A new country, a new culture, a new life

By John Shaughnessy

It’s the story of a brother and sister, the tragedy that brought their lives together after years of separation, and the Catholic school that has given them a sense of hope for the future.

It’s a story that began in the spring of 2008 as Alex Ondari, heartbroken and discouraged at the time, waited to talk to someone who would be willing to help him.

As he waited at Bishop Chatard High School that has given them a sense of atmosphere at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis.

Shortly after the death of their father in Kenya, Indiana University School of Medicine student Alex Ondari, right, searched for a high school in Indianapolis that could become a new educational home for his sister, Annabelle, left. Since arriving in the United States in July, Annabelle has found that home at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis.

Kenyan family thankful for welcoming atmosphere at Bishop Chatard High School

By Sean Gallagher

BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL
SAINT BENEDICT CENTER

of Kenya, was still reeling from the unexpected death of his father a few weeks earlier.

He was also still struggling with his decision to drop out of his first year at Indiana University School of Medicine, where he had been studying to become a doctor—a decision he made so he could return to his homeland to be there for his mother, his two brothers and his sister as they grieved together.

Yet even in the midst of all the tragedy and turmoil that marked his life in the spring of 2008, the then-26-year-old Ondari sought a way to make the future brighter for his sister, Annabelle, who is nearly 10 years younger.

After spending a month with his family in Kenya, Ondari returned to Indiana and began visiting different high schools on the north side of Indianapolis.

At each school, he shared the story of how his father died from a head injury similar to the one that recently killed actress Natasha Richardson after she fell while skiing in Canada.

He also shared how he wanted to

Chrism Mass moves Church forward through history

By Sean Gallagher

CHRISTMAS MASS

Within the first year of his appointment as the first bishop of Vincennes 175 years ago, the Servant of God Simon Bruté would have likely celebrated a chrism Mass.

During the annual liturgy, oils are blessed that are used in the celebration of a number of sacraments: baptism, confirmation, the anointing of the sick, and in the ordination of priests and bishops.

Quoting St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states that “the sacraments make the Church” (#1118). Therefore, the blessing of the oils at the chrism Mass has helped the local Church in central and southern Indiana move forward to the present day.

The chrism Mass is also a liturgy during which priests—who lead the faithful in the celebration of the sacraments—renew the promises they made at the time of their

Humanity must use weapons of truth, mercy to end conflict, says pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Christ’s resurrection is not a myth or fairy tale; it is the one and only event that has destroyed the root of evil and can fill the emptiness in people’s hearts, Pope Benedict XVI said in his Easter message.

But Christ still wants humanity to help affirm his victory by using his weapons of justice, truth, mercy and love to end the suffering in Africa, build peace in the Holy Land, and combat hunger and poverty worldwide, he said on April 12 in his message “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world).

“Africa suffers disproportionately from the cruel and unending conflicts, often forgotten, that are causing so much bloodshed and destruction in several of her nations,” and increasing numbers of Africans fall prey to hunger, poverty and disease, the pope said in the message broadcast from St. Peter’s Square to millions of people worldwide.

He said when he visits the Holy Land on May 8-15 he will “emphatically repeat the same message” of reconciliation and peace he brought to Africa during his March 17-23 visit to Cameroon and Angola.

While reconciliation is difficult, he said, it is an indispensable “ precondition for a future of overall security and peaceful coexistence and it can only be achieved through renewed, persevering and sincere efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”

Pope Benedict read his message and gave his solemn blessing after celebrating Easter morning Mass in St. Peter’s Square, which Vatican Radio said was attended by about 100,000 people.

A sea of flowering trees and shrubs, and other colorful blooms, donated by companies in the Netherlands, decorated the steps and central balcony of St. Peter’s

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The Criterion  Friday, April 17, 2009

CHRISM MASS

continued from page 1

ordination.

Catholics from all comers of the archdiocese filled St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on April 7 during Holy Week for this year’s chrism Mass. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, the principal celebrant, was joined by 113 priests and Archabbot Justin DuVall of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad.

The historical nature of the chrism Mass was on the mind of Deacon William Jones, who ministers at St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus and was ordained in the first class of permanent deacons in the history of the archdiocese last June.

“You hope that we have another 175 years and that the Church keeps growing,” he said. “We can help foster that growth through the Church.”

Deacon Jones said he was scheduled to assist at the celebration of the Easter Vigil at his Seymour Deanery parish during which 13 people were expected to be baptized, all of whom would be anointed with oils blessed at the chrism Mass.

“It’s our first year for being ordained clergy in the Church,” he said. “It will give Holy Week a different meaning.”

In his homily during the Mass, Archbishop Buechlein reflected on the people who stood at the foot of the cross: Mary, the Mother of Jesus, with the Apostle John and Mary Magdalene.

“They never left his side, even in the darkest moments,” Archabbot Buechlein said. “They loved Jesus and supported him. But it was from him that they drew their strength.”

A distressing the priests at the Mass, the archbishop recalled how artists throughout history have often portrayed St. John as leaning into the side of Jesus at the Last Supper.

“They give us a beautiful image of the source of our strength for daily, faithful, priestly ministry,” Archabbot Buechlein said. “The source of our strength is our prayerful friendship with our Lord to whom we are uniquely configured by ordination.”

In his homily, the archbishop suggested ways that all present might enter more prayerfully into Holy Week and the Easter season.

“During this holy week, we join Mary and the beloved disciple and Mary Magdalene at the foot of the Cross,” he said. “And during the Easter season, let’s enter the house of Mary and the beloved disciple (St. John). Surely, Mary Magdalene is there as well. There, let’s quietly savor with them what the Lord has done for us.”

A mong the Mass participants were Father Joseph Feltz, the pastor of St. Lawrence Parish in Lawrenceburg, administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Aurora and dean of the Batesville Deanery.

