Liturgy changes, immigration and marriage among issues at bishops’ spring meeting

SAN ANTONIO CNS—Liturgical matters, immigration reform and same-sex marriage were among the topics discussed by the U.S. bishops in public sessions at their June 17-19 spring meeting in San Antonio.

But the bishops also devoted time—in executive session—to the recent controversy over the University of Notre Dame’s decision to award an honorary degree to U.S. President Barack Obama.

They emerged from the meeting with a two-sentence affirmation of Bishop John M. D’Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., for his “pastoral concern” for the university.

The only two liturgical texts receiving definitive approval from the bishops in San Antonio were a Spanish-language Lexiconary and a Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Human Life.

The Mass for life, first proposed nearly 20 years ago by Cardinal John J. O’Connor of New York, passed by a 183-2 vote, with three abstentions. The Spanish-language Lexiconary was approved on a 181-2 vote, also with three abstentions. Both now go to the Vatican for confirmation.

But five sections of the Roman Missal being prepared for use in English-speaking countries failed to get the necessary two-thirds votes of the Latin-rite U.S. bishops during the meeting.

With 244 Latin-rite bishops in the United States eligible to vote on the questions, the required two-thirds was 163. With 189 eligible bishops attending the meeting, only 154 voted to accept the first section—Masses and prayers for various needs and intentions.

On four subsequent translations, the votes also failed to reach two-thirds, meaning the 55 bishops not present will be polled by mail on all five parts. That process is expected to take several weeks.

The items that failed to pass contain the Order of the Mass II, prefaces for various occasions, votive Masses and Masses for the dead, solemn blessings for the end of Mass, prayers over the people and eucharistic prayers for particular occasions, such as for evangelization or ordinations.

See BISHOPS, page 3

Two more deacons will be ordained priests on June 27

June 27 will be another day of joy for Catholics in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis as two more men will be ordained as priests to minister in central and southern Indiana.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will ordain transitional deacons Sean Danda and Christopher Wadelton to the priesthood.

The ordination liturgy will take place at 10 a.m. at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

(For more information about archdiocesan priests and seminarians, log on to www.heear gods call.com.)

Name reflects changes, growth of ‘new’ Marian University

By Kamila Benko

What’s in a name? According to Shakespeare, not much.

But Daniel Elsener, president of Marian University, understands a name can say a lot about an institution and its mission.

Effective July 1, Marian College in Indianapolis will officially change its name to Marian University.

“We are legally documented with the secretary of state as ‘The Marian University,’” said Elsener, “but for business purposes we will go by Marian University.”

Elsener included “The” to distinguish the Indianapolis-based university from Marian University in Wisconsin. However, the university president cited a more important factor for including the article adjective.

“(The) brings attention to this university and the fact that it is dedicated to the Blessed Mother,” explained Elsener. “The university is unique to Indiana, and it very clearly identifies us as a place of faith.”

Faith has always been important to Marian College.

In 1936, St. Francis Normal School and Immaculate Conception Junior College merged to form one college. The Odenburg-based Sisters of St. Francis chose to name the new school after the Blessed Virgin because of their personal dedication to the Immaculate Conception and because Mary is the patron saint of the United States.

“I think there was no question about what the name would be in the beginning,” said Franciscan Sister Rachel West, the archivist at Marian University.

Since the name change was announced 18 months ago, school officials have slowly introduced the new name on the campus.

“There are new things in the bookstore, and all the stationery is being changed,” Sister Rachel said.

She said it would be a relatively easy transition, but “it will take some getting used to.”

Elsener said it was time for a change because the name no longer adequately reflected the school.

“We’re taking on a name of what we are rapidly becoming—a great Catholic university,” he said.

There are 2,000 students currently enrolled at Marian University. According to Elsener, the college only had 13 graduate students in 2000, but now has 300 graduate students.

See MARIAN, page 2
From college to university: recent changes at Marian College

By Kamila Benko

Since 2001, Marian College has made many changes to improve its campus, academics and community involvement.

"There was a big shift with the coming of President Daniel Elsener (in 2001), which has paved a way for the coming of the university," said Oldenburg Franciscan Sister Rachel West, the archivist for Marian College.

As Marian College expanded, it outgrew its name.

List below are some of the additions and changes that have helped turn Marian College into Marian University.

Increase in student enrollment

In nine years, the student enrollment has almost doubled. The number rose from 1,111 in 1994 to 2,323 in 2008.

While this increase is impressive, a more drastic change has occurred in the number of students seeking graduate degrees.

When the master of arts teaching degree program was first launched in 2001, Marian College only had 13 graduate students. Today, there are 300 students earning graduate degrees and teaching licenses in education at Marian University.

Online nursing program with St. Vincent Health

This fall, Marian University nursing students will have the chance to begin classes at St. Vincent Health, which has offered an online accelerated bachelors of science in nursing degree program.

"The new program, according to a press release, 'stands the convergence of online learning with on-site clinical education at St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital.'"

"The bachelor of science program shows how two Catholic organizations can build a partnership that meets the needs of our students by helping alleviate the crisis in nursing through a blend of tradition and technology," said Elsener.

The program will be offered in addition to the traditional classroom setting.

Wanted: Photographs that demonstrate how your social ministries ‘SHINE’

"Spreading Hope In Neighborhoods Everywhere," the Internet LNE, is a social ministry renewal initiative being launched by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

The LNE committee members are preparing a video showcasing great work in the area of social ministry in archdiocesan parishes, and photographs are being accepted for a video to be used at the ‘SHINE’ kick-off day on Oct. 1 at Lucile Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Photo/subject/content guidelines: You may:

• Show people helping people.
• No blurry photos, please.
• We need to be able to see faces and be very clear about the action and activity in the photos.
• If possible, have an identifying mark in the photo so people can see your parish or school building, agency or hospital.
• File submission for photographs: Identify parish, agency, school or hospital, parish or school building.
• File size should be at least 1 megabyte.
• You will receive verbal permission and the names of people in photographs.

E-mail photos to Jillian Vanlandmarks at the St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington by July 10 at jill.vanlandmarks@booeericaochi.org.

Learn more about SHINE at www.SpreadingHopeEverywhere.com.

Reorganization of academic departments

Under Elsener, the college was reorganized into five schools:

• School of Business
• School of Education
• School of Liberal Arts
• School of Mathematics and Sciences
• School of Nursing

Ecolab: Urban wetland and historic landscape

Bewers, red fox, 160 species of birds, and many other animals and plants make their home in the Ecolab, a 55-acre wetland and lowland forest located on the north end of Marian University’s campus.

“The Ecolab has improved the environmental or ‘green’ standing of the university,” said Dr. David Benson, director of the Ecolab.

“It is a super location for student relaxation, spiritual reflection, mental rejuvenation and recreation.”

Since its public opening in November 2002, the students of Marian College have used the Ecolab as an environmental learning laboratory. Other local schools have used the nature preserve for field trips and excursions.

The Ecolab is open to the public without charge every day from dawn until dusk.

Marian Knights football team

In October 2007, the Marian Knights won their first-ever football game against Taylor University. The 2007-08 season was the inaugural year of the football program at Marian University.

Ted Kara, head coach, said the football team was created with four goals in mind: To add to campus vibrancy, increase student enrollment, become a character-developing activity and increase school exposure.

“All of this we have done in two short years,” said Kara. “We assimilated well, and it is nice to see our campus reach university status. The football team was a catalyst for that growth.”

Pope Benedict to meet President Obama on July 10 during audience at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI will welcome U.S. President Barack Obama to the Vatican on July 10 for an audience scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

Obama will visit Italy on July 8-10 to participate in the Group of Eight summit, a meeting of leaders of the world’s wealthiest nations. The meeting will be held in L’Aquila, the site of a devastating earthquake in April.

After the G-8 summit, the president and his wife, Michelle, are scheduled to fly to Ghana, arriving late on July 10.

Although Pope Benedict usually meets heads of state and government in the morning, the Vatican said he agreed to host Obama’s first visit to the papal palace on the afternoon before he flies to Africa.

