Giving hope and houses

Jim Simmons, left, and Tom Egold are members of a group of former Catholic high school classmates who have formed Hearts and Hands of Indiana, a grassroots organization that offers hope and the opportunity for a new home to low-income families in Holy Trinity and St. Anthony parishes in Indianapolis.

Classmates see Hearts and Hands ministry as another way to live out their faith

By John Shaunthessey

Every month, Jim Simmons gets to add 14 classrooms, a cafeteria and an athletic facility.

Like most friendships that formed in high school, these guys have their stories to tell, stories of moments that still bind them together.

In the case of this group from the 1961 graduating class of the former Sacred Heart High School in Indianapolis, some of the smiles come from remembering the magical, undefeated football season during their senior year.

As for some of the laughs, they come from a few of the memories that, well, let’s just say they won’t be sharing the details of those times with their grandchildren any time soon.

“We had an incorrigible high school class,” is all that Simmons will say, flashing a look that is part mischief and part regret.

Still, the beauty of a life story is that new chapters can be added and new endings can be written. And right now Simmons, Tom Egold, Paul Corsaro, Mike Carson, Steve Rasmussen, Lanny Rossman, Andy Shaver and other members of their group continue to author an inspiring grassroots tale of giving hope and houses to low-income families in a struggling area of Indianapolis.

Another unforgettable victory

That story began in January of 2009, two months after Simmons organized the first of the monthly get-togethers with his classmates. After hearing about the successes that many of his friends had made of their lives, Simmons offered this telling assessment of how far his classmates had come:

“As I hear our stories, that’s quite a bit of achievement and accomplishment in our lives. The nuns [from those times] with their grandchildren any time soon.”

Rapid growth forces Greenwood parish to expand quickly

GREENWOOD—SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood is young and growing quickly.

Founded in 1993, the parish now has approximately 1,300 households among its members. And it has more than doubled in size since 2003 when its current pastor, Father Vincent Lampert, was assigned to minister there.

A growing number of children in the parish has forced SS. Francis and Clare to move quickly in developing its school, which was founded in 2006.

Last year, the school had 118 students in kindergarten through fourth grade. This year, 183 students will be enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade.

The plan is eventually to offer a Catholic education at the parish school through the eighth grade.

Because of the phenomenal growth of the parish, it planned a major expansion of its facilities. On Oct. 4, 2009—the feast of parish co-patrons St. Francis of Assisi—ground was broken on a building project to add 14 classrooms, a cafeteria and an athletic facility.

Vatican welcomes U.S. plaintiffs’ decision to end abuse lawsuit

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—While underscoring its condemnation of “the horror” of the sexual abuse of minors by clergy, the Vatican welcomed as “good news” the imminent end of a lawsuit against the Holy See in a U.S. court.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, told journalists on Aug 10 that “the Holy See is satisfied to hear the news” that a lawsuit in a U.S. court against the Vatican is being dropped by the plaintiffs.

Three men in Louisville, Ky., filed a motion on Aug. 9 requesting that a federal judge drop their case. The men, who were abused by priests in the Archdiocese of Louisville, filed a suit against the Vatican in 2004 claiming it was liable for actions by bishops in failing to prevent sexual abuse by priests.

They argued that the bishops who supervised the abusive priests were employees of the Holy See.

However, the men’s attorney, William McMurry, told journalists that because an earlier court ruling recognized the Vatican’s sovereign immunity, he was going to drop the lawsuit. A judge must now rule whether the case can be dismissed, but lawyers for both sides told The Associated Press that it had virtually ended.

The Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act protects governments from being sued in U.S. courts. The law previously has been found to apply to efforts to sue the Holy See, exempting it from tort claims.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court left standing a lower court ruling that will allow an Oregon man to try to hold the Vatican financially responsible for his sexual abuse by a priest if he can persuade the court that the priest was an employee of the Holy See.

By declining to take Holy See v. John Doe, the court left intact the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that said because of the way Oregon handles employment, the Vatican is not protected under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein leads members of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood in applauding the parish’s pastor, Father Vincent Lampert, on Aug. 8 for his hard work and ministry in leading the faith community during its rapid expansion over the past four years.

Standing behind Archbishop Buechlein, from left, deacons Stephen Hodges and Ronald Reimer join in the applause.
Jubilee correction

Providence Sister Rose Marita Riordan recently celebrated her 70th jubilee of profession at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. A native of Chicago, Sister Rose Marita ministered on the residential services staff at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She entered the congregation on Jan. 5, 1939, and professed her perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1947. Sister Rose Marita earned a bachelor’s degree in education at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and master’s degree in education at Indiana State University. In Indianapolis, she taught at the former St. John School from 1941-47 and served as the principal of the former St. Bridget School from 1954-60. Elsewhere in the archdiocese, Sister Rose Marita taught at the former Annunciation School in Brazil in 1976 and the former St. Anne School in New Castle in 1976. At Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, she ministered on the infirmary staff from 1970-71, as the infirmary administrator from 1971-76, as a counselor for the congregation’s Sacred Heart Province from 1976-77 and on the Woods Day Care/Pre-School staff from 1991 until 2006. She also ministered at Catholic schools in California, North Carolina, Washington, D.C., and New Hampshire. Sister Rose Marita’s name was incorrect in a July 30 story about the Providence sisters who recently celebrated their 70th jubilee of profession.

Jubilee correction—continued from page 1

On Aug. 8, the Sunday before the feast of St. Clare of Assisi, the parish’s other co-patron, the $6.1 million expansion project was blessed and dedicated by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein. SS. Francis and Clare now has nearly 109,000 square feet of building space on its 27-acre campus. At 55,000 square feet, the parish’s newest expansion nearly doubles the size of its physical plant.

The parish’s school now has the room to meet its growing needs. The school will eventually be able to accommodate 450 students and have classroom space for two sections of each grade. As Archbishop Buechlein turned a corner in the building then faced a long, wide hallway that opened into several classrooms and restrooms, he saw and said, “Oh, my heavens.”

For Father Lampert, getting the children and adults who will use the parish’s new buildings to heaven is ultimately what the expansion is all about.

“We’re not just building buildings for the sake of building them,” said Father Lampert in a telephone interview a few days before the dedication and blessing ceremony. “We’re building facilities that we need to hand on our faith. It’s not really investing in buildings. It’s investing in future generations, and their Catholic faith and their Catholic identity.”

Archbishop Buechlein spoke about these future generations at the start of his homily in the parish’s church before the blessing and dedication ceremony on Aug. 8 at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood while two preschool-aged children play nearby.

“I, of course, am aware that you all are a very young parish,” he said while looking out on the church filled with many young families. “And I believe it even more now. What a wonderful thing to see so many young people.”

