Daniel Elsener takes the reins to make Marian a great Catholic university

By John Shaughnessy

In a moment, you will read the story of the "many" promise that Daniel Elsener made involving a horse—a story that provides an insightful glimpse into Elsener, the president of Marian University in Indianapolis. Yet maybe the best place to start a story about the man who is determined to establish Marian as a "great Catholic university of the 21st century" is to return to the time when Elsener was a 29-year-old high school principal in Kansas who was attending a conference where the main speaker was a small, bespectacled man with a slight lisp—a college football coaching legend-in-the-making by the name of Lou Holtz.

"That little squirt came in there and he got my attention. He got everyone's attention," Elsener recalls. "It was this speech about leadership, and the thing I remember the most is when he said, 'A leader has to be committed, and everybody has to know you're committed, and it has to be without doubt and without fail.' And then he told this story, which isn't real, to make his point.

"He told the story of this soldier who is in Germany on Christmas Eve. He grew up in Chicago. His dad was a bad person. He drank and caroused, and he died on the streets doing drugs. There were five kids in the family, and the mother worked day and night to raise them. She worked so hard she worked herself to death. She was a saint. And now he's in Germany, it's Christmas Eve, and he's looking at this picture of his girlfriend. And he misses her bad.

"So he puts his stuff on and starts walking out the gate of the base. He's going back to Chicago to see his mother."

Bishops urge united Catholic voice on key elements of health care reform

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Sounding many of the same themes, bishops around the country are urging Catholics to contact their members of Congress about the need for health care reform and the importance of keeping abortion out of any final plan.

"If ever there was a need for the united Catholic voice to be heard clearly and strongly, now is the time," said Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone of Charleston, S.C., in an Aug. 26 letter that he asked priests to post in their parish bulletins.

"Our representatives and senators need to hear our voice, and we have a voice that is credible because it is a moral voice and one that has centuries of experience in health care," he added.

Many of the bishops' comments quoted extensively from earlier letters on health care reform by Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., and Cardinal Justin F. Rigali of Philadelphia, who chair the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' committees on Domestic Justice and Human Development and on Pro-Life Activities, respectively.

Those letters stressed the need for a health care system that is accessible and affordable for all; that covers everyone from conception to natural death; that does not erode current federal policy against funding abortions; that preserves freedom of conscience for providers and institutions; and that controls costs and applies them equitably among payers.

Many bishops also urged Catholics in their dioceses to stay informed about the status of health care reform efforts by frequent visits to the USCCB Web site at www.usccb.org/healthcare.

"The Catholic Church does not endorse any particular prescription for what a revamped system should look like," noted a statement on the USCCB Web site.

"The Catholic Church does not endorse any particular prescription for what a revamped system should look like," noted a statement on the USCCB Web site.
WESTFIELD, N.J. (CNS)—The phone rang. Diane Starita held her breath and sank to the floor at her home in Westfield.

The voice on the other end of the line was her husband, Anthony. He told her that he was trapped on the 106th floor of the north tower of The World Trade Center, surrounded by smoke and flames, desperately trying to find a way out.

The brief conversation took place on Sept. 11, 2001, following the deadly attacks in which nearly 3,000 people died. The towers and killed close to 3,000 people.

As he confronted his fears, Msgr. Masiello said the days following Sept. 11 were overwhelming.

"The human side of me wanted to run away and hide," he confessed. "Everyone was afraid. The fear of the unknown was almost as devastating as the initial loss." He cited Deacon Thomas A. Pluta as being his "tower of strength" during this period of turmoil. As he confronted his fears, the unknown was almost as destructive as the initial loss.

Gratitude. "That was the only way we could come to live with the tragedy of Sept. 11," Msgr. Masiello said. "Sister Grace Gladstone and I would pray every day: 'Thank you, Lord, for the gift of life.'"

In the past few weeks, I've had two friends who were diagnosed with breast cancer," Frick says. "My daughter, who's not yet 30, has a good friend who's battling breast cancer. And she has two small children. Unfortunately, I don't know anyone I've talked to who doesn't know someone who's been affected by this disease."

"Kaiser's life has been touched deeply by the disease. Her mother died when Kaiser was 20. One of her sisters has been a survivor of 17 years. She knows that walking 38 miles in a weekend will be a challenge for her, but she also knows it's a minor one compared to the hard road that breast cancer presents face."

"We've all been training for this," Kaiser says. "I've gone from walking a block when I first started to walking 12 miles. I know I can do this. I know I will do this. From watching my mother pass, and watching my sister go through breast cancer, and watching my relatives deal with the disease, this has become a very important issue for everyone in our family."

The 17 members of the Five Generations team range in age from 27 to 57. Kaiser says. Four generations of the family will be involved in the walk. "Being raised Catholic, and being the youngest of 11, we come from a close family," Kaiser said. "But this has made us even closer. That weekend is going to be fabulous. And it's an important thing we're doing. I function, just trying to make it through to the next minute. My brother once told me to 'learn to make friends with the demons.' I have no answers. I know some day I'll be reunited with Anthony."

"We've been blessed to share Diane's burden," said Msgr. Joseph P. Masieio, Holy Trinity's pastor. "She's allowed us into her heart and her life. Anthony was a man who was dedicated to his family. Through our faith, we come to live with rather than fight against the tragedies of life, and hopefully hold even more peacefully.""
The fourth annual Indiana Catholic Men’s Conference on Oct. 17 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis will feature speakers that are known around the world for their dynamic presentations of faith.

Ken Ogorek, the archdiocesan director of catechesis who spoke at last year’s Men’s Conference on Oct. 17 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, will be the master of ceremonies this year. “I have had conversations with dozens of Catholic men who have said this was a powerfully good experience for them,” Ogorek said. “I was looking forward for me to say, ‘Oh, I think people would benefit from this. ‘”

“When I hear man after man after man saying to me, ‘I went to that conference and it had an impact on me. It caused me to take my faith more seriously...’ that’s a pretty ringing endorsement, a pretty powerful testimony.”

Catholic author, speaker and scholar Scott Hahn will give two presentations to the expected 1,000 men who will attend the conference. He teaches various Scripture and theology courses at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio, and at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Penn. Hahn is also the founder and president of the Steubenville-based St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology.

Franciscan Father Stan Fortuna will incorporate music into his two talks.

Before becoming an original member of the rock-based Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in 1987, Father Stan, 52, was an accomplished jazz and hip hop guitarist. Since being ordained in 1996, he has continued to use his artistry to proclaim the Gospel in concerts around the world and through several recordings.

Super Bowl champion Chris Godfrey will also speak at the men’s conference. Founder of the South Bend, Ind.-based Life Athletes, Godfrey promotes chastity and the pro-life cause in his many speaking engagements across the country.

A graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Notre Dame School of Law, Godfrey played nine years in the National Football League. He was a member of the New York Giants when they won Super Bowl XXI in 1987.

Ogorek said Catholic men’s conferences can be effective in helping participants learn the faith and apply it to their everyday lives. “In some cases, we have new information,” he said. “In other cases, we hear again something we haven’t heard for a long time. And we’re at a point in our lives now where we can take it to heart and really allow it to help us grow in our relationship with Christ and participation in his Church.”

“Despite the many flaws with our current policies, change itself does not guarantee improvement,” they said in the Sept. 1 statement. “Any of the proposals which have been promoted would diminish the protection of human life and dignity, and shift our health care costs and delivery to a centralized government bureaucracy.”

“The Catholic obligation to the government requires that "we must find some way to provide a safety net for people in need without diminishing personal responsibility or creating an inordinately bureaucratic structure which will be vulnerable to failure, abuse, being crippled to our national economy, and remove the sense of humanity from the work of healing and helping the sick," the Kansas City Bishops said.

And they and other bishops also stressed the role individuals must play in caring for their own health. “All individuals, including those who receive assistance for health care, might be given incentives for good preventative practices such as a proper diet, moderate exercise, and moderation of tobacco and alcohol use,” they said. The Kansas City statement quoted from an earlier message on health reform by Bishop R. Walter Nickless of Sioux City, Iowa, which said: “The gift of life comes only from God, and to spurn that gift by seriously mistreating our own health is morally wrong.

“The most effective preventative care for most people is essentially free—good diet, moderate exercise and sufficient sleep,” Bishop Nickless said. "But prenatal and neonatal care are examples of preventative care requiring medical expertise, and therefore cost; and this sort of care should be made available to all for as far as possible."

Bishop Blase J. Cupich of Rapid City, S.D., said health care reform "is not just a task facing the government" but also related to "our need to take personal responsibility for our own health."

"In the face of powerful pressures in a consumer society, we should not overlook in this moment of health care reform the need to exercise moderation in a world of abundance," he said. "If we say that health care is a right rooted in our belief in human dignity, then we need to respect our own life and dignity by adopting lifestyles that enhance our health and well-being." Cardinal Rigali also issued his own statement in which he stressed the importance of not allowing the praiseworthy goal of health care reform to be derailed by abortion.

"There is a time when so much good will is being shown to be create an equitable, affordable and just health care system in the United States, it would be tragic if this praiseworthy and were corrupted by including an immoral means, namely provisions for abortion," he said. “This would not be health care.”

"It’s all about learning information and letting that be a catalyst for our formation in the Catholic faith,” Ogorek said that at the beginning in which Catholic men receive this information and formation is important.

“We all need help and support on our journey,” he said. “And we get that in various ways, whether it’s a spouse or a good friend.”

“But there’s something about being in a room with hundreds of your fellow Catholic men, knowing that you’re not alone in your effort to live the faith. I think that’s very powerful.”

The 2009 Indiana Catholic Men’s Conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m. In addition to the speakers, the conference will include Mass and an opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation.

Before Oct. 5, the cost of the conference is $45 per person or $40 per person for groups of 10 or more. The registration cost increases to $50 on Oct. 5.

Student registration is $20 per person.

”And we get that in various ways, whether it’s a spouse or a good friend.”

“But there’s something about being in a room with hundreds of your fellow Catholic men, knowing that you’re not alone in your effort to live the faith. I think that’s very powerful.”

The 2009 Indiana Catholic Men’s Conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m. In addition to the speakers, the conference will include Mass and an opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation.

Before Oct. 5, the cost of the conference is $45 per person or $40 per person for groups of 10 or more. The registration cost increases to $50 on Oct. 5.

Student registration is $20 per person.

Seminarians and priests can attend the Conference free of charge.

Lunch is guaranteed for those who register before the day of the event.

For more information about the men’s conference or to register, log on towww.indianacatholicmen.com or call 317-924-3982 or 317-888-0873.

Health (continued from page 1)

statement by three officials of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati that was endorsed by Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk.

The Church sees the present moment as “an opportunity that should not be buried by partisan politics or misleading exaggerations of what the eventual legislation does or does not include,” the statement said. “We hope that civil dialogue will produce an affordable health care plan that provides ready access to quality, comprehensive and affordable health care for every person living in the United States.”

In Boston, in a Sept. 2 blog post about the funeral of Sen. Edward Kennedy, who had been a leader on health care reform, Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley said he spoke briefly to President Barack Obama about health care when he welcomed the president to the basilica for the senator’s funeral.

He told Obama the U.S. bishops “are anxious to support a plan for universal health care, but we will not support a plan that will include a provision for abortion or could open the way to abortion in the future.”

One of the most extensive analyses of the elements of health care reform came in a joint statement by Archbishops Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., and Bishop Robert W. Finn of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo.

“Despite the many flaws with our current policies, change itself does not guarantee improvement,” they said in the Sept. 1 statement. “Any of the proposals which have been promoted would diminish the protection of human life and dignity, and shift our health care costs and delivery to a centralized government bureaucracy.”

