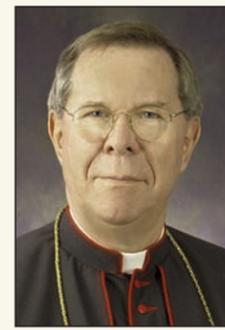




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Seeking the Face of the Lord

Poll affirms making ministry to young adults a priority, page 5.

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Mother Teresa's sainthood cause awaits 'one more miracle,' postulator says

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS)—Father Brian Kolodiejchuk of the Missionaries of Charity, postulator for the sainthood cause of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, told a gathering at the Knights of Columbus Museum in



Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

New Haven on June 1 that her cause is "still waiting for one more miracle" for her to be declared a saint.

With worldwide events now under way to mark the 100th anniversary of her birth on Aug. 26, Father Kolodiejchuk was in New Haven to talk about her life and mission as part of

a current exhibit at the museum, "Mother Teresa: Life, Spirituality and Message."

"So far, there hasn't been one case that is strong enough to pass the medical board" of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, he said. "But we're still hoping and praying."

Father Kolodiejchuk also serves as superior general of the Missionaries of Charity Fathers, the religious order of priests founded by Mother Teresa in 1984 and now based in Tijuana, Mexico.

"Someone has to ask Mother Teresa's intercession, then Mother Teresa has to intercede, God has to [perform] the miracle, someone has to report the miracle ... and then we can continue with the process," he said of the canonization process.

In general, two miracles must be accepted by the Church as having occurred through the intercession of a prospective saint, one before beatification and the other before canonization.

"We get thousands of reports of favors from people praying," he noted, "but so far, nothing that can be presented as a miracle."

The healing of an abdominal tumor in Monica Besra, an Indian mother of five, was authenticated as a miracle that took place through the intercession of Blessed Teresa and

See TERESA, page 3

A wonderful journey



Franciscan Sister Lavonne Long's love of interacting with young people shines on her face. In this 2006 file photo, the then 84-year-old educator shares a laugh with, from left, Hannah Zimmerman, Jesse Wilson and Jessi Wright, students at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis.

Emotional farewell awaits sister who has always given her heart to children

By John Shaughnessy

She expects her farewell tribute to be emotional—for her and for many of the people who will come together to celebrate her 66 years of dedication to young people and Catholic education.

And it seems especially fitting that she will be honored in the gymnasium of the high school to which she has given her heart for 45 years, a gymnasium where this petite woman with the huge smile could often be found in the stands cheering for the student-athletes she has

admired and loved.

This time, on the afternoon of June 13, the cheers of the crowd inside the gym at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis will be for her—Franciscan Sister Lavonne Long.

The ovation will undoubtedly be long and heartfelt for her as she retires from Scecina—at age 88. Still, it will come as no surprise to everyone who knows her that Sister Lavonne views this special day as her opportunity to say thank you.

"It will be emotional, a day full of gratitude and appreciation for all they've

given to me," she says. "Each person who will be in that gym has somehow touched my life—either as a relative, a former student, someone I've counseled or just a friend. I'll be honored by the presence of everyone in that gym."

The dream, the work and the prayer

On the wall behind Sister Lavonne's desk, a framed motivational message draws a visitor's attention. It reads, "Without dreams, there is no reason to work. Without work, there is no reason

See RETIREMENT, page 8

Pope asks Catholics in Cyprus to be witnesses of God's love

NICOSIA, Cyprus (CNS)—The Catholic minority in Cyprus and the Christian minority in the Middle East are called to be witnesses of God's love, of hope in the face of suffering and of a tenacious commitment to dialogue for peace, Pope Benedict XVI said during his June 4-6 journey to Cyprus.

Meeting with members of Cyprus' tiny Catholic communities in the morning on June 5, celebrating Mass that evening with Church workers and celebrating Mass on June 6 in a sports stadium, the pope said they can be a force for good in the region and in the world by strengthening their bonds of affection for one another, building unity with other Christians and respectfully working with followers of other religions.

"We are called to overcome our differences, to bring peace and reconciliation where there is conflict, to offer the world a message of hope," the pope said in his homily on June 6 in Nicosia's Eleftheria sports arena.

"We are called to reach out to those in need, generously sharing our earthly goods with those less fortunate than ourselves. And we are called to proclaim unceasingly the death and resurrection of the Lord," the pope told an estimated 10,000 people from Cyprus and throughout the Middle East.

The Vatican estimates there are about 25,000 Catholics in Cyprus. Most belong to the Maronite Church. The Latin-rite Catholic community is composed of a tiny group of Cypriot Catholics and several thousand foreign workers, particularly from the Philippines, Sri Lanka and India.

The pope's meeting on June 5 with Catholics at the St. Maron School brought together representatives from all the Catholic communities, including Filipino, Sri Lankan and Indian domestic workers who had the day off.

One of them, Violet Saldanha, 45, was singing in the choir. Coming from Mumbai, India, she has been working as a

See CYPRUS, page 2



Pope Benedict XVI blesses a baby as he leaves after celebrating Mass at the Eleftheria Sports Palace in Nicosia, Cyprus, on June 6. At the end of the Mass, the pope appealed for a "concerted international effort" to ease tensions in the Middle East before more blood is spilled. His appeal came days after at least nine people were killed in an Israeli raid on an aid flotilla trying to reach the Gaza Strip.

CYPRUS

continued from page 1

housekeeper in Cyprus for 10 years and said the Church nourishes her faith, gives her support and is a place to socialize.

The Latin-rite choir was just a tiny part of the program put on for the pope. Hundreds of children from 4-year-olds to teenagers danced for the pope and a Maronite choir sang traditional hymns as well as mournful folk songs.

The sad songs reflect the fact that many of Cyprus' Maronite villages were on the northern part of the island, which has been under the control of Turkish Cypriots since 1974. Thousands of troops from Turkey are stationed in the North.

Elena Solo is from one of the northern villages, Ayia Marina.

While Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots cross over the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone with relative ease, Ayia Marina and some other villages are off limits.

"We are not allowed to go inside the village, not even to visit the church. There are Turkish troops there," Solo said.

Still, she said, the situation is the result of a political problem between Cyprus and Turkey, not a religious problem, and it does not prevent Greek and Turkish Cypriots from working together and even being friends.

In his introductory remarks, Pope Benedict greeted the Maronite Catholics, giving special mention to Ayia Marina and three other villages once inhabited by the Maronites who fled south after the 1974 tensions.

Maronite Archbishop Youssef Soueif of Cyprus asked the pope, "Help us return to our villages. Remember Cyprus in your prayers. Our villages are beautiful spaces where we preserve our identity, our particularity in the spirit of openness toward everyone."

Openness was a key theme in the pope's address to about 2,000 people gathered in the hot sun at the schoolyard.

The pope said the fact that Catholics were such a small minority on the island gave them the opportunity each day to foster good relations with other Christians and with Muslims.

"Only by patient work can mutual trust be built, the burden of history overcome, and the political and cultural differences between peoples become a motive to work for deeper understanding," he said.

The pope urged the Catholics of Cyprus "to help create such mutual trust between Christians and non-Christians as a basis for building lasting peace and harmony between peoples of different religions, political regions and cultural backgrounds."

After the event at the school, the pope was the guest of Orthodox Archbishop Chrysostomos II, head of the Orthodox Church of Cyprus. Before visiting the Orthodox museum and joining the archbishop for lunch, the pope praised the Cypriot leader for his role in supporting dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

The pope told the archbishop that he joined him "in praying that all the inhabitants of Cyprus, with God's help, will find the wisdom and strength needed to work together for a just settlement of issues remaining to be resolved, to strive for peace and reconciliation, and to build for future



Pope Benedict XVI walks with Archbishop Chrysostomos II, head of the Orthodox Church of Cyprus, third from right, and other Orthodox clergy in Nicosia, Cyprus, on June 5.

generations a society distinguished by respect for the rights of all."

At the evening Mass on June 5 with priests, nuns, seminarians and parish leaders at the Church of the Holy Cross, the pope focused on the theme of the cross and of suffering transformed by love.

The cross, he said, "is indeed an instrument of torture, suffering and defeat, but at the same time it expresses the complete transformation, the definitive reversal of these evils; that is what makes it the most eloquent symbol of hope that the world has ever seen."

The cross "speaks of love, it speaks of the victory of nonviolence over oppression," he said. †

Pope presents Middle East synod document focused on peace, dialogue

NICOSIA, Cyprus (CNS)—Presenting the working document for the special Synod of Bishops on the Middle East during his June 4-6 journey to Cyprus, Pope Benedict XVI prayed for "just and lasting solutions" to the region's conflicts, which cause so much hardship.

"I reiterate my personal appeal for an urgent and concerted international effort to resolve the ongoing tensions in the Middle East, especially in the Holy Land, before such conflicts lead to greater bloodshed," the pope said on June 6 at the end of a Mass in a Nicosia sports arena.

The pope gave the document to representatives from the Latin-rite, Maronite,

Melkite, Armenian, Coptic, Chaldean and Assyrian Catholic Churches living in countries from Egypt to Iran.

The synod will be held at the Vatican on Oct. 10-24, and focus on "communion and witness" in the region where Christianity was born, but where Christians are a minority.

Pope Benedict told the region's Catholics that the synod would be an occasion "to highlight the important value of the Christian presence and witness in the biblical lands, not just for the Christian community around the world, but also for your neighbors and fellow citizens.

"You desire to live in peace and harmony with your Jewish and Muslim neighbors," the

pope said, adding that, "often, you act as peacemakers in the difficult process of reconciliation."

Even though they are recognized for their work in education, health care and other charitable activities, many of the region's Catholics face discrimination and limits on their rights, particularly their right to religious freedom, he said.

The 45-page working document—released in Arabic, English, French and Italian—said that often surrounded by war and sometimes treated like outsiders, Christians in the Middle East need faith and outside support so they can stay in the region and contribute to peacemaking.

For all Christians, but especially for many in the Middle East, the document said, "Living the truth and proclaiming it with charity and courage demands a real commitment. The most effective witness is allowing actions to speak louder than words, living Christianity faithfully, and showing solidarity" through the work of Christian institutions like schools and hospitals.

Life often is difficult for Christians in the Middle East, especially because of "the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the resulting instability throughout the region," said the document, which was prepared on the basis of responses to a questionnaire sent to Church leaders in the region. †

Would Jesus have tweeted? Massachusetts parish leaders say yes

WESTFIELD, Mass. (CNS)—Would Jesus have tweeted? "Absolutely. You know Jesus was not afraid of boundaries," said Father James Longe, parochial vicar of St. Mary Parish in Westfield.

"Jesus was comfortable in his own skin. He had a message that he wanted to share. ... And so I say absolutely that Jesus would tweet. He'd be on TV. He'd be talking on the telephone. He'd be walking the streets," the 35-year-old priest told *The Catholic Observer*, newspaper of the Diocese of Springfield.

Father Longe and parishioner Timothy Hourihan believe in taking the message of Jesus to new people in new ways. Specifically, during the past year they initiated many forms of electronic evangelization to attract more people to the faith.

Since April 2009, the parish YouTube site has had more than 20,000 views of its home-produced videos. The men have created a Church blog, Facebook site and Twitter account, and have homilies, songs and prayers available for free downloads on iTunes.

The electronic offerings from the parish are a mix of education and entertainment. For example, one popular YouTube video involved Father Longe just standing in front of the parish statue of Mary and talking about the mother of Jesus.

Another video features Father Brian McGrath, St. Mary's pastor, cooking an Italian meal. The show follows him from the rectory garden to the kitchen to the dinner table.

Father McGrath said the parish has "always tried to get a little bit

ahead of the curve in terms of electronic evangelization or at least how the parish is seen through the Web. So we have had Web sites and put a lot of energy into our Web sites. But with Tim and Father Longe, the blog, YouTube and other aspects of it have really blossomed."

Father McGrath said he thinks his parish's latest efforts are critical. "If we don't reach out to our next generation, we're lost. And we have done that in sort of old-fashioned ways. You can be an altar server. You can be part of our youth choir. You can be going to our school or CCD," said Father McGrath. "But the world is changing. So how are we going to reach out to this generation? And they're electronic. And they're plugged into lots more stuff than us guys are."

Brendan Bastible, 14, is an eighth-grader at St. Mary School. He said he has an iPhone, an iPod Touch, three laptops, and lots of TVs and gaming systems.

He said he was impressed with his parish's efforts to connect with him. "It appeals more to the youthful community because they're the ones that make up most of the social networking population. So it's a great way to reach out to them," Brendan said.

(Editor's note: To connect with St. Mary Parish electronically, click on:

- www.youtube.com/user/StMarysofWestfield
- <http://stmarysofwestfield.blogspot.com/>
- <http://twitter.com/StMarysWMass>
- www.facebook.com/?ref=logo#!/pages/Westfield-MA/St-Marys-of-Westfield-MA/150360448000?ref=ts. †

Official Appointment

Effective July 7, 2010

Deacon Wesley Jones, assigned to St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis, and for the ministry of charity as a hospice chaplain at St. Francis Hospital and Health Centers in Indianapolis, and the ministry of charity for Catholic Charities in Indianapolis, assigned to St. Ann Parish in Indianapolis and continuing the ministry of charity for Catholic Charities in Indianapolis.

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



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Survey identifies good stewardship practices for parishes

By Sean Gallagher

“Once one chooses to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option.”

With these words, Bishop John J. McRaith, the now-retired bishop of Owensboro, Ky., summarized the 1991 pastoral letter on stewardship issued by the bishops of the United States titled “Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response.”

Bishop McRaith was saying that stewardship should be an integral part of the life of faith.

In 2008, staff members in the archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development began studying how this spiritual perspective on stewardship has been successfully nurtured in parishes across central and southern Indiana.

Surveys were sent out in late 2008 to leaders in all of the archdiocese’s 151 parishes to gather data about how they encourage stewardship as a way of life by means that include hospitality, communication, use of the annual archdiocesan stewardship appeal, leadership development, spirituality and parish outreach.

Nearly 100 parishes completed the survey. The information collected in the survey was analyzed in early 2009, and later discussed with archdiocesan priests and other parish stewardship leaders.

Earlier this year, parishes received the results for their parish and deanery, and a chart to help them see how those results compared with the rest of the archdiocese.

Communication is key

The survey showed that St. Ann Parish in Terre Haute, led by parish life coordinator Providence Sister Connie Kramer, has a strong reputation for good communication between parish staff members and the parishioners.



Sr. Connie Kramer, S.P.

A key part of that communication, according to Sister Connie, is a regular thanking of parishioners in the parish bulletin for their volunteer efforts.

The section of the bulletin where these thanks are expressed is titled “Gratitude is the memory

of the heart.”

“It’s at the very top of the bulletin on the first page,” Sister Connie said. “And it says ‘Thanks to’ and if you painted something, if you helped me with the dental clinic, if you decorated the social hall, if you sang at a funeral, if you did anything, we say thank you there.”

There are a lot of people at St. Ann Parish to thank, Sister Connie said, because she is not afraid to ask people for help. And, more often than not, they are willing to lend a hand.

“I always say to people that I want to give the God who lives in you an option,” she said. “And if the God who lives in you says that this is something you need to do, then that’s what you need to do. And if it’s not something that you need to do, that’s fine.”

