Pope Benedict XVI prays in front of the Shroud of Turin in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Turin, Italy, on May 2. The pope paid a daylong visit to Turin, celebrating an outdoor Mass, venerating the shroud, meeting with young people and visiting the sick.

Pope calls Shroud of Turin an ‘icon’ of Christ’s solidarity with humanity

TURIN, Italy (CNS)—The Shroud of Turin is an icon of “the most radical solidarity”—Christ sharing the loneliest moment of human existence by lying in a tomb, Pope Benedict XVI said after he knelt in silent prayer before the linen cloth.

The pope did not discuss the authenticity of the shroud as the cloth used to wrap the dead body of Jesus, but he said it clearly “is of the shroud as the cloth used to wrap the tomb, Pope Benedict XVI said after he knelt a moment of human existence by lying in a cathedral, meeting with young people and visiting the sick.

During his evening visit to the exposition of the shroud, which is on public display until May 23, the 83-year-old pope said that while he has seen it before, this time there was a special “intensity, perhaps because of the passing of years has made me more sensitive to the message of this extraordinary icon.”

The Bible accounts say that Jesus was in the tomb from Friday night to dawn on Sunday—a time that was “chronologically brief, but immense, infinite in its value and meaning,” the pope said.

For a day and a half, Jesus’ body lay dead in the tomb and it appeared as if God had hidden himself from the world, the pope said.

Most modern men and women have had the experience of God seeming to hide from them and from the world, he said. Even if they cannot explain their feeling in those terms, they experience “a void in their hearts that spreads,” he said.

“After the two world wars, the pope said. “I welcome the news that the English translation of the Roman Missal will soon be ready for publication,” the pope said at the luncheon. “ … Through these sacred texts and the actions that accompany them, Christ will be made present and active in the midst of his people.”

Pope Benedict then identified the next task as “preparing for the reception of the new translation by clergy and lay faithful,” and pointed out that “many will find it hard to adjust to unfamiliar texts after nearly 40 years of continuous use of the previous translation of the Roman Missal.”

Vatican confirms new version of missal, but no implementation date yet

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced on April 30 that the Vatican has given its “recognitio,” or confirmation, of the new English translation of the Roman Missal, but said the exact date for its implementation in U.S. parishes remains to be determined.

The approval came in a letter dated March 25 from Cardinal Antonio Canizares Llovera, prefect for the Vatican’s Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, although the missal is still undergoing final editing by Vatican officials, the USCCB announcement said.

The Vatican also approved a series of adaptations and proper texts for use in the United States.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, USCCB president, received the decrees personally while he was in Rome for meetings of the Vox Clara Committee, an international group of bishops who advise the divine worship congregation about English liturgical translations.

Pope Benedict XVI received a white-bound, gold-edged copy of the missal, which contains all of the prayers used at Mass, during an April 28 luncheon with Vox Clara members.

“I welcome the news that the English translation of the Roman Missal will soon be ready for publication,” the pope said at the luncheon. “ … Through these sacred texts and the actions that accompany them, Christ will be made present and active in the midst of his people.”

Pope Benedict then identified the next task as “preparing for the reception of the new translation by clergy and lay faithful,” and pointed out that “many will find it hard to adjust to unfamiliar texts after nearly 40 years of continuous use of the previous translation of the Roman Missal.”

Spirit of Service winners committed to helping others

By John Shaughnessy

It was a story about a special trip, a story that showed how the influences in our lives can lead us to a moment when we try to make a lasting impact on others.

Indiana University head football coach Bill Lynch shared the story during his keynote speech at the Spirit of Service Awards dinner in Indianapolis on April 28, an event that celebrated the volunteer spirit of several Catholics and raised about $140,000 to benefit Catholic Charities Indianapolis in its efforts to help the poor and the vulnerable.

Lynch told the audience how recently he had the opportunity to take a group of college football players left Bloomington and headed to Indianapolis where the team was scheduled to spend a Holy Saturday, the day when Jesus’ body was shaped by so many Catholics.

It was shaped by so many Catholics. He recalled growing up in Christ the King Parish, where he learned the importance of extending hope and compassion to others—as they always opened their home to someone down on their luck who needed a place to stay.

He reminisced about his years at Bishop Chatard High School, where his parents the importance of extending hope and compassion to others—as they always opened their home to someone down on their luck who needed a place to stay.

Indianapolis is always special for him because it’s the place he considers home. And it’s the place where his life was shaped by so many Catholics. He recalled growing up in Christ the King Parish, where he learned from his parents the importance of extending hope and compassion to others—as they always opened their home to someone down on their luck who needed a place to stay.

He reminisced about his years at Bishop Chatard High School, where his coaches not only strove to make him a better athlete but also to show him how important character, discipline and integrity are in life.

All of those elements came into play recently as the two IU buses filled with college football players left Bloomington and headed to Indianapolis where the team was scheduled to spend the Spirit of Service Awards dinner on April 28 in Indianapolis.
Honor of Their Life. They cherish the award Catholic School Values programs tell each year to showcase its Catholic schools. Convention Center in Indianapolis. Achievement Awards program, which will eternal life. willingly embraced death to give all people the possibility of hope without limits” because it reminds people that Christ mystery of faith is at the same time the brightest sign of a us,” Pope Benedict said. and only the presence of a person who loves us can reassure abandoned, which is precisely the part of death that makes us lay lifeless in the tomb, the pope said. “We have all had the frightening sensation of having been abandoned, which is precisely the part of death that makes us so afraid; like children, we are afraid to be alone in the dark and only the presence of a person who loves us can reassure us,” Pope Benedict said. As with a “photographic document” with a positive and negative image, he said, the shroud conveys that “the darkest mystery of faith is at the same time the brightest sign of a hope without limits” because it reminds people that Christ willingly embraced death to give all people the possibility of eternal life.

continued from page 1

Lay in the tomb, the pope said. “We have all had the frightening sensation of having been abandoned, which is precisely the part of death that makes us so afraid; like children, we are afraid to be alone in the dark and only the presence of a person who loves us can reassure us,” Pope Benedict said. As with a “photographic document” with a positive and negative image, he said, the shroud conveys that “the darkest mystery of faith is at the same time the brightest sign of a hope without limits” because it reminds people that Christ willingly embraced death to give all people the possibility of eternal life.

The Shroud is an icon written with blood—the blood of a man flagellated, crowned with thorns, crucified and wounded on his right side,” exactly as the Gospels say Jesus was, the pope said. Visiting the sick immediately after venerating the shroud, the pope said that in the linen cloth, which is about 14 feet long and 43 inches wide, Christians see not only a sign of intense suffering, but also a sign of the power of the resurrection that transforms suffering into redemption. “Living your suffering in the crucified and risen Christ, you participate in the mystery of his suffering for the salvation of the world,” the pope told the sick. “In this way, Christ, we can collaborate in the victory of good over evil because God makes our offering—our act of love—fruitful,” he said. At the morning Mass in the city’s St. Charles Square, the pope said the shroud is a reminder that Jesus, who died for the sins of humanity, also rose from the dead. In the shroud, “we see reflections of our suffering in the suffering of Christ,” he said. “Precisely for this reason, it is a sign of hope. Christ faced the cross to erect a barrier against evil, to allow us to see in his resurrection an anticipation of that moment when, for us, too, every tear will be dried and there will be no more death, nor mourning, wailing nor pain,” he said. On the eve of the pope’s visit, the Archdiocese of Turin said more than 1.7 million people had made reservations for a specific time to view the shroud up close during its April 10-May 2 exposition and also said it expected an average of 70,000 visitors each week to arrive without reservations. They are allowed to view the shroud from farther away in the central aisle of the cathedral.

Wanted: Your nominations for annual Catholic School Values Awards

School officials are already planning for the 2010 Celebrating Catholic School Values: Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards program, which will be held on Nov. 3 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

Celebrating Catholic School Values is one of the archdiocese’s premier events each year to showcase its Catholic schools. Many recipients from past Celebrating Catholic School Values programs tell archdiocesan officials that they consider their career achievement award the greatest honor of their life. They cherish the award because it represents the values they espouse every day as a result of their education in Catholic schools.

Each year, Catholic education officials ask the public to nominate one or more Catholic school graduates who exemplify the values of a Catholic education. Archdiocesan school leaders are looking for individuals whose ethics, leadership, service and achievements are significant to their community. Nominees can include men, women, clergy, religious and members of minority groups. Current Catholic school students and employees are not eligible.

