlehem, especially of the Christians who live there, but not enough.

The good news is that more pilgrims have been visiting Bethlehem again, as those did who accompanied Archbishop Daniel M. Bueschlein earlier this year.

The number of pilgrims increased this year by at least 50 percent from last year. The pilgrims found a peaceful city where they could visit the Basilica of the Nativity on the site of Christ’s birth, and the Church of the Nativity, where is encased the Tomb of Jesus.

There is still more good news: Although many Christians have left Bethlehem in recent years, many are remaining—thanks in large part to efforts made by the Franciscans of the Holy Land (FFHL). From contributions made by Americans, many of whom are archdiocesan Catholics, the foundation is providing college educations, training young boys and building houses for Christian Palestinians, among other things.

Pope Benedict XVI has stressed education as the way to maintain a Christian presence in the Holy Land. Today, this is being done by Bethlehem University, founded by the Vatican, the FFHL and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Christian Palestinians are becoming dentists, pharmacists, nurses and other professionals.

The bad news, though, is that the unemployment rate in Bethlehem is still about 50 percent, and the Christian olive-wood sculptors who once flourished can no longer find customers. Pilgrims usually are given little time to shop in the stores.

The worst news, though, is that the wall erected by Israel makes Bethlehemites prisoners in their own city. It prevents them from entering land to the north and west to the roads to the south and east can be traveled only by Jewish settlers who live in Gilo and Har Homa on land confiscated from Arab Christians.

The wall stands at the border that separates Bethlehem from Jerusalem. Thirty feet high in places and merely a fence in other places, it was begun in 2002. If completed, it will be 480 miles long, three times the size of the Berlin Wall, encompassing 8 percent of the West Bank.

The Israelis insist that the wall is being built for security reasons—to keep terrorists out of Israel—and it does seem to be effective in doing that. But, because of the route the wall is taking deep into Palestinian territory, there can be no doubt that it is also meant to consolidate the Israeli settlements that have proliferated in the West Bank.

Last November, at a peace conference held in Annapolis, Md., the Israeli government promised to stop building settlements. It hasn’t happened. More than 2,000 new homes have been built since then.

During the presidency of George W. Bush, the United States has only occasionally tried to accelerate the peace process between Israel and Palestine. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has tried from time to time, but without much to show for her efforts.

We would like to see President-elect Barack Obama take a more active role because a just peace between Israel and Palestine could solve many problems in the Middle East.

There is not much that can be done immediately because of Israeli politics. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was forced to resign because of corruption charges, and he remains in office until elections in February because Tzipi Livni, head of the Kadima Party, was unable to form a coalition government. She will now run the government promised to stop building settlements that it had earlier made.

The president/chief executive officer to the president/chief executive officer of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has served for 100 percent volunteer organization—from the president/chief executive officer to the president/chief executive officer of the Knights of Columbus, honor my personal commitment to the Church from the constant assault from our secular society that is determined to destroy all the values we hold so dear.

On the brighter side of life, through prayer and trust in our God, if there were no tomorrows, K of C Knights of Columbus can be assured of a loving meeting with God our Father through our charity with others, unity and fraternity with our fellow Knights, we strengthen who we are and what we stand for.

As the year 2009 approaches, we must welcome new opportunities to serve others as our Lord served us and be resolute in our faith. Indian State Deputy Stephan Ziemen said “A call to serve” as his slogan during his term of office. All Indian Knights are called to step forward and make a difference in the life of another through service.

The real question is: If there were no tomorrows, did we serve with love? Did our faith carry this day?

(Robert Hartenstein is state communications director for the Knights of Columbus. He is a member of St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Parish in Fort Wayne.)

Editorial

Letter to the Editor

Society of St. Vincent de Paul thanks volunteers, donators and benefactors

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a faith-based nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the poor.

In Indianapolis, the society is a 100 percent volunteer organization led by the president/chief executive officer of the newest chapter of the organization, here are a few examples of the type of “jobs” that contribute to the organization, here are a few examples of the type of “jobs” that contribute to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul’s goals:

• Food Pantry volunteers loading groceries into clients’ vehicles in sweltering heat, pouring rain and snow.
• Truck drivers moving and loading heavy furniture and appliances from a donor’s basement to be given to a needy family.

• Retired accountants meticulously managing income and expenses in light of the current economic downturn.
• Help line counselors completing an emotional four-hour shift listening to pleas from individuals and families.
• Stocking clerks scouring through a mountain of donated clothing to size and hang on racks so clients can choose items for their family.

• Client interviewers exhibiting patience and respect and each person from the first client of the day until the last in line, some four to six hours later. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is also thankful for the many behind-the-scenes tasks that are required of our volunteers, such as mowing grass, shoveling snow, sweeping floors, cleaning bathrooms and picking up trash. The list could go on and on.

Our organization needs skilled, dedicated and generous benefactors to meet the needs.

We are humbly grateful for the financial contributions from individuals, companies and foundations that allow us to purchase products and maintain facilities and equipment to continue and expand operations.

A mentioned, the Indianapolis council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has no paid management, staff or workers so nearly all contributions are used for direct aid to those in need.

Finally, thanks to individuals for in-kind donations of food, furniture, appliances, bedding, clothing and other household items that are distributed to needy clients free of charge.

Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas season.

Don Striegel
Pantry Volunteer Coordinator
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Indianapolis

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are welcome and should be informed, relevant, well-expressed, concise, temperate in tone, relevant, well-formulated, concise, temperate in tone, expressing arguments that are well-reasoned, informed, relevant, well-expressed, concise, temperate in tone, expressing arguments that are well-reasoned.

Letters are subject to editing and may be published in the print edition of the newspaper or in the online edition.

Send letters to “Letters to the Editor,” The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717.

Letters submitted in hard copy may be sent to criterion@archindy.org.
No teman! es el mensaje que resuena fuerte y claro en esta Navidad

Una de las cosas más hermosas de la Sagrada Escritura es que nos dice que se nos antojen antiguos y conocidos con el mismo tiempo de siglos nuevos y oportunos. Al reflexionar sobre las lecturas bíblicas asignadas para la misa de gallo me parece especialmente realista. El evangelio de la misa de gallo posee características especiales y realistas. El que ellos puedan enseñar la fe católica a nuestros niños, la presencia de la ley, resulta irónico. El Salvador del mundo se les apareció y Su gloria brilló sobre los que vivían en densas tinieblas la luz de la divinidad. "No temas..." le fue dado a José más de una vez al convertirse en el padre adoptivo del Salvador del mundo. ¿Quieres que te enseñen a ti los valores materiales como el objetivo supremo de la vida humana? Que ellos encuentren algo de consuelo en la vida, que gozan de su buena voluntad. "No temas..." es el mensaje que nos llega a través del tiempo. Y sois el mensaje que recibimos de tiempos anteriores: "el ángel les dijo: 'No tenéis miedo...' " (Lc 2:10). El ángel Gabriél le ha dado el mismo mensaje a María al anunciarle que iba a ser madre de Dios. El anuncio del nacimiento del Salvador del mundo llegó primero a los humildes pastores de los campos de Belén. El ángel del Señor se les apareció y Su gloria brilló sobre ellos. No es de sorpresa que embargara un gran temor. Para éste es el mensaje que recibimos de tiempos anteriores: "el ángel les dijo: 'No tenéis miedo...'") (Lc 2:10). El ángel Gabriel ha dado la misma noticia a María al anunciarle que iba a ser madre del Salvador del mundo. "No temas..." fue el lema de José más de una vez al convertirse en el padre adoptivo del Salvador del mundo. "No teman..." Es el mensaje que nos llega en esta Navidad y que resuena fuerte y claro. Resuena con gran fuerza y verdad como un mensaje de esperanza y fácilmente independiente de las circunstancias que vivimos. Resalta un mensaje de esperanza porque "Hoy les ha nacido en la ciudad de David un Salvador de la sabiduría, de la gracia, de la justicia y de la fe (Lc 2:2)."

HAVE a hope-filled Christmas!†

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

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

Traducido por: Daniela Guanipa,
Language Training Center, Indianapolis.
**Events Calendar**

**December 19-January 10**  
St. Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology of the川, Archabhey Library, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. *Crib Display*, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Information: 800-632-9349. †

**December 20**  
St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. *St. Michael Feast Day*, 10 a.m. Information: 317-592-1992 or news@saintmeinrad.edu.

**December 24**  
St. John the Evangelist Church, 2126 W. 31st St., Indianapolis. *Christmas Eve Liturgy*, 7 p.m. Information: 317-788-7581 or tkeith@stgabrielindy.org. †

**December 25**  

**January 1**  
St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. *New Year’s Day Mass*, 7 p.m. Information: 317-632-9349.

**January 7**  
St. Pius X School, 1752 Scheller Lane, New Albany. *Catholic Schools Week–Kick-off Dance*, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Information: 317-291-7014, ext. 27, or tkeith@stgabrielindy.org. †

**January 9**  
St. Francis Hospital, 8111 S. Central Standard Time. *Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament*, 7:30-9 p.m. Information: 317-545-7681 or spirituality@thedome.org.

**January 18-April 5**  
St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., Indianapolis. *English as a Second Language Program*, 4:15-10:30 a.m. $20 for three week session. Information: 317-291-7014, ext. 27, or tkeith@stgabrielindy.org.

**January 19**  
Roncalli High School, auditorium, 3300 Prague Road, Indianapolis. *Teen and Young Adult Retreat* for parents. 7 p.m. Information: 317-236-1595 or 800-383-9836, ext. 1569.

**Retreats and Programs**

**December 31-January 1**  
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 3533 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. *Following the Star: Discovering Christ in our Midst*, Father Jim Penzel and after Mass discussion with Jim McCasin, priests, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. $25 includes lunch. Information: 317-778-7581 or benedictinn@archindy.org.

**January 1**  
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 3533 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. *Meet Me At The Shack*, Bishop James E.onas, priests, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Information: 317-545-7681 or spirituality@thedome.org.

**January 11**  
Benedictine Sister Kathleen Mulso, presenters, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., $35 includes lunch. Information: 317-933-6437. †

**January 24**  
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. *Catholic Mass*, 7:30 a.m. †

**January 25**  
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 3533 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. *Retrovialde Weekend*, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Information: 317-236-1595 or 800-383-9836, ext. 1568.

**Grants**

The Target Corporation recently awarded a $2,500 “B Bucks for Bears” grant to St. Anthony of Padua School in New Albany. The grant supports programs promoting early literacy and a love of reading in children from birth through the third grade, and the school will use the grant to develop activities, purchase resources for teachers, and buy books for students and their families.

**High school collects thousands of food items**

The students and faculty of Father Thomas Scaccia M. emeral Senior High School in Indianapolis recently donated 15,607 canned food items to Holy Cross Parish in Indianapolis. The food items were collected in a drive that took place Oct. 19- Nov. 21. Scaccia students averaged collecting nearly 50 cans each. Holy Cross Parish uses the canned goods to create food baskets for the needy each year and donates any unused cans to area food pantries. Scaccia students also recently collected approximately 400 men’s pants and donated them to the Knights of Columbus, who will distribute them to homeless men in downtown Indianapolis. †

**Cathedral and St. Meinrad announce Christmas liturgies**

The Christmas liturgical schedules for SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis and Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church in St. Meinrad are as follows:

- **SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral**  

- **Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church**  
  Dec. 24 – 4 p.m. vigil, midnight Mass. Dec. 25 – 11 a.m. Mass. All times for liturgies at Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church are Central Standard Time.