“It’s just a question. It’s never a command performance.”

Mine the data

A parish may have a lot of members who want to be of service, like at St. Ann Parish, but if parish leaders don’t know who these people are or call upon them, then that service won’t happen or the ministry of the parish won’t live up to its potential.

Chuck and Leslie Lynch, members of St. Mary Parish in Lanesville, try to maximize the ministry of their New Albany Deanery faith community by taking full advantage of the data collected in Christ Our Hope: Compassion in Community, the annual archdiocesan stewardship appeal.

On the back of the pledge card that all parishioners receive is a list of various ministries that people can put check marks on to show their interest in volunteering.

Before the cards are printed, however, Chuck and Leslie make sure that the list of ministries on the card is customized to match the actual ministries of the parish.

“Make this reflect what your parish really does,” Chuck advises other parishes.

When the pledge cards start coming in, the couple record the checkmarks and send a list of names and contact information, with new volunteers especially marked, to a contact person for each parish ministry.

“Once we get each ministry separated out, we have to send that list to the contact person,” Chuck said. “And the big thing here is for them to call the new people and say, ‘Thank you’ and ‘Welcome to the ministry.’”

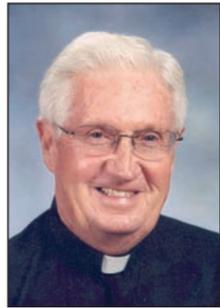
Seeing the names on those lists, especially the ones with an “N” marked by them since they are new volunteers, is satisfying for Chuck.

“It confirms for me how strong this parish is,” he said. “It confirms for me that we are each other’s strength. We grow in our faith by working in the vineyard, but next to a whole lot of other people who are there working also.”

“Everything becomes easier if we all do it.”

A strong, welcoming leader

Chuck Lynch gave a lot of credit for the strength of St. Mary Parish in Lanesville to Father Harold Ripperger, who was the pastor from 1989 until he retired in 2009.



Fr. James Wilmoth

He described his longtime pastor as “unbelievably inviting.”

“You felt at home in his presence, immediately,” Chuck said.

Father James Wilmoth, the pastor of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis, also tries to be a welcoming leader of his faith community.

He tries to do this especially at Mass and encourages other ministers during liturgies to do the same.

This message of hospitality that Father Wilmoth has lived and preached since becoming St. Roch’s pastor in 1997 is taking root in his parishioners.

“[Our ushers] just do it,” he said. “They stay in the back of the church and as people come in, they’ll say, ‘Good morning. Thanks for coming today.’”

Such cheerful greetings may have been one cause for the growth of St. Roch over the past dozen years. When Father Wilmoth arrived there, about 400 households were members of the parish. Now there are more than 1,000.

But Father Wilmoth doesn’t take credit for such growth. He points to the parishioners who have embraced their parish and the call to be welcoming.

“It’s their place,” he said. “It’s their place of worship. It’s a big part of their family. It’s a big part of their neighborhood. And I think that they’ve just taken to that, and they’ve just tried to make it the best it can be in every aspect.”

Building on a strong foundation

The various practices that the survey pointed out that help build a culture of stewardship in a parish—such as good communications, mining the data collected in the annual stewardship appeal and being a welcoming parish—



Members of St. Mary Parish in Lanesville surround their now-retired pastor, Father Harold Ripperger, after a May 17, 2008, Mass at the parish church that celebrated the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination. Chuck and Leslie Lynch, members of St. Mary Parish, credit their former pastor with building up a strong culture of stewardship in the New Albany Deanery faith community.

will only grow in effectiveness the more they are built on a strong foundation of faith.

This is the opinion of Father Michael Fritsch, the pastor of St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington.

For him, it starts with placing a high value on Sunday Mass.

“To me, that’s part of stewardship,” Father Fritsch said. “It teaches the youth that the celebration of the Mass is number one. And if you’ve got that as the foundation, then all of the other stewardship activities will flow.”

In his homilies, Father Fritsch regularly invites his listeners to prayerfully consider how they can grow in their love of Christ by giving of themselves more to others.

Highlighting the spiritual nature of stewardship has had an effect on Timothy Mercer, a member of St. John the Apostle Parish.

When Father Fritsch asked Mercer to be the lead catechist in the parish’s confirmation preparation program, Mercer jumped at the chance.

“I had been asking God for some time to open a door for me where I could serve better,” Mercer said. “And when [Father Fritsch] made the call, I was very grateful that he would think of me. I had previously not said anything to him, only to God in my prayers.”

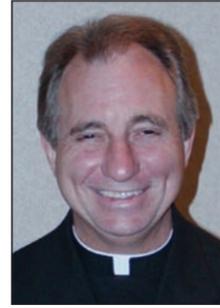
Mercer said his pastor’s homilies prompted him to give of himself. He particularly recalled a homily that Father Fritsch shared about the parable of the talents that three servants of a man were given to invest (Mt 25:14-28).

Two servants invested the talents wisely and gave back their talents with increase to their master, who rewarded them. The third servant buried the one talent that he was given, and was rebuked by the master.

“He put a slant on it and it made me realize that I was the man that still had the one talent and that I had not invested it wisely for the Lord,” Mercer said. “I better get off my rear end and make it happen.”

For Mercer, such stewardship is also linked directly to the Eucharist.

“Father Mike makes a great emphasis on the Real Presence, unlike anything that I’d been exposed to,” he said. “He has definitely taken our parish to a new level, I feel.” †



Fr. Michael Fritsch

TERESA

continued from page 1

led to her 2003 beatification.

The miracle took place on the first anniversary of Blessed Teresa’s death. At the time it occurred, Besra was in the care of the Missionaries of Charity, who were praying to their foundress for her healing.



Fr. Brian Kolodiejchuk

The day after the priest spoke, Mother Teresa’s crucifix, rosary and sandals, and a reliquary containing her blood, were exhibited for one day of veneration at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. The crucifix was the one that she wore from the time of her first vows at age 20 until her death in 1997 at age 87. The rosary and sandals were those used by

Mother Teresa at the time of her death.

The relics then traveled to St. Patrick’s Cathedral in

New York on June 7 for veneration and a Mass that Father Kolodiejchuk celebrated.

Father Kolodiejchuk said the legacy of the “saint of Calcutta” is to remind us of what it means to be human—“that we are created for greater things, to love and be loved.”

“She saw the value of every human being,” he said, “and had a very deep, profound sense of the sacredness of the human being,” and an understanding “that every single human being is a child of God created in the image of God.”

The exhibit at the New Haven museum, which runs through Oct. 4, chronicles Mother Teresa’s life from childhood to beatification. It includes biographical information, artifacts such as her sari and other religious and personal articles, and a full-scale replica of Mother Teresa’s room in her Calcutta convent.

Father Kolodiejchuk was introduced to Mother Teresa in 1977 by his sister, now Sister Charbel, who currently serves as mother superior for the Missionaries of Charity house in Bridgeport. He is the editor of *Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light*, a collection of her private writings.

“She was a woman passionately in love with Jesus,” the priest said. “She taught us that the way to our human



A woman looks at the sandals of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta during a display of some of her relics at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on June 2. Looking on are two members of the Missionaries of Charity, the order Mother Teresa founded.

fulfillment and happiness begins by giving oneself through love put into action through service to others,” and by doing “ordinary things with extraordinary love.” †



Rev. Msgr. Raymond T. Bosler, Founding Editor, 1915 - 1994

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Editorial

ONS photo/Lee Calerna, Reuters



Scientist Douglas Inkle of the National Wildlife Federation looks at marsh grass stained with oil on an island affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in Barataria Bay, La., on May 25. For nearly a month, roughly 210,000 gallons of oil per day have been gushing from British Petroleum's broken Deepwater Horizon wellhead situated in the Gulf of Mexico in what is considered the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

Caring for God's creation is a serious responsibility that all of us share

"We need to care for the environment. It has been entrusted to men and women to be protected and cultivated with responsible freedom, with the good of all as a constant guiding criterion."

—Pope Benedict XVI, April 2008

Just when it appeared that things couldn't get worse for the communities along the Gulf Coast that have been ravaged by natural disasters in recent years, we are now confronted with perhaps the most catastrophic man-made disaster in our nation's history.

Millions of gallons of oil from an offshore rig explosion continue to pour into the Gulf of Mexico, defying all attempts to contain the damage. At risk is marine life across thousands of miles of the shoreline of the Gulf, and the livelihood of millions of people who live, work and recreate in the Louisiana, Alabama and Florida communities—and perhaps others—that share this shoreline.

Pope Benedict XVI reminds us of our serious, God-given responsibility to care for the environment. Creation has been entrusted to us by God as a precious gift to be protected and cultivated with responsible freedom.

In the very act of creating man and woman in his own image and likeness, God gave us dominion—understood as responsible stewardship, not abusive domination—over the entire created universe.

Ours is a sacred duty—to maintain the purity of our air and water, and to preserve and develop responsibly the extensive natural resources and immeasurable riches of our land, our seas and our subterranean minerals and natural gases.

We have failed miserably in this fundamental stewardship responsibility. We have allowed the sins of greed, materialism and self-indulgence to blind us to the duties imposed on us by God when he first placed us in the garden of our earthly home. We have been poor stewards indeed allowing God's creation to be abused carelessly and robbing future generations of their right to the beauty and abundance of our natural world.

What should we do?

- Pray for the people and communities who make their living along the Gulf of Mexico shoreline. Pray that containment efforts and cleanup will be successful. Pray that this disaster will be a decisive

warning for our government, for corporations and business interests, and for all of us who consume the world's energy resources. Pray that this kind of disaster never happens again and that we all wake up to our stewardship responsibilities for all God's creation.

- Provide assistance—food, shelter, clothing, medical assistance and other help—to people in need. Since the beginning of May, more than 5,000 people living in south Louisiana fishing communities have benefited from emergency assistance provided by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. BP Oil has provided the Louisiana archdiocese with \$1 million to help with this relief effort. It is not nearly enough. If you want to help, please send a check or money order to Catholic Charities or to the "Oil Spill Disaster Relief Fund" in care of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, P.O. Box 505, Schriever, LA 70395.

- Urge public officials, especially our representatives in Washington, to do a much better job of licensing and monitoring offshore drilling and all energy development activities.

Federal and state governments also need to cut through the bureaucratic red tape—especially in emergency situations—and do a much better job of coordinating relief efforts and responding to natural and man-made disasters. Let elected officials know that we expect them to be responsible stewards of our nation's resources, and that we will definitely hold them accountable!

- Finally, we should each examine our own stewardship of resources. How much energy do we waste on a daily, monthly or yearly basis? Are we consuming irresponsibly? Are we doing our part to make God's creation as "green" and abundant and beautiful as God intended? How are we protecting and cultivating with responsible freedom all of God's natural gifts—with the good of all as a constant guiding criterion?

It is not too late to save our Earth from humanity's abusive greed and irresponsibility. But as good stewards, we must all take responsibility for the care and cultivation of God's creation.

In a very real way, the future of our planet—and perhaps the entire universe—has been placed in our hands. We need to take this responsibility much more seriously.

—Daniel Conway

Reflection/Sean Gallagher

Pitcher's sportsmanship embodies the wisdom and virtue of late Coach Wooden

It's hard to say how important June 2, 2010, will be in the history of Major League Baseball.

But in the history of how public sports figures can have a positive influence on our society, it should become a day to be remembered for years to come.

On that day, Detroit Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga was one out away from baseball immortality: pitching only the 21st perfect game—allowing no hits and no walks, and no batter allowed on base because of a fielding error—in the history of Major League Baseball. Then Cleveland Indian shortstop Jason David hit a ground ball to the right side of the infield.

Tiger first baseman Miguel Cabrera fielded the ball then tossed it to Galarraga who ran to cover the base. He caught the ball and tagged the base about a step before David reached it. Perfect game, right? Wrong. Umpire Jim Joyce called David safe.

As soon as Galarraga caught the ball and tagged the base, he started to raise his arms in celebration of his great achievement. At the same time, he turned to look at Joyce to see his call. When he saw the umpire motion that David was safe, his arms dropped.

And then an amazing thing, a good thing, happened. Galarraga just stood there and smiled. He didn't scream at the top of his lungs, and get in Joyce's face like baseball players and managers often do when they dispute an umpire's call. He just smiled.

After the game, Galarraga saw a replay of the disputed play, which clearly showed that he tagged the base before David did.

In comments to the press, Galarraga continued the goodness that he had shown on the field. He didn't lash out at Joyce or bemoan the fact that a perfect game was stolen from him. Galarraga calmly and charitably said that he understood that everyone makes mistakes and that no one is perfect.

So Galarraga won't go down on that short list of pitchers to have completed a

Letters to the Editor

Society of St. Vincent de Paul is seeking assistance for peak of planting season

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at 3001 E. 30th St. in Indianapolis serves more than 3,000 needy households each week using an all-volunteer staff.

As we approach the peak of planting season for residential gardeners, pantry volunteers would like to invite the community to assist us in providing much-needed fresh produce to pantry clients. There are two ways to get involved.

First, if you have a vegetable garden on your property, consider expanding your plot and plant a row for the hungry.

That is, plant a bit more than you need and donate any excess to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry for distribution. We ask that vegetables be packaged for more equitable distribution, for example, in one-gallon sealed plastic bags. Donations are accepted at the pantry on Monday through Saturday morning.

A second option is to volunteer to help with an on-site vegetable garden. In partnership with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, a vegetable garden has been developed on St. Vincent de Paul's East 30th Street property.

Our plan is to grow fresh vegetables that can be distributed to pantry clients and,

perfect game. But, in some respects, that game on June 2 was more perfect because of the character that Galarraga showed in the face of a bitter disappointment. We should value his display of virtue more than a pitcher retiring all 27 consecutive batters.

That's because this 27-year-old pitcher from Venezuela may very well have taught countless baseball fans across the country, especially young ones, what it really means to be a good, virtuous person—on the field and off.

In a time when sportsmanship often takes third place behind money and fame, Armando Galarraga reminded us at the end of his truly perfect game that character and virtue are far more important than those two fleeting and illusory attractions that this world has to offer.

Two days after Galarraga became such a good role model, another iconic and virtuous sports figure died: legendary Hoosier basketball player and coach John Wooden.

Although he coached 10 national championship basketball teams at the University of California, Los Angeles, Wooden, who died on June 4 at age 99, may be equally known for the wisdom, and ultimately good Christian principles, that served as the foundation for his coaching excellence.

Now Armando Galarraga had not been a standout pitcher before June 2. And he may never come close to pitching another perfect game. But he certainly embodied the wisdom and virtue that Wooden expressed in one of his many proverbs:

"Talent is God-given. Be humble. Fame is man-given. Be grateful. Conceit is self-given. Be careful."

From what we all saw on June 2, Armando Galarraga has not yet given himself conceit.

Oh, and for you parents out there who are striving to live out your vocation according to the values of the Gospel and to pass those values on successfully to your children, consider the following Wooden saying. Replace the word "coach" with "parent" and the saying still rings true:

"A coach is someone who can give correction without causing resentment."

(Sean Gallagher is a reporter and columnist for The Criterion.) †

longer term, possibly teach clients how to grow their own vegetables if they have a small plot at their residence. We need help with planning, tilling, planting, weeding and harvesting.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities or have questions, call 317-924-5769, ext. 138, visit www.SVDPindy.org or send an e-mail to Info@SVDPindy.org.