“It’s very moving to see all the priests together,” she said. “I really enjoy that.”

A lan and Kathy Hess, members of St. Pius V Parish in Troy in the Tell City Deanery, drove three hours to participate in the chrism Mass and receive the blessed oils for their parish as well as St. Paul Parish in Tell City and St. Michael Parish in Cannelton.

“It makes you feel that you’re a part of it, that you’re more a part of the Church,” Alan Hess said. “It’s an honor and (a part of) history, too. It just makes you feel good inside knowing that you’re doing something that’s going to help things move on.”

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and Archabbot Justin DuVall of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad pray the eucharistic prayer during the chrism Mass.

Above, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and Archabbot Justin DuVall of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad pray the eucharistic prayer during the chrism Mass.

Right, Daughter of Mary Mother of Mercy Sister Ermestina Edozien, who is a pre-school teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Indianapolis, prays during the chrism Mass.

Indian home after the chrism Mass makes for a late night, the Hesses said they thoroughly enjoy making the trip.

“I love it,” Alan Hess said. “I love everybody being here from all the parishes (and) just the feeling of togetherness and the Spirit of God. It’s just wonderful, wonderful.”

(For more photos of the chrism Mass or to purchase copies of the photos, log on to www.CriterionOnline.com.)
Bishop John M. D’Arcy
Obama’s planned commencement speech
protests against President Barack
weeks ago he would boycott the
him an inappropriate choice to be
have said his support of legal abortion
invitation to Obama to speak at the
with the Catholic university for its
after announcing he was disappointed

Bishop D’Arcy, in whose diocese
Notre Dame is located, also announced
weeks ago he would boycott the

Washington—Calling the
protests against President Barack
Obama’s planned commencement speech
at the University of Notre Dame
“unsuited and unhelpful,”
Bishop John M. D’Arcy of
Fort Wayne–South Bend, Ind., advised Catholics
not to attend such
demonstrations.
Bishop D’Arcy released a
statement on Good Friday, a few weeks after announcing he was
disappointed with Obama’s invitation to speak at the
May 17 commencement and its
decision to award him an honorary degree.
The bishop and other critics of Obama have said his support of legal abortion
and embryonic stem-cell research make him an inappropriate choice to be
the commencement speaker at a Catholic
university.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis still needs volunteers to
arrive at Lucas Oil Stadium.
James noted. Jobs will be assigned to individuals when they
are assigned.
Mass, including assisting the bishops with confirmation.
coordinating the recruitment of volunteers.

High school students are invited to register for the
archdiocesan High School Youth Rally on May 2 at
Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.
The rally will be a springboard for youths for the
175th anniversary celebration of the archdiocese on
May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

The archdiocesan Oakland is still
volunteers to help at the May 3 Mass celebrating the archdiocese’s
175th anniversary.
A bout 350 people are needed to carry out a variety of
ministries during the Mass to be celebrated at 3 p.m.
at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Steven James,
director of the archdiocesan Office of Purchasing, who is
coordinating the recruitment of volunteers.
Volunteers are needed to help with most aspects of the
Mass, including assisting the bishops with confirmations.
Ushers, sign bearers and Communions guides are also needed.
Volunteers will need to be able to walk up and down stairs.
James noted, jobs will be assigned to individuals when they
arrive at Lucas Oil Stadium.

The second rehearsal will be held on
May 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at
Lucas Oil Stadium.
At the first rehearsal, choir members will receive a music booklet for the M as.
They will also need a copy of the mixed
four-part setting of “The Lord Is My Shepherd” based on Psalm 23 and written by Thomas M attew, available at the
rehearsal for $2.

[To register for the choir, send your
name with the date and location of the initial rehearsal you will attend to
workshops@archindy.org or call
317-382-9836, ext. 1483, or
317-236-1443.]†

April 28, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., St. Andrew Church, 235 S. 5th St., Richmond.
April 27, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., St. Bartholomew Church, 1306 27th St., Columbus.
April 28, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St.,
Indianapolis.
April 28, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., St. Margaret Mary Church, 2459 S. Seventh St., Terre Haute.
April 29, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., St. Mary Church, 302 E. McKeen St., Goesselburg.
April 29, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., St. Mary of the Knobs Church, 3033 Minard Road, Floyds Knobs.
April 30, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., St. Charles Borromeo Church, 222 E. Third St., Bloomington.
April 30, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St.,
Indianapolis.
The second rehearsal will be held on
May 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Singers from throughout the
archdiocese are invited to participate in the
choir for the jubilee Mass celebrating the
175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis beginning at 3 p.m.
May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in
Indianapolis.
The choir, which will be seated near the altar area in the stadium, is open to
anyone of high school age or older.
Choir members are required to attend rehearsal.
All times are EDT unless indicated otherwise.
The first rehearsal may be chosen from the following options:

2004 document, “Catholics in
Politics,” which states in part that the
Catholic community and Catholic
institutions should not honor those who act
in defiance of our fundamental moral
principles. They should not be given
awards, honors or platforms which would
support their actions.†

A few of the LIVE Auction items are:

1-Year Maple Creek
Golf & Country Club
Family Membership
including pool privileges.
$1,500 value

Galveston, TX Beach Condo
One week stay for 4 overlooking the ocean.
$1,000 value

Bradenton, FL Condo
One week stay for 4 on golf course. 1750 value

1,000 Marian College Tuition Voucher
(Silent Auction will be from 6:30 - 9 p.m.)
Letters to the Editor

Notre Dame must be a place that continues to encourage diversity of thought, reader says

I am a lifelong Catholic and a graduate of the University of Notre Dame. I have been married to my husband for two years from Notre Dame, as does my daughter. My son is currently a Sophomore at the University of Notre Dame.