For the Christmas liturgical schedules of other religious communities or organizations in the archdiocese, contact their offices. †
By John Shaughnessy

Count it as one of the wonders of Christmas. When a church displays a Nativity scene, people are offered a visible reminder of the different journeys that the Holy Family, the shepherds and the three kings made that first Christmas. And when believers approach the Nativity scene to get a closer look, they make their own Christmas journey, drawing more near to the child who came to save humanity, to the woman who humbled enough to accept God's will and strong enough to love it, and to the man who put the needs of his wife and his child before his own.

Sometimes, those Christmas journeys take an even more personal turn—a reality that happened to three individuals who were involved in the recent restoration and conservation of one of the most beautiful Nativity scenes in the archdiocese.

During the past year, extensive efforts were made to transform the Nativity scene at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis to its original beauty and to its original luster and beauty it had when it was first displayed in the Cathedral about 90 years ago.

In the process, the lives of three people intimately involved in that transformation were touched and transformed, too. Here are the stories of these three people, stories steeped in the meaning of Christmas.

A new life for a source of inspiration

The person who knows the most about the Nativity scene at the cathedral just may be Joseph Vitale, a longtime member of the parish and the unofficial tour guide and historian of the Cathedral.

His passion for the Nativity scene shows in the tears that fill his eyes when he talks about the importance of restoring the Nativity scene to its original beauty.

“I’ve been interested in getting this restored since 1990,” he says. “I’ve been setting the figures in place every Christmas for the last 10 years or so. There are 24 pieces, and it was purchased in the 1930s or even earlier in Rome by Father Joseph Ritter when he was a parish priest here. He later became the first archbishop of Indianapolis and a cardinal (in the Archdiocese of St. Louis). During Ritter’s tenure here, he was very socially justice-oriented.”

That focus shows in the Nativity scene. Vitale says, “This Nativity has figures that are very ethnic.” Vitale says. “Traditionally, Nativity sets have one king of the three who’s black. And this one has four figures that are black. There are also obvious Arab and Semitic–featured figures. That’s important. When this was first installed, there were a lot of signs in the city that said ‘no Irish, no blacks, no Catholics.’ The city and state of Indiana were run by the Ku Klux Klan then. This was quite a social statement for its time.”

Vitale also has a personal connection to the Nativity scene. “When I was a little kid, we lived in Hope, Indiana,” recalls V. Itale, who is 57. “My mother would bring us up to Indianapolis to shop and look at the Nativity scene at the local department store, Black’s and Watson. My mother would make side trips to the downtown churches to view the different Nativity sets. That was my first exposure to this. We always knelt in front of it. It was more like a pilgrimage.”

In 1990, the Cathedral parish announced plans to restore the Nativity scene to its original condition. Schouten immediately asked to be part of the parish committee charged with hiring the artists to conserve and restore the scene, and raise money for the effort.

“I grew up with this. I wanted to honor my dad. It was important for me to be involved,” Schouten says softly, his voice lined with emotion. “For all those years of dirt and grime, and pieces being missing, it’s been an amazing transformation to watch. The colors stand out. All the details are amazing. It’s authentic.”

Schouten helped to set up the restored Nativity scene in early December. His daughter, Emily, worked by his side. His brothers helped, too.

“A shepherd bows before the infant Jesus as Mary cradles her son and Joseph watches both,” reads John Shaughnessy.

A family connection

A he stands by the Nativity scene in the cathedral, Phil Schouten remembers another family who once made a long journey sparked by faith and hope and his eyes when he talks about the importance of restoring the Nativity scene to its original beauty.

“My parents and my five older brothers and sisters immigrated to the United States from Holland in 1937,” Schouten says. “The Catholic Church helped them relocate to Indianapolis. My father loved the Church and had a lot of work around the church, particularly in the 60s, 70s and 80s.”

“My father’s major volunteer efforts was setting up the Nativity scene during the Advent season. It was a whole day affair or two,” recalls Schouten, a member of the Cathedral Parish.

“My brothers would help, and kids from the grade school at Cathedral would help. It was something we looked forward to every year. It was quite an event. The church would order 40 to 50 Christmas trees, and they had to be put up around the Nativity scene. We worked from seven in the morning to seven at night. It meant a lot to my father.”

“It’s touched Phil Schouten, too. His father, John, died about two years ago, near the time when Cathedral parish announced plans to restore the Nativity scene to its original condition. Schouten immediately asked to be part of the parish committee charged with hiring the artists to conserve and restore the scene, and raise money for the effort.

“Anytime you work on something like this, you always get a sense that your talent is being used. When you work with your hands, it’s very special. Whenever you’re able to create beauty and art, it’s not just you. There’s a sort of spiritual quality in something that’s created. There are certain times when you can really touch your soul and cross yourself and say, ‘I hope this goes well.’ And it does. I bring God into my work every day.”

Easter’s efforts on the Nativity scene have also had the subtle impact of focusing her attention deeper on the meaning of the first Christmas.

“The crèche makes you a little more aware of what Christmas is all about—the birth of Christ,” Easter says. “I may be more to this year, it’s about giving thanks for the people in your life, and the people who have been a part of your life.”

Easter brings you back to your humble roots.

In the Cardinal Ritter Gym

Furnaces as low as $999

Expires 1/19/09

Coupons must be presented at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer!
Rosary is inspiration for Eagle Scout project at St. Michael School

By Mike Krokos

GREENFIELD—Chris Sosnowski remembers learning to pray the rosary in 5th grade at St. Michael School in Greenfield, and the simple yet powerful prayer left a lasting impression on him.

Four years later, Chris, his parents and his siblings try to pray the rosary as a family on a regular basis.

A freshman at Greenfield Central High School, Chris, 15, decided the rosary would play a key part in his Eagle Scout project for St. Michael’s Troop #707 in Greenfield.

The result is a rosary walk that was recently completed on the grounds of St. Michael School.

“I wanted to do something that helps the community in some way,” said Chris, who with his family has been a member of St. Michael Parish since 1995.

“I wanted to create a quiet place for people to come and pray,” he continued.

“A lot, if not all of the people who participate, can come back here and read.”

Chris and his father, John, along with help from fellow Scouts, friends and members of the St. Michael Parish community, spent more than two months working on the rosary project this fall.

Most of the material for the effort was donated by individuals or local merchants, Chris noted, and people who helped with the project used their own tools.

Not surprisingly, Chris says the rosary walk was a team effort.

“I’m really appreciative of all the work these guys put in,” he said.

The rosary walk has four paths—one each for the joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous Mysteries—and there will be placards posted along the paths with a summary of what each mystery represents.

Benches will be placed for people to sit in the garden-like area as they reflect about the mysteries of the rosary, Chris said. In the spring, flowers will be planted.

Theresa Slipher, principal of St. Michael School, said she is “thrilled” to have the rosary garden and added that it will fit in well with the school’s curriculum.

“We have a time [each year] before Lent where a group known as the rosary ladies come in and help us [our students] make rosaries,” Slipher said. “I approached Father Severin about the project along with the parish council and Benedictine Father Severin M. Emsick, pastor of St. Michael Parish. “We can actually use the new area outside [for this],”

Slipher added that she was not surprised that Chris chose the rosary walk as his Eagle Scout project because “you wouldn’t find anyone who lives his Catholic identity as well” as Chris does.

The rosary walk, which will be dedicated after the school’s 8 a.m. Mass on Dec. 19, “adds another element to our Catholic identity,” Slipher added. “It’s a prayerful place to go.”

Proceeds from Little Flower Christmas CD to assist school families in need

By John Shaughnessy

Teresa Eckrich knew she had to do something to help ease the heartbreaking situation facing the children and families she cares about so much.

“The economy has hit people so hard in our neighborhood,” says Eckrich, the longtime music teacher at Little Flower School on the near-east side of Indianapolis. “People are losing jobs here. When the economy hits people who are just living on what they earn, they’re in bad straits quickly. We have parents who are heartbroken about the possibility of taking their kids out of school because they can’t pay the tuition.”

Trying to help these families, Eckrich turned to a gift that has always made a difference in her life: music.

As the director of the Little Flower Christmas Choir, she led the group in creating a CD of Christmas music—with the proceeds being used for tuition assistance for struggling families.

“We always try to have a chunk in our [school and parish] budget to subsidize parishioners who can’t afford Catholic schools, to help with their tuition,” she says. “This year, if we even had double the amount we usually do, it still wouldn’t be enough.”

Hoping to bolster that help, the choir ordered 1,000 copies of the CD. The title of the CD, which sells for $15, is “Christmas through the Rose Window”—a tribute to the large circular window in the parish church that features the saint known as the “Little Flower,” St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

The CD’s 13 selections include Carols of the Bells, Joy to the World and Ave Maria.

“We thought people would buy one more Christmas CD to support our kids,” says Eckrich, who is also the director of pastoral music for the parish. “Our choir is made up of people of all ages, from kids as young as sixth grade to adults in their 80s.”

More than 350 of the Christmas CDs have been sold so far. Eckrich hopes the music—and the cause—will reach a larger audience. To purchase a CD, call the parish office at 317-357-8332 or e-mail Eckrich at techrich@littleflowerparish.org.

Father Severin agreed.

“I think what it does, … it gives us another place on the church property to encourage devotion to Mary,” Father Severin said, “and to take time for God in prayer.”

John Sosnowski said he is proud of his son and added that his Eagle Scout project is a great faith formation tool.

“It gives us a better way to evangelize,” he said. “Hopefully, maybe this will inspire some other people.”

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

**Behold! A child is born in Bethlehem, the Savior of the World!**

**May the feast of Christmas remind you of the great love which God has for you.**

We thank the many people who came to the retreat house this past year as a way of staying in touch with the God who loves us beyond measure.

We invite you to join us in 2009 … you will be glad you did!

**From all of us at Fatima - A Blessed Christmas Season**

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House
5553 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226
(317) 545-7681
www.archindy.org/fatima
Parishioners learn new ways to bring Christ to others

By Mary Ann Wyand

Their historic church was destroyed in an arson fire on Holy Saturday, April 7, 2007, but grief-stricken St. Anne parishioners in New Castle have learned a new understanding of what it means to be Christ for others.

Parishioners also have been the recipients of amazing and unexpected blessings in the aftermath of the heart-breaking fire on the holiest weekend of the liturgical year and during their long wait for a new worship space.

“I don’t think anybody realizes—until you do not have a church—what it is like,” explained Franciscan Sister Shirley Gerth, the parish life coordinator.

“It’s very hard,” she said. “We stressed during Advent [2007] that we started out a Advent journey in April [2007], but it is still kind of hard. We’re waiting in hope.”

“A few years ago, someone stole the Baby Jesus in our outdoor crib, and I said at the time that we have to make Christ present in our own hearts,” Sister Shirley said. “I think that’s one of the essential messages for Christmas.”

Blessings quickly followed the tragedy, she said, as the New Castle community and Catholics from throughout Indiana responded with donations and countless other acts of kindness.

“I’ve just been awestruck by the number of folks who have given donations and been concerned about us,” said Sister Shirley. “The longer it goes without a church, the more we have to rely on prayers.”

In the spirit of Christ and St. Francis of Assisi, parishioners began a “Rebuild My Church” campaign to raise funds for uninsured expenses for their new church. They sold crosses made from fragments of the stained-glass windows and sponsored other creative fundraisers.

“The life of the parish keeps getting stronger and stronger,” Sister Shirley said. “It has made the people really evaluate what their faith means to them. We’ve become a blessing to one another. We have a new understanding of what it means to be Church.”

St. Anne’s 508 parishioners worship in the cramped basement of the former school, which functions as the Parish Life Center. Each week, they pray the “Rebuild My Church” prayer at the conclusion of Mass and look forward to breaking ground for their new worship space on March 29, 2009.