Don Striegel
Pantry Volunteer Coordinator
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Indianapolis

St. Paul Ladies Sodality offers heartfelt thanks for support

St. Paul's Ladies Sodality wishes to thank all the wonderful donors who contributed prizes and gift certificates, all the persons who worked, and those who came and supported our Spring Breakfast on Sunday, May 23.

Also, we wish to send special thanks to your newspaper for publicity. We are deeply grateful to all.

St. Paul Ladies Sodality
New Alsace

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



SEEKING THE FACE OF THE LORD

BUSCANDO LA CARA DEL SEÑOR

Poll affirms making ministry to young adults a priority

Readers of *The Criterion* may recall that I have spoken of campus ministry and ministry to young adults as a top priority of our latest archdiocesan strategic leadership plan. With that in mind, I will provide a series of columns over the next weeks that refer to this initiative.

In February of this year, a timely poll of young adults was published, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. It was conducted by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. The poll refers to young adults, ages 18 to 29, as “millennials.” An executive summary of the results is interesting and enlightening.

The survey was published in order to understand and compare the spirituality of Americans and millennials. It examines moral values, world views, religious experiences and social issues important to each of them. A cross-section of Americans was contacted in December 2009 and January 2010.

Adults age 65 and older are referred to as the “greatest generation.” I doubt that anyone will be surprised that the results of the poll indicate that grandchildren are very different from their grandparents.

But there are also areas of common viewpoints.

For example, like average Americans, most millennials—including those who are Catholic—believe in God and have volunteered their time to their Church or community. More than six in 10 Catholics say they have participated in a religious retreat or service project.

Previous generations said that in their

20s their primary goal in life was starting a family. The majority of millennials said they want to be spiritual or closer to God as their primary long-term goal. Although they are not as negative about the decline of moral and societal values, many share the view of older Americans that, morally, the nation is headed in the wrong direction.

I found it interesting to learn from the poll that all generations believe the nation comes up short in its commitment to virtues, such as the obligation to marriage, personal responsibility, respect for others, hard work, honesty and integrity. Most millennials, almost without exception, think marital infidelity is morally wrong. Nearly six in 10 view abortion the same way.

The poll results indicate that religion is an important part of daily life for most Americans. Eight in 10 practicing Catholics describe religion as a vital aspect of their day-to-day lives.

Catholic millennials are more likely to believe in God than their non-Catholic counterparts. Apparently, a majority of Americans think it is OK to practice more than one religion. I am not surprised to learn that the majority of practicing Catholics believe there should be a commitment to one religion.

It was heartening to learn that six in 10 Americans, including millennials, would like to learn more about their religion. This includes nearly two-thirds of Catholic millennials and most practicing Catholics.

There are less encouraging indicators concerning Catholic millennials that are

derived from the polling.

For example, only 25 percent of Catholic young adults said they attend religious services at least once a month. Eighty-five percent said they believe in God. About a third of Catholic millennials reported that they have participated in a religious retreat or religious service projects, while 71 percent reported volunteering their time and talent during the past 12 months.

More than three in 10 millennials define their primary long-term goal in life in religious terms. This is more than any other age group. A third of Catholic millennials said their long-term life goal revolves around family. Spirituality and closeness to God are important for nearly one in five.

While not a surprise, it is nonetheless discouraging to note the poll indicates that for a majority of Americans, morals are relative. They see no definite right and wrong for everyone. This opinion is strongest among millennials.

It is encouraging that a majority of practicing Catholics believe morals are not relative, and are based on unchanging standards. However, 42 percent believe there is no definite right or wrong for everybody.

Some poll results for Catholic millennials is cause for concern. Eighty-two percent of these young adults believe morals are relative, i.e., there is no

definite right or wrong for everybody. Only 18 percent of young Catholics consider moral truths to be absolute. This is a dramatic indicator of a need for more effective catechesis concerning Catholic morality. Yet 82 percent believe in commitment to marriage, and 75 percent stand for honesty and integrity.

Sixty-six percent of Catholic young adults consider abortion morally wrong. Sixty-three percent consider assisted suicide morally wrong. Thirty-three percent consider embryonic stem-cell research wrong. Only 20 percent consider sex between an unmarried man and woman morally wrong; 42 percent do not consider it a moral issue.

If accurate, the data of the Marist poll is a mix of good news and bad news. It certainly affirms making ministry to young adults a top priority. †

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

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

Archbishop Buechlein's intention for vocations for June

Women Religious: that their love of God and the religious charism may be widely appreciated and encouraged.

Encuesta reafirma la necesidad de que el ministerio a los jóvenes adultos sea una prioridad

Los lectores de *The Criterion* recordarán que he hablado acerca del ministerio en las universidades y para los jóvenes adultos como una de las principales prioridades de nuestro plan de liderazgo estratégico arquidiocesano más reciente. En ese marco de ideas, ofreceré una serie de columnas respecto a esta iniciativa en el curso de las próximas semanas.

En febrero del presente año, se publicó una encuesta muy oportuna, realizada entre jóvenes adultos y patrocinada por Knights of Columbus. La llevó a cabo Marist College Institute for Public Opinion en Poughkeepsie, Nueva York. La encuesta se refiere a estos jóvenes adultos, comprendidos entre los 18 y los 29 años, como la “Generación Y.” Es interesante y esclarecedor analizar un resumen ejecutivo de los resultados.

La encuesta fue publicada con el fin de comprender y comparar la espiritualidad de los estadounidenses y de la Generación Y. En ella se examinan valores morales, perspectivas frente al mundo, experiencias religiosas y aspectos sociales relevantes para cada uno de ellos. Se estableció contacto con una muestra representativa de estadounidenses entre diciembre de 2009 y principios de enero de 2010.

A los adultos de 65 años en adelante se les denomina la “Generación grandiosa.” Dudo que a alguien le sorprenda que los resultados de la encuesta indican que los nietos son muy distintos a sus abuelos.

Pero también existen áreas en las que coinciden los puntos de vista.

Por ejemplo, al igual que sucede con los estadounidenses promedio, la mayoría de la Generación Y, incluyendo los católicos, cree en Dios y ha ofrecido su tiempo como voluntario en su iglesia o comunidad. Más de 6 de cada 10 católicos expresan haber participado en un retiro religioso o proyecto de servicio.

Las generaciones anteriores señalaron que a sus veinte años su objetivo principal en la vida era comenzar una familia. La mayoría de la Generación Y dijo que su objetivo principal de largo plazo era el enriquecimiento espiritual o estar más cerca de Dios. Si bien no se muestran tan negativos en relación al deterioro de los valores morales y sociales, muchos comparten la opinión de los estadounidenses mayores de que la nación va por la vía equivocada en cuanto a lo moral.

Me pareció interesante enterarme en la encuesta de que todas las generaciones creen que el país no tiene un compromiso suficiente con virtudes tales como la obligación del matrimonio, la responsabilidad personal, el respeto por los demás, el trabajo arduo, la honestidad y la integridad. La mayoría de la Generación Y, casi sin excepción, piensa que la infidelidad marital es moralmente censurable. Casi 6 de cada 10 ven el aborto desde la misma óptica.

Los resultados de la encuesta indican

que la religión es una parte importante de la vida cotidiana de la mayoría de los estadounidenses. Ocho de cada 10 católicos practicantes describen la religión como un aspecto vital de sus vidas diarias.

Los miembros católicos de la Generación Y son más propensos a creer en Dios que sus equivalentes no católicos. Aparentemente la mayoría de los estadounidenses considera aceptable practicar más de una religión. No me sorprendió averiguar que la mayoría de los católicos practicantes cree que debería haber un compromiso con una sola religión.

Resultó prometedor conocer que 6 de cada 10 estadounidenses, incluyendo los de la Generación Y, desean aprender más acerca de su religión. Esto abarca casi dos tercios de católicos de la Generación Y y la mayoría de los católicos practicantes.

No obstante, de la encuesta se derivan otros indicadores menos alentadores en relación a los católicos de la Generación Y.

Por ejemplo, sólo 25 por ciento de los jóvenes adultos católicos declararon que asistían a servicios religiosos al menos una vez al mes. Ochenta y cinco por ciento dijo que creía en Dios. Aproximadamente un tercio de los católicos de la Generación Y

reportó que había participado en un retiro religioso o proyecto de servicio religioso, en tanto que 71 por ciento reportó ofrecer su tiempo y sus talentos durante los últimos 12 meses.

Más de 3 de cada 10 miembros de la Generación Y definen su objetivo principal de largo plazo en la vida en términos religiosos. La incidencia es mayor que en cualquier otro grupo étnico. Un tercio de los católicos de la Generación Y dijeron

Ver al ARZOBISPO, la página 15

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

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

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

La intención de vocaciones del Arzobispo Buechlein para junio

Mujeres Religiosas: Que su amor por Dios y carisma religioso sean apreciados y alentados por todas partes.

Events Calendar

June 10-12

St. Anthony Parish, 337 N. Warman Ave., Indianapolis. **"Summer Festival,"** food, trash-to-treasures sale, games, Thurs. 6 p.m.-10 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 6 p.m.-11 p.m. Information: 317-636-4828.

June 10-13

Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **Parish festival,** Thurs. and Fri. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, Sun. noon-9 p.m., rides, games, food. Information: 317-888-2861.

June 11

Winding River Golf Course, 8400 Mann Road, Indianapolis. **Roncalli High School golf outing,** shotgun start, 1 p.m. \$110 per person. Information: 317-787-8277 or garmbruster@roncallihs.org.

June 11-12

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. **"Italian Street Festival,"** Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Italian foods, music, rides. Information: 317-636-4478.

Holy Angels Parish, 740 W. 28th St., Indianapolis. **"Blues Festival,"** music, games, health fair, Fri. 3 p.m.-midnight, Sat. noon-midnight, outdoor admission \$5 per person, indoor concert \$20 per person. Information: 317-926-3324.

June 11-13

St. Louis School, 17 St. Louis Place, Batesville. **Rummage sale,** Fri.-Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Information: 812-212-1313.

June 12

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

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 2322 N. 13½ St., Terre Haute. **Ninth annual parish auction,** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 812-466-1231.

June 13

Marian University, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Right to Life of Indianapolis, **"Sunday Night Run,"** pro-life ministry fundraiser, 6 p.m. Information: 317-582-1526 or

life@rtlindy.org. St. Paul Parish, 814 Jefferson St., Tell City. **Parish picnic,** City Hall Park, 700 Main St., across from church, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., games, food. Information: 812-547-7994.

MKVS, Divine Mercy and Glorious Cross Center, Rexville, located on 925 South, .8 mile east of 421 South and 12 miles south of Versailles. Mass, noon, on **third Sunday holy hour and pitch-in,** groups of 10 pray the new Marian Way, 1 p.m., Father Elmer Burwinkel, celebrant. Information: 812-689-3551.

June 13-17

St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, 535 E. Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis. **Vacation Bible School,** 6-8 p.m., \$15 per child. Information: 317-787-8246.

June 14

Hillcrest Golf and Country Club, 850 N. Walnut St., Batesville. **Oldenburg Academy Golf Classic,** celebrity players include Gerry Faust, Reggie Brooks, Gene Keady, tee times at 7 a.m. and 1 p.m., \$200 per player.

Information: 812-933-0737 or www.oldenburgacademy.org.

June 16

Calvary Cemetery, Mausoleum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. **Monthly Mass,** 2 p.m. Information: 317-784-4439.

Easley Winery, 205 N. College Ave., Indianapolis. **Theology on Tap,** summer seven-pack, **"Seven Deadly Sins and Back to Virtue,"** session two, sloth and hunger for righteousness, 6 p.m., no charge. Information: www.indydot.com.

St. Nicholas Parish, 6461 E. St. Nicholas Drive, Sunman.

Healing service, confession, eucharistic procession, praise and worship, laying on of hands, 6 p.m. Information: 812-623-8007.

June 17

Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Guardian Angel Guild, trip to Churchill Downs,** 9:30 a.m. departure, \$75 per person. Information: guardianangel@archindy.org.

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery, Mausoleum Chapel, 9001 N. Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. **Monthly Mass,** 2 p.m. Information: 317-574-8898 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

June 17-19

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., Indianapolis. **"International Festival,"** Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, food, games, rides. Information: 317-291-7014.

St. Bernadette Parish, 4838 E. Fletcher Ave., Indianapolis. **Parish festival,** Fri., yard sale, festival, 5 p.m.-midnight, games, rides, food. Information: 317-356-5867.

St. Rose of Lima Parish, 114 Lancelot Drive, Franklin. **"St. Rose Festival,"** rides, games, dinners, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 1-11 p.m. Information: 317-738-3929.

June 18-19

St. Mary Parish, 415 E. Eighth St., New Albany. **"Street Dance Weekend,"** Fri. 5:30 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 6 p.m.-1 a.m., games, food,

music, dance Sat. night with \$10 cover charge. Information: 812-944-0417.

June 19

St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. **Helpers of God's Precious Infants, pro-life Mass,** Father John Hollowell, celebrant, 8:30 a.m., followed by rosary outside abortion clinic and Benediction at church. Information: Archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry, 317-236-1569 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1569.

June 20

Richmond Catholic Community, 701 N. "A" St., Richmond. **Charismatic prayer group,** 7 p.m. Information: dicksoncorp@parallax.ws.

June 20-July 1

Marian University, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. **Advanced Institute for Mathematics and Sciences (AIMS) residential math and science program for students in grades 10-12,** \$625 residential, \$425 commuters. Information: 317-955-6331 or asmith@marian.edu. †

Retreats and Programs

June 12

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **"Women Reflecting the Light of God,"** Franciscan Sister Rosie Miller, 9-11:30 a.m., \$25 per person includes continental breakfast. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgosf.com.

June 15-July 20

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **The World as It Should Be—Living Authentically in the Here and Now Kingdom of God, book discussion, six-week series,** Franciscan Sister Janet Born, presenter, 1-2:30 p.m., \$50 per person, books available \$10. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgosf.com.

June 16

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Day of Reflection on Prayer,"** Father James Farrell, presenter, \$35 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or spasotti@archindy.org.

June 18-20

Mother of Redeemer Retreat Center, 8220 W. State Road 48, Bloomington. **"Confidence in God,"** Mercy Father William Casey, presenter. Information: 812-825-4642, ext. 200, or

www.marianoasis7@bluemarble.net.

June 19

Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mount St. Francis. **"Love of Nature,"** Information: 812-923-8817.

June 20-26

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Monastic retreat. **"Becoming Good News through the Lens of the Gospel Stories,"** Franciscan Father John Doctor, presenter. Information: 317-788-7581 or benedictinn@benedictinn.org.

June 22-24

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. Midweek retreat. **"Workshop for Building or Renovating Your Church,"** Benedictine Brother Martin Erspamer, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

June 24

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Come Away and Rest Awhile,"** silent, non-guided reflection day, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$25 per person includes breakfast and lunch. Information: 317-545-7681 or spasotti@archindy.org. †

Sisters of Providence to host third annual Family Day

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods will host their third annual Family Day from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on June 13 at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

The event is free to the public. Free hot dogs, popcorn, cookies and soft drinks will be served while supplies last.

