human lives also changes wild horses helps save College

By John Shaughnessy

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS—For most of her life, Jennifer Steager never imagined that the path to living her dream and drawing closer to God would lead her to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and a wild mustang named Indigo.

Until three years ago, the 32-year-old Steager had lived in California, where she taught American history to junior high and high school students. Seeking a change in her life and her location, she moved to the Terre Haute area, where she hoped to find a new teaching job and an affordable place in the country so she could raise horses.

Yet, at the time, she didn’t know that Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College is located nearby, that it has one of the finest college equine programs in the country, or that the college is involved in a U.S. Bureau of Land Management effort to save wild mustangs.

As the Sisters of Providence are prone to say, Steager’s life journey is the kind that has been touched by Providence.

“I’ve talked to a couple sisters here,” Steager says with a smile as she stands in one of the horse barns on campus. “I told them I wish I had known about this place when I was in high school. They told me there’s a reason that I’m here now. I may have taken the long road, but I’m doing now what I’ve always dreamed of doing.”

Her dream is to teach and train horses for a living. And on this blustery, sun-streaked spring day, Steager has found the horse of her dreams, thanks to an adoption program involving wild mustangs—horses that have been described as “the living symbol of the pioneer spirit of America.”

The horse is named Indigo, one of eight mustangs that were brought to the college in March from Wyoming, Florida and Montana.

During Holy Land pilgrimage, pope appeals for peace

JERUSALEM (CNS)—Passing the midpoint of his Holy Land pilgrimage, Pope Benedict XVI celebrated an open-air Mass in Jerusalem, prayed at the Western Wall and visited one of Islam’s most sacred shrines.

The pope’s events on May 12 underscored his message that Jerusalem, a meeting ground for Christianity, Judaism and Islam, must again become a city of peace. It was his second day in the holy city after four days in Jordan.

The pope made a morning visit to the Dome of the Rock, sacred to Muslims as the place from which Mohammed ascended to heaven. He told Islamic leaders there that Christians, Muslims and Jews have a “grave responsibility” to expand dialogue and mend divisions.

The pope then went to the Western Wall, a site sacred to Jews as the remains of the Second Temple, and placed a written prayer in a crevice between the massive stones. It asked God to “bless the cry of the afflicted, the fearful, the bereft; send your peace upon this Holy Land, upon the Middle East, upon the entire human family.”

The 82-year-old pontiff stood in silent prayer before the wall for two minutes, much as his predecessor Pope John Paul II, had done nine years earlier.

In the evening, the pope celebrated Mass for several thousand people in the Josafat Valley beneath the Mount of Olives next to the walls of the Old City. In his homily, he appealed to God to bring “your peace upon this Holy Land, upon the Middle East, upon the entire human family.”
Archbishop announces clergy, parish assignments

Official Appointments

Effective May 31, 2009


Effective July 1, 2009


Rev. Harold A. Rippleger, administrator of St. Mary Parish in Lakeville, granted permission to retire.

Rev. John S. Maung, in residence and offering sacramental assistance at Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis, granted permission to retire.

Rev. Mr. Jeremy M. Gries, being ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 2009, to associate pastor of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis.

Rev. Mr. John J. Hollowell, being ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 2009, to chaplain of Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis with residence and providing sacramental assistance at St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg.

Rev. Peter A. Marshall, being ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 2009, to associate pastor of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.

Rev. Mr. Sean R. Danda, being ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 2009, to associate pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis.

Rev. Rev. Mr. Jeremy M. Gries, being ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 2009, to associate pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis, granted permission to retire.


Rev. Patrick J. Bridelman, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis and director of liturgy for the archdiocesan Office of Worship, to vice rector of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, with residence and sacramental assistance at St. Antuan Parish in Indianapolis and Holy Trinity Parish in Indianapolis, while continuing as director of liturgy for the archdiocesan Office of Worship.

Rev. Daniel B. Donohoo, spiritual director of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis and archdiocesan judge of the Metropolitan Tribunal, to pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis, while continuing as spiritual director of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis and archdiocesan judge of the Metropolitan Tribunal.

Rev. Rick Nagel, associate pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, associate director of Vocations and director of Young Adult Ministry, to chaplain of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and director of Young Adult and College Community Ministry and providing sacramental assistance at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.

Rev. Aaron Jenkins, chaplain of Father Thomas Scicena Memorial School in Indianapolis and associate pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove, to associate director of Vocations and continuing as chaplain of Father Thomas Scicena Memorial High School in Indianapolis, with residence at Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis.


Rev. Todd M. Goodson, pastor of St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour and administrator of Our Lady of Providence Parish in Brownsburg, to pastor of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis.

Rev. Scott E. Nobbe, associate pastor of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, to administrator of St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour and Our Lady of Providence Parish in Brownsburg.


Rev. Gerald Okele, associate pastor of St. Lawrence Parish in Lawrenceburg and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Aurora, to associate pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Richmond, St. Mary Parish in Richmond and Holy Family Parish in Richmond, which comprise the Richmond Catholic Community in Richmond.

Rev. William C. Keffler Jr., associate pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Richmond, St. Mary Parish in Richmond and Holy Family Parish in Richmond, which comprise the Richmond Catholic Community in Richmond, returning to the Diocese of Peoria, Ill.

Rev. Daniel J. Staublin, pastor of St. Malachi Parish in Brownsburg, to pastor of St. Lawrence Parish in Lawrenceburg.

Rev. Stephen D. Donahue, pastor of St. Mary Parish in North Vernon, to pastor of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Aurora.

Rev. Paul D. Elizumue, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, and vice rector of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, to pastor of St. Paul Parish in Tell City and St. Mark Parish in Perry County.


Rev. Mathew J. Chooraupantyil, O.C.D. Cap., chaplain of Marian College in Indianapolis, to chaplain of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville and sacramental assistance at St. Augustine Parish in Lapel, St. Martin of Tours Parish in Siberia and Holy Cross Parish in St. Croix.

Rev. Guy Mansini, O.S.B., pastor of St. Isidore the Farmer Parish in Bristow and Holy Cross Parish in St. Croix, to pastor of St. Isidore the Farmer Parish in Bristow.

Rev. Adrian Burke, O.S.B., pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Fulda, St. Meinrad Parish in St. Meinrad and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Siberia, to pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Fulda and St. Meinrad in St. Meinrad.


Rev. Robert J. Robeson, rector of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis and sacramental assistance at St. Malachi Parish in Brownsburg, to sacramental assistance at St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis and Holy Trinity Parish in Indianapolis, and continuing as rector of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis.

Rev. William G. Munshower, chaplain of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis while being retired from active parish ministry, to part-time sacramental minister at St. Andrew Parish in Indianapolis and continuing as chaplain of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis.

Rev. Clifford R. Vogelsgang, retired, to part-time sacramental minister at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.

Rev. Oscar Anguiano, Hispanic ministry for the Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis and St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis, returning to the Archdiocese of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Rev. Juan José Valdez, Hispanic ministry for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, returning to the Archdiocese of Guadalajara, Mexico.

These appointments are from the office of the Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., Archbishop of Indianapolis.
U.S. Catholics implored to pray against ‘culture of death’

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The prefect of the Supreme Court of the Apostolic Signature at the Vatican told about 1,000 U.S. Catholic bishops that they must pray for the U.S. political leadership to change course from policies leading the nation into an "anti-life" and "anti-family" culture.