One of those young people, Jeremy Keusch, will be a member of SS. Francis and Clare School’s first fifth-grade class when school starts later this month.

“I think it’s pretty cool to have the archbishop come here and bless it,” said 10-year-old Jeremy about the parish’s new buildings. “I think it’s pretty cool that the whole parish is [supporting] the school and the new facilities.”

Amy Keusch, Jeremy’s mother, echoed her son’s excitement.

“It’s fabulous. It’s beautiful. It’s even better than what I thought it would be,” she said of the expanded facilities. “What I love is that the kids are excited about it. They have an investment in their own future, which I think is wonderful.”

Amid the physical construction, Keusch was well aware, however, of the spiritual work underlying it all.

“There’s been a lot of prayer,” she said. “Everybody has had faith in this project being guided by the Holy Spirit.”

Betsy Popp will soon start her first year as SS. Francis and Clare School’s principal. She is as excited about the expansion as her son is.

“It’s a thrill,” she said. “It’s sort of a dream that I’ve always had to be [in] on the beginning of a new facility. With the technology that we’re going to have, we’re going to be cutting edge. We hope to be a leading school in the archdiocese.”

At 70, SS. Francis and Clare parishioner James Ruane is one of the older members of his parish. As the president of its pastoral council several years ago, he helped spearhead the move to develop a master plan that culminated in the parish’s latest expansion.

On Aug. 8, he was busy making sure that the approximately 800 people attending the blessing and dedication ceremony had enough to eat at the luncheon which followed.

“I think it’s fantastic,” Ruane said. “It speaks to the spirit of this community. We couldn’t feel any better about it.”

To learn more about SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood, go to www.francisandclare.org.
Catholic leaders defy California judge’s decision on same-sex marriage

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Saying that marriage between a man and a woman “is the bedrock of any society,” Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, denounced the Aug. 4 decision of a federal judge to overturn a California voter-backed initiative that essentially banned same-sex marriage.

“The misuse of law to change the understanding of any society undermines the common good,” he said. “It is tragic that a federal judge would overturn the clear and expressed will of the people in support for the institution of marriage. No court of civil law has the authority to reach into areas of human experience that nature itself has defined.”

The voter initiative, known as Proposition 8, was approved by voters by a margin of 52 percent to 48 percent. In overturning the 2008 voter initiative, known as Proposition 8, has literally accused the majority of the people for traditional marriage as we now begin an appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals,” attorney Andy Pugno of ProtecMarriage.com said in a statement. “It is disturbing that the trial court, in order to strike down Proposition 8, has literally accused the majority of California voters of having ill and discriminatory intent when casting their votes for Prop 8,” he said. “But the reality is that Prop 8 was simply about restoring and strengthening the traditional definition of marriage as the unique relationship of a man and a woman, for the benefit of children, families and society.”

The Catholic Church as well as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints were major religious supporters of the initiative, which garnered the attention of the nation as it was debated in the weeks before the November 2008 election.

The Mormon church in particular came under widespread criticism from gay rights groups for its substantial financial and organizational contribution in support of Proposition 8. †
Opinion

Letters to the Editor

Story brings back memories for samaritan who helped in life-and-death situation

Yesterday, I received the July 30 issue of The Criterion in my mailbox.

As I read the story that John Shroyer wass wrote about Jake Carpenter, chills went down my spine and tears rolled down my cheeks.

You see, seven years ago I was traveling home from Harrison, Ohio, with my mother west bound on Interstate 74. As I drove by the Brookville exit, I noticed that a man was laying in the roadway. No one was around the man so I knew that the accident had just happened.

I quickly moved over to the emergency lane, and told my 72-year-old mother to stay in the car as I ran back to the man. By the time that I reached the man, his friends had just come back and were hysterical—as one would expect. Others had arrived, and a semitrailer driver had already called 911.

Being from this area, I knew that Harrison, Ohio, was closer, but New Trenton would be the responding emergency by medical technician department. Upon assessment of the situation, it was apparent that time was of the essence so I asked him to call again.

From there, most that transpired was a blur, but I clearly remember the visual scene. Here was a young man fighting for his life, laying on the ground with an obvious head injury—blood was coming from his ears—his breathing labored and gurgling, and I was the only one who had trained in CPR.

All I had was a training course in 1991.

Church must present truth with love and focus on catechesis, reader says

Since the revision of the canonical norms, I have read opinions much like those expressed in the editorial in the Aug. 6 issue of The Criterion—typically Western handwringing about public relations blunders.

We live in an age and part of the world where appearances are foremost, and we certainly do not want to offend the angst publishers of The New York Times.

Might I submit that the relativists and those who sip Catholicism-lite will always present Holy Mother Church in a negative light? Did not our Lord himself promise: “They will come to you and speak against me falsely.”

Might I also submit that it was a concern to the Church leaders to speak out to prevent the redefining of marriage that has been brought about by the court’s actions.

Certainly, we must present the truth with love. Love, however, now apparently means trying to smooth out the edges about issues that offend our nation’s hedonistic sensibilities.

Are we truly concerned about what heretics like Maureen Dowd think? No. And I do not think the martyrs of old were concerned about public relations when they were being torched in the Circus Maximus.

Our focus should now be on catechesis. This is a way the Catholic Church understood why ordaining women is impossible and why it deserves severe censurement, then this would not be an issue.

Scott Embery
New Albany

Americans on Gay Marriage

Do you think marriages between same-sex couples should or should not be recognized by the laws as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriage?

YES 40%
NO 57%
DON'T KNOW 3%

Do you think allowing two people of the same sex to legally marry will change society for the better, for the worse or will it have no effect?

BETTER 13%
WORSE 45%
NEUTRAL 36%
NO EFFECT 6%

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are welcome and every effort will be made to include as many people as possible. Letters should be informed, well-supported and temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect for others.

Letters to the Editor reserve the right to select and edit the letters based on space limitations, pastiche, sensitivity and content. Letters are signed, but for serious reasons, names may be withheld.

Letters to the Editor: The Criterion, PO Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717.

Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.

Letter to the Editor

What God has joined together, let no one redefine

Aug. 4, U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker ruled against California’s Proposition 8, an initiative that passed in November 2008 with the support of 7 million Californians.

Proposition 8 defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Judge Walker concluded that the amendment to the California Constitution “fails to advance any rational basis in singling out gay men and women for denial of a marriage license.”

In fact, California’s Proposition 8 is not intended to deny anyone’s civil rights, which is what the judge’s comment about marriage licenses implies. The law positively affirms the traditional definition of marriage.

Contrary to Judge Walker’s ruling, it does not create “an unconstitutional burden” on the basis of sexual orientation. Although special interest groups, supported by the media, have worked hard to characterize this as a “fairness issue,” it is in reality an issue that affirms much more than it denigrates.