—Joint statement on health care reform

Issued by Archbishops Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., and Bishop Robert W. Finn of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo.

Despite the many flaws with our current policies, change itself does not guarantee improvement. Many of the proposals which have been promoted would diminish the protection of human life, and shift our health care costs and delivery to a centralized government bureaucracy.

St. Paul and Minneapols said health reform legislation “has far-reaching moral implications for us as a people and as a nation.”

“Despite the many flaws with our current policies, change itself does not guarantee improvement,” they said in the Sept. 1 statement. “Any of the proposals which have been promoted would diminish the protection of human life and dignity, and shift our health care costs and delivery to a centralized government bureaucracy.”

“While it permits and disallows speak volumes about the values that we hold dear and are willing to fight to defend,” he added. “This is, in my mind, one of the most important issues of our lifetime. Let your thoughts be known.”


“The truly vigilant realist that it is not reforming the health care system in itself that is wrong—in fact, some reform is needed,” Bishop Loverde said. “Rather, it is the specific proposals included in that reform that could endanger the lives of the unborn, and the freedom of conscience of health care providors and citizens.”

He urged Catholics to educate themselves about the various health care reform proposals before Congress, contact their representatives with their views, and, "first and foremost," to pray. With earned hearts, he asks: [God] for the grace to be witnesses to the dignity of life, and for his blessing on our legislators in their debates and decisions," he said.
Every Catholic in Indiana—and perhaps in the United States—should read Bishop John M. D’Arcy’s pastoral reflection on the controversy that erupted this year when the University of Notre Dame announced that President Barack Obama would be its commencement speaker and receive an honorary doctorate.

Bishop D’Arcy’s reflections:

**The Church and the University: A Pastoral Reflection on the Controversy at Notre Dame**

were published in the Aug. 31-Sept. 7 issue of America, a magazine published weekly by the Jesuits of the United States. It is also available online on the Web site of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend (www.dioceseofwnb.org).

Bishop D’Arcy writes that his purpose is to “clarify the situation that so saddened the Church last spring. What it is all about and what it is not about.” It is not about the “abortion business,” he says. Or about Democrats versus Republicans (a replay of the recent presidential election). Or about America’s editorial opinion that the controversy was an inappropriate expression of “sectarian Catholicism” (the Church interfering in politics).

Bishop D’Arcy even says that “the situation that so saddened the Church last spring” is not about the appropriateness of the U.S. president speaking at a Catholic university. “This is what universities do,” the bishop says. “No bishop should try to prevent that.”

So what is the Notre Dame controversy all about? Bishop D’Arcy believes it is about the responsibility that all Catholic universities have “to give witness to the Catholic faith and to the consequences of that faith by its actions and decisions—especially by a decision to confer its highest honor.”

This is the heart of the controversy: the responsibility that Catholic universities have to witness publicly to Gospel values. In this context, Bishop D’Arcy asks, “How can a Catholic institution expect its students to live by faith in the difficult decisions that will confront them in a culture often opposed to the Gospel?”

In his reflections, Bishop D’Arcy asks poignant questions about the relationship of a Catholic university to its bishop.

A bout the connection between academic freedom and the search for truth and freedom that is at the core of our 2,000-year-old Catholic tradition. And about the future of Catholic education in the United States, especially in its practical relationship to what Professor John C. Cavadini, chair of the theology department at Notre Dame, describes, in the language of Vatican II, as “the concrete, visible communion of ‘hierarchic and charismatic gifts,’ at once holy and dynamic in its unifying function” in which “each bishop represents his own Church and all of the bishops together represent the whole Church.”

Bishop D’Arcy reflects about his personal relationship with the...
La oración, la acción y el sufrimiento son ‘escuelas de esperanza’. Eso también nos lo recuerda el papa Benedicto: “la capacidad de sufrir por amor de la verdad es un criterio de humanidad.” Es también donde damos testimonio de la esperanza cristiana. “Los Santos pudieron recorrer el camino del ser hombre del mismo modo en que Cristo lo recorrió antes de nosotros, porque estaban repletos de la gran esperanza.”

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en septiembre

Maestros/Direc tores de Educación Religiosa: que ellos puedan contar con la fuerza y el amor de Dios en Cristo para entender, para amar y para vivir la fe católica a los jóvenes y a sus padres, para que ellos a ellos a considerar las vocaciones al sacerdocio y la vida religiosa.
Events Calendar

September 11
St. Mary Church, 317 N. New Jersey St., Indianapolis. Blue Mass honoring firefighters, police officers and EMT’s, noon. Information: 317-637-3983.


Roncalli High School, 3300 Prague Road, Indianapolis. Parish organization, spaghetti dinner, 4:30-7 p.m. per person and $20 per family. Information: 317-787-8277.

St. Ane Parish, 5267 N. Hamburgh Road, Oldenburg. Turkey suppers, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Information: 317-934-5854.

September 12-13
St. Francis Xavier, 1375 S. Mckee Ave., Indianapolis. Parish festival, food, rides, games, Thurs. and Fri. 5-11 p.m. Sat. noon-11 p.m. Information: 317-244-9902.

St. Anne Church, 190 N. 19th St., New Castle. “Fall Festival,” 8 a.m.-2 p.m., crafts, bookstore, rummage sale, stained-glass and art supplies from former church. Information: 765-729-0533.


September 12-13
St. Philip Nerri Parish, 350 N. Rural St., Indianapolis. “Fall Dinner Theater” buffet dinner, costume, “Dinner Play” game. Sat. 6 p.m., Sun. 2:30 p.m. per person. Information: 317-631-8746.


St. Mary Parish, 302 E. N. Ker St., Greensburg. Parish picnic, Sat. 5:30 p.m. Sun. 11 a.m. games, entertainment. Information: 317-862-8437.

St. Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish, 512 N. Perkins St., Renshullville. “Fall Festival,” Sat. noon-11 p.m., hog roast, music, dance, Sun. 7 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 765-932-2588.

September 13
St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 1216 W. Warran Ave., Indianapolis. Eucharistic party, 1:30 p.m., per person.


Immaculate Conception Parish, 2081 E. County Road 800 S., Millwood. School reunion, Mass, noon-2 p.m. Information: 317-823-6007.

September 14
Geneva Hills Golf Club, 13446 Geneva Hills Road, Clinton. St. Mary of the Woods, “A $150 Club Scholarship Golf Outing,” 7:30 a.m. per person, lunch, greens fees and cart.

September 14-15
St. John of the Cross Church, 7500 W. 106th St., Indianapolis. “Fall Festival,” 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 317-663-4032 or www.frankst.net.

September 15
Pax Ad Astra Plaza, 201 S. Capitol Ave., Indianapolis. St. John the Evangelist Parish, Scripture Study, “The Bible in Context.” Franciscan Father William Burton, presenter. 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m., $30 per person. registration deadline Sept. 7. Information: 317-783-4405 or Michaela.Frank@franciscanministries.org.

Michaela Farm award

On Aug. 19, designated as Farmers’ Day at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis, the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Oldenburg received the 2009 John Arnold Rural Award Presentation from the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and the Indian Farm Bureau. Participating in the award presentation are, from left, Ward Davis, president of the Historic Landmarks Foundation; Chris Merkel, operations manager at Michaela Farm; Eleanor Arnold, the mother of the late John Arnold; Franciscan Sister Carolyn Hoff, business manager at Michaela Farm; “The Bibles in Context” Franciscan Father William Burton, presenter. 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m., $30 per person. registration deadline Sept. 7. Information: 317-783-4405 or Michaela.Frank@franciscanministries.org.

Sisters of Providence to sponsor golf fundraiser on Sept. 18

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods will sponsor their seventh annual Hole-in-One Golf Scramble on Sept. 18 at Human Links Golf Course near Terre Haute. Human Links is the top rated municipal golf course in Indiana.

The cost is $300 per foursome or $75 per person, which includes green fees, cart, lunch and beverages throughout the tournament.

Proceeds from the golf fundraiser will help support the Congregation’s ministries and sponsored institutions.

4:30 Days for Life’ prayer rally is Sept. 20 in Indianapolis

Shawn Carney, co-founder of the national “40 Days for Life: Praying for an End to Abortion” campaign, will be the keynote speaker for the opening prayer rally in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis on Sept. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Church.

The service begins at 7:30 p.m. with a welcome and prayer. Awards will be presented at about 6 p.m.

Lunch will be served beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the clubhouse area. For more information or to register for the golf tournament, call 812-535-2802 or send an e-mail to davidebillon@spacegrm.org.

In Indianapolis, one of the days will be Sept. 18.

Michaela Farm award

Michaela Farm award

On Aug. 19, designated as Farmers’ Day at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis, the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Oldenburg received the 2009 John Arnold Rural Award Presentation from the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and the Indian Farm Bureau. Participating in the award presentation are, from left, Ward Davis, president of the Historic Landmarks Foundation; Chris Merkel, operations manager at Michaela Farm; Eleanor Arnold, the mother of the late John Arnold; Franciscan Sister Carolyn Hoff, business manager at Michaela Farm; “The Bibles in Context” Franciscan Father William Burton, presenter. 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m., $30 per person. registration deadline Sept. 7. Information: 317-783-4405 or Michaela.Frank@franciscanministries.org.

Michaela Farm award

On Aug. 19, designated as Farmers’ Day at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis, the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Oldenburg received the 2009 John Arnold Rural Award Presentation from the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and the Indian Farm Bureau. Participating in the award presentation are, from left, Ward Davis, president of the Historic Landmarks Foundation; Chris Merkel, operations manager at Michaela Farm; Eleanor Arnold, the mother of the late John Arnold; Franciscan Sister Carolyn Hoff, business manager at Michaela Farm; “The Bibles in Context” Franciscan Father William Burton, presenter. 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m., $30 per person. registration deadline Sept. 7. Information: 317-783-4405 or Michaela.Frank@franciscanministries.org.

Michaela Farm award

On Aug. 19, designated as Farmers’ Day at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis, the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Oldenburg received the 2009 John Arnold Rural Award Presentation from the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and the Indian Farm Bureau. Participating in the award presentation are, from left, Ward Davis, president of the Historic Landmarks Foundation; Chris Merkel, operations manager at Michaela Farm; Eleanor Arnold, the mother of the late John Arnold; Franciscan Sister Carolyn Hoff, business manager at Michaela Farm; “The Bibles in Context” Franciscan Father William Burton, presenter. 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m., $30 per person. registration deadline Sept. 7. Information: 317-783-4405 or Michaela.Frank@franciscanministries.org.

Michaela Farm award

On Aug. 19, designated as Farmers’ Day at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis, the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Oldenburg received the 2009 John Arnold Rural Award Presentation from the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and the Indian Farm Bureau. Participating in the award presentation are, from left, Ward Davis, president of the Historic Landmarks Foundation; Chris Merkel, operations manager at Michaela Farm; Eleanor Arnold, the mother of the late John Arnold; Franciscan Sister Carolyn Hoff, business manager at Michaela Farm; “The Bibles in Context” Franciscan Father William Burton, presenter. 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m., $30 per person. registration deadline Sept. 7. Information: 317-783-4405 or Michaela.Frank@franciscanministries.org.