Activities will include alpaca visits, a balloon clown, a bean bag toss, chair and hand massages for adults, craft activities, a duck pond, an eco-obstacle course, face painting, a football toss, hay wagon rides, puppet shows, a wiffle ball and golf ball drive, and sidewalk chalk artwork.

Performances by several choirs are also planned at the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

The Sisters of Providence Schola will perform at 1:15 p.m. followed by The Coon Holler Kids at 2 p.m., an organ concert at 2:45 p.m. and the Holy Angels Gospel Choir from Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis at 3:30 p.m.

The Gift Shop at Providence Center will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, call 812-535-2800. †

VIPs

Henry (Bud) and Theresa (McConahay) Meyer, members of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 13 with an open house from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. Roch Parish Center.

The couple was married on April 22, 1950, at St. Philip Neri Church in Indianapolis.

They are the parents of six children: Lynn Baumann, Mary Beth Servie, and Gerry, Nancy, Sherry and Martin Meyer. They have 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

James and Patricia (Gaffey) Beaupre, members of St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 11.

The couple was married on June 11, 1960, at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis.

They are the parents of four children: Michelle Hutson, Lisa Varnau, Sheila Kearney and Jimmy Beaupre. They have nine grandchildren.

Fred and Kathy (Mobley) Hofmeister, members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in

Indianapolis, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 22 with an open house at the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Center.

The couple was married on May 21, 1960, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Indianapolis.

They are the parents of six children: Theresa Kautsky, Lori Malander, Brian, Eric, Mike and Nick Hofmeister. They have 17 grandchildren. †



Reading contest winner

Kayleigh Winter, center, a fourth-grade student at SS. Francis and Clare School in Greenwood, poses at The Children's Museum in Indianapolis on April 30 as a winner in the "I Love to Read Challenge" sponsored by WISH Channel 8. Kayleigh was awarded a \$1,000 savings bond for reading for 2,500 minutes over a two-month period. Posing with Kayleigh are, from left, WISH news anchors Eric Halvorson and Debby Knox, Amie Lieurance of Ben Franklin Plumbing, Nancy Huber of Fifth Third Bank, Frank Alcola of The Goddard School, Indiana First Lady Cheri Daniels and Jeff White of WISH.

Seminarian Benjamin Syberg to be interviewed on Catholic radio

An interview with archdiocesan seminarian Benjamin Syberg will be broadcast on Catholic Radio Indy 89.1 FM's "Faith in Action" show on June 14-19.

During the interview, Syberg talks to co-hosts Jim Ganley and M.J. Krauter about the Year for Priests as well as his story about how he discerned a possible vocation to the priesthood then became a seminarian.

Syberg, who is a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, is a recent graduate of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary and Marian University,

both in Indianapolis. This fall, he will continue his priestly formation at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad.

"Faith in Action" is broadcast at 10 a.m. on Mondays and Fridays, 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 9 a.m. on Saturdays.

Catholic Radio Indy can be heard throughout the archdiocese by logging on to www.catholicradioindy.com and clicking on the "listen now" button. Podcasts of previous shows are also available on the site. †

Martyred Polish priest beatified in Warsaw in front of 140,000

WARSAW, Poland (CNS)—A martyred Polish priest was praised during a beatification Mass in the Polish capital for standing against the oppressive forces of communism when he defended human rights in his sermons.

More than 140,000 people listened intently during the June 6 liturgy at Pilsudski Square as Archbishop Angelo Amato, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes, recalled how Father Jerzy Popieluszko "did not yield to temptation to survive in this death camp" under communist rule.

"Father Jerzy ... helped only by spiritual means, such as truth, justice and love,

demanding freedom of conscience for citizen and priest," Archbishop Amato said of the 37-year-old priest, who was linked to the Solidarity labor movement and murdered by communist secret police agents. "But the lost ideology did not accept the light of truth and justice.

"So this defenseless priest was shadowed, persecuted, arrested, tortured, and then brutally bound and, though still living, thrown into water by criminals with no respect for life, who thus left him contemptuously to his death," he said.

More than 3,000 priests and 95 bishops were among those who participated in the liturgy.

Among those in attendance were Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, Church leaders from neighboring Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine and the Czech Republic, and former Solidarity leaders, including Lech Walesa, past president of Poland.

The priest's widowed mother, Marianna Popieluszko, who turned 100 on June 1, led the congregation in a rosary recital before the Mass.

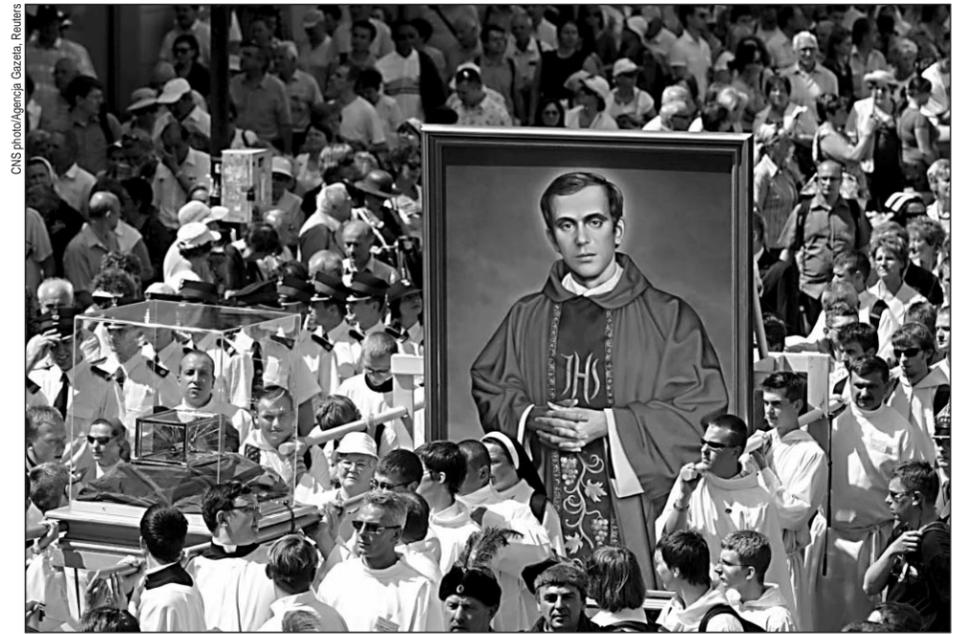
The bound and gagged body of Father Popieluszko was dredged from a reservoir on the Vistula River near Wloclawek on Oct. 30, 1984, 11 days after his abduction while returning at night from a Mass in Bydgoszcz.

The Warsaw Archdiocese launched a canonization process in 1997, and sent its 1,157-page dossier to Rome in 2001. A decree recognizing Father Popieluszko as a martyr was issued by Pope Benedict XVI on Dec. 19. His beatification is a major step toward sainthood.

In a message for the beatification Mass from Nicosia, Cyprus, Pope Benedict said the priest's "sacrificial service and martyrdom" was a "special mark of the victory of good over evil," and offered an



Marianna Popieluszko, mother of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, walks with a clergyman during her son's beatification Mass in Warsaw, Poland, on June 6.



The relics of Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko are carried through the streets of Warsaw, Poland, on June 6. Father Popieluszko, who was murdered by communist police agents in 1984, moved a step closer to sainthood during a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

example to Catholic clergy and laity everywhere.

Speaking at the start of the Mass, Archbishop Kazimierz Nycz of Warsaw said Father Popieluszko had suffered "severe punishment" for his religious devotion during military service in the 1960s, but had rapidly attracted a following after being assigned to the Warsaw parish of St. Stanislaus Kostka in May 1980.

He added that the priest had been viewed as a "danger to the communist system" for his defense of human dignity and freedom of conscience, and his calls for "reconciliation and peace," and had also been aware of the dangers facing him.

In his homily, Archbishop Amato said he had been reduced to tears during several visits to the crypt museum at the church, where Father Popieluszko lies buried with a rosary given to him by Pope John Paul II, who prayed at his grave in June 1987.

He added that pictures of the dead priest's "monstrously deformed face" had recalled that of the crucified Christ, which had also been stripped of "beauty and dignity."

"What was the reason for this great crime? Was Father Jerzy perhaps a criminal, a murderer or a terrorist?" the prefect told the thousands at the Mass.

"Far from being any of these, Father Popieluszko was simply a faithful Catholic priest, who upheld his dignity as a servant of Christ and the Church, and the freedom of those who, like him, were victimized and humiliated," Archbishop Amato said. "But religion, the Gospel, human dignity and freedom were

not concepts which suited Marxist ideology. This was why the destructive hatred of the great liar and enemy of God was unleashed against him."

Father Popieluszko's killing was widely credited with helping discredit four decades of communist rule in Poland, which ended in 1989.

A Polish Radio reporter at the Mass, Malgorzata Glabisz-Pniewska, told Catholic News Service that the priest's beatification would have a "profound meaning" for many Poles who knew him personally or heard his stirring sermons, but would be "less understandable" to young Poles with no experience of communist rule.

She added that former regime officials would be "uneasy" about the beatification as would fellow priests and bishops who had "made compromises" with the communist system.

Meanwhile, an American Catholic, Judith Kelly, who traveled specifically to Poland for the Mass, said she was interested in parallels between Father Popieluszko and the late civil rights leader, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. She said she believed the priest's story should be "a lot better known" among Western peace and justice campaigners.

A reliquary with fragments of Father Popieluszko's remains, which were exhumed in April, was later carried in procession along a seven-mile route to the unfinished National Temple of Divine Providence in Wilanow in suburban Warsaw for burial in a newly dedicated crypt called the Pantheon of Great Poles. †

MARRIAGE SUPPLEMENT

Marriage

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be a part of our Marriage Supplement
July 16, 2010, issue of *The Criterion*

If you are planning your wedding between July 1, 2010, and Feb. 1, 2011, we invite you to submit the information for an announcement on the form below.

Pictures

You may send us a picture of the couple. Please do not cut the photograph. The picture must be wallet-size and will be used as space permits. We cannot guarantee the reproduction quality of the photos. Please put the couple's names on the back of the photo. Photos will be returned if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

E-mailed photos

Photos should be saved in jpg format, be a minimum 200 dpi resolution and at least 3 inches or 600 pixels wide. Color photos are preferred. Please send your photo as an attachment to the e-mail.

Deadline

All announcements and photos must be received by 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 24, 2010. (No announcements or photos will be accepted after this date.)

— Use this form to furnish information —

Clip and mail to: BRIDES, *The Criterion*, ATTN: Mary Ann Klein, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206
Deadline with photos: Thursday, June 24, 2010, at 10 a.m.

Please print or type:

Name of Bride (first, middle, last) Daytime Phone

Mailing Address City State Zip Code

Name of Bride's Parents (first, last)

City State

Name of Bridegroom (first, middle, last for both)

Name of Bridegroom's Parents (first, last for both)

City State

Wedding Date Church City State

Photo Enclosed No Picture Signature of person furnishing information Relationship Daytime Phone

Lumen Christi School names new headmaster

Criterion staff report

Bradden Kluesner has been appointed by the board of Lumen Christi Catholic School in Indianapolis as headmaster.

A native of Jasper, Ind., Kluesner earned a master's degree in educational administration from the University of Notre Dame in northern Indiana through its Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program, which is a



Bradden Kluesner

component of the school's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) initiative.

He also earned a master's degree in education through Notre Dame's ACE Service Through Teaching Program.

Kluesner, 31, also completed a bachelor's degree in philosophy and Catholic studies at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

Kluesner's experience in Catholic education includes teaching in both grade school and high school as well as serving as a parish director of religious education and a school athletic director. He designed and

helped implement a Catholic high school tuition assistance program for children of the Knights of Columbus in the Diocese of Venice, Fla.

"Brad Kluesner brings to Lumen Christi his strong faith and tremendous energy, successful experience in Catholic schools, top-flight academic preparation, and a passionate commitment to Catholic education and to the mission of our school," said Tom Feick, president of the Lumen Christi board.

Lumen Christi conducted an extensive search for the newly created headmaster position. Stephen Noone, former principal of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis and superintendent of schools in the archdiocese, has served as interim administrator of Lumen Christi since January 2009.

"We owe tremendous thanks to Steve Noone for giving Lumen Christi the benefit of his experience and expertise over the past year and a half," Feick said.

Lumen Christi is a private, independent Catholic school for kindergarten through 12th grade founded in 2002, and located at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis.

(For more information on Lumen Christi School, call 317-632-3174 or log on to www.lumenchristischool.org.) †

Sister Anna Rose Lueken retires after 40 years in education

By John Shaughnessy

The story still brings a laugh to Benedictine Sister Anna Rose Lueken.

It happened on a day when a boy in the first grade was sent to her office for some offense.

As a principal, Sister Anna Rose has always tried to give children the opportunity to explain their side of the situation.

When she did this time, the boy responded, "I really had a bad night. I couldn't sleep. I think I have too many sins inside me that keep me awake."

Sister Anna Rose laughs at that memory and says, "All those sins were bothering a first grader."

Then she adds, "I feel children need someone to listen to them and hear where they're coming from. Some of them come from tough situations. I try to respond to their needs so I can help them better."

It's one of the approaches that Sister Anna Rose prides herself on during her 40 years as a Catholic educator in the archdiocese—a career that will come to an end on June 30 when the 71-year-old sister retires as the principal of St. Ambrose School in Seymour.

"Sister Anna Rose has given her life to God, and much of that life has been for the education of youth," says Franciscan Sister Joanita Koors, a friend who is the principal of St. Mary School in North Vernon.

"Students have grown spiritually and academically because of her. She loves the children and is an advocate for the poor. She also has a sense of humor."

Her sense of humor has led her to some unusual situations. When she was principal of Pope John XXIII School in Madison, she agreed to kiss a pig if the students sold a required number of pies during a fundraiser. She also dyed her hair pink when the students met another challenge.

"I have a picture of me and my pink hair right here in my office," she says with another laugh.

Setting goals for students, teachers and herself has been a main focus during her seven years as a teacher and her 33 years as a principal—all part of a career that has included stays at St. Anthony of Padua School in Clarksville, St. Bartholomew School in Columbus, the former St. Paul School in Tell City and St. Therese of the Infant Jesus [Little Flower] School in Indianapolis.

"I try to pass along a love for education and a respect for each other," she says. "I challenge the students to try different activities because they all can excel in something. I would be cheering them on in whatever they do."

She especially remembers a time at St. Bartholomew School in Columbus when a family in need moved to the area. She took them under her care, finding the family a place to live and obtaining clothing for the



Benedictine Sister Anna Rose Lueken is shown with students at St. Ambrose School in Seymour on the last day of the 2009-10 school year. Sister Anna Rose is retiring on June 30 after 40 years in Catholic education.

three children who came to the school. The family stayed in Columbus for six years before they moved again. She lost touch with them until the oldest of the three children called her a few years ago—more than 20 years later.

"She called from Georgia, wanting to know where I was and if I was still around," Sister Anna Rose recalls. "That really touched my heart to think that someone remembered me for a good thing that I had done for them. We've been communicating ever since."

As retirement nears, her plans include

returning to Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove to live. Besides her work in education, she has been the librarian at the monastery for years, working on weekends and during the summer to take care of the books that the Benedictine sisters need for their classes and spirituality.