Nomination forms are available on the Office of Catholic Education’s Web site at www.archindy.org/ose/ or from the archdiocesan Office of Worship staff. “CCSV nomination criteria and form,” judges ask that you provide as much information as possible about your nominee(s), also, nominees should not be told that they are being nominated. Incomplete forms cannot be considered. All nominations will be kept confidential. Please return nomination forms by May 13.

(For more information, call Cindy Clark at the Office of Catholic Education at 317-236-1444 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1444, or e-mail clark@cindy@archindy.org)
Pope begins reform of Legionaries of Christ in wake of scandal

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI will name a personal delegate with authority over the Legionaries of Christ and a commission to study its constitutions.

In a lengthy statement on May 1, the Vatican indicated that the Legionaries would need to undergo very deep changes, including a redefinition of the order's religious charism and a revision of the way authority is exercised among its members.

While the pope will have the final word on whatever changes are eventually imposed, one Vatican source said afterward, “It looks like they are calling for a refound- dation of the order.”

The pope met on April 30 with the five bishops who conducted a visitation of the Legionaries’ institutions over the past year. They visited almost all the order’s religious houses, and met with some 1,000 Legionaries.

The Vatican emphasized what it said was the high degree of sincerity and cooperation shown by the Legionaries and said the visitors encountered many young priests who were “exemplary, honest and full of talent.”

A Vatican statement castigated the Legionaries’ founder, the late Father Marcial Maciel Degollado, who had been expelled from the order by the Vatican many years ago.

They had also consulted with many diocesan bishops and other institutes, institutions, and said Father Maciel committed “true crimes” that reflected “a life devoid of scruples and of authentic religious sentiment.”

Most Legionaries did not know why Maciel had his conduct because Father Maciel was able to skillfully “create alibis, and obtain the trust, confidence and silence of those around him,” it said.

Most Legionaries, because of their “sincere zeal,” believed that accusations against Father Maciel could only be slander, it said. The statement did not specifically refer to those in leadership roles in the Legionaries of Christ, or how much they may have known about their founder’s transgressions.

The Vatican said the visitation highlighted three primary requirements:

• The need to “redefine the charism” of the Legionaries of Christ, preserving “the true nucleus,” the “militia Christi” army of Christ, which distinguishes the apostolic and missionary action of the Church.

• The need to preserve the enthusiasm and missionary zeal of young members through adequate formation.

• “In fact, the disappointment about the founder could place in question the vocation and that nucleus of charism that belongs particularly to the Legionaries of Christ,” it said.

The Vatican said the pope wanted to assure the Legionaries and members of the order’s lay movement, Regnum Christi, that “they will not be left on their own” and that the Church “will accompany them” on the path of purification that awaits them. Part of that path, it said, is reaching out to those inside and outside the order who were involved.

Legionaries of Christ seminarians attend a conference on “A New Apologetics for a New Millennium” at Regina Apostolorum University in Rome on April 29. The Vatican announced on May 1 that Pope Benedict XVI will name a personal delegate with authority over the Legionaries of Christ and a commission to study its constitutions.

To them at this moment go the thoughts and prayers of the Holy Father, together with gratitude for those among them who, in the face of great difficulty, had the courage and the constancy to demand the truth.

—Vatican statement on the Legionaries of Christ

700 students graduate at Catholic colleges in archdiocese

By John Shaughnessy

Students, families and educators will join in the celebration as the Archdiocese of Indianapolis' Catholic colleges hold their graduation ceremonies.

Marian University

History will be made—and another record will be set—when Marian University holds its commencement at 10 a.m. on May 8 at the school’s St. Vincent Health Field.

The graduation ceremony will be the college’s first as Marian University, after the school changed its name from Marian College on July 1, 2009. This year’s celebration also marks the 73rd annual commencement at the institution.

A new record will also be established as 456 students are expected to graduate during the ceremony, the first steps for the school since it was founded by the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg.

The commencement speaker will be Tony Bennett, Indiana’s superintendent of public instruction. He will also receive an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree. The school’s honorary Doctor of Business degree will be awarded to Michael A. Evans, the school’s current president and chair of the board of trustees of ATT Laboratories.

Rack J. Snyder will receive an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.

Saint Meinrad School of Theology

Forty-three students are expected to receive master’s degrees when Saint Meinrad School of Theology holds its commencement at 2 p.m. central time on May 8.

The ceremony will take place in the archdiocese’s St. Bede Theater, where graduates will receive degrees in the following disciplines: Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Theology in Classical Philological Studies, and Master of Arts in Catholic Thought and Life.

The commencement address will be given by Bishop J. Terry Steib of the Diocese of Memphis.

Thanks to family’s support, Marian student to graduate with nursing degree

By John Shaughnessy

Like most college graduates in the Class of 2010, Laura Ham will be surrounded by her family members on May 8.

And like most college graduates, Laura knows that her graduation from Marian University in Indianapolis on May 8 wouldn’t have been possible without them.

Indeed, when she looks back on her four years of college, the 22-year-old Laura knows that her achievement is shared by her husband, her four children, her parents and her in-laws. After all, her success is the story of a family facing the harsh economics realities of the first decade of the 21st century with a hope for the future and a belief in each other.

Their story begins in 2006, a year when her husband, John, first learned the news that the Ford Motor Company plant in Indianapolis where he worked would eventually close. At the time, Laura was a stay-at-home mom, caring for three of her children who range in age today from 11 to 6.

“When we found out the Ford plant was going to close, we realized one of us had to go back to school,” says Laura, who is a 1995 graduate of Father Thomas Seccia Memorial High School in Indianapolis. “I went to college right after high school, but I didn’t stay in school. I’ve always wanted to do nursing. It’s a passion of mine. I’ve entered the nursing program at Marian in 2006, choosing the university because of its smaller campus, individual attention and Catholic environment. As she studied in class, she also worked part time as a student nurse at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. Then there were roles as a wife and mother.

“It’s been challenging, but with a lot of support from my family, I’ve been able to succeed,” says Laura, a member of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis. “Our oldest child is autistic. He requires a lot of help with homework. Between John and me, we help him. This past year, it’s been more of John because I’ve been gone a lot with school. And my mom and dad and my in-laws have been very helpful in getting our kids off to school every morning.”

As she looks back on the past four years, Laura remembers the joy of watching her three oldest children receive their first Communions. Now the family will celebrate their special day—and her employment at Methodist Hospital as a registered nurse in the labor and delivery unit. The family also counts their blessings that John still has his job at the Ford plant for a while longer.

“I’ve always felt called to help the poor and the sick,” Laura says. “Everyone is very relieved, very happy and very proud that I’m graduating. I’ve always had faith that if I worked hard, I could achieve this. I feel my hard work has paid off now. I couldn’t have done it without everyone who has been there for me.”

Footnotes:


About two in five, 38 percent, are the oldest child in their family. Most of them have been Catholics their entire lives, with only 10 percent being converts to Catholicism. Eighty percent said that both of their grandparents are Catholics. Half of them attended Catholic elementary school, and nearly 40 percent attended Catholic high school. Half to three-quarters of them served as an altar server, lector, extraordinary minister of holy Communion, or in another parish ministry before entering the seminary. Commentary on this part of the survey, Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consacrated Life and Vocations, noted that it is important to understand that most of those full-time jobs were in education of some type.

Sixty percent of the ordinands completed their college education before entering the seminary. While 34 percent entered the seminary while in college, one in five, 20 percent, earned a graduate degree before entering the seminary.

One significant statistic is that, of those who had some college education before seminary, 66 percent attended Catholic colleges. For the entire Catholic population, only 7 percent of college students are in Catholic colleges.

Some of the findings in this year’s ordination class were surprising or some just an extension of what has been happening during recent years. That statistic about ordinands over 65, for example, confirms the fact that during recent years, the extension of what has been happening during recent years.

Some of the things about this year’s ordination class might be surprising or some just an extension of what has been happening during recent years. That statistic about ordinands over 65, for example, confirms the fact that during recent years, the extension of what has been happening during recent years.

Sixty percent of the ordinands reported that they prayed the rosary regularly, and 65 percent participated in Eucharistic adoration before entering the seminary. As for race or ethnicity, 70 percent are Caucasian/European American/white. Only 13 percent are Hispanic/Latino while 10 percent are Asian or Pacific Islander. Those being ordained for religious communities are less likely to report their race or ethnicity as Caucasian.