Michaela Farm award

On Aug. 19, designated as Farmers’ Day at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis, the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Oldenburg received the 2009 John Arnold Rural Award Presentation from the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and the Indian Farm Bureau. Participating in the award presentation are, from left, Ward Davis, president of the Historic Landmarks Foundation; Chris Merkel, operations manager at Michaela Farm; Eleanor Arnold, the mother of the late John Arnold; Franciscan Sister Carolyn Hoff, business manager at Michaela Farm; “The Bibles in Context” Franciscan Father William Burton, presenter. 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m., $30 per person. registration deadline Sept. 7. Information: 317-783-4405 or Michaela.Frank@franciscanministries.org.

Michaela Farm award

On Aug. 19, designated as Farmers’ Day at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis, the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Oldenburg received the 2009 John Arnold Rural Award Presentation from the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and the Indian Farm Bureau. Participating in the award presentation are, from left, Ward Davis, president of the Historic Landmarks Foundation; Chris Merkel, operations manager at Michaela Farm; Eleanor Arnold, the mother of the late John Arnold; Franciscan Sister Carolyn Hoff, business manager at Michaela Farm; “The Bibles in Context” Franciscan Father William Burton, presenter. 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m., $30 per person. registration deadline Sept. 7. Information: 317-783-4405 or Michaela.Frank@franciscanministries.org.
Program offers opportunity to learn ‘lead like Jesus’

By Mary Ann Wyand

Learn from the Master.

Described as “a chance to learn powerful leadership skills from the greatest role model of all time,” this unique, adaptive skills-building program effectively and creatively expands upon the popular slogan “What would Jesus do?”

Owen Phelps, a Ph.D. and director of the Leadership Institute in Durand, Ill., will present the first ever “Catholic Lead Like Jesus Encounter” on Oct. 10 at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus, Little Flower School, 1401 N. Bosart Ave., Indianapolis.

The program is based on his new book, The Catholic Vision for Leading Like Jesus, which is published by Our Sunday Visitor. Phelps developed the Catholic version of this countercultural leadership concept based on the ecumenical Lead Like Jesus movement with permission from co-founder Ken B. Blanchard, the co-author of The One Minute Manager, a best-seller, and Lead Like Jesus.

By studying Christ’s examples of discipleship as a shepherd, servant and adviser, Phelps said, participants will acquire principles of sound leadership that will help them transform their business practices and outlook on life.

“M. edern research shows that servant leadership really, really works,” Phelps explained in a telephone interview on Sept. 2, “and the notion of steward and shepherd follow right along. Servant leadership is ‘it’s not about me.’ Steward leadership is ‘it’s not mine.’”

Shepherd leadership says “People are precious.”

“Chuck Collins, the author of Great is Good, researched hundreds of companies, developed five levels of leadership, and found that the best leaders level five leaders are distinguished by humility and a focus on mission.”

“If I were teaching this material in an MBA program, we would be talking about the same principles,” Phelps said. “The only differences will be the language and the model. In Lead Like Jesus, we can talk about the greatest leadership model of all time.”

An adjunct professor at Cardinal Stritch University’s College of Business and Management in Milwaukee, Phelps has taught this ecumenical concept for six years, and felt called by God to create the Catholic vision of these best business practices.

“We talk about how we are the Body of Christ,” Phelps said. “You’ll hear people say, ‘I want my organization to work like a well-run church.’”

“Think of an organization as a living organism. … Think of an organization as a living organism.”

The Catholic version of the program is based on Scripture, specifically on the Gospel teachings of Jesus, he said, as well as on Church teachings. Vatican II documents, papal encyclicals and statements from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“One of the major differences will be the language and the model,” Phelps said, using the Last Supper as an example.

“What would you talk about if you knew you were getting together with your friends at dinner tonight and that tomorrow you would die?” he asked. “Would you talk about the weather? The Colts? How is [Peyton] Manning doing? … What is really important to you?”

In his address to the people of the Archdiocese, Phelps said, the late Pope John Paul II talked about the role of the laity.

“What does the Church teach us that our role, our vocation, is in life?” he asked. “What are we for here? Is it to sanctify the world?”

“At the end of Mass on Sundays, we’re asking ourself, ‘Are we thinking about how much time there is before the kick-off, we’re also hearing the priest say, ‘Go and love and serve the Lord’,” Phelps said. “We have that commissioning (from God), and that’s how we sanctify the world, mainly through our example, but sometimes through words as well. I’m not sure that a lot of really easy have the sense of the importance of this [call to mission] in God’s plan, but the Church has been teaching it for a long time. We’ve got to help people get back in touch with that.”

Every person is called to be a leader in various life situations, he said. “Leadership is something we all are doing all the time. In fact, many of the best examples of Jesus-like leadership today are found in the home.”

The Oct. 10 program at Little Flower Parish costs $25 per person, and includes lunch and materials.

Father Robert Gilday, pastor of Little Flower Parish, said a former parishioner, Charles Finnikin of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., is understanding a portion of the program that normally costs $100 per person, to make it available to more people.

“Chuck is a member of the Lead Like Jesus board of directors, an active Catholic and an ardent supporter of this program,” Father Gilday explained. “He introduced me to the book Lead Like Jesus” written by his friends, Ken B. Blanchard and Phil Hodges, and I was really touched by his message.

He’s been the driving force in trying to bring a ‘Lead Like Jesus’ Encounter to Indianapolis, and we’re grateful that his support makes it possible to offer the program at a fraction of the ordinary cost.”

(Advance registrations for the “Catholic Lead Like Jesus Encounter” are required by calling Tom Costello at Little Fower Parish at 317-375-8352, ext. 30, or sending an e-mail to tosettob@littleflowerparish.org before the Sept. 25 reservation deadline. Payment can be made by check or credit card. Space is limited, and reservations will be filled as payments are received.)

Laypeople have duty to nurture vocations, says Archbishop Dolan

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS)—New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, the keynote speaker on Aug. 29 at the 67th Serra International Convention in Omaha, said the lay faithful of the Church have a duty to nurture vocations to the sacramental priesthood.

Ordained priests are called to do the Lord’s work, he said, but the lay faithful have the duty to nurture vocations to the sacramental priesthood.

“It is our duty to nurture vocations to the priestly role in the Church,” Archbishop Dolan said.

The archbishop is the episcopal adviser to the Serra Club, an international organization that promotes and fosters vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. He was one of several speakers during the convention held at Omaha’s Qwest Center on Aug. 27-30, and attended by more than 350 people.

The event opened with a Mass at St. Cecilia Cathedral with Omaha Archbishop George J. Lucas as the presiding bishop.

A archbishop Dolan said one way to start promoting religious vocations is to begin with emphasizing the vocation of marriage and family.

“Only 50 percent of our Catholic young people are approaching the sacrament of marriage,” he said. “We’ve been so focused on religious vocations, on religious life, that we’ve kind of forgotten about marriage and family. And I think that needs to be emphasized.”

A half of the 350 people said they want to be a priest or a religious.”

Archbishop Dolan said only 51 percent of Catholic parents said they would be happy if their son wanted to be a priest.

Today, however, he believes that perception is changing because of Serra International and other similar groups.

Missoula archbishop Emilio Bertel Belzunazar of Yucatan, another speaker during the convention, said the Church mission of salvation in the world is to “realize that the lay faithful participate in the priestly, prophetic and kingly mission of Christ.”

Serra International has more than 1,100 Serra clubs in 46 countries.

Fourteen of those countries, including the U.S., were represented at the convention.

Serra International’s president, Cesare Gambardella of Italy, said the greatest trait of Serra is its internationality and its ties with the clubs of the world.

Some of those attending the convention said they’d like to take advantage of those connections.

Patrick Urbagna, president of the Serra Club of Lagos in Nigeria, said he is inspired by the work of his fellow Serrans, and noted that their work inspired him to attend the convention.

He said eight new Serra clubs are forming in Nigeria, and half of the members are under 35.

“We want more young people to join,” he told The Catholic Voice, newpaper of the Omaha Archdiocese. “But I also want my older members to serve as long as possible because service to God never ends.”

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

“What’s Missing In Your Spiritual Life and How To Get It”

A Day of Reflection with Fr. Mike McKinney

September 29, 2009
8:30 am - 2:30 pm

It is not uncommon that our relationship with God seems routine and unexciting or perhaps even a bit of lifeless. Join us for this day of reflection with spiritual leader and popular presenter Fr. Mike McKinney as he describes four steps that are needed in one’s prayer life.

$35 per person includes continental breakfast, Mass, lunch and the program. Register online by visiting our website or call us!

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House
5355 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226
(317) 545-7681
www.archindy.org/fatima
prepare for the moment, he's been taking the 160 Knights onto the field by riding a first home football game in its new Sept. 19 when Marian University plays its of it."

I'm nutty enough to say this, I'm nutty Holy Spirit. I haven't yet determined which," four years, we will build this stadium. And I barely have a coach on board, and there is no

Marian," says Christel DeHaan, a friend, an tell him he's really put a new face on Marian," says Elsener. And the self-described "nutty" promise he leadership," says Elsener, who is 55. "You those three things have to be in

That's how he approached the person who made the $6 million gift anonymously.

That's why he approaches the ultimate questions, like, 'Where are you God?" He views the stadium, which will also be used as a sports and track, and as a way to build community. I wanted to make sure this was a fun, exciting gathering point for alumni, students, parents, donors and friends who care about Catholic causes, Catholic intellectual traditions and Christian witness," he says. "We're moving the students' idea, telling his wife, Beth, he made no sense to hang things. So I said, 'Well, they're not

Daniel Elsener insists that the faith which led the university has also started an online nursing degree program. And on July 1, the college officially became Marian University. Last time we had lunch together, I told him he's really put a new face on Marian," says Christel DeHaan, a friend, an Indianapolis philanthropist and a donor to the university. "Says he's from Vermont, he can articulate a vision and he doesn't take no for an answer. He's very determined in his pursuit of what needs to be done." Elsener insists that the faith which led him to Marian is the faith that continues to guide him in leading the university—which leads him to share a dramatic cross, statues, hammer and crosses. "We've always been Catholic and Franciscan here." Elsener says as he sits in a conference room with the Prayer of St. Francis on one wall.

"I put the third revealing story about Elsener—a story of the challenge he presented to people after a school Mass on Sunday.

The crossroads and crosses of life Beyond building a football program and a new stadium, Elsener has been trying to create a new vision for Marian since he became president in 2001. A man who had dedicated most of his career to Catholic education and fundraising, Elsener had served the Archdiocese of Indianapolis as the executive director of Catholic education and the executive director of stewardship and development. He was directing a private foundation when he was approached about the idea of leading Marian College. The foundation was put together by a family that had sold its business for $875 million. Working there, Elsener says he was in a nice place financially for the first time in his life. He flew in private planes, had an office in a tower building with a great view of Indianapolis, and was getting paid more than he ever had.

The invitation to lead Marian was, "I finally have a savings account. Why would I want to do that?"

"For more than six weeks, he resisted the idea, telling his wife, Beth, it made no sense to hang things. So I said, 'Well, they're not in a chapel one day, he says, 'It was like 'Marian's screaming in my mind.' He went on to tell me he told Beth with Sunday dinner, never mentioning what happened in the chapel. Yet as they stood in the kitchen, Beth eventually told him he should take the Marian job.

"We've experienced everything anything like that," Elsener says. "If you look back, that was a very sleepy little college that was struggling then," says Jerry Severn, a member of Marian's board of trustees then and now. "The place has come to life. It shows the difference in leadership. He's the kind of great community always has a great Catholic university. He's sure laid the foundation, and it's growing and ever more reliable.

Since 2001, student enrollment at Marian has increased from 1,260 students to more than 3,000. A 55-acre environmental learning laboratory has been built on a hillside of its own. It seemed to light up the eyes of the recruits and their parents. They got a kick out of it."