"I won't miss the paperwork, but I'll miss the children," she says about retiring. "I've always loved the children and being able to help them. The younger kids especially light up my life. They are so open to learning." †

Teacher treasures memories and mementos from 43 years at one school

By John Shaughnessy

After 43 years of teaching at the same Catholic school, John Hornberger recently looked around his classroom one more time on the last day of his remarkable teaching career.

Then the eighth-grade teacher at St. Michael School in Indianapolis made sure he had his three favorite "souvenirs"



John Hornberger, an eighth-grade teacher at St. Michael School in Indianapolis, works with students in his classroom. He is retiring after 43 years.

with him before he turned off the lights, closed the door of his classroom and headed toward his retirement.

The first souvenir is an ink well from Hornberger's first classroom in 1967—a memento that must have bewildered the students in his recent classes.

"I remember my first day very well," he said. "I had 39 students in one room, and they were all excited about the new teacher. Half the faculty back then were [religious] sisters."

As he left the classroom, he also carried the first set of books he taught with, and an old-fashioned, metal mission bank in the form of a globe. Those souvenirs will all find a special place in his home, right there with the lists of all the students he has ever taught.

Oh, yes, that's one more part of his 43 years of teaching that Hornberger carried with him on the last day of school on May 28—the memories of all the children he has taught.

"When they come back and talk about their memories, that's a good feeling for them and me," he said. "I've also enjoyed getting the chance to teach the children whose parents I had taught. There was one family where I taught the mother and

father as children, and then I taught all five of their children. It was a wonderful place to teach."

He will be remembered for the academic teams he coached, for the way he supported his students during their athletic games, and for the annual eighth-grade trip to Chicago that he organized.

"He started the trip back in 1987," recalled Steven Padgett, the principal of St. Michael School, in a tribute to Hornberger. "It was a way for him to bring to life for his students many of their history lessons. But it goes deeper than that."

According to Padgett, Hornberger was also teaching these lessons through the Chicago trip: Set goals, plan and work together to achieve what you want, take the time to travel and learn from others, and never forget the importance of relationships and friendships.

"He is the ultimate team player," Padgett noted. "He cares about his fellow colleagues as much as he does his students. That dedication and devotion to St. Michael School and Parish will truly be missed."

That feeling helps to explain why nearly 300 people came to a celebration

of his career on May 16.

"It was wonderful," said Hornberger, who is 64. "I was so surprised by all the former students who showed up, all the way back to my first year of teaching. They gave me wonderful cards and messages I'll treasure forever. They thanked me for things that I didn't remember."

For "Mr. H.," his 43 years as a teacher have always been a journey of hope.

"I always hoped my students would leave St. Michael School with a good feeling for the school and the Church," he said. "I also hoped that they would pass along that good feeling to the next generation. We always have to prepare for the next generation to take our place."

As a new teacher prepares to step into the eighth-grade classroom at St. Michael School in August, Hornberger is already looking forward to having extra time to travel. Still, he figures his adventures will lead him back to helping children in school.

"I'll help with someone who needs tutoring, and I'll help in the science lab," he said. "I just enjoy helping the kids and being around them." †

RETIREMENT

continued from page 1

to dream."

For Sister Lavonne, her dream and her work have been intertwined ever since she committed her life to God and the Franciscan order 69 years ago. The essence of her "dream-work" fits on the prayer card that she has kept on her desk for as long as she can remember. The prayer, which she knows by heart, states:

"Lord, I thank you for the blessing of this new day. May I use it to reflect your presence in all my thoughts, words and actions so that these hours might end with the world a bit better, and someone's life a bit happier because of my efforts."

"I believe that's why we're all here," she says, "to bring the Lord to someone this day."

For the past 66 years, she has lived that approach as a teacher, principal and director of guidance. She has worked at Scecina for 45 of the 56 years the school has been in existence. For the past 15 years, she has served as a liaison between alumni and administrators at Scecina.

"She's meant everything to Scecina," says Ott Hurtle, the longtime head football coach and Scecina staff member who is one of her many good friends. "Her calm demeanor during good times and tough times has been stabilizing. She keeps everybody on track about what Scecina stands for. She reminds you that we're here for the east side kids to make education affordable for them, and to make sure they get a great education."

Sister Lavonne began her teaching career at Holy Name

School in Beech Grove in 1945. After more than a decade of teaching at schools in Ohio, she came to Scecina in 1956 to teach English. That was her passion, but she received orders to become the principal of the former St. Mary Academy in Indianapolis in 1964.

"I had no desire to be a principal," she recalls. "I had no desire to lead an all-girls' school. But I went, and I loved it."

She cried when she left St. Mary's in 1973, returning to Scecina as a guidance counselor so she could spend more time helping her sister take care of their ill mother. She has been at Scecina ever since. She remembers a time when 21 Franciscan sisters lived in the convent next to the school. The convent has now become offices for the school. Sister Lavonne works there and lives there in a small apartment.

"She may be the most compassionate person I know," says Joseph Therber, Scecina's president. "She searches for the best in everyone she meets. Scecina Memorial High School has been wonderfully blessed because of Sister Lavonne's ministry. She is a connecting point to our first graduating class in 1957. She really has a heart for children who have suffered losses or setbacks in life. And she greets everyone with a smile."

A wonderful journey

That smile shines through again when she talks about the blessings she has received from being a part of the community of the Sisters of St. Francis for nearly seven decades. When she leaves Scecina this summer, she will return to the order's motherhouse in Oldenburg to continue her life as a sister.

Before then, there is the June 13 celebration for her lifetime of caring and commitment, a celebration during which it will be announced that a fund will be established at Scecina in her honor. The Sister Lavonne Fund for Franciscan Initiatives will be used primarily for financial assistance for students and efforts that promote Franciscan values.

"At every graduation, I find myself thanking all those people who made it possible for someone to go to a Catholic school," she says. "One of my chief concerns has always been making it possible for students who want to come to Scecina to be able to do that."

As she talks about the fund, her eyes mist at first, but then her famous smile bursts through again.

"I'll be honest, I'll miss it here—the staff, the students, the alumni," she says. "But I'm 88. I just know it's time. I'm not sad, but I'll miss it. Everyone has been wonderful to me. And I love seeing the students. I love the family spirit here. Our motto here is to always give a little extra."

No one has given more.

"I just think about how lucky I've been," she says. "It's been a wonderful journey."

(The tribute to Sister Lavonne will begin with Mass at 2 p.m. on June 13 in the gymnasium at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School, 5000 Nowland Ave., in Indianapolis. A program to honor her and a reception will follow. Contributions to the Sister Lavonne Fund should be sent to Leslie Young, vice president for advancement, Scecina Memorial High School, 5000 Nowland Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46201.) †

Military chaplain traveled the world with the Air Force

(Editor's note: In conjunction with the Year for Priests, The Criterion has published a monthly feature titled "Faithful Fathers." This is the last in a series of profiles featuring a priest from each deanery in the archdiocese.)

By Mary Ann Wyand

SELLERSBURG—Father Paul Richart has been the pastor of St. Paul Parish in Sellersburg in the New Albany Deanery since 1996. He is 75. Born in Seymour, he grew up in St. Philip Neri Parish on the near east side of Indianapolis, where his parents operated Richart's Food Market.

After graduating from St. Philip Neri School, he said "yes" to God's call to the priesthood then studied at the former Saint Meinrad High School, the former Saint Meinrad College and Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in southern Indiana.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Paul C. Schulte on May 7, 1961, at Saint Meinrad Archabbey's Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln.

Priest mentors—"I was impressed by the priests at St. Philip's," Father Richart recalled. "Msgr. Albert Busald was the pastor. Father [James] Barton, the assistant [pastor], took a group of boys to Saint Meinrad for a seminary visit. He also coached our basketball team. He was one of those guys that you wanted to be like."

Seminary formation—"I was not one of the scholars. I was into sports. When I became a deacon, I really got enthusiastic because they let us go out to parishes."

Favorite aspect of the priesthood—"I enjoy providing the sacraments to people. My homilies are short and down-to-earth. I try to talk to people where they're at [in life]. I tell a lot of stories. Somebody gave me a Catholic joke book a couple of months ago. I read through that book, and I'd say 70 percent of the stories and jokes in there I had already told. I thought, 'Why didn't I publish that book?'"

Pastoral ministry—His first assignment was as the assistant pastor of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis.

He helped with parish Catholic Youth Organization activities, and taught religion classes at Cathedral High School, then a boys' school, as well as at the former St. Mary Academy for girls and Cardinal Ritter High School, all in Indianapolis.

"Father [Leo] Lindemann, my pastor, was the official Catholic chaplain for the [Indianapolis Motor] Speedway. He never really liked to go over to the racetrack that much except on race day so I did the race duties. When I left St. Christopher Parish [in 1967], the Speedway [staff] gave me a helmet signed by all the drivers that year."

Father Richart displays the helmet in his parish office, and likes to point out the signatures of A.J. Foyt, Mario Andretti, Lloyd Ruby, Larry Dixon, Johnny Parsons and other drivers who were his friends.

"It was really a personal experience with the drivers, mechanics and workers," he said. "When somebody got hurt, it was tragic for everybody. But it was a grand time, and I loved that ministry."

Surprise ministry assignment—Archbishop Schulte called Father Richart to the Chancery for a meeting in 1967.

"I figured it was to tell me to go to another high school to teach," he recalled. "Father John Wright and I were there, and Archbishop Schulte called us in and said he felt that we might be good military chaplains. In those days, it was called the Military Ordinariate, and it was under [the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of] New York. He asked us to step out in the hall to think about it a little bit then come back in and tell him which branch of the service we would like to go in. We had to go in a different branch. When we stepped out in the hall, John said he would like to go in the Navy. I said, 'I don't want to go in the Army and be out in the field' [during the Vietnam War]. So I picked the Air Force."

After completing the required Air Force basic training, he served as a military chaplain for 29 years.

Military assignments—His first assignments were at Air Force bases in Washington state and Greenland.

Then he served at the Air Force Academy Community Center, the parish at the academy, in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he also traveled with the football team as the



Father Paul Richart poses for a photo with St. Paul Parish Summer Care participants Jonathan Holladay, center, and Luke Lehmenkuler. Father Richart has served as the pastor of St. Paul Parish in Sellersburg for 14 years. He enjoys bringing Communion to elderly parishioners at area hospitals, nursing homes and residences every Wednesday. His mementos from 29 years as an Air Force chaplain include a signed football from the Air Force Academy Falcons, an ice axe used to walk on glaciers in Greenland and folk art from the Philippines.

chaplain for the Falcons.

His next assignment took him to Hawaii—where he also helped refugees from South Vietnam—then he completed a master's degree in religious education at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Next, he served on the Chaplains Resource Board in Alabama, which published religious education materials for use in the Army, Navy and Air Force.

As a command chaplain, he ministered to chaplains at Air Force bases across the U.S., Europe, Iraq and Somalia.

The troops and military chaplains are "a dedicated bunch," he said. "Their priorities are God, country and family. I enjoyed serving in the military and fit very well. These people put their life on the line, and God is an important part of their [daily] life."

"At that time, with the Air Force, you stayed at the bases, which is like parish ministry," Father Richart said. "You get to build relationships with people."

Favorite hobby—"I do a lot of fishing, and have fished at practically every farm pond in the locality of Sellersburg," he said. "... Father John Geis, Father Bill Ernst and myself go fishing together at least

once a month."

Papal audience—During the Church's Year of St. Paul, Father Richart and 25 parishioners traveled to Rome and Assisi on pilgrimage in February 2009.

"At the papal audience," he said, "we were really surprised when Pope Benedict [XVI] recognized our parish group as from the United States."

Benefits of the priesthood—Serving God and providing the sacraments for God's people at military bases and parishes is a wonderful life, he said, which is very rewarding.

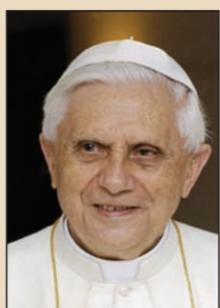
"I enjoyed flying and enjoyed military service, but it's nice to be here [in Sellersburg]," he said. "This assignment has been like coming to heaven. The people are very friendly, patient and helpful with all of the parish ministries."

"If you want an adventure, the priesthood and religious life can give you an adventure," Father Richart said. "There is something happening all the time, and it's very satisfying."

(To read previous installments in the "Faithful Fathers" series, log on to www.CriterionOnline.com.) †

Men in black: Year for Priests highlights need for holy ministers

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Catholics expect a lot from their priests, and Pope Benedict XVI is no exception.



Pope Benedict XVI

Some people might have thought the pope convoked the June 2009-2010 Year for Priests as a praise-fest for the Church's collared class, but instead he highlighted the importance of priests in the life of the Church by exhorting them to live up to their calling.

In hundreds of speeches throughout the year and in a special three-part series during his weekly general audiences in

April and May, Pope Benedict described the identity and mission of priests, asked Catholics to pray for their ministers and asked the men in black not just to be good priests, but to be holy.

The fact that the Church's handling of cases of priestly sex abuse came to the fore in Ireland and other European countries and then was back in the news in North America made it impossible during the Year for Priests for the pope or anyone else to ignore that a problem existed, even if it involved just a small portion of the world's priests.

But, a South African priest said, "it was good that the abuse scandal came out this year. It is an opportunity to recognize our sinfulness and the importance of our behavior."

The priest, Father Stanley Masilompana from the Archdiocese of Johannesburg, is studying in Rome and

said that during the Year for Priests he has come to the Vatican each Friday to pray the rosary.

Each day, among the thousands of visitors to St. Peter's Square, there are dozens of priests such as Father Masilompana. Some come on their own to pray, while others are leading pilgrim groups.

Father Masilompana said he thought some of the media coverage of the sex abuse scandal was unfair, but "I still believe that if Christianity is not persecuted, it loses its meaning. We get too self-sufficient and think that God is not in charge."

God being in charge was one of the key points that Pope Benedict made in his audience talks on the ministry of priests.

Using the classical formulation of the "tria munera," the three offices and tasks of a priest—to teach, sanctify and govern—the pope focused on how priests must allow Christ to act through them at all times.

The teaching role, he said on April 14, is to make present, amid "the confusion and bewilderment of our times, the light of God's word, the light that is Christ himself."

"The priest does not teach his own ideas, a philosophy that he himself has invented, that he has discovered or liked," he said, but "he proposes the truth that is Christ himself."

The sanctifying role, he said on May 5, involves putting people in touch with God, who is "light, truth, pure love," and doing so especially by offering the sacraments.

"Each priest knows well that he is an instrument necessary to God's saving action, but also that he is always only an instrument. This awareness must make priests

humble and generous in the administration of the sacraments," the pope said.

The governing role, he said on May 26, gets a bad rap in the modern world because people have seen too many examples of the abuse of power in governments and in relationships.

In the Church, authority is a service of leadership "exercised not in one's own name, but in the name of Jesus Christ," who acts through priests to "guide, protect and correct his flock because he loves it deeply," the pope said.

Father Vernon Clark, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Cody, Wyo., didn't really have a lot to say about governing when he was interviewed with a pilgrimage group in St. Peter's Square on June 2.

Teaching through classes and homilies and sanctifying through the celebration of the sacraments—especially the Eucharist and reconciliation—are the two most common elements of his ministry, he said.