Leaders in the Catholic Church, including Cardinal Francis George, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Joseph Naumann, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ ad hoc committee for the defense of marriage, and Cardinal Mahony of Los Angeles have voiced strong opposition to the judge’s ruling.

“Marriage between a man and a woman is the bedrock of any society. The misuse of law to change the nature of marriage undermines the common good,” Cardinal George said.

“It is tragic that a federal judge would overrule the clear and expressed will of the people in their support for the institution of marriage. No court or civil law has the authority to reach into areas of human experience that nature itself has defined.”

Cardinal Mahony, Judge Walker was wrong to assume that marriage is of human and civil origin, and “can mean anything any person wants to ascribe to this institution.” The cardinal also said “the union of a man and a woman in a life-long and caring relationship is of divine origin. No human or civil power can decree or declare otherwise.”

Why does the Church take such a strong—and often uncomfortable—position on this issue? What real difference would it make if civil laws expanded the definition of marriage beyond its historic and customary meaning? What’s wrong with saying that any two human beings, regardless of their gender, can freely choose to marry and to be recognized by civil authorities as a married couple?

If marriage is simply a social contract, like a business partnership, there would be no problem with changing the terms of the agreement. But marriage is a divinely revealed “remedied deeply” into the human spirit, as Cardinal Mahony points out, the differences are truly profound. If marriage is “the bedrock of human society,” as Cardinal George observes, it is dangerous to play around with it.

“Marriage is more fundamental and essential to the well-being of society than perhaps any other institution,”

Archbishop Kurtz said. “It is simply unimaginable that the court could now claim a conflict between marriage and the Constitution.”

Why are Church leaders so vocal in their opposition to Judge Walker’s ruling? Because we have been down this path before. In 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down state laws that prohibited abortion, we watched firsthand what this kind of judicial activism can do. Millions of innocent human beings have lost their lives before birth because judges, backed up by inept doctors and spineless legislators, redefined the beginning of a human life and declared unconstitutional a fundamental human right.

Having been down this path before, our bishops—and people of good will from every tradition and secular point of view—are determined to speak out to prevent the redefining of marriage.

What God has joined together, let no one redefine.

—Daniel Conway

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Humble is the foundation of the oración

La humildad es la base de la oración

...
Maryknoll Father David Sullivan
marks 50 years as missionary priest

Maryknoll Father David Sullivan, 77, who grew up in St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination on June 27 at his order’s headquarters in Ossining, N.Y.

His ordination on June 11, 1960, Father Sullivan ministered in mission education in Chicago and also served in Denver. He later ministered in various locales in The Philippines from 1974 until 2005. Father Sullivan currently serves as the pastoral care coordinator and chaplain at St. Teresa’s Residence in Ossining.

‘Treasures of the Church’

Jesuit Father Mitch Pacwa gives a presentation on the Catholic faith on April 21, 2007, at St. Louis Church in Batesville. Father Pacwa will deliver three presentations titled “The Treasures of the Church” on Aug. 16-21.

For more information about Father Pacwa’s presentations or to register for the program, call St. Mary’s School in Plainfield.

VIPS

Henry and Dolores (Wissel) Horstman, members of St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 19.

The couple was married on Aug. 19, 1950, at St. Mary Church in North Vernon.

They are the parents of eight children: Patricia Comell, Constance Galster, Bernadine Lahr, Barbara Pietrz, Kathryn Ryan, Donald, Richard and Thomas Horstman. They also have 15 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Maryknoll Father Thomas Murphy

Maryknoll Father Thomas Murphy’s 25th anniversary as priest will be celebrated on Aug. 22. Father Murphy will celebrate Mass at St. Joseph’s Parish in Indianapolis on Aug. 17.

‘5K Run and Walk,’ 9 a.m. Information: 317-357-1200.

Aug. 17 Mass at Indianapolis parish to honor Father Thomas Murphy’s 25th anniversary as priest

A Mass honoring the 25th anniversary of the ordination of retired Father Thomas Murphy will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 17 at St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., in Indianapolis.

Friends are invited to the liturgy.

Following the Mass, the St. Rita Club of Indianapolis, for whom Father Murphy is a former chaplain, will sponsor a private dinner for him and other priests of the archdiocese in appreciation for their ministries and in honor of the international Year for Priests, which ended in June.

Aug. 14 Our Lady of Fatima Retreat

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat will be held around the world to find Christ alive in “Faith in Action” program on Aug. 16-21.

Catholic Radio Indy 89.1 FM’s “Faith in Action” is broadcast at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 9 a.m. on Saturdays.

The interview with Erica Heinekamp, a lay movement Communion and Mass 4 p.m. Information: 317-253-1461.
St. Ann's Annual Festival

6350 S. Mooresville Road, Indianapolis
On the Southwest side of Indy (1.5 miles south from the intersection of Kentucky Ave./SR 67 and High School Road in Decatur Township)

Thursday – Saturday, August 26 – 28
Festivities begins at 5:00 p.m. each day

Raffle = $3500 in total prizes.
Drawings at 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 28.

Featuring carnival rides by Wabash Valley Shows, casino and beer garden, outlet store, silent auction, bakery booth with homemade goodies, games for all ages, and great food with indoor (air-conditioned) and outdoor seating.

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Oldenburg Franciscans honor 14 jubiliarians