I could not be prouder to have President Barack Obama speak at my alma mater, Notre Dame, and I hope he understands that the Catholic Church supports abortion. I urge Holy Cross Father John J. Jenkins, university president, to stand his ground in word and deed against President Obama.

It is my hope that Notre Dame continues to be a place that encourages diversity of thought and vigorous scholarship in an open forum.

Annette M. Aguiarka
Greenwood

How will we express our love for the unborn?

In the firestorm of debate over the University of Notre Dame’s invitation to President Barack Obama to speak at its commencement in May, many people seem to have turned their anger away from the tragedy of abortion it represents.

Instead, accusing the university of “cafeteria Catholicism” and of abdicating its responsibilities to defend the Catholic faith.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. Inviting Obama to address the graduates is not an endorsement of his views on abortion or stem-cell research. He is an active pro-life politician, a pro-life politician.

Our morals can be judged by the ways of society. Do you vote mostly for candidates who support pro-life policies or who support abortion rights?

At Notre Dame, students and faculty alike are challenged to live daily the message of the Church. The time to speak was last fall; the opportunity for the Catholic community to come together and “turn the other cheek” to our president and show him the way.

The world will be watching how we handle this controversy that I think is not just a few words but the entire conversation.

How will we express our love of the unborn to the world—with hate and condemnation for injustices or with prayers and Christ’s love for all?

Michele Hawk
Richmond

Controversy should motivate us to fight more for life


|||
God’s mercy calls us to accept responsibility for our sins

El segundo domingo de Pascua se conoce también como el Domingo de la Divina Misericordia. El difunto Papa Juan Pablo II lo designó en tal sentido como un día de promoción y reconocimiento de la misericordia divina, que se celebra cada Domingo de Pascua. Así lo hizo en su encíclica del mismo nombre el 20 de febrero de 1984. La misericordia divina es quizás, el don más preciado que Dios nos ha proporcionado a través de la divinidad del Hijo de Dios. La misericordia es el don más precioso que Dios ha otorgado a los hombres. Es una idea maravillosa; es una donación de la misericordia divina que hemos recibido y que debemos practicar a través de los tiempos.

El difunto Papa Juan Pablo II designó el Domingo de la Divina Misericordia con el fin de que se volviera un día de promoción y reconocimiento de la misericordia divina. La misericordia es el don más precioso que Dios nos ha proporcionado. Es un don que se otorga a todos nosotros a través de la divinidad del Hijo de Dios. La misericordia es el don más precioso que Dios nos ha otorgado, el don que nos permite perdonar a otros. Es una realidad que se encuentra a disposición de todos los católicos bautizados. Es un don que Dios ha proporcionado para que lo utilicemos en nuestra vida diaria. Es un don que nos permite perdonar a los demás y a nosotros mismos.

El proceso de perdonar a los demás y a nosotros mismos es un proceso que debe comenzar desde la confesión. La confesión es el acto de acercarse a Cristo y recibir el perdón de Dios. La confesión es el acto de humildad, de sinceridad y de arrepentimiento. La confesión es el acto de confesar nuestros pecados y de recibir el perdón de Dios. La confesión es el acto de acercarse a Cristo y recibir el perdón de Dios. La confesión es el acto de humildad, de sinceridad y de arrepentimiento. La confesión es el acto de confesar nuestros pecados y de recibir el perdón de Dios. La confesión es el acto de acercarse a Cristo y recibir el perdón de Dios. La confesión es el acto de humildad, de sinceridad y de arrepentimiento. La confesión es el acto de confesar nuestros pecados y de recibir el perdón de Dios. La confesión es el acto de acercarse a Cristo y recibir el perdón de Dios.
April 14-19 Cathedral High School theater, 5225 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. "A Year with Frog and Toad." Thurs. 7:30 p.m., Fri., Sat., 8 p.m., Sun. 3 p.m., tickets $10 and $15 per person. Information: 317-696-5835 or jesustel@aol.com.

April 17 Northside Knights of Columbus Hall, 2110 E. 51st St., Indianapolis. Catholic Business Exchange, M ass. 6:30 a.m., followed by buffet breakfast, Lori Borgen, columnist, presents prayer group, 62 member, $20 non-member. Information and registration: www.catholicbusinessexchange.com

April 17 St. Bartholomew School, gym, 1306 27th St., Indianapolis. Our Lady's Teens for Life, 317-696-6812 or mfunk@ollindy.org. "A Year with Frog and Toad.

April 21 Church of the Immaculate Conception, 100 S. Capitol Ave., Indianapolis. Fifth annual Caregivers Day, "Seeking Solace," open house, 6:30 p.m. Information: spasotti@archindy.org

April 22 St. Malachy Parish, 8335 E. 38th St., Indianapolis. Teacher Recruitment Day, 1-5 p.m., all are welcome. Information: Sister Grace O'Meara, 317-782-4422.


Retreats and Programs

April 18 Oldenburg Franciscan Center, M.ichaela Farm, Oldenburg. Day Retreat "Desert Day," 9-11 a.m. Information: 812-933-6437.


Events Calendar

Monte Cassino pilgrimages to be held in May

Saint Meinrad Archabbeys pilgrimage honor the Blessed Mother at the Monte Cassino Shrine have been scheduled for the Sundays in May. The pilgrimages begin with an opening hymn and a short sermon, followed by a rosary procession. The service ends with the Litany of the Blessed Virgin and a hymn. Speakers and topics for the pilgrimages include:

May 10 — Fr. M. Vincent Manor, O.S.B., “Our Lady, Mother of the Poor.”
May 17 — Br. John Glaunapp, O.S.B., “Our Lady, Mother of the Church.”
May 24 — Fr. Sean Hopkins, O.S.B., “Our Lady, Believer of God’s Promise.”

Services begin at 2 p.m. COT. The public is invited.