One of the surprising statistics is that nearly one-third, 31 percent, of this year’s ordination class was born outside the United States. Some came mainly from Mexico, Colombia, the Philippines, Poland and Vietnam. That is not unusual, though, since between 20 percent and 30 percent of ordinands to the diocesan priesthood for each of the last 10 years were born outside the United States.

The importance of World Youth Day is reflected in the fact that 20 percent of the ordinands participated in one of them before entering the seminary. It is hoped that by studying the ordination Class of 2010, ways can be found to foster more vocations to the priesthood.

Be Our Guest!

Richard Doerflinger

Refusing to choose

Some teachers like to pose riddles to their students on “lifeboat ethics.” People of various ages and professions—a sea captain, a cabin boy, etc.—are drifting at sea in a lifeboat with limited provisions, and we have to decide which passenger to kill so the others can survive.

The final situation with health care reform this spring might have been crafted to stump these students. The House of Representatives had passed a reform bill that the Catholic bishops commended for ensuring access to health care for the poor and immigrants, and for respecting longstanding current laws on abortion and conscience rights.

But the Senate refused to consider this bill. Instead, it approved its own version that was deficient in all these areas, and said: This is our final answer. Due to a change of one Senate seat, that chamber noted has 60 votes to pass a bill with further substantive changes—though it could make purely fiscal changes under a “reconciliation” process requiring a simple majority.

So the final “take it or leave it” bill could be improved on affordability for the poor. But it would perpetuate injustices to both legal and undocumented immigrants. It excluded a conscience rights provision that keeps government entities in other federal health programs from discriminating against doctors, nurses and hospitals that don’t provide abortions.

It refused accommodations for religious institutions that need to purchase health care coverage consistent with their moral values. And it violated the Hyde Amendment, which keeps every other federal program from funding elective abortions and health plans that cover such abortions.

The federal government would now subsidize plans covering abortion, and require those plans to collect a special fee for such abortions from every purchaser whether they object or not.

The Bishop’s Pro-Life Committee is the pro-life arm of the Catholic Church. It has traditionally said: “It doesn’t work that way. In particular, we cannot ‘do good’ by expanding direct attacks on innocent human life. The rule for passing health care legislation is the same as the rule for medical ethics. First, do no harm.”

The bishops surely knew that many would be disappointed, and some would see them as being unrealistic. But we sometimes get to change the world, and occasionally we can only keep the world from changing us.

After all the “realists” have spoken, somebody still has to speak up for that cabin boy.

Richard Doerflinger is associate director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn more about the bishops’ pro-life activity, log on to www.usccb.org/lifeweb and www.usccb.org/healthcare/ .
ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO DANIEL M. BUECHLEIN, O.S.B.

La Eucaristía es nuestra mejor oración de agradecimiento

El comienzo de mayo marca la época aniversaria de ordenación para Seminarios de obispos de nuestra Diócesis. Mis compañeros de clase y yo conmemoraremos nuestro aniversario número 46 el 3 de mayo. Exactamente la mitad de mis años como sacerdote los he celebrado como obispo. Agradecemos a Dios su ministerio y recuerde que su misión es seguir adelante, especialmente con la guía santa de nuestro Patriarca, el Cuaresma delbergito de nuestra fe. Y eso marca toda la diferencia.

En su carta del Año de la Eucaristía el Papa Juan Pablo II invitó a la Iglesia a conmemorar el 2005 como el Año de la Eucaristía. Es más que una invitación a recordar el don. Es un desafío a nuestros corazones para que no se haya perdido su importancia con el paso del tiempo.

En primer lugar, quería querer refocus our reverence and regard for the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, not only at Mass, but also in the tabernacles of our churches. De abandonarlo todo, podemos dirigirnos a de servir a Dios y la Iglesia como sacerdotes!

En la historia de Emaús se pueden encontrar varios ejemplos de encuentros de los discípulos con Jesús después de su muerte. El Papa Juan Pablo II dijo que la Eucaristía debe ser la expresión de la oración. A partir de ella, la oración emerge para inspirar todas nuestras obras apostólicas. La Eucaristía y la evangelización, la Eucaristía y la proclamación del Evangelio están interrelacionadas. En su carta del Año de la Eucaristía, el Papa Juan Pablo II se concentró en las palabras “quedate con nosotros.”

La intención de vocaciones del Arzobispo Buechlein para mayo

Seminarios: que serán de piedad y estudio, y perseveren en el deseo de servir a Dios y la Iglesia como sacerdotes!
**Events Calendar**

- **May 7**

- **May 7**
  - Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 520 Vine Street, Indianapolis. Lumen Ora meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mass, breakfast and program in Prieto Hall, Mike Perigo. Homophila of Indiana, presenters, 15 members, $20 non-members. Information: 317-435-3447 or e-mail marian@saintmeinrad.edu.

- **May 8**
  - St. Roch Parish, Family Center, 3605 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Single Seniors meeting, 1 p.m., age 50 and over. Information: 317-784-4207.

- **May 9**

**Retreats and Programs**

- **May 10**
  - Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. “Men’s Night at the ‘Burg,” Francescian Brother Carl Haaver, presenter, 7-8:30 p.m. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgcsf.com.

- **May 11**

- **May 12**
  - Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. “A Thomas Moreton Seminar—Bridges to Contemplative Living: Writing Yourself into the Book of Life,” session four of four, Benedictine Sister Julie Jewell, presenter, Mass, 5:15 p.m., supper, 6 p.m., session, 6:30-9:55 p.m. per person includes book and supper. Information: 317-788-7581 or benedictinn@benedictinn.org.

- **May 13**
  - Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5335 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima,” day of reflection, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mgr. Joseph F. Schaefer, vicar general, presenter. $25 per person includes breakfast and lunch. Information: 317-545-7614 or www.chickenfestivus.com.

- **May 15**

**Visiting Bishop**

- **May 27**

- **May 15**

- **May 20**

- **May 24**
  - Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. “Pre-Cana Conference—Bridges to Contemplative Living: Writing Yourself into the Book of Life,” session five, Charles Gardner, presenter, $35 per person. Information: 317-788-7581 or benedictinn@benedictinn.org.

- **May 27**
  - Mt. St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 100 St. Anthony Drive, Mt. St. Francis. “Holy Cross Parish, 125 N. Oriental St., Indianapolis. Annual Parish Health Fair, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Information: 317-637-2620.

**Two students earn scholarships**

- **May 12**
  - At St. Mark the Evangelist Church, 353 E. Edgewood Ave., in Indianapolis. The concert is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #3660 based on the south side of Indianapolis. Catholic scholarships were based on the students’ scores on ISTEP and other high school placement tests as well as attendance and a 300-word essay on the value of Catholic education.

**Concert to benefit college seminary**

- **May 17**

- **May 15**
  - Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. “A Thomas Moreton Seminar—Bridges to Contemplative Living: Writing Yourself into the Book of Life,” session four of four, Benedictine Sister Julie Jewell, presenter, Mass, 5:15 p.m., supper, 6 p.m., session, 6:30-9:55 p.m. per person includes book and supper. Information: 317-788-7581 or benedictinn@benedictinn.org.


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Former nurse is on a mission to end horror of abortion

(Former nurse is on a mission to end horror of abortion and may not be suitable for younger children.)

By Mary Ann Wyand

Her graphic, shocking, heartbreaking stories related the tragic suffering of aborted babies who were somehow born alive then left to die alone in a utility room. And if they were aborted alive, they were allowed to die. She was involved in a late-term abortion where he was going to be standing on Calvary near the crucified Jesus. It just asks us to be faithful, she said, because we may not understand sometimes the reasons why God does things.

By Mary Ann Wyand

Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, who was known with Sister Dorothy’s death in an April trial, and also served in the archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life Ministry that many hospitals and abortion clinics in the U.S. perform this barbaric second- and third-trimester abortion procedure. "A physician inserts a medication into the mom’s birth canal up to the cervix, … [which] causes the cervix to open prematurely," she explained. "I thought it was to abort these babies in their second- and early-third-trimester before they would survive if born. These fully formed babies, who were so tiny, in essence fell out of the uterus, and that’s how it comes to be that sometimes they were aborted alive.