It is not clear whether Miguel Diaz, a theology professor tapped by Obama to be the new U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, will be present for the meeting.

A June 23, the Senate hearing for the new ambassador’s confirmation was not on the public schedule of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

The Vatican agreed to host Obama’s first visit to the Vatican on July 10 for an audience scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

President Daniel Elsener said that what is good about Marian College, the 1954 graduate of Marian College.

"The emphasis is still on the tradition and technology," said Elsener.

"It’s a good time to be a Marian student, Church and state.

"Marian University has stayed strong because of the individual leaders, principals and nurses are there to help you succeed in life, not just in business or money."

Sister Rachel said Marian has continued to evolve.

“Marian College sound more like a school,” said Sister Rachel.

Elsener is quick to emphasize that Marian University is not just any university, but a Catholic university.

"We made it clear that we want to be distinctly Catholic," he said.

"If you look across the country, most great cities have a Catholic university. These Catholic universities are a public witness and voice in the community for faith seeking understanding."

Sister Rachel said Marian has already had a positive impact on the community, most active parish leaders, principals and nurses are graduates of Marian College, she said.

Though the community is in a time of change, some things will stay the same.

"Marian University has stayed strong because of the individual attention that has been given to every person on campus," said Sister Rachel, a 1954 graduate of Marian College.

"From the very beginning, there has been a very human touch."

Carpenter agreed.

"The Marian professors are very willing to help. I feel like the staff is there to help you succeed in life, not just in business or money."

"The emphasis is still on the individual student," Sister Rachel said. "I would hope that would not diminish as times go on."

But there is no need to worry.

Elsener said that what is good about Marian College, the "projecting it forward in bigger and bolder ways for the service of the community, Church and state."

"It’s a good time to be a Marian Knight," he added.

(For more about Marian University, log on to www.marian.edu)
International conference focuses on religious traditions of majorities and minorities

VENICE, Italy (CNS)—In the increasing global mixture of peoples, balancing the religious traditions of majorities and minorities of the dominant culture has proven to be a crucial and delicate task, said participants at an international conference in Italy.

The issue has been pushed to the forefront in many European countries, where immigration has produced large Muslim populations in recent years.

"It's often said that the newcomers must accept our values and integrate into our society, but this is not always the case because they are not based on principles incompatible with the West. "But if they don't fully recognize gender equality, or see marriage as between one man and one woman, at that point I think there's a limit, and it's important to say: 'This is our culture and tradition and the way we want to live our lives. You are not the enemy. We are not the enemy, you are not the stranger. We are just different,'" said M. I. Barkat, director of the institute in Venice.

"What is a tradition? What is the relationship between tradition and truth? Are we prisoners of our traditions or can they evolve? These are very important questions for religion," he said.

D_lite spoke on June 22 at the opening of a two-day symposium sponsored by Oasis, which was formed in 2005 by Cardinal Angelo Scola of Venice to explore interreligious questions and to support Christian minorities in the East.

But the June session of scholars and experts focused mostly on Muslim minorities.

"As a point of view, it is a question for the minorities, because it can be adapted to the European context without changing the foundations," he said.

In Britain, a public debate arose last year over whether Muslim residents could choose jurisdiction under Sharia, or Islamic law, on some personal issues related to marriage and divorce. Because Islam allows polygamy, the issue prompted an outcry.

Prof. John Ilbank, an Anglican theologian and professor at the University of Nottingham, said the process is similar to the religious traditions reaching the limits of tolerance.

"You have to distinguish between valid changes of emphasis which are perfectly acceptable and others which are not," M. I. Barkat told Catholic News Service.
Editorial

Laypeople ‘share fully’ in building up the Church

At the annual convention of the Diocese of Rome, delegates were told by Bishop Pope Benedict XVI, that lay Catholics have responsibilities that extend beyond helping their pastors with the day-to-day operations of their parishes.

Speaking at his cathedral church, the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the pope acknowledged that full participation in the life of the Church will require “a change of mentality” on the part of both clergy and laity.

The majority of Catholics are only minimally involved in the Church’s sacramental, educational or social ministries. Those who are involved tend to see themselves as co-catechists with the clergy in their parishes.

Pope Benedict says that neither view—the passive stance of the majority or the merely collaborative role of those who are active in parish ministry—accurately represents the Second Vatican Council’s vision of a laity that “fully shares in the responsibility for the existence and action of the Church.”

The pope is obviously not minimizing the role of bishops, priests and deacons in proclaiming and carrying forward the Church’s mission.

On the contrary, he says we should not see the Church as “simply a collection of people” any more than we should diminish the role of laypeople in the life of the Church. His point is that everyone has a role to play in carrying on Christ’s work in the world.

To achieve the change of mentality that the pope believes is necessary, we must do a better job of helping Catholics understand what it means to be members of the Body of Christ.

There are not two classes of membership, but two parts of the Body of Christ: clergy and laity—in spite of their distinctive roles and responsibilities.

“Christ brought down the wall of separation and unites all of us into one body,” the pope says. “In the Body of Christ, we become one people, the People of God.”

As one body, we share equally in the mission that Christ entrusted to his disciples to proclaim the Gospel, to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Holy Spirit and build up the Kingdom of God.

“The Church, which has its origins in the trinity God, is a mystery of communion,” the pope says. “As a communion, the Church is not only a spiritual reality, but is also in history—in flesh and blood, so to speak. The People of God means all of us—from the pope to the baby most recently baptized.”

As Pope Benedict sees it, being a Christian means sharing the Gospel with others, particularly through acts of charity.

Charity, which was the subject of this pope’s first encyclical, Deus Caritas Est (“God is Love”), is the great equalizer.

We are all called to proclaim the Gospel, particularly through acts of charity.

And we place, or setting, for the lay Catholic’s exercise of full responsibility for the work of evangelization, and for client and volunteer alike.”

In addition to the food pantry, the facility houses a free medical clinic and a free dental clinic to clients that are available to the needy. Other services and information, such as mammograms, government programs, and tax preparation, are provided on site.

The pantry, as well as the entire central and Southern Indiana unit of the society, operates with 100 percent volunteers, and relies primarily on individual donations to cover annual expenses.

We have also been blessed with foundation grants for major expenses, such as refrigeration units, construction and roof replacement.

On this 10th anniversary, the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry would like to thank those who have contributed to the success: volunteers, benefactors, grantors, in-kind donors, suppliers and vendors.

Without them, fulfilling our mission was not possible.

For more information on the charitable works of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the Indianapolis area, or to make a donation to support our mission, visit our website at www.SVDindy.org.

Note that we are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit volunteer organization so every dollar goes direct to the needy.

On St. Driegiel is the Indianapolis chapter’s Society of St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry’s volunteer coordinator. 

Letter to the Editor

Muder of abortion doctor is wrong, but so is taking of any human life

It is somewhat confusing. I read in the newspapers and heard on the TV newscasts about so many of the abortion rights groups around the country holding vigils praying Dr. George Tiller after he was unhappy with the fate of his clinic and killed. By whom? By whom? By whom? I cannot say. Someone is also involved.

There is no question that the person who shot Tiller was very wrong and is a murderer who tried, convicted and served his punishment, as well as the death penalty. All in one act.

True-pro-life supporters all know this is wrong and cannot support his act. It certainly is not the American way.

Those of us who oppose the death penalty do so because we feel that one killing does not justify another. Only God can create life, and only God has the power to end life.

It is a bittersweet notion to feel that this does not apply to all lives, especially those in the womb.

It appears that despite the wrong in murdering Tiller, giving praise to him is somewhat like giving praise to a serial killer who did not give his victims a fair chance. I believe that killings will be illegal in the eyes of the courts, who are not God.

But despite the spin that abortion rights people put on this act, each time the act occurs, a life is snuffed out, and in Tiller’s case, according to news accounts, 60,000 lives were snuffed out.

May God show them mercy more than he did poor Dr. Tiller. 

V.L. O’Brien

New Albany

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are published in The Criterion as part of the newspaper’s commitment to “the responsible exchange of freely-held and expressed opinion among the People of God” (Communio et Progressio, 116).