During the annual National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington, U.S. A bishop Raymond L. Burke also called the prospect of the University of Notre Dame granting President Barack Obama an honorary degree "the source of the greatest scandal," and questioned the University's institutional Catholic identity for honoring a politician who supports legal abortion.

"A bishop Burke, former archbishop of St. Louis, expressed his disapproval that a majority of the country's bishops have voted their Catholic archbishops to cast their ballots for Obama in November’s election, and said they are "reflecting on the direction the country has taken since he has been in office." He also mentioned that the archbishop mentioned a policy that allows funding for overseas family planning groups that provide abortion services, and moved by several states to make same-sex marriage legal.

He called on U.S. Catholics to have "open eyes to the gravity of the situation in our nation," and to be "clear and uncompromising in our rejection of the ideology of the "great evils of contraception ... and so-called same-sex marriage."

As the keynote speaker at the prayer breakfast that drew Catholics from around the nation—as well as politicians and ambassadors from several countries—the archbishop spoke most of his speech decrying Obama's support for legal abortion and embryonic stem-cell research and Catholic politicians who vote for "anti-family" legislation, such as same-sex marriage.

In another apparent reference to Notre Dame, Bishop Burke said Catholic scholars and universities do not "endorse those who push an agenda that goes against moral law, adding that a university that would give Obama an honorary degree is "not worthy of the name Catholic."

The archbishop—who is the first American to lead the Vatican supreme court—also said it is patriotic to vote based on Catholic values, and said nothing could justify cabling a ballot for a candidate who supports "anti-life and anti-family" legislation, which he deemed "corruption in evil."

He called on members of the audience to pray the rosary and not to get discouraged in their fight to reverse the nation’s "culture of death."

"This is the first time I’ve come to this breakfast, and I felt that it was important for me to get here this year with all of the troubles happening in our country," said Kimmerling, a 59-year-old member of Holy Trinity Parish in Portland. "This just highlights so many blessings we have during these very difficult times. I need this kind of thing to fill me up."

Other featured speakers at the prayer breakfast included Latin Rite Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi of Baghdad, Iraq, and Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, whose son—after Paul Scalia of St. John the Beloved Parish in McLean, Va.—gave the invocation at the event.

The Catholic Justice urged members of the audience to have the courage to practice faith proudly, even when others suggest the virgin birth of Jesus and resurrection are anything but miracles.

"Scalia said he heard people in "editor’s circles" say that traditional Catholics "are poorly educated and easily lied;" but told the audience to hold on to their faith and "have the courage to suffer the contempt of the sophisticated world."

adminstration’s prohibition on stem-cell research. Pioneering the destruction of human embryos, “would—for the first time—use taxpayer funds to encourage the killing of embryonic human beings for their stem cells.”

"This marks a new chapter in engaging biomedical research from its necessary ethical foundation, respect for human life at all stages,” it adds. "Even if, like the embryos targeted by the NIH policy, an embryo may be at risk of being abandoned by his or her parents in a fertility clinic, that does not give researchers or the government a right to kill that human being—much less a right to make the rest of us subsidize that destructive agenda,” the campaign materials say.

The campaign also features three new ads for Web and print use, each focusing on a different theme, each featuring a different stem-cell researcher that does not involve the use of embryos.

"Many embryonic stem cells have been hyped,” says one of the ads. “But it’s the adult stem cells that are showing hope. So who’s the future?” On the campaign Web site, the bishops said members of Congress and the White House have plans to expand stem-cell research.

"They want to obtain stem cells by destroying human embryos specially created for research through in vitro fertilization or cloning procedures—a "create to kill” policy,” they said. 
A steward of the truth

On April 27, Mary A. Glennon, a Harvard Law School professor and former U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, wrote an op-ed piece for The Criterion, a weekly newspaper of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Glennon, who was named to her current position by Pope Francis on Feb. 27, submitted an op-ed for publication in The Criterion last month.

Mary Ann Glennon, president of the Pontifical University Notre Dame, speaks during a press conference on Catholic social teaching and human rights at the Vatican, in Rome. She is the author of a new book, "A Christian Super Bowl victory for those who see with eyes of faith."

A Christian Super Bowl victory for those who see with eyes of faith

As I entered Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on May 3, with members of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King Parish in Paoli for the celebration of 175 years for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, I was awed by the surroundings. To those who were invited to attend this uplifting event. The priests who were sent out during the celebration of Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, I was awed by the surroundings.

I was filled with joy, peace and wonder as I participated in the 175th Anniversary Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on May 3.

The prayers of the faithful illustrated this concept very well. They were said in Latin, Spanish, Igbo, Korean, German, Vietnamese, French, Italian and Latin. This diversity reminded me of Thomas Merton's epiphany when he went to Louisville and, standing on a street corner, looked around and noticed all the people. In the midst of the crowd, he realized his oneness with humanity. The prayers of the faithful encapsulated this oneness and in many acts of charity.

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En pos de nuestra visión para el futuro de la Iglesia Local

La semana pasada escribí acerca de la necesidad de llevar la misión de Cristo hacia el futuro. Esta semana les ofrezco un bosquejo de las prioridades que guiarán nuestra misión de evangelización por los próximos cinco años.

Estas primeras han sido extraídas de nuestro plan estratégico más reciente que fue desarrollado en conjunto con lugar para un lugar para varios ámbitos en toda la arquidiócesis. La implementación de las siguientes prioridades determina nuestra misión y nuestros objetivos. La primera prioridad es hacer énfasis en la evangelización y la dimensión multicultural de nuestra misión en todas las secretarías y agencias arquidiocesanas, es decir, en cada aspecto de llevar a cabo nuestra misión conjunta.

Somos una comunidad de diversas etnias y con procedencias culturalmente muy ricas. La evangelización, la proclamación del Evangelio de Cristo, es la esencia de lo que hacemos como iglesia, comenzando con la propia evangelización de los cristianos católicos en el campo. Segundo, todos los grupos y ámbitos para la consulta para el desarrollo de nuestro plan estratégico identificaron el reclutamiento vocacional como su primera prioridad específica. Debemos transformar esta prioridad en algo que se convierta en nuestra misión y nuestras proposiciones. Debemos continuar dedicando las vocaciones religiosas en nuestro programa de ministerio para jóvenes. Se dará un nuevo énfasis al lugar de honor que ocupa nuestro incipiente ministerio de jóvenes adolescentes y los programas de ministerio en las parroquias. Hasta ahora, esta área no ha experimentado mucho desarrollo. Durante la próxima semana, haremos un llamado al servicio al sacerdocio realizado en las parroquias. Vamos a hacerlo. En el tiempo. En el tiempo.

La respuesta a nuestro llamado es el Seminario Universitario de Cristo Brute, un seminario en el que se está llevando a cabo una iniciativa especial del ministerio universitario, así como también el programa FOCUS en el campo de la educación católica. La primera etapa del nuevo seminario ha sido efectiva en renovar el ambiente de servicio al sacerdocio, en el ámbito de las escuelas secundarias. Durante la pasada temporada de Advent, promovimos un día para la reflexión sobre el sacerdocio para los estudiantes del penúltimo y último año. Al finalizar el evento, hubo una ocupación completa. Realizamos con éxito este evento y debemos disfrutar desarrollando un programa para recaudar fondos para el Seminario Universitario de Cristo Brute.

