Deacon Christopher Wadelton, who were ordained priests.

During the ordination Mass on June 6 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis, Benedictine Father Julian Peters, administrator pro-tem of Cathedral Parish and the master of ceremonies, and seminarian Martin Rodriguez kneel to the right of the archbishop.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and concelebrating priests kneel in prayer for the litany of the saints with the assembly as Deacons Jeremy Gries, from left, John Hollowell and Peter Marshall lay prostrate on the marble during the ordination Mass on June 6 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

After the Gospel was proclaimed, Deacon Christopher Wadelton, who were to be ordained priests to come forward.

By Sean Gallagher

Father Eric Johnson of their worthiness archdiocesan vocations director stepped forward.

After he was ritually assured by Archbishop Buechlein told the ordinands that they were to become "intercessors of divine mystery."

By John Shaughnessy

When Annette “Mickey” Lentz was asked to be chancellor of the archdiocese by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, she responded in the way that she always has in 48 years of serving the Church.

She said yes, believing she was answering God’s call to make a difference.

There’s this over-used phrase of servant-leader, but that’s what I am,” Lentz said. “Serving the Church is my call, my vocation. As long as God will let me, I’m here for that call.”

As chancellor, Lentz assumes the third highest position in the archdiocese, following Archbishop Buechlein and vicar general Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel.

Mickey Lentz named new chancellor for archdiocese

Mickey is a tremendously capable leader with a wealth of experience, excellent interpersonal skills, and a great passion for serving the people of the archdiocese with integrity and compassion,” the archbishop said in announcing her appointment.

As chancellor, Lentz will oversee the canonical and archival records of the archdiocese, according to the archbishop.

Other duties include collaborating with the deans of the 11 archdiocesan deaneries, and oversight of youth, young adult and campus ministry.

Mickey Lentz said. “Serving the Church is my call, my vocation. As long as God will let me, I’m here for that call.”

Annette “Mickey” Lentz

See LENTZ, page 12

See ORDINATION, page 2

See ORDER, page 13
ORDINATION

continued from page 1

and in blessing, intercessors of the Word of God, intercessors of the sacred, intercessors of love and mercy,” he said.

After the liturgy, Father Jeremy Gries spoke about being set apart to become such an intercessor.

“We’ve been consecrated, but on behalf of the people,” he said, “We’re there for the people, to serve the people, to pray for the people and to intercede for them, to be mediators for them.”

At the end of his homily, the archbishop spoke of his affection for the men who sat before him and of his hopes for their ministry.

“Brothers, you are precious in the eyes of God—and ours,” he said. “Love God, love your people and your ministry will be awesome.”

“That was probably the most emotional part (of the liturgy) for me,” said Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general. “It was just a reminder that he’s giving his life up to follow Christ in a big way and as sincere a way as I’ve ever seen.”

“A new world opening up for them

The setting apart of the three men continued during the liturgy until the newly ordained priests took their places around the altar to consecrate, with the archbishop, the bread and wine that would become the body and blood of Christ.

Diane Thyron, who is a retired minister of the Bethel Bible Church near Peoria, Ill, “It makes us really proud.”

For Father Joseph M. Gries, the ordination was also a chance for renewal for himself and his brother priests, where they could “realize for themselves what they had promised and hopefully have a renewed spirit to continue to live that out in their own priesthood.”

In his homily, Archbishop Gries told the three men that, in serving Jesus, they would show the faithful “how the mystery of our Christian life can make life-living poetry out of the otherwise hum-drum prose of everyday life.”

For Robert Gries, all of this centered on one thing—his son, Father Jeremy Gries, doing God’s will.

“That’s all I ask of him,” Gries said. “He’s in God’s hands. God took the best I had.”

For his part, Father Gries looks forward to leading those whom he will serve to Christ, to consecrate them to the Lord’s service.

“For more photos from the June 6 ordination, log on to www.CriterionOnline.com.”

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School choice tax credit is part of governor’s budget package

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

Nine-year-old Mia Poindexter, a fourth-grade student at Holy Angels School in Indianapolis, got the chance of a lifetime—the opportunity to receive a Catholic education.

Lack of financial resources, the typical roadblock for most parents in choosing their children’s education, was removed. The financial void was filled by a private scholarship granting organization called the Educational Choice Charitable Trust in Indianapolis.

Mia’s story of opportunity, featured in the organization’s publication called “Families with a Choice. Children with a Future: School Choice in Indiana,” is only one of countless others. The success stories are inspirational, yet the CHOICE program only serves children in Central Indiana and there are many more Hoosier families in need of this opportunity.

Children statewide are going to have that same opportunity if Gov. Mitch Daniels has his way. Daniels included an expansion of school choice options for lower-income families through a scholarship tax credit as part of his budget package. Now it is up to lawmakers to approve it. They returned to the statehouse on June 11 for a special session to pass a new state budget.

During the last several months, the Indiana Catholic Conference and Catholics across the state urged lawmakers to adopt the scholarship tax credit. The scholarship tax credit passed the Senate twice this spring, but the proposal died when the House and Senate could not agree on other controversial aspects of the state’s budget bill.

During the special session, lawmakers will be working from the governor’s budget plan, which contains the scholarship tax credit. If passed, it would provide a 50 percent state tax credit for charitable contributions to qualified scholarship programs.

Lower-income children in kindergarten through 12th grade could qualify for scholarships to help attend the public or private school of their choice. The contributions could be made by individuals or corporations.

Mgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general, who testified in support of the scholarship tax credit earlier this year and who has seen the benefits to families and communities, said, “The CHOICE Charitable Trust. Scholarships have been ‘heaven sent’ for so many families who wanted the best education for their children. Without these scholarships, it is simply not possible.”

James McKeany, principal of All Saints School in Logansport, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese, said, “Since we are not in Marion County, our kids are not eligible for the CHOICE program. Currently, there are no trusts like it in our area.”

The addition of the Scholarship tax credit is important for us to fulfill our mission of being a Catholic school,” McKeany said. “Contrary to common belief, Catholic schools are not just for the wealthy. A faith-based education is a gift that CHOICE Charitable Trust provided. I have firsthand knowledge that Catholic schools do not count on financial need, but because of that it puts a tremendous financial burden on our shoulders.

