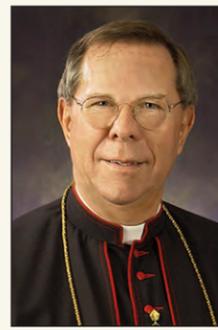




The

Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



Seeking the Face of the Lord

Mission of our archdiocese is to proclaim Christ our hope, page 5.

CriterionOnline.com

October 2, 2009

Vol. L, No. 1 75¢

Charities workers discuss ways to cut U.S. poverty rate in half by 2020

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS)—Leaders from the Catholic Church's main network for domestic social services gathered in Portland on Sept. 24-26 to devise ways to cut U.S. poverty in half by 2020.



Fr. Larry Snyder

The Catholic Charities USA convention called for unprecedented cooperation among anti-poverty groups,

businesses and government to address the issue, plus a plan to persuade and inspire the public about it via digital media.

It is a major step for the more than 170 diocesan and other Catholic social service agencies that make up the umbrella organization and deliver day-to-day services while also working for systemic change.

Catholic Charities leaders proposed using social Web sites such as Facebook, YouTube and an interactive wiki community on the Internet to convince the nation of the need to reform its approach to poverty. The national organization is even backing a cross-country bike ride next year led by a Jesuit priest who plans to raise awareness.

"We must think and act anew," said Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, which is based in Alexandria, Va. Urging resolve, he reminded the 500 employees in Portland that it took President Franklin D. Roosevelt four or five years to get New Deal policies in place during the Great Depression.

Catholic Charities has faced an unprecedented workload during the nation's economic crisis. Americans are still losing jobs, creating new and large categories of people coping with hard times.

"You are trying to do more with less," Father Snyder told the social workers gathered on Sept. 24 in a Hilton Hotel ballroom in downtown Portland. "We are living in a 1930s-type era."

By federal counts, 40 million Americans live in poverty and 15 million are unemployed. Last year, Catholic Charities agencies in the

See **POVERTY**, page 10

Respect Life Month



Photo by Mary Ann Wyand

St. Michael School eighth-grader Briana Stewart of Indianapolis helped hammer crosses into the ground on Sept. 19 with her parents, Grant and Naomi Stewart, and her older twin sisters, Madeline and Melinda. They are members of St. Michael the Archangel Parish. More than 100 parishioners and students from St. Michael School, Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School, Bishop Chatard High School and Marian University, all in Indianapolis, helped erect the pro-life display.

Sea of crosses create 'Cemetery of the Innocents' to remind people of ongoing tragedy of abortion

By Mary Ann Wyand

Row after row after row after row of small, wooden crosses—4,000 crosses in all—stood in silent witness to the horrific tragedy of legalized abortion.

They covered the grass in straight lines in front of and beside St. Michael the Archangel Church in Indianapolis, transforming the parish lawn into holy ground and sacred space.

These stark, white crosses represent the number of unborn babies killed in abortions each day in the United States.

Some of the crosses were decorated with flowers or personalized with the names of babies of grieving mothers who regretted choosing abortion.

At times, parishioners saw women

standing among the sea of crosses crying about the loss of their babies in abortion. Some of these grief-stricken women even sought confidential spiritual help as a result of the traveling pro-life exhibit.

A sign explaining this "Cemetery of the Innocents" display read, "Can 4,000 abortions in the United States each day be right????? Let's build a community of love, hope and truth where all life is respected!"

The crosses were hammered into the hard, dry ground on Sept. 19 by more than 100 parishioners and students from St. Michael School, Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School, Bishop Chatard High School and Marian University, all in Indianapolis.

Countless people saw the 4,000 crosses during the two-week, educational display at St. Michael

Parish, located at 3354 W. 30th St.

On Oct. 2, St. Michael School seventh- and eighth-grade students carefully took down the crosses and packed them in containers for transportation to the next pro-life display at a church in another Midwestern city.

St. Joseph parishioners Larry and Kay Sendelbach of Cold Spring, Ky., created this "Cemetery of the Innocents" after hearing about similar "Crosses for Life" traveling exhibits in other states.

They are the same crosses that were erected on the lawn beside SS. Philomena and Cecilia Church in Oak Forest in the Batesville Deanery on

See **RESPECT**, page 8

Archdiocese honors pro-life supporters for their work

By Mary Ann Wyand

A Bloomington pro-life volunteer and two central Indiana teenagers who are members of the Archdiocesan Youth for Life organization will be honored for their distinguished service to the cause of life at the conclusion of the Respect Life Sunday Mass, which begins at 1 p.m. on Oct. 4 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

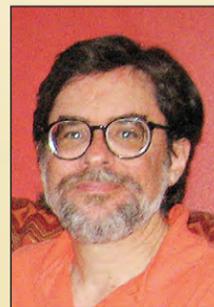
St. Paul Catholic Center parishioner Christopher Payne, a longtime parish pro-life committee member, will receive the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Respect Life Award.

Alea Bowling, a member of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, and Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary parishioner Branden Stanley of Danville,

will be recognized with Our Lady of Guadalupe Pro-Life Youth Awards.

Dominican Father Robert Keller, pastor of St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington, said Payne is devoted to helping women who are experiencing crisis pregnancies to choose life for their babies.

"[Payne] is the point person for [the parish] in matters of supporting the Crisis Pregnancy Center [CPC] in Bloomington," Father Keller said. "He leads our fund drives to support the CPC each year. The focus of his work is toward promoting options of life for young



Christopher Payne



Alea Bowling



Branden Stanley

pregnant women. ... He has an incredible grasp of the whole range of life issues espoused by the Church—the 'seamless garment.' He perceives how the practical application of these positions is difficult, especially in a

See **PRO-LIFE**, page 3

Curtain's up on Africa: Scripted synod, but maybe some improvisation

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—A Synod of Bishops is a little like a short-run Broadway play and, after four years of preparation, the curtain is about to go up on the African synod at the Vatican.

The form will be familiar to the more than 200 bishops and others who participate in the Oct. 4-25 assembly: a week or so of individual speeches followed by small-group discussions, all aimed at drafting a final list of proposals and a message to the world.

But when it comes to the content of this synod, the script has not been written. The list of potential topics extends from ethnic conflict to environmental protection, and the variety of African cultures and experiences pretty much guarantees a wide-ranging assembly.

The synod's official theme is "The Church in Africa in Service to Reconciliation, Justice and Peace," and participants will no doubt hear reports on the continent's many simmering conflicts and the millions displaced by war and strife. In this sense, the synod will spotlight the "forgotten wars" that slid off the media radar long ago, but that cause daily suffering and distress.

The working document for the synod called on the Church to be a mediator among parties in conflict. But as Pope Benedict XVI has emphasized, the Church cannot be a healing and reconciling force in society unless it is a "community of persons reconciled with God and among themselves."

Beneath the many social and political topics, there is a strong theological vein to this synod, reflected in the thematic subtitle: "You are the salt of the earth. ... You are the light of the world." The image of salt expresses the transforming power of Christ's disciples, while light represents their ability to shine the light of the Gospel on people and society.

Speaking in Cameroon last spring, the pope said the Church's essential role in Africa was to present Jesus Christ as the one redeemer, and thus "enhance African traditions" and "correct and perfect their concept of life, humanity and the family."

Pope Benedict will preside over the daily sessions of speechgiving, and in past assemblies he has been an attentive observer. He has introduced a less-formal discussion period in evening sessions and typically summarizes the most important points in

impromptu comments at the end of the day.

The synod's working document touches on an issue that was hammered hard by the pope during his first visit to Africa in March: that Africa risks the imposition of "cultural models" that would lead the continent down the path of materialism and relativism and away from its traditional values.

The working document also warns of "a process organized to destroy the African identity" and said globalization tends to be "the vehicle for the domination of a single cultural model and a culture of death."

This concern was echoed by the pope in Africa when he asked inhabitants of the continent to be wary of a "tyranny of materialism" and told Africans: "Take care of your souls. Do not let yourselves be captivated by selfish illusions and false ideals."

Many other issues, pastoral and theological, are expected to make their appearance on the synod stage. They include:

- Inculturation of the Gospel or finding ways to ground the faith in local cultures. A perennial issue, this synod may continue the discussion that began at the first African synod in 1994. That assembly recommended some flexibility by local Churches in changing parts of liturgical celebrations, as long as essential elements were not altered. It also suggested that some form of ancestor veneration be permitted with proper liturgies.

- The family. Many Church leaders see the family as under attack, and the synod will no doubt hear criticism of development programs that promote contraception and abortion. But the working document also called for some self-examination, urging the Church to come up with a more creative response to the spiritual and moral needs of couples and families.

- Dialogue with Muslims. In the run-up to the synod, bishops said the tendency to politicize religious affiliation was a growing problem in Africa, particularly in regard to Islam. As with practically everything in Africa, Catholic-Muslim relations are a mixed picture: great cooperation in some areas, tension and intolerance in others.

- Strengthening lay Catholics' role in society. The synod preparatory council has called for greater impact by African laity in areas of politics, the armed forces, the



Young people in Yaounde, Cameroon, cheer for Pope Benedict XVI during his visit in March this year. Bishops and other church leaders will participate in the Synod of Bishops for Africa beginning on Oct. 4 at the Vatican. Potential topics of discussion include ethnic conflict, the family, traditional values, environmental protection and economic justice.

economy, education, health, the media and the general culture. The synod will no doubt also hear strategies for improving religious education among the faithful and making better use of the continent's 400,000 catechists.

- Economic justice. The effects of globalization and the current economic crisis will be very much on the minds of synod participants, and some will remind the international community not to forget their commitments to Africa. At the same time, the synod's working document has made the case for greater economic self-sufficiency by local Church communities in Africa, cautioning against dependency on outside assistance.

The roster of synod participants is predominantly African, and Pope Benedict recently added his own appointees: 36 bishop and priest members from around the world, including Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta, and 78 experts and auditors, 30 of whom are women. Only the synod members, most of whom are bishops, will vote in the assembly.

Synods tend to spotlight veterans and new faces among bishops, and the African synod

is no exception. While the pope is the official president of the synod, the task of running the daily sessions will be shared by three delegated co-presidents: Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze, retired prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments; Cardinal Theodore-Adrien Sarr of Dakar, Senegal; and South African Cardinal Wilfrid Napier of Durban.

Much interest will be focused on 61-year-old Cardinal Peter Turkson of Cape Coast, Ghana, Africa's youngest cardinal and the synod's recording secretary. He prepares two major papers, one introducing the themes for discussion at the synod's start and one summarizing all the speeches made to the assembly before the bishops gather in small groups to draw up proposals for the pope. It is a tough job and a somewhat thankless one.

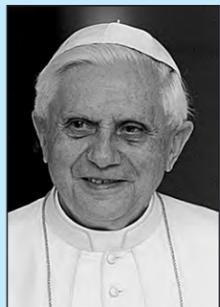
With the heavy emphasis on speeches, most synods are talkathons, and the final output is words: a list of proposals that are eventually woven into a papal document. But the three weeks also offer less-formal opportunities to share experiences and insights, at meals and during breaks in the sessions. The synod's opening and closing Masses will include African elements and reflect the Vatican's idea of the proper balance between inculturation and the Roman rite. †

Pope says he still cannot fully use his right wrist, but he can write

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC (CNS)—

Pope Benedict XVI said his right wrist has still not fully recovered from being broken after he fell this summer, but that it has healed enough so that he can write again.

During a two-hour flight on Sept. 26 from Rome's Ciampino airport to the Czech Republic, the pope answered



Pope Benedict XVI

questions on subjects journalists had submitted to the Vatican press office a few days before the flight.

One of the questions, read by the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, was how the pope's wrist injury was healing and whether he was able to get much work done on his second volume of a book on Jesus of Nazareth.

The pope said his right wrist, which he broke on July 17, "has still not fully recovered, but you can see my right hand does work and I can do the essentials. I can eat and, above all, I can write."

He told reporters aboard his Alitalia charter jet that the five weeks his hand

was in a cast and the subsequent days of recovery were very difficult for him.

"My thoughts mostly develop through writing, so for me it was truly a test of patience to not be able to write for six weeks," he said.

"All in all, I was able to work, read, do other things and I did make a little progress on the book, but there is still a lot to do," including the bibliography, he said.

But, he said, God willing, the book "could be finished by the spring. But this is a hope."

The book is expected to cover Christ's childhood, passion, death and resurrection. The first volume, the best-selling *Jesus of Nazareth*, was published in 2007. †

Official Announcement

Effective Sept. 24, 2009

St. Simon the Apostle Catholic Church, whose parish boundaries have been within those of the Indianapolis East Deanery, will keep the same boundaries and become a parish of the Indianapolis North Deanery.

This announcement is from the office of the Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., Archbishop of Indianapolis. †



Phone Numbers:
 Main office:317-236-1570
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 Toll free:1-800-382-9836, ext. 1570
 Circulation:.....317-236-1425
 Toll free:1-800-382-9836, ext. 1425

Price: \$22.00 per year, 75 cents per copy

Postmaster:
 Send address changes to *The Criterion*,
 P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206

Web site: www.CriterionOnline.com

E-mail: criterion@archindy.org

Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January. Mailing address: 1400 N. Meridian St., P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717. Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2009 Criterion Press Inc. ISSN 0574-4350.

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The Criterion (ISSN 0574-4350) is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

1400 N. Meridian St.
 P.O. Box 1717
 Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717
 317-236-1570
 800-382-9836 ext. 1570
criterion@archindy.org

Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN.
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Archbishop presides at Mass of Blessing for new St. Ann Church

By Mary Ann Wyand

“All Things Are Possible with God” was the theme for the building campaign at St. Ann Parish in Indianapolis.

Thanks to a lot of prayers, hard work and sacrifice, St. Ann parishioners saw their dream for a larger church become a reality on Sept. 26 when Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein presided at the Mass of Blessing a Church and Altar at the new parish address at 6350 Mooresville Road in Indianapolis.

“Finally!” Father Glenn O’Connor, the pastor of St. Ann and St. Joseph parishes in Indianapolis, told Archbishop Buechlein, concelebrating priests, parishioners and guests at the conclusion of the historic liturgy. He stood at the ambo and grinned as the people applauded enthusiastically.

Ten years ago, St. Ann parishioners began planning for the construction of a larger church at a new southwest side location.

St. Ann Parish was founded in 1917 at 2862 S. Holt Road, but as the decades slipped by many of the small homes near the church were replaced by commercial and industrial buildings.

A large number of St. Ann parishioners moved to suburban neighborhoods in Decatur Township, and that significant demographic change in Wayne Township resulted in declining enrollment at the parish school and its closure in 1989.

Father O’Connor was named pastor of St. Ann and St. Joseph parishes in 1997, and the next year the Archdiocese of Indianapolis completed a feasibility study on the possible merging of the

two adjacent parishes.

St. Joseph Parish is located at 1375 S. Mickley Ave., a few miles north and west of St. Ann Parish.

Based on the study, it was determined that St. Ann Parish should build a new church closer to the center of Decatur Township to support the growing Catholic population there.

“We ourselves who are bound here in faith and love are the living Church set in the world as a sign and witness of God’s love for all,” Archbishop Buechlein told the assembly. “I come to express my congratulations. I come to commend you for your great faith, and I commend you for what you have accomplished with this new church.”

Before blessing the church and altar, the archbishop explained that the altar is a symbol of Christ’s presence among us.

