**Man in black—times two**

By John Shaughnessy

The eyes of 8-year-old Lauren Graves are almost as wide as her smile when she recalls the first time she saw Father Guy Roberts walk into St. Joan of Arc School in Indianapolis to give a demonstration in tae kwon do.

Lauren had been used to seeing the parish priest celebrate the school’s Masses, but this time he was barefoot, wearing a white martial arts uniform and carrying several wooden boards.

Then he kicked one of the boards and shattered it, drawing stunned “Did you see that?! I can’t believe I just saw that!” looks from Lauren and other St. Joan of Arc students.

“I thought it was really cool, and I was wowed at the same time,” Lauren recalls. “I couldn’t believe Father Guy was up there breaking boards. That was cool, and I wanted to do it.”

As Father Guy—the priest who wears black and has a black belt in tae kwon do—broke the boards, he also began to build a different bond with the students at St. Joan of Arc. For the past two years, he has provided after-school lessons in the martial art to interested students, a connection that has helped to increase the respect, self-discipline and focus of many of the children who participate in the program.

“I notice that students want to stay in the program, and they know they have to do well in school to stay in the program,” says Mary Pat Sharpe, the principal of St. Joan of Arc School. “He has high expectations for the kids when they’re in his class and when they’re in school. For those students who have been doing it for a couple of years, you can see the growth in them. It carries over into the classroom.”

Even more important to the students, the Monday and Wednesday afternoon lessons are fun, says 8-year-old Mavee Flynn.

“You don’t have to be sitting at home watching TV,” says Mavee, a third-grade student who has earned an orange belt, signifying the third level of achievement in tae kwon do. “It’s relaxing. It calms down your body. You don’t have to think about your school work.”

**Father Guy Roberts uses tae kwon do to build unusual bond with students**

**Archdiocesan youths to take part in March for Life**

By Mary Ann Wyand

The march is particularly timely this year because the nation’s 44th president has pledged his support for the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), which would repeal legal restrictions on abortion and could be scheduled for a vote in Congress this year.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will join about 865 high school youths, young adults and adult chaplains from the archdiocese—including seven priests and 18 seminarians—on the pro-life pilgrimage to the nation’s capital.

“Life is Worth Living … and Defending” is the theme of the 2009 archdiocesan pilgrimage for life. Servants of the Gospel of Life Sister Diane Carollo, director of the archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry, said 320 teenagers and chaplains from central and southern Indiana will depart on six buses from Indianapolis, Lawrenceburg and Richmond on Jan. 20 to participate in the archdiocesan pilgrimage for life.

Nonprofits embark on new ways to raise funds during latest recession

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The new faces coming through the doors at Catholic Urban Programs in East St. Louis, Ill., tell Joseph Hubbard it’s bad out there.

People in their 40s, 50s and 60s—those who held working-class jobs that kept the economy going—are showing up for food, clothing and help with paying their heating bill in greater numbers than ever for the program, which is operated by the Diocese of Belleville, Ill.

While the program has been carrying out the corporal works of mercy for 37 years, Hubbard and his staff are scrambling to meet new and growing needs.

“This is the worst economy since Herbert Hoover. We went through the recession in the 1970s and the ’80s, and this is the worst,” said Hubbard, who founded Catholic Urban Programs in 1971 and has been working with East St. Louis’ poor for nearly 47 years.

Despite the ballooning need, the program has seen cuts in funding from traditionally reliable sources, such as religious communities and foundations. Hubbard said he has had to spend more time raising funds from new benefactors, including a broader, more diverse group of individual donors.

The program’s experience parallels those of organizations across the country as foundations and religious communities have reduced or even eliminated grants and gifts to long-standing programs. With financial portfolio losses ranging from 30 percent to 60 percent in 2008, many funding agencies have been forced to scale back their giving programs to protect their own financial future.

“It’ll be a tight year for [funding agencies],” said Frank J. Butler, president of the Washington-based Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities, or FADICA, an association of 50 private foundations and charitable agencies.

“They’re all trying to live up to the commitments they’ve made. They’re struggling like the average person would.”

Butler said local nonprofit agencies will face more competition from each other for funding and that they will be required more than ever to demonstrate that they “have the very best practices in the way they operate.

“If you have a good charity and it’s run well, you shouldn’t be that worried,” he said.

**Archdiocesan pilgrims will wear shirts featuring this logo on the back.**

**Vol. XLIX, No. 14** 75¢
TAE KWON DO

continued from page 1

Besides, she gets to break wooden boards. She smiles as she remembers the first time she saw Father Roberts splint a board. “I was very, very surprised.” It’s almost as surprising as the path that led the Baptist-raised Father Roberts to become a Catholic and then a priest, a role he just happened to become initially involved in talk kwon do as a child because of the 1970s’ television show Kung Fu starring David Carradine. “I started when I was 8,” says Father Guy, now 41. “I was always reserved. From watching the television show, my parents thought it would be good for exercise and confidence. I was always a spiritual kid, and once I started I saw something spiritual in the martial arts. Kung fu was started by [Buddhist] monks.”

Yet just a year after he started the sport, he was seriously injured as a passenger in a pickup truck that was struck by a train near his family’s home in Brownsburg. Both his legs and ankles were broken in the crash.

He drifted away from the martial arts, but his interest in developing his spirituality continued to grow through the years. Even though he was raised as a Baptist, he started developing his spirituality continued to grow through the years. Even though he was raised as a Baptist, he started. From watching the television show, my parents thought it would be good for exercise and confidence. I was always a spiritual kid, and once I started I saw something spiritual in the martial arts. Kung fu was started by [Buddhist] monks.”

“I didn’t want to settle for anything less,” Father Roberts says. “It was essentially my search for the truth. I’m not one to settle. I went back to school and got my master’s degree.”

Meanwhile, at Catholic Charities USA, the country’s economic woes have had a positive impact on donations. Patricia Hvidston, senior director of development, said the agency took in slightly more in 2008 than in 2007. “The data is showing we have more donors than in ’07, and the average gift is down just a little bit. To me that says everybody in this country is hurting, but our donors really understand with compassion that there are others hurting even more,” she said.

Emphasizing the agency’s Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America on its Web site and other new media solicitation methods, Catholic Charities has been able to reach new audiences, Hvidston said. By including touching images of poverty on the Catholic Charities’ Web site, Hvidston said the agency has been able to show how much greater a need exists today than in the recent past.

Hvidston also expects that nonprofits in all areas will have to look at ways to get their message to new audiences. “There’s going to be an opportunity in this recession for groups who are willing to collaborate to value their common purposes and see how they can use resources, energy, spheres of influence to accomplish more” with less money, she said.

The Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities in Wilmington, Del., has seen the value of its portfolio decline under asks.”

Emphasizing the agency’s Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America on its Web site and other new media solicitation methods, Catholic Charities has been able to reach new audiences, Hvidston said. By including touching images of poverty on the Catholic Charities’ Web site, Hvidston said the agency has been able to show how much greater a need exists today than in the recent past.

Hvidston also expects that nonprofits in all areas will have to look at ways to get their message to new audiences. “There’s going to be an opportunity in this recession for groups who are willing to collaborate to value their common purposes and see how they can use resources, energy, spheres of influence to accomplish more” with less money, she said.
Visitor offered prayers despite "deeply ingrained" wounds of the past

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, visited Mass at St. Just in Rafidia, outside the West Bank city of Nablus, on Jan. 11. During his visit to the Holy Land, Bishop Kicanas offered prayers for the victims of violence, especially for those who are suffering and experiencing so much fear in Gaza. An Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, which began on Dec. 27, was aimed at ending Hamas rocket strikes on Israeli.

The bishop saw the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and witnessed the lines of Palestinian cars waiting to go through the checkpoint. He told Catholic News Service, "There is nothing more important than intercessory prayer, and our prayers go especially for those who are suffering and experiencing so much fear in Gaza." Bishop Kicanas, who was in the Holy Land as part of the Episcopal Conferences in Support of the Church of the Holy Land, said, "We have come here at a troubled time with the situation of violence in Gaza so clearly on the minds of people resurrecting the history of hurts and struggles of Palestinian and Israeli existence." He added that "We love you as sisters and brothers. We share our faith together and that faith brings us great hope for peace and security for all people."

Israel launched its aerial attacks on Dec. 27 to stop an eight-year-long campaign of rocket attacks into Israeli border towns by the Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza. Demonstrators and Church and political leaders around the world have called for a cease-fire and an end to the violence as civilians have been killed and many more are in desperate need of humanitarian aid. On Jan. 9, an Israeli airstrike destroyed a clinic in Gaza run by Caritas Jerusalem, a local Catholic aid agency.