“I am a small school with a little over 100 students. This year, we anticipate our scholarship fund to be nearly $30,000, which comes from fundraisers and the parish,” McKeany said. “The scholarship tax credit would facilitate a foundation similar to the CHOICE Trust to be set up for our county, and would encourage private donors and corporations to contribute to the fund by allowing them a tax credit.”

Mary Pat Sharpe, principal of St. Joan of Arc School in Indianapolis, said, “Education is one of the most important gifts you can give your child. As a parent, I want to choose which school is the best fit for my child. It is my right and duty.”

“CHOICE Charitable Trust provided more than $55,000 this year in tuition assistance. Our need was over $75,000,” Sharpe said. “This upcoming year will be even tougher as many families who do not qualify for CHOICE have lost jobs and found themselves struggling financially. Therefore, there is another group of families needing assistance.”

Glen Tebbe, ICC executive director, said, “The ICC and the Indiana Catholic Action Network have played and will play a vital role in getting this scholarship tax credit passed. So I encourage everyone to keep contacting your state legislator and ask them to support the scholarship tax credit.”

The new fiscal year begins on July 1, the date the new budget is supposed to go into effect, so lawmakers only have a few weeks to pass the new state budget.

[Brigid Curtis Ayer is a correspondent for The Criterion. To learn more about the Indiana Catholic Conference, log on to www.indianacatholic.org]
President and pope visit the Middle East

P resident Barack Obama gave his most important foreign policy speech to date on June 4, when he spoke to a Muslim audience at Cairo University in Egypt.

It was a speech that the Muslim world listened to carefully. By the time this editorial appears in print, the speech will have been studied and analyzed in many parts of the world.

We hope that the speech achieved its purpose: to convince the Muslim world that the United States wants to join in a partnership to seek, in Obama’s words, a world where extremists no longer threaten our people and American troops have come home: a world where Israelis and Palestinians are each secure in a state of their own, and nuclear energy is used for peaceful purposes, a world where governments serve their citizens and the rights of all God’s children are respected.

While reading the speech, there were times when we thought we were reading one of the speeches that Pope Benedict XVI gave during his visit to Jordan and Israel last month. Both the president and the pope appeared for peace, interreligious dialogue and freedom of religion.

Which of the two men urged interreligious dialogue that they have advanced by alliances of civilizations between the West and the Muslim world, confounding the predictions of those who consider violence and conflict inevitable? It sounds like the president, but it was actually said by the pope during his trip to Jordan.

Both during his trip and at other times, Pope Benedict has defended the freedom of Christian minorities in the Middle East to practice their religion. He warned against the “ideological manipulation of religion” that can act as a catalyst for tensions and violence in contemporary societies.

But it was Obama who said, “Tolerance is essential for religion to thrive. But it’s being challenged in many different ways. A mong some Muslims, there’s a disturbing tendency to measure one’s own faith by the rejection of somebody else’s faith. The richness of religious diversity must be upheld, whether it is for Muslims in Lebanon or the Copts in Egypt.”

Both the pope and the president are appealing to moderate Muslims—the overwhelming majority—to condemn the actions of the extremists.

One more: Which man said interreligious dialogue that they have advanced by alliances of civilizations between the West and the Muslim world, confounding the predictions of those who consider violence and conflict inevitable? It sounds like the president, but it was actually said by the pope during his trip to Jordan.

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Pope Benedict during his meeting with Israeli President Shimon Peres, although Obama has frequently said the same thing, and it’s the position of both the U.S. government and that of the Holy See.

Or which man said, “Six million Jews were killed in [the Holocaust]. Denying that fact is blasphemous. It is ignoble, and it is hateful?”

This time it was Obama. Pope Benedict’s words, at the ad Vashem Holocaust memorial, were that the sufferings of the Jews “must never be denied, belittled or forgotten.” On his arrival in Israel, the pope said, “Sadly, anti-Semitism continues to rear its ugly head in many parts of the world. This is totally unacceptable.”

The president said in his speech, “Around the world, Jews and people were persecuted for centuries.”

The late, great archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Emmanuel Celestin Suhard, once said, “The world will belong to those who love it.”

“Graduation should not bring an end to the lifelong adventure of learning, especially learning how to love more deeply. "A life filled with love is each person’s final exam. Please, God, may we all graduate with flying colors!”

(Tony Magliano writes for Catholic News Service.)

Fathers by the Numbers

Father’s Day has been celebrated nationally since 1972 when President Richard Nixon signed the public law that made it a permanent observance.

64.3 million fathers in the U.S. 5.6 million single fathers

140,000 stay-at-home dads 71% children younger than six ate dinner with their father every night.

6 average times children ages 3-5 were read to by their fathers in the past week

Numbers are given by the U.S. Census Bureau. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.
La intención de los mandamientos de la Iglesia es garantizar el mínimo indispensable para practicar la fe

El catecismo de la Iglesia Católica nos enseña: “Los mandamientos de la Iglesia son promulgados por los ministros ordinarios de la Iglesia como el mínimo necesario para practicar la fe católica”. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica también expresa: “Los mandamientos de la Iglesia como el mínimo necesario para practicar la fe católica...”. Los catecismos establecen los mandamientos como el mínimo indispensable para practicar la fe católica.

Esta intención de los mandamientos es decir, que su finalidad es garantizar el mínimo indispensable para practicar la fe católica. El catecismo indica que los mandamientos garantizan el mínimo indispensable, y que su falta de cumplimiento puede redundar en el pecado.

Este no se convierte en un deber moral en nuestro poder, sino que la obligación de todos los fieles es el cumplimiento del mínimo necesario para practicar la fe católica. Así, los mandamientos establecen lo que es necesario para creer y practicar la fe en la iglesia.

Tanto la Iglesia Católica como la Iglesia Ortodoxa eligen los mismos mandamientos como el mínimo necesario para practicar la fe. Sin embargo, la Iglesia Católica también establece otros mandamientos como el mínimo indispensable para practicar la fe en la comunidad.

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Events Calendar

**June 12-13**
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. 26th annual “Italian Street Festival” Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Italian foods, music, rides, religious procession, Mass. Information: 317-636-4478.