Letters from readers are welcome and every effort will be made to include letters from as many people and representing as many viewpoints as possible. Letters should be informative, relevant, well-expressed and temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect.

The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to edit letters from readers as necessary based on space limitations, past editorial content and editorial policy (including spelling and grammar). In order to encourage opinions from a variety of readers, frequent writers will ordinarily be limited to one letter every three months. Concise letters (usually less than 300 words) may be more likely to be published.

Letters must be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld.

Send letters to “Letters to the Editor,” The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717. Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.

Editor

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Greg A. Otol斯基, Associate Publisher
Mike Knoke, Editor
John F. Finn, Editor Emeritus

Oppinion

Be Our Guest/Don Streigel

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry marks 10 years of hunger relief

As of June 1, the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry completed 10 years of providing hunger relief to families and individuals in the Indianapolis area using the “client choice” pantry concept. This means that eligible clients select—“shop for”—the food they need in order to meet their particular dietary and nutritional needs.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry has a long-standing record of providing food using pantries within local parishes but, in 1999, established its first choice client pantry serving the southeast quadrant of the city.

That operation has since been merged into a larger facility that serves nearly 3,000 households each week.

Over the 10-year period, the pantry has distributed an estimated 25 to 30 million pounds of food to qualified clients at no cost and without regard to religious affiliation, race or national origin.

Over the 10-year period, the pantry has distributed an estimated 25 to 30 million pounds of food to qualified clients at no cost and without regard to religious affiliation, race or national origin.

As Pope Benedict sees it, being a Catholic is a primary form of mission, the pope told the delegates at his diocesan convention. “The word proclaimed becomes visible when it is incanted in acts of solidarity and sharing, and in gestures that concretely demonstrate the face of Christ, the true friend of humanity.”

We accept full responsibility for the Church’s mission when we accept the fact that each of us is called to be Christ for others—and to see Christ in the face of others.

We assume our rightful roles as members of the Body of Christ when we proclaim Christ in our homes, our workplaces and in the public as well as in our parishes.

We become leaders in the Church when we work to protect against Sendel and evil wherever we find it, and when we stand firm and live out our Christian beliefs in our everyday lives.

Like the delegates from the Diocese of Rome, each and every one of us represents the entire People of God wherever we are and in whatever we are doing. We are ambassadors for Christ in our parishes, our neighborhoods, in our civic communities and throughout the world.

Pope Benedict invites, challenges us to stand up and assume our rightful place as sons and daughters of God. We have been entrusted with a sacred mission to “share fully” in the mission and ministry of the Church. It is time to get involved, in profoundly personal ways; that is, to pray, to engage our personal witness and our active participation in the ministry of charity.

No one is excused from active participation in the work of building up the Church. There are no second-class citizens among us, and no spectators. We are all invited.

Let’s pray for the change of mentality that Pope Benedict speaks about.

May this change take place in ourselves, first of all, and then in the minds and hearts of all our sisters and brothers in Christ.

—Daniel Conway

Letter to the Editor

Mailbox

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La confesión frecuente nos mantiene en el camino a la paz

E n el segundo mandamiento de la Iglesia, que dice: “Pues acerca de esto es que es importante que en el Catecismo de los Estados Unidos para adultos dice: “Confesar los pecados al menos una vez al año” es el obligatorio, pero también a aquellos que están conscientes de haber cometido pecados graves. La recepción periódica del Sacramento de Reconciliación nos ayuda a prepararnos no solamente para recibir la Eucaristía sino también para proseguir con la conversión iniciada en el Bautismo” (p. 324).

Los sacramentos de la Iglesia nos fortalecen con la esperanza cuando la trayés de vuelta al Reino se torna turbulento. El Espíritu Santo nos ayuda a ser fieles a Dios y a vivir en libertad. Como decía el Papa Juan Pablo II, no podemos ser auténticamente libres a menos que entiendamos y vivamos nuestra transgresión en el mundo y conozcamos a Dios como nuestro amigo. En este sentido, nuestra confesión nos invita a buscar nuestro misericordio cuando todo parece sombrío y perdido debido al pecado. Tal misericordia es la gloria de Dios nos lleva a desear realizar enmiendas por los pecados cometidos contra El y el mundo. La paz proviene del perdón misericordioso de Dios de nuestros pecados.

Si bien consideran que confesar sus pecados es un alivio para su felicidad, me escandaliza esto. Después del Bautismo, al que nos dicen a la viva de Cristo en la Iglesia, y luego de la Santa Eucaristía que sustenta nuestra vida en la Iglesia, el sacramentum de Reconciliación es una cuarta de salvación espiritual.

No puedo imaginarme cómo podría ser un buen confesor sin la gracia de este sacramento. Necesito la gracia para mi continuo desarrollo espiritual. A similitud de lo que el pecador no puede ser un buen confesor si no es un buen penitente. Nuestra misión como iglesia es vivir y proclamar a Nuestro Señor Jesucristo y a su Evangelio. A tiempo que proclamamos la redención predicamos la penitencia y la reconciliación.

A predicar sobre la penitencia y la reconciliación debemos predicar también la verdad del pecado. No obstante, debemos hacerlo cuidadosamente ya que es cierto que pocas personas pecan con malicia. La mayoría de nuestros pecados se derivan de nuestro debilidad humana. Existe una gran diferencia entre la malicia y la debilidad, pero esto no justifica el pecado. Pecamos debido a nuestras limitaciones humanas. Incluso el conocimiento somero de la historia nos indica que hay existido períodos de la historia en los que la familia humana perdió el sentido del peccado, cuando la conciencia moral de la sociedad se vio eclipsada por la confusión y la debilidad humana.

El Cardenal Joseph L. Bernardin dijo una vez: “Cuando perdemos la noción del pecado, perdemos la noción de Dios y nos transformamos en víctimas del poder de los secretos oscuros de nuestros corazones que son los enemigos de la paz y la libertad. Y en el fondo sabemos que somos débiles y pecadores. Por lo tanto, el Sacramento de la Penitencia es el camino para librarnos de la esclavitud de los secretos oscuros.

San Augustin describió la mediación de la Iglesia en términos de la reconciliación del Evangelio y de la reconciliación de Lázaro de entre los muertos. Jesús llamó a Lázaro para que volviera a la vida desde su sepulcro, pero pidió a sus discípulos que liberaran a Lázaro de la morada que abría su cuerpo. Cristo perdona el pecado, en tanto que la Iglesia, a través de sus sacerdotes, es el agente que remueve las ataduras del pecado.

En su exhortación apostólica Reconciliatio et Paenitentia, el Papa Juan Pablo II escribió: “según la concepción tradicional más antigua, [este Sacramento es] una especie de acto judicial; pero dicho acto de manera antes de un tribunal de misericordia, más que de estrecha y rigurosa justicia...”

Heys que este “tribunal de justicia” es like human tribunales only by analogy. It is a human tribunal “insofar as sinners reveal their sins and commit themselves to renouncing and combating sin; accept the punishment (sacramental penance) which the confessor imposes on them and receive absolution from him” (30). El confesor es un agente de misericordia debido a la conciencia que posee sobre sus propios pecados.

Durante cerca de 60 años he estado confesando mis pecados y me siento como si debo seguir siendo lo que me escribió: “Estoy en segundo grado. Fui a la reconciliación. No me da miedo el. También pienso que todos saben surriendo de la reconciliación”. “Salimos sonrientes” porque tenemos la garantía de la misericordia de Dios y el acogimiento de la Iglesia de parte de un vocero de Cristo y de la Iglesia.

La confesión frecuente con un ministro del sacramento de la confesión nos mantiene en el camino a la paz: 1

**Frequent confession keeps us on the pathway to peace.**
Events Calendar

June 25-27
St. Jude Parish, 5353 McAllister Road, Indianapolis. “Summer Festival,” 5 p.m. midnight, food, games, rides. Information: 317-894-4171.

June 26
Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center, 8210 W. State Road 48, Bloomington. Traveling missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, located on 925 S. Rexville, located on 925 S. Roosevelt, 7 p.m., talk, 8 p.m. Information: 317-625-7744.