For more information, call Mary Jeanne Schumacher during business hours at 812-933-6437.


Cathedral High School, 5225 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. One-woman show, "The Life of St. Catherine of Siena," 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-938-7352.

May 22-24 St. Roch Parish, Family Center, 3630 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. "Senior Singles, meet your new companion," 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. Information: 317-784-4207.


May 14 St. Meinrad Archabbey retreat, conference room, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. Trini-Parish Youth group, "A Trip to Vaucluse," open house, 6:30 p.m., $1,000 table of 10. Information: 812-623-8007.


May 27 Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. "Teacher Recruitment Day," 1-5 p.m., all are welcome. Information: 812-933-6437.

VIPs

Joseph and Grace (Lynsky) Kieffer, members of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis,will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on April 19 with noon Mass followed by a family dinner. They were married on April 23, 1949, at the former St. Meinrad Catholic Church in Indianapolis. They are the parents of Elizabeth A. Peylo, Christine Hamilton, Patricia Parker, Mary Catherine Sepiol, Edward K and Kevin K. They have nine grandchildren.
Gallup programs geared to strengthen parishioner engagement

By Sean Gallagher

It’s not uncommon for parish leaders from one faith community to another to share the same concern: They depend too much upon too few regular volunteers.

Several parishes across the archdiocese are currently using two programs developed by the Gallup organization—known worldwide for decades in accurate polling—to determine how to enhance parishioner engagement by helping them to utilize their God-given talents and “do what they do best.”

Gallup analysts review the results of a simple 25-question survey called the M-E-25 completed by parishioners. Their analysis will indicate to parish leaders the percentage of parishioners who are actively engaged in the life of the parish, are only minimally engaged or are actively disengaged from the faith community.

Using those survey results, parish leaders are encouraged to develop two or three modest but concrete objectives with action steps that can be implemented over a 12-month period. All objectives are designed to meet the goal of strengthening parishioner engagement.

The StrengthsFinder assessment tool helps individuals learn their top five God-given themes of talent. Parishioners are encouraged to reflect upon and begin to discern how to use those talents for growth and service.

Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis began using both programs last fall.

Steve Day, a member of the parish’s stewardship and development committee, sees a lot of positives coming out of the programs.

“We’re hoping that it’s going to make people stronger spiritually and enjoy the ministries they participate in more because they’ll be more tailored to the strengths that they have been given by God. As a result, they’ll do more enthusiastically and with more fervor than they may have in the past.”

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St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in New Albany and St. John the Apostle Parish in Floyd County in the New Albany Deanery, have also used the StrengthsFinder. Albert Winseman, who helped develop the ME-25 survey. Albert Winseman, who helped develop the ME-25 survey.

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bring his sister to the United States so she could continue her education there. “My father’s death was very sudden,” Ondari, now 27, recalls. “I knew it was going to change the whole dynamic for my family. My dad was the major supporter of my family. I was planning to return to my studies because I knew that’s what my dad would want me to do. But one of my brothers wasn’t doing well. My mom had to be there for him. I tried to think about my sister, I wondered if I could find a school for her to go to here.”

Some of the high schools he visited didn’t feel right to Ondari. Officials at other schools said they sympathized, but they couldn’t help his family. That’s when Ondari heard about the village chaplain and decided to take her up on her offer to meet her at Bishop Chatard High School. He shared the same story he had told at the other schools. He also talked about his sister.

“I left Kenya to come to college in the United States when she was a very small girl,” he recalls. “We’re nine years and some months apart. Being here, I was only able to go back about every two years. I was worried about her future. We both went to a Catholic school in Kenya. They have the discipline. They talk about the tenets of God. It helps prepare you for life.”

During the April 11 Easter Vigil, Pope Benedict XVI offered Easter greetings in 63 different languages and spoke of the earthquake in Italy. "Let us pray that in this dark night, the star of hope—so bright and she takes advantage of every opportunity she can. She wanted to learn a musical instrument so she worked with our band director during her lunch and study time. Now, she knows how to play the trumpet, and she’s in band. That’s an example of how she is. She’s so optimistic, friendly, polite and respectful.”

Alex has also been impressed by his sister. “What I admire most is the way she transitioned so quickly,” he says. “I felt she would need me for everything. She hasn’t. It has been very encouraging to me.”

The loss of their father continues to touch their lives. “It’s been hard,” says Jamie Marx, Alex’s supporter for our family. “I was planning to go to here.”

“Just having her around feels good,” says Jennifer Wood. “I always feel close to him,” she says about Alex. “When he was in high school and college, he would bring me little gift home. I don’t feel like he loves for him, and I’m proud of him.”

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‘Journey to erase poverty’

Terre Haute children take steps to help the poor

By Mary Ann Wyand


They were among hundreds of Terre Haute Deanery religious education students who studied the seven principles of Catholic social teaching in February and March. The students also prepared parish exhibits about the life and dignity of the human person, the need to care for the poor and vulnerable, the dignity of work and rights of workers, solidarity and care for God’s creation, and the importance of family and community as well.

“We learned that many people aren’t as fortunate as we are,” Caroline explained on March 22 after the Catholic Social Teaching Fair at St. Benedict Parish. “It’s sad knowing that some people don’t have a home or anything to eat.

In some countries, she said, “many people die from polluted water every day. It’s just really sad that they don’t have clean water.”

Luke said it is sad to think about “how a lot of people are really hungry in the world because people deserve better than that.” He liked volunteering at the community center and said the experience made him realize “it’s the same thing that happens at the school: “I would ask God to bless each and every person who lives in poverty and suffers from not having enough food and not having a good family,” he said. “I pray that they can find faith in God, and they can have belief in life.”