**June 13-14**
St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., Indianapolis. “International Festival,” Fri. Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sun. 5 p.m.-10 p.m., food, games, rides. Information: 317-291-7014, ext. 27.

**June 14**
St. Anthony Parish, 337 N. Warman Ave., Indianapolis. “Summer Festival,” food, trash-to-treasures sale, games, Thurs. 6 p.m.-10 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 6 p.m.-11 p.m. Information: 317-636-4828.

**June 17**
St. Roch Parish, Family Center, 3603 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. “Italian Street Festival,” Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Italian foods, music, rides, religious procession, Masses. Information: 317-625-6398 or parish@usbevf.org.

**June 18**

**June 19**
St. Roch Parish, 337 N. Warman Ave., Indianapolis. “Summer Festival,” food, trash-to-treasures sale, games, Thurs. 6 p.m.-10 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 6 p.m.-11 p.m. Information: 317-636-4828.

**June 20**
St. Joseph Church, 1875 S. County Road 700 W., North Vernon. Corpus Christi Sunday, Mass and procession, 6 p.m. Information: 317-346-4783.

**June 21**
St. Ambrose Parish and Our Lady of Providence Parish, 325 S. Chestnut St., Seymour. “St. Ambrose Kermesse,” food festival, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Information: 812-522-5304.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 2322 K. 1330 St., Terre Haute. Parish auction, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 812-466-1231.

**June 23**
Marian College, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Right to Life of Indianapolis “Sunday Night Run,” 6 p.m. Information: 317-525-1473 or sundaynightrun@gmail.com.

St. Rita Church, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. “Gospel Fed,” 4 p.m. Information: 317-632-9349.

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. Corpus Christi Sunday, outdoor Mass and procession, 9 a.m. Information: 317-636-4478.


St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1723 “I” St., Bedford. Corpus Christi procession, 10:30 a.m. procession following Mass. Information: 812-275-6398 or parisi@usbevf.org.

St. Anne Church, 4570 County Road 150 East, North Vernon. Corpus Christi Sunday, Mass and procession, 10:30 a.m. Information: 317-846-4783.

St. Mary Magdalen Parish, 4623 S. Old Mclouth Rd. Road, Hollot. Corpus Christi Sunday, Vespers, procession and pitch-in dinner, 6 p.m. Information: 317-689-4244.

St. Paul Parish, 814 Jefferson St., Tell City. Parish picnic, City Hall Park, 700 W. St., Tell City, across from church, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., games, food. Information: 812-547-7994.


**June 24**
St. Mary Magdalen Parish, 4623 S. Old Mclouth Rd. Road, Hollot. Corpus Christi Sunday, Vespers, procession and pitch-in dinner, 6 p.m. Information: 317-689-4244.

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**June 27**
St. Michael Archcharts, School of Theology, Archabbehy Church, 200 Hill Drive, Indianapolis. Parish picnic, 5-8 p.m. Information: 317-636-4478.


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Senior citizens often must say goodbye to family home

By Daniel S. Mulhall

A cording to statistics posted on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Web site, in 2004—the latest data available—there were 1.5 million people, most over the age of 85, living in the country’s 36,190 nursing homes. A cross the country, 8 percent of the men and 16 percent of the women over the age of 85 are residents of nursing homes. For most senior citizens, the decision to enter a nursing home or assisted-living retirement home means giving up their independence, learning to share space with strangers and forgoing things they hold dear. But the frailty of their age and failing health often leave many of the elderly with little choice.

Emily Kolb, 91, loved being independent and living in her home of 40 years. An extraordinary minister of holy Communion for her parish, Kolb enjoyed taking the Eucharist to elderly Catholics who live in several nursing homes in Louisville, Ky.

When she decided that it was time to give up her own home, she and her daughter visited some of the men and women that Kolb had befriended in nursing homes and retirement centers to ask their opinions. Then she waited six months for a room with a view of the pond and ducks at her favorite

This “location appealed to me, as did the price, but I also realized that you are no longer in your own home. You don’t want to offend anybody. I mostly ask, ‘Lord, what can I do this day to make a difference for someone else?’” Kolb enjoys playing bridge and saying the rosary with new friends at her retirement home.

“We may not be able to go to Mass,” she said, “but we can pray together. I feel like the Blessed Mother and I’m in the room with us.”

For the whole house from one plug.” (Nora Mrazik, Tucson, Ariz.)

First Communicants Amelia Biltz, left, and Carolina Szwinski chat with Frances Grace, a resident of Mitchell Manor nursing home in West Allis, Wis., on May 22, 2003. The second-graders from St. Mary School in Hales Corners, Wis., visited the nursing home while wearing their first Communion outfits, and played a game of “Bible Jingo” with residents.

First Communications

Elderly experience many changes

This Week’s Question

What did you miss most when you gave up a cherished home?

“I miss the big garden and the lovely ravine, which allowed for a super, peaceful atmosphere. One living-room wall was 40 feet of glass overlooking a ravine. But we’re happy in a condo on a small golf course, where others do the work.” (Carol Skruch, Northville, Mich.)

“Leaving family behind [in Ohio] was the most difficult. But we have a great desire to see the sun, had previous knowledge of the area and friends were already here. We may not like what others do, but you just have to grin and bear it. You don’t want to offend anybody. I mostly ask, ‘Lord, what can I do this day to make a difference for someone else?’” Kolb enjoys playing bridge and saying the rosary with new friends at her retirement home.

“We may not be able to go to Mass,” she said, “but we can pray together. I feel like the Blessed Mother and I’m in the room with us.”

Norman and Sally O’Grady, both in their mid-80s, are not ready to give up their long-time family home. “I made the decision to keep Sally at home after a few months,” he said. “We may not be able to go to Mass,” she said, “but when we pray together I feel like the Blessed Mother and Mary is in the room with us.”

Keep his wife at home, O’Grady added on to their house to make it more accessible. He hired caregivers to come to their house four days a week, and also gets a lot of help from their grown children. When he becomes too frail to care for her, he plans to increase the hours of the hired assistants. Without their help, he could not care for his wife at home. (Daniel S. Mulhall is the former assistant secretary for catechesis and inculturation for the U.S. bishops. He speaks, writes and consults on issues concerning catechesis, parish life, pastoral planning and inculturation from his home in Laurel, Md.)