July 1

July 3-5

July 6
Most Holy Name of Jesus School, 21 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. “Giant Steps Summer Camp,” educational summer camp for students in kindergarten through eighth grade, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., registration deadline June 30. Information: 317-788-9074.

July 7
Ritter’s Frozen Custard, 3219 W. County Line Road, Greenwood. “Benedict Inn Night Out at Ritter’s” 3-8 p.m. Information: 317-788-7581 or bennettcin@benedictinn.org.

July 9-11

Retreats and Programs

July 7
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Silent non-guided retreat, “Come Away and Rest Awhile,” 8 a.m.-4 p.m., $25 per person includes continental breakfast and lunch. Information: 317-545-7681 or spasotti@archindy.org.

July 8
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Monastery Immaculate Conception, 8210 W. State Road 48, Bloomington. Traveling missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 5:30-6:30 p.m., $15 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or spasotti@archindy.org.

July 10-17
Monastery Immaculate Conception, Kordes Center, 841 E. 14th St., Ferdinand, Ind. (Evansville Diocese). “Directed Retreat.” Information: 812-317-2411 or spirituality@theodme.org.

July 12
Benedict Im Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. “Woman Prayer: A Morning of Grace,” Benedictine Sister Rachel B. present, morning prayer and Sunday Mass, 8:45 a.m.-1 p.m., $25 per person includes lunch. Information: 317-788-7581 or benedictin@benedictin.org.

July 14
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Evening of Reflection, “Meet Me at The Shack,” Father Jim Farrell, presenter, 6:30-9:30 p.m., $15 per person includes light dinner. Information: 317-545-7681 or spasotti@archindy.org.

July 16
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Day of Reflection on Prayer, Father Jim Farrell, presenter, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., $35 per person includes continental breakfast and lunch. Information: 317-545-7681 or spasotti@archindy.org.

July 21-23

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. “Midweek Retreat, ‘Use Time-Don’t Let It Use You,’” Benedictine Father Tom J. present, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or M.Zoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

July 24-26
Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat, Indianapolis. Spiritual journey and healing process for women, men and married couples experiencing symptoms associated with abortion, confidential program and location. Information: 317-236-1521 or 800-828-9836, ext. 1521.

July 31-August 2
Saint Meinad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. “Virtue: Living the ‘Good Life,’” Benedictine Brother Karl C. present. Information: 800-581-6905 or M.Zoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

August 1

August 2-8
Monastery Immaculate Conception, Kordes Center, 841 E. 14th St., Ferdinand, Ind. (Evansville Diocese). “Guided Retreat.” Information: 812-367-1411 or secretaria@theodme.org.

August 4
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Silent non-guided retreat, “Come Away and Rest Awhile,” 8 a.m.-4 p.m., $25 per person includes continental breakfast and lunch. Information: 317-545-7681 or spasotti@archindy.org.

August 7-9
Saint Meinad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. “Virtue: Living the ‘Good Life,’” Benedictine Brothers Karl C. & Tom J. present. Information: 800-581-6905 or M.Zoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

August 10

August 18-20
Saint Meinad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. “Lectio Divina: Praying with Holy Scripture,” Benedictine Brother Matthew L. present, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or M.Zoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

August 21-23

August 28-30
Saint Meinad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. “Scriptures and Novels,” Benedictine Father Noël M. present, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or M.Zoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

VIPS

James O. and Mary H. (Ree) Berger, members of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 30. The couple was married on June 30, 1949, at St. Joseph Church in Jasper, Ind., in the Evansville Diocese. They have seven children: Beth Dodds, Niki Dodds, Lisa Dodds, Linda K. Joseph, Joseph, M Artin and M. Icshal Berger. They also have 22 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Blessing

Father Henry F. Tully, administrator of St. Mary Parish in New Albany, blesses the new doors of the church. The doors are part of an overall restoration of the exterior of the historic church built in 1858. This project was funded through the archdiocesan Legacy for the Church. The church interior was refurbished in 2005. The addition of a new step will be the final phase of the project. The existing steeple was damaged by high winds in September 2008.

Ordenation at Saint Meinrad

Benedictine Father Christian Raab, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein on June 7 at Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church. Father Christian, who is 34, is the son of Edward and Sharon Raab of Michigan City, Ind., in the Gary Diocese. He earned a bachelor’s degree in religious studies at Indiana University in 1997, master’s degree in pastoral studies at Loyola University in 2003 and master of divinity degree at Saint Meinrad School of Theology in May. He joined the monastery in 2005 and professed his solemn vows as a Benedictine monk on Jan. 1. 2008. Father Christian serves as the associate director for monastic vocations at Saint Meinrad.

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**New report says 12 million trapped in some form of human trafficking**

WASHINGTOM (CNS)—Efforts to combat global human trafficking suffered setbacks last year, in part because a bad global economy left more people vulnerable to traffickers, a new report says.

The U.S. Department of State released its 2009 Trafficking in Persons report on June 16. The annual report documents the efforts of foreign governments to eliminate the most severe forms of human trafficking.

The U.S. government defines severe human trafficking as use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain labor or induce commercial sex acts.

Kristyn Williams, interim associate director of the U.S. Department of State’s anti-trafficking office, said the report reflected a year of setbacks.

The report cited the international economic crisis as a driving factor in the rise of human trafficking. Rising unemployment rates and falling incomes have left desperate workers vulnerable to manipulation by human traffickers, particularly in underdeveloped countries.

Increased international demand for cheap goods also has contributed to the rise in human trafficking, the report said.

It highlighted some positive developments in efforts to combat human trafficking. In 2008, 26 acts of anti-trafficking legislation were introduced or amended worldwide.

The 2009 report contains assessments of more than 175 countries. Foreign governments are evaluated on their effectiveness in protecting traffickers, prevention of victims of trafficking and prevention of further trafficking violations.

Each nation is placed on one of three tiers based on the results of these evaluations. Those in compliance with the U.S. government’s minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking are considered first-tier nations.

Second-tier nations are those that have made significant strides toward meeting the minimum standards, and third-tier nations are those that are making no effort to combat trafficking. Nations ranked in the third-tier may be subject to economic sanctions.

The report ranked 28 nations in the top tier, down from 29 in 2008. The number of nations in the third tier rose from 14 to 17.

Speaking during the release of the report, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton emphasized the importance of recognizing and combating both labor trafficking and sex trafficking.

Clinton’s comments drew praise from Williams.

“I was glad to hear Secretary of State Clinton recognize the importance of labor trafficking as well as sex trafficking,” Williams said in a June 18 interview with Catholic News Service.

Williams stated that of the 1,037 human trafficking victims aided by the bishops’ program from April 2006 to May 2009 roughly two-thirds were victims of labor trafficking.

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**Choose Life** license plate marks 10th year of existence

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Specialty license plates offer motorists a chance to express pride in sports teams, the military and a variety of organizations, and for the past 10 years a different kind of plate has promoted adoption as an alternative to abortion.

The “Choose Life” tag celebrated its 10th anniversary in Florida on June 10. It is the first official tag designed to encourage women with unplanned pregnancies to consider adoption as an alternative to abortion.

Some opponents of the bill say the view expressed on it is that of the state, not just the motorist, and feel a state shouldn’t be involved in any message about abortion, whether it is pro or con.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles reported 40,018 “Choose Life” tags were sold in 2008, making it the ninth highest-selling specialty tag that year among the state’s 114 tags.

Florida charges $22 for the tag but only keeps $5. The rest is distributed to adoption organizations and agencies that use the funds to provide such things as medical care, food and clothing to pregnant mothers who are committed to putting their child up for adoption.

R. Amerling, secretary, treasurer and publicity coordinator for Choose Life Inc., told Catholic News Service that “about four organizations are not giving women a position where they are caring for the emotional state of women. This plate allows people to give funds to these organizations who are caring for women. Pro-choice organizations are not giving women a choice unless it involves abortion.”

Organizations that believe a woman should have a right to choose abortion such as the National Organization for Women, Planned Parenthood and the Center for Reproductive Rights are in contention with Choose Life Inc. pro-life license plate.