On Easter and Christmas, they gather in faith in Bundy Auditorium at New Castle High School so all of the parish’s 243 families can celebrate the Eucharist at the same time.

And they continue to reach out to help people in need through social service ministries. Every month, they help about 20 poverty-stricken families with food and money for rent utilities.

For years, St. A parishioners have celebrated a weekly Mass at the New Castle Correctional Facility, counseled offenders and donated clothing for men released from prison.

Recently, Sister Shirley received an envelope from an inmate at the prison containing $20 to help rebuild St. Anne Church.

Thoughtful gestures like this give them hope, Sister Shirley said, because they are small miracles.

Touched by their loss, Ball State University students in nearby Muncie, Ind., participated in a walkathon to help raise funds for their church, which will cost $3 million to replace and include handicap-accessible facilities.

And parishioners have received extensive spiritual and material support from Protestant faith communities in Henry County, which is only 2 percent Catholic.

During his homily on the feast of All Saints, Father Joseph Rautenberg, sacramental minister, reminded parishioners crowded into the basement worship space that it is important to remember our roots in faith.

“Spend some time … thinking about where our hope lies, thinking about the roots of family and faith out of which our faith has risen, out of which our hope is sustained,” Father Rautenberg said. “I am very IQueryable about these roots and these foundations can give us more peace to face our current stresses.”

Seventy children in the parish donate pennies, nickels and dimes for their new church every week, and 8-year-old Destiny Reece earned $500 by selling pocket pouches for rosaries that she made with her grandmother, Vickie Reece.

Perhaps the parishioners’ greatest gifts of all are their ongoing prayers for the man charged with setting fire to their beloved church, which had been a landmark in the community since 1924.

(Mary Ann Wyand is senior reporter for The Criterion in Indianapolis. To help St. Anne parishioners with uninsured expenses to rebuild their church, address donations to St. Anne Church Fund, 102 N. 19th St., New Castle, IN 47362.)

Helping the poor is part of Christmas

This Week’s Question

What do you do during the Christmas season to reach out to others?

“Our CCD chooses a service to do. ... One year, it was baby bundles, filling shoe boxes with baby supplies for impoverished countries. Last year, ... Kids brought in games and activity books for [homeless children] from their age group ... [who were living with their families] at local shelters.” (Mary Ellen Lane, Muncie, Ind.)

“Our family adopts a family, and we provide for them so they can have a love-filled Christmas morning.” (Janel W. Rabel, Fairfield, Conn.)

“I take people to church who don’t have transportation—usually the elderly or hand-capped. I visit the homebound all year, and bring them each a gift at Christmas.” (Marga Bohm, Akron, Ohio)

“We try to include everyone in our holiday meal, such as relatives who are not well-off. We make sure no one is alone. We also help our five kids come home for holidays, which may mean subsidizing [their airline] tickets.” (Susanne Harmon, Bothell, Wash.)

Land Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Where do you go to find information about the economy and about your personal finances?

To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to cgreene@catholicnews.com or write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. †
Possible U.S. saints: Mary Virginia Merrick

**Perspectives**

From the Editor Emeritus/John E. Fink

**Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher**

The birth of a child is at the heart of our faith.

In October of 2006, my wife, Cindy, and I were pilgrims in Rome for the canonization of M Other Theodore Guerin. (I was also reporting on it for The Criterion.)

The day before the canonization, we visited the Basilica of St. Mary Major, one of the oldest churches in the city.

We kneed and prayed before the relics of the mother for which the Christ Child was laid that sits in the heart of that church.

The criterion for us for because, at the time, a baby was growing in Cindy’s womb. Our third son, Victor, would be born the following April.

Now, two years later as Christmas is just days away, my thoughts return to the vision shown those relics by Cindy and I and other pilgrims over the centuries.

The relics of Christ's manger are in my thoughts, in part, because I am now awaiting the birth of our fourth child, which we expect to happen near our wedding anniversary.

As I reflect on those relics, it reminds me of some very basic truths of our faith.

At the heart of Christianity is the birth of a child. We describe it in theological terms like the Incarnation of a divinity. But when you strip everything down, the great edifice of our faith would collapse without the revelation of the Son born in the flesh in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

This great event is enshrined beautifully in the Christmas Season mantra of St. Mary Major in Rome.

But, in a way, it re-echoes with even greater meaning every time a baby is born into our world.

Our faith is that greatly valued life, the gift of the Gospel of Life. And the fact that the birth of a baby is at the heart of our faith takes on greater and greater relevance as the culture of death continues to grow all around us.

Now in praising the birth of the Christ child, many of us do not consider the fact that Catholics are not oblivious to the great challenges that sometimes come with the arrival of a baby.

Indeed, Christ's own birth shows that to us quite clearly. He was born in a stable far away from the comfort of His parents. Upon His birth, His parents had to whisk him away to Egypt to save his life from a tyrant King.

The troubles the Christ child experienced so soon after his birth, in a sense, anticipated his ultimate passion and death, that other event that, along with Christ's birth, also stands at the heart of our faith.

Today, despite the advances of modern medicine, heartbroken parents carry great weight in the face of the loss of a child, stillborn or die shortly after birth. Others spend weeks keeping vigil beside their newborns who may not survive.

And, of course, as children continue to grow, struggles of many kinds are always present.

Yet we are called to receive the gift of life with joy even as we acknowledge that challenges and crises will come with it. Many parents have accepted this gift over the years with great faith and love for their children.

Today, despite the advances of modern medicine, heartbroken parents carry great weight in the face of the loss of a child, stillborn or die shortly after birth. Others spend weeks keeping vigil beside their newborns who may not survive.

And, of course, as children continue to grow, struggles of many kinds are always present.

Yet we are called to receive the gift of life with joy even as we acknowledge that challenges and crises will come with it. Many parents have accepted this gift over the years with great faith and love for their children. They have done so, no doubt, with the help of the great gift to us of the birth of a child. It is that gift that reminds us of some very basic truths of our faith.

The birth of a child is at the heart of our faith.
The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008

• 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
• Romans 16:23-27
• Luke 1:26-38

The first reading for this weekend is from the Second Book of Samuel.

Originally, the two Books of Samuel were combined in a single volume. Translations and editions over the centuries divided this one volume into two books.

Luke is the principal figure in these books. The ancient Hebrews looked upon David much more than as a king. Beyond all else, he was God’s chosen representative, given the kingship so that laws and circumstances might provide an atmosphere in which the people more fervently would follow God and be loyal to the Covenant.

For this weekend’s second reading, the Church offers us a reading from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans.

Scholars unanimously say that Paul of Tarsus indeed authored this epistle, and that this epistle was his masterpiece. For this reason, it appears first in sequence among the 14 epistles attributed to Paul and is placed in Bibles immediately following the Acts of the Apostles.

As indicated by its title, Paul sent this epistle or letter to the Christian population of Rome.

In the first century A.D., Rome was the center of the Mediterranean world in every respect—political, economic, and cultural. It was also the largest city in the Roman Empire. Not surprisingly, Rome as the great imperial capital had within its borders a great array of ideas and religions. Christianity among them.

In this weekend’s reading, as often elsewhere, Paul asserts his own vocation as an apostle. His is not the kind of vocation that the term "apostle" came to mean later in the Romans, but rather one with which he felt that all the Gentiles might believe in and obey God, “who alone is wise.”

For the final reading this weekend, the Church proclaims a beautiful part of St. Luke’s Gospel from Luke’s infancy narrative. It is the story of the Annunciation, the event when the angel Gabriel came into the presence of Mary, a young Jewish woman, in Nazareth in Galilee, to inform her that she would be the mother of the long-awaited Redeemer.

The reading abounds with meaning. Luke makes clear that Mary was a virgin, and that the conception of the Redeemer would not be the result of any human relationship.

Beyond this fact is the reality that God, as Creator and the provider of order to the universe, can do anything. He is almighty. The Redeemer will be the Son of God. He will be in David’s line.

The Redeemer’s coming will fulfill God’s promises, spoken by the prophets all through the ages, to bring life and salvation to the people. The birth of this Redeemer will be the ultimate satisfaction of the ancient Covenant. Vital to the message of the story is Mary’s response: “I am the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say.”

Reflection

In each of these readings, speaking through the Scriptures, the Church makes a very important point. God reaches out to us. This outreach is not vague or impossible to see. Indeed, it is in the persons of individuals with whom we can relate—David, Paul and Jesus.

The outreach occurs in the face of our own inadequacy and limitations, and also in the fact that God is almighty. However, God’s supreme power over all creation is not the most consoling point here. Rather, the most reassuring factor is that God’s great love for us prompts the dispatch of messengers—such as David, Paul and Jesus—to guide us to union with God, and therefore to peace in our hearts and life in eternity.

The Church approaches Christmas with a message of love. God loves us. He does not leave us helpless in our own powerlessness. He reaches out to us to draw us to the divine presence itself.

It now is up to us to respond. Do we accept God? Do we turn God away? It is that simple, and that serious.

Question Corner

Fr. John Dietzen

Christmas is first recorded in a Roman calendar composed in 339

Q Can you answer a question for our family? Our children are asking when and where people started to celebrate Christmas. How do we know that’s when Jesus was born? Can you help? (New York)

A I can help, but the answers may not be what you expect.

First of all, strange as it seems, we have no idea of the date or even the year of our Lord’s birth. Our only source for this information would be the Gospels, and they provide little help.

From information supplied in Luke’s Gospel, scholars generally believe that the birth of Christ was in the spring of the same year Jesus was born. This is the only year that Jesus’ birth is mentioned in the Gospels. If we don’t know the date, why choose December 25?

The explanation generally accepted by most scholars today is that Church authorities of that time assigned the birth of Christ to the date of the winter solstice. In our calendar, the winter solstice is Dec. 21. In the Julian calendar, however, which predated our calendar and was in effect in those days, the winter solstice was Dec. 25.

The Egyptian calendar has it on Jan. 6, which is why this date is still followed for Christmas in some Eastern-Rite Christian Churches.

The winter solstice, when days begin to lengthen in the Northern Hemisphere, was referred to by many non-Christians as the “Birthday of the Unconquered Sun.” During the 200s, Roman Emperor Aurelian dedicated Dec. 25 to the sun god, whose cult was particularly strong in Rome at the time.

Even before this, Christian writers referred to Jesus as Christ the “Sun of Justice.” Since a logical conclusion then that as Christianity began to dominate the religious scene in the Roman Empire, the date of “newborn sun” should be chosen as the birth date of Christ.

All of this may be a little complicated for some of your children, but I’m sure you can “translate” it for them. It’s a lovely story about how the followers of Jesus can learn to turn “evil” into “good,” even the seemingly irrelevant and irrelevant events of life, into ways of praising and honoring our Lord.

My Journey to God

Light of the World

This is the story of how Jesus became the Light of the World. It all began with a Father’s love. And although God had already done some pretty amazing things—like telling the Earth to spin in motion, creating oceans, and like telling the Earth to spin in motion, creating oceans, and

Cathy Lamperski Dearing

(Cathy Lamperski Dearing is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. An angel is depicted with the Star of Bethlehem in a window at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Christmas season begins with the Dec. 24 evening vigil Mass and ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Jan. 11, 2009.)