The doctors anticipate that the babies will die during the birth process or soon after," Stanek said. "My experience was that about one-third to one-fourth [of the babies aborted with this procedure] lived, and those who were alive for just a few minutes. One baby lived almost as long as an eight-hour flight. At Christ Hospital, abortion survivors are relegated to the soiled utility room to die."

Induced-labor abortions are legal "for the life or health of the mother," she said. "People in the pro-life movement know that abortions [performed] for the health of the mother are basically just abortions on demand. A few of the babies I am aware of who were aborted at Christ Hospital were completely healthy babies."

Illinois state law requires that all babies who are aborted alive must be legally documented with both birth and death certificates, she explained. "Ironically, the cause of death that is usually listed on these babies is "extreme prematurity," which is the doctor’s admission that if they would have just left the baby in the womb then the baby would not have had to die."

Stanek is a devout Christian and believes that she was my marching orders. I was called to this terrible abortion procedure. She sought counsel from her pastor, pray about my case and Soul Sacrifice. "I came upon a [Scripture] passage that I thought spoke directly to me," Stanek said. "Proverbs 24:11-12 says, ‘Rescue those who have unjustly been sentenced to death—Don’t stand back and let them die. Don’t try to disclaim responsibility by saying that you didn’t know about it.—For the Lord who knows our hearts knows you will reward everyone according to his deeds.’ So I thought those were my marching orders. I was called to stay and fight.

At that moment, Stanek realized that she was going to be standing on Calvary near the crucified Jesus. She wrote a letter to the religious leaders of the hospital because "I couldn’t believe that they knew that these abortions were going on just a couple of floors over their heads."

But they knew, Stanek said. "The hospital was run by the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Not America, and the United Church of Christ, and these are both pro-abortion denominations. I had no idea there was such a thing back when I was so naive."

As a result of her letter, she was reprimanded by the labor and delivery department supervisors. Stanek took her pro-life campaign and abortion testimony to the local, state and national levels, which prompted the Christ Hospital administrators to fire her two years later. She also testified under oath in support of the federal Born Alive Infants Protection Act before the U.S. Congress. "She had come have when abortion would leave the uterus, and we would now be arguing whether infanticide was acceptable or not… This is how far 37 years of legalized abortion has brought us. … Christ Hospital has never publicly denied that what I am saying is true because it can’t."

Last defendant in U.S. nun’s murder found guilty, gets 30 years in prison

SAO PAULO, Brazil (CNS)—The last defendant charged in connection with the 2005 murder of U.S.-born Sister Dorothy Stang was found guilty in a Brazilian court and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Rancher Regivaldo Galvao was convicted on May 1 of ordering the killing of the 73-year-old Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, who was known for her fight against large landowners in the Amazon region. In a packed courtroom in Belem, Galvao remained silent as the judge read the sentence after the jury deliberated. He was convicted, along with landowner Vitalmiro Bastos de Moura, of ordering the assassination. Moura was found guilty in connection with Sister Dorothy’s death in an April trial, and also received a 30-year prison sentence.

Sister Dorothy was killed on a deserted dirt road near Anapu, Brazil, in February 2005. The area in the frontier state of Para is the site where ranchers and loggers have deforested large swaths of rain forest.

An Ohio native and a naturalized Brazilian citizen, Sister Dorothy lived in the Amazon region for nearly four decades, working closely with the Catholic Church’s Pastoral Land Commission.

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a couple of hours visiting boys and girls at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

“When they went up there, they were singing and hallering,” Lynch noted about his players. “When they left, they realized how fortunate they are.”

For Lynch, it was a life-building moment for his players.

“When you’re a young coach, it’s all about winning and losing,” he said. “If you’re fortunate enough to be in this long enough, you realize it’s more about than that. We do have a great impact on people. The responsibility is to build great leadership.”

Lynch finished his talk by sharing what he considers to be the key characteristics of a Christian leader.

“First, a great leader must have a passion for what he or she does.

Secondly, a strong leader must have intelligence and a desire to continually learn.

“You need to be passionate,” Lynch said. “You need to know what you’re talking about. But it means nothing without integrity. Integrity ties it together. Follow about. But it means nothing without intelligence and a desire to continually learn.”

Maria Pimentel-Gannon

“During this period of economic uncertainty, we have seen thousands of people in our community losing their jobs, health insurance and, in many instances, their own homes,” Bethuram said. “This economic reality has created a new influx of people coming to Catholic Charities who have never before needed our services, and struggle to maintain a quality of life for themselves and their families.

“In the midst of this rising demand, the archdiocese continues to increase its commitment,” Bethuram said.

“Drastic times call for drastic measures. The archdiocese has responded to this challenge by increasing its commitment to helping our neighbors and spreading their faith.”

Awards

Submitted photo

Baylees honored by Legatus

Legatus executive director John Hunt presents L.H. and Dianne Bayley with Legatus’ 2009 Bowie Kuhn Special Award for Evangelization on April 15 at the Indianapolis chapter meeting.

The award was named in honor of Bowie Kuhn, the late commissioner of Major League Baseball, and a founding member of Legatus. Legatus recognized the Bowies for their extraordinary devotion to spreading the Gospel. For decades, the couple has shown exemplary dedication to helping the underprivileged, children, health care groups, and, in particular, Catholic non-profit organizations.

Members of Legatus since 1981, the Bayleys have been leaders in building the Indianapolis chapter of Legatus, an international organization of Catholic business leaders dedicated to studying, living and spreading their faith.

Bayleys honored by Legatus

School honored for recycling efforts

As part of Earth Day celebrations across the archdiocese on April 22, St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis was honored for its recycling efforts by Abitibi Bowater’s Paper Retriever Program.

The company’s mascot, Pepper the Paper Retriever, visited classrooms at St. Barnabas School during the celebration, which included a popcorn party for the school children. From April 2009 through March 2010, St. Barnabas Parish collected the highest tonnage of all the company’s school/church accounts in the Indianapolis area. Since St. Barnabas became involved in the company’s recycling program in 2004, the parish has recycled more than 725 tons of paper and earned more than $34,000. Fifty-two Catholic schools and parishes in central Indiana participate in the company’s recycling program.

School honored for recycling efforts
How to form an evangelization team in your parish

By Peg McEvoy

You may have read about how evangelization can happen in other parishes, but how is it supposed to work in and through your parish? Remember that Jesus started with a group of Apostles, not just one person, and Pentecost did not happen in an individual encounter. It happened in a “meeting.” You need a team!

How do you get a parish evangelization team started? There are no exact “cookie-cutter” approaches, but here are a few basic steps that should be included in any parish evangelization team formation.

• Pray—Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance as you begin this process.
• Talk to your pastor—if you haven’t already done so, share with him your desire to work on evangelization efforts in your parish.
• Ask if he knows of other parishioners or staff members who feel called to evangelization. To find more team members, look for people who are comfortable sharing their faith with others. These may be people involved with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, service outreach work or a catechist who would make great team members.
• Gather your group to read, pray about and reflect on Go, Make Disciples. This statement from our bishops gives both a faith-based rationale for evangelization and specific objectives. Even if you have read this document before, you will find new insights for today.
• Determine the needs of the people in your community—Where does the Lord desire the Gospel to be proclaimed and lived in a new way? That is where to begin.
• For the first year, choose one measurable goal for each group we are asked to focus on. This might include the unchurched, those who have stopped practicing their Catholic faith and practicing Catholics who want to deepen their faith. Each group could benefit from a targeted spiritual plan or a planned “invite-a-friend” Mass. Other events might focus just on one of the groups, for example, home calls and/or visits to inactive parishioners. As always, continue to pray and ask others to pray for you. Also ask for Mary’s intercession for your efforts.

In the words of our Holy Father, Benedict XVI: “May the Virgin Mary, who at the time of Pentecost did not introduce people from other Christian denominations and other religions to the Church in this country that we have multi-cultural focus is new.”

This is why some newly arrived Hispanic immigrants choose to worship in Protestant congregations, Solis Deal said. “They attract their spirit and their culture,” she said. “It’s a very attractive connection. And many of those Churches also have native leaders. A pastor might be a native of Mexico or Guatemala.”

While native priests aren’t coming to this country as with previous immigrant groups, some lay Hispanics in the archdiocese are reaching out to their community. This is the first time in the history of the Church in this country that we have immigrant groups coming into established parishes,” said Solis Deal. “That makes the Church focus is new.”