“It is the symbol that tells us that when we celebrate the holy Eucharist, the Mass, Christ is the true presider through the person of the priest,” Archbishop Buechlein said. “At a later date, when we dedicate a permanent church building here, we will consecrate the altar with holy chrism [oil] that is consecrated on Holy Thursday in our cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul. But even now, the blessing of this altar makes it sacred, and it also makes it a sign of our unity.”

Smiling at the memory, he said, “When I came to Indianapolis and was installed as archbishop in September 1992, I don’t know that anyone here would remember it, but my first parish visit was to St. Ann Church on Holt Road. We’ve come a long way in 17 years.”

Parish expansion plans at the new location include the construction of a school and permanent church in future years. The new church was designed with a parish office, classrooms and large social hall, and will eventually become the Parish Activity Center.

In his remarks, Father O’Connor noted that the new church “truly is the work of God,” and is the result of much prayer, perseverance and teamwork.

“And this is the proof, this church and everything we’ve done over these past 10 years,” he said. “You all know the ups and downs that we’ve had, and the delays, but it’s really a gift and a prayer. The archdiocese—and particularly Archbishop Buechlein—have been behind us every step of the way.”

Members of My Father’s House, a Church of God in Christ Pentecostal congregation, purchased the old St. Ann Church on Holt Road.

“To make this day possible, we had to sell the old church,” Father O’Connor said.



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, assisted by Father Patrick Beidelman, the master of ceremonies, prays the first eucharistic prayer during the Mass of Blessing a Church and Altar on Sept. 26 at the new St. Ann Church in Indianapolis. Father Harold Rightor II, seated at right near the altar, served as associate pastor of St. Ann Parish from 2007-09 and now serves as pastor of Annunciation Parish in Brazil. Father Glenn O’Connor, pastor of St. Ann and St. Joseph parishes in Indianapolis, is seated at the far right side of the altar.

“... We sold the church and were still using it for over a year, and they were pretty gracious about allowing us to share the space.”

St. Joseph parishioners also helped St. Ann parishioners, he said, by opening their church for weddings, funerals and baptisms.

“This [church location at the corner of Mills and Mooresville roads] has been part of the Mills family property, a Quaker family’s property, for many, many years,” Father O’Connor said, “and they were thrilled to have a Catholic church [built] on it.”

Since St. Ann parishioners began worshipping in the new church on July 18, he said, more than 50 new families have joined the parish.

St. Ann parishioner Marilyn Campfield sang in the combined St. Ann and St. Joseph parish choir during the liturgy.

“I was married at the first church on the hill when Father [Carl] Wilberding was the pastor [from 1947 to 1974],” Campfield explained. “It was just a little house on Holt Road. It was very, very small. And then we built the church that we just left, and now we’ve got this beautiful place. Our singing will come from our hearts, I know, and that’s what God wants it to be.” †



A historic statue of St. Anne stands near the entrance of the new St. Ann Church at 6350 Mooresville Road in Indianapolis. When a permanent church is built at the new address in Decatur Township in future years, this church will become the Parish Activity Center.



Father Glenn O’Connor, pastor of St. Ann and St. Joseph parishes in Indianapolis, blesses St. Ann parishioners and guests on Sept. 26 during the Mass of Blessing a Church and Altar at the new St. Ann Church at 6350 Mooresville Road in Indianapolis. Altar server Alex Betz assists him.



St. Ann parishioner Monica Gilbrech, left, and her daughter, Julia, of Indianapolis make the sign of the cross with holy water as they arrive at St. Ann Church on Sept. 26 for the historic Mass.

PRO-LIFE

continued from page 1

pluralistic society. He does not shirk from this difficulty.”

A 16-year member of the parish, Payne is a technical services staff member at Indiana University. He and his wife, Nicola, have a 9-year-old daughter, Sarah.

Payne said he feels called to defend the sanctity of life as a sacred gift from God, and a responsibility to consistently communicate a message of respect for all life.

“My wife and I have worked through the Gabriel Project and Crisis Pregnancy Center to help some area women who were facing crisis pregnancies or had really young children, and were in a bind and needed help,” Payne said. “... [Our parish pro-life committee] recently had a presentation on end-of-life issues. We value all life. We think all these things are important. ... For me personally, abortion is the strongest of these [pro-life issues] because the numbers are so overwhelming and the victims are the most innocent.”

Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general, said Branden and Alea are very deserving of the pro-life youth award.

“Both represent a growing number of young people who are very aware of the pro-life cause and all that it implies,” Msgr. Schaedel said. “Both Branden and Alea are from outstanding Catholic families, grounded in their faith and willing to stand against so many of the false values [that] our culture tends to promote. I am proud of both of them. They are brave young people and an inspiration to so many other young people.”

A home-schooled senior, Alea said she was taught

during her childhood years that all life is precious so she enthusiastically spreads the pro-life message to others.

The daughter of Charles and Jeannette Bowling, Alea is a member of the St. Mark Parish Choir. She plans to study music at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., next year.

Alea is the oldest of six children, and helps her parents care for her younger siblings, including her 5-year-old sister, Audra, who has been diagnosed with Jobert’s Syndrome, a neurological disability.

For several years, Alea has volunteered as a Birthline assistant at the Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis.

She also has participated in the national March for Life in Washington and 40 Days for Life prayer vigils in Indianapolis.

As president of the Archdiocesan Youth for Life, Alea has helped shape the organization’s mission through her effective leadership. She also is a founding member of the Youth of Our Lady of America group at Holy Rosary Parish.

To nourish her faith, Alea attended the archdiocesan Consumed youth retreat, which focuses on the Eucharist, and One Bread, One Cup, a liturgical conference. She plans to participate in the National Catholic Youth Conference in November.

Alea said she feels blessed to have a wonderful family, and grateful that her parents have shaped her life and faith in positive ways.

“As a young Catholic, I support the pro-life cause wholeheartedly,” Alea said, “and I want to help bring the pro-life message to as many people as possible.”

Also a home-schooled senior, Branden said his faith and family are very important to him.

The son of Jay and Elana Stanley, Branden is the oldest of three children. His siblings were adopted from Russia.

At Holy Rosary Church, he is a regular altar server for the extraordinary form of the Mass celebrated in Latin and, when needed, for liturgies celebrated in English.

As a teenager, Branden founded a media production company. Through Starlight Media Productions, he has sought to bring strong Catholic and pro-life values into a world that he describes as “wrought with indecent means of entertainment.”

Branden has created promotional videos and documentaries for the national March for Life, Consumed retreat, 40 Days for Life prayer vigils, Pope Benedict XVI’s 2008 visit to New York and Holy Rosary Parish’s centennial anniversary.

“Through Starlight Media Productions,” he said, “I hope to prove that media can indeed be entertaining without compromising one’s faith and morality.”

He plans to study telecommunications in college next year.

As vice president of the Archdiocesan Youth for Life organization, his leadership helped launch the group in new directions.

Branden also is a founding member of the Youth of Our Lady of America at Holy Rosary Parish. He has participated in the archdiocesan Consumed retreat, and plans to attend the national March for Life and rally in Washington in January.

“If one truly knows the great evil brought about by abortion,” Branden said, “he or she cannot help but fight for life.” †



The Criterion

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Editorial



File photo by Sean Gallagher

Then-deacon William Williams, left, seminarian Dustin Boem, then-seminarian Sean Danda, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and Father Joseph Moriarty, then-archdiocesan vocations director, pray the rosary at St. Mary Church in New Albany on Aug. 18, 2004, during the annual archdiocesan seminarian pilgrimage.

Pray the rosary daily

October is observed as the month of the rosary, and Oct. 7 is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

The rosary has been part of Catholic devotions for centuries, but fewer Catholics seem to be praying it these days. We encourage our readers to pray the rosary daily.

We have examples of many of our Church's leaders during the century just past. Blessed Teresa of Calcutta was photographed frequently with a rosary. Pope John Paul II, who learned to pray the rosary as a young boy, continued the practice throughout his life. He gave rosaries to those he received in private audiences.

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago was one of numerous Catholics who give the first hour of each day to prayer. Writing about that practice in his book *The Gift of Peace*, which he completed on Nov. 1, 1996, 13 days before his death, he said that he began with the Liturgy of the Hours.

Then, he wrote, "I also pray the rosary because it brings into vivid images some of the high points in the Lord's life and ministry as well as that of his Blessed Mother. It's a real help. Some people think it may be repetitious, and in a sense it is. But it keeps you focused on the mysteries of the Lord."

Nobody was more associated with the rosary during the last 100 years than Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton, known as "the rosary priest."

He encouraged families to say the rosary together each evening. Thousands of families did. He conducted "rosary crusades" throughout the world. By the time he died on June 3, 1992, he had conducted rosary crusades in 40 countries, attracting 28 million people. Perhaps we need another Father Peyton to revive that practice.

Another Holy Cross priest was instrumental in helping Father Peyton get the family rosary started.

Father Theodore M. Hesburgh was still a seminarian in 1942 when just-ordained Father Peyton showed him a letter he had composed to Bishop Edwin O'Hara of Kansas City, who had recently spoken to the seminarians about the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine that he had helped establish. Father Peyton asked

Father Hesburgh to edit the letter and type it for him, which he did. The letter asked the bishop to approve and promote Father Peyton's idea for the family rosary. Bishop O'Hara replied enthusiastically, and that was the beginning of what became a worldwide crusade.

Father Hesburgh, former president of the University of Notre Dame, has always had a great devotion to the rosary. Now 92 and nearly blind from macular degeneration, he told this writer a few years ago that he could no longer see well enough to pray the breviary. Therefore, he said, he now says three rosaries each day.

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen was another prominent Church leader who helped Father Peyton get his family rosary crusade started. At the time, he was still Msgr. Sheen, a speaker on the "Catholic Hour" radio program. He told Father Peyton that he would announce on the program that he would send copies of the pamphlet, "The Story of the Family Rosary," and rosary beads to any listener who wrote in. There were 50,000 requests.

Archbishop Sheen, known for his devotion to the Blessed Virgin, said that he hoped to die on one of her feast days. He almost got his wish. He died on Dec. 9, 1979, the day after the feast of the Immaculate Conception, in his chapel before the Blessed Sacrament, a rosary in his hand.

Criterion reporter Sean Gallagher wrote in our April 24 issue about one of Archbishop Sheen's rosaries. He gave it to Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara, his friend for more than 20 years, who would become Archbishop of Indianapolis.

Archbishop O'Meara gave the rosary to Msgr. Mark Svarczkopf, pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, when the archbishop was on his deathbed. In turn, Msgr. Svarczkopf gave the rosary to then-Msgr. Timothy Dolan when Msgr. Dolan was chosen to become an auxiliary bishop in St. Louis. Archbishop Dolan is now the archbishop of New York. At his installation at St. Patrick's Cathedral (where Archbishop Sheen is buried), he said to Msgr. Svarczkopf, "Mark, I prayed your rosary this morning."

We all should pray the rosary daily.

—John F. Fink

Be Our Guest/Dr. Hans Geisler

Respect for the dignity of human person is at the heart of Culture of Life Foundation's mission

In the Sept. 18 issue of *The Criterion*, John F. Fink wrote an editorial with the headline "Sex outside of marriage."



The editorial explained that the Catholic Church continues to regard fornication as a grave sin.

Fink also explained that he received some of his material

concerning the subject from a series of columns written by Helen Alvare, Ph.D., former director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, for the Web site of the Culture of Life Foundation (www.culture-of-life.org), a Washington, D.C.-based organization.

I do not know whether Fink realizes it or not, but the CEO and president of the Culture of Life Foundation is John N. Whelan, a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis.

The vision of the Culture of Life Foundation is summed up in the following words: "The Culture of Life Foundation believes that true freedom flourishes within a responsible and cohesive society that is respectful of the dignity of the human person central to its survival. We aim to foster a culture that will transmit to each

generation a commitment to the profound inherent and equal dignity of every member of the human family."

As a member of the board of directors and of that board's executive committee, I would like to inform your readers that we try to:

- Inform people in government, media and citizens of the scientific facts and resources pertaining to life and related social issues.
- Shape public policy to reflect the essential truth and dignity of the human person.
- Publish and promote scholarly work intended to inform the broadest possible audience.
- Organize conferences and events domestically and internationally to further public debate.
- Work collegially with like-minded organizations.

Our executive director is a dynamic young lady, Jennifer Kimball, who has her licentiate in bioethics from the Pontifical Atheneum Regina Apostolorum School of Bioethics in Rome.

I know she would join me in inviting all of *The Criterion's* readers to visit our Web site and learn more about us and our mission.

(Dr. Hans Geisler is a retired gynecologist-oncologist and member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. He is certified in health care ethics by the National Catholic Bioethics Center.) †

Letters to the Editor

Only Jesus can judge Sen. Edward Kennedy's life

With lots of sadness, I read the two letters to the editor in the Sept. 18 issue of *The Criterion* which were critical of the newspaper's coverage of the death of Sen. Edward Kennedy.

The letter writers expressed, in pharisaical terms, commendation of Sen. Kennedy as a Roman Catholic and public office holder. I wonder if the two writers have looked to see the beam in their own eyes.

Sen. Kennedy was not perfect, and I disagreed with his pro-abortion stand, but he was a fellow Christian, and in many ways practiced Christian values in his personal and political life.

He was a champion for social justice. Only Jesus can judge Sen. Kennedy's life, not two letter writers from Indiana.

I pray for them and the soul of Sen. Kennedy. God bless and peace.

Walter Aldoriso
Greenwood

Curriculum helps young people learn and spread pro-life message

On Sept. 11, I was privileged to facilitate the "Choose Life! Unborn Children and the Right to Life" curriculum at St. Michael School in Indianapolis.

This program was compiled and published by the National Catholic Educational Association by request of the late Cardinal John J. O'Connor.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein has endorsed and supported it in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis by supplying all parishes with this publication.

After presenting this program, I was made aware of how important it is that Catholic young people have the opportunity to focus upon and understand the Church's teaching on all life issues.

The right to life of all human beings from conception onward is a fundamental and foundational right. It is the condition out of which all other rights emerge. "Hence, it must be protected above all others" ("Declaration on procured abortion," #11,

Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Nov. 18, 1974).

The students were given five suggestions to do their part in the pro-life struggle and responded immediately. Many participated, along with parents and teachers, in St. Michael's project "Hands Moving Hearts."

Four thousand white crosses were set up on the campus of St. Michael Church and school to call attention to the 4,000 unborn babies in abortions daily in the United States of America.

Let us teach the young and old people the facts so that they may tell others what happens to an unborn child in abortion.

Once they know and understand, they will speak out as did these students, and women will change their hearts and minds. Babies' lives will be saved and mothers will be helped.

Let us pray that the young will begin a culture of life, and let us help them do it!

Peggy J. Geis
Indianapolis

Newspaper sets a tone that promotes a double standard, reader says

It is unfortunate that a parishioner believes it is necessary to express disapproval with the actions of the leaders of the Church.

What was the thinking supporting President Barack Obama speaking from the pulpit at Sen. Edward Kennedy's funeral?

The senator was a prominent person, but to eulogize a person who brought notoriety and scandal to the Church through his well-known public positions against the teaching of the Church is inappropriate.

The Sept. 18 editorial, "Sex outside of marriage," is ambiguous and confusing to the faithful, especially young people, when compared to the previous article.

The Criterion sets a tone that there is a double standard, one that accepts the nation's leading abortion proponents as long as they hold prominent positions in society and another that the teachings of the Church do not apply to some.