Daily Readings

Monday, Dec. 22
1 Samuel 1:1-28
(Responsory) 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-7, 8-10, 14
Luke 1:96-96

Tuesday, Dec. 23
John of Kanzy, priest
Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
Psalm 25:4-6, 7, 8-10, 14
Luke 1:57-66

Wednesday, Dec. 24
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Psalm 89:23, 27, 29
Luke 1:67-79

Vigil of Christmas
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 80:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Matthew 1:1-25
or Matthew 1:18-25

Thursday, Dec. 25
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Midnight
Isaiah 9:1-6
Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13
Tune 2:11-14
Dawn
Isaiah 66:1-12
Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12
Tune 3:4-7
Luke 2:13-20
Day
Isaiah 2:2-3, 5-6, 8
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:18
or John 1:1-3, 9-14

Friday, Dec. 26
Stephen, first martyr
Acts 6:8-10, 59-59
Psalm 31:4-6, 8-17
Matthew 10:17-22

Saturday, Dec. 27
John, Apostle and evangelist
1 John 1:14-15
Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12
John 20:28

The Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas
Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13
1 Samuel 2:1, 4-7, 8a-d

Tuesday, Dec. 30
The Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas
Psalm 96:7-10
Luke 2:36-40

Wednesday, Dec. 31
The Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas
Psalm 98:1-3, 6
1 John 2:18-21
Psalm 110:1-3
John 3:1-18

Thursday, Jan. 1
The Octave Day of Christmas: The Circumcision of Jesus
Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
1 John 2:2-8
Psalm 118:1-2
John 1:19-28

Sunday, Jan. 2
Basil the Great, bishop and doctor of the Church
Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
1 John 2:2-8
Psalm 118:1-2
John 1:19-28

Monday, Dec. 29
Psalm 128:1-5
1 John 2:12-17
Psalm 128:1-5
John 1:29-34

Sunday, Dec. 28
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14
Psalm 128:1-5
Colossians 3:12-21
or Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:11-19
or Luke 2:22, 39-40

Monday, Dec. 29
The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas
Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr
Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13
John 2:21-23

Wednesday, Dec. 31
The Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas
Psalm 98:1-3, 6
1 John 2:18-21
Psalm 110:1-3
John 3:1-18

Saturday, Jan. 1
The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
1 John 2:2-8
Psalm 98:1-3, 6
John 1:29-34

...continued on page 26...
archdiocese and moved to Oldenburg.

Quoting Our March 21 news story: “In recent years, the community, currently numbering 10 nuns, has found it increasingly difficult to manage the upkeep of their monastery and decided to move to the motherhouse of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in Oldenburg, where they will have their own building.”

A July 16 news story of Thanksgiving at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral celebrated the sisters’ ministry.

The monastery became home to the Bishop Buechlein College Seminary, which had formerly been located on the campus of Marian College. Seventeen seminarians are currently studying for the priesthood there.

A chasubl Buechlein dedicated the new seminary home on Sept. 8.

“My greatest wish for our college seminary is that it be a simple and joyful house of prayer,” the archbishop said, “and choose your gallery from ‘… surely the vestige and the ethos of the Carmelite prayer simple and joyful house of prayer,” the archbishop said, on Sept. 8.

The monastery became home to the Bishop Buechlein College Seminary, which had formerly been located on the campus of Marian College. Seventeen seminarians are currently studying for the priesthood there. A chasubl Buechlein dedicated the new seminary home on Sept. 8.

“My greatest wish for our college seminary is that it be a simple and joyful house of prayer,” the archbishop said, “... surely the vestige and the ethos of the Carmelite prayer continues to flow through these corridors.”

8. Legacy for Our Mission campaign wraps up.

A four years of planning and implementation, the archdiocese’s largest capital campaign, Legacy for Our Mission: For Our Children and the Future, began to wind down amid incredible success.

As noted in an Oct. 17 news story: “Over the course of the four years of Legacy for Our Mission, many of those hopes have been fulfilled as more than 33,000 archdiocesan Catholics pledged $104 million and more than 14,000 volunteered their time and talent to see the campaign be a success”. The campaign received an additional $10 million in corporate donations.

“Parishes across the archdiocese’s 11 deaneries have constructed new activity centers, made extensive renovations to their current facilities and established new endowments or grown already established ones,” the story said. Information about the campaign, including its success stories, can be found at www.archindy.org/legacy.


Flooding in central and southern Indiana on June 6-7 prompted parishes and archdiocesan agencies to reach out to support people in affected communities.

As a result, St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville was opened as a Red Cross shelter for flood victims; more than 140 households at St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus received aid; parishesioners at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood collaborated with the American Red Cross and the United Way of Johnson County; and Catholic Charities Terre Haute joined other groups in helping the residents of 2,500 homes in the area damaged by flooding.

In addition, second collections were taken in some parishes on June 14-15, and Catholic Charities accepted donations online and coordinated offers for help.

10. $5 million capital grant is awarded to improve archdiocesan schools.

A Aug. 8 news story announced that Lilly Endowment Inc. had “made a major commitment of its resources to support archdiocesan schools in the center city of Indianapolis and in two of its urban high schools.”

“The archdiocese has determined to use the $5 million grant the Endowment awarded to make much-needed capital improvements to the Mother Theodore Catholic Academies (M TCA) in the center city of Indianapolis, to Cardinal Ritter Jr. High School in the Indianapolis West Deanery and to Father Thomas Scevica M emorial High School in the Indianapolis East Deanery.”

The grant was one of the largest ever awarded to the archdiocese and helped to secure the future of Catholic education in the center city, archdiocesan officials said.

(The to read more about these 10 stories, including links to all our original Criterion news coverage, log on to our Web site at www.CriterionOnline.com.)

The St. Vincent Health family wishes you blessings of health, hope and happiness this Christmas season.

The Criterion is now selling photograph reprints online
 Criterion staff report

Have you seen a photo in our newspaper that you want a copy of for a photo album or scrapbook? Or perhaps you would like an image of a archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein for your home or business.

If so, then be sure to check out the newest feature on our Web site that lets you purchase reprints of staff photos that have appeared in The Criterion. You can access this new feature at www.archindy.org/photos. Our reporting staff takes dozens of high-quality photos at many major archdiocesan events—events that either have historical significance (like the canonization of St. Theodora Guérin in 2006) or that your family might have attended (like an ordination at the cathedral).

Select photos are available as a professional quality print in one of four sizes: 4 inches by 6 inches, 5 inches by 7 inches, 8 inches by 10 inches and 13 inches by 19 inches. They will be printed at our office and mailed directly to you.

Prices range from $4 to $20, and prices decrease with multiple images purchased from the same gallery. The cost includes shipping and handling.

And it is more than just events: We also have photos labeled “Standard Images” that you may wish to have for your household, such as a portrait of an archbishop Buechlein or an image from St. Paul and the Peter and Paul Cathedral.

Finally, we are making available full-size prints (11 inches by 17 inches) of front pages from The Criterion from major events and our Christmas and Easter issues.

To get started, simply log on to www.archindy.org/photos and choose your gallery from the dropdown menus, or scroll down and click on the photos below, to begin shopping.

And if you can’t find what you want, you can place a special order for an image.

For more information, send an e-mail to webmaster@archindy.org or call 317-236-1577.
The memories and friendships from playing high school sports can last a lifetime. So can the pride and the joy of being part of a team that wins a state championship.

This fall, three teams from Catholic high schools in the archdiocese savored the experiences and the emotions that come with winning an Indiana State High School Athletic Association championship.

On Nov. 8, the girls’ volleyball team of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis earned the 4A state championship with a victory over Muncie Central High School.

On Nov. 28, Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis defeated Sheridan High School 34-27 in the 1A state championship football game.

On Nov. 29, Cathedral’s football team beat the squad from Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne 10-7 in the 4A state championship game.

As this photo essay tribute to the three winning teams shows, pure joy marks the face of a champion.

The Criterion congratulates the championship teams and their fans. We also salute all the high school athletes and coaches in the archdiocese who have left their mark on their schools, their fans and each other through their hard work, dedication and sacrifice.

(Editors note: Photos for the Cathedral volleyball and football teams were submitted by the high school. Action photographs of Cardinal Ritter’s state championship game were provided by Bob Kelly, editor of The Sports Chronicle. See more of his photos at www.sportschronicle.net.)

‘We’re No. 1!’
Catholic high school teams earn three state championships

Cathedral High School Football
Cathedral Irish head football coach Rick Streiff smiles following a shower from his players after the team’s victory.

Cathedral’s defense rose to the occasion during the team’s 10-7 win.

Cathedral running back Nick Najem bursts into the end zone for a touchdown.

Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School Football
From left, Cardinal Ritter players Jonathan Paquette, Blake Steinacker and Glen Lee celebrate their team’s dramatic victory.

Cardinal Ritter’s sideline and crowd explode with joy during the team’s 34-27 win.

Nothing tastes better for Cardinal Ritter’s players than finishing the season No. 1.

Cathedral High School Girls’ Volleyball
Cathedral seniors Lauren Dedinsky and Mary Ording rise above the net for a block in the championship game.

Cathedral’s Mary Ording concentrates on a kill during the Class 4A state volleyball championship game.

Cathedral’s Skylar Cuppy sets a ball in the private Catholic high school’s win over Muncie Central High School.
Fifth annual African Mass celebrates archdiocese’s various cultures

By Mary Ann Wyand

Five years ago, Catholics from African countries who live in the archdiocese began celebrating their unique heritage, varied cultures and shared faith as a community. With their children and grandchildren, they gathered at St. Rita Church in Indianapolis on Dec. 7 to offer thanks to God for his love, kindness and mercy during a festive fifth anniversary Mass concelebrated by nine African priests.

The Mass was sponsored by the African Catholic Ministry and archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry. “What prevents me from seeing the kindness and love of God in my life?” Father Benjamin Okonkwo, the principal celebrant and a chaplain at St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital, asked the people during his homily on the Second Sunday of Advent. “That’s a question we need to ask ourselves today,” he said. “If we ask the Baptist, in the Gospel, ‘Change your ways. Repent, and God will forgive you.’” (Mk 1:1-8).

To do that, you must find a way back to love in your life, he said, because your faith and everything else that is good sends the Holy Spirit for us to see ourselves, we find him here, Father Okonkwo explained, placing a hand over his heart. “... We are made in his image.”

If you cannot see the kindness and love of God in your life, he said, if you cannot feel the presence of God in your life, you must give your heart to him completely, worship him faithfully and forgive the people who have wronged you.

“My dear brothers and sisters, the kingdom of God is not far from us,” he said. “It’s in our hearts. Whatever you sow, you reap. And that’s what [John the Baptist] reminded us. He said, ‘Change your ways. Repent, and the kindness of God will be yours and the salvation of God will be yours.’ ... When you turn your life over to God, he will carry you every day and lead you [to him]. And then what happens? Salvation is yours.”

The word of God is a gift for us, but God is not forcing us to accept his invitation, Father Okonkwo said. Jesus lived and died for us, regardless of whether we choose to accept or reject him.

“God loves us and God cares for us,” he emphasized. “Turn back to God. He will grant you salvation. And let evil go away from you—jealously, hatred, everything negative—all the evil. And when you do that, you see the salvation of God. But when there are secrets in your heart, it blocks you. You cannot see (God). But when they’re out of your heart, what fills your heart is joy and happiness, and you see salvation. ... It is for you and me to accept God’s invitation of love, of kindness, of generosity, ... and we shall see God’s kingdom, God’s kindness and God’s love in our lives.”

Members of the Global Children, African Dancers in Indianapolis, the African Choir and the St. Rita Parish Choir assisted with the liturgy.

Aiter the Mass, Divine Word Father Eusebius Mbidoaka, administrator of St. Rita Parish, said African Catholics believe that “God is the pillar of our lives, God is everything, God is our foundation, and in him we live and move and have our being. We cannot survive without him.” During these difficult economic times, he said, people who are struggling can find hope by remembering the spirit of Advent.