Provost Sister Mary M. Montgomery, the director of the Terre Haute Deanery Pastoral Center, participated in the commission trip to serve the poor in El Salvador and Guatemala with DePauw University students during the 1990s. Now she is back at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, helped Providence Sister Mary Montgomery, the director of the Terre Haute Deanery Pastoral Center, coordinate the first-time social justice project sponsored by religious education classes in the deanery.

The students’ research topic was water-related diseases. They learned that “40,000 kids [in the world] will die in the next 24 hours of malnutrition, which is not getting enough nutrients in your body,” Luke said.

Sister Mary added, “I wish I could have told them the whole story. It’s just too sad. That’s why we have to work hard as a faith community and the world.”

“We decided to help out the 14th and 15th Street Research for their class project inspired her to think about poor people in the world. She said, “I pray that God will bless each and every person who lives in poverty and suffers from not having enough food and not having a good family.”

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The Indiana Catholic Conference’s (ICC) pro-life legislative agenda is headed toward the homestretch. Several abortion-related bills supported by the ICC are moving forward with less than two weeks to go before the April 29 session adjournment deadline.

Sen. Patricia Miller (R-Indianapolis), the bill’s author. The bill is expected to pass the House. ICC supports Senate Bill 89.

Also part of the ICC’s legislative agenda is a bill to increase the penalty for killing the unborn, a crime known as feticide. "It’s your actions, your smile, your closeness. Just sitting and listening. That’s what’s important." - SISTER MARY JOHN TINTEA Chaplain St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital

Sen. Patrick Murphy (R-Indianapolis), one of the House sponsors of the bill. He is pleased with the Senate’s action.

Representative Murphy (R-Indianapolis), a bill to increase the prison term for the offense. An individual who is convicted of a Class C felony could receive a prison term ranging from two to eight years. A person convicted of a Class B felony can receive a prison term ranging from six to 20 years.

Feticide is the deliberate killing of the fetus, except in an abortion. It was a primary focus of Senate Bill 236. The bill is a vehicle for passage this year.

Because Senate Bill 528 did not get a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee, it had to be inserted during budget negotiations or become part of another bill. Because Senate Bill 528 did not get a hearing in the Senate, the only way for it to pass was to have it amended into another bill.

Having a place within the budget is better than having to insert it during budget negotiations or working separately in another bill," Tebbe said. "We are very pleased with the Senate’s action."

House bills must have been passed by the Senate and Senate bills by the House by the April 16 deadline to move forward. However, bills which have passed at least one chamber could be resurrected and amended into an existing bill with a similar subject during the conference committee phase of the session beginning on April 16. The General Assembly must pass a biennium budget and adjourn by April 29. The ICC is hopeful that many of the bills it has supported will pass this year.

(Sen. Patricia Miller (R-Indianapolis))
Catholics belong to a Church that is universal

The word “church” is wonderfully ambiguous. We use it in so many ways:
• “We’re going to church.”
• “It’s such a pretty church.”
• “She was received into the Church.”
• “Is that the teaching of the Church?”

When most of us think of “Church,” we think of our local parish. But we might also think of “Church” as something bigger than our particular community—something that extends to other Catholic parishes in other places all around the world.

Catholics belong to a Church that is universal.

The earliest Christian author, St. Paul, often spoke of particular Church communities in specific locations. He addressed, for example, “the church of the Thessalonians” (1 Thes 1:1) or “the church of God that is in Corinth” (1 Cor 1:2).

But St. Paul also used the word in a wider sense, a more universal sense. He knew that the Corinthians and the Thessalonians belonged to something bigger. As Christianity grew, individual Church communities scattered across the Mediterranean. Yet these new Christians never lost this sense of belonging to something bigger.

These Church communities stayed connected in a number of different ways:
First and foremost, they prayed for one another. As a symbol of spiritual solidarity, some Church communities would even send consecrated bread from their Eucharist to other Church communities in the area.

These Church communities would also exchange letters. They would occasionally hold meetings or synods, which gathered together Church leaders in a particular region.

Church communities would invite neighboring bishops to join in the consecration of a new bishop.
And the bishop of Rome gradually took on more and more responsibility for guiding and coordinating these many local Church communities.

For Catholics today, it is the bishop of Rome, the pope, who remains the most visible symbol of the Church’s universal unity. His primary ministry is to hold us all together as Catholics in our mission as disciples of Christ.

But we should not lay the burden of unity solely on the shoulders of the pope. We should not ignore our own responsibility for maintaining our connection to Catholics in other parts of the world.

Increasingly, Catholicism is “moving” to the developing world. In 1900, a quarter of all Catholics lived in South America, Central America, Africa and Asia. Today, approximately two-thirds of all Catholics live in the global south. Moreover, most of these Catholics are poor.

One in six lives on less than $2 per day. A nother one-sixth lives on less than $1 per day. A nother one-sixth lives on less than $1 per day. A nother one-sixth lives on less than $1 per day.

Catholics in the developing world enjoy nothing like the opportunities for employment, health care and education that Catholics in the United States take for granted. No doubt the current global recession has only deepened these disparities because hard economic times always punish the poor first.

Do our lifestyle choices, political concerns and media habits isolate us from the suffering of our Catholic brothers and sisters in other parts of the world? To be a member of a universal Church means to be in solidarity with all the members of Christ’s body, particularly the weakest members of this body.

What can we do to stand in solidarity?

There are some steps that do not solve all of the world’s problems, but they do set us on a path toward a more Christ-like way of being Church, training us gradually for that deeper solidarity that the Gospel demands of us as Catholics.

We might start by learning more about Catholics and the Catholic Church in other parts of the world. This is not meant to foster an exclusive concern for “our own.” Rather, it is meant to be a first step toward better understanding the needs and concerns of the people in a particular place—Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Develop the habit of taking Church news from other countries—such as stories about the pope’s trips to Africa and the Middle East—and use them as opportunities to study in more depth a faraway region of the world and its people.