Four years later, the new stadium is built, it will be officially dedicated on Sept. 30 at Mian University's first home football game in its new stadium on campus. Elsener plans to lead the team—on the field by riding a horse and possibly wearing armor. To prepare for the moment, he's been taking riding lessons.

"If you're going to do something, you ought to make it big and you ought to make it right," says Elsener, a dedicated and a grandfather of 10. "Do something a little different. I mean I have nine kids these days. If I'm in, I'm all in."

He views the stadium, which will also be used as a sports and track, and as a way to build community. I wanted to make sure this was a fun, exciting gathering point for alumni, students, parents, donors and friends who care about Catholic causes, Catholic intellectual traditions and Christian witness," he says. "We're moving the students' idea, telling his wife, Beth, he made no sense to hang things. So I said, 'Well, they're not in a chapel one day, he says, 'It was like 'Marian's screaming in my mind.' He went on to tell me he told Beth with Sunday dinner, never mentioning what happened in the chapel. Yet as they stood in the kitchen, Beth eventually told him he should take the Marian job.

"We've experienced everything anything like that," Elsener says. "If you look back, that was a very sleepy little college that was struggling then," says Jerry Severn, a member of Marian's board of trustees then and now. "The place has come to life. It shows the difference in leadership. He's the kind of great community always has a great Catholic university. He's sure laid the foundation, and it's growing and ever more reliable.

Since 2001, student enrollment at Marian has increased from 1,260 students to more than 3,000. A 55-acre environmental learning laboratory has been built on a hillside of its own. And a music center is being built. The number of graduate students and alumni, Elsener says, "There are three essential elements to leadership," says Elsener, who is 55. "You could pray about how I was going to ask. When we met, I told him, 'Here's where we're at. We want to raise $70 million, and we don't have a lead gift yet. The biggest gift we've ever had is $2 million. And we are at $55 million without a gift, which is a miracle. But I am still searching for a lead gift." Elsener left the office with his lead gift.

"The last thing [the donor] said to me was, "You talk to me prayerfully reflect on what I'm going to do. Let's just pray our stock does well. We'll take care of you.""
Catholic Charities Tell City and the Tell City-Perry County Public Library have teamed up to help those people in need during the economic crisis. Mayor of Tell City Hubert also noted that some people who don’t have access to computers or assistance may not even file because they don’t know where to turn for help. Dale readily agreed and now faithfully spends time there every Monday morning, the library opens their conference room and supplies laptop computers for people to use to file unemployment claims. Catholic Charities Tell City supplies the volunteer, who is housed in a separate conference room from the regular computer lab. These volunteers are trained online through materials furnished by the Division of Workforce Development (DWD) in Indianapolis. A special thank you goes to the Tell City-Perry County Public Library for their support and use of their conference room and laptop computers,” Hess said. “By working together, we are able to help so many more people than either of us could accomplish separately. Catholic Charities Tell City agency director, Joan Hess started the program after hearing many people say they needed assistance and had no computer access. "It emphasizes the need more information may call Joan Hess, at 812-547-0903 or e-mail her at jhess@catholiccharities Tell City.org."
BEECH GROVE — Bernadette Price and Marion Mascari enjoy helping people with developmental disabilities.

Pamela A. Lfmyer finds joy in providing healthy food for low-income people in central Indiana.

These three women, who have dedicated their lives to serving others, will be honored for their distinguished Church or community service by the Sisters of St. Benedict of Cincinnati to recognize their dedication to the secondary goal of Grace—A Celebration of Women 

Theodore Roosevelt Jr. is acknowledged as a talent in the 35 years of the Catholic Youth Organization.

She is also recognized as a talented comedian, and has performed at comedy clubs in the Indianapolis area.

But people may not know that she also finds time to volunteer at the Damar Home in Indianapolis with children who have developmental disabilities.

Or that she has helped with youth ministry activities since 1974 at the former St. Catherine Parish in Indianapolis then at Good Shepherd Parish.

"It is a nurse who wears many hats," Sister Mary Luke said. "Although her schedule would exhaust most of us, she continually looks for things to do. She has literally touched the lives of thousands of young people through her (parish volunteer) work as well as the Catholic Youth Organization. She has been a good friend to the religious community, too."

Sr. St. Roch parishioner Marion Mascari of Indianapolis will be honored with the Angel Gabriel Award for being "a messenger who spreads a word of hope and cheer."

She is the mother of eight, and has dedicated her life as a trained advocate for people with developmental disabilities. Her oldest child, Tressa, was born with cerebral palsy.

Mascari worked with several other dedicated parents to start the R.I.S.E. Learning Center in Indianapolis, which is one of the premier schools in the state for people with disabilities.

Located at the corner of LaSalle Street and Notre Dame Avenue, the Women's Care Center office will now have more than 100 call center offices and provide central storage for all the donated baby items. It will allow counselors to continue serving those in need by offering pregnancy tests and helping women choose life for their babies.

Women's Care Center President A. M. Marion says they also hope to make a positive impact on the problems women have accessing prenatal medical care in St. Joseph County.

"That has reached a 16-year low in our community," Marion said, "and so we were becoming concerned our clients were not receiving medical prenatal care.

"Mrs. Marion said the Women's Care Center joined with Saint Joseph's Regional Medical Center to find a way to work together in solving that problem."

"We started seeing all kinds of other benefits because as the women are coming back for their prenatal care, we can walk the path of life with them, and help them with parenting classes and goal counseling, Criminal Justice, and all the things we already do. So they're not only getting medical care, they're keeping in touch with us."

For this story and more news from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, log on to the Web site of Today's Catholic at www.todayscatholic.com.

DIOCESAN OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Expanded Women's Care Center holds dedication in South Bend

SOUTH BEND — Just as the needs of pregnant women in St. Joseph County continue to grow, so does the need for the Women's Care Center to continue serving them.

With 14 pregnancy help centers operating throughout northern Indiana, lower Michigan and Ohio, the office located just down the street from where the very first Care Center opened 25 years ago has expanded with Bishop John M. D'Arcy's blessing.

He was on hand recently for the dedication ceremony. A supporter since the beginning, Bishop D'Arcy spoke especially for the Women's Care Center and all who come there.

"This will be a place where you will give counseling and advice to women in need, to save the unborn," said Bishop D'Arcy to a room full of care center supporters and staff, "a place which respects the dignity of the human person, helps them work, for the most defenseless among us, you will help us all of you continue in the journey where Jesus Christ will become closer to his followers, and all will be one in the love of Christ.

This has been a very difficult time for the women who have come to the center, because their children are no longer with them. We can walk the path of life with them, and help them with parenting classes and goal counseling, Criminal Justice, and all the things we already do. So they're not only getting medical care, they're keeping in touch with us."

For this story and more news from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, log on to the Web site of Today's Catholic at www.todayscatholic.com.

DIOCESAN OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Andread High School celebrates 50 years of faith and family

MERRILLVILLE — "I long-standing hopes and aspirations of the faith that have been fostered have been finally realized in the completion of this high school. It is an imposing structure from the material standpoint and from the spiritual view a powerhouse for human progress in virtue."

That was Bishop Andre H. Grubka writing in October 1960 prior to the formal blessing of the new Andre High School.

Fifty years after the opening of the school in September 1960 at the former St. Catherine Parish in Indianapolis, Bishop Andre H. Grubka, the first bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Andre High School.

At a Mass and reception on Aug. 29, Bishop Grubka will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Andre High School.

"It was the first year, and we were the only ones here," said Muir, who attended Ball State University on a football scholarship. "The building was half-done, and Father [William] Duggan, the principal, would ring a bell to change classes."

Donna Bomber, who graduated five years later, is in her 34th year on the Andrean staff.

"It was the first year, and we were the only ones here," said Muir, who attended Ball State University on a football scholarship. "The building was half-done, and Father [William] Duggan, the principal, would ring a bell to change classes."

Donna Bomber, who graduated five years later, is in her 34th year on the Andrean staff.

"It was the first year, and we were the only ones here," said Muir, who attended Ball State University on a football scholarship. "The building was half-done, and Father [William] Duggan, the principal, would ring a bell to change classes."

Donna Bomber, who graduated five years later, is in her 34th year on the Andrean staff.

"It was the first year, and we were the only ones here," said Muir, who attended Ball State University on a football scholarship. "The building was half-done, and Father [William] Duggan, the principal, would ring a bell to change classes."

Donna Bomber, who graduated five years later, is in her 34th year on the Andrean staff.
Want the easiest job in the world? Be a catechist

By Ken Ogorek

Back when I had thick hair and a thin waist, I told a woman a few years older than I (in response to her question) that I worked as a high school religion teacher. “That must be the easiest job in the world,” she said. “All you have to do is tell people what you think is true.”

Based on when she came of age, I suppose, that was her perception of what it means to teach the Catholic Faith. Not that we have a body of revealed truth to pass on. Not that God loves us and sleeping our way through life is a way of giving Grace for a truly fulfilling life. Just a sharing of opinions—one as good as the next, none daring to lay claim as objectively true.

So how does the teaching of our Catholic faith occur throughout our archdiocese? Who’s telling catechists what to teach, what books to use, how to know if they’re doing a good job and what methods are likely to be effective?

First, we have archdiocesan curriculum guidelines listing specific content for various ages and grade levels. Catechists certainly don’t teach whatever they want—let alone whatever they think is true regarding what God reveals in the teaching of his Church.

As for textbooks, at basic resources used in catechesis throughout southern and central Indiana come from a specific list of books whose doctrinal content conforms to that in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

These aren’t the textbooks of the 1970s and ’80s, and our chief shepherd and catechist, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, has played a major role in ensuring the content of these resources.

Is our teaching getting through? One way we have addressed that question is with the standardized religion survey Faith 2000. This instrument is administered at several levels, giving us a snapshot of where folks stand on their doctrinal knowledge.

Faith 2000 can also give us information on a group’s religious attitudes and practices.

What about teaching methods? Various ways of helping catechists teach our Catholic faith effectively are included in our current catechist certification effort. I say current because we are actively seeking to take formation, certification and renewal to the next level by using great new resources like our current catechist certification program, Catholic high school students pledge to follow a life of chastity and share that message with students in the junior-high age group at Catholic schools and parish religious education programs.

Parishes test draft of archdiocesan RCIA guidelines

By Sean Gallagher

Over the years, catechetical leaders in the archdiocese’s Office of Catholic Education have implemented guidelines for various sacramental preparation and religious education programs.

They have done this after much consultation with parish administrators of religious education and other Catholic educators across the archdiocese.

Now Ken Ogorek and Peg McEvoy, with the help of the archdiocesan initiation Committee, have helped produce an initial draft of archdiocesan guidelines for the catechetical elements of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

Ogorek is the archdiocesan director of catechesis. McEvoy is the associate director for evangelization and family catechesis.

The archdiocesan initiation Committee is a group of archdiocesan catechetical leaders and others involved in bringing people into the Church that oversees RCIA in central and southern Indiana.

McEvoy said it is important to have RCIA guidelines “in order to know that every adult that is going through this process has had a comprehensive approach and coverage of the faith, without error and without gaps.”

Currently, 10 parishes across the archdiocese are using the proposed guidelines in their RCIA processes this year to see how well they work in a variety of contexts.

While each parish is going through the RCIA process and after they have completed it next spring, the proposed guidelines will be evaluated and possibly changed before they are implemented on an archdiocesan-wide basis.

The guidelines rely heavily on the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (USCCA), produced by the U.S. bishops and approved for use by the Holy See in 2005, along with Sacred Scripture and sacred tradition.