La respuesta a nuestra consulta fue el llamado a nuestro programa de los programas de los programas de ministerio para jóvenes. El llamado a nuestro programa tiene una relación directa con el sacerdocio, en el ámbito de las escuelas secundarias. La cuarta área de prioridad tiene que ver con la renovación de nuestras parroquias, especialmente aquellas que tienen que hacer un esfuerzo por servir a la comunidad. Esto involucra identificando la función de nuestras parroquias en relación con el sacerdocio y la misión para los jóvenes. Tercero, al igual que en el caso de la evangelización, la misión de la caridad es prácticamente todo lo que hacemos. En este caso, nos concentraremos en tres objetivos principales. Propongo que nuestra educación y nuestra misión hayan hecho el foco en el corazón de la ciudad de Indianapolis, así como en el corazón de nuestras comunidades. Y, por último, desarrollar un programa para ofrecer “cuidados preventivos” es decir, una forma de romper el ciclo de la pobreza. Para poder hacer esto, debemos afianzar nuestra misión en las escuelas secundarias y en nuestras comunidades. La cuarta área de prioridad tiene que ver con la renovación de nuestras parroquias, especialmente aquellas que tienen que hacer un esfuerzo por servir a la comunidad. Esto involucra identificando la función de nuestras parroquias en relación con el sacerdocio y la misión para los jóvenes. Tercero, al igual que en el caso de la evangelización, la misión de la caridad es prácticamente todo lo que hacemos. En este caso, nos concentraremos en tres objetivos principales. Propongo que nuestra educación y nuestra misión hayan hecho el foco en el corazón de la ciudad de Indianapolis, así como en el corazón de nuestras comunidades. Y, por último, desarrollar un programa para ofrecer “cuidados preventivos” es decir, una forma de romper el ciclo de la pobreza. 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Parish schedules holy hour during Notre Dame’s commencement

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., in Indianapolis will have a holy hour from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on May 17 that is open to the public. The holy hour will take place at the same time as the 2009 commencement ceremony at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend. President Barack Obama is scheduled to deliver the commencement address and receive an honorary degree during the ceremony. Notre Dame’s invitation to the president has caused controversy for the Church in the United States and upset Catholics due to his support of legalized abortion and embryonic stem-cell research.

Mgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general and pastor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, said those participating in the holy hour are encouraged to pray for President Obama, all government leaders, the University of Notre Dame and all Catholic educational institutions. They are also encouraged to pray for a change of hearts and a reformation to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary for the outrages committed against the Church and God’s precious gift of human life.

For more information, call the parish at 317-636-4478.

May crowning

Resident Ethel Snyder crowned a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary during a May crowning ceremony on May 2 in the care center at St. Paul Hermite in Beech Grove. Assisting Snyder are, from left, Pat Khull, her daughter, and Ave Maria Guild members Emily Gutwillinger Vance and Sharon Garrett, the guild president. Participants sang songs honoring Mary as guild member Shirley Dreyer played the piano.

Archdiocesan Fiscal Management and Discipleship Conference is June 11

The archdiocesan Fiscal Mangement and Discipleship Conference is set for June 11 at the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southen Avenue, in Beech Grove. The conference is open to all parish administrators, finance council members, stewardship council members, bookkeepers, business managers and volunteers that help with bookkeeping or stewardship duties.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will celebrate the 9 a.m. Mass. Dickson Corp. President Frederick Hohman, presenter, will present the keynote address.

In the afternoon, the conference will feature a presentation on the archdiocesan Fiscal Management Parish Self-Study Report, an overview of the archdiocesan Fiscal Management Committee and a look at the archdiocesan Fiscal Management Parish Self-Study Report.

The registration fee is $35 per person and includes lunch. Registrations must be received by the June 6 deadline.

For information or to register online, log on to www.archindy.org/mdc. Participants can also register or request more information by sending e-mail to accountingservices@archindy.org or calling 317-236-1423 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1423.

Four West Deenparishes change Mass times due to holiday and race

Four parishes in the Indianapolis archdiocese will change their Mass schedule for the Memorial Day weekend on May 24 due to the Indianapolis 500 race on May 24.

St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis—Mass will be celebrated at 4 a.m. on May 23. No Masses will be celebrated on May 24. St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., Indianapolis—Mass will be celebrated in English at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on May 23, in Spanish at 7:30 p.m. on May 23, and in English at 7:30 a.m. on May 24. St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis—Mass will be celebrated at 4 a.m. on May 23. No Masses will be celebrated on May 24. St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., Indianapolis—Mass will be celebrated at 4:30 p.m. on May 23. No Masses will be celebrated on May 24. For information about Mass changes at other parishes in the area, call the parish offices.

Conventional Franciscan brother to celebrate jubilee of solemn vows

Conventional Franciscan Brother Larry Eberhardt will celebrate the 50th jubilee of his profession as a member of the Conventional Franciscan Province of Our Lady of Consolation based in St. Louis, Missouri. Br. Eberhardt was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis during a Mass of Thanksgiving at 12 a.m. on May 24 at Incarnation of Our Lord Parish, 2229 Lower Hunters Trace Road, Indianapolis, Ky. A native of Massillon, Ohio, Brother Larry was born on July 8, 1935, to Elmer and Rose Eberhardt.

He entered the province’s novitiate in 1954 after studying at the former Conventual Franciscan Province of Our Lady of Consolation in St. Louis, Missouri.

Br. Eberhardt includes teaching religion, working in formation of his province’s postulants and simple professed, and serving as office manager for several of the province’s ministries based at Mt. St. Francis and other sites.

He currently serves as the province’s vice president and is the guardian of the St. Francis of Assisi Friary in Louisville, Ky.
‘Run for Vocations’ team inspires thousands—again

By Mike Krokos

The number of participants more than doubled from last year.

The amount of prayer for the group grew, too.

But for members of the “Run for Vocations” team that took part in the One America 500 Festival Mini-Marathon on May 2 in Indianapolis, nothing was more significant than being a witness for Christ and vocations.

Just as important was the opportunity to reflect on the Scripture verse that guided the team this year: “I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith” (2 Tm 4:7).

I have finished the race; I have kept the faith

Among the team this year: “I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith,” said Father Nagel.

“I thought there’d be sentries up in the guard towers,” said eighth-grader Anthony Chastain, who is discerning a vocation.

But for members of the “Run for Vocations” team, the goal is union with him, ultimately in the kingdom of heaven.

“And on the way, each of us has a unique call, and we share a call to holiness. When all is said and done, in all the ups and downs of our lives, our finish line is union with Jesus Christ in the kingdom of the Father.”

Nineteen priests, including some who were members of the “Run for Vocations” team, concelebrated the Mass. About 213 people attended the liturgy. A pre-race pasta dinner took place afterward. The dinner was sponsored by the Serra Club of Indianapolis. Members of Bishop Chatard High School’s vocations promotion club SERV (Students Encouraging Religious Vocations) also volunteered at the Mass and dinner.

During the mini-marathon, “Run for Vocations” team members—who again wore shirts with the printed message “Vocation... Everyone has one. What’s yours?”—were consistently affirmed and asked questions, Father Nagel noted.