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First Communications
Twenty Something/ Christina Capacci

Earthly ambition, divine perspective: How to stay on track

I do not understand Kate Gosselin. I cannot comprehend the marital strains and rumored infidelity convinced the reality star and her family to move to New Hampshire to avoid a certain death to launch a media campaign, one that even her most capitalized headline, “We might split,” is a bit of wishful thinking out loud about divorce (People magazine, no less) possibly reducing her chances of breaking through. Kate’s statement is one of several media blitizes that has left me scratching my head. I don’t understand, for example, how badmouthing the Sarah Palin campaign could help Levi Johnston realize what he insists is his most urgent goal: greater access to his baby boy. (And, later he admitted, he’s also fishing for modeling gigs.)

The tell-alls and campaigns seek of ambition—the blind, ravenous kind that Shakespeare wrote about. 

As a manager, I was fascinated by M. acbett’s demise; “I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent,” he professed, “but only avarice, which keeps itself and falls on the worst.” It is a physical description of oversized aspirations. M. acbett’s ambition shoots so high it cannot be contained. It is beyond its limits, beyond safety and sanity.

That Shakespearean tax irritated me because I am ambition-williamed. I know how to manage it. My love of writing has always come with a desire to be read. In fifth grade, I wrote to my favorite author, “Do kids ever get published?” I yearned to reach a wide audience.

And in my rearing, I was taught to harbor ambitions and secretly question their scope and chutzpa. Are we so readily deluded to dream of the corner office? Are we so ready to dream of the corner office? Are we so ready to dream of the corner office? Are we so ready to dream of the corner office?

The very word “ambition” sounds suspicious—and for good reason, when you consider its Latin root, it means “reach out from the Latin word ambitio, which is literally, the act of soliciting or competing.”

That’s fitting in our vote-for-me culture, begging, “Ooh, ooh, pick me! Make me the apprentice, the next top model, the top chef, the next lead in the play."

This reality TV-to-Youtube era breeds “vaulting ambition,” the Susan Boyle effect, to be exact. Many of us from the Latin root ambitio, which is, literally, the act of soliciting or competing.

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These ill-advised campaigns reek of ambition—the blind, ravenous kind that Shakespeare wrote about. 

As a manager, I was fascinated by M. acbett’s demise; “I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent,” he professed, “but only avarice, which keeps itself and falls on the worst.” It is a physical description of oversized aspirations. M. acbett’s ambition shoots so high it cannot be contained. It is beyond its limits, beyond safety and sanity.

That Shakespearean tax irritated me because I am ambition-williamed. I know how to manage it. My love of writing has always come with a desire to be read. In fifth grade, I wrote to my favorite author, “Do kids ever get published?” I yearned to reach a wide audience.

And in my rearing, I was taught to harbor ambitions and secretly question their scope and chutzpa. Are we so readily deluded to dream of the corner office? Are we so ready to dream of the corner office? Are we so ready to dream of the corner office? Are we so ready to dream of the corner office?

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Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, June 14, 2009

**Exodus 24:3-8**

**Hebrews 9:1-15**

**Mark 14:12-16, 22-26**

The Book of Exodus is the source of this feast day’s first reading, the story of the event that occurred as the Hebrew people were making their way across the Sinai Peninsula in flight from Egypt and slavery.

To modern ears, the story may sound4.

...and yet he envelopes us with the fragrance of a meadow of wildflowers.

...and yet He created the sweet

...and yet He is without eyes,

...and yet He hears the cry of the Lord and the disciples could gather to encounter then ask for a room in which the man would go to a house, whose owner the disciples should encounter then ask for a room in which the Lord and the disciples could gather to eat the Passover meal.

It is an interesting passage. It reveals that the Last Supper, and all that happened at the Last Supper, was utterly within the Providence of God. It was no ordinary meal. God planned that it would provide the means for salvation, for uniting the people with Jesus.

The Epistle to the Hebrews is one of the New Testament’s most eloquent sources for knowledge about the person and the mission of Jesus. This feast’s selection is no exception. As this epistle does so often, this particular reading stresses that Jesus is the perfect victim of sacrifice as well as the great high priest. The sacrifice of bulls is no longer necessary. In its place is the sublime offering of the innocent Lamb of God, Jesus the Lord.

The three Synoptic Gospels report the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist by giving the actual words used by Jesus—“This is my body” and “This is my blood.”

In this feast day’s case, the reading is from Mark’s Gospel. Before the mention of the meal itself, the Gospel says that Jesus sent two disciples into the city. He told them that they will see a man carrying a water jar, and they should follow this man. The man will go to a house, whose owner the disciples should encounter then ask for a room in which the Lord and the disciples could gather to eat the Passover meal.

The name “Christ” is the English (and Latin and Greek) equivalent of the Hebrew word “Mashiach,” the anointed, the expected one who would be anointed as king and Lord to save his people. This name held a key position in the earliest teachings of the Church. In the Acts of the Apostles, the message that Jesus was the Mashiach, the Christ, seems to have been the core proclamation of the Apostles themselves (Acts 3:20; Acts 8:5; Acts 9:2-22 and elsewhere).

The title was also a favorite of St. Paul. Our word “Christening” is still occasionally used for baptism since anointing with oil is part of the ceremony. We find all combinations of those names in the New Testament. “Jesus” is there, of course, though Our Lord is seldom referred to by that name. “Jesus Christ” occurs several times, though the English often renders the second word as an adjective, “Jesus the Christ.” Those names are reversed a couple of times, as in “now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom 8:1). By far, the most frequent name for Our Lord, however, which appears dozens of times, especially in the letters written by or attributed to St. Paul, is simply the name “Christ.” This title as a proper name for Jesus became common very soon after the Resurrection.

Several other titles in the New Testament (Lord, Son of God, Son of Man and others) fill in the Christian understanding of Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah. All of these are still proper designations for Our Lord.

**My Journey to God**

Trail Signs

God is without ears, and yet He hears the cry of the lowly and persecuted.