We can support charitable work in other countries or volunteer for service trips that take us to places beyond our borders. Such activity raises our awareness and invites us into relationships. It also concretely helps people.

An excellent model is provided by those parishes that partner with sibling parishes in the developing world. Such partnerships foster more sustained and deeper connections among individuals and communities. They establish a history of relationships and develop a habit of mutual support.

Finally, those of us who are well-established can reach out to Catholics in our own communities who are new to this country. Immigration has brought Catholics from around the world into our parishes. These individuals stay connected to the people and the places they left behind.

By growing in relationship with them, we grow in relationship to a bigger community. We come to see “Church” as much bigger than a particular parish. We see it as a body—made up of many parts and from many places—who share the one mission of Christ in the world.

Basic Catholicism: Jesus as personal Savior

(10th in a series of columns)

Yes, we Catholics do take Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. I wanted to make that clear in this column because some people seem to think we don’t. Perhaps it is the image they have of Catholics that is not truly Catholic. As Pope John Paul II said, “The Church must lead directly to Jesus or it is not truly Catholic.”

“From the beginning of time, Christ has been at the center of the faith and life of the Church, and also at the center of his teaching and theology.”

What we Catholics believe about Jesus is summarized in both the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed.

In the former, we say that we believe that “Jesus Christ is the Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten of the begetter, of one substance with the Father, begotten from all eternity.”

In the latter, this statement is repeated and we add, “This Jesus Christ, who was crucified on the cross and is risen from the dead, is the Son of God, the Lord, Jesus Christ.”

We Catholics, therefore, believe that Jesus is our personal Savior, and that the reason he suffered and died was for our salvation. The goal of salvation is union with God. We believe, as is stated in the Apostles Creed, that “Jesus was God’s only Son and that he “was conceived by the Holy Spirit.”

Now we perceive this great mystery more clearly, we may be indelibly marked by all three persons of the Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

So the next time you look in the mirror, look more carefully. You may be pleasantly surprised to see yourself as Jesus sees you. You may also catch a fleeting glimpse of the loving face of God.

(Rick Herman of St. Louis is a Catholic columnist and speaker. His e-mail address is mj262@mobaplocal.net)

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

Our duty is ‘to serve the truth and the common good’

Each year after Lent ends and we celebrate the miracle of the Risen Christ, I feel relieved but also rejuvenated.

During Lent, I ponder and pray and read more than usual, hoping for the proverbial “light” to flash on my understanding with clarity and wisdom. The last Sunday of Lent is late in Lent and I was reading an Emily Dickinson poem: “Tell all the truth but tell it slant.”

“Too bright for our informal Delight” The Truth’s superb surprise

“A S Lightening to the Children eased” With explanations, “The truth must dazzle gradually” “Every man be blind.”

I’ve read this poem often with various interpretations. This time, truth came gradually, but finally and firmly formed and wonderfully welcomed.

Recently, I pondered whether to once again write for the secular rather than the religious press— as I once did. In fact, years at a writing seminar, the keynote speaker was William Zinsser, the author of Writing Well. His emphasis to the writer is best when he can bring Christian principles into the secular press, but not ostentatiously. He felt strongly that that’s exactly what I was doing for non-Catholic readers of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Recently, during a Lenten meditation after reading the Dickinson poem, I realized, “That was then, now is now.”

I began, as I did for Catholic press, including The Criterion, I learned that “I never had to slant.” I could write about “God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Ghost” with no concern. I could express my faith and my feelings without censorship.

Then I looked closely at secular magazines, and newspapers, and realized that, indeed, “Success in Circuit lies.” I don’t want to take the circuitous route to the truth, nor do I want to write that way. I find more honesty in the Catholic press than the secular, where shades of gray are often written as the truth.

When reading The Criterion, I am edified and uplifted just as I am when reading Catholic home literature or magazines. I also find reporters for the Catholic press are more accurate when it comes to the life and times of Jesus.

According to a recent statement from AIC’s Dr. Charles D. Bausch, “Journalists have a duty to serve the truth and the common good, not just the crowd, not just the shareholder, not just their own personal visions. Good reporting has social and moral goals.”

Sometimes, the truth dazzles gradually, as Dickinson observed. My faith is not to “dazzle,” but be faithful as indicated in the title of my column.

(Shirley Vogler Meister, a member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.)
Second Sunday of Easter/ Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, April 19, 2009

- John 1:34-35
- John 20:19-31

Once more in this Easter season, the Acts of the Apostles furnishes the Liturgy of the Word with its first reading. A claims to be, and scholars assume it indeed to be, the work of the Evangelist who penned St. Luke’s Gospel. In fact, Acts may properly be seen as a continuation of the story presented in Luke’s Gospel, which closes with the ascension of Jesus. A claim begins at this point.

In modern Bibles, St. John’s Gospel stands between the Gospel of Luke and Acts. For this reason, this strong message of continuity between Jesus and the early Church is obscured or even lost as the faithful today read the New Testament. Certainly, the Church officials who selected these readings 9:34-37. The liturgies following Easter knew well the reality offered by this bond between Luke’s Gospel and Acts. It is, more broadly, a bond between Jesus and the Apostles, and the ongoing, living community formed by those who love the Lord. This weekend’s reading from Acts describes the early Church, and clearly describes the Christians themselves. Christians were “of one heart and one mind.” Love and common adherence to the Lord. Jesus and the Apostles, and the ongoing, earthly space and circumstance, Jesus passes through locked doors to encounter the Apostles. Standing before them as the Redeemer and the victor over death and evil, the Lord sends them into the world and gives them the greatest of divine power. He empowered them to forgive sins. Of the 11 surviving Apostles present at this moment, only apparently was absent—Thomas. He would not believe the story that the other Apostles told him about this meeting with Jesus. Then Jesus appeared again. He showed Thomas that indeed resurrection had occurred. Overwhelmed and convinced, Thomas saluted Jesus as Lord and as God.