Fourteen Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Oldenburg are celebrating their jubilees this year. Franciscan Sister Anna Marie Stier is marking 80 years as a Sister of St. Francis. Franciscan Sisters Karla Barker, Madona Bishop, Gloria Gallagher, Lorraine Geis and Sharonlu Sheridan are celebrating 60 years as members of the Oldenburg community. Franciscan Sisters Julia Biehl, Christine Doerger, Donna Eggering, Susanna Helmes, Dumein Hinderer, Alice Retnzer, Sandra Schweitzer and Olga Wittekind are observing their 50th jubilee year. A native of Greenbush, Sister Anna Marie Stier, formerly Sister Mary Prudence, ministered at St. Lawrence School in Lawrenceburg, St. Mark the Evangelist School in Indianapolis and St. Michael the Archangel School in Indianapolis. She also taught at Catholic schools in Ohio and Missouri. Sister Anna Marie resides at St. Clare Hall, the health care facility at the motherhouse in Oldenburg. A native of Lawrenceburg, Sister Karla Barker ministered at St. Michael the Archangel School in Indianapolis and St. Mary School in Aurora. She also taught at Catholic schools in Ohio, Missouri and South Carolina. From 1988 until 2009, Sister Karla was the manager or on the staff of the Sprinkbank Retreat House in Kingstree, S.C. Sister Karla retired in February of 2009 and resides at the motherhouse. A native of Indianapolis, Sister Madonna Bishop taught at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in New Albany, the former St. Bernadette School in Indianapolis, Cardinal Ritter High School in Indianapolis, Father Thomas Sceccia Memorial High School in Indianapolis and the former St. Mary Academy in Indianapolis. Sister Madonna also taught at Catholic schools in the Evansville Diocese and Ohio. She also ministered at Martin University in Indianapolis and the Indiana Women’s Prison in Indianapolis. Sister Madonna currently serves on the nursing staff at St. Clare Hall, the health care facility at the motherhouse. Sister Gloria Gallagher taught music at Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg and Marian University in Indianapolis. She also ministered at Catholic schools in Ohio. Sister Gloria currently serves as an associate professor of music at Marian University in Indianapolis. A native of Covingtonville, Sister Lorraine Geis taught at Catholic schools in Ohio and Missouri before beginning 40 years of mission work in Papua New Guinea. From 1961 until 2001, she ministered in Tari and Kagu in Papua New Guinea. Sister Lorraine returned to the motherhouse in 2001, and serves as the convent sacristan and administrator for the sisters’ ministries in Papua New Guinea. A native of Indianapolis, Sister Sharonlu Sheridan, formerly Sister Mary Regine, ministered at Marian University in Indianapolis, St. Monica School in Indianapolis and St. Louis School in Bateville. She also taught at Catholic schools in Ohio, Missouri, Michigan, West Virginia and Minnesota. Sister Sharonlu currently ministers in special projects at the Franciscan Center in Oldenburg. Sister Julia Biehl, formerly Sister Anna, ministered at St. Mary School in Aurora, the former Sacred Heart School in Clinton, the former St. Andrew School in Richmond, Seaton Catholic School in Richmond, the former St. Rita School in Indianapolis and the former St. John School in Osgood. From 1983 until 1991, Sister Julia ministered in Papua New Guinea. She also taught at Catholic schools in the Evansville Diocese as well as in Ohio and Missouri. Sister Julia currently serves at the Tri Health-Senior Link in Norwood, Ohio. Sister Christine Doerger ministered as a teacher or principal at the former St. Gabriel the Archangel School in Indianapolis and at Catholic schools in the Evansville Diocese. She also taught at Catholic schools in Ohio. Sister Christine currently serves as the wellness assistant at St. Leonard’s, a Franciscan Living Community in Centerville, Ohio. Sister Donna Eggering ministered at St. Mark the Evangelist School in Indianapolis and St. Lawrence School in Indianapolis. She also taught at Catholic schools in Ohio and served as a parish minister at parishes in Missouri. Sister Donna currently ministers as a pastoral administrator at Immaculate Conception Parish in Brookfield, Mo. Sister Susanna Helmes ministered at Holy Name of Jesus School in Beech Grove. She also taught at Catholic schools in the Evansville Diocese and Ohio. Sister Susanna ministered in Papua New Guinea from 1971 until 1998. During 27 years of mission work in Tari and Mendhi, she served as a teacher and principal at Catholic schools as well as assistant treasurer for the diocese. In 1999, Sister Susanna returned to the motherhouse, where she serves as the payroll manager for the Franciscan community. Sister Dumein Hinderer ministered as a teacher or principal at Holy Name of Jesus School in Beech Grove, the former Holy Family School in Richmond. Our Lady of Lourdes School in Indianapolis and the former Holy Family School in Oldenburg. She also taught at Catholic schools in Missouri and Ohio. Sister Dumein also ministered as a nurse’s aide at the motherhouse. From 1980 to the present, Sister Damien has served as the manager of data processing and computer technology in addition to assisting in the mail room at the motherhouse. A native of Summit, Sister Alice Retnzer, formerly Sister Francile, ministered at St. Mary School in Greensburg and the former Holy Trinity School in Indianapolis. She also taught at Catholic schools in the Evansville Diocese, Missouri, Ohio, Montana and New Mexico. Sister Alice currently serves as a pastoral associate at Queen of All Saints Parish in Beavitylle, Ky. Sister Sandra Schweitzer, formerly Sister Mary de Paul, taught at St. Louis School in Bateville, the former St. Mary Academy in Indianapolis and at Catholic schools in the Evansville Diocese. She also served as an art instructor at Marian University in Indianapolis from 1974 until 1986. From 1986 until 1993, Sister Sandra ministered as the director of liturgical art for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, which included helping with the art and environment at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. In 1993, she began her current ministry as a freelance artist and liturgical design consultant. Sister Olga Wittekind ministered as a faculty member in the psychology department at Marian University in Indianapolis from 1972 until 2000. She was elected to the leadership team for the Oldenburg Franciscans in 2000 and served in that administrative position until 2006. Sister Olga also has ministered as a counselor and spiritual director at the motherhouse. She currently serves as a mentor at the Magificent Discenent House at Marian University in Indianapolis and as the director of the Oldenburg Franciscan Center in Oldenburg."
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (CNS)—The commemorative stamp of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta became reality at the hands of Colorado artist Thomas Blackshear II, who along with his wife, Ami, has made his home in the area for more than 16 years.

The 44-cent stamp featuring the founder of the Missionaries of Charity will go on sale Aug. 26, what would have been her 100th birthday.

“Her humanity and compassion, as well as her respect for the inner worth and dignity of humankind, inspired people of all ages and backgrounds to work on behalf of the world’s poorest populations,” the Postal Service said in announcing the stamp last December. It also noted that Mother Teresa was named an honorary U.S. citizen in 1996.

During his long and varied career, Blackshear has designed roughly 50 stamps for the Postal Service, painting everyone from civil rights activist Rosa Parks to boxer Joe Louis.

“The thing about a stamp is that, because it’s going to be reduced so much, you have to design it in such a way that it’s instantly recognizable. It has to have that graphic quality,” Blackshear said.

Using photographs of the late nun, Blackshear painted three different portraits of Mother Teresa and submitted them to the Postal Service’s art committee.

Although the stamp was just one of many projects that Blackshear has done for the Postal Service, some aspects of Mother Teresa’s life distinctly resonate with the artist—in particular the idea that God has a specific mission for each person. A member of New Life Church in northern Colorado Springs, Blackshear said that his Christian art is not about money.

“It’s more than art—it’s a ministry,” he told The Colorado Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Colorado Springs Diocese. “There have been hundreds of times that I’ve heard that a painting that I’ve done has influenced or affected people in ways that are not the norm.”

Growing up in Atlanta, Blackshear showed artistic talent at an early age. He won a scholarship to the Art Institute of Chicago, an early age. He won a scholarship to the Art Institute of Chicago and later submitted an entry for a commemorative stamp of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

“Enough people agreed, but the spike in the other, illustrating that even though one’s sins nail down, there is still a way to be forgiven,” Blackshear said. “That’s probably the most well-known piece I’ve done.”