One team member, a student at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis, was mistaken for a priest by some other runners, who asked for his blessing, Father Nagel said.

“He laughed,” Father Nagel said, “and told them, ‘I’m not a Father (priest).’ And they responded, ‘Well, you should be.’”

Though the “Race for Vocations” is a young adult-sponsored activity, the team is

Eighth-graders learn about vocations during spring field trip

By Sean Gallagher

—In the spring near the end of the academic year, it is not uncommon for students to go on field trips to museums, zoos or other places outside a school that are good for learning.

The eighth-graders at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis did just that on April 16 to learn more about the priesthood and religious life.

But when he went inside, he met two young men who were St. Barnabas eighth-graders not too long ago—Seminarian Timothy Wyciskalla and Anthony Chastain, who is discerning a possible call to the priesthood.

Benedictine Sister Carol Falkner, right, processor of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, speaks on April 16 with eighth-grade girls from St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis during a field trip the class made to learn about religious vocations.

Eighth-graders visit the seminary for the afternoon.

“It’s a beautiful part of it, and dinner was sponsored by the Serra Club of Indianapolis. Members of Bishop Chatard High School’s vocations promotion club SERV (Students Encouraging Religious Vocations) also volunteered at the Mass and dinner.
Forgiveness is integral to resurrection experience, author says

By Mary Ann Wyand

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS—

Respect everyone.

To do that, St. Joseph Sister Helen Prejean of New Orleans explained, you have to reflect on the Gospel teachings and consider both sides of the cross of Christ.

Jesus reaches out to us from the cross, Sister Helen noted, to remind us to respect the sanctity and dignity of all human life—even the lives of murderers.

“A crucifix is so much a part of our faith,” she said during an interview on Easter Sunday, April 13, at the motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence. “There’s one in every church, and I had never thought of it as the symbol of execution until I got involved with the people on death row.”

She placed a bid to adopt the horse she had ridden at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She placed a bid to adopt the horse she had ridden at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

When the mustangs first arrived at Saint Mary’s, they kicked, they wanted to jump over the gates of the pen, and some even had a tendency to bite. Steager remembers how scared Indigo was the first time she saw the horse.

“I couldn’t get in the pen with him,” she says. “I couldn’t touch him. Humans were scary to him.”

Yet after a week of working with Indigo, Steager began to notice a difference in the horse and herself.

“I just fell in love with him,” says Steager, who is also a medic in the Indiana Air National Guard. “He’s very smart, he’s very curious and he has a sense of humor. He’d do silly things to get my attention. He trusted me. He comes looking for me. He wants to be touched. He wants to be loved.”

For six weeks, she cleaned his stall daily and fed him twice a day. She also trained Indigo at least five days a week, quietly while tied. Training instructor Sara Schulz noticed the growing connection between Steager and Indigo. She saw at the end of the training period that Indigo and the other horses have made during the training period.

There’s an element of faith at work during the process, Schulz says. “I look at a horse as one of those magnificent creatures that only God could create,” says Schulz, who has taught 13 years at Saint Mary’s. “The horses put their care and well-being in our hands.”

After the six weeks of training, Indigo and the seven other yearling mustangs were put up for adoption at a fee set by the Bureau of Land Management. Four of the mustangs were claimed by the family of John Webb, a horse owner who lives near the college. Three of the horses were for three of his grandchildren—Jake, Emily and Jia. In a touch of serendipity, Jia is adopted, just like her mustang, Sanchez.

“I’ve always had horses, but I’ve never adopted mustangs,” Webb says. “I always thought it would be cool. It’s something for the grandkids and me to do together. We’re building stables and stalls for them.”

Webb’s daughter, Maggie Higgins, adds, “We just love the mustangs. Just the fact that they needed a good home and someone to love them, that’s what drew us to them.”

Steager felt the same way with Indigo. She placed a bid to adopt the horse she had trained. Then she Sweat in as she saw other people eye Indigo. In the end, her bid won. “I’ve always been fascinated with mustangs,” she says. “Being a history teacher, I’ve always taught about them, but being an integral part of an American history. I never thought I’d own one.”

That’s the path of Providence, the sisters at Saint Mary’s would say. Steager has learned to believe.

“It’s always been easier for me to find my faith and talk to God when I’ve been outside,” she says. “When I work with horses, I see God at work. The mustangs have been through hard times. They’ve survived for hundreds and hundreds of years. They’ve adapted and survive.”

“If I see a lot of God’s patience and love in me trying to work with them, and also in what they return to me.”

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College students take initiative in proclaiming the Gospel on campus

By John Shaughnessy

At Christmas, the Catholic college students sang carols at nursing homes and sold candy canes on campus, raising money to make the holiday a special one for a family in need.

On Valentine’s Day, they sold carnations to help support other efforts, and they’ve also prayed for expectant mothers as they’ve kept vigil outside an abortion clinic.

Still, the proudest moment of this school year for the members of the Catholic Student Association at the University of Indianapolis came at Easter when two non-Catholic students chose to enter the Catholic Church.

“It was wonderful,” says Scott K. Rust, the president of the Catholic Student Association at the University of Indianapolis. “We just try to be a presence on campus, to teach the real truth of Catholicism. Not just to teach it, but to live it and help people be transformed—myself as well—into the image and likeness of Christ.”

The efforts at the University of Indianapolis reflect the increased commitment that Catholic college students and the archdiocese are making to deepen the faith of other Catholic students and to evangelize to non-Catholic students.

Since July 1, 2008—at the request of Father Rick Nagel, the director of young adult ministry for the archdiocese—the archdiocese’s young adult ministry program has deepened its commitment to connecting with college students this year, meeting with students at Butler, Indiana University, Marian College, Indiana State University and Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis.

Butler University students Colin Brodmerkel, left, and Ann Govert share in a discussion about their Catholic faith in a meeting on campus.

See PARISHES, page 12

Parishes organize evangelization efforts

By Sean Gallagher

Pete Cerar, a member of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, sees himself as an average Catholic, just your regular 41-year-old father of four.

Jerry Laue, a member of Annunciation Parish in Brazil, is a small-town hospital administrator who heard a priest make a challenge from the pulpit and took him at his word.

Wendy Braun and other members of St. Simon’s evangelization team have been making several efforts to achieve that objective.

They’re helping to build up adult faith formation, putting together “evangelization” suggestions in the parish bulletin, experimenting with using name tags at Mass to foster a more welcoming atmosphere, and making phone calls to registered parishioners who haven’t been at the parish recently.

It’s this last initiative that has Braun excited.

She said that the phone calls were simply focused on finding out how the people were doing. “I think they could do anything to help them,” she said. “We’ve had a really good response from that.” Braun said. “It was really worth it. None of us were really comfortable doing that. But it’s something that we got better at.”

See COLLEGE, page 12

Individuals and parishes need to evangelize

By Ken Ogorek

Evangelization has been around as long as the Good News itself. We can be happy forever if the Good News itself. We can be happy forever if catechesis. Evangelization is one of his apostolates. As we seek to establish very fruitful ways.

The faith we nurture be fruitful in God’s time—always ready to mention what a basic message about our Savior deliv- ered to them in various ways.

More and more parishes, schools and communities are exploring this relationship in new and creative ways. Parishes organize evangelization efforts that have recently focused on inviting inactive Catholics back into the heart of the Catholic Church and are reaching out to those who are not active in any faith tradition.