God is without eyes, and yet He sees the tiny swirls and whorls in a newborn’s footprint.

God does not smell, and yet He created the sweet fragrance of a meadow of wildflowers.

God does not have arms, and yet He envelopes us with the tender whisper of a caress.

God does not have feet, and yet He moves us to follow Him into the fog.

The trail signs He leaves are unmistakable—

A good cry with a sister,
A card from a daughter,
A kiss from a boyfriend,
A prayer with a companion.

—By Sandra Hartlieb

(“A new way to examine Christian names”) by Sandra Hartlieb is a member of St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis. This poem was inspired by her experience as a Providence Associate candidate with the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She made her commitment as a lay associate inspired by her experience as a Providence Associate candidate with the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She made her commitment as a lay associate.

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**Joy in serving Jesus**

Three men dedicate their lives to Christ as priests

Deacon John Hollowell processes into SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral on June 6 with his parents, Diane and Joseph Hollowell of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis, for the rite of ordination liturgy. Diane Hollowell carries the vestments that will be presented to her son during the ordination Mass.

Father Gerald Kirkhoff, left, helps vest ordinand Jeremy Gries on June 6 at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Father Kirkhoff is the pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis and the archdiocesan vicar for priests.

Newly ordained Father Jeremy Gries, right, receives Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein as Fathers Peter Marshall, left, and John Hollowell watch at the conclusion of the rite of ordination liturgy on June 6 at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral.

Newly ordained Father John Hollowell, center, and newly ordained Father Peter Marshall, left, embrace as newly ordained Father Jeremy Gries is confirmed as a priest on June 6 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral.

Father Michael O'Mara, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Indianapolis, helps newly ordained Father Peter Marshall during the rite of ordination on June 6 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Father O'Mara was his mentor when Father Marshall joined the full communion of the Catholic Church at age 30 then studied for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

In a gesture symbolic of his promise of obedience, Deacon Peter Marshall kneels and places his hands in Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein's hands during the June 6 ordination Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Deacons Jeremy Gries and John Hollowell also were ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Buechlein. Seminarian Martin Rodriguez, center, assists the archbishop.

Rosalie Hawthorne, the pastoral associate at Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis, proclaims the second reading during the ordination Mass on June 6 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Hawthorne formerly served as the longtime director of religious education at the South Deanery parish where newly ordained Fathers Jeremy Gries and John Hollowell grew up.

The Criterion  Friday, June 12, 2009

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Lebanon's opposition setback seen as a boost for diplomatic relations

BEIRUT, Lebanon—Lebanon's Western-backed ruling majority remains in power as a result of the country's hotly contested June 7 parliamentary elections, a setback for the Christian opposition backed by Hezbollah.

Christian opposition leader Michel Aoun, a Maronite Catholic who forged alliances through his Free Patriotic Movement with Hezbollah in 2006, had hoped to claim the majority in the Lebanese parliament.

Hezbollah, which is supported by Iran and Syria, is considered a terrorist group by the United States.

Under Lebanon's politically divided Christians were considered the determining factor in the election. Fifty-eight percent voted for the ruling coalition and 42 percent for Aoun's bloc, according to Lebanon's An Nahar newspaper.

The other 32 seats were allocated for Christians, and the presidency is reserved for a Maronite Catholic. Christians represent about 40 percent of Lebanon's population of approximately 4 million.

The March 14 ruling coalition, comprised of Sunni, Druze, and Christians, was victorious in four of Lebanon's five major cities, including Beirut and Tripoli.

Of Lebanon's 128 parliamentary seats, the ruling coalition now holds 71 seats, a gain of one since the 2005 elections. The opposition now has 57 seats, a loss of one. Hezbollah has maintained its 11 seats.

The outcome is “favorable to what the U.S. wants and most likely will lessen tensions with Israel,” said Habib Makl, associate professor of history at Lebanese American University and the author of Between Damascus and Jerusale: Lebanon and Middle East Peace.

“Athough Aoun has increased seats in parliament, where he lost, he now has great difficulty in speaking on behalf of Christians,” Makl said.

Aoun’s showing can be viewed as a boost to his hopes of banning Lebanon’s politically fragmented Christians, according to another historian who served as superior general of the Maronite Lebanese Order.

“I’m glad that Aoun is still a leader,” said Father Paul Naaman, vice president of Holy Spirit University in Kaslik, Lebanon, pointing out that Aoun “is one of the best and most powerful Christian leaders, asking for all Christian rights.”

But with this election, Father Naaman said, relations with the Iranian and Syrian axes have been cut.

“Now I think Aoun can’t pretend he’s the only Christian leader like before. Now he’s equal with other Christian leaders,” Father Naaman said.

Father Naaman said dialogue among Lebanon’s Christian leaders is now “more interesting” and he considers the country’s political landscape “a real democracy.”

“We can now work on gathering Christian leaders together. We can ask them to put together a strategic plan for the Christians in the Middle East,” he said.

Father Naaman noted that for the first time

Roncalli student wins right to attend public school summer session

Criterion staff report

A Roncalli High School student is attending summer school at a public high school thanks to a recent decision relayed by the Indiana State Board of Education.

The male Roncalli student, who needs to make up a ninth-grade English class, was twice denied the opportunity to take summer school classes in the Franklin County School Corporation, said Ron Costello, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

“The reason given by the high school was that they did not have to accept private school students,” Costello said.

With the support of Roncalli High School officials and the archdiocesan attorney, the parents petitioned the State of Indiana to allow their child to attend summer school in the public school corporation.

A hearing in early June where a hearing officer-sided with the Roncalli student and his right to attend public summer school, members of the Franklin County School Corporation board of trustees appeared to the Indiana State Board of Education.

The State Board of Education unanimously agreed to uphold the hearing officer’s decision allowing the Roncalli student to attend summer school in the Franklin County School Corporation.

“Parochial [public schools] are tax-funded programs,” Costello said, “and kids don’t lose their rights because they go to private schools.

Parents [who send their children to private school] have the right to use other public services that their tax dollars support,” Costello added.

The Roncalli student was scheduled to begin summer school in the Franklin County School Corporation on June 8.