During his 9 session of the U.N. Human Rights Council discussing the situation, a bishop in the Holy Land petitioned, "We need everyone to come see firsthand. You learn much seeing things on the ground can one begin to understand the complexity of the situation."

Bishop Kicanas, who has visited the Holy Land on six previous occasions, noted that only by actually intervening actively to stop the bloodshed, provide access for emergency humanitarian assistance and end all forms of confrontation. He said, "It is evident that the warring parties are not able to exit from this vicious circle of violence without the help of the international community and therefore fulfill its responsibilities, intervene actively to stop the bloodshed, provide access for emergency humanitarian assistance and end all forms of confrontation.

Hilda Shyradeh, 58, described the Christian community in Nablus as "strong like in" the Bethlehem area. "The Islamic world here is very strong. A ny Christian who wants to do something here in Nablus, they don't have an opportunity. Sometimes we feel encircled," she said. "Our Christian community is not strong like in" the Bethlehem area. "Our people areANSWERS TO THE CRITERION'S QUESTION..."
Our new president and abortion

Two important events will take place next week.

On Tuesday, history will be made when Barack Obama is inaugurated as the 44th president of the United States. Two days later, pro-life advocates will again march in Washington, D.C., on the 38th anniversary of the Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in this country.

There is confusion, mainly because President-elect Obama has promised pro-abortion forces that he will liberalize restrictions on abortion. But, in fact, said that he will sign the Freedom ofChoice Act (FOCA) if it should pass Congress and reach his desk.

However, Obama has also said that he intends to unite this country, to bring us together and to overcome our differences.

Carrying through with his promises to the pro-abortion lobby would do just the opposite. We must convince him that his determination to unite us is more important than making it easier to kill defenseless children in the womb.

Who can convince him of that? Pro-Life Democrats are the most likely. If there was ever a time when they should step up, it is now.

People who voted for him should let him know that they didn’t do it because of his stand on abortion, but rather for other reasons, including his pledge to unite us.

They could also remind him that he said that he would find ways to reduce abortions, although he wouldn’t outlaw them. He said during his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, “We may not agree on everything, but we can agree on something—unite us.

We must again encourage pro-life members of Congress, both Democrat and Republican, to make sure it doesn’t pass this year, either. If President-elect Obama won’t have a chance to keep his pledge to Planned Parenthood to sign the bill.

With the Democrats in control of the executive and legislative branches of government, pro-life Democratic congressmen and senators will have to buck the leaders of their party. This is true not only regarding FOCA, but also on other issues that are sure to arise, as, for example, attempts to repeal the Hyde Amendment which prohibits the use of federal funds to pay for abortions.

It will undoubtedly be true, too, regarding other pro-life issues, such as the use of federal funds for stem-cell research that requires the destruction of human embryos. This past December, the Vatican reemphasized the Catholic Church’s teachings on this subject when it issued a 32-page instruction titled “Dignitas Personae” (“The Dignity of a Person”).

The instruction also rejected in vitro fertilization, human cloning, surrogate motherhood and nontherapeutic experiments with human embryos.

Sadly, it appears that most people in America see little regard for the sacredness of human embryos. Biology, not the Catholic faith, tells us that human life begins when a human sperm unites with a human egg at the time of fertilization, but there seems to be no political will to protect that human life.

As our new president takes his oath of office next Tuesday, we encourage all citizens to pray for him.

We hope that the next four years won’t be a contest of wills between the president and those who support the right to life of every person from conception to natural death.

There are many other issues which we can agree with and support his positions. But when it comes to the sanctity of life, we need to unequivocally continue to stand up for it.

—John F. Fink

Looking Around/ Fr. William J. Byron, S.J.

Finding work without losing heart during the economic downturn

If during the current economic downturn you are a displaced white-collar worker, you need a job-search strategy. It begins with you and ultimately depends on you.

You will need help from others, and the best advice you are going to hear is “network, network, network!”

But you will have to get yourself in gear to get back to work. Don’t lose yourself in self-pity and don’t give in to discouragement.

Blue-collar workers need help too, but willed white- and pink-collars are on my mind at the moment.

There are many good books that can help. I wrote one in 1995. You can download it free from the Web site of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Washington at www.holytrinitydc.org.

Get the 32-page booklet titled “Finding Work Without Losing Heart.” You now have to think and act strategically.

The first step is to write a personal statement of who you are and then write a description of what you want to do. These are to be sure-footed steps, they will surely take time.

Reflection on who you are will be difficult if you believe the great American secular heresy: What you do is what you are. The unfortunate conclusion drawn from that proposition by many who lose their jobs is that “doing nothing” means you are nothing (and the whole world now knows it!)

If you find it difficult to reduce to a sentence or a statement of who you really are without reference to what you do, have done or may do, try writing a more extensive “work biography,” a prospective employer would be interested in knowing about the work you have done. But when you have that before you, cut out of it the values that are really yours, the principles that are yours wherever you may be, and the wisdom you have gained that can now serve as a window on your inner self.

If your mission statement emerges from within, it can shorn up your own heart for the hard work of realizing your vision. It may also capture the interest of someone who could hire you according to your plan.

A successful job-seeker once bemoaned, “People fail to find work because they try to ‘sell’ their experiences and accomplishments without translating these personal assets into the ‘value added’ the prospective employer would gain by hiring them.

From the ashes of your own discontent, confusion, anger and injured pride, you now have to build your reconnection strategy.

You know that step one is self-discovery, and step two is drawing up your mission statement. All the steps that follow need not fall in ordered sequence; clever job-seekers will suggest different steps at different times.

A job search does not mean that you are starting all over again. You simply are changing.

To live is to change. Do you, however, have something to offer the business of you that requires immediate attention?

Consider yourself an author. The strategic plan is your outline. Get it down on paper. Don’t succumb to writer’s block. Start writing now with the unshakable conviction that there is someone somewhere who is interested in what you have to say, but ready and willing to buy your book.

(Jesuit Father William J. Byron is university professor and business society at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. E-mail him at wbyron@sju.edu)
**Seeking the Face of the Lord**

**Pray and urge Congress to reject new pro-abortion legislation**

Time of year, I experience a profound sense of foreboding as once more we observe the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion on demand. It marks a major and tragic defeat in our culture. We are not as civilized as we claim to be.

Some people don’t want to hear anything about it. Inevitably, there will be a charge that is too easily levied, namely, that the Church makes this a “single issue” and ignores other serious life issues. When leveled against the teaching of the Church, this charge is unfair because it is grossly inaccurate. Yes, there is a hierarchy in the morality of human life issues. All are important, but that does not mean that all are of equal weight.

The morality of terminating voiceless human life in the womb of a mother and the termination of the life of elderly or otherwise disabled people—euthanasia—take priority over the death penalty or war or the plight of poor people.

All of these are grave life issues that ultimately find themselves grounded in the protection and fostering of the dignity of all human life, of every human person.

The communications of the pro-abortion movement has been framed in the language of free choice. Unfortunately, the language of “choice” and “rights” cloud the real issue and the authentic notion of freedom. We are not free to do what we want, but we are free to choose what is right.

In effect, that would spell the demise of Catholic health care institutions because we would never provide abortion services on demand. It is entirely unconscionable that our Catholic doctors, nurses and other health care professionals be placed in an untenable position in the face of grave moral activities.

I can’t stress enough the gravity of the effects that would result if FOCA were enacted.

A mong other things, our tax dollars would be used to fund abortions. The effects of FOCA go beyond just Catholic moral teaching and practice. While some pundits and pro-abortion folks try to frame the abortion issue as a Catholic issue, we need to be alert that protection of innocent human life is not of its nature a Catholic agenda.

I urge all of us to pray fervently that the intended FOCA legislation be set aside by the incoming Congress. I pray that there not be an act for President-elect Obama to sign into law.

Nevertheless, so that we do not find ourselves in a position of reacting to FOCA or a similar act of Congress after the fact, I urge all of us to participate in the postcard campaign being staged by our U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and managed by our respective diocesan and archdiocesan pro-life offices.

Our elected representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate need to hear from us. They need to hear and understand our concern for the moral gravity and the consequences of the situation from us, their constituents.

Sadly, beginning last October, the economic crisis dominated the political campaign and, in effect, removed the pro-life issues from public discourse.