McEvoy said that the guidelines will help those parishes that are already using the USCCA in their RCIA processes to focus on what is most important in that catechesis.

“Parishes that use other RCIA resources, the guidelines will help them ensure that those coming in to the RCIA process are not just following a checklist of liturgical steps.”

New chastity education reaches out to parents, educators

By John Shaughnessy

Tammy Stewart was surprised by the openness that the young people showed in talking about their lives, especially the area of chastity.

As a religious education coordinator at St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis, Stewart listened intently as the youths shared the difficult challenges they face in life.

“We have a real specific area,” Ogorek says. “And that’s difficult for our young people, especially since some of their friends are already sexually active, or they are being approached with drugs or pornography. “These kids need a lot of support, and they need to feel welcomed to discuss these issues with the adults in their lives without fear of being reprimanded.”

Stewart’s assessment dovetails with an annual parent program on the issue of chastity, says Ken Ogorek, director of catechesis in the archdiocese’s Office of Catholic Education.

“Parents are the primary educators of children. We want them to understand their role in chastity education, and help them fulfill that role.”

The goal is the same for classroom teachers and religious educators.

“People who address chastity-related topics in classroom settings need very specific training in this area,” Ogorek says. “We have a real specific in-service program to train people to teach chastity education. If you have a classroom full of seventh graders and a question is raised by a student that touches upon the issue of chastity, there’s a way to deal with that question appropriately and effectively. And that’s what we want to prepare people to do.”

The increased focus on parents and educators is viewed as a complement to the archdiocese’s long-established A Promise to Keep: God’s Gift of Human Sexuality program, a peer-mentoring approach in which Catholic high school students pledge to follow a life of chastity and then are trained to share that message with students in the junior-high age group at Catholic grade schools.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein talks with Catholic high school students during a lunchen in April honoring student leaders in the A Promise to Keep: God’s Gift of Human Sexuality program. In the archdiocesan program, Catholic high school students pledge to follow a life of chastity and share that message with students in the junior-high age group at Catholic grade schools. The archdiocese is expanding its chastity education program to involve parents and educators.

See CHASTITY, page 14
"We are one body"
Special Religious Development participants enjoy annual retreat

By Mary Ann Wyand

BEECH GROVE—As they carefully mixed and kneaded the bread dough, the Special Religious Development participants and catechists shared stories and laughter on Aug. 29 during the seventh annual archdiocesan SPRED retreat at the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center.

Their joy in being together and creating the small loaves of wheat bread was magnified during prayer time on Aug. 30 when they saw their freshly baked bread in a basket next to flowers and a candle on a table in the center of their circle of chairs.

"SPRED is very sensory oriented," explained Ron Wyld, coordinator of the parish-based religious education program for developmentally disabled adults and children, which is under the direction of the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education.

"In our SPRED sessions at the parishes and during our retreat, we always have things that appeal to all of our senses—smell and taste and hearing and sight as well as touch—so making bread is a favorite activity," Wyld said. "Our friends get really excited because it tastes good, and they’re not sure what to expect after mixing all the ingredients."

The SPRED program was started by Father James M. Carthy in 1966 in the Archdiocese of Chicago to help Catholic adults and children with special needs participate more fully in the sacraments and parish life.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis began offering the SPRED ministry at parishes in 1998. Participants, who are called friends, receive sacramental preparation and enjoy faith-sharing activities.

"SPRED is based on faith-sharing groups," Wyld said. "In SPRED sessions, catechists read a verse from the Bible and a friend tells a story about God and others. The Scripture passage for reflection during their prayer time was, "Jesus prays to his Father, ‘Father, I have given them the glory you gave me that they may be one as you and I are one’." (John 17:22).

"We had 23 friends and 11 catechists at our retreat this year," Wyld said. "We could have more friends at the retreat if we had more volunteer catechists. We especially need men to help us with our retreat."

Retreat participants represented St. Mark the Evangelist, Holy Spirit, St. Monica, St. Luke the Evangelist, St. Pius X and St. Andrew the Apostles parishes in Indianapolis as well as St. Malachi Parish in Brownsburg and St. Mary Parish in Anderson, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese.

"When our friends came to the retreat, they were talking about wanting to see the [Benedictine] sisters again," Wyld said. "On Sunday morning, we join the sisters for Mass at the monastery chapel, and the sisters are so pleased to see us. They are so welcoming, friendly and accommodating."

Benedictine Sister Mary Luke Jones, administrator of the Benedict Inn, said the SPRED friends and catechists "are a delight and a blessing to us every year."

Holy Spirit parishioner John A. Tomacic of Indianapolis has participated in all seven SPRED retreats, the annual dinner dance, monthly faith-sharing sessions at his parish and occasional social activities.

"I live in a half-half world—half normal and half not," Wyld explained. "I have my normal friends, and I have my SPRED group friends so it’s kind of the best of both worlds.

"I’m a complex person, but people don’t know this," he said. "It’s hard to see from the outside that I’m complex. You really have to know the real me to see it. I grew up in a solid Catholic household, and my mom was adamant about us staying in the Church, in the faith. The SPRED program just kind of gives the handicapped me the chance to be with others in my faith."

His SPRED friend, M. Ike Hoffman from Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis, smiled at him and said: "Yeah, he’s multifaceted. That’s what he is."

St. Monica parishioner R. A. Maloney of Indianapolis enjoyed participating in the SPRED retreat for the first time and is looking forward to the start of monthly SPRED catechetical sessions at her parish in late September.

"We get into a circle and talk about ourselves," she said. "In our sacred space, we pray a lot, you know, we pray for everybody. And then we have snacks. It’s like our celebration that we have. It’s about being united, you know, with friends, and being with Jesus and loving Jesus, and knowing that he’s always there to help you out and that he loves you, too."

(For more information about participating in or volunteering for the archdiocesan Special Religious Development program, call Ron Wyld at 317-236-1448 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1448, or log on to www.archindy.org.)
“For adults to fulfill their roles ... their faith formation must be life-long, just as they must continue to learn to keep up in the changing world.”

Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us, §29

Menu for an adult faith-filled feast

Appetizers
- Take Five: Meditations with Pope Benedict XVI (Our Sunday Visitor, 2009), by Mike Aquilina and Father Kris Stubna
- “Find clarity, direction and inspiration with Pope Benedict himself.”
- www.universalis.com

Main Entrees
- “Caritas in Veritate” (“Charity in Truth”)
- I issued last July, Pope Benedict XVI’s first social encyclical, “Caritas in Veritate” (“Charity in Truth”), provides sound Catholic insights to many of today’s pressing problems. But, as has been a theme in the teachings of the current pope, these insights are rooted in love and truth:
- “Charity is at the heart of the Church’s social doctrine. Without truth, without trust and love for what is true, there is no social conscience and responsibility, and social action ends up serving private interests and the logic of power” (§5).
- To purchase a bound copy, log on to www.jenapress.com or go to a Catholic book store. It can be found on the Internet by logging on to www.vatican.va/home_en.htm and clicking on the banner for “Caritas in Veritate” A study guide for the encyclical has been produced by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and it can be found at www.usccb.org/john/caratissinveritatile/index.shtml.
- “Free online Scripture courses at www.salvationhistory.com/studie(cursorbold)/courseonline
- These courses are geared for individual study based on solid biblical scholarship. Topics include “Covenant Love: Introducing the Biblical Worldview” to “The Lamb’s Supper: The Bible and the Mass” to “Holy Queen: The Mother of God in the Word of God,” and others.
- Magnificat
- Magnificat can be used while praying at daily Mass and can also be read at home for personal or family prayer. This monthly liturgical prayer book provides a fitting way to enter fully into the Church’s liturgical rhythms and spiritual legacy. You can investigate buying a subscription at www.magnificat.com.

Dessert
- Something “sweet” — to be savored in small portions or large:
- Our Sunday Visitor’s Treasury of Catholic Stories (Our Sunday Visitor, 2001), compiled and edited by Gerald M. Costello
- A collection of 100 favorite stories that Catholics love to tell again and again. The stories are arranged to illustrate basic Church teachings.
- www.pope2you.net

This Web site can help you stay connected to the pope. It has links to the pope’s YouTube and Facebook sites as well as an iPhone application and WikiCath. This is a “sweet” spot for the technology buffs around the house.
- www.gracebeforemeals.com

This is a Web site for Catholics of all ages who like to eat, and want to explore the connection between meals, family and faith. There are family meal “conversation starters,” recipes and “webisodes,” which mingle conversation about faith with cooking simple recipes. You can also sign up for the “Grace before Meals” e-mail blast, which contains a faith topic, family-based ideas and a recipe.

Robin Run Village & Garden Homes...

“A Life Care Continuing Care Retirement Community

Robin Run Village has it all. It’s a great retirement lifestyle where everything is designed for your comfort and security. And we think you’ll love it here, too, just like we do.

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

John Bean - 8 Year Resident
Sue Cardwell - 9 Year Resident
Joel Duffield - 3 Year Resident

“We wouldn’t live anywhere else!”

We love Robin Run Village for its active retirement lifestyle – and so much more. Here’s why…

- As Robin Run Village residents, we have access to common areas, fitness programs and social events which are not available in other condominium programs.
- From exterior work to kitchen appliances, we don’t have to fix anything – inside or out. And our fees are even less than we used to spend.
- With transportation provided to social and cultural events we don’t have to drive.
- We enjoy fine dining in a classy, upscale atmosphere where trained professional chefs prepare our meals.
- In the renovated dining room the food is great and the social events are even better.
- And having priority access to the Health Care Center right here on campus provides security and peace of mind.

Visit Robin Run Village Garden Homes today and see for yourself.
full communion of the Church are receiving a comprehensive presentation of the faith. The RCIA process at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington, where Janis Dopp is the administrator of religious education, uses a variety of resources, including the USCCA. Dopp is a member of the initiation Committee, and is testing the guidelines in her parish. “I think the bishops of the United States have been moving toward having guidelines for the RCIA over the last 10 years probably,” Dopp said, “I imagine that a workshop Daniel M. Buechlein wants to make sure that anybody who is entering into an RCIA process, no matter what parish they find themselves in, is getting the absolute best introduction to the faith that we call our own and that directors would not feel at a loss for how to go about doing this.” McEvoy emphasized, though, that the guidelines do more than simply make sure that parish RCIA processes in the archdiocese will give a complete presentation of the content of the Church’s faith. “They will also be as aid to those catechists who are forming adults in the faith to help them concretely apply it to their everyday lives and beautifully meditate on it. This multi-pronged approach to formation has sometimes been described as appealing to a person’s head and heart.”

Linda Semler, religious education coordinator at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, which is also testing the guidelines, said this balance is important and that the USCCA is helpful in achieving it. “The meditative sections at the end of those chapters in the USCCA are really right on,” Semler said. “We have to be careful that we’re not just doing heat. We’re also doing heart at the same time.” At the same time, Semler was quick to point out that a good, comprehensive presentation of the content of the faith will appeal to an RCIA participant’s heart.

“At the end of the process, they will point out that a good, comprehensive presentation of the content of the faith will appeal to an RCIA participant’s heart. “In my mind, there has always been a false dichotomy between the head and the heart,” she said. “If you do head right, it touches the heart—period. If you’re teaching what the Catholic Church teaches and you’re not talking about how that applies to their lives, then there’s something wrong about the way that you are presenting the teachings.” All those involved in developing and testing the archdiocesan guidelines were quick to point out that they give much leeway for the unique circumstances that each parish might face in forming the faith of their own RCIA participants. McEvoy said that the draft guidelines convey a “sense of wanting to respond to [particular] needs of the group and the individual, and also to be true and complete in the presentation.”