Reflection

In the Easter Vigil, and on Easter, the Church celebrates the Lord’s resurrection in the most magnificent of its rituals. Without any question, these two great moments are the most awesome occasions of worship in the entire Catholic year. Almost immediately, as in this weekend’s reading, the Church calls its people to have faith and to rejoice. Resurrection— and redemption in Jesus—are not memories to be commemorated. Why? The Resurrection occurred in time and place, but it transformed the world. For those who willingly turn to Jesus, conversion changes lives forever. Whatever the crosses that individuals may carry, if they are one with Christ then they will share everlasting life, the greatest prize of all. The Apostles, and the community that they formed, the Church, provide the path to salvation. These Apostles, and those who have succeeded them through the centuries, have the power that is the most certain conqueror of sin. They forgive sins. This forgiveness and the means to attain it are the Lord’s loving gifts. Thus, we celebrate. He lives! He lives here and now! 

Dear reader, you are a member of the Church and called to believe and rejoice in the Lord’s resurrection. You are called to proclaim it to the world. This week, take some time to meditate on these truths. How do you celebrate the Lord’s resurrection? What can you do to make him known to others?

Daily Readings

Monday, April 20
Acts 4:23-31
Psalm 2:1-9
John 3:1-8

Tuesday, April 21
Anselm, bishop and doctor of the Church
Acts 4:32-37
Psalm 93:1-2, 5
John 3:7-15

Wednesday, April 22
Acts 5:17-26
Psalm 34:2-9
John 3:16-21

Thursday, April 23
George, martyr
Adalbert, bishop and martyr
Acts 5:27-33
Psalm 34:2, 9, 17-20
John 3:31-36

Question Corner

Fr. John Dietzen

Sacrament of penance helps ease grief and guilt from an abortion

I am a widow in my 70s. After I gave birth years ago, the doctor told me that I had a major heart problem and should not have any more children. I became pregnant and planned to have an abortion, but when the doctor operated he said it was only blood. When I went to confession, the priest said I should never come back. I was devastated and didn’t go to Mass for a long time. Finally, I returned and received Communion. I’ve been doing this for a long time. I live a good life and help anyone in need, but feel very guilty. How can I get rid of this guilt? (Florida)

I’m sorry for whatever happened in confession to cause you so much pain. I wonder if perhaps you misunderstood the priest’s remark. He may have meant only that whatever sin was committed was forgiven by your sorrow and confession, and you need not return to it again, which was true. It’s remotely possible that he was somewhat advertising an excommuni- cation, which may be incurred by having an abortion. If any elements indicate this was not true in your case. For example, and most importantly, it is at least doubtful that an abortion actually happened in your situation.

In light of the way you understand the priest, your reaction during these years is understandable. In any case, it is all past. For your own peace of conscience, and simply as a good Catholic practice, it would be spiritually valuable for you to receive the sacrament of penance. If you wish to bring up the abortion incident again—although you don’t need to do so because you have already confessed it—I believe the priest would give you some good and compassionate advice. Above all, be confident of God’s presence and love in your life today. You have been too long without the peace of soul and spiritual strength that you want, need and deserve.

I have developed a friendship with a lady in our RcA. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) class. She strongly wants to become Catholic, but has problems with a previous marriage.

She received many pages of matters to be dealt with before she could enter the Church. The priest who was to contact her ex-husband and his siblings. His brothers and sisters live all over the country. It’s nearly impossible, and very painful for her, to try to reach them. I understand involving her former husband, but what do you advise if she has to do with her becoming Catholic? I’m humbled by her desire to join the Church and her personal care for a handicapped brother as well as her depression over this obstacle to her conversion. I realize there must be rules, but I need an answer myself concerning her former husband’s family.

My Journey to God

Easter Morning Encounter

Eagerly journeying to the garden tomb, finding it unguarded, the stone no longer protecting the body of the One who alone knew my heart. Fearful uncertainty gasped aloud, palpitating heart aflutter with confusion, almost afraid to hope that the promised Resurrection might now be truth.

Bewildered, shrouded in the morning mist, I stood isolated in my grief: still on the wings of the gentle breeze my name responded in my ears... only One had ever called me thus before.

Turning, my eyes beheld pure light, pure love emanating from a transformed body. There could be but one response... a silence-shattering “A生活的!”

By Sister Susan Marie Lindstrom, O.S.B.

(Benedicite Sister Susan Marie Lindstrom is a member of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove. A student at St. Ignatius Cathedral in Shanghai, China, depicts Christ appearing to Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection. The panel is part of a new installation of windows by Shanghai artist Teresa Wu Ye. The designs are reminiscent of traditional Chinese paper-cut art.)

As the process develops, she is free to contact the priest of your diocese herself to ask their advice about how to proceed in the quickest way. Tell her not to be discouraged.

A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3135, Peoria, IL 61612. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address or by e-mail in care of jdietzen@aol.com.}

Dietz, Earl O., 80, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, April 1. Father of Kay Dietz, Debbie Doss, Steve Dietz and Jon Dietz. Brother of Herbert Dietz.


Dieter, Robert, 80, St. Mary, Greensburg, April 2. Father of Raymond Dieter. Brother of Karen Gregory.


Dierschke, Robert P., 70, St. Francis of Assisi, Columbus, March 30. Father of Kim Dierschke and Michael Dierschke. Brother of Charles Dierschke.


Dierschke, William, 70, St. Francis of Assisi, Columbus, March 30. Father of Robin Dierschke and Robert Dierschke. Brother of Christine Dierschke.