Carole Cohan, executive director of the Women’s Emergency Network, said “Personally, I do not believe that license plates, designed to bring revenue to the state, are an appropriate venue for advertising philosophical and political positions.”

She said the network “is outraged at the ‘Choose Life’ license plate, the way the funds are distributed, and the fact that the state is supporting ‘crisis pregnancy centers,’ which peddle deception, guilt, manipulation and anything else that will force women to complete an untenable pregnancy.”

Despite Cohan’s remarks, there are hundreds of legitimate crisis pregnancy centers around the country that offer counseling and assistance to women who choose to give birth.

Other groups find fault with the tag’s slogan, preferring it specify a pro-adoption stance, but Smith does not feel that a slogan change will appease opponents.

"Pro-choice groups are given an equal opportunity to apply for and obtain a license plate of their own yet they never do,” she said. “They want to inhibit the ‘Choose Life’ viewpoint even without trying to obtain a license plate of their own.”

Though the pro-life license plate has resulted in fierce legal disputes in many states, Sister Clare Hunter, a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist and director of the Respect Life office of the Arlington Diocese in Virginia, has not seen the intensity of opposition present in such states as California, Florida and Illinois though there is some dissatisfaction.

“I think everyone values freedom and life, and we all want to promote it,” Sister Clare said. “I think that pro-choice groups also agree that taking a life is not a good thing and that this should be a universal attitude we all hold. The slogan ‘Choose Life’ is such a positive message that can encourage people and is one that is nonthreatening and shouldn’t incite any type of violence.”

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**Post Abortion Healing**

The retreat focuses on God’s unconditional love and forgiveness in a confidential atmosphere. Memories of abandonment, pain and confusion are replaced by reconciliation and peace.

THE NEXT RETREAT IS SCHEDULED IN INDIANAPOLIS JULY 24-26, 2009.

To learn more, contact Sister Diane at 317-236-1521 or 800-382-9362, ext. 1521, or Bernardette Roy at 317-831-2892.
Deacon Sean Danda heard God’s call to the priesthood early in his life.

By Mary Ann Wyand

For most of his life, Sean Danda has wanted to be a priest.

He heard God’s call to the priesthood as early as the second grade at St. Pius X Catholic School in Brownsburg.

"I first started pondering priesthood in second grade during first Holy Communion preparation," he said. "I could see a way to serve God and to serve others by offering the Mass and being just like our brothers and sisters in the community.

"God spoke to me, like anyone else, through the ordinary living of his through simple acts in prayer and through the messages that we experience," Danda said. "I decided to try to serve God and to serve others by offering the Mass and being just like our brothers and sisters in the community.

Danda’s priest mentors, Mr. and Mrs. D. Fred, and Father Morley, felt that Sean was a good candidate to consider.

"He’s a determined young man, a very bright young man, a joy and to be the same kind of joyful man that they were," Father Morley said. "I’m very grateful for my Catholic education, which not only gave me the principles of my faith, but also the principles of my life, which I understand through the sacraments.

"It was the coolest trip."

Danda described the priesthood and religious life as “a gift to the family.”

"Each of them was a witness of priestly joy to me," Danda said.

"He’s a determined young man, a very bright young man, a joy and to be the same kind of joyful man that they were," Father Morley said. "I’m very grateful for my Catholic education, which not only gave me the principles of my faith, but also the principles of my life, which I understand through the sacraments.

"I don’t think that I’m going to be a sinner, but I do believe that the small things that I do can be used for the good of those who need it."

Deacon Christopher Walتدon’s vocation came with God’s help, in God’s time.

By John Shagwinsky

Listen to the stories shared by his close friends and family members, and you’ll soon become convinced that Deacon Christopher Waldodon’s vocation was an adventure that leads him to follow his heart, trust in God’s plans, and open himself to surprises.

Consider the story of a high school friend who was always looking for adventure.

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**A good team**

Directors of Crisis Office retire after 15 years of service

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

Friends of Marge Hittle and Patty Colbert say the two women share one brain.

A after nearly 15 years of friendship, they know each other so well that Hittle supplies the grade that Colbert’s grandchildren are in at school. Colbert can’t remember. They even finish each other’s sentences.

But their friendship is not exclusive. Their compatibility, friendship and energy have helped the underemployed, working poor and homeless in Indiana.

On June 25, Hittle and Colbert retired as co-directors of the Crisis Office, an emergency assistance program of Catholic Charities Indianapolis.

The two women became co-directors in 1996, but their friendship began almost two years earlier.

Colbert, who had worked as a caseworker for the state of Michigan, volunteered at the Crisis Office in 1994. "I came here, and Marge was already volunteering," Colbert said. "I met Marge, and we just hit it off. We got along really well."

They continued volunteering, and when the Crisis Office director left, the two women were asked to become co-directors.

"We wanted to do it," explained Hittle. "The load was getting heavier, and [the Crisis Office] really needed two people."

The Crisis Office serves an average of 30 to 40 low-income families each day. "We assess their need, and decide whether we can help them," Hittle said. "If we cannot materially or financially help them, they always leave with referrals and information of where in the community they can get help."

The Crisis Office provides clothes, food, and hygiene and paper products to those people who can’t afford them. Volunteers and employees of the Crisis Office sometimes attend birth certificates, transportation tickets and medicine. In addition, they also hand out Bibles and rosaries to people who request them.

The Crisis Office is mostly supported by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, United Way and private donations. The majority of workers at the Crisis Office are volunteers. "The program is volunteer driven," said Colbert. "If it wasn’t for the volunteers, there would not be a program."

Many volunteers return again and again, Hittle said. "It’s contagious," Hittle said. "Once you’re in here, you cannot leave. It’s the thing we have been here so long."

Trying to clarify, she added, "It’s more of a ministry than … "It is a job," both women finished the sentence at the same time.

It is the success stories and the people they help and volunteer with that make both women so happy.

Colbert remembers one client that the Crisis Office successfully helped. The man used to visit the Crisis Office for assistance, but then he is able to donate to the organization that once helped him. "I won’t say he’s comfortable," Colbert said. "But he now comes back periodically and gives us money."

Hittle took up the story from there: "He tells us to pass it along for bus tickets for somebody else because we helped him keep his job."

But not all the stories are happy ones. Hittle and Colbert said they will not miss saying "no" to people. "I won’t miss feeling frustrated when we don’t have enough stuff," Colbert said. "Sometimes, there are some people whose needs are so great, you just can’t help them."

Although they have left the Crisis Office, both women said they expect to continue being involved in the community. "You just can’t leave volunteering," Hittle said. "With her free time, Hittle said she is going to spend more time with her grandchildren and get her new house in order."

Colbert also said she wants to spend more time with her grandchildren, and is moving to Massachusetts to be closer to them.

Still, it will be hard for the women to leave the ministry they love so much. "We’ve thought about leaving for the last couple of years," Colbert said. "But we just haven’t been able to tear ourselves away unless we can leave it in good hands."

Stephanie Davis, they believe, has the good hands that the office needs now. She is very enthusiastic and has high energy, and she loves the program already," Hittle said. "Davis said she is both nervous and excited to take over as director from the two friends." She has never met two individuals who complement each other so well. [They are the yang and yang," Davis said. "They are just two shoes I have to fill. And it’s not just two shoes I have to fill, but four!"

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**Indiana Senate hopes to bring scholarship tax credit back in budget**

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

Veronique Briscoe-Pulliam, who is headed to law school with her husband this fall, is a telling success story of what educational choice can bring. A graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas School and Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, both in Indianapolis, and Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., she is a child from a single-parent family.

Veronique was also one of the first recipients of an Educational Choice Scholarship Trust in 1991.

Veronique’s mother, who noticed that her then-kindergarten daughter was academically gifted, became frustrated that she was not getting a challenging enough curriculum at the public school she was attending. Unfortunately, she didn’t have the financial resources to get Veronique enrolled in a public school.