Which is misleading to many.

Emery Mapes
Lawrenceburg

ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO DANIEL M. BUECHLEIN, O.S.B.



SEEKING THE FACE OF THE LORD

BUSCANDO LA CARA DEL SEÑOR

Mission of our archdiocese is to proclaim Christ our hope

A lot is said and heard and promised about hope these days. It is no surprise that it is a growing quest in our culture.

For weeks, my column focused on the supernatural virtue of hope as distinguished from natural hope, based on the Holy Father's encyclical "*Spe Salvi*" ("Saved by Hope").

I need to confess that my friend, Daniel Conway, carried the load in helping me get the digest of the pope's complex letter to print. I am grateful.

The reason that I wanted to focus our attention on authentic hope is simple. If Christ is not the source and reason for our hope, in the end, promises and efforts to share hope are short-lived, if not futile.

It should be said that the mission of our archdiocese is to proclaim Christ our hope. How do we do that?

We share a threefold task, a threefold responsibility to accomplish our mission. We are to: 1) proclaim the word of God; 2) celebrate the sacraments of the Church; and 3) exercise the ministry of charity.

This threefold responsibility encapsulates the shared mission in our local Church.

In his first encyclical, "God is Love" ("*Deus Caritas Est*"), Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "The Church's deepest nature is expressed in her threefold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity."

All of us participate. At first glance, it

might seem like the responsibility belongs to priests and other pastoral leaders. And it certainly does, but it is not theirs alone.

All of us who are baptized have a part in proclaiming God's word. We participate in the celebration of the sacraments. And we help carry on the ministry of charity at many levels.

Priests and deacons are ordained to preach the Gospel, and it is their responsibility to pray the Gospel, to proclaim it in word and in deed.

All the baptized also are to reflect on the word of God and to live as Jesus taught us to live. We all have a role in evangelization, bringing the Gospel to everyday life.

Participation in the celebration of the sacraments is the source of the graces we need in order to experience the hope that is Christ, and in order to share that hope as pilgrims on the way to the House of the Father.

The ministry of charity is the fruit of our being empowered by God's word and the grace of the sacraments, especially the holy Eucharist. Our sacramental life is not complete if it is does not move us to love others in our homes, our neighborhoods and the larger social community.

There are particular ways and means in which we share the threefold tasks of our mission as Catholics. Our responsibilities extend beyond our family homes and beyond the boundaries of our local parishes.

We share God's word, especially by the way we live, in our interactions with those we do not know as well as with our friends

and neighbors.

For example, we live with a concern to pray and work alongside folks of other cultures. All of us together are under the blessing of God's word. Our multicultural family was so visible at the celebration of our 175th anniversary, truly an experience of Christ our hope at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis last May.

A major task of evangelization is catechesis, teaching our Catholic faith in a way that touches our hearts as well as our minds so that we are inspired to participate in the sacraments and to serve in our shared ministry of charity.

Our parishes provide programs of catechesis to help us in faith. Our youth and young adult ministry programs are vital. Our Catholic schools are treasured sources of evangelization and catechesis. Our new initiatives for ministry on college campuses already touch the hearts of students.

Of course, providing ministry into the future is an important preoccupation that all of us share. Vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life are a special focus of priority.

Fostering a culture of vocation as an apostolate is not only the obligation of priests and religious. Our responsibility is

shared and very much impacts the future of our threefold Catholic mission in the archdiocese. Pray for our dedicated, solid seminarians. Affirm them. Our Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary deserves our enthusiastic support.

We have an admirable body of priests who serve valiantly. They work hard to proclaim the word of God, celebrate the sacraments and foster charity for our folks in need.

The "Year of the Priest" encourages us to pray for them in a special way. It moves us to affirm them, and to understand the beauty and the gift that their lives are for God and for us. They mirror Christ our hope. They live compassion in our community. †

Do you have an intention for Archbishop Buechlein's prayer list? You may mail it to him at:

Archbishop Buechlein's
Prayer List
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

Archbishop Buechlein's intention for vocations for October

Youth Ministers: that they may always encourage youth to consider service in the Church, especially as priests and religious.

La misión de nuestra arquidiócesis es proclamar a Cristo como nuestra esperanza

En nuestros días se dice, se oye y se promete mucho sobre la esperanza. No es de sorprender que ésta sea un creciente anhelo de nuestra cultura.

Durante semanas dediqué mi columna a la virtud sobrenatural de la esperanza, en contraposición a la esperanza natural, basándome en la encíclica del Santo Padre "*Spe Salvi*" ("Salvados por la esperanza").

Debo confesar que mi amigo Daniel Conway llevó el peso, ayudándome a imprimir el resumen de la compleja epístola del Papa. Le estoy agradecido.

El motivo por el cual quería concentrar nuestra atención en la esperanza auténtica es muy simple: si Cristo no es el origen y el motivo de nuestra esperanza, al final, las promesas y los esfuerzos para difundir la esperanza resultan efímeros, cuando no inútiles.

Debemos señalar que la misión de nuestra arquidiócesis es proclamar a Cristo como nuestra esperanza. ¿Cómo podemos hacerlo?

Compartimos una tarea conformada por tres partes, una triple responsabilidad de cumplir nuestra misión. Debemos: 1) proclamar la Palabra de Dios; 2) celebrar los Sacramentos de la Iglesia; y 3) practicar el ministerio de la caridad.

Esta triple responsabilidad encierra la misión compartida de nuestra Iglesia local.

En su primera encíclica "*Deus Caritas Est*", el Papa Benedicto XVI escribió: "La naturaleza íntima de la Iglesia se expresa en una triple tarea: anuncio de la Palabra de Dios [*kerygmamartyria*], celebración de los Sacramentos [*leiturgia*] y servicio de la caridad [*diakonia*]."

Todos participamos. En un primer momento podría parecer que la responsa-

bilidad le pertenece a los sacerdotes y a los líderes pastorales. Y ciertamente es así, pero no les pertenece exclusivamente.

Todos los que hemos sido bautizados tenemos la obligación de proclamar la Palabra de Dios; participamos en la celebración de los Sacramentos y ayudamos a mantener el ministerio de la caridad de muchas formas.

Los sacerdotes y los diáconos se ordenan para predicar el Evangelio y es su responsabilidad proclamarlo tanto con sus palabras como con sus actos.

Todos los bautizados también deben reflexionar sobre la Palabra de Dios y vivir tal y como Jesús nos enseñó. Todos desempeñamos un papel en la evangelización, trasladando el Evangelio a la vida cotidiana.

La participación en la celebración de los Sacramentos es la fuente de la cual emanan las gracias que necesitamos para experimentar la esperanza que personifica Cristo y para poder compartir esa esperanza como peregrinos de camino a la Casa del Padre.

El ministerio de la caridad es el fruto del poder que nos otorga la Palabra de Dios y la gracia de los Sacramentos, especialmente la Santa Eucaristía. Nuestra vida sacramental no es completa si no nos motiva a amar al prójimo en nuestros hogares, nuestros vecindarios y en la más amplia comunidad social.

Existen formas y medios específicos a través de los cuales compartimos las tres tareas puntuales de nuestra misión como católicos. Nuestras responsabilidades se extienden más allá del hogar familiar y de las fronteras de nuestras parroquias locales.

Compartimos la Palabra de Dios, especialmente mediante nuestra forma de vida, en nuestras interacciones con aquellos

a quienes no conocemos, así como con nuestros amigos y vecinos.

Por ejemplo, vivimos con el deber de rezar y trabajar junto con personas de otras culturas. Todos nos cobijamos bajo la bendición de la Palabra de Dios. El carácter multicultural de nuestra familia se hizo evidente en la celebración de nuestro aniversario 175, en la cual experimentamos verdaderamente a Cristo nuestra esperanza, en el estadio Lucas Oil de Indianápolis, el pasado mayo.

Una de las principales tareas de la evangelización es la catequesis, la enseñanza de nuestra fe católica de modo tal que toque nuestros corazones, así como también nuestras mentes, y nos inspire a participar en los Sacramentos y a servir en nuestro ministerio compartido de la caridad.

Nuestras parroquias ofrecen programas de catequesis para ayudarnos en la fe. Los programas para jóvenes y adultos jóvenes resultan vitales. Nuestras escuelas católicas son valiosas fuentes de evangelización y catequesis. Las nuevas iniciativas de ministerios en los campus universitarios tocan el corazón de los estudiantes.

Por supuesto, la proyección de los ministerios hacia el futuro es una preocupación que todos compartimos. Las vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida consagrada son un área de concentración que reviste una prioridad especial.

El fomento de la cultura de la vocación como apostolado no es obligación exclusiva de los sacerdotes y religiosos. Tenemos una

responsabilidad compartida que tiene un impacto significativo en el futuro de nuestra triple misión católica en la arquidiócesis. Recen por nuestros seminaristas íntegros y dedicados. Aliéntelos. Nuestro seminario universitario Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary merece nuestro apoyo entusiasta.

Contamos con un cuerpo de sacerdotes que sirven valientemente. Trabajan arduamente para proclamar la palabra de Dios, celebrar los sacramentos y promover la caridad hacia los necesitados.

El "Año del sacerdote" nos anima a rezar por ellos de un modo especial. Nos exhorta a alentarlos y a comprender que sus vidas son hermosos dones tanto para Dios como para nosotros. Son reflejo de Cristo, nuestra esperanza. Son expresión viva de la compasión en nuestra comunidad. †

¿Tiene una intención que desee incluir en la lista de oración del Arzobispo Buechlein? Puede enviar su correspondencia a:

Lista de oración del Arzobispo
Buechlein
Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis
1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

Traducido por: Daniela Guanipa,
Language Training Center, Indianapolis.

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en octubre

Pastores Juveniles: Que ellos siempre puedan animar a los jóvenes a considerar dando servicio a la iglesia, sobre todo como sacerdotes y religiosos.

Events Calendar

October 2

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. **Lumen Dei**, Tony Townsley, author of *Three Cups*, presenter, Mass, 6:30 a.m., Mass, breakfast and program at Priori Hall, \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Information: 317-435-3447 or e-mail LumenDei@sbcglobal.net.

St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 7575 Holliday Drive E., Indianapolis. **Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana, "Praise and Worship,"** Mass, 7:30 p.m. Information: ccrci@inholyspirit.org.

St. Nicholas Parish, 6461 E. St. Nicholas Drive, Sunman. 52nd annual **"Turtle Soup Supper,"** games, farmer's market, 5-9 p.m. Information: 812-623-2964.

October 2-4

Abbey Press Outlet Store, State Road 545, St. Meinrad. **"Tent Sale,"** Fri. and Sat., 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun., 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 800-682-0988 or www.saintmeinrad.edu.

October 3

Holy Trinity Parish, Bockhold Hall, 902 Holmes Ave., Indianapolis. **"Parish Partners,"** second annual neighborhood clean-up day, members of Holy Trinity, St. Anthony and St. Barnabas parishes, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., breakfast and lunch provided.

Information: 317-354-6103 or 317-631-3019.

St. Francis Hospital and Health Center, 1201 Albany St., Beech Grove. **24th annual "Walk to Remember,"** for parents who have experienced infant loss, 11 a.m. Information: 317-865-5199.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1723 I St., Bedford. **"Oktoberfest-Polka Mass and Fall Festival,"** Mass, 5 p.m., German dinner, 6-7:30 p.m., games, 6-9 p.m. Information: 812-275-6539.

South 5th and C Streets, Richmond. Richmond Catholic Community and Seton School, **"Oktoberfest,"** 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

CYO Camp, 2230 N. Clay Lick Road, Nashville. **"Brown County Hill Challenge Bike Ride,"** various start times, \$25 per person for the ride, \$18 per person for cabin camping. Information: 812-988-5522 or info@campranchoframasa.org.

Our Lady of Providence Parish, Highway 50, Brownstown. **75th Parish Anniversary**, Mass, 1 p.m., meal following Mass. Information: 812-522-5304 or ackerjk@verizon.net.

St. Bartholomew Parish, 1306 27th St., Columbus. **Concert**, Everett Greene, presenter, 7 p.m. Information: 812-379-9353.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, 1752 Scheller Lane, New Albany. **"Tent Event,"** chicken dinner, children's activities, entertainment, 2 p.m.-midnight. Information: 812-944-1184 or sarahch72@yahoo.com.

October 4

St. Paul the Apostle Parish, 202 E. Washington St., Greencastle. **Fourth annual Putnam County Life Chain**, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Information: 765-653-7789.

Cathedral High School, 5225 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Theater department play, "The Jungle Book,"** 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., \$5 per person. Information: jselse@aol.com.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **Monte Cassino pilgrimage, "Mary, the Image of Our Hope,"** Benedictine Archabbot Justin DuVall, presenter, 2 p.m. Information: 800-682-0988 or www.saintmeinrad.edu.

Holy Family Parish, 3027 Pearl St., Oldenburg. **Parish festival**, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners, booths, games. Information: 812-934-3013.

MKVS, Divine Mercy and Glorious Cross Center, Rexville, located on 925 South, .8 mile east of 421 South and 12 miles south of Versailles. Mass, noon, on **third Sunday**

holy hour and pitch-in, groups of 10 pray the new Marian Way, 1 p.m., Father Elmer Burwinkel, celebrant. Information: 812-689-3551.

October 5

St. Joan of Arc Church, 4217 N. Central Ave., Indianapolis. **"Building Better Families,"** Matthew Kelly, presenter, 7 p.m., no charge. Information: 317-283-5508 or marivelli@aol.com.

October 5-9

St. Gabriel the Archangel Church, 6000 W. 34th St., Indianapolis. **Parish mission, "Christ Our Hope,"** Father Jim Farrell, presenter, 7 p.m., childcare available. Information: 317-291-7014.

October 6

Saint Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology, Newman Hall, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **19th annual John S. and Virginia Marten Lecture in Homiletics, "Lighting a Fire: Preaching as Teaching and Proclamation,"** Rev. Dr. Paul Scott Wilson, presenter, 7:30 p.m. Information: 800-682-0988 or www.saintmeinrad.edu.

October 7

Basile Opera Center, 4011 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis. **Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish Centennial Celebration, concert and charity gala**, reception, concert, Italian dinner, 6 p.m., \$100 per couple. Information: 317-632-3174 or

admin@lumenchristischool.org. St. Mary Parish, 317 N. New Jersey St., Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced, new members welcome, 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-370-1189.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 5333 E. Washington St., Indianapolis. **"Living Rosary,"** in honor of the patroness of the parish, 7 p.m. Information: 317-859-0395 or 317-353-1814.

Vito's on Penn, 20 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis. **Theology on Tap, "Hope for a Life of Dignity,"** Dr. Charles Rice, presenter, gathering, 6 p.m., program, 7 p.m. Information: indytheologyontap@gmail.com or indytheologyontap.com.

October 9-11

CYO Camp, 2230 N. Clay Lick Road, Nashville. **"Fall Camping Weekend,"** children ages 7-15, \$90 per camper. Information: 888-988-2839, ext. 22, or registrar@campranchoframasa.org.

Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Twister Circle, Oldenburg. **"Alumni Homecoming Weekend,"** Information: 812-933-0737, ext. 244, or rboyle@oldenburgacademy.org.

October 10

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus

(Little Flower) Parish, 4720 E. 13th St., Indianapolis. **"Lead Like Jesus Encounter,"** Owen Phelps, Ph.D., presenter. \$25 per person includes lunch, registration deadline Oct. 1. Information: 317-357-8352, ext. 30, or tcostellow@littleflowerparish.org.