We are all the more responsible for continuing the public dialogue in order to raise the conscience of the nation concerning the seriousness of the human life issues.

A civilized nation should not expect less.

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

**Archbishop Buechlein’s Prayer List**

Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

**Archbishop Buechlein’s intentions for vocations for January**

Parents: that they may remain faithful to their vocations and encourage their children to consider God’s call to service in the Church, especially as priests and religious.

Recen e insten al Congreso a rechazar la nueva legislación en favor del aborto

En esta época del año me embara una profunda tristeza al comprobar que no se respeten ciertos derechos que están en juego en el contexto de la legislación que da el derecho a elegir el aborto, resalta claro que el derecho de la vida humana ya concedida no puede ser abolido.

Desafortunadamente, los legisladores de nuestro país y el presidente electo Barack Obama, quizás estén dispuestos a sancionar a quienes se propongan vivir de manera que se tratara de la vida humana. No tenemos la libertad para elegir hacer algo que constituye objetivamente un mal moral.

No podemos enfatizar lo suficiente la gravedad de los efectos que acarrearía la promulgación de FOCA.

Entre otras cosas, el dinero proveniente de nuestros impuestos se utilizaría para costear abortos. Los efectos de FOCA van más allá de las simples enseñanzas y prácticas morales del catolicismo. Si bien algunos expertos y defensores del aborto tratan de encasillar la cuestión del aborto como una cuestión individual, deben reconocer que la protección de una vida humana inocente es, en sí misma, un plan católico. Es un plan de la naturaleza humana.

Los exhorto a todos a que recemos fervientemente para que el nuevo Congreso en Washington dele a un lado la legislación FOCA y que el presidente electo Obama no realicen un acto para declararla válida.

Además, a fin de que nos encontremos reconociendo con FOCA si cualquier otro acto similar del Congreso después de haber sido declarado, los insto a participar en la campaña de postales llevada a cabo por nuestra Conferencia de Discípulos Católicos de EE.UU. y administrada por nuestras respectivas diocesanas y arzobispados en todo el país.

**Nuestros representantes electos en la Cámara de Representantes de EE.UU. y el Senado de EE.UU. deben conocer nuestra opinión. Deben escuchar y entender nuestra preocupación por la gravedad moral y las consecuencias que esta situación tiene para nosotros, sus electores.**

**Tratamentemente, a partir del pasado octubre, la crisis económica se apoderó de la campaña política y, como resultado, eliminó el discurso público las cuestiones en favor de la vida.**

T enemos todavía una mayor responsabilidad de continuar el diálogo público para poder conciliar al país en cuanto a la seriedad de los temas relativos a la vida humana.

Un país civilizado no puede esperar menos.

**¿Tiene una intención que desee incluir en la lista de oración del Arzobispo Buechlein?**

Puede enviar su correspondencia a:

Lis de oración del Arzobispo Buechlein

A quick access of Indianapolis

1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

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

**La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en enero**

Padres: Que ellos puedan permanecer fieles a su vocación y puedan alentar a sus hijos a considerar la llamada de Dios para servir en la iglesia, especialmente como sacerdotes y gente religiosa.
Events Calendar

January 16-17
Holy Family Parish, 129 Daisy Lane, New Albany, Ky.
Holy Family Theater, “Be Our Guest.” 7:30 p.m., $5 adult, $3 children. Information: 812-948-2820 or tempk@stjohnbat.net.

January 17
St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Helpers of God’s Precious Infants Pro-Life Mass, Father Eric Johnson, celebrant, 8:30 a.m., followed by rosary outside abortion clinic and Benediction at church. Information: Archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry, 317-236-1569 or 800-382-8836, ext. 1569.

January 18

January 20
St. Pius X School, 7200 Sarto Drive, Indianapolis. Open house, 6:30-8 p.m. Information: 317-255-4534.

January 21
St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 600 W. 34th St., Indianapolis. “English as a Second Language,” 8:45-10:30 a.m., $20 for 12-week session. Information: 317-293-7014, ext. 27, or bhall@stgabrielindy.org.

January 23
Northside Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 E. 73rd St., Indianapolis. Catholic Business Exchange, Mass, 6:30 a.m., followed by buffet breakfast, David Garsage, president and chief belief officer. Camp David, L.L.C., presenter, $14 member, $20 non-member. Information and registration: 317-786-4013 or spasotti@archindy.org.

January 24

February 6-7

February 9

School mural
Above, Leslie Nickels, from left, and Hannah Brown, both eighth graders at St. Michael School in Greenfield, and Catherine Schulte, a sixth grader at the school, work last August on a mural in the St. Michael Parish Life Center. Leslie, Hannah and Catherine are members of St. Michael Parish.

Left, the mural was blessed and dedicated by Benedictine Father Severin Nischak at St. Michael Parish in Greenfield on Dec. 5. The mural depicts the school’s coat of arms flanked by crusaders, which are the school’s mascot. On either side of the coat of arms are the words “Christ First” and, in Latin, “Christus Primus,” which signifies the priority on Christ in the parish and school.

Retreats and Programs

January 17

Monastery Immaculate Conception, Kordes Center, 841 E. 14th St., Ferdinand, Ind. (Evansville Diocese). “Saturday Morning at the Dome–Ferdinand, Ind. (Evansville Diocese). Monastery Immaculate Conception, Franciscan Sister Kathleen Mollo, presenters, “Jeanne Hunt and Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. January 17 7 p.m. Information: 317-784-5454 or mcsheehan@comcast.net.

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. “A Church to Believe In,” 9-11:30 a.m., free-will offering. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgosf.com.


January 25
Holy Name of Jesus Church, 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. Mass of installation for Father Stanley Pondo as pastor, 9 a.m., reception following. Mass information: 317-784-5454 or kdavis@holyname.cc.

Indiana War Memorial, auditorium, 431 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. “Right To Life of Indianapolis, memorial service for the unborn, followed by memorial walk to Monument Circle, 3-4 p.m. Information: 317-585-5126.

Our Lady of Lourdes School, 305, South Dr., Indianapolis. Open house, 1 p.m., 7-8 p.m. Information: 317-357-3316.

January 27
St. Nicholas Church, 4661 E. St. Nicholas Drive, Sunman. Pro-Life Mass, presentation and discussion following Mass. 7 p.m. Information: 812-623-8007.

VIPS

Conventional Franciscan Father Basil Heiser of Mount St. Francis celebrated his 100th birthday in Rome, where he has lived for 49 years. A native of Terre Haute, Father Basil was baptized at St. Benedict Church. Among his many assignments, Father Basil was rector of Assumption Seminary in Chaska, Minn. In 1984, he was elected minister provincial of the Province of Our Lady of Conservation. He served in this position until his election as minister general of the worldwide Conventional Franciscan Order in 1960.

Spell Bowl champions
Members of the Spell Bowl team of St. Gabriel School in Connersville pose for a picture last November at their southeastern Indiana school. The team, which is made up of students from grades four through six, was the area champion for Class 2 in a competition held on Nov. 20 in Rushville. In statewide tallies, they placed fourth out of 113 Class 2 schools and 18th out of 400 schools competing overall. The team members are, from left, first row, Matthew Watkins, Emily Stine and Alec Secrest; second row, Andrew Stine, Hunter Shelton, Casey Fohl, Maddy Rose and team coach Lisa Hauger; and third row, Lindsey Hackleman, Samantha Fain, Kramer Moriarty and Olivia Frazee.
Cardinal Pio Laghi, former nuncio to U.S., dies at 86

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Italian Cardinal Pio Laghi, a former Vatican nuncio to the United States who tried to convince President George W. Bush not to invade Iraq in 2003, died on Jan. 10 at the age of 86.

Cardinal Laghi had been suffering from a blood disorder, but told a conference just before Christmas that he thought the worst had passed. On that occasion, speaking by webcam from his Vatican apartment, he again expressed his deep disappointment that Bush did not heed Pope John Paul II’s warnings about the possible consequences of the war in Iraq.

Those possibilities, the cardinal said, have now become realities: a drawn-out war, massive casualties, new challenges surrounding religious and ethnic groups, and greater Muslim hostility toward Christians.

Pope John Paul had sent Cardinal Laghi to Washington as his personal envoy to meet with Bush and to try to persuade him to avoid military action in Iraq. The cardinal later said he felt Bush and his aides had already made up their minds to invade the country and did not seem willing to listen to more input.