Since July 1, 2008—at the request of Father Todd Goodson, pastor of St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour and Parish administrator who heard a priest make a challenge from the pulpit and took him at his word.

People in this predicament deserve to have at least a basic message about our Savior delivered to them in various ways. Sometimes due to alienation, sometimes due to indifference, it is a clear reason at all, many baptized Catholics cease the Catholic faith of their youth, coming home to joy, coming home to salvation.

Even the most well-formed, conscientious Catholics need to be reminded constantly that our hope of salvation from sin and death is the suffering, death and resurrection of our Father’s only Son, Jesus, the one Savior of the world. Our archdiocese has a storied history of Jewish people, coming home to joy, coming home to salvation.

Our archdiocese has a storied history of evangelization efforts. As we seek to establish very fruitful ways.

Catholics need to be reminded constantly that our hope of salvation from sin and death is the suffering, death and resurrection of our Father’s only Son, Jesus, the one Savior of the world. Although his Church has been active for almost two millennia, we often feel that the faith we have received is an orphan and that we must do whatever is within our power to ensure its survival.

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Focus on faith
Sacramental preparation helps people grow closer to God

By Mary Ann Wyand

“If you knew God would be somewhere, wouldn’t you want to go to see him?”

That’s No. 2 on the list of Top 10 reasons to go to Mass, published in The Catholic Herald in April as part of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee’s “Living Our Faith—See You at Mass” evangelization campaign. Their campaign theme is “A love beyond belief. Act on it.”

The Eucharist, first and foremost, and sacramental preparation for baptism, first communion, reconciliation, confirmation and marriage are excellent opportunities to evangelize individuals, couples and families, explained Ken Ogorek, director of catechesis for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

“It’s good to offer different reasons and a variety of benefits for celebrating Mass,” Ogorek said. “So many times, the most important his command, the more central it is to our own happiness, health and welfare. He wants us to be happy so he asks us of what we will help us to have peace and happiness and joy.”

Ogorek likes to remind people that “God gave us the Ten Commandments, not the Ten Suggestions.”

Following those commandments enables people to have a personal relationship with God, he said, and Catholics who have lapsed in the practice of their faith need to be reminded of that.

“On a weekly basis, we need to gather with our sisters and brothers in Christ and worship him in his Real Presence,” Ogorek said. “The sacraments aren’t man-made.

The sacraments are gifts to us from God. They are entirely unique ways of encountering God. … The grace of the sacraments is very real, and we only hurt ourselves if we deny ourselves that grace, that help, that loving power from God.

“There are few guarantees in life,” he said, “and we know that suffering and family difficulties of one form or another are bound to enter everyone’s life. … The sacraments help us maintain a basic sense of peace, … the Lord spoke often of the lost sheep and the joy in heaven over any one person who repents and reconnects with God.”

Mary Williams enjoys nurturing people in the faith as well as nurturing his crops and livestock.

In addition to farming, Williams serves as the administrator of religious education at St. Augustine Parish in Leopold. He and his wife, Charleva, also volunteer as a sponsor couple for marriage preparation classes at St. Michael Parish in Cannelton.

“Very important that couples grow together in the faith,” he explained. “They need to nurture one another’s faith needs.”

Williams said participating in the sacraments together is the best way for engaged and married couples to do that.

“We have had engaged couples that have been pretty far apart in their faith, even to the extent of having different religions, and it’s just amazing to me how our (marriage preparation) program brings them closer together,” he said. “So many times, the non-Catholic partner has joined the Catholic Church just from the things that have been said and done in the marriage preparation classes.”

Often, he said, parents who have lapsed in their Mass attendance return to active participation in the Church when their children prepare to receive sacraments.

“Once their kids get involved in the first Communion class, we notice a big change in the family’s habit of coming to church,” Williams said. “Learning about the faith with their children is an opportunity for rebirth and reconnecting.”

Jennifer Bell has served as the administrator of religious education at Aunciation Parish in Brazil for three years, and helps enjoy leading parents reconnect with their faith through refresher opportunities made possible by sacramental preparation for their children.

“I think that’s what tends to happen as we get older,” Bell said. “We may have had religious education when we were young, but some teenagers fall away. … We’re leading the group and teaching the Church to once they’re confirmed then lose the opportunity to continue learning.

“They come back for marriage preparation or, in the case of parents, have forgotten some of [the Church teachings] over time,” she said. “So as their children go through the sacramental preparation classes, they realize what they have forgotten and it is an opportunity for them to reconnect with their faith in new ways.”

Williams added that as the Church, “… We want to extend the welcoming community, and help affirm and reconnect with their faith through refresher classes, they relearn what they have forgotten and it is an opportunity for them to reconnect with their faith in new ways.”

Volunteer catechists also grow in their faith, Bell said, by teaching parish religious education classes for children.

Lisa Whitaker, the coordinator of religious education at St. Joseph Parish in Clark County for three years, said parents ask a lot of faith-related questions as their children prepare to receive sacraments.

“We have a strategic plan to re-evaluate and rework all of our parish sacramental preparation programs,” Whitaker said.

“We’re looking at new ways to include opportunities to evangelize, and to share Christ’s life-giving and transformational power, especially through the grace of the sacraments. … We want to extend the Church’s hand as the Body of Christ, be a welcoming community, and help affirm and inform people in the Catholic faith.”

Top 10 reasons to go to Mass

1. It’s the most intimate and personal way to make a connection with Jesus Christ and his sacrifice on the cross.

2. If you knew God would be somewhere, wouldn’t you want to go to see him?

3. Sure, times are tough, but we all have plenty to be thankful for. Go to Mass, he said. “Thanks!”

4. Some of the greatest people in history were Mass-goers—Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Pope John Paul II.

5. Want to lower your blood pressure and live longer? Attend Mass. Researchers have discovered a direct link.

6. People who invest money secure their retirement. People who invest in their prayer life secure eternity.


8. Need someone to talk to? God listens.

9. It’s the best way to pray for your family and friends.

10. One of the Ten Commandments instructs, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

(Reprinted with permission from The Catholic Herald and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. To read their evangelization stories, log on to www.livingourfaith.net)
A Catholic toolbox for evangelization

Basic Tools

- Our faith in Jesus Christ
- Our frequent celebration of the sacraments
- Prayer
- Our frequent invitations to others to join us at Mass and parish events
- Our understanding of the faith

A great resource is the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults. For more information on it and other publications of the U.S. bishops, log on to www.usccbpublishing.org.

Tools to draw back inactive Catholics

- Patient listening
- Compassionate responses to the problems that led them away from the Church
- Understanding that faith is renewed in God’s time
- Setting out Catholic reading material in your home

Such books or pamphlets could include What Catholics Believe by Mike Aquilina and Father Kris Stubna, and "Top 10 Reasons for Coming Back to the Catholic Church." Also check out www.CatholicsComeHome.org, a Web site geared for inactive Catholics or those who are discovering the Catholic faith for the first time.

Specialty Tools for the Unchurched

- Witness to your faith by sharing your faith story
- Knowing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (talk to a parish staff person who oversees RCIA)
- Understanding common misunderstandings about the Catholic faith
- Committing to stay in touch with these sisters and brothers who deserve to hear the Good News

Try reading "Top 10 Questions Catholics are Asked," a pamphlet published by Our Sunday Visitor. And check out www.catholic.com, a Web site with lots of factual information about the Catholic faith.

