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.

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 eradicate poverty.

By federal counts, 40 million Americans live in poverty and 15 million are unemployed. 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.

Last year, Catholic Charities agencies in the U.S. poverty rate

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

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 by 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 Baisville Deanery on Oct. 7.

Archdiocese honors pro-life supporters for their work

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 3 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 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...
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 presents much room for 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 movements 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.”

Beyond the many social and cultural 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 the light is a more direct appeal to shine the light of the Gospel on people and society.

Sailing in Cameroon last spring, the pope said the Church’s essential role in Africa was to present Jesus Christ as the one redeemer, and “not a mixture of traditions” and “correct and perfect their identity” and said globalization tends to be a “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.”

Annette Danielson

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

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Pope Benedict XVI said his right wrist has healed enough so that he can write.

The pope’s right wrist has still not fully recovered from a February injury, but he said during a two-hour flight on Sept. 26 from Rome to the Accra airport that the accident has “taught me patience to not be able to write for six months after the injury.”

The pope said he is still not fully recovered, but he can see his right hand does work and he can do the essentials. He can eat and, above all, he can write.

“During a two-hour flight on Sept. 26, Pope Benedict XVI answered questions on subjects journalists had submitted to the Vatican press office a few days before the flight, the Pope’s Press Office said.

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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 Moresville Road in Indianapolis.

"Finally," Father Glenn O’Connor, the pastor of St. Ann and St. Joseph parishes in Indianapolis, told Achorbishop Buechlein, celebrating 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 2882 S. Holt Road, but at the time, the small cross and holy water at the church were replaced by commercial businesses.

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 in 2004, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis completed a feasibility study on the possible merging of the two adjacent parishes.

St. Joseph Parish was located at 1375 S. Mickey 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 are bound here in faith and love are the living Church sit 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 faithfulness, 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 know all the ups and downs that we’ve had, and the delays, but they were 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 Christ Pentecostal congregation, purchased and sold the old St. Ann Church on Holt Road.

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

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.

A historic statue of St. Ann stands near the entrance of the new St. Ann Church at 6350 Moresville 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.

A home-schooled senior, Alea said she was taught behind the criterion of the 70 percent mark to make it the pro-life message to as many people as possible.

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The son of Jay and Elaine Stanley, Branden is the oldest of three children. His siblings were adopted from Russia. At a Holy Rosary Church, he is a regular altar server for the extraordinary form of the Mass 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, which he describes as "wrought with indecent means of entertainment.”

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He plans to study telecommunications in college next year.

A vice president of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, he has taken the leadership role of new this group in new Decatur Township.

Branden also is a founding member of the Youth of Our Lady of America at Holy Rosary Parish.

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

A 16-year-old member of the parish, Payne is a technical assistant at the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and particularly 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 small. And then we built the church that we just left, and now we're got this beautiful place. Our singing will come from our hearts, I know, and that's what God wants it to be."
Pray the rosary daily

October is observed as the month of the rosary in the Church in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

The rosary has been part of Catholic devotions for centuries, but at present 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, 1989, 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 me 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.

A holy 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 asked 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.

A priest from Fulton J. Sheen was another prominent Church leader who supported Father Peyton’s idea for the 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.

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

En nuestros días se dice, se oye y se celebra mucho sobre la esperanza. No es de sorprender que ésta sea un creciente anhelo de nuestra cultura. Las personas se preguntan: ¿Cuál es la clave de la vida sobrenatural en nuestra sociedad de hoy? ¿Cuál es el camino para el crecimiento espiritual? ¿Y cuál es el modo de promover la esperanza de vida en nuestras interacciones con aquellos alrededor de nosotros? Siendo una ciudad muy diversa, las formas específicas y medios de llevar la esperanza de Cristo a todos son múltiples y variados. 

En primer lugar, todos los bautizados tenemos la obligación de proclamar la Palabra de Dios, especialmente por medio de la predicación y la reflexión sobre la Palabra de Dios y vivirla. Todos los bautizados también deben reflexionar sobre la Palabra de Dios y vivirla tal como toca nuestros corazones, así como a nuestros vecinos.

Los sacerdotes y diáconos se ordenan para predicar el Evangelio y es su responsabilidad proclamar tanto con sus palabras como con sus acciones. Todos los bautizados también deben reflexionar sobre la Palabra de Dios y vivirla tal como toca nuestros corazones, así como a nuestros vecinos.

La participación en la celebración de los sacramentos es la fuente de la cual emanen las gracias que necesitamos para experimentar la esperanza que personifica Cristo y para poder compartir esa esperanza como peregrinos de camino a casa del Padre. El ministerio de la caridad es el fruto que produce la bendición de la Palabra de Dios. El carácter multicultural de nuestra familia se hizo evidente a través de las celebraciones nacionales como el día del Padre, el aniversario 175, en la cual experimentamos verdaderamente a Cristo nuestra esperanza, en el estadio Lucas Oil de Indiana, el pasado mayo. 