Marriage Supplement

Be a part of our Marriage Supplement

July 17, 2009, issue of The Criterion

If you are planning your wedding between July 1, 2009 and February 1, 2010, we invite you to submit the information for an announcement on the form below.

Picsures

You may send us a picture of the couple. Please do not cut the photograph. The picture must be in size and will be used as space permits. We cannot guarantee the reproduction quality of the photos. Please put the couple's names on the back of the photo. Photos will be returned if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

E-mailed photos

Photos should be saved in jpg format, be a minimum 200 dpi resolution and at least 3 inches or 600 pixels wide. Color photos are preferred. Please send your photo as an attachment to the e-mail.

Deadline

All announcements and photos must be received by 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2009. (No announcements or photos will be accepted after this date.)
Diagnosis critical?

New book sees growing threats to Catholic health care, conscience

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic health care faces cultural, legal, economic and political challenges that may lead to the end of its distinctively Catholic mission in the not-too-distant future, a Catholic law professor writes in a new book.

“Issues related to women’s reproductive rights may provide the most difficult challenges to the ongoing struggles by the proponents of [Catholic] hospitals in terms of preserving their Catholic identity,” says Leonard J. Nelson III in Diagnosis Critical: The Urgent Threats Confronting Catholic Healthcare to be published in June by Our Sunday Visitor.

Nelson, a professor at the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and an affiliated scholar with the Birmingham School of Public Health at the University of Alabama, sees the future of Catholic health care in free clinics, specialized centers focusing on natural family planning and other Church-approved reproductive medicine, and hospice care for the dying.

“They may need to move out of the hospital setting to aspects of medical care that are ‘not subject to extensive government oversight,’ ” Nelson told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview on May 28.

But the president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association sees no coming retreat from Catholic health care as we know it today, calling Nelson’s book “really a very old thesis that reappears every five to 10 years.”

“We have no reason to think we will or should close,” said Sister Carol Keenan, a Daughter of Charity, in an e-mail to CNS.

“We will keep conscience protection, and we will continue to be a major presence in the health care of this nation.”

Sister Carol also said that “people who have not been in Catholic health care and have no knowledge of what it means in the lives of so many are too willing to give it up.”

“It is a treasure, and the care of the sick is a sign of the kingdom,” she added, “and we intend to be here being that sign.”

Nelson, a member of St. Paul Cathedral Parish in Birmingham, sees a sort of Catch-22 in efforts to defend the Catholic identity of hospitals from moves to dilute conscience protections in those institutions.

“Catholic institutions could bolster their claim to statutory, if not constitutional protection, from [laws that require them to act in violation of Catholic teaching] by becoming more pervasively Catholic,” he writes.

“And if Catholic institutions are generally perceived to be serious about their Catholic identity, it may be easier to argue for legislative exemption from such laws.”

“On the other hand, emphasizing the distinctive mission of Catholic hospitals may strengthen claims that public funding should be denied because of the sectarian nature of these hospitals,” Nelson adds.

In the CNS interview, he cited a variety of reasons for what he sees as the current dire state of Catholic health care. Among them are a lack of vocations leading to a switch in leadership of Catholic hospitals from women religious to laypeople, some of whom are not Catholics; the societal trend toward viewing abortion as a “right” that should not be affected by the beliefs of others; and the economic stresses that force Catholic hospitals into “all sorts of joint ventures and mergers” to maintain financial viability.

But the greatest threat might come from the concerted effort by groups that promote or provide abortions to “mainstream abortion” by making it part of every health plan and available at every hospital, Nelson said.

“It’s going to be constant,” he said. “I don’t believe FOCA [the Freedom of Choice Act] will pass. It will be more incremental, more subtle, but we will end up in the same place.”

FOCA, which would wipe out existing state laws and impose states’ ability to regulate abortion, has not yet been introduced in the current Congress.

President Barack Obama has stated that it is not a high legislative priority for him.

In the near future, “insurance plans will all have to cover abortion and the full range of reproductive services, so Catholics will be paying for it that way,” Nelson said.

He also believes it is likely that health reform under Obama will treat abortion as a right and make it more readily available and government-funded.

Nelson blamed some Catholic politicians for advancing the view that it is OK to be Catholic and to support keeping abortion legal, and said some bishops have not been sufficiently willing to denounce that view.

“Pro-choice” Catholic politicians threaten the continued existence of Catholic health care because they provide political cover and legitimacy to efforts to impose mandates on Catholic health care institutions to provide services in violation of the ERAs,” Nelson writes.

Nelson said he has been writing Diagnosis Critical for four or five years, but has been interested in Catholic health care since he worked for a law firm 30 years ago that provided legal services to a Catholic hospital system.

The 229-page book contains an additional 112 pages of footnotes. Some parts of the book were published earlier as law review articles, and “1 sourced the book like a law review article” Nelson said with a laugh.
Detroit pastors share message of faith, hope in light of auto crisis

By Marylann H. Heidt

DETROIT (CNS)—General Motors Corp.'s bankruptcy filing on June 3 is one more dramatic and harsh reality to Detroit-area residents still reeling from plant closings, downsizing, job losses and house foreclosures.

With the headquarters for the “Big Three” General Motors, Chrysler LLC and Ford Motor Co.—all within the Archdiocese of Detroit—the impact of the auto crisis has been personal on a number of levels.

“Just what GM represents, not just to us, but to the country,” said Father Thomas Slowinski, the pastor of St. Andrew Parish in the suburb of Rochester. “This giant has fallen, and when it gets up it will be a lot smaller.”

Father Slowinski’s parish is just miles from the Chrysler headquarters and a number of auto plants. He and other parish priests across the archdiocese addressed the current situation during the June 6-7 weekend as they gathered for the celebration of the feast of the Holy Trinity.

“This is a tough situation. I think both the Gospel and the feast of the Holy Trinity speak well to the situation,” Father Slowinski said.

“You look at the Gospel story the Church gives us, and it is the conclusion of Matthew’s Gospel. It doesn’t end on a great note. It turns to hate and—what else?—doubt. ... We don’t reject the world, we worship, but they doubted.”