Hispanic lay movement helps spread the Gospel

By Sean Gallagher

When Catholic immigrants came to the United States in large numbers in the 19th and early 20th centuries, they often ended up worshipping in “national” parishes founded just for their ethnic group and were ministered to by priests from their home countries.

According to Margarita Solis Deal, diocesan coordinator of Hispanic Ministry, that is not the case with recent Catholic immigrants to central and southern Indiana from Mexico and Central and South America.

“This is the first time in the history of the Church in this country that we have immigrant groups coming into established parishes,” said Solis Deal. “That makes the Church focus is new.”

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By John Shaughnessy

When they were preparing to be married, Thomas and Lisa Brown never really considered the most important goal of their marriage.

Even after they had been married for a few years, they didn’t know how they could take their marriage to a higher, more intimate level.

Yet now, after 18 years as husband and wife, the Browns understand the true purpose of their marriage—and the way to make it as good as possible.

Indeed, they are so sure of those twin goals that they publicly share their story with engaged couples who participate in Pre-Cana marriage preparation classes in the Batesville Deanery.

The sharing of their story reflects the Church’s and the archdiocese’s increasing efforts to use marriage preparation as a form of evangelization for non-Catholics and a way to deepen the faith of Catholics.

“Marriage preparation is a great opportunity to reconnect with Catholics who may not be active in their faith,” says Peg McEvoy, associate director of evangeline and family catechesis for the archdiocese. “It’s also a great opportunity to introduce people from other Christian denominations and other religions to the beauty of our faith as it’s expressed in the sacrament of matrimony. It also allows Catholics to deepen their faith.”

All those elements are involved in the story of the Browns, who are members of St. Louis Parish in Batesville.

The Browns’ story—including their path to a more intimate relationship—began when they were first married.

It was a time when Thomas was a fallen-away Catholic and Lisa was an involved, longtime member of the Episcopal Church. In fact, when the couple moved from Kentucky to Batesville, Lisa helped start a small Episcopalian community there. And Thomas became a part of it until his life changed during a family trip to Italy.

Understanding a marriage’s main goal

“In Rome, we went to St. Peter’s Basilica, and I had a strong conversion experience there,” Thomas recalls. “We walked in and saw the Pietà to the right. There were people from all over the world on their knees, praying in many languages.”

It hit Thomas that those people were part of the universal Church, not just a small church in a southern Indiana community. When he came home, he had an insatiable desire to read book after book about the Catholic faith. He also wanted to have Lisa share that faith, but his constant efforts only made her resistant.

That’s when Thomas decided to let God handle the situation. Thomas no longer shared information about the Catholic faith with Lisa. Instead, he prayed the rosary on a regular basis, hoping she would become open to the Catholic faith. Weeks passed and then Lisa shared a revelation that stunned her husband.

“I said, ‘I think I’m going to RCIA [the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program in which a non-Catholic prepares to become a Catholic].’ Lisa recalls. ‘I think he almost fell off the chair. I have to attribute that to my husband saying the rosary for me.’

That turn of events transformed their relationship.
Making connections, understanding are key to evangelizing Hispanics

By Sean Gallagher

Las Jornadas is a Catholic lay movement in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis that helps Hispanic youths and young adults evangelize their peers. But how can people who do not speak Spanish help welcome recent Hispanic immigrants to central and southern Indiana into the Church here?

For example, youths and young adults in Las Jornadas in Indianapolis are planning upcoming retreats for their Hispanic peers preparing for the sacrament of confirmation and for quinceañeras, a coming-of-age ceremony for 15-year-old Hispanic girls. "Las Jornadas is an opportunity to provide a welcoming environment for the immigrants and to help them feel a part of a community," said Cuquis Romero, who oversees the 14 to 17 age group in Indianapolis. "Many times they come feeling a little bit lost. They don't know how to establish themselves in this community. "Las Jornadas is a way for them to say, 'This is my community,'" added Romero, 37, who is also a secretary and youth coordinator at St. Patrick Parish in Indianapolis.

Her brother, Pablo, 27, has been involved in Las Jornadas in Indianapolis for three years. He is glad that his participation is helping him put his faith into action for others.

"It makes me feel very proud," Pablo said. "I know that I can make a difference. I cannot change the world. But I can try to change somebody's world."

And they do this not simply through programs sponsored by parishes, but by reaching out to teenage and young adult Hispanic Catholics they might meet in their everyday lives who may have little or no contact with parishes.

"It's the mission of Las Jornadas to help youth evangelize youths," Cuquis said. "The youths involved in the movement go out and invite others who are not involved." Las Jornadas is one of a few Hispanic lay movements active in the archdiocese.

According to Solis Deal, Hispanic Catholics in central and southern Indiana are also involved in the Christian Family Movement and the Hispanic Charismatic Renewal.

"They have lay leaders who are also native to the community," Solis Deal said. "They understand the stories of the community. They speak the same language. They can evangelize each other, whereas our parishes struggle with that because of the lack of language skills."

(To see a list of archdiocesan parishes that offer Masses in Spanish, log on to www.archindy.org/multicultural/spanish.html)
Saints through the ages speak about evangelization

In 1992, the bishops of the United States approved Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States.

Three goals of evangelization were identified in this document.

The first goal was “To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others.”

The second flowed from the first: “To invite all people in the United States, whatever their social or cultural background, to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic faith.”

The third seeks a renewal of society through a proclamation of the Gospel: “To foster Gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family, and the common good of our society, so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ.”

The words of holy men and women throughout the history of the Church echo here and now to exhort us to work toward the fulfillment of these goals, which are summarized in three words: “enthusiasm, invitation and renewal.”

Enthusiasm

“I have the strength for everything through [Christ] who empowers me.”

—St. Paul (Phil 4:13)

“If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!”

—St. Catherine of Siena (1347-80)

“Strive to see God in all things without exception, and consent to His will joyously. Do everything for God, uniting yourself to Him in word and deed. Walk very simply with the cross of the Lord and be at peace with yourself.”

—St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

“Be not dispirited; be not afraid; keep a good heart; be bold; draw not back; you will be carried through ... O children of a heavenly Father, be not afraid!”


Invitation

“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence.”

—St. Peter (1 Pt 3:16-17)

“Three things are necessary for the salvation of man: to know what he ought to believe; to know what he ought to desire; and to know what he ought to do.”

—St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-74)

“Accustom yourself continually to make many acts of love, for they enkindle and melt the soul.”

—St. Teresa of Avila (1515-82)

“Among those around you—apostolic soul—you are the stone fallen into the lake. With your word and your example, you produce a first circle ... and it another ... and another, and another ... wider each time. Now do you understand the greatness of your mission?”

—St. Josemaría Escrivá (1902-75)

Renewal

“Since you cannot do good to all, you are to pay special attention to those who, by the accidents of time, or place, or circumstances, are brought into closer connection with you.”

—St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

“The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist.”

—St. Gregory the Great (540-604)

“Whoever bids other folks to do right, but gives an evil example by acting the opposite way, is like a foolish weaver who weaves quickly with one hand and unravels the cloth just as quickly with the other.”

—St. Thomas More (1478-1535)

“Like Jesus, we belong to the world, living not for ourselves but for others. The joy of the Lord is our strength.”

—Blessed Teresa of Calcutta (1910-97)

Words from our archdiocesan patrons

“Many, many people hereabouts are not becoming Christians for one reason only: there is nobody to make them Christians.”

—St. Francis Xavier (1506-52)

“Without distinction of persons, do good to all.”

—St. Theodora Guérin (1798-1856)
Hospitability is a key element of evangelization in parishes

By Mary Ann Wyand

“Hoosier hospitality” for Catholics in central and southern Indiana means inviting and welcoming all visitors to Masses and other parish activities. It also involves staying in touch with new people and showing them the culture and community of a parish, which often involves contact with the Catholic faith through religious education programs as well as the sacramental initiation process for adults and children.

Evangelization starts with smiles and friendly greetings, said Ken Ogorek, the director of catechesis for the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education. “It is the appearance of just being friendly to folks when they visit your parish,” Ogorek said. “There is certainly more to evangelization than being friendly, but without a warm and welcoming community any other evangelization efforts are not going to go so far. This not only applies to parishioners at Sunday Mass, but also to parish staff members, who may interact with any number of visitors over the course of a typical week.”