Un día de las principales tareas de la evangelización que se tienen es la catequesis. La enseñanza de nuestra fe católica de modo tal que toque nuestros corazones, así como nuestras mentes, y nos inspire a participar en los Sacramentos y a servir en nuestro ministerio compartido de la caridad. Nuestra parroquia ofrece programas de catequesis para ayudarnos en la fe. Los programas para jóvenes y adultos resultan vitales. Nuestras escuelas católicas son las más importantes fuentes de evangelización y catequesis. Las nuevas iniciativas de los ministerios en los campos universitarios tocan el corazón de los estudiantes. 

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

El fomento de la cultura de la vocación como apostolado no es una 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. Recuerden, los ministros de la arquidiócesis de Indianapolis, los seminaristas y otros religiosos son reflejo de Cristo, nuestras vidas son dones para Dios y para nosotros. Son reflejo de Cristo, nuestra esperanza. Son expresión viva de la compasión en nuestra comunidad. ¡Háganlo!

MISSIONS 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.

Our focus 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. 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.

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.

Our Catholic schools are treasured sources of evangelization and catechesis.

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

Archbishop Buechlein’s
Pastoral Center
1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

FACE OF THE LORD
CARA DEL SEÑOR

Auche de confesión que mi amigo Daniel Conway, carried the load in helping me get the digest of the pope’s complex encyclical “Deus Caritas Est” y servicio de la caridad y para vivir la caridad en nuestra comunidad.

Historias de vida, en nuestras interacciones con aquellos alrededor de nosotros. Son reflejo de Cristo, nuestras vidas son dones para Dios y para nosotros. Son reflejo de Cristo, nuestra esperanza. Son expresión viva de la compasión en nuestra comunidad. ¡Háganlo!

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

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en octubre

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

Mission of our archdiocese is to proclaim Christ our hope
All-academy Mass and brunch is set for Nov. 1 in Indianapolis

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

Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception will welcome graduates to the annual 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 Holy Family Bruns, a member of the Class of 1934, with the 2009 Oldenburg Academy Distinguished Alumni Award for her contributions to Oldenburg and 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 and to participate in Mass at 10:30 a.m. at the motherhouse chapel. Lunch will be served at noon at the academy’s 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 Burtouss with the “Virtue, Honor, and Education Contact Alumni 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 Oldenburg Alumni, 317-784-4207, or visit the website www.oldschool.com.

VIPS

Woody and Micky (Stukey) Martin, members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Oct. 4.

The couple was married on Oct. 4, 1949, at St. Phillips Ner Church in Battle Creek, Mich. They have six children: Kimbery Cox, Valerie Muckleroy, Gail Umlinger, Joseph, Wayne, and Mark Martin. They have 10 grandchildren.

Carol and Ann (Wilk) Miller, members of St. Andrew Parish in Richmond, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 3 with a Mass and reception following at a family home.

The couple was married on Oct. 3, 1959, at St. A New Church in Richmond.
By Sean Gallagher

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

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

For the priests, 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 booting 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 Televis Network personality and author Raymond Arroyo spoke, raised almost $118,000 for college scholarships for Catholics who live in the Holy Land.

According to a foundation official, the financial support it received 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 Tluuther apartment in Bethlehem or Jerusalem or Nazareth. Catholics from the United States and elsewhere who go on pilgrimage 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 continuing to support pilgrimage and with being there people, and talking with there 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] is a kind of opened a door to softening that I was kind of oblivious to" Mgr. Koetter said. "I think the foundation has just made the more aware of their plight and the real concern of the Church being lost to that environment." Mgr. Koetter said his travels to the Holy Land have enriched his life’s faith and his charity.

"It’s been tremendously helpful because it makes the Scripture so much more alive," he said. "It created a tangible connection with Christ. When you have been the land and you can geographically place things, what’s it is like in the Scripture start to make a lot more sense. All those things really do impact how you view Scripture 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 Father Peter, was Pope Benedict XVI, when he traveled there from May 8-15this 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 “kinder, gentler” look upon the Christians all pro-West and traitor to the Islamic cause," Father Peter said. "And the Israeli military looks at theft at as Palestinians and, hence, the enemy. … [And] you have discrimination on both side in the political and economic arena. They’re the ones who are caught in the middle. Without any help, they’ll have 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. So we of our trust had 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 a job. And we’re building housing for our people.”

(For more information on the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, log on to www.fhil.org )
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 Gies to talk with Father Varghese M. Alakakkal, the administrator, about bringing the exhibit to the Indianapolis West Deanery parish.

