New ‘social contract’ needed in 21st-century economy, bishop says

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A new “social contract” is needed in today’s economy, said Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., in the U.S. bishops’ annual Labor Day statement.

“As currently, the rewards and ‘security’ that employers and society offer workers in return for an honest day’s work do not reflect the global economy of the 21st century in which American workers are now trying to compete,” said Bishop Murphy, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.


The encyclical ushered in the era of Catholic social teaching. Pope Leo, according to Bishop Murphy, “insisted on the value and dignity of the worker as a human being endowed with rights and responsibilities. He commended free association or unions as legitimate and he insisted on a family wage that corresponded to the needs of the worker and family.”

The “new things” in Pope Leo’s time included the ideological split between “collectivist organization with much governmental control” and the notion that “those who owned the means of production should be free to develop markets with the most able, or ruthless, rising to prominence and wealth,” Bishop Murphy said. “Neither option seemed morally correct to the pope.”

Today’s “new things,” the bishop added, can be traced to Pope Benedict XVI’s 2009 encyclical “Caritas in Veritate” (“Charity in Truth”). “One of the principal ‘new things’ addressed by Pope Benedict is the ‘social contract’ is needed in today’s economy.”

Former radio personality finds new station in life at Catholic school

Former radio personality finds new station in life at Catholic school

(Editor’s note: Catholic education not only changes the lives of its students, it sometimes causes adults to change their lives. These three related stories show how people who were successful in previous professions changed their careers to make a difference in Catholic education.)

By John Shawnessy

She has met backstage with Taylor Swift, talked with Garth Brooks, had her picture taken with Carrie Underwood and spent time with so many country music singers, including Reba McEntire, Keith Urban, Tim McGraw and the members of Rascal Flatts.

She had her own radio program on one of the most popular country music stations in the United States—WFMS, an Indianapolis station with about 400,000 listeners.

People appreciated and followed her so much that they sent her cards every year on her wedding anniversary, and mailed birthday cards to her two young daughters.

Indeed, for 17 years, Vicki Murphy lived what many people would consider a dream life.

So it may seem surprising that Murphy uses the words “fabulous” and “most fulfilling” to describe the career move that she made in July—leaving the radio world of music, stars and promotional appearances to take the position of communications coordinator at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis.

“Catholic schools are something I believe in with every fabric of my life,” says Murphy, 36, a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis. “And marketing and public relations is something [that] I’ve been involved

Response to Eucharist must be gratitude for undeserved gift, pope tells former students

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS)—When attending Mass and receiving the Eucharist, Catholics must be filled with gratitude for God’s great gifts, Pope Benedict XVI told a group of his former students.

“Despite the fact that we have nothing to give in return and we are full of faults,” the pope said, Jesus “invites us to his table and wants to have us with him.”

The pope presided at a Mass on Aug. 29 in Castel Gandolfo during his annual meeting with students who worked on their doctorates with him when he was a professor in Germany.

Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn of Vienna, a regular participant in the “Ratzinger Schulerkreis” (Ratzinger student circle), gave the homily at the Mass, but the pope made remarks at the beginning of the liturgy.

The Vatican released the text of the pope’s remarks on Aug. 31. Introducing the penitential rite, Pope Benedict said, “In today’s Gospel, the Lord makes us see how, in reality, we continue to live like the pagans do. We extend invitations only to those who can invite us. We give only to those who can give back.”

See ECONOMY, page 2

See EDUCATION, page 10

See Eucharist, page 2

Pope Benedict XVI leads a meeting with some of his former students at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, on Aug. 30.
ECONOMY
continued from page 1

globalization,” he said.

“More than ever, the dignity of the worker is a foundation upon which we should measure much of what is good, and not so good, in the financial, industrial and service sectors of our economy and our world,” Bishop Murphy said.

“The pope italicized for emphasis the human person in his or her integrity,” the bishop noted.

“God’s style” of inviting people is clear in “Before him we are crippled, blind and deaf; he invites us even though we have nothing to give him,” the pope said.

“Inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous” (Lk 14:12-14).”

The pope told his former students that “God’s style of inviting people is clear in the gift of the Eucharist.”

Before him we are crippled, blind and deaf; he invites us even though we have nothing to give him,”

“If families struggling to make ends meet cannot have wage earners shortchanged on overtime or not get paid for all the hours they work. The dignity of the person is diminished when poor or middle-class people are denied their full wage or just compensation for their hard work.”