Some people who have been unemployed or underemployed have offered their skills at the parish as well, he said. Father Slowinski said the auto crisis “forces a lot of people to reorder their lives.”

He noted that St. Daniel Parish is a “tithing parish,” but “we’ve had to change the way we look at things and the way we budget for the people with more being used now locally for helping people pay their electric bill and things.”

Father Slowinski’s homilies on June 13 and 14 in light of the recent auto crisis.

Messages of faith and hope with their parishioners during their homilies on June 13 and 14 in light of the recent auto crisis.

A large “Buy American” sign, in support of Detroit’s auto industry, is seen in the back of an auto scrap yard in Detroit on May 18. Parish priests across the Archdiocese of Detroit will be sharing a variety of messages of faith and hope with their parishioners during their homilies on June 13 and 14 in light of the recent auto crisis.

Contributing to this story was Kristin Lukowski.
Volunteers promote international adoptions of Down syndrome babies

By Paul Sanchez
Catholic News Service

WESTERLY, R.I. (CNS)—A Maryland-based organization is working against the trend of aborting Down syndrome babies by placing those children from around the globe with loving families in the United States.

Reece’s Rainbow assists couples in adopting Down syndrome children from other countries. Founded in June 2006, Reece’s Rainbow has already found families for more than 175 children with Down syndrome from 32 countries around the world, including Armenia, Haiti, Malawi, Ghana, Russia, Liberia, Vietnam and Korea.

A nonprofit volunteer organization, Reece’s Rainbow prides itself on the fact that 100 percent of every dollar donated goes to the child, family or fund designated by the donor.

For decades, doctors have recommended an amniocentesis test for pregnant women who are 35 and older because their age dictates a greater risk for chromosomal defects. Because the test carries a slight risk of miscarriage, it has not been routinely offered to younger women, who end up giving birth to the majority of Down syndrome babies.

But a 2007 recommendation from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists encouraged doctors to offer a new screening procedure to all pregnant women, regardless of age. A sonogram and a new screening procedure are offered to all pregnant American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

But often the trend of aborting Down syndrome babies is fuelled by parents who are 35 and older because their age likely be mistreated.

The organization also works to help adoptive families. It focuses on saving the lives of children who might otherwise face life, or death, in mental institutions abroad.

“If society does not show compassion for its most vulnerable members, then it is doomed for worse things,” Mulready said.

“In my opinion, the fact that Reece’s Rainbow does not take a stand on abortion or prenatal testing because its primary focus is to assist with adoptions, and foster understanding and acceptance through example. I am sure that there are many members of our group who may have varying viewpoints, but Reece’s Rainbow does not have a stated position on abortion,” Roberts said.

“Our group is open to anyone with a love for children and people with Down syndrome. Discussions about such controversial issues are discouraged because we want to keep the focus on the life-saving efforts of the ministry,” she said.

“They are spreading a pro-life message of compassion and acceptance.”

(For more information on Reece’s Rainbow, log on to www.reecesrainbow.org.)

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Visit Robin Run Village Garden Homes today and see for yourself.
By Julie Carroll

Catholic News Service

ST. PAUL, MN (CNS)—Father Larry Snyder admits it’s a daunting challenge: starting work on cutting the U.S. poverty rate in half by 2020 at a time when thousands of Americans are drowning in debt and organizations that serve the poor are straining to meet their clients’ needs.

Not only is Catholic Charities USA, which Father Snyder heads, committed to the goal, but he and the organization are convinced that it’s vital for the country.

In late April, Catholic Charities hosted the first of 10 summits to be held at sites across the nation in 2009 and 2010 to give social service providers, health care providers, educational leaders and others an opportunity to discuss the needs of the poor in their communities.

Catholic Charities plans to use the information to craft anti-poverty legislation that it will propose to Congress next year.

“Our plan is simple,” Father Snyder told more than 100 people gathered at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul.

“Earlier in our history,” he said, “Mgr. [John] O’Grady joined with the Roosevelt administration in crafting the New Deal and the largest anti-poverty program in our nation’s history: Social Security. It is time for the New Deal of our time.”

Mgr. O’Grady headed the national Catholic Charities operation for more than 40 years.

The organization is one of the largest networks of social service providers in the nation. It serves nearly 8 million people annually through more than 1,700 local agencies and institutions nationwide.

Catholic Charities USA launched an anti-poverty campaign in 2006 after publishing a policy paper titled “Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good,” which called for the creation of more livable-wage jobs and a greater investment in social policies that support the poor.

In 2007, according to the most current data available, more than 37 million Americans were living below the official federal poverty level, which was $22,050 for a family of four. Some have predicted that by the end of this year that number will climb to more than 50 million.

Catholic Charities and other organizations that serve the poor have also been scarred by the troubled economy.

In a 2009 survey conducted by Catholic Charities USA, the organization’s agencies around the country reported an increase in demand for nutrition, housing and direct-assistance services coupled with a decrease in donations.

“The statistics coming back to us are disturbing,” Father Snyder said at the St. Paul summit.

Eighty-two percent of the 50 agencies that responded to the survey reported an increase in requests for food services in 2008, he said. Eighty-six percent experienced an increase in requests for rent or mortgage assistance, and 90 percent reported an increase in requests for financial assistance.

“Demographics of people seeking help have also changed, and are now including people who consider themselves middle class as well as senior citizens,” Father Snyder added.

A anecdote from the front lines are even more revealing.

Father Ragan, archdiocesan executive director of Catholic Charities of East Tennessee in the Knoxville Diocese, reported to Catholic Charities USA: “Through October, November and December, all family shelter beds were full. We had to ask our United Way to allow us to spend some of their money on lower-end hotel rooms to put families who were homeless into a place until something opened up.”

Laura Opelt, executive director of Catholic Charities of Rochester, N.Y., said, “We are seeing more working poor who have never relied on services before and are not eligible for traditional programs. They are in need of food and emergency assistance.”

At the same time that demand for services is increasing, Catholic Charities agencies are experiencing a sharp decline in philanthropic giving and government funding, according to the survey.

As a result, 20 percent of agencies reported making reductions in programs that provide basic needs.

Sixteen percent made reductions in housing assistance programs. Of the agencies reporting program reductions, 56 percent cut staff and 44 percent made service delivery cuts.