“I want them to trust in God, to look up to God, because God is going to be the one who provides [for their needs].” Father Eusebius said. “If we look up to him, he’s going to show us a way. What we try to do with our human power, we may not succeed. But for others who trust in God, God is going to find a way to help them.”

Final Advent penance services scheduled at archdiocesan parishes

Batesville Deanery
Dec. 19, 7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Morris

Indianapolis South Deanery
Dec. 22, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood

Batesville Deanery
Dec. 19, 7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Morris

Indianapolis South Deanery
Dec. 22, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood

New Albany Deanery
Dec. 21, 4 p.m. at Holy Family, New Albany

Seymour Deanery
Dec. 22, 7 p.m. for St. Anne, Jennings County, and St. Joseph, Jennings County, at St. Joseph, Jennings County

5 minutes north of Madison

Sh�行ers of Christ religious shop

5954 N SR 62, China, IN 47260
1-812-273-8405
O Wondrous Night
By Dorothy M. Colgan

This is a night
Beyond surprise—
This is the night
Of angel cries.

This is the night
A stable shares
Its roof and warmth
With heaven’s cares.

This is the night
That shepherds seek
The child of whom
God’s angels speak.

This is the night
Creation’s wound
Is fondly healed
And grace-attuned.

(Dorothy M. Colgan is a member of St. Meinrad Parish in St. Meinrad.)

Christmas Supplement

CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec
The Infancy Gospels: More than the birth of Jesus

By John F. Fink

Both the Gospel according to Matthew and the Gospel according to Luke begin with infancy narratives. They tell about the events surrounding the birth of the child called Jesus, his mother Mary, and his father Joseph. But there is a great deal more than that in those Gospels.

Both Gospels were written independently several decades after Jesus' birth. Each author chose to emphasize something different about Jesus. In Matthew's account, it was his kingship role; in Luke's, it was his kingly role, but also the future salvation of all humanity.

Unlike Luke's genealogy, Matthew's includes four women, three of them Gentiles and one a married to a Gentile. Tamar, a Canaanite, seduced her father-in-law, Judah, to bear a son. She was later married to her relative Perez and Zerah. Rahab, also a Canaanite, was a harlot who lived in Jericho and saved the sparsely inhabited shepherds. She later lived among the Israelites and bore a son named Boaz. Ruth was a Moabite who married an Israelite and bore a son named Boaz. Ruth was a Moabite who married an Israelite and bore a son named Boaz. She later lived among the Israelites and bore a son named Boaz. Ruth was a Moabite who married an Israelite and bore a son named Boaz.

Since Luke traces Jesus' lineage through the Hebrews, he could only list 14 names. However, it doesn't include King Solomon and his ancestors. Rather, Luke traces Jesus' Davidic ancestry back to King David, not to King Solomon as Matthew does. There was likely no such census, but Luke had to get them to Bethlehem somehow because that is where the Messiah was to be born. They found a Scriptural passage that pointed to Bethlehem, again showing that Jesus' birth was a fulfillment of Scripture. This consultation was also a reminder of a Jewish legend, not found in Scripture, that the Messiah was to be born in a city that had seen the newborn king's star because it was a common belief that a new star appeared at the time of a ruler's birth. There was also the Old Testament story of Balaam, who prophesied that "a star shall advance from Jacob" (Num 24:17).

Herod called the Jewish priests and scribes together, and asked them where the Messiah was to be born. They found a Scripture passage that pointed to Bethlehem, again showing that Jesus' birth was a fulfillment of Scripture. This consultation was also a reminder of a Jewish legend, not found in Scripture, that the Messiah was to be born in a city that had seen the newborn king's star because it was a common belief that a new star appeared at the time of a ruler's birth. There was also the Old Testament story of Balaam, who prophesied that "a star shall advance from Jacob" (Num 24:17).

Herod called the Jewish priests and scribes together, and asked them where the Messiah was to be born. They found a Scripture passage that pointed to Bethlehem, again showing that Jesus' birth was a fulfillment of Scripture. This consultation was also a reminder of a Jewish legend, not found in Scripture, that the Messiah was to be born in a city that had seen the newborn king's star because it was a common belief that a new star appeared at the time of a ruler's birth. There was also the Old Testament story of Balaam, who prophesied that "a star shall advance from Jacob" (Num 24:17).

The next passages show how Jesus' kingly role, but also the future salvation of all humanity, were linked. Then, and after his purification, Simeon and Anna praised Jesus, saying, was the child who was born, which is why the angels tell the shepherds: "Today in the city of David a Saviour has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord" (Lk 2:11).

Luke's narrative of the birth of Jesus is found in Chapter 2, except for the genealogy in Chapter 3. Luke used Chapter 1 to tell about the birth of John the Baptist, and Mary's announcement and visitation to Elizabeth. Luke has Mary and Joseph already living in Nazareth, but they traveled to Bethlehem in obedience to a decree from the Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus that a census should be taken of the whole Roman world. There was likely no such census, but Luke had to get them to Bethlehem somehow because that is where the Messiah was to be born, and he may have heard about a census while Quirinius was the governor of Syria. He also wanted to tie the birth of Jesus to Emperor Augustus, who was credited with a time of peace, the Pax Augusta. The passage bears, Luke wanted to say, was the child who was born, which is why the angels tell the shepherds: "On earth peace to those on whom God's favor rests" (Lk 2:14).

Luke also wants to emphasize that Mary and Joseph were peaceful people who observed the Roman law as well as the Jewish rites. Luke's Gospel contains stories of Jesus' compassion to the lowly and outcasts of society, and he begins that with the story of the angels' appearance to the shepherds. They, in turn, are the first to visit the only Family in the cave where Jesus was born—thus giving us the creche with which we are so familiar.

The basic message of Luke's infancy narrative is in the announcement to those shepherds: "Today in the city of David a Saviour has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord" (Lk 2:11). As a Saviour, Jesus will be the one who rescues humanity from sin and alienation from God. The Messiah is the anointed one, who, as told by Luke, will bring salvation to all humanity, Jew and Gentile alike. And Lord is the title most frequently used by Luke in both his Gospel and in his Acts of the Apostles.

By writing about Jesus' circumcision and presentation in the Temple, Luke stresses that his parents were observant Jews. During the presentation, and after Mary's prayer, Simeon and Anna praised Jesus, with Simeon praying to God that he could now let him die because he had lived long enough to see the Messiah. After the presentation, Luke says that Joseph and his Holy Family returned to Nazareth. There's no visitation of magi or flight into Egypt in this Gospel.

In the Church's liturgy, Matthew's infancy narrative is read at the vigil Mass. Luke's is started during the first Mass of Christmas and continued in the second. For the third Mass of Christmas, though, the Church turns to the Prologue to the Gospel According to John because it tells us who Jesus was: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (1:1). It's this birth we celebrate on Christmas.

"Glory to God in the highest" (Lk 2:14).

(John F. Fink is editor emeritus of The Criterion, Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis. He is also editor of Jesus in the Gospels, published by Alba House. His latest book, St. Thomas More: Model for Modern Catholics (St. Paul, 2009), can be purchased by calling 800-343-2522 or by logging on to www.albausa.org.)
Church ladies teach poor children about God’s love

By Jim Welter

It was a rite of spring for our family. Each Memorial Day, all seven of us would walk from our farm to a little country cemetery called Eagle Creek to decorate the grave of our infant sister, Jeanette, who had died years before.

One year, when we visited the cemetery, the gate was locked. That was no obstacle for my tomboy sister, Fran, who would sometimes climb over the fence even when the gate was open!

There was a little white church beside the cemetery just across a gravel drive from Jeanette’s grave.

As a child, I was sure that it was the “church in the wildwood” mentioned in a song my mother sometimes sang.

“See that white church over there?” Fran said to me one day. “They’re the ones that bring us presents at Christmas.”

Mom raised seven of us on a farm just two miles from that church and cemetery. Mom was all alone. There was no electricity—just across the gravel drive—from that little white church.

Each Sunday evening, the good people at the Eagle Creek Church gather to give praise and sing some of the old gospel songs that my mother knew so well.

I was invited to their gathering one Sunday to share some reflections from my first book titled When Winter Comes.

One year, when we visited the cemetery, it was the “church beside the cemetery just across a gravel drive—from that little white church?”

As a child, I was sure that it was the “church in the wildwood” mentioned in a song my mother sometimes sang.

“See that white church over there?” Fran said to me one day. “They’re the ones that bring us presents at Christmas.”

Mom raised seven of us on a farm just two miles from that church and cemetery. Mom was all alone. There was no electricity on the farm, no running water, no telephone or nearby neighbors.

But, during those years, we could always count on the ladies from the Eagle Creek Church remembering us at Christmas.

From our hiding place, we would hear the ladies tell Mom, “We just brought a few things for the children.”

And we knew that Santa would come that year!

How could those ladies have known that their “few things” were our Christmas celebration?

And how could we have known that, one day, both Mom and Fran would lie beside Jeanette in the country cemetery—just across the gravel drive—from that little white church?

When Winter Comes.

What a blessing it was for me to stand before that group and say “thank you” for the kindness they showed to us all those years ago.

Thank you, ladies! Thank you for touching our lives. Thank you for lifting our spirits. Thank you for helping us to carry our burden. Thank you for being Emmanuel—God with us!

(Jim Welter is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. His books are available at Catholic bookstores in the Indianapolis area and on the Internet at www.ascendinvioin.com)
Christmas Eve Mass offers glimpse of mystery of God

By Linda Abner
Special to The Criterion

It is snowing on Christmas Eve as people come from all directions in the dark, heads bent, stepping quickly to gain the church and warmth. There are smiles of recognition, greetings and laughter. A undercurrent of excitement fills the air on this holy night. The sanctuary is resplendent with greenery and candles everywhere. Evergreen boughs, some trimmed only with small white lights and others left completely natural, fill the front and shelter a humble creche.

We are given a taper as we enter the church. I feel a little sad that I see no one I know on this special night as families and loved ones all around me gather for Mass. Thank you, Lord, that my daughter is here beside me. Bless her and keep her.

The choir reads us in Christmas carols for 30 minutes before midnight. “Ave Maria” is sung by someone with an angel’s voice. Then the church is darkened but for candlelight, and at midnight the chimes begin—ringing, singing like the Heavenly Hosts that night so long ago, “Christ is born! Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth!”

Angels on high

Two angels are featured in a bas-relief high above the altar at historic St. Patrick Church in Indianapolis. The angels are holding up an ornate jeweled crown—above the crown of thorns—symbolizing Christ the King. The initials “JHS” and “IHS” stand for “Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum.” In Latin, they are “Jesus Nazarens Rex Iudaeorum.”

Christmas teaches children about gifts of faith and joy

By Lisa Marie Taylor
Special to The Criterion

As I look back at all the Christmases of my childhood, I do not remember one particular gift received although our tree was overflowing with gifts from Santa every year.

I remember the joy. I remember waiting with anticipation for Santa, for Christmas Mass, for the family gatherings. I remember looking into the manger scene with wonder at what it meant for Jesus, our Savior, to come to us as a baby.

Is Christmas only for children? I believe Christmas teaches all of us to be like children, to look at the season with wonder and awe. To believe in the baby and to seek him without all the cares of this world.

Our five children were given to us to teach us very valuable lessons about Christ’s love for us. Our oldest, Jessi, teaches us about strength. Our son, Joe, shows us compassion. Our daughter, Maria, shows us complete joy. Our daughter, Mackenna, teaches us about determination. And the baby, Madeline, teaches us about grace.