Dierschke, Young, 80, St. Francis of Assisi, Columbus, March 30. Father of Mary Dierschke and Alan Dierschke. Brother of John Dierschke.


Dierksen, Matthew, 28, St. Francis of Assisi, Columbus, March 30. Brother of Mary Dierschke and Michael Dierschke. Nephew of Rob Dierschke.

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History book recounts 175 years of Catholicism in the archdiocese

“...This history will help all of us learn how our ancestors in the faith revealed the face of the Lord to others and how, over the years, they invited people to ‘come and see.’”

— Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein

The nearly 200-page hardcover, tells the story of Catholicism in central and southern Indiana from the arrival of Jesuit missionaries in the mid-1700s to the present day.

The history book sells for $27 (plus $4.50 for shipping and handling). The coffee table book, containing glossy, full-color photographs and graphics, the first half of the book is an historical account of the founding of the archdiocese and the growth of the Catholic Church in Indiana. The second half of the book contains historical information and photographs of each parish in the archdiocese.

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As White House moves toward immigration debate, activists get ready

WASHINGTON (CNS)—As the White House signals that President Barack Obama is getting ready to leap into the fray over immigration law and policy, activists geared up for the May 1 “Day Without an Immigrant” in a push to get comprehensive legislation through Congress this year.

“After years of comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to legalization for undocumented workers ‘would pay for itself through the increased tax revenue it generates.’

The report cited data from the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation that estimated that the failed comprehensive immigration reform bills of 2006 and 2007 would have more than paid for themselves, generating $66 billion and $46 billion, respectively, in new revenue from income and payroll taxes as well as administrative fees.

“Without comprehensive reform of the immigration system, our nation cannot experience a full economic recovery,” it said, because the income of about 5 percent of the U.S. labor force, the estimated percentage of undocumented workers, falls into an underground economy.

“The existence of a large underground labor market puts downward pressure on wages in some industries, weakens workplace safety and undermines the well-being of all American workers,” it said. “Reforming our immigration system should be part of the solution, not an enduring obstacle, to fixing our economy.”

While Obama prepared to visit Mexico and attend the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad in mid-April, pressure mounted on the president and on Congress to start working on the problems of immigration.

Activists across the U.S. are organizing rallies and marches in cities around the country for May 1, intended to draw out supporters of comprehensive reform and engage them in lobbying Congress.

In Washington, for example, organizers from groups including the archdiocese of Washington, several labor unions and various community, legal and human rights organizations plan a late afternoon rally and march to the White House to deliver a report outlining their principles for immigration reform.

What the group called “nongovernmental issues” for immigration legislation include a legalization program and enforcement policies such as a moratorium on raids, changes in procedures and immigration courts’ discretion.

Gustavo Torres, director of Casa de Maryland and a member of the National Capital Immigration Coalition, acknowledged that after massive rallies three years ago in support of comprehensive reform organizers failed to tap into the political power represented by the millions who participated nationwide.

“The community was ready to fight, but three years ago we didn’t have a clear political strategy,” Torres said at a Washington press conference on April 6. “Now we have a clear plan.”

Torres said Latino voters, who tipped key states in Obama’s favor in several states that previously had supported Republican presidential candidates, “sent a very clear message that they are going to support whoever backs immigration reform.”

An opinion piece on April 8 in the Salt Lake Tribune daily newspaper by Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City observed, “While economically powerful nations hold the capital, migrants help fill the jobs needed to turn capital into profit.” However, in North America, Europe and other parts of the industrialized world, he said, “migrant workers are left without legal protection, criminalized and blamed for myriad social ills.”

The migrants themselves are the losers in the current “globalization game,” said Bishop Wester, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Migration.

He said that as Obama prepared to meet Mexican President Felipe Calderon the two presidents “have the opportunity to reframe the immigration debate in a way that recognizes the effects of globalization on the movement of labor, yet injects basic human rights principles into the system.”

Pastor says economic slump can help people hear Scripture's timeless message

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS)—Father Steve Wolf believes that a financial downturn could come out of this economic slump after all.

Perhaps it is only when we go through recessions and such times of discouragement that we begin to really understand the words of Scripture. A reminder of our vocation of stewardship.

The former accountant has published God’s Money, which examines personal money issues through God’s eyes.


The six-chapter book serves as a complete package for a group, and includes songs, suggested snacks and thought-provoking questions for group or individual discussion.

Father Wolf has donated both his priest and accountant thinking caps for God’s Money in that it’s designed for those who keep a Bible in the car or near the Scripture references or are reading for the finance advice alone.

Father Wolf knew what it was to be concerned about money even before becoming a number cruncher. He is one of eight sons. He said his parents raised their children with “often limited resources.”

“They taught us that limitations are often just part of life, and we can learn all kinds of things from them, including simple joy,” he told the Tennessee Register, Nashville’s diocesan newspaper.

To help individuals and families organize their finances, the book includes a four-page, monthly budget worksheet. But outside of budgeting expenses and writing checks, “God’s Money” prompts examination of the larger money system.

“When I have a single dollar bill in my pocket,” Father Wolf writes, “I am part of the entire system of banking, markets, stocks, bonds, taxes, property rights, courts, etc. I do not have to agree with everything that goes on in that big, complex system, yet I am part of it. What is my personal responsibility in this complexity?”

Father Wolf advises owning up to one’s financial reality, which is suddenly discouraging in this economic climate, yet humbling in the realization that budgeting restaurant visits and vacations puts many in a quandary.

“I think of working toward financial freedom as not being locked into anything, but rather as the responsibility to do thing for those who are able to do it,” said Father Wolf.

(Mother’s note: God’s Money by Father Steve Wolf can be purchased online at www.stmarysbookstore.com, the Web site of St. Mary’s Bookstore in Nashville, or by calling the store at 800-233-3604. The cost of the book is $9.95, plus shipping and handling.)