“They slowed down to look at the crosses as they drove by the church,” Robert Gies 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 Malakakkal 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 in any other way,” he said. “Each of these crosses stands for those babies who went to their 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.”

Fathers Malakakkal said parishioners were pleased that the crosses were on display 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).”

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, M adeline and M elinda. They are members of St. M ichael 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 good to be perfect so I tried to make the crosses straight in the ground. But it makes me feel real sad.”

M adeline and M elinda are freshmen at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis.

“It’s a really good cause,” M adeline 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.”

M elinda volunteers on the pro-life committee at the Indianapolis North Deanery interparochial high school. “I just felt 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’s different to affect 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, 1973.

“That particular cross was found at St. Celestine Parish in Taylor Mills, Ky.,” he said. “The priest there took that cross to M ass and spoke about it during the homily. … The mother happened to be at M ass. 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.”

L arry and K ay Sendelbach deliver the “Cemetery of the Innocents” crosses to faith communities in the 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 come in,” Sendelbach said. “I’m continuously making new crosses to replace the ones that get broken. I make 400 crosses 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 anywhere. If they would let me, I would put them up in the grounds of the White House lawn.”

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

For more information about the Cemetery of the Innocents, call St. Joseph parishioners L arry and K ay Sendelbach of Cold Spring, Ky., at 859-441-7121.
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, 222 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 669 crosses into the rain-soaked 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.

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

RENSSELAER—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. Denis Riegein progressive was described as “very Precious Bloodish.” He was challenged to push for unity, inclusiveness and the development of students’ potential.

“I want us to challenge ourselves like we’ve never been challenged before,” Riegein told approximately 100 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 1899.

Riegein began as president on July 1, succeeding the retiring Ernest M. Hil, who had held the post for eight years. The Sept. 18 installation was held in the chapel, a well-known 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. Higgin both 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)
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.

“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.”

CNI 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 far, 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 reducing poverty” 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 Minneapolis nonprofit providing housing for homeless women, said the funders of Catholic Charities director Dennis Kenan 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 serves 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 yachts.

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. ¶

Rachel Langan, a Portland, Ore., bike commuter, listens to Oregon Catholic Charities director Dennis Kenan 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.

Fr. Michael J. McGivney, 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.

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 1899, 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 at hand. Of course, this review could take several years.” ¶
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 children, nieces and nephews into the future. “You need to let it go like water off a duck’s back.”

M ost families don’t separate simply because of distance or business. 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 Mark Twain. And it’s also a faith principle. 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 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 grandchildren to send news at least monthly: babies, job changes, new addresses and phone numbers, engagements, special birthday or anniversary celebrations, 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 meal.”

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From the Editor Emeritus/John E. Fink

Basic Catholicism: Spiritual and religious

From the Editor Emeritus/John E. Fink

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.

Shirley Vogler Meister

Religion reaches out to others—or at least it should. It teaches love of God and love of neighbor because of that love. 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 in which we human beings publicly and privately give God the worship due. When we do that, we combine spirituality with religion.

In one of our Catholic circles, a discussion was held about the different roles that religion plays to make him or her more complete. One can be both spiritual and religious like a plague. They see spirituality many of these people absolutely reject spirituality as a way of life, he also wonderfully celebrates life. He is big on family values and he is big on family, and marriage-

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 many others. In more recent times, we have books like Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen, Basi Pennington and numerous others.

The Church offers a variety of spirituality- including those in order to pray more frequently, but who try to live the charisms of the orders that are not solemnly professed, some form of spirituality to satisfy anyone. There are charismatic groups for those who find other types 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 both be spiritual and religious. One does not have to choose one or the other.

David Siler

Make me a channel of your peace

Faith, Hope and Charity

For additional information, log on to www.umbertthefilm.com or contact him by e-mail at cangemiart@aol.com.

Shirley Vogler Mester, a member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.

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, Gary Cangemi. Cangemi, who is known for his comic strips and editorial cartoons, is a regular columnist for the Fort Wayne, Indiana, News-Sentinel.

His delightful book, Umbert the Unborn, a Womb: A Dramatic Life Story, 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 nearly naïve since the baby in the story doesn’t talk.

The negativity didn’t bother me. When I was pregnant with each of my three children, my friends, family or anyone soft-spoken to each of them when I was alone—and I imagine the remaining through movements in the womb. It isn’t until a time when I became sick and unable to perform ordinary tasks, the kind that keep a household and a family operating, that I realized how important the “little things” are. We can do to call God, who approached life’s tasks by God’s standards instead of the world’s standards. These 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 integrity.