St. Roch Parish, Family Center, 3603 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Single Seniors**, meeting, 1 p.m., age 50 and over. Information: 317-784-4207.

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 4052 E. 38th St., Indianapolis. **"St. Andrew Fest,"** homecoming, Mass, 4:30 p.m., fried chicken, music, games, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Information: 317-546-1571.

St. Joseph Parish, 1375 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. **Craft and bake sale**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 317-271-5234.

St. Charles Borromeo School, 2224 E. Third St., Bloomington. **"Family Fun Day,"** Information: 812-336-5853.

Zionsville Fellowship Church, 9090 E. State Road 334, Zionsville, Ind. (Diocese of Lafayette). **Boone County Right to Life banquet**, Monica Migliorino Miller and Edmund Miller, presenters, \$30 per person, 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-769-3871 or 765-482-7941. †

St. Jude Parish will host 'Called and Gifted' workshop' on Oct. 9-10

St. Jude Parish, 5353 McFarland Road, in Indianapolis will host "Called and Gifted," a unique spiritual gifts discernment workshop on Oct. 9-10 presented by staff members of the Catherine of Siena Institute, a non-profit organization in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The two-day presentation is designed to help Catholics discern the charisms—or spiritual gifts—that they

have been given by God for the sake of others as well as how to use those charisms in their family life and work relationships.

The workshop begins at 7 p.m. on Oct. 9 and concludes at 9:30 p.m. The Oct. 10 session starts at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m.

"Called and Gifted" participants will learn the roles of each baptized person and the local parish in the mission of

the Church to the world. They also will study the signs and characteristics of 24 common charisms.

A free-will offering will be collected during the workshop to help cover program materials and other expenses.

For more information or to register for the workshop, call Annette Calloway at 317-786-4371 or send an e-mail to her at acalloway@stjudeindy.org. †

'Healing of the Heart' conference is Oct. 24

"Healing of the Heart," a one-day conference, begins at 8 a.m. on Oct. 24 at the East Central High School Performing Arts Center in St. Leon.

Father Gregory Bramlage and Deacon Ralph Poyo are the presenters. The conference concludes at 8 p.m.

Registrations are \$40 per person in advance with a \$15 meal plan before the Oct. 14 deadline.

Late registrations are \$50 per person and do not include a meal plan.

For more information, call 812-623-8007 or log on to www.HealingThroughThePowerofJesusChrist.org. †

Oldenburg Academy plans Alumni Homecoming Weekend on Oct. 9-11

Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception will welcome graduates to the campus for an Alumni Homecoming Weekend on Oct. 9-11 in Oldenburg.

The reunion weekend begins on Oct. 9 with the first "Distinguished Alumni Event" at the Hillcrest Golf and Country Club in Batesville.

The Oldenburg Academy Alumni Association will posthumously honor the late Holly Bruns, a member of the Class of 1974, with the 2009 Oldenburg Academy Distinguished Alumni Award for her contributions to the community.

The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$35 a person.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Sarah Lamping at the academy's advancement office at 812-934-4440.

On Oct. 10, alumni are invited to gather at the school cafeteria at 8:30 a.m. for refreshments then participate in Mass at 10:30 a.m. at the motherhouse chapel. Lunch will be served at noon at the academy gymnasium, and anniversary class photos will be taken at that time.

That afternoon, alumni will attend the "Virtue, Honor and Education Tribute" and the alumni association meeting then tour the campus.

The Alumni Association Board will recognize Pamela Burroughs with the "Virtue, Honor and Education Tribute Award" for her spiritual and educational impact on the academy.

On Oct. 11, alumni and their guests are invited to play golf at the Cricket Ridge Golf Course in Batesville. Tee times begin at noon. The fee is \$10



plus \$7 for cart rental.

For more information on the golf outing, contact Carmie (Gindling) Meyer, a member of the Class of 1963, at ginger@etczone.com.

For more information or to register for the homecoming weekend, log on to www.oldenburgacademy.org and click on "Alumni." †

VIPs

Woody and Mickey (Stukey) Martin, members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Oct. 8.



The couple was married on Oct. 8, 1949, at St. Phillip Neri Church in Battle Creek, Mich.

They have six children: Kimberly Cox, Valerie Muckleroy, Gail Uminger, Joseph, Michael and Patrick Martin. They have 10 grandchildren. †

Carl and Ann (Kahle) Melle, members of St. Andrew Parish in Richmond, will



celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 3 with a Mass at noon followed by a dinner with their family members and friends. The couple was married on Oct. 3, 1959, at St. Andrew Church in Richmond. †

All-academy Mass and brunch is set for Nov. 1 in Indianapolis

Graduates of St. Agnes Academy, Ladywood School, St. Mary Academy, St. John Academy and Ladywood-St. Agnes Academy, all formerly in Indianapolis, and Our Lady of Grace Academy, formerly in Beech Grove, are invited to attend the third annual All-Academy Mass and brunch on Nov. 1

in Indianapolis.

The Mass begins at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary Church, located at 317 N. New Jersey St.

Father Michael O'Mara, pastor, will celebrate the liturgy for graduates of the former Catholic high schools for girls.

Following the Mass, alumnae are invited

to enjoy a brunch at the Rathskeller, located at 401 E. Michigan St. near the church.

The cost of the brunch is \$20 per person. Checks should be addressed to "Academy Brunch," and mailed to Wilma Peacock, 1030 N. Leland Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219 by Oct. 14. For more information, call her at 317-359-5800. †

Fundraiser in Indianapolis supports Church in Holy Land

By Sean Gallagher

For years, Catholics in the Holy Land have lived with a great deal of political and economic pressure and, therefore, are tempted to emigrate, putting the Church there in risk of disappearing.

But, according to Franciscan Father Peter Vasko, president of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, there is "some light at the end of a very dark tunnel" for the Christian community in Israel and Palestine.

For the priest, that light shines from the 75 percent of Christians who have recently graduated from universities in or around the Holy Land, have secured professional jobs and are able to afford the high cost of housing there.

Father Peter spoke with *The Criterion* about the plight and the prospects for the Church in the Holy Land during a recent visit to Indianapolis for a Sept. 12 fundraising dinner for the foundation that he leads.

The dinner, at which Eternal Word Television Network personality and author Raymond Arroyo spoke, raised approximately \$118,000 for college scholarships for Catholics who live in the Holy Land.

According to a foundation official, the financial support it receives from Indiana donors is second in the United States only to donations from New York.

Father Peter said that supporting the college education of young Christian adults in the Holy Land is key to maintaining the Church's presence there.

"They can't pay for education [or for

housing] because they don't have a job," he said. "With an education, they're not only able to support their families, but they can also purchase or rent a modest apartment in Bethlehem or Jerusalem or Nazareth."

Catholics from the United States and elsewhere who go on pilgrimages to the Holy Land are also important, Father Peter said, in part for the economic boost that such travel brings, but, perhaps more importantly, for the moral support it provides for the people.

"There's nothing like moral support," Father Peter said. "The greatest moral support [Catholics in the United States] can give is by coming on pilgrimage and being with these people, and talking with these people and understanding where they're coming from."

That is what happened to Msgr. Paul Koetter, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis, through his travels with the foundation.

He has gone on two foundation-organized pilgrimages in 2006 and 2008. Prior to that, he spent 11 weeks in the Holy Land while on sabbatical in 2003.

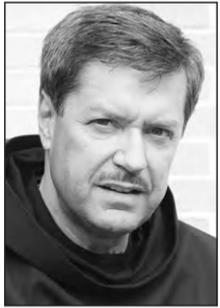
"[The foundation] kind of opened a door to something that I was kind of oblivious to," Msgr. Koetter said. "I think the foundation has just made me much more aware of their plight and the real concern of the Church being lost to that environment."

Msgr. Koetter said his travels to the Holy Land have enriched his life of faith and his priestly ministry.

"It's been tremendously helpful because it makes the Scriptures so much more alive," he said. "It creates a tangible connection with Christ. When you have seen the land and you can geographically place things, what is said in the Scriptures starts to make a lot more sense."

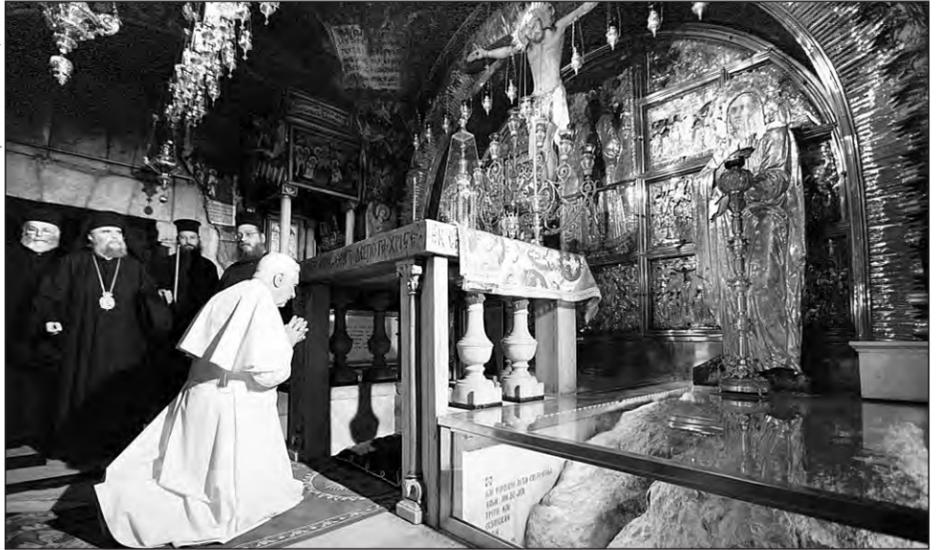
"All those things really do impact how you view the Scriptures and, therefore, how you kind of relate to Christ, I think."

Another pilgrim who gave moral support to Catholics in the Holy Land, according to



Fr. Peter Vasko, O.F.M.

CNS photo/Vanis Beharaks, Reuters



Pope Benedict XVI prays on May 15 inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem at the site which marks the place where Jesus was crucified at Golgatha. Franciscan Father Peter Vasko, president of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, said the pope's pilgrimage to the Holy Land encouraged the small Catholic population there that is under great pressure to emigrate.

Father Peter, was Pope Benedict XVI, when he traveled there from May 8-15 this year.

Father Peter said the Catholics in the Holy Land were especially encouraged by Pope Benedict's call to various Catholic institutions to support the Church there.

"The people are a lot more hopeful after his visit, knowing that there is something concrete that's there that's going to help them in their life," Father Peter said.

Catholics living in the Holy Land need help, in part, because of the discrimination they experience from both the Israeli and Palestinian military forces.

"The militant Muslims look upon the Christians as pro-West and traitors to the Islamic cause," Father Peter said. "And the Israeli military looks at them as Palestinians and, hence, the enemy."

"... [And] you have discrimination on both sides in the political and economic

arena. They're the ones who are caught in the middle. Without any help, they'll want to leave and get out of the situation."

But Father Peter said that Catholics in the Holy Land are able to persevere under such difficult circumstances, in large part, because of their faith that they see vindicated in the support they receive.

"Faith is the recurring theme of why our people are still there," Father Peter said. "They trust in the Almighty."

"Some of their trust has proven positive because look at what the foundation is doing. They can't afford a college education, but they're getting a college education. They're getting jobs. And we're building housing for our people."

(For more information on the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, log on to www.ffhl.org.) †

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RESPECT

continued from page 1

Aug. 2, 2008, by members of the parish Catholic Youth for Life group.

A photograph of the crosses displayed from Aug. 2-16 last year was published in *The Criterion*, which inspired St. Michael the Archangel parishioners Ruth Bueing and Robert and Peggy Geis to talk with Father Varghese Maliakkal, the administrator, about bringing the exhibit to the Indianapolis West Deanery parish.

"People slowed down to look at the crosses as they drove by the church," Robert Geis explained. "We were straightening the crosses in the ground on Monday, [Sept. 21], because it had rained and the soil wasn't so hard. I was [working] close to 30th Street near our sign for the church and school, and a policeman stopped by. He was so happy to see the crosses, and said it really makes an impression on people. He and other people have said they had no idea that we have so many abortions a day in the United States. He also said 'Keep up the good work' and 'Thanks for doing it.'"

Father Maliakkal said he was pleased to have so many volunteers of all ages help erect the 4,000 crosses on the parish grounds—which amazingly took only a few hours on Sept. 19—as a pro-life witness to the community.

That morning, the Indian priest celebrated Mass with the archdiocesan Helpers of God's Precious Infants pro-life volunteers then helped hammer some of the crosses into the church lawn while the Helpers prayed the rosary in front of the Clinic for Women, an abortion facility on West 16th St. Then he led the Helpers in Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament when they returned to the church.

"With each cross, we prayed for children who have been killed in abortion or any other way," he said. "Each of these crosses stands for those babies who were left behind. The parents or moms do not know where their babies [bodies] are because they left them in the [abortion] clinics. It's a remembrance. Here or there, people put flowers on the crosses because they said, 'I have nowhere to place my baby's cross so I placed flowers on one of these crosses.'

That's their faith, and this is a sign of life because Jesus brought life back to us through the Cross."

Father Maliakkal said parishioners were pleased that the crosses were on display



Father Varghese Maliakkal, the administrator of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, hammers a pro-life cross into the ground near the church on Sept. 19 at the Indianapolis West Deanery parish.

'Somebody has to stick up for the unborn babies. It's a shame you have to put up even one cross, let alone 4,000 of them. I'll put them up anywhere. If they would let me, I would put them up in front of the White House lawn.'

—Larry Sendelbach of St. Joseph Parish in Cold Spring, Ky., who created the "Cemetery of the Innocents."



St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis was the site of a "Cemetery of the Innocents" pro-life display from Sept. 19 to Oct. 2, which educated people about the tragedy of legalized abortion. Four thousand crosses represent the number of unborn babies killed in abortions each day in the United States. The crosses are part of a traveling pro-life exhibit created by Larry and Kay Sendelbach of Cold Spring, Ky.

when they celebrated their parish feast day with a Mass and cookout.

"We feel blessed to have the crosses at our church this year

because they are a witness to our faith," he said, "and to the cross of Christ and the new life that Jesus brought to us through the Cross. We are very grateful for this chance to pray for these [aborted] babies and to witness to others [about respect for life] as well."

St. Michael School eighth-grader Briana Stewart of Indianapolis helped hammer crosses into the ground on Sept. 19 with her parents, Grant and Naomi Stewart, and her older twin sisters, Madeline and Melinda. They are members of St. Michael Parish.

"I feel strongly about [ending] abortions," Briana said, "and this is a good way to make the community aware [of the number of abortions]."

People are going to notice, and it's got to be perfect so I tried to make the crosses straight in the ground. But it makes me feel really sad."

Madeline and Melinda are freshmen at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis.

"It's a really good cause," Madeline said. "People don't really notice how many babies do die [in abortion] in one day. It's so many, and you don't think about that all the time. When you see all the crosses, it brings to mind what's going on in the United States and how it needs to be changed."

Melinda volunteers on the pro-life committee at the Indianapolis North Deanery interparochial high school.

"I just felt like it was a really good thing to do," she said. "When you see all these crosses, you realize that all these people should be alive."

The Sendelbachs started this pro-life project 12 years ago and are pleased that so many faith communities in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana have asked to display the crosses.