"As for governance, if you are doing the other things well, then you already are leading the people," he said.

Father Clark, whose parish boundaries include Yellowstone National Park, said the cases of clerical sex abuse "break my heart."

"It pierces my heart. It is a call to deepen our humility ... and to give myself more and more to Jesus through my practice of chastity and celibacy," he said.

For Father Christopher Mathaha, a student from Klerksdorp, South Africa, the Year for Priests was important.

"For once, we find someone—the Holy Father—who says, 'I care about priests,'" he said. †

Americans included on visitation team of Irish Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI has named nine Church leaders to begin an apostolic visitation of the Catholic Church in Ireland aimed at helping the Church address the sexual abuse scandal, improve assistance to victims and perfect preventative measures.

The Vatican announced on May 31 that the visitation would begin in the fall and that no deadline has been set for its conclusion.

“Through this visitation, the Holy See intends to offer assistance to the bishops, clergy, religious and lay faithful as they seek to respond adequately to the situation caused by the tragic cases of abuse perpetrated by priests and religious upon minors,” the Vatican said.

“It is also intended to contribute to the desired spiritual and moral renewal that is already being vigorously pursued by the Church in Ireland,” it added.

In his March letter to Catholics in Ireland, Pope Benedict had announced plans for a visitation, saying it was “intended to assist the local Church on her path of renewal.”

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said the apostolic visitors are not taking over the responsibilities of the bishops, seminary rectors or religious superiors in Ireland; the Vatican is not “substituting the authorities in place, but

adding a presence that, by coming in from the outside, could be in a better position to objectively gather information and make useful evaluations.”

The visitation will begin with Ireland’s four archdioceses: British Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor, retired archbishop of Westminster, will conduct the visitation of the Archdiocese of Armagh, Northern Ireland; Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston will visit the Archdiocese of Dublin; Archbishop Thomas C. Collins of Toronto will conduct the visitation of the Archdiocese of Cashel; Archbishop Terrence T. Prendergast of Ottawa, Ontario, will visit the Archdiocese of Tuam.

Pope Benedict also named Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, former rector of the U.S. seminary in Rome, to lead the visitation of the Irish seminaries, including the Pontifical Irish College in Rome, the Vatican said.

Archbishop Dolan was at St. Patrick’s College in Maynooth, Ireland, an Irish seminary, on May 27 to give a lecture for the Year for Priests.

“I stand before you no guru or expert, no acclaimed theologian or renowned mystic; I am hardly some ‘know-it-all Yankee’ here to lecture you on how you got into or how to get out of the current crisis you are in, ‘cause I don’t know,” he said.

Archbishop Dolan said he believes the Church is being called back to the basics of prayer and humility.

“We’re not priests for what we can get, but for what we can give, and anyone who’s in it for power, authority, privilege or entitlement should not be. That’s clericalism and it is a vice, a sin,” he said.

In a statement released by his office on May 31, Archbishop Dolan said, “My love for the faith of Ireland, and my own background in priestly formation, make me

grateful for this assignment, and I look forward to close cooperation with my brother bishops, priests, religious and the faithful of Ireland.”

Pope Benedict also named two priests and two religious women to lead the visitation of Irish religious orders. U.S. Redemptorist Father Joseph Tobin, former superior of the Redemptorist order, and Jesuit Father Gero McLoughlin, promoter of Ignatian spirituality for the Jesuits’ British province, will visit men’s religious orders. U.S. Sister Sharon Holland, a member of the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and a former Vatican official, and Irish Sister Mairin McDonagh, a member of the Religious of Jesus and Mary, will conduct the visitation of the women’s communities.

Father Lombardi said, “On the basis of the reports, the Holy See will give the institutions visited indications for overcoming difficulties or will make decisions if that appears necessary.”

He also said that while diocesan visitation initially will involve only the four archdioceses, other dioceses would be visited at a later stage.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin called the visitation “an important element in the broad process being set in place by Pope Benedict to assist the Catholic Church in Ireland in its renewal.”

He also said because of Cardinal O’Malley’s experience taking over the Archdiocese of Boston in 2003 after its sex abuse crisis, he can help Catholics in Dublin address “the truth of a dark moment

in its history” as it “undertakes a period of conversion, purification and renewal.”

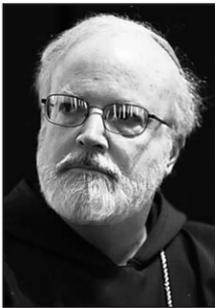
The standing committee of the Irish bishops’ conference said in a statement that the visitation is “an expression of the personal closeness of Pope Benedict XVI to the Catholics of Ireland” and “represents one more important step on the path to healing, reparation and renewal.” †



The shadow of a woman holding a rosary is seen during a Mass at a church in Armagh, Northern Ireland on March 21. On May 31, Pope Benedict XVI named nine Church leaders, including an American cardinal and archbishop, to lead a visitation of the Church in Ireland.



Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan



Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley

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Artists share in the creativity of God, can renew hope

By David Gibson

We speak customarily of God as “the Creator.” Not quite so often is God described as “creative.” Yet a long tradition calls God the “Master Craftsman” or the “Divine Artist,” whose exercise of creativity fashioned our world and all its inhabitants.

It is noteworthy that the Divine Artist’s creations all are somehow God-like. Each human person is made in God’s image. And since God skillfully “made the heavens” and caused “the sun to rule over the day” and “the moon and the stars to rule over the night” (Ps 136:5, 8-9), our surrounding universe readily invites our contemplation of God’s touch and presence therein.

Pope John Paul II proposed in his 1999 “Letter to Artists” that all creative people find a model in the creative God. He wrote, “The Divine Artist passes on to the human artist a spark of his own surpassing wisdom, calling him to share in his creative power.”

The finest human artists and artisans, exercising talents in ways that capture and hold our attention, are the beneficiaries of many opportunities to share in God’s continuing creativity, directing our thinking toward what matters most.

Thus, a great portrait may prompt us to contemplate the depths of a human life; a fine film may elevate our vision of what love can be; a perceptive novel may cause us to consider the roots of suffering or the real potential of human relationships.

No wonder the Church throughout the centuries lent encouragement to so many artists. As Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles once put it, “Religion and art have so much in common. Both arise from the deepest reaches of the human personality and deal with the transcendent meaning of human life.”

The history of the Church’s interest in art continued when Pope Benedict XVI met at the Vatican with some 250 artists on Nov. 21, 2009. The meeting took place in the Sistine Chapel, famed for its great works by Michelangelo, Raphael and others. Pope Benedict called the chapel a “sanctuary of faith and human creativity.”

He told artists that day that he wanted

“to express and renew the Church’s friendship with the world of art, a friendship that has been strengthened over time.” From its earliest days, Christianity “recognized the value of the arts and has made wise use of their varied languages to express” the message of salvation, he said.

The capacity artists have to create a beauty badly needed by a world at risk of falling into despair constituted a theme of Pope Benedict’s speech to the artists.

“Genuine beauty” can give people a “healthy shock” that draws them out of themselves, wrenching them “away from resignation and from being content with the humdrum,” the pope said. In fact, beauty can pierce people “like a dart,” reawakening them and opening up the eyes

of “the heart and mind.”

However, not all that is presented as beautiful fulfills this goal, Pope Benedict observed. On the one hand, “beauty pulls us up short, but in so doing it reminds us of our final destiny,” giving us “new hope” and “the courage to live to the full the unique gift of life.”

But too often the beauty “thrust upon us is illusory and deceitful, superficial and blinding,”

said Pope Benedict. Then it “imprisons” us, robbing us of “hope and joy.”

Pope Benedict encouraged artists to be grateful for their talents and through their art “to be heralds and witnesses of hope!”

Art of some kind becomes a part of virtually everyone’s personal universe. We invite art into our lives by going to movies, watching television, reading books or listening to music.

The New York Times columnist David Brooks wrote in November 2009 about the impact on his life of music and insightful lyrics that have provided what he calls a “second education,” different from our “scholastic educations” but “important to our long-term happiness and the quality of our lives.”

He called the curriculum of this second education his “emotional curriculum.” In a “normal schoolroom,” he commented, “information walks through the front door.” But the knowledge transmitted in an emotional curriculum seeps through the windowpanes and the floorboards. It too, however, is able “to open the mind for learning.”

‘The Divine Artist passes on to the human artist a spark of his own surpassing wisdom, calling him to share in his creative power.’

—Pope John Paul II



Pope Benedict XVI presides at a Mass with cardinals in the Vatican’s Sistine Chapel on April 20, 2005, the day after he became the 265th bishop of Rome. On Nov. 21, 2009, Pope Benedict met with artists in the Sistine Chapel, which he described as a “sanctuary of faith and human creativity.”

Of course, the artists who enter our lives do not always fulfill lofty aims. I’ve always believed there are important questions to ask if a work of art deadens my thinking or renders me merely the passive recipient of whatever it offers—lulling me to sleep, not awakening me.

After all, should art remain the preserve of those who make it their life’s work? Everyone can practice the art of living, it is said.

Whenever someone’s creativity prompts

us to live artfully—to craft lives of greater, not less, beauty—it fulfills what Pope Benedict proposed when he asked artists:

“What is capable of restoring enthusiasm and confidence, what can encourage the human spirit to rediscover its path, to raise its eyes to the horizon, to dream of a life worthy of its vocation—if not beauty?”

(David Gibson served on Catholic News Service’s editorial staff for 37 years.) †

Discussion Point

Music, art enhance the faith of Catholics

This Week’s Question

How do the arts relate to your faith life?

“I enjoy and appreciate the arts, but love them in religious [settings]. Music, for example ... can convey a message or simply enhance the service. Our wonderful men’s choir at church ... helps make Mass more meaningful and adds to the praise of God.” (Jim Kersten, Manitowoc, Wis.)

“Definitely music has an effect. I often use instrumental, usually religious, music for private prayer. In church I find that some of the [uplifting] art like the resurrected Christ speaks to me more than the crucified Christ.” (Lorraine Allore, Endwell, N.J.)

“Classical types of art help us visualize the images

that are [described in the Bible]. Today there is little in society that inspires us. More things lead us away from our faith but traditional things, like art in our cathedrals, enhance faith.” (Al Baker, Buffalo, N.Y.)

“As a teacher, I have children act out biblical lessons, like the story of the loaves and the fishes, because the drama communicates to them and brings the stories alive to them.” (Judy Finn, Riverside, Ill.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: As an immigrant family, how have you kept alive the traditions of your native country?

To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to cgreene@catholicnews.com or write to *Faith Alive!* at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. †

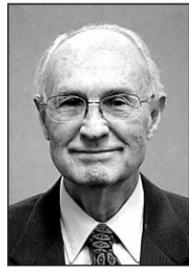


From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Jesus' parables: The sower and the seed

(Second in a series of columns)

In his parables, Jesus taught the inner principles of the kingdom of God. He made it



clear that not everyone would be part of the kingdom. It would depend completely on each individual.

His first parable, and perhaps his best known, is the Sower and the Seed. All three of the Synoptic Gospels tell it—Matthew 13:1-9, Mark 4:1-9 and Luke 8:4-8.

When he told the parable, Jesus said nothing about the kingdom. To most of the crowd, it undoubtedly seemed like nothing more than observations about what was then the way farmers seeded their fields before plowing.

He said that, when the sower spread the seed, some of it fell on a path where birds ate it, some fell on rocky ground where it withered for lack of roots, some fell among

thorns that choked it, but some fell on rich soil that produced a great harvest. Then he said, "Whoever has ears ought to hear" (Mt 13:9, Mk 4:9, Lk 8:8).

The most likely reaction of his listeners was probably, "Huh? Hear what? Yeah, that's what happens when a sower sows seeds, but so what?"

That's what we would most likely think, too, except that Jesus explained the parable to his disciples. The seed in his story, he said, were those who heard the word of God about his kingdom, but the emphasis is on the various types of soil on which the seed fell, that is, on the dispositions of the people who hear what Jesus taught.

Some hear the word but don't understand or accept it, others understand and accept it but fall away because of persecution, and others allow the anxieties of the world and the seduction of riches to choke the word. But some people will hear the word, understand it and produce abundant fruit.

With Jesus' explanation, it should be easy to see where we fit in.

We certainly have heard the word of God

preached to us on Sundays or taught to us by religious education teachers. Do we understand it and fully accept it, or do we keep a closed mind, like the seed that fell on a path and was eaten by birds? Is our faith strong enough to endure the persecutions that came to those who first heard the Gospels?

Or has our secular society, with its anti-Christian ideas, choked our faith? Are we too busy with work or too preoccupied to pray and meditate on God's word? Have we become too interested in the pursuit of worldly goods to pay attention to what Jesus taught us about the use of those goods? Have we accepted our secular society's values about sex instead of those taught by the Church?

Or, as we hope, have we heard the teachings of Christ, understood them, nourished our faith like the sun and rain nourish the seed that fell on rich soil—although that isn't mentioned in the parable—and become productive members of Christ's Church?

If so, we are worthy to become members of the kingdom of God. †

Cornucopia/Cynthia Dewes

God must have a really great sense of humor!

It's always seemed to me that God must have a great sense of humor. If we are made



in God's image and can come up with the weird and hilarious stuff we do, it must come from somewhere beyond us. Surely, we couldn't think up these things all by our imperfect human selves.

Advertising offers a rich display of craziness.

We see a gecko, one of the ugliest little critters ever, speaking to us on TV in a clever Australian accent. We also see grizzly bears, horses and other oddly assorted animals sitting around discussing their vacation plans. We see frantic ducks yelling the mysterious refrain, "Aflac!" everywhere and, of course, apes of every variety doing whatever humans do, only funnier.

Besides those who create nutty stuff out of the animal world, there is the amusing "duh" group of "sharp thinkers" who seem to be growing in numbers across the globe. These include the guys who rob convenience stores immediately after using their credit card to buy something, rocket scientists who inadvertently burn themselves while trying to fake insurance fires, and art thieves who try

to fence major works of the French Impressionists on e-Bay.

Entire comedy series are dedicated to the clueless, as in the former "Seinfeld" with its collection of social, economic and dysfunctional losers. Elaine's dancing, George's sorry attempts at love relationships and Kramer's failed money schemes gave us hours of television laughter.

Jerry Seinfeld has continued the idea in his new "reality" TV series called "The Marriage Ref." Here the audience meets supposedly real married couples with "problems" like disputes over having a shrine to a dead pet in their living room. It's unreal and silly, but idiocy draws viewers. Come to think of it, maybe emotional catharsis is the idea behind it.

Then we have the 13-year-old kid who climbs Mount Everest, having previously climbed Mount Kilimanjaro at age 9. Sir Edmund Hillary would be so proud, wouldn't he? And there are always the celebrated daredevils bungee-jumping off cliffs or leaping across canyons on motorcycles.

Other humans we can only marvel at include people who misunderstand their place in the universe, like the fellow who went "Into the Wild" of Alaska and died. He just didn't understand the needs of basic human survival. Or the animal trainer who thought she had

befriended a whale, only to have it kill her one day, or the fellow who thought he had made a pet of a wild bear until it ate him.

Irony, incongruity, surprise and all the other elements of humorous expression abound. It's true, some of them can be mean, even vicious. There will always be people who can't resist racial or ethnic bad jokes, hurtful pranks and the like. But the Godlike part of our sense of humor creates joy, only joy.