Blackshear II of Colorado Springs, Colo., and will go on sale on what would have been her 100th birthday on Aug. 26.

“A lawsuit still on the books in Wisconsin states that the top Vatican officials knew about allegations of sexual abuse by Father Lawrence Murphy at St. John’s School for the Deaf near Milwaukee. But in an earlier statement, Lena said the Vatican knew ‘nothing of his crimes until decades after the abuse occurred.’”

“We’ve been given another chance to live out our faith,” Egold said. “There’s the old saying that the more you give, the more you receive. It’s happened through Hearts and Hands. We’ve learned a better understanding of the spirituality of stewardship. All we are and all we have is a gift from God, and we have to give back.”

“It’s the kind of statement that would have made the religious sister at Sacred Heart High School smile. Simons was partly thinking of those sisters when he noted that their motto is a joke: “We’re trying to even up the ledger for when we meet up with St. Peter.”

“I turned serious when he added, “We all believe so strongly in our faith. We love what we’re doing.”

(For more information about Hearts and Hands of Indiana, visit the Web site www.heartsandhandsindy.com or call Tom Egold at 317-535-1535 or Jim Simmons at 317-784-9443.)
Surrendering to God—and others
Priest learns life lessons by allowing others to minister to him

By Mary Ann Wyand

A variety of ministry assignments have enriched Father Stephen Jarrell’s life as a priest, but his most memorable pastoral experience may have been when his parishioners ministered to him.

Surviving a serious car accident three years ago taught him personal lessons about surrendering to God and accepting help from caregivers—important life lessons which have strengthened his pastoral ministry.

Since his ordination to the priesthood 37 years ago, Father Jarrell has ministered at eight parishes and served as the first director of the archdiocesan Office of Worship for 17 years. He was the founder of the Pastoral Care Program and the founder of the Office of Pastoral Care for Children and Youth.

But serious injuries sustained in a automobile accident on Jan. 8, 2007, left him unable to walk for several months and required considerable recuperation time away from his ministry as the pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle and Annunciation Parish in Brazil. For five months following the accident, Father Jarrell was not able to minister to parishioners, colleagues and prisoners while his body healed from a painful fractured sternum, injured lumbar vertebrae, several broken ribs as well as multiple shattered bones in his right ankle and foot, which required metal plates and pins for stabilization.

He couldn’t stand at the altar to consecrate the Eucharist during Mass. He couldn’t administer the other sacraments. He couldn’t help people in need, which he enjoys doing as part of his priestly duties to serve God and the Church.

All he could do was rest, recuperate and rely on staff members and parishioners to help him with daily living needs or transportation to doctor’s appointments and rehabilitation treatments.

Father Joseph Kern, the dean of the Terre Haute Deanery, and six other priests covered the Masses and sacramental needs at both parishes during his recuperation.

Recalling those challenging months, Father Jarrell said recently that the good news is he had plenty of time to pray.

Three years later, a slight limp while walking is the only indication that Father Jarrell’s life could have ended in an early morning crash near Greencastle when a young man driving a pickup truck collided with his vehicle crossed the center line then struck the priest’s car.

In July, Father Jarrell began his new ministry assignment as the pastor of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis.

He briefly mentioned his injuries in a letter published in the parish bulletin.

“If you observe me limping on occasion, it is usually because my right foot wants to ‘speak’ to me,” Father Jarrell explained in the letter.

“That’s the foot that got crushed in my car accident in January 2007. I have a permanent implant in that foot.”

Looking back on that cold winter day, Father Jarrell told The Criterion that he was driving south on U.S. 231 near Greencastle at about 4 a.m. on Jan. 8 when a north-bound pickup truck hit his car head on.

“The pickup truck was airborne,” he recalled. “It all happened in a few seconds, and then the truck was right in front of my car. There was nothing I could do to avoid the crash. … The air bag opened and it was amazing how much pressure there was to render me unconscious. I was suffering from a head injury. I was gasping for air, and also felt pain in my right leg and foot so I knew something was wrong. I was a little hazy, but I remember praying for the other driver. It was an eerie sensation. There was dead silence right after the accident. The other driver was pinned in the truck, but fortunately only had minor injuries.

Following emergency treatment at the Putnam County Hospital in Greencastle, the doctors decided to transfer Father Jarrell to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis for surgery.

“I remember that I had someone notify Betty Lancaster, the parish secretary, who came to the Putnam County Hospital right away,” he said. “She contacted my family in Ohio and the folks at the archdiocese.”

Following two surgeries at Methodist Hospital, Father Jarrell was admitted to the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana in Indianapolis for further treatment.

When he was finally able to return to the St. Paul Parish rectory, parishioners were eager to help provide extended care for him. A large basket in the rectory living room overflowed with “Get Well” cards from St. Paul and Annunciation parishioners—visible symbols of their love and prayers for him.

“I am convinced of the power of prayers because the doctors were very surprised about the progress I was able to make at the Rehabilitation Hospital,” he said. “It was certainly a life-changing experience for me. I have learned a lot through this whole experience of suffering and physical limitations … I counted my blessings, and I knew that I would be able to walk again at some point.”

“I think that’s why I made such good progress while I was recoupery-bound. Regaining my sense of balance was a big part of learning to walk again.”

He was finally able to celebrate Masses again with parishioners in Brazil and Greencastle in May of 2007, but later had to relinquish his second pastorate at Annunciation Parish for health reasons.

“This has been the most close-knit parish that I have ever been a part of,” Father Jarrell said about the St. Paul Parish family, who he believes grew stronger as a faith community by helping him during his months of recuperation.

When Father Jarrell received his new assignment as pastor of Christ the King Parish in June, St. Paul parish staff members and parishioners organized a farewell reception for him on June 27.

At the party, another large basket—this time filled with “Best Wishes” cards—sat on a table as parishioners lined up to say goodbye to their beloved pastor.

Betty Lancaster, the administrative assistant in the parish for 23 years, said it’s always hard to say goodbye to a priest when he is reassigned to another parish, but St. Paul parishioners grew especially close to Father Jarrell as their pastor and friend because of his injuries.

“I think he offers up his pain,” she said. “He doesn’t complain about it. Everybody gave him a lot of tender loving care. It was a group effort, which we all did cheerfully. It was especially enlightening for everyone to be able to help him. He is loved and will be missed.”

St. Paul the Apostle parishioner Ethan Gill of Greencastle, a longtime altar server and student at Greencastle-Middle School, says goodbye to Father Stephen Jarrell during a June 27 farewell reception. Father Jarrell now serves as the pastor of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis. "He just brought us all together," Ethan said. "I'm going to miss him."
Parish will name field of dreams for longtime football coach

By John Shaughnessy

Football coaches often have an intense demeanor on the field, but their stern approach can quickly dissolve into a smile or a laugh when they recall a funny moment about something a player did or said.