At the Dec. 22 conference on the future of the U.S.-Vatican relationship, Cardinal Laghi said the Vatican was concerned about President-elect Barack Obama’s positions on the family and on the unborn, but looked forward with hope to his presidency fostering more attention to the poor and easing violence around the globe.

He noted the “huge exodus” of Christians from Iraq and the “real persecution” of those who have remained in the country, and said it would not have occurred if the war had been avoided.

In a telegram on Jan. 12 offering his condolences to the cardinal’s nieces and nephews, Pope Benedict XVI praised the cardinal for “long and generous service to the Holy See, particularly as papal representative in various countries and as prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education.”

In a statement released by the White House on Jan. 11, Bush offered his condolences to Pope Benedict and to all Catholics.

“Cardinal Laghi was a friend who, in his more than 60 years of service to the Catholic Church, worked tirelessly for peace and justice in our world,” Bush said.

“Cardinal Laghi always strove to unite people of all religions and promote reconciliation, religious freedom and tolerance.”

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, dean of the College of Cardinals, was scheduled to preside over the cardinal’s funeral Mass on Jan. 13 in St. Peter’s Basilica.

Cardinal Laghi’s death leaves the College of Cardinals with 190 members, 116 of whom are under age 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a papal conclave.

Cardinal Laghi was a seasoned Vatican diplomat who served as an apostolic nuncio for 17 years in the United States, first as an assistant to papal representatives in the late 1950s, then as the Vatican representative. When the Vatican and the United States established full diplomatic relations in 1984, he was named the first apostolic nuncio.

In 1990, Pope John Paul named him head of the Congregation for Catholic Education, a position he held until his retirement in 1999.

But even in retirement, he continued serving as Pope John Paul’s personal envoy to troubled parts of the globe.

After renewed tensions between Israelis and Palestinians erupted in late 2000, Pope John Paul sent the cardinal to the Holy Land to try to convince Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to halt the violence and return to negotiations.

The Italian cardinal was known as an urban diplomat with a ready wit who was fluent in English, Spanish and French, in addition to his native Italian. He was an avid player of racquetball, squash and tennis, which he reportedly used to play with President George H.W. Bush.

He entered the Vatican diplomatic service in 1932, six years after he was ordained a priest, and was named apostolic delegate in the United States in December 1980. During his years in Washington, he was also the Holy See’s permanent observer to the Organization of American States.

He played a mediating role in a number of difficult issues in the U.S. Church, including widely publicized tensions between U.S. bishops and the Vatican in the mid-1980s, the Vatican’s 1986 attempt to strip Seattle Archbishop Raymond E. Hunthausen of some areas of pastoral authority, and a two-year controversy surrounding a group of nurses who signed an aid on abortion in The New York Times and were ordered by the Vatican to recant.

Pope John Paul named him to the College of Cardinals in 1991.

Notre Dame professor instrumental in Catholic-Jewish relations dies

WASHINGTON (CNS)—U.S. Catholic leaders are mourning the loss of Rabbi Michael Alan Signer, an important figure in Jewish-Catholic relations and a professor at the University of Notre Dame, who died on Jan. 10 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Rabbi Signer was the Abrams professor of Jewish thought and culture and director of Notre Dame’s Holocaust Project, whose research focused on various aspects of Jewish-Christian relations, Michael Garvey, a professor at the Indiana University, told Catholic News Service on Jan. 12.

“I would say his influence on Catholic-Jewish relations in the United States was of great importance,” said Father James Massa, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

“As a scholar of ancient Jewish texts and as a teacher for a generation of students at Notre Dame, Michael brought a wealth of erudition and critical insight to the Catholic Church’s dialogue with Judaism.”

Before joining the faculty at Notre Dame in 1992, Rabbi Signer was a professor of Jewish history from 1974 to 1991 at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles, where he taught courses in Jewish history, Jewish liturgy and Jewish biblical and commentaries, Garvey said.

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

At 33 years old, Chris knew he would eventually need surgery to replace a calcified heart valve. However, he had no idea how urgent it was until his wife encouraged him to attend an Ask the Doc program and to have a cardiac screening, sponsored by the St. Francis Heart Center.

“Your symptoms begin so gradually, you think what you are feeling is normal,” he said. With only a small incision, Chris was able to make a quick recovery. Thanks to the work of the heart team at St. Francis, Chris can rest assured he will be there to watch his three small children grow up.

“I told them Daddy’s heart had a bad boom-boom before, and has a good boom-boom now.”

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

• Nationally renowned heart surgeons and cardiologists that treat high-risk, complex cases
• The most advanced and innovative repair techniques that set new standards for heart valve treatment
• The Midwest Heart Valve Center—the only dedicated heart valve center in Indiana

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

Chris, heart valve replacement patient

Chris participated in the first-of-its-kind innovative research study, which may allow more patients to avoid long-term use of blood thinners.
Father Rick Nagel will join the archdiocesan pilgrimage group for the National Mass for Life at 7 p.m. on Jan. 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and a 9:30 a.m. Mass on Jan. 22 in the crypt church of the basilica before participating in the March for Life. Sister Diane said Father Jim Heyd, formerly associated with Priests for Life and now Cardinal Francis George’s liaison to the pro-life movement in the Archdiocese of Chicago, will join six priests and a lay volunteer from central and southern Indiana as pilgrimage leaders on the archdiocesan buses.

"It is a spiritual pilgrimage and I have invited Father Heyd to participate as a pilgrim leader," Sister Diane said, to help motivate and inspire the young people who are participating in the March and Rally for Life. "Joining Father Heyd on the pilgrimage are Fathers Robert Robeson, Rick Nagel, Todd Bibe, Thomas Kovatch, Aaron Jenkins, Lucas Amandus of Aria, Uganda, and Franciscans of the immaculate Father act on Mary Chapin of Bloomington. The high school youths will begin the pro-life pilgrimage at 8 a.m. Mass at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 20 then travel by bus overnight to the nation’s capital. "The pilgrimage is rooted in prayer and the Eucharist," Sister Diane said. "The youths will pray the rosary on the buses at 8 p.m. each night, and we encourage their families to pray at the same time. We will also show special videos during the bus trip which are oriented to religious formation and religious values."

During the pilgrimage, the high school youths will also travel to Arlington National Cemetery on Jan. 21 for a prayer service, and several teenagers will lay a pro-life wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during the formal military ceremony. "A loaf on Jan. 21, the teenagers will have time to visit the Smithsonian A Ir and Space Museum near the U.S. Capitol. A flip participating in the National Mass for Life on Jan. 21 in the basilica, they will spend the night at the Dufour Center Gymnasium at The Catholic University of America. This year marks the third time that the archdiocesan pilgrims have gathered for a pro-life Mass in the crypt church at the basilica before the Jan. 22 march. A archbishop Buechlein will be the principal celebrant for that Mass. "Those participating in the March for Life from the archdiocese realize that the Freedom of Choice Act would silence Christians and alienate them from the American political process," Sister Diane said. "Let us all pray that President-elect Obama, if he insists on the political demand will wake up to the reality that the majority of Americans oppose legalized abortion."

"Since Roe v. Wade was legalized in 1973, more than 50 million unborn children have been destroyed," she said, "and a subculture of post-abortion providers who suffer from post-abortion syndrome has been created.""
Pope: World's future depends on ethical solutions to poverty, war

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Saying the future of the world at stake, Pope Benedict XVI called for major new efforts to reduce global poverty, and regional conflicts and restore ethics to financial systems.

In an annual address to the diplomatic corps at the Vatican on Jan. 18, the pope also appealed on behalf of Christian minorities in places like Iraq and India, urging governments to respond firmly to a recent increase in anti-Christian violence and discrimination.

At his opening speech in the ornate Sala Regia, the 81-year-old pontiff greeted the diplomats one by one and posed for group pictures. Accompanying the representations was the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Mary Ann Glendon, who is laying down her post on Jan. 19.

The pope’s speech, sometimes called his “state of the world” address, reviewed developments on several continents, from the refugee crisis in central Africa to the recent military offensive in the Gaza Strip. The pope devoted territory attacks that have “sown death and destruction” in countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Algeria, and found hopeful signs in places like the Philippines, where the government and rebels had opened new peace negotiations.

Taking up the theme of his recent World Peace Day message, he told the diplomats that “to build a just and peaceful world, we must give new hope to the poor.” In the current “sensitive phase of the history of humanity,” he said, ethical principles are crucial to improving the condition of millions of people living in precarious situations.

“How can we not think of so many individuals and families hard pressed by the difficulties and uncertainties which the current financial and economic crisis has provoked on a global scale?” he asked. He said that the number of people is increasing even within rich countries.