Successful evangelization efforts are dependent on the welcoming attitude of parishioners, he said, at parishes in small towns, essay and urban neighborhoods.

“Even a large parish in an urban setting, with some effort, can really be a warm and welcoming community,” Ogorek said. “We like to think that you can take these sorts of matters for granted, but sometimes it takes a team approach to provide the support and direction to a broader group of parishioners how important it is to be intentional in our welcoming efforts. That’s why the strongly encouraging parishes to start or rejuvenate their parish evangelization team. We stand ready to help any parishioners who want to enhance their parish’s efforts at evangelization.”

Father Volz, the pastor of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, said visitors often tell him that the warmth and smiles of the faithful is what led them to join the North Deenary faith community make them feel at home.

“Music that is familiar to people makes it easier for them to connect to their parish,” Fr. Volz said.

Parish hospitality ministries range from the packet also contains a parish schedule and information about the parish’s Blessed Sacrament chapel, Father Volz said, which show people that prayer is a priority.

“Prayer is really spiritual oxygen that we all need to give to our relationship with Christ,” he said. “That’s why it becomes so vital. One of the most important ways to come to know where God desires for us to go and how we choose for us to follow him faithfully is in the silence of prayer.”

Participation in Mass and parish activities keep people rooted in God, Father Nagel said. “The goal ultimately is to have young adults put down roots in parish life, and feel a part of a parish family.”

Sharing the joy in a marriage

That approach pervades the Batesville Deanery’s focus in marriage preparation classes.

Many of the couples who are required to take marriage preparation classes to be married in the Church have one person who is from a different Christian tradition, a different religion or no religious background. So the Rite of Marriage is designed to be welcoming.

“I was a little concerned about the reaction of non-Catholics who take the classes,” says Nancy Fruehner, the resource and program administrator for the Batesville Deanery. “We’ve been doing it for five years now, and haven’t had anyone object to it in any way. The response to the program has been overwhelmingly positive. And it’s truly life-changing for a lot of these couples.

“At the end of the day, the couples chat, laugh, and tell us about their marriage journey. They tell us their marriage is going to be different because they have a whole new perspective about the purpose of their marriage and how to live it out. They understand that the goal is to bring their spouse with you to heaven. They understand that their marriage should be focused on their spousal, and how to bring good to them.”

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By John Shaughnessy

Of all the bonds that mark people’s lives, the purest one may be the relationship between a child and a grandparent. For a child, a grandparent often provides the kind of unconditional love that children thirst for, the wondrous feeling that they can do no wrong in their grandparents’ eyes.

For grandparents, a grandchild is a life-affirming sign of the continuation of family, another reason to hope for the future, and the joyous opportunity to experience the blessings of childhood again—without the daily worry and the primary responsibility of raising the child.

Yet to know the true beauty of the bond between a grandchild and a grandparent, you just had to see the ear-to-ear smile of Ella Gebke on the morning of April 23.

For Ella, this was a day to remember. Her opportunity to promote the “Safe Routes to School” program, St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis, that morning was special because of the swarm of attention that descended upon the north side Catholic school.

A helicopter hovered above the neighborhood. Police on bicycles and in squad cars provided escorts for children walking and riding their bikes through the neighborhood to school. And television camera crews lined up in front of the school parking lot to interview Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard, U.S. Representative Andre Carson and U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.

It was all part of a morning to promote the “Safe Routes to School” program. The U.S. Department of Transportation program encourages walking and biking to school by making routes safe for students and their parents.

Ella and her brother, Henry, a kindergarten student at St. Thomas, were part of the buzzing crowd. Henry rode his bike to school while Ella walked there, all the time staying close to a distinguished-looking man in a light grey suit—Secretary LaHood. Or, as Ella called him, “Grandpa.”

For Ella, this morning was far more special than an opportunity to promote the “Safe Routes to School” program. This morning was the beginning of Grandparents’ Day at St. Thomas Aquinas School. And her Grandpa and her Grandma—Kathy LaHood—were there.

Before the press conference with the television reporters began, Ella continued to stay close to her Grandpa. She was by his side when a reporter for The Criterion asked him about being at his grandchildren’s school on Grandparents’ Day.

“I missed it last year,” LaHood said. “Ella had disappointed that, six or eight months ago, we put it on our schedule to be here.”

Without being asked, he added, “I grew up in Catholic schools and I believe in Catholic schools. My very first teaching job was at St. Joseph School in Pekin, Illinois. I also taught at Holy Family School in Picoa. I taught junior high social studies. That piqued my interest in politics. I left teaching to go into politics. I’m glad my daughter and her husband have sent their children to Catholic schools. I’m really pleased in raising my own children in Catholic schools, that they thought enough to send their children to Catholic schools.”

He also shared his thoughts about setting an example for his grandchildren through the “Safe Routes to School” program.

“Henry and Ella were looking forward so much for us to come to their school for Grandparents’ Day. And it’s good for them to see us involved in programs like this. We become role models for them.”

A short while later, Ella gave her Grandpa another hug and told him that she had to go to her classroom.

Soon, television news reporters started questioning the three politicians about the “Safe Routes to School” program. As part of the program, St. Thomas Aquinas School has established walking routes to school that are supervised by parents who volunteer.

Watching the press conference from a quieter place in the parking lot, Amy LaHood, the mother of Ella and Henry, talked about what it meant to her children to have their grandparents at school on Grandparents’ Day.

“It’s such a close-knit family environment at St. Thomas that they wanted their grandparents to be part of it,” she said as she stood near her husband, Kevin Gebke, and her mother. “Ella and Henry hopped out of bed today before anyone else was up. From the first time we were here in Indianapolis, we never really considered another school. It’s because of the family environment here.”

Inside the school, Ella and her second-grade classmates prepared for the school Mass that would officially begin Grandparents’ Day. Standing outside the classroom with principal Jerry Flynn, Ella was naturally shy as she was introduced to a reporter. But her shyness gave way to a glowing grin when she was asked about her grandparents being at school for Grandparents’ Day.

“I feel really special,” she said. “I feel really good they have the opportunity to come. I love to spend time with them. I just like to hang out at their house, and visit them in Illinois and [Washington, D.C.]”

During her trip to Washington on spring break, Ella and her family had the opportunity to meet President Barack Obama in the White House.

“It was really exciting and fun,” Ella recalled. “I said, ‘Nice to meet you, Mister President.’”

She smiled again. Her grin grew even bigger as she turned her thoughts to Grandparents’ Day.

“I get to share this with my Grandpa and Grandma,” Ella said. “This is the best Grandparents’ Day ever.”

Students at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis walk and ride their bikes to school on April 23, a day that celebrated the north side Catholic school’s involvement in the U.S. Department of Transportation’s “Safe Routes to School” program.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood rests his hands on the shoulders of his granddaughter, Ella Gebke, on April 23, a day that marked the observance of two special events at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis—Grandparents’ Day and the celebration of the “Safe Routes to School” program.

LaHood is the grandfather of Ella, a second-grade student at St. Thomas, and Henry, a kindergartener student.

Grandparents’ Day.

The Criterion  Friday, May 7, 2010  Page 13
Newark archbishop is not happy with college course on same-sex marriage

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. (CN)— Newark Archbishop John J. Myers said a course on same-sex marriage, to be offered at Seton Hall University in South Orange, is contrary to what the Church teaches. As a result, he said, the course is not in sync with Catholic teaching, as the archbishop said in an April 30 statement.

He said the university’s board of trustees has asked the school’s board of regents to “investigate the matter and to take whatever action is required under the law to protect the Catholicity of this university.”

The course is scheduled to be offered to juniors and seniors in the fall through the women and gender studies department at Seton Hall University, a Newark archdiocesan university in South Orange.

Larry Robinson, vice provost at Seton Hall University, said in an April 30 e-mail that the class in question was “approved by the department of political science and by the college, pursuant to institutional practice and custom.”

He added that the initial review of the course by the university department and dean “suggests that the course is not an advocacy course and that it is taught neither from, nor for, any particular perspective, but a ‘special topics’ course to objectively examine a significant current public policy issue.”

Robinson said that “upon review, professors are allowed to teach ‘special topics’ courses on an experimental basis without seeking the approval of the formal college and university curriculum committees.”

He also affirmed that the university anticipates “that the Catholic position on same-sex marriage will be explored in the course.”