Sometimes I wonder if our children are getting the importance of Christmas and why we celebrate. Our Christmases are small compared to the amount of gifts giving in many homes. They receive three gifts and a few stocking stuffers. A few years ago, our finances were extremely lean. I was worried that our children would see what other kids got from Santa and be disappointed about their own presents.

However, that evening, after all the busyness of the day, our son quietly proclaimed, “Mom, this was the best Christmas ever.”

I do not remember one particular gift received in my childhood, and I hope that my children will not remember them either. I hope they will learn from each other about strength, compassion, joy, determination and grace! Christmas isn’t just for children. It is all for those who believe in the One who sent his son, Jesus, to teach us about love. I pray we all remember joy this Christmas season.

Family continues tradition of decorating tree on Thanksgiving

By David Parrish
Special to The Criterion

I grew up in Kokomo, Ind., and was the youngest of five kids who were being raised by a single mother. We were what would now be classified as “extremely low income” and lived in public housing.

M om made sure that we had what we needed for school before getting stuff for herself.

For the Christmas season, we would drag the box filled with the fake tree out of storage and assemble the tree as a family on Thanksgiving evening. We would look forward to this and enjoyed every minute of it.

Now, as a father, I am continuing this family tradition by setting up our fake tree on Thanksgiving evening and letting my daughter, who is 7, and my son, who is 5, help decorate it.

(David Parrish is participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program at St. Joseph Parish in Indianapolis.)

Huser HomeCare

Trusted and Compassionate Care

- Dedicated to meeting your non-medical homecare needs
- Elder or special needs care (e.g., Alzheimer’s, Autism)
- In your home, nursing home, or assisted living center
- Temporary or long-term; for a few hours or up to 24/7
- Personal care assistance with bathing, toiletry, hygiene, dressing, medication reminders
- Companion care and safety monitoring
- Housekeeping, laundry and meal prep
- Respite care
- Slumber care
- Transportation & errands

Call us for a free in-home consultation.
Kathy and Terry Huser
(317) 332-8261 or 332-8264
huserhomecare@sbcglobal.net
Teenager is stunned to ‘get’ the true gift of Christmas

By Natalie Hoefer
Special to The Criterion

I recall the Christmas of 1984. I was 15 and had just “suffered” through what to my adolescent mind was the “worst Christmas ever.”

I liked very few of the presents that I received, and the few gifts that I did like were clothes that ended up not fitting me.

I went to bed that night feeling bitter and crying.

As I grudgingly began to say my prayers, a question whispered inside me. Something asked me, “What is the true gift of Christmas?”

And all of a sudden, all those years of being told that Christmas was about Jesus—and not about gifts—just came together and clicked!

They weren’t just words. They were a truth that filled my whole self with joy that no material gift could ever give. God gave us his very own Son, who would in turn give us his very own life for our salvation!

Wow! What an unparalleled gift! All my immature disappointment, all the secular Christmas trees and lights and decorations, just melted away and there was only this one amazing truth that left me filled with joy and awe.

I went to sleep that night thanking God for the best Christmas ever, the joy of “getting”—of understanding and receiving—the true gift of Christmas.

(Natalie Hoefer is a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis.)

Mother’s sacrifice was a wonderful gift of love

By William Taylor
Special to The Criterion

The snowflakes glistened under the streetlights at the corner of 9th Street and Rural Street as my mother and I walked to the 5:15 a.m. Mass at St. Philip Neri Church in Indianapolis on Christmas morning in 1935.

As a fifth-grade choir boy, I was honored to be singing during the Mass. Only seven more blocks to go in the snow.

My father and six sisters were snug in their beds at home.

At the time, I did not realize what a sacrifice this early morning winter walk was for my mother.

She was a large woman who waddled from side to side as she walked because one of her legs was larger than the other.

After Mass, we walked back home again, where she began to prepare Christmas dinner and I played with my one present, a Sir Malcolm Campbell Blue Bird Racer.

Many years later, a blood clot traveled from my mother’s bad leg to her heart and killed her.

Only since then have I realized what a sacrifice it was for her to walk to church with me before sunrise on that cold Christmas morning.

(William Taylor is a member of St. Ann Parish in Indianapolis.)

Connecticut abbey’s centuries-old creche restored, back on display

BETHLEHEM, Conn. (CNS)—On a day in early November, Sister A ngele Arbib and M other Daniel Levi Cooke showed a visitor inside a restored 18th-century barn at the Abbey of Regina Laudis, a monastery for cloistered Benedictine nuns in Bethlehem.

Behind protective glass was a miniature Italian seaside village, made almost 300 years ago and crafted mostly from the bark of cork trees. Multistoried wooden houses seemed to teeter on the tops of cliffs. In the background were clothes that ended up not fitting me.

But missing from the scene were 68 figures made from the bark of cork trees. Multistoried wooden houses seemed to teeter on the tops of cliffs. In the background were

CHRIST’S COMING IN CHRISTMAS

Please join
Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.,
the pastor and parishioners of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

on Christmas Eve

to celebrate Christ’s coming in Christmas.

Vigil service of scripture and song
11:15 p.m.
Presider: Fr. Julian P. Peters, O.S.B.

Midnight Mass
12:00 a.m.
Presider: Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.

Secured Parking
SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral lot
(enter from North Pennsylvania Street)

The Catholic Center lot
(enter from West 14th Street)
Make time for others at Christmas this year and every year

By Mary Jo Pedersen
Catholic News Service

When I was a child, I always made Christmas lists that contained toys, a variety of cookies and treats, places to go and activities that I thought would make a perfect Christmas. I realized later that my Christmas list was all about me. I had created a Christmas monster with an appetite never satisfied even with gift cards and cash for buying whatever I wanted. It wasn’t until I helped deliver clothing and toys to families in need that I realized Christmas was really not about getting gifts, but about giving gifts of time and energy to those who were in need.

On that cold gift delivery day in December as a young teenager, I encountered a Jesus in the doorway of a dilapidated house in the eyes of a little girl who was hanging on to her mother’s skirt. When she saw the wrapped presents and the boxes of food and cookies, she started to jump up and down, waving her arms and asking if I wanted to see her do her newest gymnastic trick. A leap off the sofa onto the ottoman with a rollover to the floor was a heart that wants to give of self out of duties or “have-to” chores, do them with energy and using the gifts you have for the good of others.

Dignity Memorial funeral provider wishes you and yours the very happy New Year and a healthy and safe 2009. To find out how Dignity Memorial can best serve others.

The spirit of Christmas:
By Mary Jo Pedersen, a veteran coordinator of marriage and family spirituality programs, lives in Omaha, Neb. She is the author of For Better, for Worse, for God: Exploring the Holy Mystery of Marriage, published by Loyola Press in December 2008.

True meaning of Christmas is giving of oneself to others in countless ways

By Margo MacArthur
Catholic News Service

It is hard to imagine the world of the first century when the heavy boot of Roman imperialism strode through a vast empire of conquered people. In this brutal time under the tyranny imposed by that rule on the beleaguered little nation of Israel, the first Christmas materialized as if by magic. During his 2007 Christmas homily, Pope Benedict XVI said that, into this harsh setting, “God [stepped] out of his concealment” to connect with mankind and promise salvation in the form of his Son. It is an old story still relevant today, one that tells us that God’s Good News is often shut out. There is no room in the inn, and Christ’s entry into the world is ignored except by the wise men, shepherds and the animals. So, too, our modern lives are often very busy, too full of worry and self-involvement to allow us more than a passing glimpse of the miraculous birth, let alone of each other. That is, unless we make a conscious decision to make the time to reach out and connect with our neighbors, identifying the ways that we can best serve others.

Dottie said. “I get a kick out of their realization that extending small kindnesses to those around me is my way of sharing my faith.”

There are countless ways that we Christians can contribute to good in the world by reaching out to others. A smile and a gesture that relieves another and a gesture that relieves another and a person’s loneliness or lifts a heavy heart can best serve others. Dottie, who lives alone in a senior citizens building, said she quite simply does not belong to the geography of space, but to the geography of the heart.”

Christmas is a time for making memories and sharing them.

The Christmas season is about sharing joy with your family, both past and present. Your Dignity Memorial funeral provider wishes you and yours the very best. And while we celebrate, we know how painful the holiday season can be for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Which is why we offer a variety of grief management resources for you and your family. To find out more or to learn about other Dignity Memorial benefits, contact your local Dignity Memorial funeral provider or call 1-800-DIGNITY for your free Funeral Reference Guide.

East Side Prescription Shop
✓ Supplies for Home Care, Hospital and Sickroom
✓ Senior Citizen Discounts
✓ Everyday Low Prices
✓ Prescription Delivery 317-359-8278
Open 7 Days A Week
5317 E. 16th St. • Indianapolis (Near Community Hospital East)

Community Physicians of Indiana

Plum Creek Family Medicine
Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Healthy New Year
Astounding news was brought by unexpected visitors at Christmas

By David Gibson
Catholic News Service

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they noticed several breathlessly excited shepherds arriving from the countryside to join them at the manger in Bethlehem where they were tending the newborn Jesus? A new baby’s family can be so busy and exhausted! Right after a birth isn’t the easiest of times to extend a heartfelt welcome to unexpected guests. Caring for their new child may be about all a family can manage.

Do you suppose Mary and Joseph smiled warmly at the shepherds and invited them to linger a little longer at the manger than they had planned? Did Mary and Joseph listen attentively to all that these astonished shepherds reported to them? A angel had spoken to the shepherds, and initially this terrified them. The angel calmed them, however, and then conveyed some “news of great joy” meant to be shared with everyone about a newborn child in Bethlehem.

As if that wasn’t enough, “a great throng” of very vocal heavenly hosts joined the angel at that point. The shepherds had a lot to tell! I’ll bet their attempts to put into words all that had happened back in the fields took more than a few minutes.

What’s more, at the manger the shepherds somehow recognized that what the angel told them about this newborn child was true. They surely wouldn’t have rushed away. We are told that Mary treasured and applied them. What matters is that I also show my job is to help students grasp concepts and apply them. What matters is that I also show my students that I honestly do care about them. Ask anyone who’s ever been: going to college matters. It’s a choice that helps define who you are, and who you will become. Your experiences at college—in and out of the classroom—will shape your ideas and opinions for years—probably forever.

Fieldworkers pay homage to the newborn Christ in “Adoration of the Shepherds,” by Renaissance Italian painter Giovanni Francesco Guerrieri.

What matters to you?

What matters to you?

Ask anyone who’s ever been: going to college matters. It’s a choice that helps define who you are, and who you will become. Your experiences at college—in and out of the classroom—will shape your ideas and opinions for years—probably forever.

At Marian College, you will be personally challenged to incorporate awareness of the world and a sense of community—lessons of concern and respect that can be learned and practiced over a lifetime. These lessons are based on our Catholic faith and Franciscan values—dignity of the individual, peace and justice, reconciliation, and responsible stewardship.

Katrina Kroics
B.A. in biology with a minor in chemistry
Marian College Class of 2008

Whether people see it or not, teachers have a big impact on the community through its children. As a biology teacher at Shelbyville Middle School, my job is to help students grasp concepts and apply them. What matters is that I also show my students that I honestly do care about them.

Give this to someone you know who’s wondering what matters.

www.marian.edu

God and our own well-being. I admire people who insert large blocks of time into their existence through major lifestyle and career changes. For me, though, solving the problem of time always boils down to finding better ways to approach the smaller blocks of time in the moments of the day—the moments when, as Pope Benedict XVI thinks Christians should reflect on the difficulty they have making time for others.

“Do we have time for our neighbor who is in need of a word from us…or in need of my affection?” the pope asked during his celebration of the Midnight Mass last Christmas at the Vatican. “For the sufferer in need of help?” When people are preoccupied with their own lives, they think they need their time for their own purposes, Pope Benedict challenged his listeners.