"I deliver the crosses [by request] two times a month all year long," Larry Sendelbach explained during a Sept. 23 telephone interview. "It has affected a lot of people in a lot of different ways. Sometimes we get good results. Someone decorates a cross in memory of a

baby lost [in abortion]. Sometimes people destroy the crosses and paint over the signs. They write things like 'Keep your rosaries off my ovaries' and 'What about the abused kids?' But my signs are non-judgmental. The message is a statement of fact."

Sendelbach said he found the names "Joshua" and "Donald" printed on one cross with the date May 3, 1975.

"That particular cross was found at St. Cecelia Parish in Taylor Mills, Ky.," he said. "The priest there took that cross to Mass and spoke about it during the homily. ... The mother happened to be at the Mass. She told him later that Joshua and Donald were twins. He wound up getting her into Project Rachel [a confidential abortion reconciliation ministry] because of it."

Larry and Kay Sendelbach deliver the "Cemetery of the Innocents" crosses to faith communities in their van and a trailer decorated with an American flag and pro-life sign that reads "Unborn babies are people too."

"If anybody wants to put the crosses up, I don't charge for it," he said. "The good Lord sees to it that I'm able to do it. ... But I cannot do this [pro-life ministry] without the people that perform the labor of love of putting them all up."

"When I first started building the crosses, my wife thought I was crazy, but she figured if I was going to do it then she had to join in," Sendelbach said. "I'm continuously making new crosses to replace the ones that get broken. I make 400 crosses at a time in about three days."

They are happy that the display is helping women who have experienced abortion to seek forgiveness and healing.

"When I started this project, I asked God to allow me to affect one person," he said. "I know for sure that it has saved at least three children. I think there are countless others [saved] that only the Lord knows about. I hope to meet them someday if I make it to heaven."

"Somebody has to stick up for the unborn babies," Sendelbach said. "It's a shame you have to put up even one cross, let alone 4,000 of them. I'll put them up anywhere. If they would let me, I would put them up in front of the White House lawn."

(For more information about the "Cemetery of the Innocents," call St. Joseph parishioners Larry and Kay Sendelbach of Cold Spring, Ky., at 859-441-2712.) †



Sister Amelia Mary, superior of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the Indian sisters' convent at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, kneels as she hammers a pro-life cross into the ground on Sept. 19 in front of the church.



Some of the 4,000 crosses are decorated with flowers or personalized with the names of babies by grieving mothers who regretted choosing abortion.

Catholic News Around Indiana

- Diocese of Gary
- Diocese of Evansville
- Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana
- Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Compiled by Brandon A. Evans

DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

Bishop commissions strategic planning process to re-energize parish life

EVANSVILLE—Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger has commissioned a diocesan strategic planning process to re-energize parish life throughout the Diocese of Evansville, and to establish a future direction for the diocese over the next five years.

As part of the information gathering process, interviews and focus groups are being scheduled during October and November of this year.

Focus groups will be scheduled at half of the parishes in the diocese for groups of parishioners. Focus groups consisting of parish staff members will be scheduled at the other parishes.

Interviews with priests will be conducted. Interviews with other selected individuals will also be scheduled.

The individuals to be interviewed were selected by members of the diocesan Planning Team, a group of a dozen people who took the first steps in the year-long process of planning.

(For this story and more news from the Diocese of Evansville, log on to the Web site of The Message at www.themessageonline.org.)

DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

Women from around the diocese gather for day of prayer in LaGrange

LaGRANGE—St. Joseph Parish's newly constructed activity center was put to good use on Sept. 19 when more than 200 enthusiastic women crowded the hall for the second annual Women's Day of Prayer. The program, offered to all women of the diocese, was sponsored by the diocesan Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization.

The morning began with introductions, a continental breakfast, prayer and hymns. The keynote speaker, St. Joseph Sister Anne D'Arcy, the sister of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, spoke with humor and passion about answering the call to be in relationship with God. And prayer, she said, is a "conscious relationship with God."

Sister Anne, who is the associate director of the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life in the Archdiocese of Boston, shared her own personal experiences of prayer, relating the blessings she received in nature as well as when she sat with her sister, Mary, as she lay dying.

"We can encounter him anywhere," she said of meeting God. And she added that "we come as we are" with concerns, questions and life.

Scripture, she said, is the place to begin to know God better. "It gives us power to have those words that touch our minds and hearts." But, she added, prayer doesn't always require words. "We need silence in our lives."

Listening to the still small voice of God in the silence can bring surprising answers, she said. "Prayer doesn't always change the situation in life, but it changes 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.todayscatholicnews.org.)

DIOCESE OF GARY

Finally, a 'home' court advantage for Calumet College of St. Joseph

WHITING—In what is being hailed as an opportunity for educational and economic development, Calumet College of St. Joseph unveiled its Student Activity/Community Center on Sept. 17.

In introducing the first new building in the college's 58-year history, school president Dr. Dennis Rittenmeyer said the \$4.5 million, 26,527-square-foot athletic facility "represents a milestone in the history of our college and a great commitment to our growing population."

He added, "With this new facility, our students and student-athletes will finally have a place they can call home."

Although the dedication took place on a Thursday, the college community "christened" its new gymnasium two days earlier with a home volleyball game against Judson University. Despite losing, the Crimson Wave drew a crowd that filled much of the seating for 500 fans. That number will double when bleachers arrive for the other side of the gymnasium.

In addition to the gymnasium, the center features a weight room, locker rooms, offices and a conference room. Although the center's showcase sports are volleyball and basketball, the facility will be available for training for all of the college's 19 sports. The two newest, added this year, are wrestling and competitive dance.

Until now, the Calumet College of St. Joseph "nomads" have been using the Hammond Civic Center and other venues for home games.

(For this story and more news from the Diocese of Gary, log on to the Web site of the Northwest Indiana Catholic at www.nwicatholic.com.)

DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE

National program helps reach out to those away from the Church

KOKOMO—Lorene Hanley Duquin can relate to a troubling statistic: According to a 2008 Pew Forum survey, 10 percent of all Americans are former Catholics.

Duquin fell away from the Church after her confirmation. An encounter with a priest helped lead Duquin back to the faith. Her husband eventually joined the Catholic Church, too.

Now, she coordinates the "Come & See" program for the Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y., and speaks all over the country on how to reach out to those who want to re-establish a relationship with God and the Church. She is the author of the book *When a Loved One Leaves the Church*.

Duquin was the guest speaker at a "Catholic Homecoming: An Evening for Catholics Worried About Family and Friends Who Have Left the Catholic Faith" on Sept. 8 at St. Joan of Arc Church. "Beginning the Journey," an opportunity to invite family and friends back to the faith, is set for Oct. 20.

Duquin's practical advice "equips us with the potential—if you will, the tools—on how to speak with those we love and know who are not necessarily practicing the faith with us, so that those souls will be touched by our faith," said Father Ted Dudzinski, pastor of St. Joan of Arc and St. Patrick parishes in Kokomo.

"You never realize what impact you might have planting seeds," said St. Joan of Arc parishioner John Christensen, one of approximately 100 people who



Lorene Hanley Duquin, author of *When a Loved One Leaves the Church*, speaks at a "Catholic Homecoming" event at St. Joan of Arc Church in Kokomo on Sept. 8.

attended the program.

Catholics leave for many reasons, she said. They're too busy, they don't feel welcome, they didn't like a certain priest they once knew, they are cohabiting, they married outside the Church or they are divorced and mistakenly believe they have been excommunicated.

Others say they don't need organized religion or rebel against a faith imposed upon them as children. Some blame God for some personal tragedy or move so often that they never join a parish. Some have little spirituality, worshipping only money and possessions.

All those explanations create "a really frustrating situation" for practicing Catholics who know and love them, Duquin said. Many feel guilty or awkward and seek advice on what to do.

Prayer is essential. "Ask God to shower his love on the people you love who are away from the Church," she said.

Duquin said that several things tend to draw lapsed Catholics back: A crisis makes a person see he can't deal with everything alone, a spouse persuades a mate to join the family at Mass or a middle-aged person recognizes his own mortality and thinks more deeply about the meaning of life.

New president installed at Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer on Sept. 18

RENSELAER—The third lay president in the history of Saint Joseph's College was officially installed on Sept. 18 in a ceremony filled with music, symbolism, blessings and hope.

The leadership style of President F. Dennis Riegelnege was described as "very Precious Bloodish." He was challenged to push for unity, inclusiveness and the development of human potential.

"I want us to challenge ourselves like we've never been challenged before," Riegelnege told approximately 150 faculty members, students, family and friends.

The liberal arts college with more than 1,000 students has been sponsored by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood since 1889.

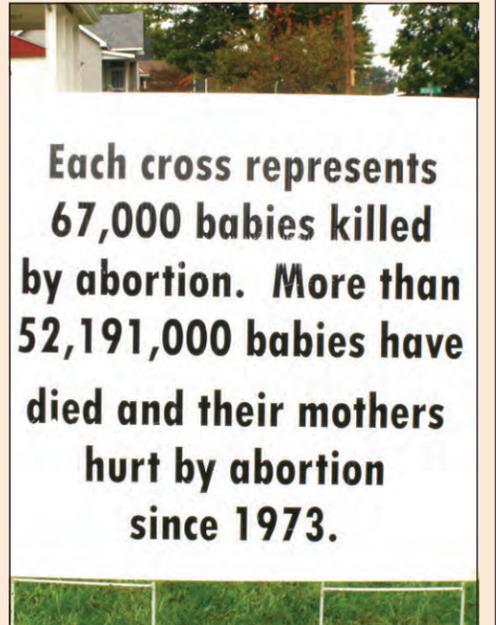
Riegelnege began as president on July 1, succeeding the retiring Ernest Mills, who had held the post for eight years. The Sept. 18 installation was held in the chapel, a twin-domed landmark at the heart of campus.

"This is a glorious day and a glorious day in the history of Saint Joseph's College," said Bishop William L. Higi, principal celebrant at the Mass of Installation. "... It is a time of hope and a time to look to the future with great enthusiasm."

(For these stories and more news from the Diocese of Lafayette, log on to the Web site of The Catholic Moment at www.thecatholicmoment.org.) †

Building a culture of life

Respect Life Month began on Oct. 1 throughout the U.S. On Sept. 27, members of the Jennings County pro-life group in North Vernon erected a lawn display at St. Mary (Nativity of the Virgin Mary) Parish, 212 Washington St., in North Vernon. The display represents the number of babies killed in abortions since 1973. More than 30 volunteers stepped off and pounded 600 crosses into the rain-softened ground, which represent the number of unborn babies aborted in Indiana each month. The lawn display will remain on the site throughout October. Every Monday during October, there will be a short prayer service at 7:15 p.m. at the "Field of Crosses." The public is invited to attend. For more information, contact Carolyn Doxsee at cmdoxsee@comcast.net.



POVERTY

continued from page 1

U.S. served 8.5 million people.

"Unlike McDonald's, our goal is not to increase the number of people served," Father Snyder said.

Yet Catholic Charities sees this economy as an opportunity, as the priest put it, to "build a better nation that leaves fewer behind."

And the Catholic Church is right to help with the job, said Father Snyder, noting that two priests who helped found the movement in 1910 later played a role in developing Social Security.

Catholic Charities workers seemed fueled by the goal to reduce poverty, but unsure about just how to proceed yet.

"Everyone wants to do it," said Deacon Brian Escobedo from Catholic Charities in Albuquerque, N.M. "It's not a matter of whether, but how you are going to do it. We won't back off."

CNN contributor and presidential adviser David Gergen challenged the charity agency executives to be leaders in this time of change. He called for socially innovative ways to tackle poverty and other vexing issues.

"If you want to go first, then go alone," he said. "If you want to go far, then go together."

Mark Ganz, president and CEO of Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon, sat on a panel whose goal was to help form a strategy for reducing poverty.

"Instead of more activity, or even more money, we need more collaboration," said Ganz, noting that Oregon alone has 15,000 nonprofit groups addressing poverty. In neighboring Washington state, there are 24,000 groups.

Ganz urged the charity workers to "stay focused on relationships" between agencies and with the private sector as opposed to limiting themselves within a model of "institutional responsibility."

Kevin Walker, also on the panel, runs a Minnesota foundation that aims to reduce poverty in eight states. He said the general public is willing to do more than donate money to address poverty.

His group did a survey in the Midwest region that showed a quarter of the public had opened their homes as shelter to a friend or loved one in need during the current recession. That is a sign of massive will that Walker said could be channeled.

"We need to redefine the sense of the common good and figure out what role each of us can play in getting us out of this trough," he said.

Jodi Pfarr, a panel member who runs a Minneapolis nonprofit providing housing for homeless women, said the funders of anti-poverty programs need to be more patient. Grants that expire after a year don't give agencies time to get at the root of problems,



Rachel Lanigan, a Portland, Ore., bike commuter, listens to Oregon Catholic Charities director Dennis Keenan at a free breakfast served to bicyclists on Sept. 23. Catholic Charities USA held its annual gathering in the bike-friendly city on Sept. 24-26 and called for a new public consciousness and cooperation on poverty.

Pfarr explained, arguing that it takes about seven years to bring a systemic change.

Pfarr added that solutions to social ills work best when people of all classes are involved in how they are designed—the poor, the middle class and the wealthy.

Good collaboration, the panel concluded, takes humility, willingness to change, passion and enlightened self-interest.

Holy Cross Father Tom Doyle, executive vice president of the University of Portland, encouraged the workers in their Gospel-based work.

"Catholic Charities goes to markets nobody wants to serve," Father Doyle said. "There is a reason no one goes there. There is no profit, other than eternal life."

In the days before the gathering in bike-friendly Portland, Catholic Charities served a free breakfast to hundreds of cycle commuters on one of the bridges crossing the Willamette River.

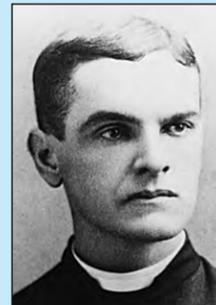
Pre-convention activities included a group bicycle tour along the Portland waterfront, a place shared by homeless residents, joggers, picnickers and yachters.

The meal and the tour highlighted Cycling for Change, the cross-country, poverty-awareness ride initiated by Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo. It is set to begin in May on the coast of Washington state. Jesuit Father Matt Ruhl, 50, will lead the ride, which will stop in dozens of cities to discuss regional poverty issues.

Catholic Charities USA is marking its centennial. Following a yearlong series of summits, leaders will convene in Washington in September 2010 to conclude the commemoration and put plans into action. †

Beatification of priest and Knights of Columbus founder takes another step forward

HARTFORD, Conn. (CNS)—Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, said he hopes that consideration of new evidence of a possible miracle will lead to the beatification of the founder of the Knights of Columbus.



Fr. Michael J. McGivney

Anderson made the remarks to *The Catholic Transcript*, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Hartford, moments before Hartford Archbishop Henry J. Mansell signed documents containing new information gathered by the tribunal that is investigating the cause for canonization for Father Michael J. McGivney.

The documents, which remain secret, were sealed on Sept. 22 in the presence of about 50 witnesses and prepared for delivery to the Vatican.

Father McGivney, who was born in 1852 and died in 1890, was a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford who founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 in New Haven. The cause for his sainthood formally began in Hartford in 1997.

Anderson said the ceremony marked "a very important day for the cause of Father McGivney because it is the conclusion of the medical evidence and assessment [of] the miracle that's been submitted, or what we hope will be considered a miracle, and so this is a very important step for us."