Archbishop Myers said that as shepherd of the archdiocese, he is “responsible for maintaining the Catholic identity of all Church institutions and organizations within the archdiocese, and for ensuring authentic and orthodox Catholic teaching in all educational institutions and parishes. That responsibility extends to our Catholic schools and high schools, to our parish religious education programs for both adults and children, and to the Catholic colleges and university operating within my jurisdiction.”

In an April 30 statement, he stressed that the Church teaches that “marriage is a union of man and woman, reflecting the complementarity of the sexes. That teaching precedes any societal connotation of marriage, and is based on natural law.”

The archbishop also noted that during Pope Benedict XVI’s address to U.S. Catholic educators in 2008, he emphasized the need for schools to be true to their Catholic identity.

The pope told the group that “teachers and administrators, whether in universities or schools, have the duty and privilege to ensure that students receive instruction in Catholic doctrine and practice. This requires that public witness to the way of Christ, as found in the Gospel and upheld by the Church’s magisterium, shapes all aspects of an institution’s life, both inside and outside the classroom.”

K. Wing Mott, the Seton Hall associate professor of political science who is scheduled to teach the course, told The Sentinon, the student newspaper, that “The class is not about advocacy, but about studying the issue from a Catholic perspective. It’s about awareness.”

“The best schools offer controversial classes,” he added.

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Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House 5533 E. 56th Street Indianapolis, IN 46226 (317) 545-7681 www.archindy.org/fatima

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In his breviary, seminarian Christopher Rhodes found a special holy card depicting Father Augustine Tolton, the first recognized black priest in the United States. In 2012, Rhodes hopes to be ordained as a priest. Father Tolton was born into slavery in 1854 and was baptized a Catholic by a priest who visited his family in southern Missouri.

Born into slavery in 1854 and baptized a Catholic, Father Tolton was encouraged by an Irish-American priest to pursue a vocation, but no U.S. seminary would accept him because of his race. He was ordained to the priesthood in Rome on April 24, 1886, and sent back to serve as a missionary in his own country. Despite the racism he encountered, he became renowned as a preacher, and founded St. Monica Parish, the mother church for black Catholics in Chicago. He died in 1897 at age 43.

The Archdiocese of Chicago announced in March that it would not be offering Father Tolton as a course on same-sex marriage, which is based on natural law.”

Laura Booras, who has been teaching Catholic teaching at the archdiocese, said that “for black Catholics, he [Father Tolton] is the father of us all.”

Bishop Holley said vocations can be lifted up in the African-American community by prayer, by people encouraging and talking about vocations, and by young people getting connected with supportive groups, such as the Knights of Peter Claver.

“We’ve always been a people of prayer, [and you have to start with that],” he said, adding that people need to share stories of faith and perseverance like the life of Father Tolton. “They need to tell their story and hear the story of others.”

Newark archbishop is inspired by pioneer priest, pray for black vocations

WASHINGTON Auxiliary Bishop Martin D. Holley holds up a book as he celebrates an April 24 Mass at Theological College in Washington to mark the National Day of Prayer for Vocations in the Black Community. The book, “From Slave to Priest,” is a biography of Father Augustine Tolton, who when he was ordained in 1886 became the first recognized African-American priest in the United States.

Abbott, a missionary in his own country.

Rhodes now serves as the president of the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association, and he organized and sang as a cantor at an April 12 Mass at the Theological College Chapel to mark the National Day of Prayer for Vocations in the Black Community.

Abbott also said the university fully supports the archbishop’s directive. He also said the university fully supports the archbishop’s directive.

The pope told the group that “teachers and administrators, whether in universities or schools, have the duty and privilege to ensure that students receive instruction in Catholic doctrine and practice. This requires that public witness to the way of Christ, as found in the Gospel and upheld by the Church’s magisterium, shapes all aspects of an institution’s life, both inside and outside the classroom.”

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Cardinals assist the pope in governing the universal Church

By Fr. Robert Kinast

I have never ministered in a local Church where the bishop was named a cardinal, but I have known and worked with two men who became cardinals. Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin was rector of the cathedral in Atlanta when I served there as a deacon in 1967. Cardinal Avery Dulles and I taught theology at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., together for eight years. After each priest was named a cardinal, I felt a certain measure of pride by association.

When I shared this feeling with Cardinal Bernardin, he reminded me in his disarmingly but insightful manner that for a bishop to be named a cardinal is less a personal honor and more a recognition of the importance of the diocese he leads, which in his case was the Archdiocese of Chicago. This understanding derives from the Latin word for cardinal, “cardus,” meaning “hinge.” In ecclesiastical terms, it implies that the development and success of the Church’s mission “hinges on” the contribution of a bishop’s diocese.

What about individuals who aren’t in charge of a diocese? In the case of Cardinal Dulles, designation as a cardinal was recognition of the service he gave to the universal Church through his research, writing and teaching. In addition to his theological work, he also offered to the highest levels of the Church his considerable experience and wisdom when called upon for advice. Although their ministries took different forms, both men exemplified the role of a cardinal—to assist the pope in governing the Church. This service takes three basic forms.

1. The most direct form is for certain cardinals to actually administer the congregations at the Vatican, which oversee the work of the universal Church. Several of these congregations have a direct bearing on the ministry of priests in a diocese—worship and sacraments, evangelization, doctrine, and, of course, the clergy itself.

2. The second and most common form of service is for cardinals to offer advice to the pope on matters of concern to the universal Church. This advice is often made public in subsequent papal or Vatican statements. It is also at a consistory that the pope announces the names of new cardinals.

3. One intriguing aspect of this process occurs when the pope designates someone a cardinal without indicating who he is by name. This is known as a declaration “in facie quesitae,” meaning “in the heart” or “in secret.” The usual reason for this is potential danger to the person if his special importance to the pope becomes known to likely persecutors.

The third way that cardinals fulfill their function is the most familiar—to elect a new pope when the pope dies, resigns or is removed from office. This process occurs following a conclave of cardinals when electing a new pope has often been the topic of speculation and even fictional imagination. The pope has the authority to determine how the College of Cardinals functions, especially regarding the election of a new pope. And several popes have exercised this authority quite intentionally.

Pope Nicholas II in 1059 decreed that the cardinals would be the only priests to elect the pope, not the senior clergy of Rome as was done during the first centuries, and certainly not emperors or other secular rulers as in the age of the Holy Roman Empire. Pope Sixtus V in 1586 set the number of cardinals at 70, but Pope John XXIII abrogated that limit in 1958, and Pope Paul VI set the number at a maximum of 120, all of whom had to be under the age of 80.

There is a special connection between cardinals and priests. Originally, cardinals were the pastors of the major parishes in Rome. They served as an informal aid to the pope in his office as bishop of Rome.

To this day, newly appointed cardinals are named as honorary pastors of a parish in Rome. They serve as an informal aid to the pope in his office as bishop of Rome.

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This Week’s Question

Cardinals represent many cultures, nations

As a priest, what is one thing you would have the laity appreciate about the College of Cardinals?

“Just take a look at how nationalism around the world can cause conflict, either out of itself or in on themselves. In the College of Cardinals, we have representatives from all over the world so they can look at issues from a true international perspective. The College of Cardinals is one of the most world-representative groups that exists, especially in regard to religion.”

(Jesuit Father Edwin Gross, El Paso, Texas)

“Jesus appointed Peter head of all the Apostles. James and John, however, appear in the Gospels to be with him more, for example, at the Transfiguration. Today, the cardinals have that kind of a special place. They elect the pope, and they have to be knowledgeable about things around the world so they can inform the pope and [help him] fulfill his office.”

(Father Matthew Pfeiffer, Akron, Ohio)

“Members of the College of Cardinals are [usually] bishops with a higher ranking, but an ordinary bishop has as much authority over his diocese as a cardinal has over his [diocese]. ... Also, cardinals and bishops have an equal vote at a conference of bishops.”

(Father William D. L’Heureux, Omaha, Neb.)

“The primary responsibility of the College of Cardinals is to elect the pope. That’s when they come into the fullness of their office. Otherwise, they function as bishops, though some are major advisers to the pope. ... They are men who deserve respect for their high station, and the important service they render to the Church.”

(Father Peter Dolbowksi, Bullhead City, Ariz.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Have you read any of the teachings of the Fathers or doctors of the Church? What did you learn?

To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to cgreeng@catholicnews.com or write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.
It’s All Good/Patti Lamb

This Mother’s Day, thank moms for all they do in our lives.