Catholic battery chargers

- Participate in eucharistic adoration
- Go on a retreat or day of recollection
- Dedicate time for prayer every day
- Participate in adult faith formation opportunities
- Commit to go to confession about once a month

Check out www.lighthousecatholicmedia.com for many reasonably priced audio CDs that can educate you and others about the faith.
Sundays for Mass. They performed for the past three years on campus. The Catholic Student Association this year, said David Wilson, the Catholic Student Association director. “Their faith is deep, and they’re very sincere in bringing other students into the faith and encouraging other Catholics on campus to deepen their faith,” Wilson says. “They’re wonderful. No one is telling them to do this. This is all self-initiated on their part.”

Knust believes it’s the best way for Catholics to approach their faith in college and in their lives. “You have to be a voice for Christ and the Church,” he says. “You want people to know what Christ did for them. The more people know about Jesus Christ, the better. The more we follow him, the better.”

Having graduated in early May, Knust will pursue a master’s degree in education, hoping to become a physics teacher in high school.

Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary
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Come and see why it’s the best kept architectural secret! Former home of the Carmelites, this magnificent building now is the home of college seminarians in formation for the priesthood. Join us for a walk through the facility and experience what we have found in our first year—a very special place.
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The Criterion Friday, May 15, 2009
By Ann Margaret Lewis
Special to The Criterion

A bout 500 Catholic women came seeking “spiritual weapons” at the sixth annual “Treasuring Womanhood” conference on April 18 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

This year’s event was focused on helping women build spiritual strength to combat a culture that is often bent on the destruction of souls, especially the souls of a woman and her family.

A highlight of the daylong conference, which featured a recitation of the rosary as well as opportunities for confession and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, was a Mass celebrated by Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general.

“The term ‘Spiritual weapons’... does not conjure up gentle feminine images,” Msgr. Schaedel said in his homily. “Nor does ‘weapons’ seem to fit with the Christian message... But because we are Christians, we have a spiritual fight on our hands.”

And for that fight, he said, “we must be united... we must pray Mary’s own strategy—the rosary, ... and we must participate in Divine Mercy, particularly the seven spiritual works of mercy.”

Keynote speaker Johnette Benkovic, who lives in Oldsmar, Fla., and is the founder and president of Living Like Jesus, a national ministry started in 1991, agreed.

Johnette Benkovic

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-book contains 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.

“Treasuring Womanhood’ Catholic women acquire spiritual weapons’ at conference

By Ann Margaret Lewis
Special to The Criterion

### 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

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Please send me ________ copies ($27.00 each plus $ 4.50 shipping) of


“Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary parishioner Kathy Denney of Indianapolis, a conference organizer, said the success of “Treasuring Womanhood” is due to its dedicated volunteer staff and the priests who come every year to hear confessions.

“A lid to have each year Sister Diane as emcee and Msgr. Schaedel as our homilist probably does as much to make the conference a success as the wonderful speakers do,” Denney said. “I say that in truth, and it comes from the women themselves.”

(Ann Margaret Lewis is a member of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis)
HOLY LAND

called for the city to regain its vocation "as a prophecy and promise of that universal reconciliation and peace which God desires for the whole human family."

Sadly, in today's Jerusalem, he said, "hope continues to battle despair, frustration and cynicism, while the peace which is God's gift and call continues to be threatened by selfishness, conflict, division and the burden of past wrongs." Like many papal events, the Mass was tinged with politics. Welcoming the pope, Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem said Palestinians dream of a "free and independent" state of their own while the people of Israel dream of living in peace and security.

The pope's first day in Jerusalem on May 11 was a busy one, and it began with a remembrance of Jewish suffering under the Nazi extermination campaign and a strongly worded warning about new forms of anti-Semitism. Speaking at a welcoming ceremony at Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv, the pope said he had come as a Christian pilgrim and said the memory of the 6 million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and "to pray that humanity will never again witness a crime of such magnitude."

"Sadly, anti-Semitism continues to rear its ugly head in many parts of the world. This is totally unacceptable," he said.

As Israeli President Shimon Peres and Israeli government leaders listened, the pope then urged a negotiated peace settlement that will allow Israelis and Palestinians to "live in peace in a homeland of their own, within secure and internationally recognized borders."

Meeting with Peres at the presidential palace in Jerusalem the same day, the pope spoke about the sensitive topic of security, saying the term needs to be understood not simply as "the absence of threat," but as inseparable from justice and peace. In a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, Pope Benedict prayed silently before the eternal flame in the Hall of Remembrance, and said the suffering of Jews under the Nazi extermination campaign must "never be denied, belittled or forgotten."

The pope called the Holocaust an atrocity that disgraced mankind and said the Church is committed to working tirelessly "to ensure that hatred will never reign in the hearts of men again."

He met with six Holocaust survivors, who later expressed their appreciation for the pope's gesture. But some Jewish leaders said they were disappointed that the German pope made no mention in his talk of the Nazi perpetrators of the Holocaust.

That evening, the pope told a group of interreligious dialogue experts that, in a world that has in some ways become "dead to the divine," religions must give common witness to God's plan for the human race.

The event was marked by a Muslim shiek's denunciation of Israeli policies, which prompted some Jewish religious leaders to walk out.

The pope began his eight-day trip in Jordan, where he walked a pilgrim's path in Jordan, where he walked a pilgrim's path, energies its minority Christian population and building bridges to the moderate Muslim world.

A runners at Amman's airport on May 8, he said he had come as a Christian pilgrim and with "deep respect for the Muslim community. It was Pope Benedict's first trip to an Arab country."

The pope paid tribute to interfaith dialogues launched by Jordanian leaders, saying they have "advanced an alliance of civilizations between the West and the Muslim world, confounding the predictions of those who consider violence and conflict inevitable."

The pope's first stop in Amman was the Regina Pacis center, a Church-run facility for the disabled, and it underscored the charitable role played by Jordan's minority Christian population in cooperation with Muslims. A running to loud cheers, he waded into a huge crowd of well-wishers as a band played the "gepe"—a Jordanian bagpipe—and tabla, or hand drums.

The following day, the pope visited the King Hussein Mosque in Amman, pausing briefly in what the Vatican called "respectful meditation" in a Muslim place of prayer.

In a speech afterward to Muslim academics and religious leaders, the pope warned of the "ideological manipulation of religion" that can act as a catalyst for tensions and violence in contemporary societies.

The pope traveled on May 9 to Mount Nebo, the place where Moses glimpsed the Promised Land before dying. He then rode his pope-mobile to the ancient biblical city of Madaba, where he blessed the foundation of the first Catholic university in Jordan.

The pope's Mass on May 10 in an Amman soccer stadium that holds 25,000 people was the liturgical high point of his visit. In his homily, the pope preached as a simple pastor, recognizing the spiritual and material struggle of Christian families in the land where the Church was born.

Christians in the Holy Land have a special vocation to engage in dialogue and build new bridges to other religions and cultures, and to bear witness to the sacrificial love of Christ, "and thus counter ways of thinking which justify taking innocent lives," he said.