So it is for Pat Devine as he tells a story from his 40 years of coaching grade school football in the Catholic Youth Organization.

At the time, Devine was leading his football team at St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis during a push-up drill. He noticed that one of his players wasn’t exactly showing proper form in doing the push-ups so he told the boy, “Get lower.”

The boy returned to doing his push-ups, but Devine still saw room for improvement so he again said, “Get lower.”

This time, the boy lowered his body to the ground, laid there and said to Devine, “That’s low enough.”

Instead, Devine smiled at the boy and said, “Yes, that’s low enough.”

While there were low points in Devine’s career, he always remembered siblings, and when parents that he had coached would have a child in college he’d work with you one on one, and he saw the overall game so he could make the team develop. He got along with the kids and they would stay playing for him, he would try to make them kids about the way you played,” Roberts says. “That was fun.”

Devine started coaching purely by chance when he stopped by the parish one day.

“The football team was coming out of the school and there was only one guy out on the field coaching them,” Devine recalls. “I started helping him with a few of the kids, and afterward he asked me if I wanted to help him. I just stuck with it.

“I enjoyed the kids very much. I just wanted to see them progress from the beginning of the season to the end of the season. I tried to teach them their stance, how to tackle, the fundamentals of the game. I tried to teach them how to be a good person, too—do what they think is right and stay strong. I told them, ‘It’s up to you’.

That approach contributed to Devine receiving the St. John Bosco Award from the CYO, the highest honor from that youth organization. It also says something about Devine that he doesn’t mention the city championship one of his teams won until well into the interview.

“It was in 1980,” he says. “That was a great year. I’ve had some kids go on to play on state championship teams at [Bishop] Chatard [High School in Indianapolis]. It’s

Pope says summer vacation should include time for quiet and prayer

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS)—Summer vacation should include time for quiet and prayer, Pope Benedict XVI told a boisterous crowd at his summer villa south of Rome.

The pope welcomed hundreds of pilgrims to the courtyard of the papal residence at Castel Gandolfo on Aug. 8. In his Angelus address, Pope Benedict commented on the day’s Gospel reading in which Jesus tells his disciples, “For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be” (Lk 12:34).

The message of the Gospel, he said, is that the expectation of the coming of God’s kingdom must inspire Christians to “live a more intense life, full of good works.”

Storing up riches in heaven rather than on Earth “is a call to use things without selfishness or a thirst to possess or dominate,” the pope said.

The blessings that people have been given should be used with attention to others according to “the logic of love,” he said.

“Today’s Gospel reminds us that by God’s goodness much has been given to us and much will be required of us,” he said.

During these quiet days of summer, let us thank the Lord for the many blessings we have received and draw ever closer to him in prayer, in fidelity to his commandment of love and in communion with his body, the Church,” the pope told the pilgrims.

When it comes to property management in central Indiana, KMC knows the landscape.
Financial planning can help you and the Church

Ellen Brunner

If generating lifetime income is an interest of yours, there are several reasons to think about establishing a charitable gift annuity with payments starting now.

Example: Victor, age 72 and a consultant, is considering a CD renewal. Being less than enthusiastic about the present renewal rate, Victor explores other options, including the charitable gift annuity. Victor likes the idea that, in exchange for his gift, he will receive lifetime payments at an unchanged payout rate. A current income tax charitable deduction also is appealing. He learns that he can make a gift of $10,000 and receive lifetime annual payments of $596—a 5.9 percent payout rate. The gift would also provide an income tax charitable deduction of $3,983 for the current tax year.

From Victor’s perspective, the gift annuity has a lot to offer—substantial benefits for him and for the Church.

Charitable gift annuity payment rate chart—single life, current

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For ages between those listed, rates will be between two age markers.

For example, a 73-year-old annuitant would receive a rate of 6.1 percent. (These are rates as of July 1, 2010. Contact our office to verify current rates.)

Stage 3—Maintaining the plan and enjoying retirement

Once the retirement threshold has been arrived at, here are several reasons to consider when identifying a life stage, the second of three articles examines philanthropic planning options in these three stages:

1) Make certain that your financial goals are still being met, and
2) Determine whether changes in priorities have altered your perspective on personal philanthropy.

One of the rewards for hard work and sound planning is the opportunity to make a great impact on philanthropic behavior during retirement.

• Retirement plan assets may be a good gift choice.

If these assets are left to an individual, income tax will be due when the individual receives the property.

However, if the Catholic Community Foundation receives the assets, no income tax is due because the foundation is a tax-exempt charity, and the full amount supports the work of a parish, school and/or archdiocesan agency.

• The charitable gift annuity may be worth even stronger consideration as age increases. The payout rate is fixed at the time you set up the gift annuity.

• Many retirees own a vacation home or second property free of debt that they no longer wish to keep. There are several tax-advantaged ways to make a gift of real estate.

As you work to build resources for your family and retirement, there are many gift options available to help you make an impact through philanthropy.

Your investment will provide you and your family with financial and intangible benefits, and also preserve our Catholic faith and create a lasting legacy for future generations.

If you would like more information or are interested in a confidential conversation regarding your planning goals, contact Ellen Brunner, director of planned giving, Catholic Community Foundation Inc., Office of Stewardship and Development, at 800-382-9836, ext. 1427, or 317-236-1427 or e-mail her at ebenner@archindy.org.

Also visit our Web site at www.archindy.org. The first article can be found at www.CriterionOnline.com.

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A good thing the judge, not us

“Never judge a book by its cover.”

You are reading the opening lines from the article titled “It’s a good thing the judge, not us.” The author, Cynthia Dewes, is discussing the idea that one should not judge others based on appearances or superficial characteristics. She emphasizes the importance of looking beyond the surface to understand the true value of someone or something.

Living Well/Maureen Pratt

A ‘good, long rest’ for the rest of our lives

When the last time you had a good, long rest? I am not talking about a restful sleep at night or a leisurely vacation. I am referring to a period of time when you truly relax and allow your body and mind to rest and recover. It is essential for our physical and emotional well-being. If you are like many others, you may have a long list of things you need to do and may feel guilty for taking time for yourself. However, it is crucial to prioritize self-care and take breaks to recharge.

For example, Maureen Pratt writes for Catholic News Service. Her website is at www.maureenpratt.com. She emphasizes the importance of taking time to rest and pray, as it can help us feel more relaxed and centered.

If guilt prevents from resting, consider the life of Jesus. We often think of Jesus’ ministry as a never-ending stream of activity, but he, too, took time to rest and pray.