"The Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints will now have valuable additional testimony that clarifies and adds significantly to the original submission," he continued. "We believe that the Congregation will now have all the information it needs to complete its assessment of the case although, of course, this review could take several years." †

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Maintaining family ties is challenging but beneficial

By Mary Jo Pedersen

I recently attended the 60th wedding anniversary of my aunt and uncle. Three of my father's four remaining siblings were there, surprisingly spry for their ages.

Their children and grandchildren were less recognizable each year: the dark hair, thick Italian eyebrows and olive skin slowly giving way over the generations to a more cosmopolitan mix of blonds and redheads with blue eyes.

The stories recalled with my first cousins, whether truth or myth, are the glue that holds us together across years and miles.

I noticed that many of us now have the "Italian trunk" figure of our mothers and are still true to the recipes of our grandmother. Though our reunions are mostly at funerals and weddings, we are still connected by a strong thread of traditions and values that sustained our first-generation Italian parents.

Mark Twain once said that children are both a blessing and an inestimable bother. I think the same is true for extended families.

It's a bother to keep track of marriages and anniversaries, new babies and countless moves! But it's a blessing to share memories of our childhood and our now-deceased parents, and to let our children see that this clan values family and faith.

Extended families give us a sense of identity and belonging to a larger human family. Cousin Jason's untimely death and his family's survival, Aunt June's miraculous recovery from cancer and the birth of hoped-for babies are stories that belong to all of us.

Just as the retelling of stories of God's saving actions in the Old Testament helped the Israelites to persevere in tough times, so our stories give us hope and reconnect us with one another as we recall how God has sustained us through the years.

My aging aunts and uncles launched their children, nieces and nephews into the future. Now they are falling backward, calling my generation to charity and fidelity by way of nursing-home visits, cards and meals offered in support.

Sending a card or visiting a nursing home is a family responsibility, not a bother. It is also an act of faith. Children and grandchildren observe and learn that the corporal works of mercy are not merely platitudes, but daily family duties.

Families provide identity, help pass on religious and moral values, and offer support.

But how do we stick together when the older generation dies, relatives change names and extended family members extend across



In a society where mobility is easy, maintaining ties in an extended family can be difficult. But the hard work it entails can bear much fruit.

the globe?

Two important things are necessary in strengthening the fabric of family. The first provides a blessing; the second may be a bother. Anything you love will require both.

Most families don't separate simply because of distance or busyness. The threads of family connection are torn by personality clashes and disagreements that lead to resentment or hurt that is not reconciled.

So the first essential for families is an attitude of reconciliation and forgiveness.

Extended families are made up of an infinite variety of personalities, ways of parenting, attitudes toward money, etc. Disagreements and conflicts cause people to take sides. But, as one matriarch told her family, "You need to let it go like water off a duck's back."

"Charity begins at home," said one mother of a large Irish family. And the

Christian virtue of charity means loving others the way God loves them, unconditionally despite their faults and failings.

The second essential thing for families is to maintain some kind of connection despite

distances. Reunions are best, but for some families they are not possible. But modern technology makes it easier than ever before for families to stay in touch.

Some ways that families are intentional about staying connected are:

- A quarterly family e-newsletter—It takes one technologically astute person. The trick is getting everyone to submit information.

- In one family, the seniors are responsible for getting their adult children and grandkids to send news at least monthly: babies, job changes, new addresses and phone numbers, engagements, special birthday or anniversary celebrations,

Sending a card or visiting a nursing home is a family responsibility, not a bother. It is also an act of faith. Children and grandchildren observe and learn that the corporal works of mercy are not merely platitudes, but daily family duties.

requests for prayers, promotions, awards, etc. Even babies' first steps make it into some newsletters!

- A family address book—The hectic pace of life and high mobility of families makes this a must!

On a recent summer vacation, one family discovered that cousins were living in two of the cities they were passing through. A phone call or meeting for ice cream keeps family members connected.

We recently met some distant cousins while visiting Copenhagen, Denmark. Within a week of our return, they were on Facebook with our children, sharing hopes of future meetings with American relatives.

The fabric of family is continually woven over time, patched and repaired. It is a strong yet delicate fabric.

A piece of Chinese wisdom applies to our efforts to preserve this fabric of family life: "Govern a family as you would cook a small fish—very gently."

(Mary Jo Pedersen, a veteran coordinator of marriage and family spirituality programs, lives in Omaha, Neb. She is the author of *More Than Meets the Eye: Finding God in the Creases and Folds of Family Life* from St. Mary's Press.) †

Discussion Point

Extended families reach beyond blood relations

This Week's Question

Who do you consider part of your extended family, and why?

"I consider my six children's spouses and their families, and our close friends as extended family. Also, my husband's family for me, as my family is for him. ... Even though we don't have constant contact with everyone, ... [we remember them] before the Lord. You can imagine what our prayer list looks like." (Greta Krukemeyer, Akron, Ohio)

"It definitely goes beyond those we're related to. Our parish family is always important to us. We just lost our pastor very suddenly, and the outpouring of people at the wake and funeral was magnificent, and showed me how much we mean to each other." (Agnes Walter, New Smyrna Beach, Fla.)

"My relatives and close friends [are like extended family] because I feel if I needed them they'd be there. Intimacy defines close friends—sharing things you wouldn't tell most people ... and holding each other's confidences." (Arlene Thomas, Boyne City, Mich.)

"My ... parishioners are extended family for me. My parents have died and we have no family in the area so when I think of who I'd go to for support, I think of friends from church." (Suzanne Fitzsimmons, Little Silver, N.J.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Do you think it is difficult for men to answer the call to priesthood today? Why? Why not?

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. †



From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Basic Catholicism: Spiritual and religious

(Thirty-fourth in a series)

You have probably seen, or perhaps heard, someone comment that he or she “is spiritual but not religious.” It seems to be an excuse for seeking spiritual experiences while avoiding any type of organized religion. Americans seem always to be seeking the spiritual, searching for spiritual values in our secular society. But many of these people absolutely reject religion like a plague. They see spirituality as freedom but religion as confining.

However, spirituality without religion is incomplete. One can be both spiritual and religious. A good Catholic uses the gifts that religion provides to make him or her more spiritual.

Too much of what passes for spirituality today smacks of a self-improvement system. It is geared toward making one feel better, either physically or mentally. That’s fine as far as it goes, but it doesn’t go far enough.

It’s All Good/Patti Lamb

Whatever we are called to do, we can do it for God

I know a young man in college who is struggling to choose the right major.



I heard him say that one degree he is considering would probably be more fulfilling, but another might be more lucrative. He wants to make a difference, but he also wants to earn some money.

I commend him for his prudent planning. It is good—and necessary—to have a plan.

The most relevant counsel I can give—besides praying about it, of course—comes from the *Rule* of St. Benedict: “That in all things God may be glorified.” (In Latin, “*Ut in omnibus glorificetor Deus.*”)

If we were talking, he would politely acknowledge my two cents, remind me to “keep it real” (he is very hip) and proceed to ask how the *Rule* of St. Benedict applies to choosing a major.

I suppose another way to say it is, “No matter where you are, you can do God’s work.”

As much as we should be practical and make plans for the future, we still need to

Religion reaches out to others—or at least it should. It teaches love of God and love of neighbor because of our love for God. It is possible to have spiritual experiences that have no relationship with God, but they are incomplete.

St. Thomas Aquinas said that religion is that part of the virtue of justice in which we human beings publicly and privately give God the worship due to him. When we do that, we combine spirituality with religion. We become both spiritual and religious.

Then we should carry it a bit further and accept Jesus Christ’s call to unite with others in communion with his mystical body, the Church. Through the graces we receive in baptism and the other sacraments, we are connected deeply to Christ and to all others.

Within Catholicism, we are offered all kinds of help to develop our spirituality. Catholicism has a vast body of writings about spirituality, beginning with St. Paul and including Sts. Augustine, Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Bernard, Thomas Aquinas, Ignatius of Loyola, Thérèse of Lisieux and numerous others. In more recent times, we have books by Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen,

live in the present. The profession my nephew chooses isn’t as important as the attitude with which he approaches it. I think the right attitude is to be open to serving God. If you do whatever you are called to do with the intention of making God happy, then you can’t go wrong.

I’ve also learned that what we are called to do can change. Our roles in life evolve. No matter how determined we are to play a particular role, circumstances can lead to entirely different roles we never would have expected. Wherever we “work,” we can act as ambassadors for God. So technically, we’re all working for the same boss.

The difficult part is to remember that not all of God’s work here on Earth is glamorous. In fact, a lot of it can be quite dull. But my friend, Pat, reminds me of St. Thérèse of Lisieux (the Little Flower), who approached life’s tasks by God’s standards instead of the world’s standards.

St. Therese understood that the “little things” do matter. When I say “little things,” I mean those everyday, monotonous and mundane tasks that are part of life. She believed in doing the ordinary with extraordinary love.

It wasn’t until a time when I became sick and unable to perform ordinary tasks,

Basil Pennington and numerous others.

The Church offers a variety of spiritualities, including Ignatian, Salesian, Franciscan, Carmelite and Benedictine. Religious orders offer oblate programs—members who are not solemnly professed, but who try to live the charisms of the orders within their particular state in life.

Various forms of meditation and contemplative prayer have always been and continue to be staples of Christian prayer.

Within the Catholic Church, there is some form of spirituality to satisfy anyone. There are charismatic groups for those who find that type of prayer appealing. The rosary is prayed in most parishes for more traditional Catholics. Small Christian communities, faith-sharing groups and Bible study groups are common.

Our churches are available for people to experience their spirituality before the Blessed Sacrament, either in those parishes where perpetual adoration is practiced or simply before the tabernacle.

The point is the Catholic Church provides the opportunity for everyone to be both spiritual and religious. One does not have to choose one or the other. †

the kind that keep a household and a family operating, that I realized how important the “little things” are.

At that time, family and friends came over to cook and clean. When one friend repeatedly delivered hot dinners for my family, I told her she was “cooking her way to heaven, one casserole at a time.”

Whatever we are called to do, we can do it for God. This includes mopping a floor, fixing a faucet, filing a paper, burping a baby or whatever else your agenda entails. It doesn’t matter if that is in a laundry room or a board room.

When I think of that young man selecting a major in college, I fondly recall the favorite slogan of a former English teacher. She said, “Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something.”

“That’s not just a sentence full of pronouns, but a lesson in life,” she would say.

So I suppose we should offer up our work, however humble it is, to God, knowing that he is using us right where we are, if only we cooperate.

(Patti Lamb, a member of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †

Faith, Hope and Charity/

David Siler

Make me a channel of your peace

For most of us, Sept. 21, 2009, came and went like any other day.



Hopefully, the message is spreading and some of you were aware that this day marked the 10th anniversary of “Peace One Day.” Hopefully, you could all sense an extra measure of

peace in the air that day.

In 2001, the United Nations unanimously adopted a resolution to formally establish an annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence. The U.N. International Day of Peace is fixed on the global calendar on the 21st day of September.

If there is one thing that our world, our nation, our states, cities, towns and neighborhoods could use a bit more of, it is certainly peace. And like the song that we have all sung hundreds of times, “let it begin with me.”

It is easy to look at the major conflicts in the world or the current debate over health care in our own country or any conflict in our own home and think that, “If only he or she would ...,” then we would have peace. But as the song “Let There Be Peace on Earth” and the Gospel remind us, we are all responsible for bringing about peace.

I invite each of us to consider these questions: What can I do today to bring about more peace in the world? With whom do I need to reconcile a broken relationship? Who has been a recipient of my anger that needs an apology? Who do I know that needs me to pray for peace for them?

I have learned over the years by observing all kinds of conflicts—and having stirred up a few on my own—that violence only begets violence. This violence does not have to be obvious to another, but can rather be as simple as violent thoughts. Violent thoughts create an energy that cannot help but find a place to land where some kind of damage will be done.

You can test this theory by simply thinking about someone toward whom you have some animosity and observe the energy in your body—your heart rate will increase as will your blood pressure. We can probably all remember a time when we have had a difficult encounter at work, and we may come home and be quick to yell at our children or our spouse. Just as thoughts and prayers for peace can bring about peace, so too can thoughts of anger, violence or hatred bring about conflict of every kind.

Being a person of peace does not mean that we don’t take on the tough issues of our own time, but simply that we approach them with an attitude of peace. Just as our Savior did upon the cross, we can offer a prayer, “Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do.” And we can pray as St. Francis of Assisi taught us: “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.”

Sept. 21 each year is just one day where we are invited to send out into the world nothing but thoughts and prayers for peace. Wouldn’t that be a good lesson for every day of the year?

To learn more about Peace One Day, log on to www.PeaceOneDay.org.

(David Siler is executive director of the Secretariat for Catholic Charities and Family Ministries. E-mail him at dsiler@archindy.org.) †

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

For Respect Life Month, meet Umbert the Unborn

In the realm of the pro-life movement, I thought I had read just about everything—until recently when I was introduced to an artist-cartoonist through e-mail.



The talented cartoonist is Gary Cangemi, who has penned comic strips and editorial cartoons for newspapers since his

youth, winning awards along the way.

When I contacted him, I didn’t realize that he and his wife, Nancy, and their three children—Peter, Katherine and Becca—are active Catholics in Pennsylvania.

His delightful book, *Umbert The Unborn: A Womb With A View*, published by Circle Press, is dedicated to his family.

The cartoon made its debut in the *National Catholic Register* in 2001 and was an instant success. Since then, Cangemi has had many publications feature his creative cartoons that dignify life.

When I began reading this charming book, I learned that the clever Umbert baby who talks from the womb is an appropriate cartoon for anyone of any age to read.

When I mentioned the book to a non-Catholic friend, I was considered naïve since babies in the womb don’t talk.

The negativity didn’t bother me. When I was pregnant with each of my three daughters, I silently or softly spoke to each of them when I was alone—and I imagined them responding through movements in the womb.

It’s good to know that Cangemi also takes his pro-life work on the road for presentations to groups and organizations.

Cangemi not only shares his cartoons and story about how Umbert the Unborn came to life, he also wonderfully celebrates life. He has been a speaker and workshop presenter at numerous pro-life events, including the National Right to Life Convention.

As Cangemi wrote on an Internet promotion, “The unborn child finally has a voice of his own.”

His book explains how he came to produce what he has written, and there are

75 pages of precious, educational, life-confirming cartoons titled “Out of the Mouths of Unborn Babies.”

Examples can be found on the artist’s Web site.

Cangemi’s book and cartoons also include important facts about a baby’s life from conception to birth.

Each page of the book features “Umbert’s Facts of Life,” explaining every aspect of life in the womb.

Even with my experience as a mother, I learned new prenatal information from this book of cartoons. How I wish I had access to something similar during my child-bearing years.

Cangemi’s delightful work, a labor of love and faith, is a true mission—and is appropriate for anyone.

For additional information, log on to Gary Cangemi’s Web site at www.umberttheunborn.com or contact him by e-mail at cangemiart@aol.com.

(Shirley Vogler Meister, a member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009

- Genesis 2:18-24
- Hebrews 2:9-11
- Mark 10:2-16

The Book of Genesis, the source of the first reading for this weekend, includes stories of creation, and precisely of the creation of women.



Sadly, the creation narratives of Genesis have become such a battleground and are so badly misunderstood that people rarely turn to them for personal insight into reality

itself.