In 2006, Father Snyder said, “we never imagined that we would be facing in 2008 and 2009 a housing crisis, a financial crisis, a nutrition crisis.

“But this crisis presents us with the opportunity to change a nation,” he said, adding that the aim should not be “to look around for signs of hope,” but to be determined “to be signs of hope.”

In an interview with The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Father Snyder said Catholic Charities will propose “landmark legislation ... that we hope to call the ‘Corporate Works of Mercy Legislation.’ ”

The legislation will focus on five “pillars” outlined in “Poverty in America”—hunger, health care, economic security, housing, and education and workforce development.

To eradicate poverty, Father Snyder said, nonprofit organizations and the government must work together.

“In Catholic social teaching, we would define the role of government as providing for the common good,” Father Snyder said. “A lot of people on Capitol Hill would not agree with that. They would say government’s business is to maintain the security of our borders, and maintain law and order. Those are important things,” he said, “but they’re pieces of the common good.

“We would say the other pieces are if there are people who are not able to live independently, then society and the government has a responsibility to a part of the solution.”

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NEW ORLEANS (CNS)—A Franciscan physician and ethicist warned Catholic health care leaders on June 7 not to let their ministry become an entirely secular operation that sees patients as customers and leaves out the vital component of love.

Brother Daniel P. Sulmasy recounted his experiences with an unfurling bureaucracy one evening at his own hospital. St. Vincent’s in New York. He contrasted it with the approach of a nurse at a local secular hospital whose care of patients mirrors more closely the love that saints, heroes and founders of Catholic health care brought to their work.

“We are frequently guilty, I think, of turning the Catholicity of our hospitals into a series of moral codes,” Brother Daniel said. “We seem to ‘fit in’ better in a secular society when we talk about morality. More liberal institutions will boast of a code of social justice. The most Catholic will have a code which lists the things they will not do. Conservative institutions will boast of a code which lists the things they will do. More liberal institutions will boast of a code of social justice. The most Catholic institutions among us will boast of both.

“But none of these codes can serve as replacements for the ever-new and ever-renewing encounter with the person who is love,” he added. “That encounter must be the foundation of our health care systems and our institutions.”

Brother Daniel said the message about love in the 13th chapter of Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians—“Love is patient, love is kind ...”—has been “turned into a bit of wedding kitsch,” but offers today’s society words that are “radical, dangerous and countercultural.”

“What Paul is saying, if you can hear it, is that you may have crucifixes in every patient’s room, you may not have a single employee who would ever even think of performing an abortion, you may have excellent services for the poor and the undocumented, but if you do not have love, you are nothing,” Brother Daniel said. “You are zero. Zip. Nada.”

He acknowledged that some might find his words “vague, pious, abstract and irrelevant to the work we must undertake—which is not only assuring the survival of Catholic health care, but providing for its flourishing in the 21st century.”

“But if what I have been saying is true, then the Gospel itself is either irrelevant or a distracting fairy tale, and the culture of fear” that once flourished in the 21st century.

“I felt so close to the Holy Father—so inspired by his goodness, his message of love, and his teaching that human life is sacred and that ‘each of us is willed, each of us is loved and each of us is necessary,’” she said in her talk. “That same belief in the dignity and necessity of human life is what inspires my efforts to save lives through Susan G. Komen for the Cure.”

—Franciscan Brother Daniel P. Sulmasy
Rest in peace

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


SHRADER, James, 66, St. Mary, New Albany, May 27. Sister of Sue M. Pritchett. Aunt of several. 150th anniversary of the saint’s death.

Festival Information
Thursday, June 25 • 5:00 pm-Closing
50’s Theme Night
Dinner: Roast Beef by Fr. Carlton
Friday, June 26 • 5:00 pm-Closing
Colts Theme Night
Dinner: Iaria’s Italian Night
Saturday, June 27 • 4:00 pm-Closing
Hawaiian Theme Night
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www.CatholicRadioIndy.org
Priests and deacons nurture the seed of the Word in every young adult’s heart. Encouragement and nourishment may urge any youngster to become a priest, deacon or nun. A vocation to me means a call in our life to a holy living. Whether one is called to be a nun or called to be a priest, brother or sister, if you hear that calling, you must live it to the fullest. St. John Paul II cannot always hear this divine call by themselves. They need the help of religious leaders around them. Priests play a huge role in spiritual growth for the youths around the Church. Every homily or Gospel reading has the ability to reach out and touch a child or teenager and open their eyes eternally to God’s call to religious living. Priests and deacons nurture the seed of the Word in every young adult’s heart. Encouragement and nourishment may urge any youngster to become a priest, brother, deacon or nun. Even if you are called to live in a faithful marriage and to raise your kids to know Jesus, a priest, deacon or nun may help. Religious leaders will always be there for help, advice and support. Helping you recognize your vocation is what they do best. Advice-giving on how to fulfill a vocation is their specialty. They’ve been through this too, so support is the very best they can offer. A life of prayer can help immensely in recognizing your call. Religious brothers and sisters can really help in this area of the faith. Picking out specific prayers and reciting them by your side is the least they can do to help. The next step would be to go to them and write a prayer, pertaining to you, to help you hear God’s call. The rest is up to you, your prayer life and God relaying his message.

Even if a person does not ask for help, a priest or another religious leader will be there willing to help. In Catholic grade schools, religious elders surround the young children with loving guidance and care. In every parish or Church environment, a priest or deacon is there willing to help. Religious leaders show immense amounts of love, guidance and help in hearing God’s call in your life.

[Rebecca Angelen and her parents, Jeffrey and Diane Angelen, are members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. She completed the seventh grade at St. Luke School in Indianapolis last spring and is the seventh-grade division winner in the 2009 Indianapolis Serra Club Vocations Essay Contest.]
A human life is miraculous. It’s a simple, ordinary fact that’s easy to miss if you’re not paying attention. From the new mother holding her baby for the first time to the nurse who comes back at the end of his shift to sit beside a bed and pray, we see wonders all around us, every day. We lift up and celebrate the precious beauty of everyday life. And it does make us different.

Learn more at StFrancisHospitals.org