Recently, a friend of ours wrote us an e-mail titled "My Death." It described her illness and her acceptance of a rapidly approaching death. But rather than being a gloomy pity-party, it was an affirmation of her joyous and faithful approach to life—and death.

With her customary cheer, she was encouraging her friends to share her joyous anticipation of what lay ahead. She was inspiring us to view the situation with God's eyes.

I think that's why God shares a sense of humor with us—not only to bring us joy, but also to demonstrate how to give joy to others.

(Cynthia Dewes, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †

The Bottom Line/Antoinette Bosco

Are immigrants not our brothers and sisters?

I celebrate my father's birthday in June. I sometimes feel closer than ever to my father



as I approach the age he was when the Lord took him home.

Everything he taught me was about how to "be good to people" and to love America.

Yes, my father was an immigrant. He managed to come to

America as a teenager in 1917. I cannot count the times throughout his 82 years that he said, "Antoinette, this is the best country in the world."

When I hear of the anger many people feel about immigration today, erupting so cruelly in Arizona this spring, I say a prayer to my dad in heaven, asking him to please ask the Lord to soften hardened hearts. Then I say a prayer of thanks to God for our Catholic bishops, so Christ-like on this issue.

I know that some, even Catholics, will say that the immigration issue was different so many decades ago.

But it wasn't, not really.

I well remember how the Italians and Polish were segregated in their towns and cities when I was young. But they were workers needed on the farms and the railroads, and as such were tolerated.

Still, for most, the life they left was worth their coming to America. They believed their children would make America the greatest nation in the world, and that would forever be their contribution.

My father did not tell me why he left Italy until I pressed him when he was getting old. He said he was only 13 years old when he left his home in southern Italy, his tearful parents approving, to go off into the world to make a living.

This was 1915, with World War I going on, and here he was, a child, heading north through Italy and France, trying to survive with no money, no skills and a language barrier, hoping to make it to America.

It took my father three years to succeed. He suffered injuries and starvation, but he finally got on a boat, paying his way by working for the captain.

When my father arrived at Ellis Island in New York Harbor, he thanked God for helping him get to this new land. The first thing he did was learn the language so he could become a citizen.

In my many years as a journalist, every immigrant I ever met spoke of America with the reverence that my father felt.

Yes, we should always have immigration reform to meet the realities of an ever-changing world, but should it be the prejudicial action taken in Arizona?

I think we should remember what Pope John Paul II said when he visited the United States in October of 1995, addressing what he called a "meanness" toward immigrants. In a homily at the Mass he celebrated at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., he said:

"Quite close to the shores of New Jersey there rises a universally known landmark which stands as an enduring witness to the American tradition of welcoming the stranger, and which tells us something important about the kind of nation America has aspired to be. It is the Statue of Liberty, with its celebrated poem: 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free.' ...

"Is present-day America becoming less sensitive, less caring toward the poor, the weak, the stranger, the needy? It must not!"

We need secure borders and laws that can help undocumented immigrants in America find a secure path to citizenship. That's what we should work and pray for—not new laws that turn these immigrants into criminals!

(Antoinette Bosco writes the column "The Bottom Line" for Catholic News Service. Bosco is a career journalist and author from Brookfield Center, Conn.) †

Twenty Something/

Christina Capecchi

Milestones and inch-stones: The reason we celebrate

I have been anticipating my birthday with the vigor and vigilance of an 8-year-old. For months, I have pondered what I will eat and where I will shop and how I will dress. I've dedicated an entire weekend to Favorite Things. I've even devised a wish list.

It felt awfully indulgent at first, but then I considered how novel the impulse is and vowed to nurture it. If so many birthdays have slipped by quietly, the desire to celebrate this one—just another notch along my 20s—may be worth heeding.

The past year seems to merit celebration. I experienced the highs and the lows more acutely—late nights, early mornings and a few leisurely weekends that rolled by with no plans and great fun.

I bought more flowers, whose bloom I studied and relished like never before.

I settled into a home perched beside an old oak and, just as I am looking up at its winding branches silhouetted against the sky, so too am I sinking roots.

The early spring hydrated my brittle parts. I have marveled over the way humidity heals, relaxing the tightly wound bands in my chest. I am laughing more readily and, when anger flashes, I seem to have greater odds of holding my tongue.

This year, I worked harder, prayed harder and loved harder—which probably means I lived better. So if I feel older, that may be why. And it is worth toasting.

We are in the season that celebrates landmarks with wedding bells and graduation parties, and we are following the script, sending cards with doves and eagles, starbursts and fireworks.

But my desire to celebrate is not about milestones: It's about inch-stones, the small steps that take courage, the times you hold your breath and tiptoe along. Scooches, not leaps.

Recognizing an inch-stone is like catching a butterfly. It requires attentiveness and good timing and brings a sense of wonder, allowing us to feel the warm breeze of the Holy Spirit and see God's hand in our lives.

We are usually too busy to notice an inch-stone passing by so, when we do and we feel that desire to celebrate, we should honor it.

I know a widower who is raising nine kids, and he celebrates every Sunday with Mass and brunch. He fries bacon, plays rock music and everyone dances.

A reporter friend won a blogging award exactly one year after being laid off from her local newspaper. She celebrated by blogging and bragging and exercising. Another reporter signed with a book agent and then took a celebratory hike, unplugging from her computer for an entire day.

My longtime softball coach self-published his father's biography. His kids threw him a book launch party, sharing their takeaways over red wine.

When we celebrate these moments, we mark time together. We echo Mary's "Magnificat." Our gratitude becomes poetry and, in turn, praise. "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord," we sing. "The mighty one has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

It was Mary, after all, our most gracious advocate, who prompted Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana, pointing out, "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). She wanted the celebration to continue, and so did her son. Today, we remember that impulse, the second luminous mystery of the rosary. Mary suffered and she celebrated because joy involves grief in a well-lived life.

That's what I'm striving for this birthday, and why I keep a bottle of champagne in the refrigerator. I am ready at a moment's notice.

(Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristina.com.) †

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, June 13, 2010

- 2 Samuel 12:7-10, 13
- Galatians 2:16, 19-21
- Luke 7:36-8:3

The first reading for this weekend's liturgy is from the Second Book of Samuel.



Scholars refer to the First and Second Books of Samuel as historical books.

Historical books in the Bible do not exactly fit the description of history books today—not

because they are untrustworthy or make-believe, but because the point of the book is to tell a religious story.

For the authors of these ancient works as well as for the prophets, nothing was more important in life than being true to God.

In this reading, Nathan, the prophet, confronts David, the king of Israel, about his relationship with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, the Hittite leader.

Since Bathsheba was married, David's relationship with her was adulterous. Ancient Hebrews detested adultery, and only one thing was worse—adultery with a pagan. Such immoral unions weakened the commitment of Israel to the one, true God.

Nevertheless, when David admits the error of his ways, even in these grave circumstances, Nathan assures him that God forgives him.

The Epistle to the Galatians furnishes the second reading.

This passage splendidly reveals the requirements of genuine Christian living—"I live now not I, but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20).

This one statement, so familiar to and beloved among Christians, captures the intimacy of the bond between the Lord and true disciples. It is a bond created in uncompromising faith. It is a bond that brings salvation to the disciple.

St. Luke's Gospel provides the third reading.

It also is familiar to Christians. It is the story of a sinful woman. The text does not describe this woman as a prostitute, but over the centuries Christians usually have assumed that she was involved in prostitution.

Assuming that the woman was a prostitute only underscores the depth of God's love shown in Christ's forgiving the woman. This aspect of the story, namely God's forgiveness, is the point of this Scripture passage.

Whether the woman was a prostitute is not the point. She was gravely sinful. All of the people, including Jesus, saw her as a sinful woman.

In the Jewish culture at the time of Jesus, the greatest sins that a woman could commit were prostitution and adultery.

Her gesture of washing the Lord's feet and perfuming them was a great act of deference and humility.

God's forgiveness, given in Christ's mercy, is so great and unquestioning that even the Pharisee, a specialist in theology, cannot fully comprehend what was occurring. Jesus had to explain God's love in a parable.

Reflection

The place of women in the New Testament intrigues many people. As is so often said in the Gospels, the Apostles were in the Lord's company. They were Christ's special students and followers.

Also in the Lord's company were several women, including Mary of Magdala, from whom seven demons had been expelled by God.

The presence of the Apostles verifies their future role in the development of Christianity. The presence of the women shows the outreach of Jesus.

Women, while not Apostles, hardly would have been admitted to the company of male figures so important to the unfolding of salvation had they been regarded as inferior.

These readings teach that the mercy of God is unquestioningly given to those who humbly and sincerely ask for God's forgiveness of their sins.

The Gospel does not give us the exact details of the sin of the woman who met Jesus. However, the sin committed by David in his liaison with the wife of Uriah, the Hittite, is clear. Together, the picture is vivid. The women, as well as David, were guilty of grave sin.

Yet, mercifully, God forgave them. The key for us is to give ourselves to Christ so that, as St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians reminds us, we "live not ourselves, but Christ lives in us." †

Daily Readings

Monday, June 14

1 Kings 21:1-16
Psalm 5:2-3b, 4b-7
Matthew 5:38-42

Tuesday, June 15

1 Kings 21:17-29
Psalm 51:3-6b, 11, 16
Matthew 5:43-48

Wednesday, June 16

2 Kings 2:1, 6-14
Psalm 31:20-21, 24
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday, June 17

Sirach 48:1-14
Psalm 97:1-7
Matthew 6:7-15

Friday, June 18

2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20
Psalm 132:11-14, 17-18
Matthew 6:19-23

Saturday, June 19

Romuald, abbot
2 Chronicles 24:17-25
Psalm 89:4-5, 29-34
Matthew 6:24-34

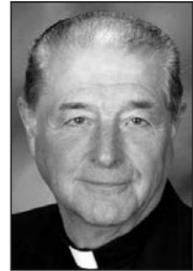
Sunday, June 20

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Zechariah 12:10-11; 13:1
Psalm 63:2-6, 8-9
Galatians 3:26-29
Luke 9:18-24

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

Code of Canon Law regulations govern the Catholic Church

QYou frequently refer to canon law in your column. What exactly is canon law?



If it's a set of laws for Catholics, I'd be interested in reading it. How can one obtain a copy? (Indiana)

AThe *Code of Canon Law* is a body of regulations that govern the life of the Catholic Church.

This information includes the process for electing the pope and who can receive the sacraments as well as the rights and duties of laypeople, priests and bishops, among many other regulations.

As an institution made up of human beings, the Church has always had rules or "canons"—Greek for "precepts" or "laws"—of some sort. We find them already in the New Testament.

As human cultures and societies, including the Catholic Church, confront new developments in their environment and traditions, laws also inevitably change, requiring revisions and reorganization of one kind or another.

In the Church's 2,000 years, perhaps the most famous of these reorganizations is the 12th-century *Concordance of Discordant Canons* in which a monk, Gratian, attempted to reconcile all legislation prevailing at the time.

Surprisingly, the first real *Code of Canon Law* was published only in 1917.

A revision of that code, completed under Pope John Paul II and promulgated in 1983, presently governs life in the Latin Church.

Another code of canon law exists for Eastern Catholic Churches.

The code is not extremely long and, as legal documents go, is nearly a gem of simplicity and clarity.

It is available through the Canon Law Society of America in Washington.

To read the *Code of Canon Law* online, log on to www.vatican.va.

Anyone who is considering buying it should know that, while it is generally easy to read, the code is far from simple to apply correctly.

It compacts into 1,752 brief canons the legal experience of hundreds of years and, like any tightly written legal document, is highly complex.

Canons interrelate broadly with each other. Innocent-sounding phrases that one might easily pass over can be crucial for a right understanding and

interpretation of the law.

QWhen does an injury to another person by true gossip become sinful? If the information is true and has taken place, where is the injury or sin? (Illinois)

AIn my experience as a priest, no sin of speech is more destructive to our social relationships than the one you mention—and the feeling that simply because a thing is true about someone else that we are free to say whatever we like about it, whenever we like and to whomever we like.

One who thinks and acts this way is grossly in error. When the topic of our gossip is true, we're dealing with the sin of detraction and contumely, or insult. To lie about others, attributing to them faults and bad actions that we know are untrue, is even worse, a sin of calumny or slander.

One commits the sin of detraction when he makes known the faults of another without a very good reason for doing so. It can be a serious moral offense if it does great harm to that person's reputation by having his or her faults spread about when they otherwise would not be.

The same sin is committed when the other person is refused ordinary decency and respect, whether face to face in private, or in public, such as in newspapers or on television. Even when the person's faults are public knowledge, it still can be a sin against charity to speak unnecessarily about those faults.

Occasionally, there may be good reasons to tell another's faults—for example, to a child's parents.

It is wrong though to imagine that, just because a story about another is true, one is at liberty to spread it around.

A person's good name is among his most precious possessions, and there is no justification for tarnishing that good name. A person's faults are a matter between himself and God. The rest of us should keep our noses out.

Scripture has many condemning words for gossips. In Psalm 101, God doesn't mince words: "Whoever slanders another in secret I reduce to silence" (Ps 101:5).

St. Paul recognized the poisonous effect of this kind of conversation. He found himself forced to warn against it frequently. His advice to Titus is still valid: "They are to slander no one, to be peaceable, considerate, exercising all graciousness toward everyone" (Ti 3:2).

If you can't say something good about someone, it is best to keep quiet. †

My Journey to God

Time

Time, time, what is time?
Each precious moment,
Here now, then gone,
Never to return.

Past, present, future,
These precious moments,
Given as gift,
Do they bear fruit?

Time, time, clocks ticking,
I treasure this time,
Here now, then gone,
How have I loved?

Does my life show joy?
Have I been gentle?
Have I been kind?
How have I loved?

By Sandy Bierly

(Sandy Bierly is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany. In this 2001 file photo, an exhibit at the Oklahoma City National Memorial Center shows a clock stopped at 9 a.m., one minute before the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that killed 168 people.)



CNS file photo/Reuters

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.

AMOS, Georgeanna Rose, infant, St. Mary, Rushville, May 19. Daughter of Matthew and Cynthia (Siefert) Amos. Sister of Jacob, Nick and Tyler Amos. Granddaughter of Don and Margie Amos and Peggy Siefert.

BRADY, James Talbot, 88, St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis, May 23. Father of Julie Dornfeld, Lisa, Mary Beth, Mark and William Brady. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of two.

CARNES, Rita Marie, infant, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, Indianapolis, May 28. Daughter of Samuel and Hannah Carnes.

DOMOGALIK, Joan (Owens), 84, Holy Trinity, Indianapolis, May 12. Wife of Benny

Domogalik. Sister of Pat Glogoza and Tom Owens.

EBERLE, Earl J., 86, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, May 25. Husband of Marjorie Eberle. Father of Susan Kraus, Margie Polley, Linda Rolfe, Carol Sandy, Frank, Scott and Thomas Eberle. Brother of Melvin Eberle. Grandfather of 13. Great-grandfather of six.

HALL, Dr. James, 79, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, May 23. Father of Kathleen Bernard, Joanna Edgerly, Louise Miller and Thomas Hall. Grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of two.