For instance, the Gospel of Matthew tells us that “Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness” (Mt 4:1) that he “withdrew into a boat to a deserted place by himself” (Mt 14:23). He spent time alone and reflected on his mission and purpose. This is a powerful example of how we can find peace and rejuvenation when we step back and give ourselves space to breathe.

Cultivating this under-appreciated, very vital aspect of living can give us extra strength and insight to meet challenges throughout the rest of our lives!

(Cynthia Dewes, a member of St. Paul the Apostle parish in Inver Grove Heights, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.)

Twenty Something/Christina Cappechi

Facing the 10-year reunion

It was 4 p.m., and hesitation was creeping in.

“Ten-year high school reunion,” I thought. “To go or not to go?”

A single mom who had just been let go was facing a similar situation. She had a part-time job and was trying to prove she had not let herself go—and seeing a little extra cash coming in had been a game changer.

She played punk rock, applied extra blush to the apples of her cheeks on a homemade bridal harp piece. Three hours later, she was primed and pumped up. “I’m gonna rock it,” she typed.

There is nothing like a high school reunion to force a long look in the mirror and the hard math of a decade, the difference between expectation and reality.

My e-mail invitation sent me flipping through the closet and shopping on the Web I have been watching RSVPs trickle in, tailoring my attire as needed.

I got a little preparation last minute at a wedding that doubled as a college reunion. I was always an awkward age of four to five circles in attendance. Someone had lost 70 pounds. Someone had lost two front teeth. Someone had gained 80 pounds.

At one point, a cluster of women compared wedding rings. “I don’t have a ring,” the lone single among them said, “but I just ran a marathon!” Isn’t that the impel—to wave away perceived shortcomings and loudly broadcast achievement?

In the movie Romy and Michele’s High School Reunion, outstretched perfunctiousness meant, “I asked what she’s been up to, Michele stammers: “Oh, O.K. Um, I invented Post.”

The gap between what was once imagined and what was actually accomplished can overwhelm and yet—first—and stick. A neighbor lady raising two boys and forging a career reform with Perl in order to become not didn’t become a lawyer—as she had vowed to do. Status makes for easy answers, but they miss the heart of the matter. The real feats are subtle, defying measurement. God is good.

This month’s readings put things in perspective, illustrating the chaos between reality and success. St. Paul urges the Colossians to “think of what is above, not of what is on Earth” (Col 3:2). And, St. Luke tells the story of a tinkerer who builds bigger barns to store all his grain.

“But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?’ Thus will it be for those who store up treasures for themselves on earth in matters to God” (Lk 12:20-21).

Those insights don’t fit on a name tag or in a five-minute animate. But if you have stored up divine treasures, then you can consider the past a decades-long success and meet challenges with everyone in attendance with your head held high.

(Christina Cappechi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at 952-378-4929 or via e-mail.)
The Sunday Readings
Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010

• Revelation 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10b
• 1 Corinthians 15:20-27
• Luke 1:39-56

The Book of Revelation is the source of the first reading on this feast of the Assumption of Mary. Catholics remember Revelation by its more historic name, at least in Catholic biblical translations, of Apocalypse. Protestant editions of the Bible long ago began to title this book Revelation, which has become a more popular name. Now that name even appears in Catholic translations of the Scriptures.

However, Apocalypse, or Revelation, is a better term for the book, in that it describes the style of literature, a highly symbolic, poetic way of writing.

Unfortunately, the magnificence and hopefulness of the Book of Revelation too often is obscured by an uninformed and often outlandish misreading of this book as if it were all about doom and gloom. In any case, this book looks to the present, but with a strong look to the future. It speaks of the battles between good and evil, between God and the forces of sin.

It speaks in the sense that the Redeemer has come, but redemption is still being achieved. It speaks with an awareness of the ultimate triumph of good over evil, life over death, and God over sin and despair. Good always prevails.

In this reading, the “woman clothed with the sun” is, on one level of interpretation, the Church, the virgin bride of Christ. The very light of God envelops the Church. Twelve stars, perhaps representing the holy Apostles, surround her head. Nature, represented by the moon, is at her feet.

Christians over the years also have seen Mary, the mother of Jesus, in this description. Every virtuous and faithful, assumed into heaven brilliant in her holiness, Mary stands before us as a “woman clothed with the sun” and living in the present.

St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians is the source of the second reading.

It recalls that Christ has been raised from the dead. But Christians loyal to Christ also will be raised from everlasting death. Actually, when the material world will cease, the eternal world of God will endure. There, the faithful Christians will live with Christ forever.

For its last reading on this feast, the Church presents the Gospel of St. Luke. This Gospel passage provides a magnificent recollection of the prayer spoken by Mary as she arrived at the home of Elizabeth and Zechariah. It is the “Magnificat.”

The passage reveals much about Mary. First, it shows her as the human mother of the Son of God. Second, it reveals her holiness. Mary knew her calling. She knew the divine identity of her unborn child. She offers prayers to God.

Mary is part of God’s historic unfolding of salvation, first offered long ago through Abraham, Moses and the prophets. She is the final and, most important, solely human instrument in the fulfillment of Redemption.

Reflection
This weekend, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven.

Pope Pius XII infallibly declared this belief to be an essential Catholic belief in 1950. However, the origins of this doctrine date back to the earliest days of Christianity.

The Assumption ultimately illustrates Mary’s uniquely privileged position in the unfolding of salvation.

From her, the Redeemer acquired human nature, and only from her, thus, Mary was indispensable to the Incarnation, a miracle essential to Redemption itself.

Furthermore, Mary was the holiest and most perfect of humans, “full of grace,” to quote Luke’s Gospel.

She literally was the first Christian, both in chronology and in the perfection of her virtue.

Fittingly, she received the reward of spiritual and bodily resurrection.

These readings remind us that eternal life, and indeed resurrection of the body and soul, awaits those who truly love the Lord. One day, if we follow Christ, we too will be assumed into heaven. †

Mass Intentions are requested for repose of soul of deceased loved one

Could you tell me about Mass Intentions?

The holy Eucharist is the source and summit of the interior life and the very life of the Church.

Every time that Mass is celebrated, the deposit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Calvary is re-presented in an unbroken manner upon the altar by means of the body and blood, soul and divinity of the priest celebrant and all the faithful who participate in the Mass in an infinite amount of sanctifying grace.

That grace can be applied to specific intentions, whether of the priest celebrant or the faithful people. Whomever a priest celebrates Mass, has at least two intentions:

• The first intention is to celebrate the Mass according to what the Church does.
• The second intention is to apply the grace of that Mass toward a specific need, whether it be a person, living or dead, baptized or not, or a special need.