Later in the day, the pope made his way to the Jordan River, where archaeologists before they have identified the site of Jesus' baptism by St. John the Baptist. He blessed the foundation stones of two Catholic churches—one Latin-rite and the other M.elkite—to be built at the location and said the new construction was a hopeful sign for a Christian community that goes back to the Church's beginnings.

VOCATIONS

continued from page 2

open to people of all ages. Father Nagel said this year's group included people from all walks of life. The team also included two families with young children and a cancer survivor who walked the 5-kilometer portion of the race, Father Nagel noted.

Ruth Hurrle, a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis, takes part in the One America 500 Festival Mini-Marathon on May 2.

As the "Run for Vocations" T-shirt reminds us, we all have a Christian community that goes back to the Church's beginnings.

Military Park in Indianapolis near the mini's finish line, where members of the team met after the race.

"That was a real blessing to the whole thing because there was sense of community afterward," Father Nagel said.

While the team's ultimate goal is building up a culture of vocations in the archdiocese, Father Nagel said he has found the "Run for Vocations' experience to be very humbling" both years.

I see the love that people have for the Church, and that they want good priests and want good religious, and good and holy people to serve the Church," he said.

People also want the sacredness of marriage to be reclaimed, Father Nagel said.

One of the greatest feedbacks we get from this outreach is that people often say, "Father, thank you for including marriage and sacred single life." I think that's what's done is help people really think about priesthood and religious life as well."

The "Run for Vocations" T-shirt reminds us, all have a vocation.

I think it's an awesome thing to bring the sacred into the secular," Father Nagel said, "and remind people that we ought to be a culture of vocations."

For more information on the "Run for Vocations" team, log on to http://indyteamvocations.blogspot.com. "

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Faith Alive!

Catholics seek to promote religious values in European Union

By Jonathan Luxmoore

The European Union (EU) is an economic and political union of 27 independent sovereign member-states. To join the EU, a country must have a stable democracy, a market economy able to compete within the EU, respect human rights and abide by EU law. With almost 500 million citizens, the EU generates roughly 30 percent of the nominal gross world product. It has a single market through standardized laws that guarantee the freedom of movement of citizens, goods, services and money. The euro is the common currency of 16 of the EU’s member-states.

When voters go to the polls this June to elect a new European Parliament—the only directly elected body of the EU with some 785 members who are elected once every five years—they’ll try to make sense of the competing signals currently emerging from their continent’s institutions.

In a spring appeal, heads of Catholic associations and pastoral councils, for example, called on politicians and parties to offer a “truly European vision.”

“As the [EU’s] focus shifted to trade and business, many felt the bloc had strayed from its ethical purposes and became dominated by technocratic elites with little sympathy for religious faith.”

But Churches weren’t even mentioned in EU documents until the late 1990s, while countries like France and Belgium have resisted any explicit acknowledgment of the continent’s Christian roots.

In 2005, a controversial 780-page Constitutional Treaty, mapping out the EU’s future, contained a brief preamble reference to Europe’s “cultural, religious and humanist inheritance” as well as an article recognizing the “identity and specific contribution” of Christian communities, and pledging an “open, transparent and regular dialogue” with them.

This owed much to campaigning from Catholic Ireland, Poland and Italy, and to the support of sympathetic policies inspired by respect for human dignity—toward a Europe in a spirit of greater solidarity, respect for future generations and generosity.

But not all Catholics are convinced that an ever closer union is a good idea. Nor are they sure the EU can be relied on to foster the perspectives and priorities upheld by the Church.

Catholics like the French Robert Schuman and Italian Alcide De Gasperi were conspicuous among the EU’s founding fathers back in the 1950s and helped ensure that it reflected Christian values after the horrors of World War II.

As the focus shifted to trade and business, however, many felt the bloc had strayed from its ethical purposes and become dominated by technocratic elites with little sympathy for religious faith.

Today, Church leaders insist that the EU’s core values—human rights, the rule of law, solidarity, subsidiarity and democracy—all correspond with Catholic social teaching.

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Making peace with people around you in our world

A little boy wrote this letter to God in Sunday School: "God, I’m sorry for the way I shouted at my brother. It’s hard for you to love everybody in the whole world when your family is mean to you." Everyone at the table was impressed that the boy had the courage to admit his errors.

We, as parents, also have the ability to model this same process. When we get a little upset with one another or with our children, we often gloss over the conflict and move on with the day. In some families, however, the conflict is handled with respect and forgiveness. We each need to look for opportunities to enter into conflict and resolve them. The children in the family need to learn that conflict is a natural part of being human, and that we can work to communicate openly and resolve conflicts.

We were not perfect, of course, but we learned to communicate openly and resolve conflicts. We get a beautiful reminder to practice forgiveness and conflict resolution. We expected to be forgiven. If you asked us whether or not to reconcile, we tried hard to practice forgiveness and conflict resolution. We were not afraid of being rude or to brood over whether or not to reconcile. We learned to practice forgiveness and conflict resolution.

We expected that our children would do this, and we taught them to give a careless apology. Our mother said, “Now turn around in the other person’s eyes and meet it when you say it.”

It was a beautiful and moving celebration—a sign of the Church reaching out to all Creation. In fact, the church had the most beautiful castle of the whole world.

In this column, we would like to share our message to the world in 1990. We know that the ecological crisis is a moral issue... .

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The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 17, 2009

- 1 John 4:7-10
- John 15:9-17

The Acts of the Apostles once more provide an Easter sermon with its first reading. The reading relates an important lesson. Peter goes to the house of Cornelius, whose name suggests that he was a Gentile and likely a Roman. His relatives and guests that day probably also were Gentiles and Romans. For devout, loyal Jews, if anything was worse than being a Gentile, and of pagan stock, it was being a Roman. After all, Jews at the time were living under the crushing, unmerciful heel of Rome. Understandably, representatives of the Roman occupation especially were despised. Yet, even these Gentiles understood what Peter was saying. God was reaching out to them, not only just to the Chosen People.

The lesson is that they understood Peter’s proclamation of Jesus, and that Peter, the chief of the Apostles, accepted them in baptism. When Cornelius attempts to pay hommage to Peter, Peter stops him. Peter protests that he is only human. Peter is not God. However, he was Christ’s appointed representative and possessed power given to him by Christ, the Son of God.

The First Epistle of John is the source of the second reading. This reading has given Christians several of the bed-rock passages of the New Testament. It calls upon followers of Jesus to love each other. It states that God is love.

Reflection

The second reading makes quite clear the theological fact that loving is not simply an activity of God, but rather that God is love.

What does this mean? From God’s very character, identity and reality, selfishness is absent. Insecurity, the root of selfishness, is absent. God has nothing to fear. He lives forever—forever giving life. God creates. God redeems. When Christians are called to love each other, they are asked to be what they should be if their circumstances were not upset by sin. Love is much more than warm-heartedness or kind gesture. Loving God requires us to keep his commandments. We are humans and God’s children. Since Jesus was the son of Mary, a human, we are brothers and sisters of Christ in our human nature.

Created by God, with the Lord as our brother, we properly should mirror Jesus in our lives. He gave his life itself on Calvary as an act of love for us and an act of homage to God. Our love must be as intense.

How can we approach Jesus? Where can we find Jesus? Christ comes to us through and in the Church. In the sacraments and God’s word, Jesus still lives. In the Church, the divine power given to Peter still lives.