Last night, the kids were squealing over stale jelly beans and chocolate coming to blows, 5-year-old son, Henry, screamed at the top of his lungs, “boss!” he shouted. Everyone looks at her as if to say, “That was her meaningful contribution.”

She kicks up one amazing feat that she is allowed to get sick, be grumpy or forgets is remembered for years—or forever.

The mother is the ultimate servant. She is the chief prayer warrior. Mom absorbs the prayers, defeats and dreams of each of her children, and stores them quietly in her heart.

This Sunday, we celebrate Mother’s Day. It is unfortunate that this celebration last only one day. Moms deserve more. Her meaningful contributions are easily overlooked, and her acts of kindness are forgotten in an instant. But anything she forgets is remembered forever.

She also serves as resident worrier and chief prayer warrior. Moms absorb the victories, defeats and dreams of each of her children, and stores them quietly in her heart.

If we begin to train ourselves for the kind of mercy that Jesus was able to show by taking these small opportunities to return angry or inconsiderate words to their true, created goodness—or to words that cause us to take offense. Whatever we do, if we only take the time to consider our words in this new day, we will also develop this habit of speaking with words that express love and compassion?

What if we began to train ourselves for that same profound prayer offered by Jesus? “Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do” (Lk 23:34). I don’t mean that we just fake the words of feelings, but that we actually don’t react with a shred of negativity.

My own experiment of taking this small opportunity to return angry or inconsiderate words to their true, created goodness—or to words that cause us to take offense. Whatever we do, if we only take the time to consider our words in this new day, we will also develop this habit of speaking with words that express love and compassion?

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The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 9, 2010

• Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
• John 14:23-29

The Acts of the Apostles again provides the first reading for a weekend in the Easter season. As it grew, Christianity not only expanded beyond its original base in the Holy Land, but also drew gentiles as well as Jews. Diversity was a characteristic early in the development of the Church.

However, this increasing multicultural nature of the Christian community presented problems. The problem is evident in this weekend’s reading. A dispute arose in Antioch over whether a demand was made that converts from paganism be required to submit to the Hebrew ritual of circumcision. How this might have been interpreted is uncertain, but the fact that it was raised at all demonstrates the tensions which must have been present. It should be noted, however, that at the very time when this problem arose, the Holy Spirit was working in the holy cities of Antioch and Jerusalem to call men from every nation to believe. The Holy Spirit was leading the Church already calls us to strong faith, love and peace. Every personal decision to follow Jesus, by personal insight, but also by God’s guidance in our daily life.†

Reflection

As we look ahead to Pentecost, the Church gives us very practical advice. Since being with God in the heavenly Jerusalem is the only true source of peace and anything else is death, we reach God’s heavenly Jerusalem by our daily decisions to follow Jesus. The route to heaven is revealed not just by personal insight, but also by God’s illumination of the path. Relying upon Christ and upon the Lord’s Apostles, the Church illuminates the way, guiding us to answer, with Christian faith and love, the questions that confront us in life. As we look ahead to Pentecost, the Church already calls us to strong faith, but also to realism. We must depend on the Church’s guidance in our daily life.†

Question Corner

Fr. John Dietzen

Church teaches that guardian angels watch over and care for human family

At our parish “Why Catholic?” meeting, we discussed your recent collection on guardian angels. Everyone disagreed with your statement that, while the doctrine of personal guardian angels is a “rich and joyful treasure of our Catholic heritage, it is not an article of faith,” and acceptance of that belief is not an essential of Catholic life. Scripture—Psalm 91 and Hebrews 1:14—and the liturgy—the feast of the Guardian Angels Oct. 2—both proclaim the existence of guardian angels as does the Catechism of the Catholic Church (#363). You should correct your statement that this dogma is not an article of faith. (New Jersey)

Dr. John Dietzen

A Good question! There is in Catholic theology what the Catechism of the Catholic Church (#890 and #234) calls a hierarchy of doctrines. This means that some doctrines are more closely linked to divine revelation in the Scriptures or Christian tradition while other doctrines are to some degree deductions from those directly revealed by God. Some doctrines, therefore, are more central and essential to Catholic faith than others.

Articles of faith are generally those dogmas defined, for example, by papal declaration or by ecumenical councils, such as the truths included in the Nicene Creed, or proclaimed in the constant ordinary teachings of the magisterium of the Church. Over the centuries, Catholic theologians have assigned to individual teachings what we would call theological notes, which are based on the source of the teaching, how they develop in tradition, how they relate to other dogmas and so on.

These notes range from dogmas “of divine faith” (“fide divina”) to doctrines that are common and certain—all the way down to teachings that are “offensive to pious ears.” Several years ago, someone claimed that the impossibility of the ordination of women is an article of faith because it is in the catechism and all bishops were consulted before the catechism was published. Others replied that, using that criterion, every statement in the catechism would be an article of faith, which is obviously not true.

In 1993, when asked about the theological weight of doctrines in the catechism of the Coptic Cardinal Ratzinger—who was prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and later Pope Benedict XVI—explained, “The individual doctrines that the catechism affirms have no other authority than that which they already possess” before the catechism was published. Something similar sometimes happens in the liturgy. We have a feast of Anna and Joachim as the parents of Mary, for example, but there is no doctrinal implication about it. We have no official teaching, only an apocryphal Gospel to cite that these were their names.

In other words, some Church teachings—the primacy of the Bishop of Rome is one example—are clearly articles of Catholic faith. Determining the theological note of others may require serious study and research, and the development in the teaching history of the Church. But making that determination is not an exact science so some ambiguities are inevitable.

Concerning guardian angels, the following assigned levels of authenticity for faith are generally common:

• That angels watch over and care for the entire human family is an article of faith, based in the liturgy.

• That each of the Christian faithful has a guardian angel is a certain and common position.

• That all human beings have such a personal guardian angel is regarded theologically as more common and provable.

Such distinctions may seem academic, but they can be important. Much of today’s Catholic polarization and name-calling—unbeliever, heretic, dissenter, etc.—would be muted if more people were aware of these distinctions and observed them.

(A free brochure describing basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3515, Peoria, IL 61612. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address or by e-mail to jjdietzen@aol.com.)†
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Catholics light candles with a flame from the baptismal candle during the Easter Vigil Mass celebrated by Father John McCaslin on April 3 at St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis. He is the pastor of St. Anthony Parish and the administrator of Holy Trinity Parish in the Indianapolis West Deanery.
Pro-life ‘freedom rides’ set to begin this summer in Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (CNS) — Calling for an end to the nation’s “emasculation of life,” Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life announced on April 27 that a series of “freedom rides” for the unborn would begin July 23.

The rides will be nonpartisan, interdenominational and nonviolent, and will involve a diverse cross-section of people, Father Pavone said in a news conference in Birmingham’s Kelly Ingram Park.

“Like the freedom rides of five decades ago, these freedom rides symbolize the principle... that justice and equal protection of human rights belong to each and every human being, regardless of size or age or any other characteristic,” he said.

Among those joining Father Pavone in the announcement was Alveda King, director of African-American Outreach at Priests for Life and niece of the late civil rights leader, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Her father, the Rev. A.D. King, is depicted in a statue of civil rights leader, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., pose in the Freedom Ride Bus in Birmingham, Ala. The pro-life freedom rides will begin with a July 23 send-off concert at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Center followed by a ride to Atlanta through Huntsville, Ala.; and Bishop Dometrics Roscoe, founder of Living Church Ministries in Birmingham. Members of the Priests for Life pastoral team at the news conference included Janet Morana, executive director and co-founder of the Silent No More awareness campaign; Father-Peter West and Augustinian Father Denis Wilde; and Dominican Father William Scott Daniels and Theresa and Kevin Burke, founders of Rachel’s Vineyard, a healing ministry for women and men harmed by abortion.

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The #1 cause of colorectal cancer just might be procrastination.

Getting a colonoscopy may not be on the top of your to-do list, but having one could save your life. With early intervention, colorectal cancer can be prevented. That’s why you should have a screening colonoscopy beginning at age 50, or earlier if family history or risk factors exist. At the St. Francis Colorectal Cancer Center, our multidisciplinary teams of experts specialize in preventing and treating colorectal cancer.

Call (317) 782-7145 today to schedule a colonoscopy or visit StFrancisHospitals.org/cancer to learn about your risk factors.