Yet, the creation narratives abound in great wisdom and exceptional insight. For example, this reading reveals that women, as well as men, are of divine creation, and that women are men's equals in human dignity since they share the same nature.

Even so, profound differences between the genders pertain. This fact humbles neither gender. Instead, it proclaims the individuality of each person as real and physical, and also says that all humans are in the one community of humanity.

Genesis does not take procreation for granted. Procreation is a God-given ability, and it requires the closest of bonds between a man and a woman. In this bond, if truly worthy of humans and of their sublime nature, love is the adhesive. So procreation is the product of human love. In this, human procreation reflects God.

The Epistle to the Hebrews is the source of the second reading.

Hebrews magnificently extols the majesty of Jesus, the Son of God made flesh. Jesus, the Son of God, the Savior, links with us in the unbreakable bond of human nature.

St. Mark's Gospel furnishes the last reading.

This passage, somewhat but not exactly duplicated in the Gospel of Matthew, is one of the most discussed sections of the New Testament.

Intrigue lay behind the question put to Jesus as to whether or not divorce could be permitted. If nothing else, taking a strong stand, one way or the other, could plunge Jesus into a debate among Jewish religious scholars.

Divorce in first-century Judaism was no great boon to women. It was an unregulated, strictly personal action by husbands alone, and divorced women simply were cast out onto the mercy of society.

Additionally, King Herod's family was riddled with infidelity. To denounce divorce easily could have been twisted to be a denunciation of the unforgiving Herod.

Instead, Jesus returned to the basic revelation of God about human life. Marriage is a bond between a man and woman that reflects the very life and reality of God.

Reflection

The Austrian emperor and Hungarian king, Karl, who saw his empire dismembered then collapse during World War I, died in exile but has been beatified. He was recognized by the Church not because of his political prowess, but because of his personal holiness.

Several years before coming to the throne, Karl married an Italian princess, Zita, who also was a devoted Catholic throughout her long life. Her deep faith, it was said, enabled her to bear her husband's humiliation and her own decades of widowhood.

Before their wedding, Karl and Zita made formal, silent retreats. They made the retreats, they explained, because as husband and wife their chief responsibility would be to help each other attain heaven. This was paramount. It came before governing the vast empire. It even came before parenting. It came before everything else.

It was a view of marriage that many people now would regard as excessively religious simply because our society's values, at least our cultural values, have become so outrageously irreligious.

The words of Jesus in this weekend's Gospel, as well as the story from Genesis, tell us that marriage is a profoundly religious reality in which God must be first. It utilizes a great capacity of humans to love, and also the ability to procreate. These are God's gifts. Humans possess these gifts for a purpose.

The purpose is to join with God, now and eternally, and to bring God to human life and experience. †

Daily Readings

Monday, Oct. 5
Jonah 1:1-2:1, 11
(Response) Jonah 2:2-5, 8
Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday, Oct. 6
Bruno, priest
Marie-Rose Durocher, virgin
Jonah 3:1-10
Psalm 130:1-4, 7-8
Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday, Oct. 7
Our Lady of the Rosary
Jonah 4:1-11
Psalm 86:3-6, 9-10
Luke 11:1-4

Thursday, Oct. 8
Malachi 3:13-20b
Psalm 1:1-4, 6
Luke 11:5-13

Friday, Oct. 9
Denis, bishop and martyr
and his companions, martyrs
John Leonardi, priest
Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2
Psalm 9:2-3, 6, 8-9, 16
Luke 11:15-26

Saturday, Oct. 10
Joel 4:12-21
Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12
Luke 11:27-28

Sunday, Oct. 11
Twenty-eighth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Wisdom 7:7-11
Psalm 90:12-17
Hebrews 4:12-13
Mark 10:17-30
or Mark 10:17-27

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

Annulment cases may be formal or documentary petitions of nullity

QOur daughter was divorced from her husband and is now seeking an annulment. She has been told that the process should be shorter because her case will not be a "formal case."



She hesitated to ask what that means. How would one annulment case be different from another? (Virginia)

AGenerally, annulment cases are of two kinds, formal and documentary.

A formal case is one in which some judgment is required on the existence of grounds for a declaration of annulment, in other words, that no valid marriage ever existed between the two spouses.

If the petitioner in a case claims, for example, that the other partner had an absolute intention never to have children, the existence of that intention from the beginning of the marriage would need to be proven by weighing the testimony of "witnesses" who describe what they know about the case.

Similarly, the petitioner might claim that his or her partner was so grossly immature or otherwise psychologically handicapped that a genuine commitment to married life was impossible from the beginning. Here, too, a panel of competent professionals would need to examine available evidence and attempt to determine whether the petitioner's claim is supported by the facts.

Depending on the circumstances, formal cases may require anywhere from a few months to a year or two years.

Documentary cases require no such judgment about the grounds for annulment. Mainly what is needed is appropriate documentation.

As one example, a Catholic may be married by a justice of the peace, without a dispensation from the bishop, which is known as a "defect of form" case.

The primary requirements for an annulment in such a case are a Catholic baptism certificate, a certificate of the civil marriage and testimony—from family or friends who would know—that the civil marriage was never validated in a Catholic liturgy.

This kind of annulment may possibly be completed in a few weeks, especially if it can be finalized in the diocese where the petitioner lives. Apparently, the

annulment your daughter is seeking is of this type.

As always, couples contemplating a Catholic marriage when one of them was married previously, regardless of where or with whom the former marriage took place, should contact their parish priest immediately before beginning to set a date for the wedding. That can save them a lot of misunderstanding and hurt.

QOne priest in our area keeps his thumb and forefinger together after the consecration, and then washes his fingers after Communion. The other priests do not.

I can recall when this was done at every Mass. Is there a rule about these things today? (Florida)

AYou're unusually observant about what goes on at Mass. Formerly, before about 1974, instructions for Mass required priests to keep their forefinger and thumb together after the consecration, and then to wash their fingers in an "ablution cup" after Communion.

The present *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* simply says that, after Communion, if a particle of the host adheres to his fingers, the priest should wipe his fingers over the paten or, if necessary, wash them.

In August 2002, the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Liturgy pointed out that no rite prescribed in liturgical books before the Second Vatican Council should be introduced into later liturgies.

All texts and rubrics in previous rites are supplanted by the present ordinary celebrations of the Mass.

The committee reminded priests of the principle that "no person [other than legitimate authority], even if he be a priest, may add, remove or change anything in the liturgy on his own authority."

Thus, keeping fingers together and washing hands after Communion are no longer required and, in fact, should not be done as a general rule.

(A free brochure answering questions that Catholics ask about annulments is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address or by e-mail to jjdietzen@aol.com.) †

My Journey to God

Two Funerals in Two Weeks

Here I am again, just fourteen days
And this is the second funeral I am
attending.

Sitting in the passenger seat,
Another funeral comes to mind.
Not the devastating one.
Not the one that changed my whole life.
But another one.

My mother-in-law's funeral came into my
mind.
My niece, standing at the end of the coffin
as I approached,
Said, "Grandma is in heaven."
Words of love whispered to me as I
leaned down to hear.

I said, "Yes, and wasn't she surprised
when Jesus came for her?"
My niece, eyes wide, asked, "What do
you mean?"

I said, "There she was going about her

everyday life,
Filling the car with gas, getting her
root beer,
Sitting in the car enjoying the day and
the drink.

"Then she felt the touch on her shoulder,
A hand reaching for hers,
Saw the beautiful face smiling at her,
Heard the velvet voice saying,
'Come with me. I love you.'
How surprised and happy she must
have been
Reaching out to take His hand."

The memory vanishes as the car comes
to a stop at church.
I pray that I may one day see the smiling
face,
Reach for the hand,
Hear the velvet voice say to me,
"Come with me. I love you."

By Trudy Bledsoe

(Trudy Bledsoe is a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis. The hand of Christ is depicted by Lucas Turnbloom in an illustration.)

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.

ALLISON, William Emery, 89, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, Sept. 2. Husband of Margaret Allison. Father of Kim, Denny and Larry Allison. Brother of Emily King, Judy and Mary Jane Allison. Grandfather of four.

BEINEKE, William, 72, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, Sept. 8. Husband of Beatrice Beineke. Father of Michelle Simon and Jeffrey Beineke. Brother of Eileen Edge, Cathy Farris, Vera Gorman, Carolyn Staley and Ronald Beineke. Grandfather of four.

BRATTAIN, Denise, 52, St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County, Sept. 15. Wife of James Brattain. Mother of Janae Hankins. Stepmother of Kim Wallace. Daughter of Grace Ellerman. Sister of Dennis Ellerman. Grandmother of four.

BUTLER, Catherine Marie, 86, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, Sept. 17. Wife of William Butler. Sister of Rosie Dooley, Helen Relford and William McCotter.

CAIN, Charles F., 80, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Sept. 24. Husband of Therese (Speth) Cain. Father of Linda Teagardin, Kenneth and Steven Cain. Brother of Charlotte Thornberry. Grandfather of seven. Great-grandfather of two.

COLOMBO, George A., Jr., 50, St. Bernadette, Indianapolis, Sept. 15. Son of George and Joyce (Dunn) Colombo. Brother of Mary Anna Coffey, Dennis and Michael Colombo.

DAVIS, James O., 81, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Sept. 16. Husband of Ella Davis. Father of Rebecca Mathias, Christina O'Grady, Anita Schumacher, Jami Shepherd, Teresa Tatlock and James Davis. Brother of Frank Davis. Grandfather of 17. Great-grandfather of three.

DRUMMOND, George E., 82, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Sept. 26. Husband of Roseanne (Sterrett) Drummond. Father of Sharon Miles and Tina Drummond. Brother of William Drummond. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of one.

DUONG, Peter Anthony, 19, St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute, Sept. 9. Son of Taihung and Lisa (Giorgianna) Duong. Brother of Patrick Duong. Grandson of Ngoc Anh Vo Thi, Anthony and Rosalie Giorgianna. Great-grandson of Mary Calio.

EPPICH, John C., 63, Good Shepherd, Indianapolis, Sept. 15. Husband of Judy (Dunham) Eppich. Father of Stephanie Daily, Marcia Eppich-Harris and Ashley Eppich.

Brother of Carole Dorsch. Grandfather of three.

ERNSTES, Mary Ann, 88, St. Mary, Greensburg, Sept. 11. Wife of J. Howard Ernestes. Mother of Sara Amrhein, Helen Black, Carol Howe, Dale, Dick, Joe, Ken, Mike and Tom Ernestes. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of 10.

GERGELY, Irene M. (Smith), 89, St. Charles Borromeo, Milan, Aug. 18.

HART, James B., 46, St. Thomas Aquinas, Indianapolis, Sept. 23. Husband of Dee (Ottavi) Hart. Father of Erin, Caleb and Jacob Hart. Son of Joan Hart. Brother of Anne Bennett, David and Joseph Hart.

HUTTON, Steven James, 61, St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute, Sept. 22. Husband of Kathleen (O'Leary) Hutton. Father of Erin Stansifer. Brother of Susan Kahler and David Hutton.

KEATON, Helen F., 92, St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute, Sept. 1. Mother of Linda Salter and Terrence Keaton. Sister of Leona Green. Grandmother of two. Great-grandmother of three.

KENDRICK, Mary Judith, 66, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Indianapolis, Sept. 14. Wife of Ronald Kendrick. Mother of Jason Kendrick. Sister of Sheila Manning. Grandmother of three. Step-grandmother of three.

KLEINDORFER, Paul, 73, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, Sept. 6. Husband of Marian Kleindorfer. Father of Kimberly Gater and Christopher Kleindorfer. Brother of Pauline and David Kleindorfer. Grandfather of three.

MCCANN, Robert Samuel, 77, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, Sept. 8. Husband of Patricia

McCann. Father of Beth Bush, Michele and Brian McCann. Grandfather of three.

O'MARA, Teresa K., 69, St. Mary, Greensburg, Sept. 22. Sister of Edward O'Mara.

PRICE, James S., 61, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, Sept. 21. Father of Donovan Price.

RAINS, Dorothy J., 87, St. Matthew the Apostle, Indianapolis, Sept. 8. Mother of Rick Rains. Grandmother of five.

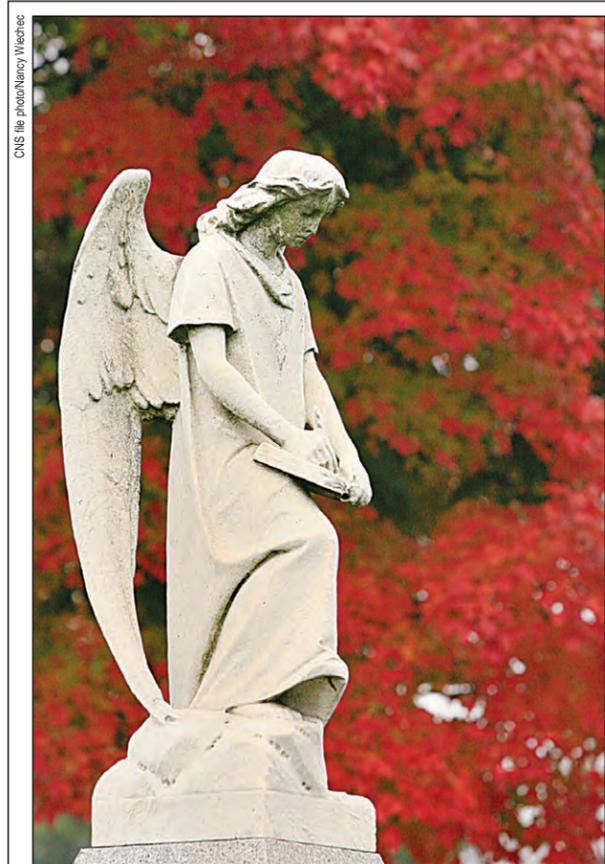
REIGER, David Vincent Paul, 44, St. Patrick, Indianapolis, Sept. 16. Son of Hobert Reiger. Brother of Pamela Alte, Joseph Radican, James and Charles Boles, Bart and Michael Reiger.

SCHULTZ, Eleanor F., 95, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, Sept. 15. Mother of Shirley Abbott and Nancy Matthews. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of three. Great-great-grandmother of one.

SMITH, George C., Sr., 70, St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville, Sept. 11. Husband of Mary Imelda Smith. Father of George Smith Jr. Brother of Cathy Graninger, Betsy Loveland and Mary Ann Sanders. Grandfather of one.

STAUBLIN, Theodore Raymond, 83, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, Sept. 20. Husband of Margaret Staublin. Father of Patsy Vogel and Dennis Martin. Brother of Dorothy Sauley, Paul, Robert and William Staublin. Grandfather of two. Great-grandfather of two.

SWIERGIEL, Ruby J. (Uhs), 78, St. Joseph, Indianapolis, Sept. 14. Mother of Kathy Geisler, Theresa Long, Jennifer McGraph and Gretchen Swiergiel. Sister of Rita Brinegar



Cemetery angel

Fall maple leaves provide a colorful backdrop for a statue in old St. Mary's Cemetery in Washington.

and Leanna Woodley. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of eight.

VASQUEZ, Jose M., Jr., 79, St. Agnes, Nashville, Sept. 6. Husband of Lucinda Vasquez. Father of Luzita Roberts, Ana, Ray, Ricardo and Sam Vasquez. Brother of four. Grandfather of 11. Great-grandfather of 15.