“There’s a pull and tug in each direction,” McEvoy said. “Hopefully, this will help with that.” “We want to be able to free up the folks that are leading RCIA to do the pastoral [ministry], to make the Scriptures come alive, to make doctrine come alive. Hopefully, this will help them to do that so that they’re not going to have to sit there constantly and say, ‘Oh, we missed this so we have to go back and cover it.’”

In any case, it is impossible to cover the entirety of the faith in the number of months that most parish RCIA processes occupy.

Deacon Wayne Davis, RCIA coordinator at St. Michael Parish in Greenfield, where the guidelines are also being tested, said that the guidelines should help newcomers to the Catholic faith grow in their desire to learn it even more. “At the end of the process, they will [hopefully] have a formation that is solid enough that it lets them know that there’s much more there,” Deacon Davis said. “They’ll have a thirst and a hunger to seek more and, rather than thinking that this is the end of the process, it will be the beginning.”

“To learn more about the proposed archdiocesan RCIA guidelines, contact Peg McEvoy, archdiocesan associate director for evangelization and family catechesis, at pmcevoy@archindy.org or by calling her at 317-236-1430, or 317-236-1430.”

RCIA continued from page 11

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein’s commitment to young people, according to Margaret Hendricks, RCIA coordinator of the Promise to Keep program. “When we started a Promise to Keep about 12 years ago, there weren’t any dioceses doing anything about chastity education,” Hendricks says. “This has given us an age-appropriate education for their children. It’s about virtues and values that help them live a chaste life. Having parents involved in that education is key to the new focus, says Stewart, religious education coordinator for St. Jude Parish.

“We want parents to know that as a parish we support their families and the challenges that come with living out Catholic values,” Stewart says. “Our kids need a lot of support, and parents need to give us that opportunity to express to parents that we are here to support and affirm their family values.” Stewart even gained a new perspective on chastity education when she received her training to lead a pilot program for parents at St. Jude Parish during the 2009-2010 school year.

“Until recently, I thought chastity referred to people who did not have sex, those [who are] unmarried,” Stewart says. “A 14-year-old girl has needed an at least three-week laugh at herself, but the RCIA process has been very enriching for her. SheBorn, a 14-year-old girl has been very enriching for her. SheBorn is part of the archdiocese’s new chastity education program, contact Margaret Hendricks by e-mail at mhendricks@archindy.org or by phone at 317-236-1478 or 317-236-9836, ext. 1478.”

CHASTITY continued from page 11

great benefit.

The expanded approach to chastity education reflects a commitment to young people, according to Margaret Hendricks, RCIA coordinator of the Promise to Keep program. “When we started a Promise to Keep about 12 years ago, there weren’t any dioceses doing anything about chastity education,” Hendricks says. “This has given us an age-appropriate education for their children. It’s about virtues and values that help them live a chaste life. Having parents involved in that education is key to the new

Featuring Trip

GREECE & GREEK ISLES with Fr. Dean Probst, Rochester, Ill. Nine-days, with air between St. Louis or Chicago and Athens. Follow St. Paul’s steps to Athens, Corinth, Athens and Crete. Includes 3-night hotel in the center of Athens plus walking distance of many sights. We see the changing of the Evzones (Guard) at Parliament and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and visit the Acropolis included a day cruise to three Greek Islands – Aegina, Poros, and the Island of Hydra – in the Aegean. Price includes air, breakfasts, dinners, some lunches, hotel-sightseeing is fully escorted. November 1 to 9, 2009

Cost priced at $2,138

Greece

Thursday, September 10, 2009

1. Florence, Rome & Assisi - 11 days in November, 2009 ……………………………………….. $2,569
2. Egypt & Nile River Cruise - 9 days in November, 2009 ……………………………………….. $2,138
3. Greece - 9 days in November, 2009 ……………………………………………………………………” $1,740
4. Barcelona & Med Cruise - 12 days in November, 2009 ……………………………………….. $2,198
5. Three-Star Rome & Assisi - 9 days in Nov. 2009 & Mar. 2010 …………………………………….. $2,569
6. Hawaiian Islands Cruise - 8 days in January, 2010 ……………………………………….. $2,138
7. Mexico City/Guadalupule Shrine - 8 days in February, 2010 …………………………………. $2,198
8. Holy Lands - 10 days in March, 2010 …………………………………………………………………” $2,569
9. Germany & Austria - 10 days in May, 2010 …………………………………………………………………” $1,740
10. Oberammergau Passion Play & Germany - 10 days in May, 2010 …………………………….. $2,518
11. Ireland - 5 days in September, 2010 …………………………………………………………………” $2,128

Overseas trips include round trip air from St. Louis or Chicago; other airports may be available, please inquire.

JQuest PC Tunesup Tuneup Service $49.95
Get your computer running like it used to
High-speed DSL for $24.95 per month
Free SPAM tagging and Virus scanning
Accelerated dial-up service for only $1
Web hosting for as low as $14.95 per month
For more information call 1-888-844-8649 or log on to www.Jquest.net.
Parents should establish priorities for Godly living at home

By David Gibson

The roof over our heads ranks high among life’s essentials. We all want a place to call home. But, as common wisdom holds, a house is not necessarily a home.

Turning a house into a home calls for commitment. A house can become a life-giving place, but not unless the people living there make it that.

In a spring 2009 publication, Catholic Charities USA described the abodes called “home” as places where people “ground their lives, seek comfort and prepare themselves to participate as full members of our society through work, education and civic engagement.”

Having a place to pitch our tent is of the essence. We want to come in out of the cold and rain. And we attach great hopes to what happens once we’re comfortably sheltered inside our home, whether we live alone or with family members. But will this place we call home both comfort and nurture us?

If other family members live there, will they turn away from each other or lean toward each other?

There is a temptation to think that none of this needs to be discussed. After all, we live alongside others in our home from the day we are born so we must know how to do it.

But the reality is that a house becomes a home only if the family members inside it give each other care and attention, and resist the temptation to take each other for granted.

Often, the Church really talks about the home in the context of discussing the family. The family home has been described as “the domestic Church.”

Pope John Paul II did this, referring to the family as a “sanctuary of life.”

The term “sanctuary” can mean different things. Clearly, though, when Pope John Paul called the family a “sanctuary,” he meant that it is sacred.

The family, in other words, is transformed by grace and energized by God’s life. The actions of family members can be God-like.

In a 1991 social justice encyclical titled “Centesimus Annus” (“The Hundredth Year”), Pope John Paul explained why he tells us was the Holy Family’s home.

The pope said the family, as a sanctuary of life, “is indeed sacred. It is the place in which life—the gift of God—can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed, and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth.”

While visiting the Holy Land in May 2009, Pope Benedict XVI made similar points in Nazareth, which Scripture tells us was the Holy Family’s home.

The pope said a glimpse is caught of the family’s essential role when we realize that “in the family each person, whether the smallest child or oldest relative, is valued for himself or herself, and not seen simply as a means to some other end.”

The vision of these popes sets a high standard for families and home life. But what then, in practical terms, makes a house a home?

• Time together—Virtually all researches on home life consider this family time as vital.

• Communication—Misunderstandings and disagreements are a household normality. But as two marriage educators in the Diocese of Austin, Texas, wrote recently, the goal in resolving conflicts at home cannot be to crush the opponent. Communication—Misunderstandings are common at home. They call for listening to each other and communicating clearly.

• Expecting each other to be perfect will not work. It helps, too, when family members praise and support each other, smile at each other and share in the household work.

• Healthy resolution of conflicts—

Discussion Point

Home should be a place to relax

This Week’s Question

Is your home a haven for rest and regrouping or one more endless project that never seems to get done?

“It’s for rest and regrouping. Families are missing so much of that right now. My sons will say it’s cool to come home and relax. It’s about being together. My kids are now 21 to 29, but it was always more important to us [when they were growing up] to be a family group than to go out on Saturday nights with our friends to socialize.” (Rebecca Jansen, Jackson, Mich.)

“I’d describe it as a sanctuary. We live on 13 acres out in the country. We don’t farm, but others use our fields. It’s peaceful and tranquil . . ., and I believe God led us here.” (Mary Bass, Salem, Ohio)

“My home is quiet and a place for rest. It’s a place to come back to (where you can) be refreshed.” (Margaret M. Murphy, Athens, N.Y.)

“It is a haven. With my husband retired and our five kids grown and gone, it’s quieter. When the children and grandchildren visit, it’s different and we enjoy it, but when they leave the quiet returns.” (Anne Thomisee, Little Rock, Ark.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Do you seek to meet the needs of others or do you tend to respond to needs that are presented to you?

To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to cgreene@catholicnews.com or write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.
Four simple rules for getting a head start in life

Pope Benedict XVI speaks frequently about the natural law.

What is the natural law? St. Paul expressed it very simply when he wrote to the Romans that even those who have never heard the law of Moses, the Ten Commandments, will know right and wrong because "what the law requires is written on their hearts" (2:15).

Pope Benedict repeated St. Paul’s definition in his 2008 New Year's address when he explained natural law as “written on the heart of the human being and made known to him by reason.”

Basic Catholicism: The natural law

The natural law enables man to discern by reason the right and what actions are wrong. The heart of the human being and made known to him by reason.

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

This is the month that set the orbit for our entire year and is geared up for two events, which will happen within a week or two. We are now scurrying around, setting things in place, whitening our teeth and watching our waistlines—especially Angela’s.

There is a headcount to finalize and a nursery to complete, plus final check-ins with the specialists and the doctor. We will try to keep it all together, but it is all so tightly wound: steamed dresses and high hopes, shiny shoes and tangled nerves.

God’s plan for humanity’s morality was revealed in the Old Testament in the Ten Commandments. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that the natural law applies to morality rather than to actions that are not moral—like eating something we desire, for example.

“Partner in Life”

My wedding task—scanning old photographs and arranging them into a slipcase made me aware of the swatch of time.

There is Tony, with all those freckles and the dimples in his upper lips. He is a ring bearer, a pom pom, now a groom.

I am JoDee, with those round brown eyes and that button nose. He is my boy, pointing at the box, visiting Santa, traveling to South Africa, walking down the aisle. The snapshots play out forward. My story.

But my nostalgia isn’t wistful; it is tinged with cheer, a sense that these two people baking together, and the children we keep, believe in our families. What looks like change, in many ways, is a continuation of what we’ve been doing all along, the same sacraments, the same songs and the same stories.

I was reminded of that last weekend, when my college roommate came over for the 2-year-old Isaac, to the zoo we visited every summer as kids. Dad is still a super guide, who brings in everything: leopards, lions, the same tricks, and Isaac clapped from the time he was born.

The next day the aunties used to adore. Isaac looked timid on the big painted horses for a few minutes, but with a few minutes of finding us waving from the same spot each time, he finally broke into a smile. The band one-horse family “Ain’t nothin’ but a huckleberry Saturday Night,” and Dad sang along.

Our Turn/Therese Borchard

Four simple rules for getting a head start in life

It’s that time of year again.... when we either strap on the backpack or we help our kids do it. I’m in the second group. I’m sitting with several parents who sit down with their young ones every August or September to go over the basic school expectations.

• Listen to the teacher.
• Be nice to everyone.
• Try new things.

In his book You Don’t Have to Learn the Hard Way, Making it in the Real World: A Guide for Graduates, author J.R. Parrico compiles a guide for graduates and college seniors. But I found the lessons to be a real help for me in particular, for as I thought about the rough weeks—come on!—we never stop learning.