We have learned the years by observing all kinds of conflicts—and have also been reminded that only that violence that begets violence. This violence does not have to be obvious and it can be as simple as violent thoughts. Violent thoughts can 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 considering that you have some animosity and observe the energy in your body—your heart rate will increase as well as 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 of 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 life. Quite the contrary that we approach them with an attitude of peace. Just as our Savior did upon the cross, he invites us, “Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do.” 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 consider our involvement in the world没有什么 than 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.)
The Sunday Readings
Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009

**Genesis 2:18-24**
**Habakkuk 2:3-4**
**Mark 10:1-16**

The Book of Genesis, the source of the first reading for this weekend, includes several key stories: creation and the fall, the covenant between God and Abraham, and the separation of the nations. Each of these stories is a fundamental part of the religious and cultural identity of the Hebrew people. Furthermore, the saying in Genesis is one of the most repeated in the New Testament: to "bear fruit" is to create life and continue the community of humanity.

Divorce in first-century Judaism was not granted 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 divorce easily could have been twisted to a denunciation of the unifying Herod.

Previously, Jesus explained the religious reality in which God must be religiously simply because our society’s values, at least our cultural values, have come to be outrageous and religiously simply because so society’s values, at least our cultural values, have come to be outrageous.

Three are God’s gifts. Humans possess this principle that “no person [other than the petitioner] 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 have about annulments is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612.

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**Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen**

**Annulment cases may be formal or documentary petitions of nullity**

O ur daughter was divorced from her husband and is now seeking an annulment. She has been told that the process would be shorter because her case will not be a “formal case.”

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

Generally, 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. Many simply is 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 lexically “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—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. A parently, the

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**Daily Readings**

**Monday, Oct. 5**

*Jonah 1:1-2, 11 (Responsorial) Jonah 2:2-5, 8*  
*Luke 10:23-37*

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**Tuesday, Oct. 6**

*Bruno, priest*  
*Marie-Rose Duchiron, virgin*  
*Psalm 31:1-10, 7-8*  
*Luke 10:38-42*

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**Wednesday, Oct. 7**

*Our Lady of the Rosary*  
*Jonah 1:1-11*  
*Psalm 86:3-6, 9-10*  
*Luke 11:1-4*

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**Thursday, Oct. 8**

*Malachi 3:13-20*  
*Psalm 1:1-4, 6*  
*Luke 15:1-3*

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**Friday, Oct. 9**

*Denis, bishop and martyr*  
*and his companions, martyrs*  
*John Leonard, priest*  
*Joel 1:3-5, 21-2*  
*Psalm 9:2-3, 6, 8-9, 16*  
*Luke 11:15-26*

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**Saturday, Oct. 10**

*Job 4:12-21*  
*Malachi 1:6, 11-12*  
*Luke 11:27-28*

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**Sunday, Oct. 11**

*Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*Psalm 7:7-11*  
*Psalm 90:12-17*  
*Hebrews 4:12-13*  
*Mark 10:17-20*  
*or Mark 10:17-27*
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.


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By Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.
In the early 1800s, German immigrants who had settled in Cincinnati began moving into south central 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 the founding of Millhousen as a town and the celebration of the First Mass there, where some 12 Catholic families lived.

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

"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, St. Boniface, E. County Road 700 S., near Greenwood. A eucharist 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 meals, provided there is enough food.

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 one another.

"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 faith that Johannigman has experienced in recent decades. Johannigman is an eighth-grader at the parish school in Millhousen.

"It shows how old our Church is and how it thrives. 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 more friendly and outgoing. They'll do things for you and you'll do things for them without expecting any compensation for it."

Ther italy, the controversy and St. Boniface are still appreciated in its past.

"We hate to even think about leaving our parish, but the opposite may have marked the end of a given by then," he said. "It shows how old our Church is and how old and strong it is."

"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 Parish until I die."

(For more information about the Oct. 11 anniversary Mass and dinner at Immaculate Conception Parish in Millhousen, call 312-591-2362 or log on to www.icsdchurches.com.)

Mass to culminate 175th anniversary of Millhousen parish

By Sean Gallagher

Members of the first and solemn Communion classes of 1932 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Millhousen pose with their pastor, Father Carl Rieben- thaler. 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.

"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 so 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, there are looking hopefully to its future while still appreciating its past.

Jakob Maltz, 17, is a member of the parish in Millhousen. He and about 20 other youth 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. "It seems to continue 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 Parish until I die."

For information about the Oct. 11 anniversary Mass and dinner at Immaculate Conception Parish in Millhousen, call 312-591-2362 or log on to www.icsdchurches.com.

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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.

“I firmly 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.

But “one need only scratch the surface to realize how profound 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 the Czech statehood. Every year on Sept. 28, patriotic sentiment and religious devotion merge as Czechs take part in a pilgrimage to Stara Boleslav, looking to 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 seduced by “illusory visions of happiness,” he said, only

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.

“Neiling we 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 Christ child, he said.

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

A 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.

Volunteering opportunities...