WETTERER, Barbara (Dearing), 77, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, Sept. 19. Mother of Martha Braunschauen, Bridget, Cindy, Julie, Bruce and Tom Wetterer. Sister of Margaret Henderson and Bobby Dearing. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of two. †

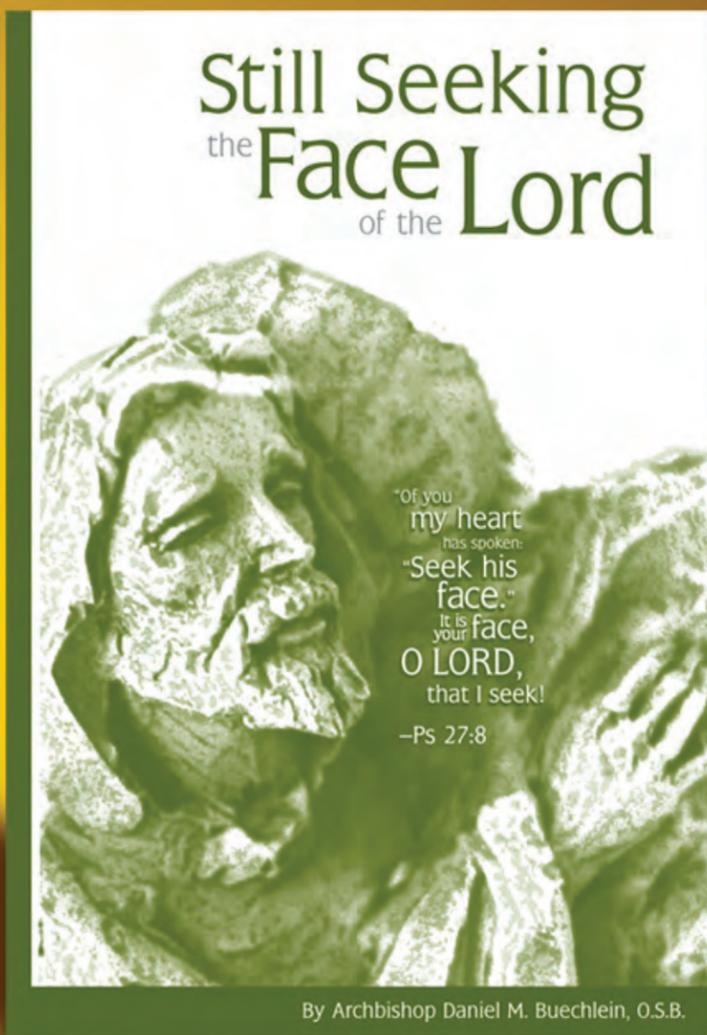
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Mass to culminate 175th anniversary of Millhousen parish

By Sean Gallagher

In the early 1800s, German immigrants who had settled in Cincinnati began moving into southeastern Indiana.

As a result, many parishes were established in that part of the archdiocese during that time, including Immaculate Conception Parish in Millhousen in southern Decatur County, which recognizes 1834 as the year in which it was founded.

That year marked both the founding of Millhousen as a town and the celebration of the first Mass there, where some 12 Catholic families lived.

Franciscan Sister Christine Ernestes, Immaculate Conception's parish life coordinator for the past 14 years, reflected on this recently while on a pilgrimage to Vincennes, Ind.



Sr. Christine Ernestes, O.S.F.

"Twelve families started a parish in the middle of nowhere that has lived on and passed the faith on," she said.

The parish has had several monthly events to mark its

175th anniversary. The celebrations will culminate with an anniversary Mass at 2 p.m. on Oct. 11 in the parish church, 2081 E. County Road 820 S., near Greensburg.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein is scheduled to be the celebrant.

Visitors are welcome to attend the celebration. A meal at the parish will take place afterward. The parish will provide meat, potatoes and green beans.

Sister Christine said with a smile that those people attending the meal should bring a salad or dessert as the "price for the meal."

The young and old members of the parish today value the way in which the faith has been passed on from generation to generation, and how that faith is embodied in the loving service that the parishioners give to each other.

"It's always been there for me," said June Johannigman, 48, a member of the parish. "If you need a friend, socializing, guidance, prayer, [they're there]. I've lost my mom and dad, and they're a source of strength."

The tradition of service and strength that Johannigman has experienced in recent decades is deeply rooted in the parish, according to lifelong member Ralph Bruns, 83.

"It's just a good, wholesome atmosphere to raise children in," said Bruns, a father of six daughters. "It seems like everyone is more willing to help each other, and are more friendly and outgoing. They'll do things for you and you'll do things for them without expecting any compensation for it."

That welcoming environment in the parish is one of the reasons why Bruns and his wife, Rosemary, are reluctant to move from their farm to a home that, at their age, would



Members of the first and solemn Communion classes of 1932 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Millhousen pose with their pastor, Father Carl Riebenthaler. Ruth Beesley, sixth from left in the back row, 92, recently recalled how the priest, who served as the parish's pastor for 43 years, was greatly loved by the members of the parish.

be easier for them to manage.

"We hate to even think about leaving our parish here in Millhousen," he said. "That says something about the parish."

That strong love for Immaculate Conception, however, once led its members to do something that resulted in the severe canonical penalty of interdict, where the sacraments are forbidden to be celebrated in a parish.

And it all had to do with the name of the parish. When it was founded in 1834, the parish was placed under the patronage of St. Boniface. In the mid-1860s, there was tension between the pastor, Father Ferdinand Hundt, and parishioners.

A new parish church was being constructed—the same one in which parishioners continue to worship—and Father Hundt wanted to use the occasion to rename the parish Immaculate Conception.

The matter came to a head in 1867 when parishioners placed Father Hundt's possessions on the porch of the rectory and locked him out.

In response, Bishop Maurice de St. Palais placed the parish under interdict. It remained that way for six months until a new pastor was assigned.

The parish retained its new name of Immaculate Conception, but the new parish

church was under the patronage of St. Boniface.

Today, the controversy and St. Boniface are historical footnotes. Parishioners commonly refer to the parish and church as a whole as Immaculate Conception. That was the case even 70 years ago during the youth of Ralph Bruns.

"In my era, it was kind of a given by then," he said.

Tensions with pastors may have marked the early history of Immaculate Conception Parish, but the opposite was the case for more than 40 years when Father Carl Riebenthaler served as its pastor from 1928-71.

As part of its anniversary celebration, Bruns and many alumni of the parish's school, which closed in 1971, had a reunion recently at which photos of first and solemn Communion classes from the past were displayed.

"[Father Riebenthaler] seemed to be in all of the pictures," Bruns said.

One of those children shown standing by a seated Father Riebenthaler was Ruth Beesley, 92, an eighth-grader at the parish school in 1932. That year, she celebrated her solemn Communion, a kind of Catholic rite of passage that was common 100 years ago but, according to local Church historian James J. Divita, was starting to die out at that time.

"He should have lived forever because we all loved him," said Beesley, now a member of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus. "We were all his family, I think."

"He was great," Bruns said. "Everyone liked him. He was a very common and down-to-earth priest. You could talk to him."

While memories of Father Riebenthaler may bring smiles to the faces of many older members of Immaculate Conception Parish, others are looking hopefully to its future while still appreciating its past.

Jakob Mattox, 17, is a member of the parish in Millhousen. He and about 20 other youths from the parish received the sacrament of confirmation on May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis during the Mass that celebrated the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Vincennes, which later became the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Jakob was pleased that his parish and the archdiocese share such a historic anniversary. "It shows how old our Church is and how we can stay together and stay united," he said.

With his future plans focused on working in agriculture in the area where he grew up, Jakob, in some ways, represents the future of Immaculate Conception Parish in Millhousen.

"I hope it continues to grow," he said. "I hope that the youth become a little more active and that the [parish] continues to thrive. I have no intention of not attending Immaculate Conception until I die."

(For more information on the Oct. 11 anniversary Mass and dinner at Immaculate Conception Parish in Millhousen, call 812-591-2362 or log on to www.icsdchurches.com.) †

'It's just a good, wholesome atmosphere to raise children in. It seems like everyone is more willing to help each other, and are more friendly and outgoing. They'll do things for you and you'll do things for them without expecting any compensation for it.'

—Ralph Bruns, 83, who has been a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Millhousen his entire life

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Pope urges Czechs to regain values that inspired fight for freedom

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (CNS)—Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the peaceful revolt that brought down the country's communist regime, Pope Benedict XVI urged people in the Czech Republic to rediscover the spiritual and moral values that sustained their struggle for freedom.

In gatherings on Sept. 26-28 with political, social, cultural and religious leaders as well as the Catholic faithful, the pope delivered a message of hope meant to inspire both the country's majority of nonbelievers and the minority Catholic community.

Central to his message was that no society, no matter how democratic, could ever maintain a healthy and ethical sense of freedom without guidance from the truth found in God and the wisdom of faith.

The pope's trip to Prague, Brno, and Stara Boleslav was his 13th trip abroad and his seventh in Europe. The fact that more than half of his apostolic journeys so far have been to Europe reflects his deep concern for revitalizing the continent's Christian heritage.

"True freedom presupposes the search for truth—for the true good—and hence finds its fulfillment precisely in knowing and doing what is right and just," the pope said during a meeting on Sept. 26 with diplomats and political, civil, religious and cultural leaders in Prague's presidential palace.

Under the soaring gilded stucco ceilings of the palace, the pope reminded his audience that the country's hard-fought freedom must be properly used. Leaders in society have the duty to encourage citizens to seek the truth and goodness, he said.

"Jointly we must engage in the struggle for freedom and the search for truth, which either go together, hand in hand, or together they perish in misery," the pope said.

He urged people "to apply their faith respectfully yet decisively in the public arena" so that the truth and wisdom of faith could light the path of human progress.

"Far from threatening the tolerance of differences or cultural plurality, the pursuit of truth makes consensus possible, keeps public debate logical, honest and accountable" and ensures a society that is united and dedicated to the common good, he said.

The Czech Republic represents a unique challenge for the Church. Some 60 percent of the population claims to profess no religious belief—making it the most secular country in Europe.

The largest faith community on the landscape is the Catholic Church, but Catholics are still only 30 percent of all inhabitants, and only a small percent say they are active members of the Church.

The pope told journalists aboard the papal flight to Prague "that normally those who determine the future are the creative minority," and he said this applies to European countries like the Czech Republic.

"The Catholic Church must see itself as a creative minority that has a heritage of values that are not passé but are alive and relevant," he said.

At a welcoming ceremony at Prague's airport, the pope said the impact of 40 years of an atheist totalitarian regime



Pope Benedict XVI arrives in the popemobile for an outdoor Mass in Brno, Czech Republic, on Sept. 27. About 120,000 people attended the event, making it the largest Mass ever celebrated in the Czech Republic.

could not be underestimated. The flame of faith has been kept alive thanks to the many "courageous martyrs whose fidelity to Christ spoke far louder and more eloquently than the voice of their executioners," he said.

At an outdoor Mass on Sept. 28 to celebrate the feast of St. Wenceslas, the patron saint of the Czech Republic, the pope said bearing witness to the Gospel was not easy.

"It is not enough to appear good and honest. One must truly be so. And the good and honest person is the one who does not obscure God's light with his own ego, does not put himself forward, but allows God to shine through," the pope said in his homily.

Sometimes it seems there is little motivation to put Christ first when so many people who exclude God from their lives and show no respect for others end up reaching the highest pinnacles of power or achieve great success, he said.

But "one need only scratch the surface to realize how sad and unfulfilled these people are," and history points to many powerful figures in history who all of a sudden were stripped of their power, he said.

Some 40,000 people assembled for the outdoor Mass in a large field in Stara Boleslav. The town, 15 miles northeast of Prague, represents the spiritual heart of Bohemia and the origin of Czech statehood. Every year on Sept. 28 patriotic sentiment and religious devotion merge as citizens take part in a pilgrimage to Stara Boleslav, where St. Wenceslas, a 10th-century prince credited with bringing Christianity to the Czech people, was murdered by his brother.

The Mass seemed like a mini-World Youth Day celebration as past youth day theme songs were sung and thousands of young people cheered and waved the flags of various countries. Many slept overnight in tents and some even came by water on rafts from a small town three miles away.

After the Mass, the pope told the young people that Christ "knocks on the door of your freedom and asks to be welcomed as a friend." While young people are often led astray by "illusory visions" of happiness, he said, only



Young men and women in traditional dress attend Mass with Pope Benedict XVI in Brno, Czech Republic, on Sept. 27. During his three-day visit, Pope Benedict urged people in the Czech Republic to rediscover spiritual and moral values.

Christ can satisfy the human desire for happiness and meaning in life.

Addressing students and scholars at Prague's Hradcany Castle on Sept. 27, the pope said education is not merely "the accumulation of knowledge or skills" and must include forming the human conscience so that the individual seeks to live a virtuous and ethical life.

The pope highlighted his concern for families and children during his visit on Sept. 26 to the Church of Our Lady of Victory, where he venerated the Infant of Prague.

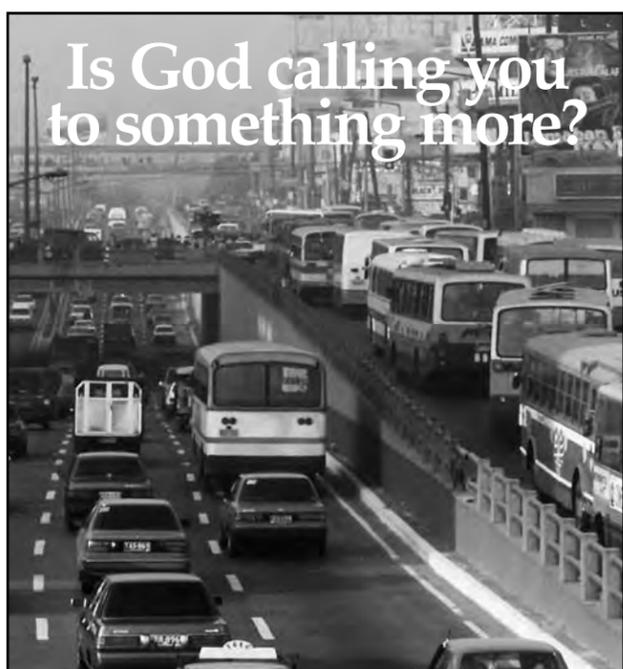
Kneeling before the 18-inch-high statue, which draws 2 million pilgrims a year, the pope gave a special blessing for all the children of the world and appealed for increased attention to children in difficulty. The holy infant recalls the beauty of childhood, he said.

"Yet how many children are neither loved, nor welcomed, nor respected. How many of them suffer violence and every kind of exploitation by the unscrupulous," he said.

There was not much public sign of the pope's presence in Prague, with few posters and very little fanfare along the routes taken by the papal motorcade. Much of the city had emptied out for the three-day holiday weekend, perhaps spurred by dire warnings of traffic snarls during the papal visit.

But the papal visit drew Catholics from all over the Czech nation and from neighboring Austria, Slovakia, Germany and Poland, specifically for the outdoor Mass on Sept. 27 in the Moravian diocese of Brno, some 140 miles southeast of Prague. Local organizers said 120,000 people attended the event, making it the largest Mass ever celebrated in the Czech Republic. †

Pope Benedict XVI prays at the Basilica of St. Wenceslas in Stara Boleslav, Czech Republic, on Sept. 28. St. Wenceslas is the patron saint of the country.



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