Veronique’s success story, told by Mary Nuetzman, a program director for the Indiana Non-Public Education Association (INPEA) and Catholics statewide have urged lawmakers to adopt a scholarship tax credit which would offer a 30 percent tax credit incentive to corporations or individuals for donations made to qualified scholarship granting organizations. These corporations or individuals would then provide grants to qualifying families for school tuition or other school-related costs at the public or private school of the parents’ choice. The scholarship tax credit was included in Gov. Mitch Daniels’ budget package, but was removed by the Senate. Democrats. The House also plowed ahead in school vouchers, which offer parents a choice within the public school system.

"Some lawmakers in the House have concerns that scholarship tax credits, combined with charter schools, would create too much competition for public schools and could cause some harm for certain school districts," Tebbe said. "The school scholarship tax credit was an important policy initiative for legislative Republicans during the regular session," said Jane Jankowski, a staff member in the governor’s office. "In the spirit of cooperation, Gov. Daniels included it in his budget proposal."

Jankowski said that the scholarship tax credit was important because it encourages people to help low-income children in poorly performing schools have more education options. The proposal is zero net cost and, given the decline in the state’s revenues, proposals that save money received higher priority than those that spend taxpayer dollars. During the regular session, a fiscal report on the scholarship tax credit prepared by the Legislative Services Agency, a non-partisan government entity that supports the Indiana General Assembly, indicated that approximately 1,600 students could receive support from contributions of $10 million, which is the maximum amount of contributions that would be eligible for the tax credit each fiscal year.

A study by researcher David Stiltz for the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice found that a scholarship tax credit would result in significant net savings for the state. For example, the study’s analysis model found that at an average scholarship of $2,500 or less, the state would realize at least $13.4 million in net savings in the first year alone.

Founded in 1991, the Educational Choice Scholarship Trust in Indianapolis is the only scholarship granting organization in Indiana and was the first in the nation. In the 2007-08 academic year, more than $828,000 in scholarship grants were awarded to 750 students. "As far as prospects for passage of [the scholarship tax credit], we’ll see," it will be part of the final budget," Jankowski said. "There’s still work to be done before the General Assembly reaches final agreement on a budget."

For the Senate passes its version of the budget, a conference committee made up of House and Senate members will work to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions.

"Maintaining the scholarship tax credit in the final budget will be a hard fought battle," Tebbe said. "We’re happy that the Senate’s and governor’s commitment to the scholarship tax credit is strong enough to overcome the objections some House members have with the tax credit."

The General Assembly is expected to pass the new budget by July 1, when it is scheduled to go into effect.
If people seek God, material things in life are less relevant

By Regina Linskey

Several retirees in their 70s and 80s who were interviewed recently expressed surprise when asked what advice they would share with younger generations and young families.

Frances Pignatelli, 80, lives in Murrays, N.J. For many years, she taught English classes at a public high school in Newark.

She was speeches for a few moments when asked for advice.

"Very few people ask us, especially the younger generations," she said. "... They go their own way. It's nice to be asked."

Elderly people “certainly have a lot to offer,” Pignatelli said, noting that her generation has seen wars and several economic depressions.

"But today, with the computer, ... [younger people] feel there are other ways of getting information," she said. "... But they just get facts and not the feeling."

Pignatelli focused on family life in her answers.

"If I'm talking," she said, "keep the lines of communication open between the (married) couple and among family members. Hopefully, that will include grandma and grandpa."

Sal Marro, 72, originally from New York and now a resident of Siler City, N.C., has five children and 15 grandchildren.

He took some time to reflect on what advice he would give on matters of family life, home finances and values.

"Don't take the family for granted," Marro said. Remember to show love and affection to family members, and to focus on the good parts of life.

When things are not so good, "make a mental note to shift" and reflect about what is good, he said, and "what you'd like to have" that is good in life.

Marro, who was a teacher, principal and superintendent for more than 20 years in New York and Pennsylvania, also emphasized a strong work ethic and the importance of being smart about family finances.

With the exception of buying a house, he said, "I've lived within my means. Do not spend more money than you can afford" even when buying a car.

"If I couldn't pay cash," he said, "I didn't buy it."

Marro also discussed materialism in today's society.

"When you are little, all you want is a bicycle," he explained. "Then in two weeks, it gets old. That happens with everything. Things and wants all pass away. Man is seeking something all the time, and what we are seeking is God."

Marko, who is Catholic, noted that if people seek God then all the other material things are less relevant.

"When you get older, you realize it all passes away," he said, "... and won't give you the pleasure you are seeking."

Carol Nolan, 75, has three children and six grandchildren. She lives with her husband in Columbus, south of Trenton, N.J., in a neighborhood for people who are 55 and older.

Her advice to young families was simple: “Be true to yourselves. Keep your faith.”

Don't be influenced by what others do, she said, and be honest.

Nolan, who is Catholic, said she would also advise young people to remember to "do unto others as you would have them do to you."

Recalling advice that she has given to her children, Nolan said, "We've always tried to tell them, 'Don't miss Mass,' " because a one-time skip while in college or on vacation becomes a trend.

Julie A Nunziata, 85, Nolan's Catholic neighbor, has lived alone since her husband died. She has four children and one grandchild.

"You get what you give in life," she said, "and love is the greatest thing."

A Nunziata said if a couple has children they should give them lots of love and encourage them even if (what they choose) is not what you would like for them.

I love my kids to death. ... Whenever we talk, I always end the conversation with, 'I love you,' and they feel that [love]."

Remembering the time when her eldest son wanted to move far from the family in New Jersey to California after he graduated from college, A Nunziata said she didn't try to stop him.

"I thought that (stopping him) was wrong," she said, adding that today he is "happy and successful."

A Nunziata also patiently encourages her children on matters of faith even though three of her four children do not go to Mass.

"I tell them, 'Go to church,' " she said. "And then I stop—then and there. I don't want to break my relationship with them."

Arthur Schniff, 75, lives in Falls Church, Va., with his adult son and another adult who was homeless and needed a place to stay.

A father of seven, Schniff said he has lived a very happy life, and recalled memories of his marriage of nearly 50 years. His wife died a few years ago.

"Prayer always helps," he said. "Don't give up on prayer, and much it out. Realize that there's nothing on the other side of the fence. The grass really isn't that much greener."

(Regina Linskey is a former assistant international editor at Catholic News Service.)

Discussion Point

Make family time a priority

This Week’s Question

What advice would you give families with young children and teenagers?

“Spend as much time with your children as you can. That will build a stronger bond between parents and children that stays for a lifetime and can’t be taken away. It builds a foundation so that even if they move 10 states away, the bond will get stronger as time goes on.”

(Rich Bass, Salem, Ohio)

[Children should] go to church, keep their grades up, and become interested in what’s going on around them politically because there isn’t so much of a distinction between right and wrong in society today. Parents shouldn’t be afraid to say no.”

(Jan Nulf, Pontiac, Mich.)

"Keep them in the faith. Make sure they go to church on Sunday, but don’t just drop them off. [Go with them.] At baptism, parents promise to teach their children their faith [and their prayers, and] they cannot leave it to religious educators. Parents must be the first teachers.”

(Ruth Campos, Overland Park, Kan.)

“My philosophy is that you must accept your children as they are. Each has his or her own challenges. You must love them as they are. You may not like what they do, but you must love them and not compare them to each other. You also must listen to them. You can give advice, but always [hear them out].”

(Celine Romensko, Darby, Wis.)

Lend Us Your Voice

A upcoming edition asks: Who do you consider part of your extended family? Why?

To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to careena@catholicnews.com or write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. †
_religious traditions, especially those that are more conservative, generally maintain that salvation is possible only through faith in Jesus Christ, and that this faith is evidenced by the appropriate sacraments and good works._

But what about the fires of hell we see in so many cartoons? This is a metaphor for the pain of eternal separation from God, which must be the most horrifying pain of all. There won't be physical fire, which couldn't affect a spiritual body, anyway.

And who is in hell? That's an ancient controversy because some theologians have taught that perhaps everyone will be saved, the concept of universal salvation. We hope for eternal salvation, but we must not assume it. Pope John Paul II said at his general audience on July 28, 1999, "Eternal damnation remains a real possibility, but we are not granted . . . the knowledge of whether, or which, human beings are effectively involved in it."