“How can we not mention the food crisis and global warming, which make it even more difficult for those living in some of the poorest parts of the planet to have access to nutrition and water?” he said.

The pope called for an effective strategy to fight hunger and poverty, noting that local agricultural development, along with a reduction in military spending, which he said could amount to several billion dollars away from development projects. Rebuilding economic confidence, he said, will require the kind of fairness based on human dignity—a task that is demanding, but not impossible.

“This way more than in the past, our future is at stake, as well as the fate of our planet and its inhabitants, especially the younger generation, who is inheriting a severely compromised economic system and social fabrics,” he said.

The pope said that the world is threatened not only by material poverty, but also moral poverty as seen in acts of discrimination and violence against thousands of Christians and Muslims over the last year. Declaring that Christianity is a “religion of freedom and peace,” he expressed his concern for Christian minorities, especially in Iraq and India, where attacks on Church communities have worsened in recent months.

The pope urged civil and political leaders to commit themselves “to ending injustice and acts of aggression directed against Christians, to repairing the damage which has been done, particularly to the places of worship and their properties, and to working by every means possible due respect for all religions, outlawing all forms of hatred and discrimination.”

The pope said it was particularly important that countries in central Asia protect religious freedom with legislation in accordance with international norms. But he said he was also concerned about West African countries concerning with respect for religious freedom or hostility against Christians would not be cultivated simply because, on certain questions, “there is little or no disagreement.”

Turning his attention to the Middle East, Pope Benedict appealed for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza and the resumption of negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis, with the support of the international community. The current violence, he said, provoked “immense damage and suffering for the civilian population.

“Once again, I would repeat that military options are no solution and that violence, whatever its form, is always to be condemned,” he said. He said both sides should respect international law, which prohibits the use of arms and the acts of provocation.

He added that upcoming elections would have to be fair, “so that all can lead their people to reconciliation. Israel holds elections in February, and Palestinians are expected to vote for new leadership sometime in the coming months. In a brief reference to Iraq, the pope encouraged Iraqis to “turn the page” and to rebuild their country without discrimination on the basis of race, ethnic group or religion.

He said that Iran was also important to regional and global peace, and he encouraged “tireless efforts” to negotiate a solution to the country’s nuclear program, one that satisfies Iran’s legitimate demands and the international community’s apprehensions.

The pope looked ahead to his trip to Africa in March when he will visit Cameroon and Angola, and he said he was praying that Africans could build peace by fighting moral and material poverty. He said he was especially concerned about children, many of whom have the tragic experience of being refugees in Somalia, the Darfur region of Sudan, and Congo.

There are waves of migration involving millions of persons in need of humanitarian assistance and who above all have been denied their primary rights and offended in their dignity. I ask political leaders on the national and international levels to take every measure necessary to resolve the current conflicts and to put an end to the injustices which caused them,” he said.

He told the diplomats that in Zimbabwe, which faces a cholera outbreak as well as a political and economic crisis, the situation was “critical” and demanded considerable humanitarian assistance. He noted a “glimmer of hope” brought to central Africa by a recent peace agreement in Burundi.

In Latin America, the pope urged legislation making it easier for emigrants to reunite with their families. He also highlighted the commitment of some Latin American governments in waging an uncompromising battle against the drug trade and political corruption.

He said conflicts in the Caucasus region cannot be settled by war. He called for an end to the cease-fire commitments in Georgia, and said those displaced by fighting last year should be able to return to their homes as soon as possible.

The pope concluded his talk by saying the fight against global poverty in all its forms can be inspired by Jesus and his Gospel.

“Because he is the Son of God, he tells us that fraternal solidarity between all men and women is the royal road to fighting poverty and to building peace. Pope Paul VI mirrored the teaching of Jesus Christ when he said that the future of our planet and its inhabitants, especially the younger generation, who is inheriting a severely compromised economic system and social fabrics,” he said.

The Criterion  Friday , January 16, 2009

Political, Catholic, pro-life leaders mourn death of Father Neuhaus

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Political, Catholic and pro-life leaders expressed their grief over the Jan. 8 death of Father Richard John Neuhaus, a well-known author and commentator who died in a hospital in Germany after a systemic infection, according to information posted on the Web site of First Things, an ecumenical journal he founded in the late 1980s which was published by the Institute on Religion and Public Life.

Father Neuhaus was an insprational leader, admired theologian and accomplished author who devoted his life to the service of the Almighty and to the betterment of the world, said Bush in his eulogy, in a Jan. 10 statement. “He was also a dear friend of mine,” Bush said. “I valued his wise counsel and guidance.”

Father Neuhaus, 72, was hospitalized in New York the day after Christmas with a systemic infection, according to information posted on the Web site of First Things, an ecumenical journal he founded in the late 1980s which was published by the Institute on Religion and Public Life.

A former Lutheran minister who became a Catholic priest in the 1960’s, the prolific author was diagnosed with cancer in late November.

A funeral Mass was to be celebrated for Father Neuhaus on Jan. 13 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in New York.

“The life and ministry of Father Richard John Neuhaus have had a profound influence on a generation of intellectuals and Christian believers,” said U.S. Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio. “His legacy will be one of building bridges across theological lines in the defense of life and truth. Father Neuhaus set the gold standard for ecumenical and interfaith cooperation.”

Father Neuhaus wrote several books commenting on contemporary issues and the role of the Church in society. In First Things, he regularly published long analyses on contemporary topics as diverse as theological disputes between Catholics and Protestants, abortion policies and the legacy of the Jewish Catastrophe in the 20th century.

In the late 1960s, he gained national prominence as a pro-life activist focused on the new “pro-life” movement, which he participated in. It was then that he became an outspoken advocate of “democratic capitalism” throughout the 1970s and 1980s, and in recent years compared the pro-life struggle to the 1960s civil rights movement, and said he was inspired by it.

During the 2004 presidential campaign, Father Neuhaus advocated for a campaign to peel voters away from the Democratic Party and for a church teaching on life issues.

“Father Neuhaus was a gift to us all,” said Patrick Reilly, president of the Cardinal Newman Society, a Catholic college-watchdog group based in Manassas, Va. “With his passage from this world, the Cardinal Newman Society has not only lost the passing of a heroic defender of truth, especially in higher education, but also a beloved adviser, generous supporter and dear friend.”

In a commentary published in a 1999 issue of First Things, Father Neuhaus blamed Catholic colleges’ presidents who permitted politicians that work to keep abortion legal to be the commencement speakers at graduation on all their campuses.

“While effusively affirming their devotion to their ‘Catholic identity,’ they deny it by the most egregious of actions,” he wrote in the commentary. “Being chosen as commencement speaker is as great an honor as most institutions provide. Chatter about ‘Catholic identity’ or, even more tenously, ‘education in the Jesuit tradition’ is a Jewish friend observes, comparable to advertising ‘kosher’ to hot dogs. Few things can constitute a more explicit, in-your-face denial of Catholic seriousness than the choice of pro-abortion commencement speakers.”

Public statements from American Life League president George N. Marlowe, Ethics and Public Policy president Christopher Joens, Faith and Public Life editor Joseph Bottum and several other members of the Catholic media also circled in the hours after the priest's death was announced.

“Father Neuhaus was a gift to us all,” said Patrick Reilly, president of the Cardinal Newman Society, a Catholic college-watchdog group based in Manassas, Va. “With his passage from this world, the Cardinal Newman Society has not only lost the passing of a heroic defender of truth, especially in higher education, but also a beloved adviser, generous supporter and dear friend.”

In a commentary published in a 1999 issue of First Things, Father Neuhaus blamed Catholic colleges’ presidents who permitted politicians that work to keep abortion legal to be the commencement speakers at graduation on all their campuses.

“While effusively affirming their devotion to their ‘Catholic identity,’ they deny it by the most egregious of actions,” he wrote in the commentary. “Being chosen as commencement speaker is as great an honor as most institutions provide. Chatter about ‘Catholic identity’ or, even more tenously, ‘education in the Jesuit tradition’ is a Jewish friend observes, comparable to advertising ‘kosher’ to hot dogs. Few things can constitute a more explicit, in-your-face denial of Catholic seriousness than the choice of pro-abortion commencement speakers.”

Public statements from American Life League president George N. Marlowe, Ethics and Public Policy president Christopher Joens, Faith and Public Life editor Joseph Bottum and several other members of the Catholic media also circled in the hours after the priest's death was announced.