Here are just four of Parrico’s rules for success:

1. Learn how to deal with people.

I know this seems obvious, but Parrico is absolutely right. It’s amazing how many people don’t have any “people skills.” And it’s equally shocking to see how far a little effort in this area can take you.

My dad, a very savvy businessman, ingrained this lesson into my childhood brain. And for that I am eternally grateful. Because I know that there are plenty of us out there who are very skilled and talented. But editors and Web sites want to work with writers who are easy enough to get along with. You know, low maintenance.

So here’s some important advice. If you have experienced trouble in your past, it is not the end of the word, but it could be a sign that you need to learn how to deal with people and how to sell yourself.

2. Keep your eyes on the job.

I’m lucky in this regard. I didn’t set out looking for a job, I just found one. Probably because he could see that I was trying really hard and would benefit from a regular paycheck.

Parrico writes: “A good mentor acts like a filter to help you avoid costly mistakes and guide you through the uncharted waters of life.”

3. Listen to your mentor.

“Getting” a mentor doesn’t necessarily mean spending time with them. Sometimes trying to be an empathetic person, you are your mentor, one thread or conversation at a time, a vital support system.

(Therese Borchard writes for Catholic News Service.)
**The Sunday Readings**

**Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009**

- Isaiah 50:5-9a

- James 2:14-17

- Mark 8:27-35

The last and third section of the Book of Isaiah provides the first reading for this weekend in Ordinary Time. This passage is one of several similar sections in Trito-Isaiah. These sections together are called the Songs of the Suffering Servant. Poetic and expressive, they figure in the liturgy of Good Friday and Holy Week and Good Friday because Christians historically have applied them to Christ, the Lamb of God. Who was in the mind of the author of Trito-Isaiah as these songs were written? Was he thinking of himself? Was he thinking of another loyal and devoted follower of the Covenant who faced many difficulties? Was he thinking collectively of the Chosen People? Whatever it might be, the picture of the Servant is complete. The Servant is steadfast, hardships and obstacles abound in the Servant’s path to fidelity, but God unfailingly provides strength and guidance.

A assured of God’s help and resolute in faith, the Servant is undaunted in obeying God. For its second reading, the Church this weekend gives us a passage from the Epistle of James. At the time of the Reformation, the differing opinions regarding texts such as this reading literally caused wars. It affirms the classic Roman Catholic interpretation of revelation. God gives us the helping and empowering grace so that we can believe. However, we must ratify our belief in our worthy Christian conduct. It is not a question simply of following rules and regulations. Rather, it requires conducting ourselves so that in everything we replicate Christ.

St. Mark’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. In this story, Jesus and the Apostles have gone to the region of Caesarea Philippi. This region is often in the news today even, and it has been the scene of much violence in the past 30 years. In general, it is the region now called the Galilee Heights, territory claimed by modern Syria, but taken militarily by Israel about 40 years ago. Parts of it still are under Israeli control.

At the origin of the Jordan River, it is picturesque and placid. Such was the setting for this powerfully revelatory reading. Jesus questions the Apostles about their thoughts on the identity of the Master. Note that Peter speaks for the group. Aiso note Peter’s firm answer. "You are the Messiah" (Mk 8:29). Jesus then gives the Twelve a special lesson. It is one of many occasions within the New Testament in which the Apostles appear as special students. They heard lessons from Jesus that were not given to other people. They were special.

When Peter interprets his own, human thinking into the discussion, Jesus reprimands him. Then Jesus tells the crowd that discipleship means carrying personal crosses. It is frank and somber advice. To follow Christ means the willingness to sacrifice even earthly life itself.

**Reflection**

Living the Christian life by acts of genuine love and deep faith, all in reflection of Jesus, always has been challenging. Certainly, the love and deep faith, all in reflection of Jesus, that God gives us the helping and empowering grace so that we can believe. However, we must ratify our belief in our worthy Christian conduct. It is not a question simply of following rules and regulations. Rather, it requires conducting ourselves so that in everything we replicate Christ. St. Mark’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. In this story, Jesus and the Apostles have gone to the region of Caesarea Philippi. This region is often in the news today even, and it has been the scene of much violence in the past 30 years. In general, it is the region now called the Galilee Heights, territory claimed by modern Syria, but taken militarily by Israel about 40 years ago. Parts of it still are under Israeli control. At the origin of the Jordan River, it is picturesque and placid. Such was the setting for this powerfully revelatory reading. Jesus questions the Apostles about their thoughts on the identity of the Master. Note that Peter speaks for the group. Aiso note Peter’s firm answer. “You are the Messiah” (Mk 8:29). Jesus then gives the Twelve a special lesson. It is one of many occasions within the New Testament in which the Apostles appear as special students. They heard lessons from Jesus that were not given to other people. They were special.

When Peter interprets his own, human thinking into the discussion, Jesus reprimands him. Then Jesus tells the crowd that discipleship means carrying personal crosses. It is frank and somber advice. To follow Christ means the willingness to sacrifice even earthly life itself.

Jesus’ parable about the wedding feast refers to God’s saving work on Earth

**Daily Readings**

**Monday, Sept. 14**

**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

**Numbers 21:4b-9**

**Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38**

**Philippians 2:6-11**

**John 3:13-17**

**Tuesday, Sept. 15**

**Our Lady of Sorrows**

1 Timothy 3:1-3, 5-6


**Wednesday, Sept. 16**

Cornelius, pope and martyr

Cyprian, bishop and martyr

1 Timothy 3:14-16

Psalm 111:1-6

Luke 7:31-33

**Thursday, Sept. 17**

Robert Bellarmine, bishop and doctor

1 Timothy 4:12-16

Psalm 111:7-10

Luke 7:36-50

**Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen**

Q Would you please tell us what is meant by the story of the wedding feast and wedding garments in the Gospel of Matthew? My husband seems to think that it means that only certain people are called to be saved. How could a good king condemn people for coming improperly dressed to a wedding feast that they didn’t even know about?

A The parable from the Gospel of Matthew to which you refer (Mt 22:1-14) relates the last of three stories that Jesus tells in answer to a challenge put to him by Jewish leaders: “On what authority are you doing these things?” This parable also relates to their rejection of him and his teachings.

Jesus, in effect, responds: God sent you the prophets, including John the Baptist and a whole stream of emissaries, including his own Son, but you refused to hear God’s voice in any of them. Therefore, others from outside the Chosen People, new or old, are being called to take a place in the kingdom of God.

Comparing God’s reign to a lavish, rich banquet is a common theme throughout the Scriptures, one which Matthew makes good use of. (See Isaiah 25, for example.) Many elements of this story stretch the imagination beyond all credibility. What king, for example, leaves a banquet waiting, goes off to war, kills enemies and burns down the kingdom, and then comes back to finish the party?

In other words, we’re dealing with a parable which is clearly an allegory. It relates through these images the history of God’s saving work on Earth, concluding with the universal invitation to fill the banquet hall with everyone, “the bad as well as the good.”

Understand this way, the question about wedding garments is easily answered.

In early Christianity, conversion to faith in Jesus Christ was commonly referred to as putting on a new set of clothes. St. Paul says that all who have been baptized have clothed themselves with Christ (Gal 3:27).

This was a symbolic way of stating that those who identify themselves with Christ in baptism also assume the responsibility to “wear” his way of living, to authenticate their relationship with the Lord by their good deeds.

Just as with parables, it is futile and usually misleading to look for specific spiritual meanings in every detail of an allegory.

The central meaning of this one is not hard to find. Now, in the new and final covenant between God and the human family, we are invited to clothe ourselves in the patience, meekness, kindness and compassion of God (Col 3:12). Our condition at the end will depend on how faithfully we have worn that clothing.

Q So settle an argument, how long did it take to write the New Testament? (Illinois)

A If you’re talking about the actual writing and putting together of the books of the New Testament as they are in our Bible, the earliest book was the First Letter to the Thessalonians, written around the year 50 or 51, about 20 years after Jesus death. All of St. Paul’s letters were written, obviously, before his death, probably before the year 65.

The Gospel of Mark, the earliest of the four Gospels, dates from perhaps the year 65, although all the Gospels make use of documents, liturgical rites and other traditions which existed in the Christian communities before that date. The last books were probably the three written by St. John and the Book of Revelation, all of which were perhaps written sometime around the year 100 or later.

Thus, the basic composition of all the books covered a period of somewhere around 50 years.

(A free brochure in English or Spanish, answering intriguing questions that Catholics may have about baptism practices and sponsors, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria IL 61612. Questions may be sent to the same address or by e-mail in care of jdietzen@aol.com.)
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.


CASEY, Clay Maurice, B.S., St. Ignatius the Archangel, Indianapolis, Aug. 15. Son of Sophia Casey, Brother of Dr. Zenobia Casey and Rex Casey.


FOLLEY, Sean T., Jr., St. Agnes, Nashville, Aug. 7. Son of Carrie Folley.

GLOTZBACH, Cornelia A., St. Mary, Lanesville, Aug. 22.


SHEPPARD, James W., 73, St. Mary, Lanesville, Aug. 24.

STOUT, Harry G., 98, St. Mary, Lanesville, Aug. 29.


A statue of St. Francis of Assisi stands near the charred remains of a house in the Big Tujunga Canyon on Aug. 30 after the Station Fire burned the area near Los Angeles. Wildfires were burning out of control in the foothills of Los Angeles and doubled in size during the overnight hours of Aug. 30, forcing 12,000 people to evacuate and claiming the lives of two firefighters.

Catholic Radio

Great Catholic Programs 24 Hours a Day

• Daily Mass - 8:00 am & noon
• Rosary - 6:30 am
• 10:00 am Mass - 10:00 am
• 10:00 pm Mass - 10:00 pm
• Holy Hour - 11:00 pm
• The Doctor Is In - 1:00 pm
• Al Kraeta - 5:00 pm

CALL: 317-870-8400 ext. 21 for details.

www.CatholicRadioIndy.org

TRI-COUNTY ASPHALT

Paving Indiana Since 1948

CALL FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATES

• ASPHALT DRIVeways
• SEALCoATING

Discounts for Senior Citizens and non-profit organizations

CALL: 317-849-9901
317-356-1334
317-862-2967

LICENSED & BONDED BY THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

Shelby Upholstering & Interiors

30% off Selected Fabric
• Custom reupholstery
• Custom Window Treatments
• Blinds - Indoor and Outdoor
• Carpet Sales & Installation
• Custom wood refinishing
• Antique restoration

Call us at 317-631-8911
1-800-331-7697
www.shelbyupholstering.com

5 minutes north of Madison Shepherds of Christ religious shop

9564 N SR 62, CHINE, IN 47250
1-812-273-8405

50 years at the crossroads of the world

SHELBY UPHOLSTERING

1932 Same family third generation. 2009

Shelby Upholstering

Shelby Upholstering
Amid violence on their own turf, Chicago parishes work to save youths

CHICAGO (CNS)—There were 531 homicides in Chicago in 2006, and nearly four times as many shootings. While the Chicago Police Department has released crime statistics showing murders are down slightly in 2009, violence has been worse in some neighborhoods. On July 31, Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George issued a statement urging people of faith to come together to prevent violence and to pray.

The Catholic New World, newspaper of the Chicago Archdiocese, talked to some pastors in neighborhoods where violence has escalated.

Father Mke Enright served for 17 years at St. Rita's in Chicago's West Side. Now on sabatical, he will take up a new assignment as pastor of St. Paul Parish in January.