KOCH, Patricia, 85, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Indianapolis, May 20. Mother of Barbara Faton, Patricia McCracken, Paul, Robert Jr. and Terry Koch. Grandmother of 11. Great-grandmother of two.

MARSH, James Courtland, Jr., 70, Christ the King, Indianapolis, May 21. Husband of Cathy Marsh. Father of Jennifer Davis, Monica Stonebraker, Daniel, Jim, Steven and T.J. Marsh. Brother of Connie Brown, Rebecca Chaney, Jeanne Stall and Viola Polley. Grandfather of eight.

MEYER, Mary L., 76, St. Mary, Greensburg, May 27. Mother of Linda Bruns, Paula

Kinker and Connie Lawrence. Sister of Daniel Litmer. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of one.

MEYER, Rita Ann, 84, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, May 21. Mother of Sue Ann Lapenta, Jane Steinhauer, Debra Tocco, Richard and Robert Meyer. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of 12.

OLIVER, Harry H., 75, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, May 24. Husband of Dolores Oliver. Father of JoeAnna Joyce and Scott Oliver. Brother of Burnadine Corley, Harriett Grover, Dorothy Mazak, Glenn Dermer and Lewis Oliver Jr. Grandfather of two.

PARIZO, Arlene B., 66, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville, April 28. Mother of Stacy Arbuckle, Arlita Brisdon, Tina Lewis, David Marshall and George Parizo. Sister of Andrea Brennon and Carmilita Mallette. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of seven.

SONDERMAN, William F., 77, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, May 30. Husband of Mary Marlene Sondermann. Father of Donald, John and William Sondermann. Grandfather of seven.

STRUEWING, Kathleen J., 78, St. Louis, Batesville, May 28. Wife of James Struewing. Mother of Janice Grieshop, Linda Keller, Bob and Tom Struewing. Grandmother of five.

STRUTZ, Jeanne Ann, 79, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville, May 19. Mother of Teri Nelson and Steven Strutz. Grandmother of one.

SUVEGES, Rose, 62, St. Mary, Richmond, May 25. Wife of James Suveges. Mother of Dianne and Doug Suveges. Sister of Loretta DeLucio and Nickie Ross.

SZTUKOWSKI, Robert John, 82, American Martyrs, Scottsburg, May 27. Father of Cecelia Bird, Regina Buerger, Connie Sandlin, Elaine Uttke, Joan and Michael Sztukowski. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of two.

THOMPSON, Gary, 48, Sacred Heart, Clinton, May 15. Son of Clifford Thompson and Doris Magee. Stepson of Ed Magee. Brother of Brenda Foltz, Clifford Jr., Jeff and Steve Thompson. Stepbrother of Jody and Randy Magee.

TIMBERLAKE, Lloyd, Jr., 61, St. Mary, New Albany, May 3. Father of Lloyd Timberlake III. Brother of Patty Mansfield and Linda Villafranca.

WIMSATT, Joseph L., 52, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, May 27. Father of Chris and Keith Wimsatt. Son of Mary (Carrico) Wimsatt. Brother of Debbie Coones, Paula Sims, Janice Wilerson, David and Mark Wimsatt. †



Prayer before relics

Teresa Frite kneels in prayer in front of relics and a statue of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta on June 2 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The relics of the late Missionaries of Charity sister were on display for one day at the basilica. Mother Teresa, who died in 1997, was famous for her ministry with the poor and destitute.

Providence Sister Maureen Loonam began children's summer camps

Providence Sister Maureen Loonam died on May 21 at Mother Theodore Hall at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 93.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on May 25 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery there.

Genevieve Marie Loonam was born on June 1, 1916, in Freeport, Minn. She grew up in Indianapolis, and attended Cathedral Grade School and St. Agnes Academy.

She entered the congregation of the Sisters of Providence on Feb. 10, 1934, and professed her first vows on Aug. 15, 1936, and her final vows on Aug. 15, 1941.

Sister Maureen earned a bachelor's degree in education at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and master's degree in education at Purdue University in West Lafayette.

During 76 years as a Sister of Providence, she ministered for 40 years as a teacher or principal at Catholic grade schools in Indiana and Illinois. She served as a grade school principal for 25 years.

In the archdiocese, Sister Maureen taught at the former St. Joseph School in Indianapolis from 1967-68 then served as the principal at St. Simon School in Indianapolis from 1968-76.

She served in several educational ministry positions at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College from 1977-89.

In 1977, Sister Maureen was appointed the director of summer sessions and continuing education at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.

She began the summer camp program for children at the college, which flourished for a number of years.

In 1986, Sister Maureen joined the library staff at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.

In 1989, she became the coordinator of the Resource Center at the motherhouse, a ministry she continued for 18 years.

In 2007, Sister Maureen began her ministry of prayer with the senior sisters.

Surviving are several nieces and nephews.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876. †

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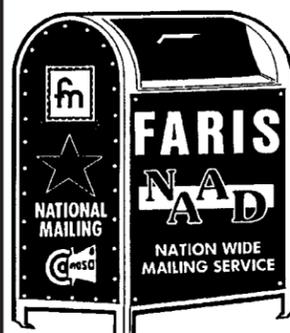
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ARZOBISPO

seguido de la página 5

que su objetivo de vida de largo plazo gira en torno a la familia. La espiritualidad y la proximidad con Dios son aspectos importantes para casi uno de cada cinco.

Aunque no es de sorprender, de todos modos resulta desalentador comprobar que la encuesta indica que para la mayoría de los estadounidenses la moral es algo relativo. No ven las cosas marcadamente como correctas o incorrectas para todos y dicha opinión es más firme en la Generación Y.

Resulta prometedor que la mayoría de los católicos practicantes cree que la moral no es algo relativo y que se basa en estándares inmutables. No obstante, 42 por ciento considera que la diferenciación entre lo correcto y lo incorrecto no es tajante para todo el mundo.

Algunos de los resultados de los católicos de la Generación Y son motivo de preocupación. Ochenta y dos por ciento de estos jóvenes adultos considera que la moral es relativa, es decir, que la definición de lo correcto y lo incorrecto

no se aplica a todos. Únicamente 18 por ciento de los jóvenes católicos considera que las verdades de la moral son absolutas. Esto constituye un indicador drástico de la necesidad de impartir una catequesis más efectiva acerca de la moral católica. A pesar de ello, el 82 por ciento cree en el compromiso del matrimonio y 75 por ciento apoya la honestidad y la integridad.

Sesenta y seis por ciento de los jóvenes adultos católicos considera que el aborto es algo moralmente erróneo. Sesenta y tres por ciento considera que el suicidio asistido es moralmente erróneo. Treinta y tres por ciento considera erróneas las investigaciones sobre células madre. Únicamente 20 por ciento considera que las relaciones sexuales entre un hombre y una mujer no casados son moralmente inaceptables; 42 por ciento no las considera un problema moral.

De ser precisos, los datos aportados por la encuesta marista brindan una mezcla de buenas y malas noticias. Ciertamente reafirman la necesidad de que el ministerio a los jóvenes adultos sea una de las principales prioridades. †

Outgoing Catholic University president to become coadjutor of Trenton Diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The outgoing president of The Catholic University of America, Vincentian Father David M. O'Connell, has been named coadjutor bishop of Trenton, N.J., by Pope Benedict XVI.

The appointment was announced on June 4 in Washington by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the



Bishop-designate David M. O'Connell

United States. Bishop-designate O'Connell, 55, is a native of Philadelphia who attended St. Joseph Preparatory High School in Princeton, N.J., and colleges in New York and Pennsylvania before his ordination for the Vincentians in 1982.

As coadjutor, he will automatically succeed Trenton Bishop John M. Smith upon his retirement. On

June 23, Bishop Smith will turn 75, the mandatory age at which bishops must submit their retirement.

Bishop-designate O'Connell has been president of Catholic University since 1998. In October, he announced his intent to step down at the end of the school year, which ended in May.

His episcopal ordination is scheduled for Aug. 6 at St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral in Trenton.

"Trenton has been a second home to me," Bishop-designate O'Connell said at a June 4 news conference in Trenton after the announcement of his appointment.

"I grew up only a few miles from here in Langhorne, Pa., with beautiful, loving parents and family. I can't count how many times I passed that bridge with the words written 'Trenton Makes, the World Takes.' I went to high school in Princeton, which is part of the Trenton Diocese. Bishop [George] Ahr frequently attended ceremonies there." The Vincentians have also served in the diocese since 1913. †

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Employment

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The Office of Young Adult & College Campus Ministry (YACCM) of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking one full time person to work as a program specialist and administrative assistant or persons to work part time, one as a program specialist and one as an administrative assistant.

The ideal candidate will be an active and practicing Catholic and have experience in Catholic Ministry, Catechesis, organizing and implementing young adult events, a high level of technology experience/knowledge, organized, hospitable, team player, passionate about young adults and flexible. The ability to do research and be a self starter in developing plans and implementing events will be essential to the ministry.

The person in this position will organize and provide support for implementation of the March for Life Pilgrimage, Mass and Run for Vocations, Diocesan World Youth Days, World Youth Day in Madrid, Retreat for College Students, Retreat for Young Adult Catholic School Teachers, Mission Trips, Bishop's Bash and other Archdiocesan YACCM events as planned and approved by Director of YACCM.

Send Résumé and References to:

Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Father Rick Nagel, Director YACCM
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Employment

Administrative Assistant/ Tuition Coordinator

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking a full-time administrative assistant/tuition coordinator for Mother Theodore Catholic Academies (MTCA) and ADI Schools Inc. to provide administrative support to the Director of MTCA and ADI Schools, Inc. and to coordinate the collection of tuition for MTCA schools.

Requirements include a high school diploma or its equivalent and at least 2 years of administrative experience in a fast-paced work environment. Organizational ability, interpersonal skills, and ability to work in a team atmosphere are essential.

Please send cover letter, résumé, and list of references, in confidence, to:

Ed Isakson
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Archdiocese of Indianapolis
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Employment

Business Manager

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking a full-time business manager for Mother Theodore Catholic Academies and ADI Schools Inc. to oversee financial planning, budgeting, financial reporting and general accounting. This position is also responsible for oversight of facilities management and tuition collection.

Requirements include a minimum of a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business administration or a related field and at least 5 years of experience in financial management. Financial analysis skills, supervisory skills, and proficiency with accounting software, particularly Fundware are essential.

Please send cover letter, résumé, and list of references, in confidence, to:

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Catholic News Around Indiana

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

Compiled by Brandon A. Evans

DIocese OF LAFAYETTE

Haiti interpreter shares a message of thanks for priest who changed his life

LAFAYETTE—Fifteen years ago, Father Bob Klemme was on a mission trip to Haiti. By chance, he met a bright-eyed 14-year-old boy in the village of Grand-Savanne, 2½ hours from the capital city of Port-au-Prince.

Father Klemme, then associate pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Carmel, was shocked when the boy spoke to him in English, not Creole. Fritzner Guerrier explained that he had grown up in a Catholic orphanage and had been bilingual all his life.

When Father Klemme learned that the Haitian teenager was not attending school, he felt called to help him. And that changed Fritzner's life forever.

"I feel the Spirit of God was working in me," said Father Klemme, now pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Oxford and St. Charles Parish in Otterbein. "I immediately said to myself, 'This guy has to go to school. He knows English too well to not go to school.'"

He gave a Haitian priest the \$100 needed to enroll Fritzner in a local school, and later paid school and living expenses to send him to a school in Port-au-Prince.

Fritzner Guerrier completed high school, then a one-year baccalaureate program in the national school.

"Without Father Bob, I would be one of the worst people, with no education," Guerrier said during a recent visit to Lafayette. "The orphanage kicks you out at age 14.



Father Bob Klemme and Fritzner Guerrier pose for a photo in Lafayette.

I was out, living with an aunt in that small village."

He now works as a professional interpreter. He has been hired to interpret for volunteers on mission trips to Haiti from the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Lafayette, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Carmel, St. Mary Parish in Anderson and St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in West Lafayette. He has interpreted for the 16 trips to Haiti made by cathedral volunteers.

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

DIocese OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

Parishes join hands through Matthew 25 ministry in St. Joseph County

SOUTH BEND—Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County builds homes with volunteers in partnership with those in need of adequate housing. The Matthew 25 ministry supplies volunteers and monetary donations to the building of a home each summer for low-income families within St. Joseph County. Currently, 40 area congregations participate, seven of which are Catholic.

Gene Cavanaugh, who coordinates the Matthew 25 ministry at Sacred Heart Parish in South Bend, explained the concept of the organization.

"In Matthew 25:34-40, Jesus tells his followers that when we help those who are poor, broken-spirited or desolate that we are, in fact, doing what we do for him," he said. "This ministry is important as it helps us to love and serve others, and by so doing show our love for God."

Matthew 25 coordinator Daniel Tychonievich of St. Matthew Cathedral added, "The Habitat Ministry represents the ideals of good Christian stewardship. It assists people to change their lives and the lives of their family. For some partner families, it is the first time that they have ever lived in a house, and for other families the children may become the first in the family to ever go to college. It can help end a cycle of poverty by giving the families a hand up and the perspective that all things are possible."

Gwen Johnson, assistant to the executive director of Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County, noted that the entire building of a home by Matthew 25 volunteers takes place over an eight- to 10-week period.

Habitat for Humanity's construction crew completes the first step in the home building process by digging and pouring a foundation. Then the crew meets with Matthew 25 volunteers at Habitat's retail store and builds walls for the new home. The walls are put on a flatbed truck and, like the Amish tradition of "barn raising," are put in place at the home site.

(For these stories and more news from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, log on to the Web site of Today's Catholic at www.todayscatholicnews.org.) †



Sister Charlita Wills, a Daughter of Charity who taught at St. Vincent's Day Care Center in Evansville in the 1960s, spends a portion of her recent visit reading to Shane.

DIocese OF EVANSVILLE

St. Vincent's Day Care Center in Evansville earns national accreditation

EVANSVILLE—Shane and Jesse may not notice anything new about St. Vincent's Day Care Center in Evansville, but even a casual observer might be able to see that the two children are in a safe, nurturing environment.

Shane and Jesse are among the 230 children or more whose parents have entrusted them to the care of the facility operated for almost a century by the Daughters of Charity.

What's new? Accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

"Since 1918, St. Vincent's has provided high quality child care for Evansville's working families," said Sister Brenda Fritz, the Daughter of Charity in charge of the day care center. "The achievement of accreditation is the 'official stamp of approval' from a nationally recognized leader in child care."

Sister Brenda said that St. Vincent's accreditation status "should offer parents an extra sense of reassurance and peace of mind that their children are in a safe, nurturing place for their very young children to learn and grow."

St. Vincent's Day Care Center has provided child care to working families since the early years of the 20th century. St. Vincent's is described on its Web site as "a faith-based, nonprofit organization sponsored by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul." The agency was founded by the Ladies of Charity in 1918. The Daughters of Charity assumed responsibility for St. Vincent's in 1919, and continue to operate it today.

Accreditation took three years to complete as the staff and board prepared to meet the more than 400 criteria in 10 standards required.

On a daily average, 230 children are served at St. Vincent's. They come from a 50-mile radius.

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

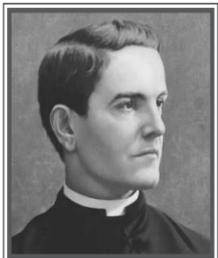


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