“Father Neuhaus was a gift to us all,” said Patrick Reilly, president of the Cardinal Newman Society, a Catholic college-watchdog group based in Manassas, Va. “With his passage from this world, the Cardinal Newman Society has not only lost the passing of a heroic defender of truth, especially in higher education, but also a beloved adviser, generous supporter and dear friend.”

In a commentary published in a 1999 issue of First Things, Father Neuhaus blamed Catholic colleges’ presidents who permitted politicians that work to keep abortion legal to be the commencement speakers at graduation on all their campuses.

“While effusively affirming their devotion to their ‘Catholic identity,’ they deny it by the most egregious of actions,” he wrote in the commentary. “Being chosen as commencement speaker is as great an honor as most institutions provide. Chatter about ‘Catholic identity’ or, even more tenously, ‘education in the Jesuit tradition’ is a Jewish friend observes, comparable to advertising ‘kosher’ to hot dogs. Few things can constitute a more explicit, in-your-face denial of Catholic seriousness than the choice of pro-abortion commencement speakers.”

Public statements from American Life League president George N. Marlowe, Ethics and Public Policy president Christopher Joens, Faith and Public Life editor Joseph Bottum and several other members of the Catholic media also circled in the hours after the priest's death was announced.
The Catholic Conference brings a pro-family agenda to the statehouse.

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

A new year brings hope and challenges, especially for those heading back to the state Capitol, including a re-energized Gov. Mitch Daniels, a new group of 150 state lawmakers, 33 of whom are Catholic, and the ever-present Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC).

Each has goals they wish to accomplish; yet together, the 150 members of the Indiana General Assembly at the very least must pass a new biennium state budget by the April 29 adjournment deadline, and it must be approved by the governor before July 1 when it goes into effect.

The ICC has a different goal to accomplish—to protect families and children—and all underlying necessities to support families and children.

This pro-life, pro-family agenda has taken many forms in the 40-plus years that the ICC has been at work, including efforts to ban embryonic stem-cell research and encourage adult stem-cell research in Indiana; reduce abortions; provide basic needs of the poor, disabled and elderly; limit and abolish the death penalty; improve immigration laws; and protect the institution of marriage.

As in years past, the success of the ICC’s legislative agenda this year will also be determined in part by: 1) the willingness of the leadership in the House and Senate to have these bills heard in committee; 2) a willingness of Catholic lawmakers to work in unison with the Church’s efforts; and 3) a willingness of Catholics in the pew to be engaged in the political process.

Sen. Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend), a practicing Catholic, was re-elected speaker of the House. Sen. David Long (R-Fort Wayne) was re-elected president pro tempore in the Senate.

Given their leadership roles as gatekeepers on legislation, these two legislators wield enormous influence. Committee chairs also may decide the fate of any given bill even if it meets with the approval of House and Senate leaders.


There are 25 new faces who were elected last November, 17 in the House and eight in the Senate. Three of the new faces are Catholic legislators: Sen. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg), a member of St. Louis Parish in Batesville, Rep. Mark Mesmer (R-jasper), a member of Holy Family Parish in Jasper, and Rep. Ed Delaney (D-Indianapolis), a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis.

Democrats maintain a narrow 52-48 majority in the Indiana House of Representatives. Republicans hold a 33-17 majority in the state Senate.

“Much of the legislative work done by the Indiana Catholic Conference this year will be overshadowed by the budget-making process,” said Glenn Tebbe, ICC executive director.

“A nd because of the decreasing tax revenue available, agreeing on budget priorities will be difficult. Local government reform and property tax caps will be the other overriding issues.”

To better equip Catholics to participate in the process, the ICC invested in a new online system that provides efficient and effective communication with members of the Indiana General Assembly and the U.S. Congress.

A Legislative Action Center is available on the ICC’s Web page at www.indianacc.org that allows visitors to participate in the political process in a number of ways.

Visitors to the center can sign up for the weekly I-CAN Update newsletter, identify his or her representatives, contact lawmakers and do much more. To explore this new means of political engagement, log on to www.indianacc.org and click “Legislative Action Center.”

By Brigid Curtis Ayer is a correspondent for The Criterion.

St. Vincent Heart Center of Indiana

THE SPIRIT OF CARING

The best heart care in Indiana.

heartcenter.stvincent.org

Incomparable.

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

By Fr. Oliver Williams, C.S.C.

Americans are awash in debt. The business community—especially the financial sector because of ethical failures and wholesale greed—is in crisis. In many ways, this time is a “teachable moment,” a wake-up call to collect our wits and ask ourselves what we are really seeking, what is a fulfilling life. How did we get off the track so badly?

It is here that we can draw on the resources of our Christian tradition. But first, some words to those who now find themselves in debt and unable to manage their finances.

There are resources that can help, and they are easy to access. MSBKC has a brief outline of how to “Build a Family Budget That Actually Works.” (log on to www.msbkc.mni.id/2007/230).

Although the tips offered in the article are common sense, they may help you get focused. It suggests things like sitting down and outlining how you are now spending your money and asking whether you should choose your priorities.

Do you have a reasonable plan to pay off your debt? Do you have some important goal that you want to save for? Are you anticipating likely expenses? Are you spending too much, given your income? How can you cut expenses?

To organize your thoughts, you can obtain a free budgeting worksheet from Better Budgeting Online. If you are having serious problems with your debt, you may want to talk with the companies you owe money to. Or you may want to talk to a credit counselor. To ensure that you are working with an ethical credit counselor, you can check with the National Foundation for Credit Counseling.

You have probably seen the bumper sticker that says, “The One With the Most Toys Wins.” In many ways, this bumper sticker sums up the crisis of our time: The means of developing the good society, wealth creation, becomes an end in itself.

Pope John Paul II’s 1991 major encyclical, “Centesimus Annus,” says the family is where one first receives formative ideas about truth, goodness, loving and being loved, and thus what it means to actually be a person. “It is therefore necessary to create the means of developing the good society, spiritual and social development of the person. A curious things should never be an end in itself, and accumulation for its own sake brings little happiness. We should ask these questions of ourselves occasionally: Does the Gospel message permeate my life and work? What sort of community am I trying to form? Keeping our moral compass requires us to reflect periodically on what life is all about. Our religious tradition has a clear answer: We are to live our lives to the full, becoming virtuous persons in community, preparing for a final destiny with God. Whether we are doctors, financiers, housewives, plumbers or professors, all of us have a vocation or calling to develop ourselves and our world in harmony with God’s plan. This vision, of course, puts limits on what we are willing to do to compete with our colleagues. It also offers quite a different understanding of what success might mean.

As we balance our family budget or when it is dictated toward, strategize our business plan, this vision may keep things in perspective. If any are puzzled to find “Centesimus Annus” spends time emphasizing the crucial role of the family, the key insight is there that the best protection against consumerism and materialism, acquiring for its own sake and defining self in terms of wealth and possessions, is learning to love."

CENGEDUS ANNUS

Separate needs from wants when budgeting

This Week’s Question

What do you do to ensure that you do not live beyond your means? How do you stick to a budget?

“We pay off our credit cards each month and don’t carry over debt. For large purchases we pay cash. Being frugal all of our lives has enabled us to help our children get a Catholic education.” (Ane Lynch, Cincinnati, Ohio)

“My simple [solution] is that I separate what I need from what I want. That way everything falls into place.” (Ed Baenstiger, Lebanon, Tenn.)

“We have a budget of what we can spend each week for things like groceries and gas. We stick to it because we know what we can afford... and we know what we have to know our kids [aged 5 and 7] in Catholic school.” (Amy Utter, Castleton, N.Y.)

“I’ve already taken steps to tighten my belt, ... making sure I always have coupons with me and that I’m getting the best buy. Sticking to a budget isn’t hard... because I came from a family that didn’t have much. I learned to pay bills and take care of needs first.” (Joanne M. Erzwicki, Hamilton Square, N.J.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: A baby boomer, what are you most concerned about when you consider the years ahead of you?

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. All contents are copyrighted © 2008 by Catholic News Service.
From the Editor Emeritus/John E. Fink

Possible saints: Mother Angeline McCoy

Thirteen in a series of columns

Brigid McCoy was born in 1893 to a Catholic family in Scotland. The family emigrated from there to Scotland when she was 19. Brigid entered the Little Sisters of the Poor 11 years later, then, as now, to care for the indigent elderly. The order was founded by the Irish nun Mother Angeline.

Teresa of St. Agatha.