The Church has said infallibly, through the process of canonization, that certain people are in heaven, but it has never said that certain people are in hell.

Next week: Purgatory. (Cynthia Dewes, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greenslopes, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.)

**Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher**

Jesus shows fathers the Father

Some of you might recall that my wife, Cindy, and I have been expected the birth of our fourth child for several months now. That waiting came to a quick end on Trinity Sunday, as our newest child, Philip John, was born on 11:57 p.m. I say quick because Cindy only had about 45 minutes of labor and had us in the hospital at about 40 minutes before Philip's birth.

Thanks be to God, Cindy and Philip are doing well. I’m also grateful to my parents, who have been here since Michael, Raph and Victor—the rest of our troop of boys—in the days after Philip’s birth.

Philip was named in honor of my mother’s family. Her maiden name was Phililps. But his name was appropriate for Trinity Sunday since, as we read in St. John’s account of the Last Supper, that Jesus helped bring about the revelation of the Trinity.

While Jesus was telling his disciples about his relationship with the Father and Holy Spirit, Philip said, “Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us” (Jn 14:8).

Jesus replied, “Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (Jn 14:9). This reply shows the perfect complementarity of the Father and the Son that is a part of the Trinity.

God being Father must have been a mystery to the disciples who knew Jesus, the people of Israel experienced God as having qualities like a father—he promised them and was merciful to them—but not as a Father in his inmost being.

It’s only with the coming of Jesus that God is fully revealed to us as Father. And when, according to Jesus’ reply to Philip, we have seen the Father, we will begin to see the Father more clearly.

Nurturing a deep relationship with God and the Father is fundamental to life, for it is our children and making this an active part of our life of faith, can be a beautiful thing for us all.

We will live our faith more as spiritual children, trusting confidently that our Father’s love and concern are our own as little Philip instinctively trusts Cindy and me.

We will also develop a deep respect for everyone around us—even those who annoy us—because they, too, are sons and daughters of God our Father.

And, at least for us fathers, developing a good relationship with the Father can mean giving up our need to share Jesus in our relationship with our children. Gratitude, this is a very hard task. But Jesus provides us with a model of how to do it (“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father”) and the grace to make it a beautiful thing for us all.

Jesus showed us the Providence of our Father in multiplying the loaves and fishes. He showed us the Father’s mercy by forgiving sins and healing the sick. He showed us how fatherly, how loving, how patient our Father’s infinite love for us by his death and resurrection.

And now we know that I am not a middle man and have failed many times in my seven years to even try to live up to what I see of God the Father given to me through Jesus.

But, of course, our Father is always merciful and forgiving, giving grace to be good again. Thank you, Father, for giving me a new start with Philip.

A nd thank you, Father, for helping me give him a good start in the waters of baptism in which he became your adopted son on June 21, Father’s Day.†
The Book of Wisdom is the source of the first reading.

When this book originally was written, the plight of God was not good. They had experienced many hardships in their history. Among these experiences was the loss of their national independence accompanied by ongoing humiliation and misery.

Many of the people had left the Holy Land to make new homes elsewhere. But in these new places, if they retained their ethnic and religious identity then they were virtual outcasts. It is not surprising, therefore, that the obviously devout author of Wisdom took pain to insist that “God does not make deals.”

God does not design the hardships and torments that come upon people. The evil wills of people bring these misfortunes upon others.

Nevertheless, God’s justice and goodness will prevail. This means that time is required for the ship of human life to right itself. But even this struggle for truth and justice will not be just because God’s justice ultimately will prevail.

St. Paul’s Second Epistle to the Corinthians supplies the second reading. This Scripture reading states a fact that humans, even committed Christians, are inclined to forget. This fact is that the greatest treasure is not that stored in vaults, but rather it is the knowledge of God and the insights for living that this knowledge produces in people.

The Apostle continues to say that if anyone has a surplus in the things of this world, he should not store it up for himself but give it to the needy. This is one of the great challenges to true Christians. It is a challenge to us that our priorities easily can be confused.

In the second reading, Paul reminds us that sickness and anxiety are part of life. They are not signs of God’s misfortune, and even tragedies, to come. They are to be used as a means to remind us regarding the condition of others who are living lives of anxiety and sickness in our world.

In the first reading, St. Mark’s Gospel tells us that sickness and anxiety are part of life. But God does not desert us. Jesus possesses the key to eternal life. We must recognize what life actually is about. It is not earthly reward. We must have faith.

**Daily Readings**

**Monday, June 29**
- Peter and Paul, Apostles
- Acts 12:1-11
- Psalm 34:2-9
- 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
- Matthew 16:13-19

**Tuesday, June 30**
- The First Holy Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
- Genesis 19:15-28
- Psalm 26:2-3, 9-12
- Matthew 8:23-27

**Wednesday, July 1**
- Blessed Junipero Serra, priest
- Genesis 21:5, 8-20a
- Psalm 34:7-8, 10-13
- Matthew 8:28-34

**Thursday, July 2**
- Genesis 22:1b-19
- Psalm 115:1-6, 8-9
- Matthew 9:1-8

**Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen**

Catholics are not required to receive Communion in both species at Mass.

The trend prompted the Church to look more favorably on Communion under the form of bread alone.

Later, as some Protestants promoted the belief that the whole Christ is not present under only one species, the Church increased its emphasis on the ancient teaching that anyone who receives only the form of bread or wine receives the little, not the whole Christ.

Today, of course, the danger of that doctrinal error is past so the Church has renewed its insistence that receiving both species is the ideal, symbolically whole way to receive the Eucharist.

The point is made numerous times in official documents. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal recommends Communion in both species “because this clearer form of the sacramental sign offers a particular opportunity of deepening the understanding of the mystery in which the faithful take part” (#414).

For Catholics, and one would hope for all Christians, it comes down to this: Jesus, living in his Church through the Holy Spirit, is the best interpreter of those teachings and commands assigned to him in the Gospel.

Two points seem clear then. To insist that one must receive both the consecrated bread and wine in order to receive the Eucharist contracts the belief and practice of Christianity from the beginning.

Second, to insist that Communion with both forms is merely a liturgical frill is out of touch with the long eucharistic tradition of the Church, not to speak of present liturgical directives.

(A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3139, Peoria, IL 61612. Questions on previous columns may be sent to Fr. Dietzen at the same address or e-mail to jjdietzen@aol.com.)

**My Journey to God**

**His Favorites**

Do not belittle little ones who play around your feet in disarray with things they shouldn’t touch. Guard them well, kiss them when they cry, and try not to tease them overmuch. Even a Laddie’s cage held none such.

Endure their noise and trip over toys and try not to tease them overmuch. Do not belittle little ones who play with things they shouldn’t touch.

- Sandra Marek Behringer is a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. Her book is titled Only One Passage, which also includes photography by her husband, John Behringer. For more information about her books and poems and her novel, Hawks Crossing, log on to www.sandramarekbehringer.com.

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Rest in peace

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


LONG, Anna Josephine (Costello), 90, Most Holy Name of Jesus, Beech Grove, June 13. Mother of Mary Cleary, Helen Bill and Judy Miller. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of two.


Rita Nagel was mother of nine, registered nurse and dedicated community volunteer in Rensselaer

St. Augustine parishioner Rita Ann (Kerber) Naegele, 97, the mother of Father Rick Naegele, died on June 17 at Home Hospice in Lafayette, Ind. She was 75.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on June 20 at St. Augustine Church in Rensselaer in the Lafayette Diocese. Burial followed at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Rensselaer.

Rita Kerber was born on Jan. 30, 1934, in Logansport, Ind. She graduated from Logansport High School in 1952 then the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in 1955. On Nov. 24, 1956, she was married to Gerald Naegele, who died on March 17, 1997. Until her retirement in 1997, she helped her husband manage their family farm.

She also worked as a registered nurse in surgery, recovery and obstetrics, and developed a health occupations class at Rensselaer Central High School.