Are there ways to convey hope to someone or express true concern in a few moments? One friend consistently makes the most of a moment by saying convincingly, “It’s always too good to see you!” It works. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta realized that a warm smile is a gift. If people feel they have nothing to offer another person at the moment, she thought they should give their smile.

Imagine a very busy Mary and Joseph ignoring or slighthing the shepherds when they presented themselves in Bethlehem. Christmas would have gotten a much different start! So many people want a chance at Christmas to set time apart for others—for those closest to them, for friends they don’t see often enough, for people who in one way or another are poor. But finding the time is a problem. Time also is a challenge, and reassessing some of our time is all of the essence.

Katrina Kroics
B.A. in biology with a minor in chemistry
Marian College Class of 2008

Whether people see it or not, teachers have a big impact on the community through its children. As a biology teacher at Shelbyville Middle School, my job is to help students grasp concepts and apply them. What matters is that I also show my students that I honestly do care about them.

Give this to someone you know who’s wondering what matters.

www.marian.edu
At last, a comfortable cup of Christmas tea for Father Steve!

By Fr. Stan Konieczny
Catholic News Service

One holiday surprise came early to recently ordained Father Steve, who was spending his first Christmas as a priest at St. Joseph Parish.

It was great, either, for Father Steve to discover that the rectory was not immune to the hustle and bustle of the Christmas rush. Father Steve had hoped for calm and serenity that would lend itself to prayer and reflection on the mystery of Christmas. Instead, he found himself up to some programs in all sorts of preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth.

Despite the many area penance services, people still rang the doorbell looking for a confession. Shut-ins needed visits. Church decoration decisions and choices had to be made. Organizations had to be matched with families in need for holiday outreach. Every class in the grade school had some program or project to delight the priest. And there was an unending list of evening dinners and parties with parish groups.

All of this was compounded by the classic seminar joke that was no joke. Every day, there was at least one telephone call asking, “Father, what time is your Christmas Eve M ission?”

“Surprise, surprise, there is little Christmas serenity around here,” Father Steve muttered in the rectory kitchen as he waited for a mug of hot tea to steep. “I just wish I had a minute of peace and quiet, just enough to finish a cup of tea.”

He sighed as he thought back to his grade school days when the Mercy Sisters who taught him spoke of their fruitfulness, Catherine McAuley, and her instructions to “have a comfortable cup of tea” ready for anyone who came seeking help. Halfway through musings over his favorite mug of Earl Grey tea, the telephone rang. It was Miss Emily.

Three times, she had turned down Father Steve’s inquiries about bringing her Communion for Christmas. She always insisted that she could get it at Mass on her own. Now she insisted that the weather was bad and Father had better come now before her holiday guests arrived at her home.

“No serenity, no comfortable cup of tea for me,” Father Steve thought as he poured the contents of half a mug of tea down the drain.

In 15 minutes, when Father Steve arrived at the apartment and rang the bell, the door was opened after the first ring by Miss Emily, prim and proper as ever. Those two qualities frankly unnerved the young priest.

Inside the museum-like living room, Father Steve proclaimed the Good News of Christmas, sang a carol and distributed Eucharist. After the prayers and some small talk, the priest started to leave.

Emily ordered him to wait as she hobbled off through a darkened doorway.

After a 10-minute embargo for Father Steve, Miss Emily came out of the kitchen with a large tray that held a complete tea service and was garnished with warm zucchini bread. “You look chilled to the bone, Father,” Miss Emily chided. “Now you sit down, young man, and drink all of this herbal tea. Then I’ll get you another cup. And eat this zucchini bread that my cousin made. It’s good for you. And none of your nonsense about having too much to do. Nobody is too busy for a comfortable cup of Christmas tea. I won’t hear of it.”

You can find good presents without spending a lot this Christmas

By Louise McNulty
Catholic News Service

In today’s uncertain economy, it’s more important than ever to measure the cost of Christmas presents in terms of thoughtfulness instead of just dollars.

Of course, thoughtful gifts require more time, care and even sacrifice than just choosing a plastic credit card over a retailer’s coupon. The sacrifice might involve giving up something you hold dear, such as treasures in your home, which would be valued by other family members.

Maybe this is the time to wrap up Grandma’s lovely wooden sewing basket and give it to a sister or a friend who has long admired it. Or pass on the old family Bible, an aged wooden cross or a cherished family portrait, adding a note on its history.

Grown children might appreciate receiving other family heirlooms, like special holiday decorations or pieces of art or sculpture, even if the items only date to their own childhoods. Toots that “they just don’t make like they used to” might be passed on to a son by his father. That gift can be supplemented with something new like gift certificates to a restaurant, store or coffee shop.

A handmade hooked rug, knitted scarf, mittens or a blanket can take a lot of time to create, but should delight a young child or grandchild. Or offer the child the gift of your time with tickets to a holiday children’s play or movie matinee or simply a visit to the park and a treat of hot chocolate or an ice cream sundae.

There are other ways to spend more time than money to come up with good presents. MoWe people enjoy home entertainment, but DVDs can be expensive. Take the time to search for bargains. A friend found popular movies for sale at discount prices at a service plaza on an interstate highway and in a bargain bin at a grocery store. She said the luck comes from the effort.

When you choose movies, though, don’t buy just anything that’s current and cheap. Buy copies of classic films with big-name stars and stories in which people make good moral choices.

When choosing stocking stuffers, remember that children are never too young to be urged on in their faith. Browse through religious bookstores to find wonderful and inexpensive card games like “Noah’s Ark,” advertised to play like “Old Maid” for ages 3 and up, or “Jonah, Go Fish,” geared to ages 4 and up, or a Bible trivia game. There are even Nativity finger puppet figures sewn onto a set of gloves for ages 6 and up. There are no directions for play, which invites adult interaction in repeating the Christmas story.

This Christmas, save money by bargain hunting, crafting your own gifts and passing along your treasures. You can even increase God’s grace in your life and others.

(Louise McNulty is a freelance writer in Akron, Ohio.)

Congratulations to the latest columns on our website: Piano Solutions, Used Piano Clearance, Saint Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology, and Catholic News Service.

You can purchase our publications by visiting the BMH Sales Office at 915 N. College Ave. (317) 581-1100. We ensure our services are provided in a professional, sensitive, caring and safe manner. When you purchase our products, you are supporting our mission to provide quality services to our clients.

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, may this joyous season remind us anew of His enduring message of peace.
Document warns certain new research violates moral principles

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)—**A new Vatican document warned that certain recent developments in stem-cell research, gene therapy and embryonic experimentation violate moral principles and reflect an attempt by man “to take the place of his Creator.” The latest advances raise serious questions of moral complicity for researchers and other biotech professionals who have a duty to refuse to use biological material obtained by unethical means, the document said.


The new instruction expanded on those teachings or presented new ones in the following areas:

- **Stem-cell research**—The document said it is morally acceptable to take stem cells when they do no serious harm to the person from whom they are taken, as is generally the case when tissues are taken from an adult, from the umbilical cord at the time of birth or from fetuses that have died from natural causes.

On the other hand, it said, it is always “gravely illicit” to take stem cells from a living human embryo because it invariably causes the death of the embryo.

- **The morning-after pill and other anti-implantation methods**—The document said an embryo comes into being after fertilization, and drugs and techniques that prevent its implantation in the uterus are morally illicit because they intend to cause an abortion—even if they don’t actually cause an abortion every time they are used.

- **Gene therapy**—It said genetic engineering that aims to correct genetic defects by treating nonproductive cells, a process called somatic-cell gene therapy, is, in principle, morally acceptable.

- **Embryo manipulation and “adoption.”**—The document repeated earlier condemnations of the in vitro creation of human embryos, first because it would be wrong to see the new document as a series of “no’s” are derived from a much larger “yes” to human creation of human embryos, first because it

Anyone who seeks to prevent the implantation of an embryo and who therefore requests or prescribes such a drug generally intends abortion, it said. The use of such anti-implantation methods “falls within the sin of abortion” and is gravely immoral.

In general, the document rejects any procedure that impedes progress, he told a Vatican press conference.†

Father Augustine said that the document offers a number of other positive reflections, including appreciation of science and its recent developments, a “yes” to fertility treatments that overcome pathologies and re-establish the normal functioning of human procreation, a “yes” to the therapeutic use of stem cells when obtained licitly, and a “yes” to the value of every human being.

“Some of these affirmations and positive assertions have a negative side, but their principal direction is a positive account, a vision of what it means to be human, and why human life is sacred from conception to natural death,” he said.

A churchpole into a Church effort to impede progress, he told a Vatican press conference.†

Father Augustine said that the document offers a number of other positive reflections, including appreciation of science and its recent developments, a “yes” to fertility treatments that overcome pathologies and re-establish the normal functioning of human procreation, a “yes” to the therapeutic use of stem cells when obtained licitly, and a “yes” to the value of every human being.

“Some of these affirmations and positive assertions have a negative side, but their principal direction is a positive account, a vision of what it means to be human, and why human life is sacred from conception to natural death,” he said.

A churchpole into a Church effort to impede progress, he told a Vatican press conference.†

Father Augustine said that the document offers a number of other positive reflections, including appreciation of science and its recent developments, a “yes” to fertility treatments that overcome pathologies and re-establish the normal functioning of human procreation, a “yes” to the therapeutic use of stem cells when obtained licitly, and a “yes” to the value of every human being.

“Some of these affirmations and positive assertions have a negative side, but their principal direction is a positive account, a vision of what it means to be human, and why human life is sacred from conception to natural death,” he said.

A churchpole into a Church effort to impede progress, he told a Vatican press conference.†

Father Augustine said that the document offers a number of other positive reflections, including appreciation of science and its recent developments, a “yes” to fertility treatments that overcome pathologies and re-establish the normal functioning of human procreation, a “yes” to the therapeutic use of stem cells when obtained licitly, and a “yes” to the value of every human being.

“Some of these affirmations and positive assertions have a negative side, but their principal direction is a positive account, a vision of what it means to be human, and why human life is sacred from conception to natural death,” he said.

A churchpole into a Church effort to impede progress, he told a Vatican press conference.†

Father Augustine said that the document offers a number of other positive reflections, including appreciation of science and its recent developments, a “yes” to fertility treatments that overcome pathologies and re-establish the normal functioning of human procreation, a “yes” to the therapeutic use of stem cells when obtained licitly, and a “yes” to the value of every human being.

“Some of these affirmations and positive assertions have a negative side, but their principal direction is a positive account, a vision of what it means to be human, and why human life is sacred from conception to natural death,” he said.

A churchpole into a Church effort to impede progress, he told a Vatican press conference.†

Father Augustine said that the document offers a number of other positive reflections, including appreciation of science and its recent developments, a “yes” to fertility treatments that overcome pathologies and re-establish the normal functioning of human procreation, a “yes” to the therapeutic use of stem cells when obtained licitly, and a “yes” to the value of every human being.

“Some of these affirmations and positive assertions have a negative side, but their principal direction is a positive account, a vision of what it means to be human, and why human life is sacred from conception to natural death,” he said.

A churchpole into a Church effort to impede progress, he told a Vatican press conference.†

Father Augustine said that the document offers a number of other positive reflections, including appreciation of science and its recent developments, a “yes” to fertility treatments that overcome pathologies and re-establish the normal functioning of human procreation, a “yes” to the therapeutic use of stem cells when obtained licitly, and a “yes” to the value of every human being.

“Some of these affirmations and positive assertions have a negative side, but their principal direction is a positive account, a vision of what it means to be human, and why human life is sacred from conception to natural death,” he said.