Every parish pastor is required, by canon law, to offer at least one Mass on Sunday for the needs and intentions of his parishioners. (See Canon #534.1.)

As to the first intention, a priest may find it helpful to pray this traditional prayer while he is vesting:

“My purpose is to celebrate Mass and to make present the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the rite of the holy Roman Church to the praise of our all-powerful God and all His assembly in the glory of heaven, for my good and the good of His pilgrim Church on earth, and for all who have asked me to pray for them in general and in particular, and for the good of the holy Roman Church. May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us joy and peace, amendment of life, room for true repentance, the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit, and perseverance in good works. Amen.”

“It is good for the priest to pray that prayer before Mass just in case he gets distracted at Mass and loses track of what he is doing. At least he stated his intention before the Mass, and God takes that into account.

As to the second intention, commonly called “the intention of the Mass,” and most likely what you want to know about, that intention is usually announced in the Church bulletin at least one week before, and then it is usually announced at Mass.

Often, the Mass intention is requested by a parishioner for the repose of the soul of a loved one.

When a parishioner requests that a Mass be offered for a specific intention, and the priest agrees to celebrate the Mass for that intention, then the priest has a most serious obligation to offer the Mass for the requested intention.

It is a good and pious custom for the faithful to make an offering, usually about $10, to the priest who celebrates the Mass. The $10 does not buy a Mass!

Masses and graces are not for sale. Rather, the $10 is a gesture of solicitude to the priest for his upkeep.

In case you are wondering, a priest cannot get rich on Mass offerings since he is limited to one Mass on weekdays and two Masses on Sundays, although in special circumstances he could celebrate two Masses on weekdays—which is called “bination”—and three Masses on Sundays. The most that a priest could make on Mass intentions in a week is $150, which adds up to about $7,500 a year.

Sometimes it happens that the parish might receive more requested intentions than Masses are available.

In that case, the pastor can bundle a bunch of intentions once or twice a week and load those intentions onto one to Mass so long as the person requesting the Mass knows that the Mass is being celebrated for more than one intention.

In that situation one loses out because there is an infinite amount of grace available at each and every Mass. (See the decree Massae super obtinentes from the Congregation for the Clergy, which was issued in 1991.) †

Go Ask Your Father!

Fr. Francis Hoffman

Mass intentions are requested for repose of soul of deceased loved one.

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Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to faith or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the “My Journey to God” column.

Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions.

Send material for consideration to “My Journey to God,” The Criterion, P.O. Box 925, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org †
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.

CLARK, Andrew T. Page.


DILLANE, Stephen Dillane. Son of Anna Dillane. Father of Hannah and Hannah. Grandfather of one.


GUYNN, Maurice A. Powell. Grandfather of one.


MORRE, Mary Anthony (Romano), 77. Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, Indianapolis, July 17. Mother of Brian and Mark Moore. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of seven.


Church agencies step up relief as Pakistan struggles with flood

BANGALORE, India (CNS)—Church charities in Pakistan are gearing up for prolonged relief and rehabilitation work as the South Asian nation is faced with the worst flood in its history.

“With continuing rains and floods spreading to more areas, the challenge before us is growing by the day,” Carolyn Fanelli, head of programming and acting country representative for Catholic Relief Services in Pakistan, told Catholic News Service on Aug. 10 from her office.

“We have already distributed emergency relief material to 6,600 people, and our target is being regularly revised upward,” she said.

The devastating floods that began in late July in the mountainous north under incessant monsoon rains have claimed more than 1,600 lives and affected more than 13 million people.

The United Nations reported on Aug. 9 that the floods have affected more than the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 earthquake in the Kashmir region of Pakistan and the January earthquake in Haiti combined.

Fanelli noted that floodwaters are expanding into new regions, including the plain provinces of Punjab and Sindh, forcing the agency to raise its estimates of people needing assistance. She said the agency may need to provide emergency shelter and hygiene supplies to as many as 100,000 people.

“We were able to distribute nearly 100 relief kits as the fresh supplies reached us,” said Nasirullah Khan, head of the CRS office in mountainous Besham, 185 miles north of Pakistan’s capital, Islamabad.

“Our staff have covered up to 40 kilometers [26 miles] on foot to reach areas where the people are in greater suffering. Mules remain the only option for us [to get] the material to those in remote areas made inaccessible by landslides,” he told CNS on Aug. 10.

CRS has already started a cash-for-work program in the mountainous region to repair the drinking water supply systems the agency built after the 2005 earthquake.

“Ironically, though water caused all the problems, people are struggling for water now. They have to walk miles to fetch drinking water,” Fanelli said.

“As the flood-affected area grows, roads and bridges have been washed away and much of the country’s communication network has been destroyed. An official of Carlitas Pakistan said some supplies, including plastic sheeting for shelter, water purification tablets, cooking utensils and food items, have gotten through.

“The destruction and human suffering caused by the floods is colossal. Thousands have nothing left and are living in the open,” Anila J. Gill, national executive secretary of Caritas Pakistan, told CNS from her office in Lahore.

Gill said all Catholic dioceses in Pakistan are involved in the relief work. By Aug. 9, the agency had assisted 4,800 families with tent materials, and hygiene and kitchen kits.

“For the next three months, we will concentrate on the relief work,” Gill explained. “The people are in trauma. The challenge now is to support them to survive and overcome the tragedy.”

An outbreak of disease and diarrhea because of the lack of safe drinking water is affecting the population in flooded areas.

“Medical personnel have not reached many areas and our challenges are increasing day by day,” Gill said.

Meanwhile, Caritas Korea is preparing to send $30,000 to its sister organization in Pakistan to help with relief efforts, reported the Asian Church News agency UCA News.

“The money will be sent to Pakistan as soon as possible,” said Theresa Kim Joo-yeon, the agency’s public relations officer.

“It’s unfortunate that we have already used much of our urgent relief funds. We sent $400,000 to aid the earthquake victims in Haiti and $50,000 to Chile earlier this year,” she said.

Report says quality of Catholic health systems is higher than others

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Catholic and other Church-owned health systems demonstrate greater impact and efficiency than not-for-profit or investor-owned systems, according to a new analysis by Thomson Reuters.

The data analyzed in the report was drawn from an analysis of performance benchmarks. The report said the leadership teams [board, executives, and physician and nursing leaders] of health systems owned by Churches may be the most active in aligning quality goals and monitoring achievement across the systems, said ‘investor-owned health system boards and/or executive leadership may be adopting a responsibility for quality more slowly.’

The report said further study is needed “to definitely determine why these differences exist and what effect they will have on the systems’ future health.”

The data analyzed in the report was drawn from an earlier study by Thomson Reuters that named the nation’s 100 top hospitals, based on a variety of performance benchmarks.
Bev T.
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