A four-professional family. Sister Angeline was assigned to a home in Brooklyn, arriving in the United States in 1915. After nine years of caring for the sick and begging for food for the sisters and their patients, she was named superior of Our Lady of the Rosary House in New York. Mother Angeline was responsible for 18 sisters and 200 elderly residents. The rule for the Little Sisters was that their homes must accept only the indigent poor, but M Other Angeline interpreted

“poor” broadly, welcoming elderly people who had some money but no companionship or joy. When the mother general visited from France in 1927, she told Mother M other Angeline to adhere strictly to the rule.

Mother Angeline prayed about the situation and held discussions with others, trying to discern what she should do. Two years later, and after two canonical visitations, she decided that she was called to leave the Little Sisters and found a new community. Along with six other sisters, she left the community in New York.

New York’s Cardinal Patrick Hayes gave the sisters the old rectory of St. Elizabeth Parish, and the sisters moved there on Sept. 3, 1929. They considered that date as the community’s foundation day.

Two years later, Mother Angeline asked Father Lawrence Flanagan, provincial of the Carmelite Province of New York, if the sisters could form a community with him. He approved, as did Cardinal Hayes, and on July 16, 1931, the Church recognized the foundation of the Carmelites Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. The new order’s constitution received papal approval in 1957.

The Carmelites moved into St. Patrick’s Home in the Bronx. As both the number of sisters and the elderly continued to grow, the Carmelites expanded St. Patrick’s Home seven times during the next four decades. In 1947, they moved their headquarters from the-Hudson in Germantown, N.Y., to 100 miles north of New York City.

The Carmelites served as superior general of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm for almost half a century, from 1929 to 1979. During that time, the order grew to more than 300 sisters serving in 50 sites in dioceses in the United States, plus one in Ireland and Scotland.

Mother Angeline wrote, “We all know that labor done for God is high and holy, but it must not replace habitually the spiritual exercises of the Rite. We must, as Carmelites, lead a contemplative and active life, giving the required time to prayer which is more important than our work.”

She died on her 1st birthday in 1984, after 14 years as a Little Sister of the Poor and 55 years as a Carmelite.

Carmelites/Cynthia Deves

Endings and beginnings: A bittersweet combination

This is a bittersweet time, to say the least.

It is when we wax nostalgic about people who have passed during the past year, who have died too early: even famous movie stars, sports figures, authors, and those who have enriched our lives, physically or emotionally.

We mulled over the current bad state of affairs, especially the ones about the events which led to it. We analyze the wars, political indifference or unswerving commitment, which may have caused all the trouble. We criticize the people responsible, whether they were malicious or unwitting in their actions. We feel systematically guilty or just plain stupid.

We remember the wonderful personal events which have occurred and the important wedding anniversaries or new job opportunities. We mark the happy occasions of our children and grandchildren: “greats,” or new friends we have met.

We mull over the joys we have experienced in loving relationships or participation in nature, art or intellectual opportunities. We take pride in the making of stories. The television on between Christmas and Jan. 1, was rampant with “The Year’s Best” and “The Year in Review.”

Commentators and pundits expounded on the significance of the year’s events and the ones to come in the future. People made New Year’s resolutions to change themselves and their behavior. All these things were too good, or too bad, or better a time than what went before.

The fact that we are hopeful of the future is the best time to try to make things go better, for we may have the gift in light of our past track record, is the bittersweet part of this time.

So, in line with hope for good things in the New Year, we ask you:

Number one, let us hope that TV’s judge Judy will not spend 98 percent of her time discussing cases in which live-ins are the problem. It seems that promiscuity by any name leads to trouble, and if we want to help add this corollary: Let’s dump the practice of unmarried living-in before it leads to more “unwanted” babies, not to mention neglected or murdered babies.

Let us hope that those who need to will find or keep good jobs, which will support them and their families, be useful to society and make money.

We hope others may finish their educations, and discover how to live out fully their vocation to marriage, single or religious life.

Hope will certainly involve ambitions for our children. It is good, towards that goal, we may need to give them more time or at least rearrange our time so that we know when what is at stake, and with whom. We need to make sure that they know they are loved, heard and supported. We can even hope for maturity and understanding on both sides.

It may be that our hopes depend upon a healthier body or better mental health. We can hope for relief from addiction or pain, or the ability to accept inevitable physical decline and—yes—even death.

We can do this because Christmas brought the promise of salvation on which all of us depend, and this promise should help us to hope, but we are talking here about a promise from God.

(Cynthia Deves, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greenacres, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.)

Our Turn/Therese J. Borchard

Memo to young adults: Be prepared for nosy questions

I’m married. I have two kids. I work part time.

Let me just get that out of the way because the three most asked questions of young adults today, those queries that can cause you pain and hurt feelings if asked in the wrong tone of voice, are:

1. “What are your career goals?”
2. “Tell me about your family.”
3. “What’s your political stance?”

Debra Fine, communication guru and author of The Fine Art of Small Talk (Houghton), suggests that young adults should always come prepared with three topics of conversation that have nothing to do with family or career plans.

Debra read through the last two issues of Time magazine before I head to New York for a meeting with my editor or anything remotely professional.

I don’t always get a chance to read the paper every day, so in case there is a full in the conversation, I want to sound like an educated person, not a harried mom or a disinterested listener who’s cutting out items that begin with “K” for K week, providing a snack for all 16 kids in Kevin’s class, ordering a book or two for David so that he can dress out uniform like the rest of his classmates next week. I see it as a preventative measure.

I also give my family the same sations, especially if you are single, unemployed and without kids. In a recent M C Litcharty-Tribune article, reporter Linda Henderson asked Debra Fine and Judy Levit, an Oakland, Calif., marriage and family therapist, how they would answer the one about starting a family.

“Fine: ‘You are going to be the third to know, first I’ll know. Then Mom, then you.’

I regret to write this, but I was probably the last family taking the questions until a few years ago when I realized so many of my friends very much wanted to get married and pregnant, and were feeling uncertain and that it was a source of great pain for them. I thought I should ask the question, especially the one about starting a family after seeing a family member run to the restroom and come back pregnant from her imagination.

My advice to young adults: Be prepared with your answers, and go lightly with your own questions.

(Therese J. Borchard writes for Catholic News Service.)

Trently Something/Christina Cappechi

Surrendering to a higher plan

The swirling snow and howling wind make a vivid demonstration of how swiftly the best-laid plans can be overturned.

Tonight was supposed to be the annual Cappechi ladies’ dinner at a family-style restaurant in Inver Grove Heights, Minn. We gather to consume enormous quantities of pasta and conversation. We feast with wine to the blood that binds our families.

But Mother Nature had a different agenda, unleashing a blizzard that made a mockery of our plan. We thought it would be so easy to meet all at the same location on the same day! Ha!

Much as I looked forward to our gathering, its cancellation sparked a gleeful that darkens back to grade school and the unbroken family meals.

Our days are splintered into intervals of activity, one locked beside another. So when a larger one wipes out the schedule, it brings a certain relief and bestows a rare gift: unallocated time.

What a wonder! A period of time there to begin? How to properly devour the surprise?

Parents, by nature, are planners. Every week, we craft well-intentioned, neatly laid, thoroughly coordinated plans. Dinner plans, prayer goals, Roman Catholic-inspired activities. Weekend plans, five-year plans.

We plot, we predict, we anticipate. There is nothing wrong with that impulse. God asks us to use our gifts to the fullest: work hard, and be deliberate about how we use our time, but don’t let it overtake us.

But we cannot grow too attached to our plans. We must guard against the false notion that we are the ones to call the shots. There is a larger force, a grand scheme.

Mother Nature’s remarks remind us of that bigger picture. Isaiah speaks to troubled people, Israelites whose plans for peace and prosperity were dashed. They had been discussing our eagerness to achieve its fruition demands a mature faith. I saw wisdom is infinite.

Humans, by nature, are planners. Every aspect of our existence is thoroughly coordinated plans. Dinner plans, prayer plans, career goals. Romantic schemes, recreational activities, one locked beside another. So it’s no surprise when one of our plans doesn’t work out, or when another is put on hold.

It brings a certain relief and bestows a rare surprise.

Let’s hope that those who need to will find or keep good jobs, ones which will support them and their families, be useful to society and make money.

We hope others may finish their educations, and discover how to live out fully their vocation to marriage, single or religious life.

Hope will certainly involve ambitions for our children. It is good, towards that goal, we may need to give them more time or at least rearrange our time so that we know when what is at stake, and with whom. We need to make sure that they know they are loved, heard and supported. We can even hope for maturity and understanding on both sides.