She also founded and directed the Alternating Care Unit at Jasper County Hospital, where she served until her retirement in 1997.

In addition to serving St. Augustine Parish as a member of the parish council and school board, she volunteered for the Christian Women’s Group, food pantry, local and state vocations cross project, prayer prayer, Jasper County Hospital Hospice and Jasper County Hospital Auxiliary.

She taught religious education classes at St. Augustine Parish and Sacred Heart Parish in Remington, Ind.

She was a past member of the American Cancer Society, Jasper County Community Services board of directors, Knights of Columbus,

Rita Naegele was a generous and prayerful woman who loved to serve others. Surviving are nine children, Kristina Dobson of Logansport, Wendy Egan of Remington, Lynn Libers of Logansport, Wix, Cathy Hanny of Remington, pastry Kimer of Bresle, Ind., A. ndy Naegele of Remstesr, Doug Naegele of Remstesr, Kurt Naegele of Remstesr and Father Rick Naegele of Jasper County Hospital in Remington.

Memorial gifts may be sent to St. Augustine School, 538 N. McKinley, Rensselaer, IN 47978 or Birthright of Rensselaer, 216 N. W. Mccullough, Rensselaer, IN 47978.
Serra Club essay

Student sees God and a ‘graceful spirit’ in religious sister

(Editors’ note: Following is the third in a series featuring the winners of the 2009 Indianapolis Serra Club Vocations Essay Contest.)

By Emily King

Special to The Criterion

I watched from afar as a woman gracefully and diligently cared for all of the kids flopping to her side. It was just another Sunday during my summer before my eighth-grade year, and I was volunteering at the Breakfast Club. It is an organization where teenagers can make breakfast for the children in the local area who are suffering from poverty.

It is, by far, my favorite choice of service because it expands beyond the line of the helpers and the ones being helped. When you are there, it is like you are all a little family.

The lady that I first observed had a smile that could light up a room. As soon as I met her, I could feel her loving spirit spilling everywhere. She really was an inspiration to me.

She did not belong to my parish, and I had never seen her before. It was obvious that the young people who regularly came to the Breakfast Club were really familiar to this woman’s spirit and drew in just like I was. As I played paddy cake with the little girls, she helped other children draw pictures. This is when I noticed her sense of humor and her sincere quality. I do not know her history or her background, but I could almost tell that she had once been in a place too.

As the morning went on, I was dreading the time when I would have to depart from my new role model. From now on, I vowed to treat any service project big or small, just like she had. She never made it seem like a burden, and really interacted with everyone there.

I wish that I had gotten to spend more time with her or even shown her my name. I even asked my youth minister who she was, but it wasn’t someone she had met before. When I saw her, I saw God. I did. This was the first time in my life, I intimately looked into a person and saw Christ himself.

I could hear God calling me to strive to be like her, which in turn would be following his works. I wish I could have thanked this stranger for brightening my day, week and life. It makes me want to strive that one day I will be on the other side of this situation, and people will see God through me.

Did I mention that this inspiration, this graceful spirit, inside a humble body was dressed in a habit and was a nun? (Emily and her parents, Kevin and Joan King, are members of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Emily completed the ninth grade at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis last year, and is the ninth-grade division winner in the 2009 Indianapolis Serra Club Vocations Essay Contest.)

Illinois widow’s $2 million gift to parish surprises pastor, parishioners

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Before her death in October 2008, Alice Christopher left a familiar face at St. Mary Nativity Parish in Joliet, Ill., to her parishioners.

Father Chris Groh, the pastor, said she was always around to lend a helping hand at women’s club bake sales or senior citizen events. In her younger years, she said, she was very involved in the parish’s school. But no one suspected that her helping hand would be so generous.

On June 11, the parish announced that Christopher had left $2 million to St. Mary Nativity. Parishioners often bequeath money to the Church in their wills, Father Groh said, but $2 million to St. Mary Nativity was staggering. Father Groh said, especially because no one knew Christopher was a wealthy woman.

Christopher’s late husband, Ralph, worked at a nearby Texaco refinery, and she was a secretary at U.S. Steel in Joliet until she retired. Their one luxury might have been their Kayak River cottage, which she sold not long after Ralph’s sudden death in 1986. The couple never had children.

“They were common people with a very simple lifestyle,” said Father Groh, who has been at St. Mary Nativity Parish since 1989 and the pastor since 1999. “They worked in the same places that everybody in the parish worked. There was nothing to say they were extraordinary.”

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A time to play and pray

Retreat offers teens the chance to ponder priesthood among peers

By Mike Krokos

JOHNSON COUNTY — It was a time to play. It was a time to pray.

But just as important, the fourth annual Bishop Bruté Days from June 10-13 at the Future Farmers of America Leadership Center just outside Zionsville was an opportunity for 58 junior and senior high-school-aged boys to be among peers who are open to the idea that God might be calling them to the priesthood.

"It shows me that I'm not alone in this world, that others want to do this (consider a vocation to the priesthood)," explained Nick Porter, 15, who will be a freshman at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis this fall.

A member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis, Nick said he became interested in the priesthood in the fourth grade.

At the camp, he especially enjoyed eucharistic adoration, Mass and listening to presentations by priests.

"I love to hear different talks about Christ and his life with the Church," Nick said.

The camp was sponsored by the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis and, as in years past, archdiocesan priests were there throughout the week, giving presentations on the faith, celebrating Mass, hearing confessions and presiding during Benediction.

Members of the Knights of Columbus and the Indianapolis Serra Club provided meals for the campers.

Seminarians like Martin Rodriguez served as camp counselors and mentored the teenagers while leading them in morning and evening prayer services. They also took part in outdoor activities like canoeing, and offered advice as the campers tackled an obstacle course and played games like dodgeball.

"Part of the work of a seminarian is to find more seminarians," Rodriguez said.

"And I think with the youth, there are a lot of people who are called to be a priest, but sometimes they are isolated in their own parishes, and they don't know there are other guys thinking about this stuff." As a counselor, Rodriguez said his duties included being available to discuss seminary life and the priesthood with campers, and some of the challenges that this life presents.

Seeing the teens offered a "good refresher" on how God worked in his life, added Rodriguez, who just completed coursework at Bishop Bruté Seminary and will go to Rome in July to continue his priestly studies at the Pontifical North American College.

"These guys have their own story, and each story enriches mine," said Rodriguez, a member of St. Mary Parish in Indianapolis.

"When I see them, I see myself at this age, and how I started discerning," Father Robert Robeson, rector of Bishop Bruté Seminary, said he believes there is a growing interest among teenage boys in the possibility of priesthood.

But having an interest is only a starting point, he said.

"I think that the first thing you've got to work on with young people before you can really start talking about priesthood or vocation is the call to holiness and conversion of life," he said, "and trying to deepen your love for Christ, deepen that day-to-day appreciation for the Eucharist and Mary and the teachings of the Church."

Campers weren't limited to young men from Indianapolis deanery parishes.

Anthony and Nick O'Halloran, 15, are members of St. Teresa Benedicita of the Cross Parish in Bright.

The twin brothers made the road trip to Johnson County with their brother, Ben, 13, and fellow parishioner Aaron Badinghaus, 16, after Father Thomas Kovalchik, their parish's administrator, encouraged them to attend Bishop Bruté Days.

"It's cool seeing all these Catholics here (our age) thinking about the priesthood, too," Nick said.

Derrick Roll, 14, a member of St. Michael Parish in Bradford, came back to the retreat and camp-like atmosphere for a second straight year to continue discerning whether a calling to the priesthood is in his future.

He said his parents, especially his father, have been very supportive.

"He (Dad) just really feels like God is pointing me in the direction to be a priest," Derrick said. "I try to encourage me every chance he can.

"While family can play a key role in helping young people discern their vocation, being around like-minded teens can also be a positive thing," Father Robeson said.

"God calls each person in a very different way, but the important thing is to connect with other (like-minded) kids," Father Robeson said. "This retreat demonstrates to them that there are many other young men who are thinking about (the priesthood) and open in the same way."

(To learn more about Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, log on to www.archindy.org/bsb)