A churchpole into a Church effort to impede progress, he told a Vatican press conference.†

Father Augustine said that the document offers a number of other positive reflections, including appreciation of science and its recent developments, a “yes” to fertility treatments that overcome pathologies and re-establish the normal functioning of human procreation, a “yes” to the therapeutic use of stem cells when obtained licitly, and a “yes” to the value of every human being.

“Some of these affirmations and positive assertions have a negative side, but their principal direction is a positive account, a vision of what it means to be human, and why human life is sacred from conception to natural death,” he said.

A churchpole into a Church effort to impede progress, he told a Vatican press conference.†

Father Augustine said that the document offers a number of other positive reflections, including appreciation of science and its recent developments, a “yes” to fertility treatments that overcome pathologies and re-establish the normal functioning of human procreation, a “yes” to the therapeutic use of stem cells when obtained licitly, and a “yes” to the value of every human being.

“Some of these affirmations and positive assertions have a negative side, but their principal direction is a positive account, a vision of what it means to be human, and why human life is sacred from conception to natural death,” he said.

A churchpole into a Church effort to impede progress, he told a Vatican press conference.†
BIOETHICS continued from page 23

separates procreation from the conjugal act in marriage, and second because unused embryos are often discarded. Freezing such embryos also violates ethics because it exposes them to risk of death or harm, the document said. Despite the good intentions of people who have suggested a form of “prenatal adoption” to allow frozen embryos to be born, such a proposal would be subject to medical, psychological and legal problems, it said.

• Freezing of human eggs—The document said the freezing of immature human eggs for some in vitro fertilization techniques is morally unacceptable.

• Human-animal hybrid cloning—The document rejected as immoral recent efforts to use animal eggs to reprogram human cells in order to extract embryonic stem cells from the resulting embryos. These efforts represent a grave offense against human dignity by mixing animal and human genetic elements capable of “disrupting the specific identity of man,” it said. In addition, use of the resulting stem cells would expose humans to unacceptable risks, it said.

The Vatican said the new document, as a papally approved instruction of a doctrinal nature, falls under the category of the “ordinary magisterium,” which is the Church’s teaching authority, and is to be received by Catholics “with the religious assent of their spirit.”

In the wider framework, it added, grave reasons may in some cases justify the use of such “biological material.” For example, it said, the danger to the health of children could permit parents to legitimately use a vaccine that was developed using cell lines obtained illicitly. In such a case, it noted, the parents have no voice in the decision over how the vaccines are made. At the same time, it said, everyone should ask their health care system to make other types of vaccines available.

The instruction repeated earlier Vatican condemnations of human cloning, whether done to produce embryos for stem cells or to define the genetic identity of an individual person, which the document called “a form of biological slavery.” The document said couples need to be aware that techniques such as pre-implantation diagnosis, which is used in artificial fertilization and leads to the death of embryos suspected of defects, reflects a growing “eugenic mentality.” It cited an increasing number of cases in which couples with no fertility problems are using artificial means of procreation in order to engage in the genetic selection of their offspring.

The Vatican said the new document, as a papally approved instruction of a doctrinal nature, falls under the category of the “ordinary magisterium,” which is the Church’s teaching authority, and is to be received by Catholics “with the religious assent of their spirit.”

Patroness of the Americas
Our Lady of the Greenwood School and Parish celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12

Above, Our Lady of the Greenwood School students, from left, first-grader Sophia Dietz, kindergartner Nathaniel Morris and first-grader Elizabeth Ortger process into Our Lady of the Greenwood Church in Hispanic costumes for the school Mass on Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Left, Father Rick Nagel, associate pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, and Father Mauro Rodas, a retired diocesan priest who assists with Hispanic ministry at the parish, pray the eucharistic prayer during the school Mass on Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

A statue and icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe decorate the sanctuary near the altar at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church on Dec. 12 for the parish’s feast day Mass honoring the patroness of the Americas and the pro-life movement.

Left, Our Lady of the Greenwood School seventh-grader Craig Connors prays during the feast day Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12 at the parish church.


Our Lady of the Greenwood School students stand during the procession at the start of the feast day Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12 at the parish church.
Cardinal Dulles recalled for brilliance, simplicity, kindness

WA SH IN T O N (CNS)—Cardinal Avery Dulles, a Jesuit theologian who was made a cardinal in 2001, was remembered by friends and admirers for his brilliant mind as well as for his “simplicity and sense of wonder.”

Cardinal Dulles died on Dec. 12. He was 90. An evening wake was scheduled for Dec. 16 and 17 at Fordham University Church in New York, followed by the celebration of Mass each evening. A funeral Mass for the cardinal was scheduled for Dec. 18 at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York followed by burial at the Jesuit Cemetery in Auriesville, N.Y.

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired Washington archbishop, and a fellow member of the 2001 class of cardinals, described the Jesuit scholastic he first met 50 years ago as even then being “an imposing personality with his twang, his razor-sharp intellect and, perhaps more than anything else, his obviously profound dedication to his faith.

He was one of the truly great American theologians, constantly renewing and deepening his commitment to the truth,” said Cardinal McCarrick in one of many statements issued by Church leaders, friends and colleagues after Cardinal Dulles’ death.

From his early impressions of Cardinal Dulles as a young priest whose first Mass he helped organize, Cardinal McCarrick said his friend was “a holy man, totally without guile or pretense.”

Pope Benedict XVI offered his condolences to the Jesuit community and Cardinal Dulles’ friends and family. He remarked on the cardinal’s “deep learning, serene judgment, and unfailing love of the Lord and His Church, which marked his entire priestly ministry and his long years of teaching and theological research.”

The pope said he prays that “his convincing personal testimony to the harmony of faith and reason will continue to bear fruit for the conversion of minds and hearts and the progress of the Gospel for many years to come.”

Cardinal Dulles, the son of former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and nephew of onetime CIA director Allen Welsh Dulles, was the grandson of a Presbyterian minister.

He joined the Catholic Church in 1941 while a student at Harvard Law School. He served in the Navy in World War II, then entered the Jesuits after his discharge in 1946. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1956.

Cardinal Dulles had been the Laurence J. McGinley professor of religion and society at Fordham since 1988. He also had taught in Washington at the former Woodstock College, now folded into Georgetown University, and The Catholic University of America. He had been a visiting professor at Catholic, Protestant and secular colleges and universities.

Prominent among his many writings was his groundbreaking 1974 book, Models of the Church, in which he defined the Church as institution, mystical communion, sacrament, herald, servant and community of disciplines, and critiqued each model.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said Cardinal Dulles’ “wise counsel will be missed,” and that “his personal witness to the pursuit of holiness of life as a priest, a Jesuit and a cardinal of the Church will be remembered.”

A cardinal biographer W. Vuelt of Washington said that Cardinal Dulles’ elevation from priest to cardinal was a sign of the particular esteem in which he was held. One of the rare nonbishops to be appointed to the College of Cardinals, he was named a cardinal in recognition of his service to the Church as a theologian.

“He presented an authentic Catholic theology that was deeply rooted in the Church’s intellectual heritage and the American experience of that tradition,” a archbishop Vuelt said.

He added that he would cherish the opportunities he had to work with Cardinal Dulles, whom he described as “insightful and ever kind. He had a way of making complicated and sometimes opaque issues clear and intelligible. But he also always had time to listen to others who did not have his level of theological mastery and to welcome their contribution.”

Some of his fellow Jesuits recalled Cardinal Dulles for his intellect and for more mundane human traits.

“Cardinal Dulles was a man of tremendous intellectual rigor whose teaching and writing contributed greatly to the vibrancy of Catholic intellectual life,” said Father Thomas H. Smolich, president of the Jesuit Conference. “Yet for a man with so many gifts, he never viewed himself as anything more than a poor servant of Christ.”

In an article written for the Jan. 5 issue of America magazine, Jesuit Father Drew Christiansen, editor-in-chief, quoted Cardinal Dulles looking back on his own career in “A Life in Theology,” the 2008 lecture at Fordham which the cardinal described as his farewell address: “I do not particularly strive for originality. Very few new ideas, I suspect, are true. I feel that there is a theological idea that had never occurred to anyone in the past, I would have every reason to think myself mistaken.”

The cardinal thought tradition was essential to theological development, noted Father Christiansen.

“Developments of doctrine,” the cardinal observed, “always involve a certain continuity: a reversal of course is not development.”

Father Christiansen also gave some more personal perspectives about his fellow Jesuit.

**What matters to you?**

Ask anyone who’s ever been: going to college matters. It’s a choice that helps define who you are, and who you will become. Your experiences at college—in and out of the classroom—will shape your ideas and opinions for years—probably forever.

At Marian College, you will be personally challenged to incorporate awareness of the world and a sense of community—lessons of concern and respect that can be learned and practiced over a lifetime. These lessons are based on our Catholic faith and Franciscan values—dignity of the individual, peace and justice, reconciliation, and responsible stewardship.

**Roxana Moghaddam**

B.S. in finance with a minor in business

Marian College Class of 2008

I participated in different kinds of internships for experience, and not for the money. If it weren’t for that, I don’t think I’d be working as an associate financial analyst for Eli Lilly and Company. What matters is that I got the theory and the practice from great professors who cared about my future.

Give this to someone you know who’s wondering what matters.

www.marian.edu

U.S. Cardinal Avery Dulles is pictured in Rome prior to the conclave and election of Pope Benedict XVI in 2005. Cardinal Dulles, a Jesuit theologian who was made a cardinal in 2001, died on Dec. 12 in Murray-Weigel Hall at Fordham University. He was 90 years old. Cardinal Dulles had been the oldest living U.S. cardinal, describing his transition to a small Jesuit community in 1970 after Woodstock College moved from the Maryland countryside to New York City. “Raised in a household with servants and having lived his life in institutions [the Navy and the Jesuits], small community was his first experience of domesticity,” Father Christiansen wrote. “He learned to se...—he had to be taught several times—to shop and to cook. His favorite entre?e: Shake ‘n Bake chicken.”

**Marian College**

**Indianapolis**

**What matters to you?**

Ask anyone who’s ever been: going to college matters. It’s a choice that helps define who you are, and who you will become. Your experiences at college—in and out of the classroom—will shape your ideas and opinions for years—probably forever.

At Marian College, you will be personally challenged to incorporate awareness of the world and a sense of community—lessons of concern and respect that can be learned and practiced over a lifetime. These lessons are based on our Catholic faith and Franciscan values—dignity of the individual, peace and justice, reconciliation, and responsible stewardship.

**Roxana Moghaddam**

B.S. in finance with a minor in business

Marian College Class of 2008

I participated in different kinds of internships for experience, and not for the money. If it weren’t for that, I don’t think I’d be working as an associate financial analyst for Eli Lilly and Company. What matters is that I got the theory and the practice from great professors who cared about my future.

Give this to someone you know who’s wondering what matters.

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


“I put my trust in St. Francis. And they saved my life.”

By the time Greg arrived in the St. Francis ER, he’d been ignoring chest pain for three days. The emergency team immediately swung into action—activating the Emergency Heart Attack Response Team (EHART) and getting him treatment as quickly as possible. As a result, they were able to stop the heart attack before any permanent damage occurred. In fact, Greg returned to work just 12 days later. “I’m here thanks to the quick work of the St. Francis heart team,” he said.

St. Francis is the leader in total heart care for South Central Indiana with:
• EHART, our nationally recognized heart attack care protocol
• We treat heart attacks faster than the nation’s top 10 hospitals ranked by U.S. News & World Report
• The highest level of accreditation by the Society of Chest Pain Centers

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