It may be that our hopes depend upon a healthier body or better mental health. We can hope for relief from addiction or pain, or the ability to accept inevitable physical decline and—yes—even death.

We can do this because Christmas brought the promise of salvation on which all of us depend, and this promise should help us to hope, but we are talking here about a promise from God.

(Cynthia Deves, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greenacres, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.)

Page 12 The Criterion Friday, January 16, 2009
The Criterion  Friday, January 16, 2009  Page 13

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time/ Msgr. Owen E. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009

• 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

• Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

• John 1:35-42

The FirstBook of Samuel is the source of the first reading for this weekend.

Origenally, First and Second Samuel were one volume. At some point in history, an editor divided them into the two volumes, and two volumes appear in Bible translations today.

As the title of these two books suggests, the central figure is Samuel, a prophet active before and after the time of Saul and David.

The prophecy of Samuel is open to hearing God, indeed it is the place where the people can hear and respond to God our Lord. It occurs according to God's plan.

And it is a call to be prophets.

Such was the case of the great son of Mary.

But also personally very holy and devoted to God in the intimacy of the Divine.

Inviting me to unite with Him in the intimacy of the Divine.

Dare I step off the edge, into the Abyss of Jesus?

The abyss of Jesus, a wide place of light and love. A place to say only one word, “Yes.”

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

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

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

Send material for consideration to "My Journey to God," The Criterion, 801 S. Dearborn, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org.

The Abyss of Jesus

The abyss of faithfulness, but bodily faithfulness as well.

Keystone of personal salvation, requires both in a shared human nature and also in baptism, are inseparably bound to Jesus, the Incarnation.

This supernatural bond, the very way to true life and peace.†

We must follow Christ. There is no other way to true life and peace.†

The Abyss of Jesus

The abyss of Jesus, a wide place of light and love.

A place to say only one word, “Yes.”

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

The Abyss of Jesus

The abyss of faithfulness, but bodily faithfulness as well.

Keystone of personal salvation, requires both in a shared human nature and also in baptism, are inseparably bound to Jesus, the Incarnation.

This supernatural bond, the very way to true life and peace.†

We must follow Christ. There is no other way to true life and peace.†

The Abyss of Jesus

The abyss of Jesus, a wide place of light and love.

A place to say only one word, “Yes.”

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

The abyss of Jesus, a wide place of light and love.

A place to say only one word, “Yes.”

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

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Abyss of Jesus

Dare I step off the edge, into the Abyss of Jesus?

The abyss of faithfulness, but bodily faithfulness as well.

Keystone of personal salvation, requires both in a shared human nature and also in baptism, are inseparably bound to Jesus, the Incarnation.

This supernatural bond, the very way to true life and peace.†

We must follow Christ. There is no other way to true life and peace.†

The Abyss of Jesus

The abyss of Jesus, a wide place of light and love.

A place to say only one word, “Yes.”

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

The abyss of Jesus, a wide place of light and love.

A place to say only one word, “Yes.”

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

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Abyss of Jesus

Dare I step off the edge, into the Abyss of Jesus?

The abyss of faithfulness, but bodily faithfulness as well.

Keystone of personal salvation, requires both in a shared human nature and also in baptism, are inseparably bound to Jesus, the Incarnation.

This supernatural bond, the very way to true life and peace.†

We must follow Christ. There is no other way to true life and peace.†

The Abyss of Jesus

The abyss of Jesus, a wide place of light and love.

A place to say only one word, “Yes.”

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

The abyss of Jesus, a wide place of light and love.

A place to say only one word, “Yes.”

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

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Abyss of Jesus

Dare I step off the edge, into the Abyss of Jesus?

The abyss of faithfulness, but bodily faithfulness as well.

Keystone of personal salvation, requires both in a shared human nature and also in baptism, are inseparably bound to Jesus, the Incarnation.

This supernatural bond, the very way to true life and peace.†

We must follow Christ. There is no other way to true life and peace.†

The Abyss of Jesus

The abyss of Jesus, a wide place of light and love.

A place to say only one word, “Yes.”

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

The abyss of Jesus, a wide place of light and love.

A place to say only one word, “Yes.”

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

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Abyss of Jesus

Dare I step off the edge, into the Abyss of Jesus?

The abyss of faithfulness, but bodily faithfulness as well.

Keystone of personal salvation, requires both in a shared human nature and also in baptism, are inseparably bound to Jesus, the Incarnation.

This supernatural bond, the very way to true life and peace.†

We must follow Christ. There is no other way to true life and peace.†

The Abyss of Jesus

The abyss of Jesus, a wide place of light and love.

A place to say only one word, “Yes.”

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

The abyss of Jesus, a wide place of light and love.

A place to say only one word, “Yes.”

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

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Abyss of Jesus

Dare I step off the edge, into the Abyss of Jesus?

The abyss of faithfulness, but bodily faithfulness as well.

Keystone of personal salvation, requires both in a shared human nature and also in baptism, are inseparably bound to Jesus, the Incarnation.

This supernatural bond, the very way to true life and peace.†

We must follow Christ. There is no other way to true life and peace.†

The Abyss of Jesus

The abyss of Jesus, a wide place of light and love.

A place to say only one word, “Yes.”

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

The abyss of Jesus, a wide place of light and love.

A place to say only one word, “Yes.”

By Trudy Bledsoe, O.C.D.S.
Please submit in writing to our office by 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 paper. 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.

AEMMER, William P.
ANDERSON, Anne C.
BARRELL, Mary K.
BLAYDES, Fred
BROCHIN, Edna Elizabeth
HILL, Charles F.
ANDERSON, Anne C.
HONAN, Catherine (Molohan)
BARRELL, Mary K.
HONAN, Lawrence A., Jr.
BROCHIN, Edna Elizabeth
BROCKER, Donald L.
KORIN, Margaret J.
CHOAT, Theresa S.
COONING, Augusta F.
DARGIE, Sandra
DELANEY, Patricia Clara
EWING, Richard L.
FENWICK, Mary C.
LABELLE, Edward J.
FREIBERGER, Betty L.
LAPINSKI, Anne
GAUDIANI, Elissa A.
McATEE, Eddie
HUFF, Patricia
MEER, Joseph B.
TRUSNIK, Timothy J.
KOERIS, Margaret
MOAK, Raphael, Jr.
HUFF, Patricia
MEYERS, Francis Euller
WACHS, Helen F.
WATT, Robert Baldwin, Sr.
YEKER, Rose Lee
COONING, Augusta F.
KRUER, Marvin L.
PARIS, John D.

Franciscan Sister Mary Helen Rosenberger taught for 54 years.
History book recounts 175 years of Catholicism in the archdiocese

Online Form
Please log on to www.archindy.org/175th and fill out the reservation form.

Mail Form
Mail this order form with payment to: the Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367, or P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717, c/o Ron Massey.

Please send me ________ copies ($27.00 each plus $3.95 shipping and handling) of The Archdiocesan Directory and Yearbook at $51.00 per copy, plus $3.95 shipping and handling.

Name __________________________
Address __________________________
City/State/Zip __________
Parish __________________________
Telephone __________________________

Enclosed is my check (payable to Criterion Press Inc.) in the amount of $________. Or charge my: ❏ Visa ❏ MasterCard

Account No. ____________________ Exp. Date __________ Signature_________________________________________

Mail check and order form to: Criterion Press, Inc., P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717

Three ways to order your new directory
- Mail in order form
  - Call 317-236-1570 or 1-800-382-9836 ext. 1570
  - www.criteriononline.com
- Put your ad online.
  - Ad space for sale on www.criteriononline.com
  - Call Dana 236-1575 or ddanberry@archindy.org
- Visit the Criterion virtual office online at www.archindy.org/175th
To register for this class:
archindy.org/layministry/downloads.html
or e-mail Marcia Hodde at
mhodde@saintmeinrad.edu

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

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

Latest *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series is written for Catholics

‘When people read stories they relate to, they feel understood.’

— LeAnn Thieman,
co-author of *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Living Catholic Faith*

This course focuses on God as Trinity as the foundation for unity in the worldwide Church and the effect of the Trinity in the life of the Church and the world.

Students will relate basic experiences of God to:
• The baptismal call to ministry and service,
• The nature of the human person as a relational being living in community with others.

Topics include:
• Understanding the existence of God,
• Appreciating the relational mystery of God and the Trinity,
• Considering the role of the Incarnation in Christian life,
• Examining the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church.

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