Question Corner/ Fr. John Dietzen

Sacraments are personal encounters between Jesus and God’s people.

We would like your comments on receiving the sacrament of reconciliation by telephone.

Why is that not possible, especially for shut-ins?

We hope you might explain a bit and not pass it off as lightly as a few others that we have heard. We perhaps didn’t have an answer. (New jersey)

The answer to your question is not that complicated, but must be seen in light of our understanding all the sacraments. Sacraments are always fundamentally actions of Jesus Christ exercising his saving power in his Church.

By their nature as physical as well as spiritual actions, sacraments are always accomplished through the human ministers involved, and through the outward sign of word and sacrament that make them encounters between Jesus and the person receiving the sacrament.

The Church has always understood that this requires personal presence between the minister and the person receiving the sacrament. As a priest cannot be ordained or a baby baptized over the telephone, so one cannot receive the sacrament of reconciliation that way.

It needs to be said, of course, that a person who cannot receive the sacrament of penance is not spiritually abandoned. Even our catechisms have always made clear that a person’s faith and trust in God, concern for sin, and desire for the Eucharist and reconciliation can bring the forgiveness and other spiritual blessings that these sacraments are intended to provide in times of need.

What is the Church’s present position on the appearances of the Blessed Virgin in Garabandal?

A documentary on the subject was spiritually moving, but there were hints that the visions have not been approved. (Louisiana)

Garabandal is another of the sites where some spiritual apparitions supposedly took place, but where competent religious authorities have declared that claims of supernatural activity have, thus far at least, proved groundless. For several months, beginning in 1961, children in Garabandal, in the Diocese of Santander in northern Spain, were said to have seen visions of the Virgin Mary.

She is reported to have repeated many of the messages she gave at Fatima. People in 1917 about the need for prayers and conversion of heart if the human race is to avoid disasters imminent.

Following a series of investigations into the alleged appearances, the diocesan bishops there have all concluded that no supernatural bases for them have been established.

In the early 1990s, Bishop Jose Vilaplana Blasco responded to inquirers, noting that all previous bishops agreed that the phenomena experienced there could have a natural explanation and that, after consultation with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, he had reason to judge otherwise.

He continued the practice of former bishops, allowing the Eucharist to be celebrated in the parish church without reference to the alleged apparitions.

It is important to note that when local Church authorities find no evidence of a supernatural character in such visions or appearances they mean precisely that and nothing more.

Unless explicitly stated, as it has been in some instances, the Church does not mean to foreclose from observing, for example, the spiritual advice involved, which as I said most often only re-enforces the need for prayer and penance, which has always been an integral part of a good Christian life.

When the “third secret” of Fatima was publicized in 2000, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger called it a symbol of the present struggles with evil political systems and the ultimate triumph of good.

As with any private revelation, he said, the message offers a help for living our faith, but it creates no new obligations of Catholic belief or practice.

(A free brochure answering questions about Catholic beliefs about the so-called apparitions of Fatima 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).
Brother of John and Frank
Nicholas and Reid Cregor. Ann Cregor. Father of Christie,
Indianapolis, April 26. Husband of St. Luke the Evangelist, Indian-
grandmother of one.

CHAMBERLAIN, Ruth, 94,
St. Andrew, Richmond. A pril 30, M other of Jerry Chamberlain.
Grandmother of three. Great-grand-
mother of four. Great-grand-
mother of one.

CROFTS, Betty Jean, 87,
St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis.
April 27. Husband of HelenHelena
Hand. Father of Mary Beth and Larry Hand. Grandfather of one.

ECKERLY, Stella M., 83,
Mother of Ann, Laura, Susan O’Donnell, Edward and John
Great-grandmother of five.

FLEAGLE, Lawana, 78,
St. Mary, Richmond. April 30. Mother of Sherry jeffries, Daniel

GIOVANNI, David C., Sr.,

HEINZ, Mary Lou, 94,
St. Roch, Indianapolis. April 29. Daughter of Austin
Hayes. Grandmother of 14. Great-grand-
father of one.

KEMPf, Alvin G., 91.
St. Augustine, Jeffersonville. A pril 7, Father of Sherry Cull,
Sherry Osborne and Michael Kempf. Brother of Margaret
father of four. Great-grand-
father of 11.

Lapinta, Martha J., 88,
St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis.
April 23. Husband of Clara (Hyle) Lapinta.

LEIST, Paul J., 94.
Holy Family, North Vernon. A pril 23, Father of Donna Cull,
Raymann. Grandmother of six. Great-grand -
father of four.

MASON, Thomas J., 94,

MAY, Nancy J., 86,
St. Roch, Indianapolis. April 27. Wife of Donald May.

OLIVER, Shirley A., 76,
St. Mark, Batavia, May 2. Husband of George Oliver.

RAYMOND, Sharon Lee, 74,
St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg. April 29. Husband of Wanda
Green. Father of Tina M. greene, Jodie Green, Jери and Brian
Green. Brother of Ruth Goldenberg and Bob Green.

RAYMOND, Sharon Lee, 74,
St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg. April 29. Husband of Wanda
Green. Father of Tina M. greene, Jodie Green, Jери and Brian
Green. Brother of Ruth Goldenberg and Bob Green.

RAPHAEL, Ruth B., 73.
Good Shepherd, Indianapolis. April 30. Mother of Jacqueline,
Kencie, Charles, Mark, Matthew and Scott Rabinett.

Service of Rememberance

Brother of James and Thomas.
Hays, Grandmother of 14. Great-
grandmother of nine.

Roth, William F., 88,
Holy Spirit, Indianapolis. A pril 23. Brother of Joan Holzer. Uncle of
seven.

SAUER, Charles Lee, 66.
St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis.
April 30, Mother of Cindy Scott, Alfred Donald, George, John,
Robert and Thomas Greer. Sister of Patricia K. Ross. A mother of
seven. Sister of John and Robert Schladl. Grandmother of six. Great-grand-
father of one.

SCHMELZ, Charles Lee, 66.
Holy Name of Jesus, Indianapolis.
April 8, Wife of Patricia Schmelz. Brother of Daniel, Ted and Timothy Schmelz.

TEPEE, Eleanor T., 81,
Good Shepherd, Indianapolis. April 30. Mother of Cindy Scott, Alfred Donald, George, John,
Robert and Thomas Greer. Sister of Patricia K. Ross. A mother of
seven. Sister of John and Robert Schladl. Grandmother of six. Great-grand-
father of one.


WELCH, Larry, 72,
St. Andrew, Richmond. A pril 30, Father of Theodora Carter.

WILLIAMS, Mother A., 83.
St. Gabriel, Connersville,
April 10. Brother of Anna Ratz.

WORTH, William Henry,
St. Mary, New Albany. May 2. Father of Patrick R. Woerner and Rita Young. Grand -

ZIMMERMAN, Anna, 80,
St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis.
April 22. Sister of Rosie Ketcham, Mary Kitt, Eunice Stahl and
Grandmother of two.

JERLING, Timothy, 53.
St. Roch, Indianapolis. A pril 22. Son of Lucille Juerling. Brother of
Frankie Clark, Luda Jo, Theodore, Thomas, Marjorie, Ross,
Kathleen Sennin and Larry Juerling.

KEMPf, Alvin G., 91.
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