Immaculate Conception Parish has been in a tough neighborhood for more than 100 years. The parish has 700 to 800 members, and young people are shooting one another. Father Enright reopened the parish school in 2003 as a “response to the violence.”

“Father Enright said, “There is a straight-line connection between the things we do to write and read, and being in a gang. If they can’t read and write, then where else do they go?”

The school and youth programs are good, he said, but prayer is also critical for deal with people’s anger.

The most important thing we do is to get people together on Sunday, and pray and ask the Lord to heal them and black youths from the community are facing—violence, home foreclosures and the broken immigration system.

The parish also works with the community on peace and safety issues.

“St. Rita’s is in the middle of what we have designated a “safe zone,”” said Father Pizzo. Every time there is an incident, violence-prevention outreach workers from the Southwest Organizing Project try to determine if it was gang-related and talk to gang leaders to keep the incident from escalating.

Precious Blood Father David Kelly, who directs his order’s reconciliation ministry in Chicago’s Back of the Yards neighborhood, said all Catholics, as members of the body of Christ, have a responsibility to help end violence, “even if it’s not in their neighborhood.”

The goal of this ministry—while dangerous—is to bring healing to all parties following an act of violence and to provide safe places for healing.

“We can’t close our doors on kids who are causing the problems,” he said. “We have to get to know these kids and know the families, and understand them as human beings.”

The Criterion Friday, September 11, 2009

Venice, Florida, 2812 S.W. 35th Ave., 120 yards from the suguarded parking facility, close to beach. Walk to beach, or across street. 2812 S.W. 35th Ave., 317-443-4712 or 317-774-7405.

BEACHFRONT CONDO, Maderia Beach, Fl. 2812, S.W. pool and 29th balcony overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. Meet Indoor, outdoor. See photos, map: Call co-founder at 317-357-2431.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

BCS Construction
All types of Masonry & Concrete
Textonpaving & Chimney repairs
Licensed & Bonded
(317) 442-7877
FREE ESTIMATES
Senior Citizens Discount

For Sale
FONTANA
SCENE & STABLE. OUTSTANDING EQUITABLE & PERFECTLY INSERTED INTO HOME, school or church. Price is $450,000. Call for info. 317-581-4800

Quesser Inspections
All types of Masonry & Concrete
Textonpaving & Chimney repairs
Licensed & Bonded
(317) 442-7877
FREE ESTIMATES
Senior Citizens Discount

For Rent
FALL ARTS
SCENE & STABLE. OUTSTANDING EQUITABLE & PERFECTLY INSERTED INTO HOME, school or church. Price is $450,000. Call for info. 317-581-4800

For Sale
CAREFREE LIFESTYLE!
Come see The Village of Waterford Patio Homes in Clintonville, Ind. Open Sundays 2-4pm. Located off I-65 exit 5, go west on Veteran’s Pkwy; turn right at Broadway, left on Oak Leaf.
Call Mary Conway (317) 551-3741

College Planning
Attention Parents of High School Students!
INDIANAPOLIS, IN — A FREE REPORT Reveals:
"9 Proven Ways To Maximize Financial Aid For College!"
1-888-721-2244
24 Hrs./day for a FREE recorded message, to get a copy of this report. You owe it to yourself to learn how you may qualify for more aid than you thought possible.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is planning SHINE—which stands for Spreading Hope in Neighborhoods Everywhere—as a celebration and a renewal of our commitment to serve others in need. Pope Benedict XVI has called for the Church to respond with a universal call to holiness, a missionary impulse of charity, and this will be our local Church’s response in central and southern Indiana.

The event is intended for all pastoral staff, parish social ministry committee/chairs, Catholic Charities staff, volunteers and advisory council members, and all leaders of social ministry in other Catholic institutions, schools and other agencies. The event is intended to further equip the leadership of the archdiocese for the social mission of the Church.

The event is intended for all pastoral staff, parish social ministry committee/chairs, Catholic Charities staff, volunteers and advisory council members, and all leaders of social ministry in other Catholic institutions, schools and other agencies. The event is intended to further equip the leadership of the archdiocese for the social mission of the Church.

The event is intended for all pastoral staff, parish social ministry committee/chairs, Catholic Charities staff, volunteers and advisory council members, and all leaders of social ministry in other Catholic institutions, schools and other agencies. The event is intended to further equip the leadership of the archdiocese for the social mission of the Church.
Ministering to deaf community presents challenges to Church

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Patrick O’Meara hasn’t liked being deaf for many other 14-year-olds. He lost his hearing as the result of a bad case of meningitis at a young age and he’s grown up without any memories of sound.

Patrick belongs to a group of about 1,500 deaf people in the Washington area who are Catholic.

His mother, Cheri, said their family attended interpreting Masses whenever they can at the Church of the Resurrection in Ellicott City, Md. Patrick also participates in an Archdiocese of Washington religious education program through his school, the Maryland School for the Deaf.

Cheri O’Meara said the class explains concepts in different ways to help Patrick learn and the instruction “has taken him to the next level as far as faith and understanding.”

But Patrick’s story is an anomaly. His parents represent the 97 percent of hearing parents with deaf children who are able to sign. He has access to religious education and his parents encourage him to understand and explore his faith. He is able to attend Mass with an interpreter on a fairly regular basis and even was provided with an interpreter when he participated in a 1st Communion class.

For nonhearing children living in less urban areas or deaf adults who have had extremely limited religious education, participating in and understanding the Catholic faith is not easy.

Many dioceses are not equipped with interpreters, especially in rural areas. For example, there are no Catholic churches with interpreters between Washington and Atlanta, according to Mary O’Meara, executive director of the Center for Deaf Ministry for the Archdiocese of Washington.

She called Chicago “very active” in terms of deaf ministry while St. Louis and Milwaukee are doing well. In Boston and Detroit as centers of such action as well.

Father Joseph Pesola, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Fortville, is the director of ministry in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

O’Meara said she worries when she hears about offices of ministry to the deaf close down because such ministries are already “spotty.”

“They’re the first offices to be closed,” O’Meara told Catholic News Service in an interview. “We don’t have the numbers so we don’t necessarily demand the attention.”

Even with an interpreter or a focus on deaf ministry, many deaf Catholics still would not understand what Catholic rituals and prayers mean for them.

According to Sandy Duncan, a deaf parishioner who regularly attends Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, Pa., the Church must have the ability to comprehend what a priest is signing, Duncan said, is not enough.

“You need much more than that,” Duncan said. “It’s nice to learn how to sign the prayers — but we need to understand what a prayer means.”

He suggested adult education classes be available for deaf parishioners to help erase misunderstandings.

In a telephone interview, Duncan’s wife interpreted a CNS reporter’s questions for him, he responded in sign language and she told the reporter his answers.

If Catholics who are deaf remain confused, Duncan said he worried they would leave the faith. He said the Church has already lost many deaf Catholics to other faiths because other congregations have reached out more to the deaf community and are more hard to understand.

Duncan’s concerns are not limited, according to Eileen Colarusso, who is the coordinator of the deaf ministry for the Baltimore Archdiocese and is one of the directors of the National Catholic Office for the Deaf.

“She’s [Colarusso’s] name to think twice about asking to sign, they do have volunteers. They just involve them [deaf people] and they have a lot of practice with them and they are very welcome and they [deaf Catholics] are going there in droves,” Colarusso said.

She said she thinks the Catholic Church is making an effort and she has seen small improvements over her 12 years in Baltimore, but she sees many obstacles for fully including deaf Catholics.

Like most other interpreters, Colarusso spent numerous years earning a degree in interpretation and had to take multiple exams for both the Maryland and national certification. Many interpreters’ services are not free and even with their skills they cannot purchase a deaf person feel fully involved in the faith.

Many deaf Catholics, she said, “don’t go to confession because an interpreter is not allowed to be present, which makes communication with a priest nearly impossible. Written confessions are an alternative, but the process of communicating transgressions this way can be painstaking and could result in an incorrect explanation, Colarusso said.

Also, written confessions and interpreted Masses give many deaf Catholics a “third-wheel” feeling and cannot inspire the relationship other parishioners develop with their priests, she said.

In addition, she said, many deaf Catholics do not see the Church as an important part of their lives because they are not involved in its rituals or community. Colarusso said she can’t blame them.

“It is just not their tradition, the Church is not part of their tradition,” she said. “So how do we make it?”

O’Meara’s husband, Terry, said organized trips to the Vatican can help Catholics who are deaf feel like part of a larger group and help them better incorporate their faith into their lives.

He recalled the positive experience of joining at least 1,200 deaf Catholics from around the world last year in a pilgrimage to the Vatican in order to call attention to the Catholic deaf community.

He called the journey of any deaf Catholic “a Cinderella story” and said he was optimistic about an invitation to participate in a two-day international gathering at the Vatican in November focusing on the role of deaf people in the Church.

“We’ve been praying for this for many years. It’s an opportunity to be recognized as a group,” said Terry O’Meara, executive director of the International Catholic Foundation for the Service of Deaf Persons.

He said the Catholic deaf community could make a positive impression on the estimated 1.3 billion Catholics in the world because its members bring a visual dimension to the liturgy and spend a considerable amount of time thinking about individual concepts and words.

“Individual words—do we really understand what they mean?” asked Terry O’Meara. “When you have to break it down for someone who doesn’t understand, you have to really start thinking about the meaning. Sometimes, they [deaf Catholics] get a deeper understanding.”

After 37 years of work in deaf ministry, Father Joseph McNulty of Cleveland said he still sees the deaf Catholic community as “strong and vibrant.”

In mid-July, the International Catholic Deaf Association held a conference in Cleveland, drawing more than 200 participants and speakers.

Father M. McNulty emphasized that members of the deaf Catholic community put together the event themselves and he had to do little to facilitate the conference. While he did not attend last April’s pilgrimage to Rome with some of his deaf parishioners, he said he hopes to attend the upcoming conference there this November.

(For more information about ministry to the deaf in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, call 317-485-5101.)

Upcoming Vatican conference focuses on role of deaf in the Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In response to numerous requests for how the Catholic community could increase its attention toward the deaf, the Vatican has organized an upcoming conference focusing on the role of deaf people in the Church.

The Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry decided to dedicate its annual international conference this year to the experiences of deaf adults and deaf children, including deaf religious and laypeople and their families.

The theme of the Nov. 19-21 Vatican gathering, “Epiphany: Deaf People in the Life of the Church,” recalls the Aramaic word meaning “opened that Jesus used as a door to the house of faith.”

The council said on its Web site that it wished “to open other doors to people so that they will be open to the world because its members bring a visual dimension to the liturgy and spend a considerable amount of time thinking about individual concepts and words.”

Individual words—do we really understand what they mean?" asked Terry O’Meara. “When you have to break it down for someone who doesn’t understand, you have to really start thinking about the meaning. Sometimes, they (deaf Catholics) get a deeper understanding.”

After 37 years of work in deaf ministry, Father Joseph McNulty of Cleveland said he still sees the deaf Catholic community as “strong and vibrant.”

In mid-July, the International Catholic Deaf Association held a conference in Cleveland, drawing more than 200 participants and speakers.

Father M. McNulty emphasized that members of the deaf Catholic community put together the event themselves and he had to do little to facilitate the conference. While he did not attend last April’s pilgrimage to Rome with some of his deaf parishioners, he said he hopes to attend the upcoming conference there this November.

(For more information about ministry to the deaf in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, call 317-485-5101.)

A choir uses sign language during a special meeting between Pope Benedict XVI and handicapped youths and their caregivers last year in New York during the pope’s U.S. visit. A Vatican meeting focusing on the role of deaf people in the Church will be held in November.