—Bishop William F. Murphy

Families struggling to make ends meet cannot have wage earners shortchanged on overtime or not get paid for all the hours they work. The dignity of the person is diminished when poor or middle-class people are denied their full wage or just compensation for their hard work.”

—Bishop William F. Murphy

Live Action founder is keynote speaker at annual Celebrate Life Dinner on Sept. 28

UCLA student and pro-life activist Lila Rose is the keynote speaker for the 28th annual “Celebrate Life” awards dinner on Sept. 28 at the Indianapolis Convention Center in Indianapolis.

At age 15, Rose founded Live Action, a student-led, not-for-profit organization using “new media” to educate and mobilize local and national audiences to demand human rights for the unborn and accessibility from the abortion industry.

Marc Tittle, the president of Right to Life of Indianapolis, and other event organizers hope the 20-year-old keynote speaker will inspire pro-life supporters of all ages to work harder to end the culture of death in contemporary society.

Rose first attracted national media attention after she successfully launched the life-saving campaign to defund Planned Parenthood.

Last summer, Live Action released video footage of employees at the Planned Parenthood abortion centers in Indianapolis and Bloomington defying Indiana’s parental notification law. The pro-life fundraiser will also honor John and Chris Curran of Carmel, Ind., and Vince and Robyn Caponi of Indianapolis for their distinguished service to the cause of life.

The event begins with a reception at 6 p.m. then dinner and the awards at 7 p.m. Rose will speak at 8 p.m.

 (“Celebrate Life” dinner reservations are $60 per person. For registration information, log on to www.ktl.mdv.org or call the John to Life of Indianapolis office at 317-582-1526.)

Seventh annual Indiana Women’s Catholic Conference set for Sept. 18 at new location

“Treasuring Womanhood,” the seventh annual Indiana Catholic Women’s Conference, will take place on Sept. 18 at a new location in Indianapolis.

For the first time, the conference will be held at the O’Malley Performing Arts Center at Cathedral High School, 5225 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis.

Presented by the Marian Center of Indianapolis and the archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry, the conference will feature three nationally known women as keynote presenters: • Dominican Sister Mary Assumpta Lajoie, the prioress general of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, in Ann Arbor, Mich., promotes the transformation of a truly Catholic culture through education and love for Christ and his Church.

• Terry Polakovic, the co-founder, executive director and chief editor of ENDOW—Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women—encourages women to discover their God-given dignity and helps them understand their role in transforming society.

• Barbara Mcguigan, a WTN radio host who hosted Voice of Virtue International in 2001, inspires people to commit to the Church’s message of virtuous and loving chastity.

Mgsr. Joseph F. Schaeidl, vicar general and the pastor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis, is the celebrant and homilist for the conference Mass.

(Reservations for the “Treasuring Womanhood” Indiana Catholic Women’s Conference include lunch, and are $45 for adults or $20 for high school and college students. For more information or to register, call the Marian Center of Indianapolis at 317-924-3982 or log on to www.indianacatholicwomen.com.)

Moving? Will there be waiting if you give us two weeks’ advance notice?

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Note: If you are moving in duplicate copies please send both labels.
Gulf Coast slowly rebuilds five years after Hurricane Katrina

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Five years after the devastating effects of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, rebuilding efforts are still very much a work in progress. Many, but not all, Gulf Coast residents have returned, and although many homes and buildings have been rebuilt, more still need to be done.

Amid the ongoing recovery, many ephorated locals say they just want to move on, especially as the nation remembers the five-year anniversaries of Hurricane Katrina, which slammed into the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, and Hurricane Rita, which made landfall in Texas and Louisiana on Sept. 24.

Moving past the collective grief and frustration of Katrina was the impetus behind a scheduled ecumenical service at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Chalmette, La., on Aug. 28 dubbed “a funeral for Katrina.” The church is located in the largest city in St. Bernard’s Parish, a civil entity just east of New Orleans that was almost entirely flooded from the breached levees and has yet to completely recover. According to U.S. Census Bureau reports, the region is only half as populated as it was before the storm.

New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond and other religious and community leaders directed the service where participants were invited to write their feelings on strips of paper and toss them into a casket. After the service, the casket was loaded into a horse-drawn vehicle, and a high school jazz band led the funeral procession to the local cemetery to place the coffin in a newly built Katrina memorial vault.

A parish bulletin announcement of the event read: “It is time to move on with our lives and put Katrina to final rest. Many of us have already moved on, and the community is experiencing renewal and much growth.”

A big part of moving on depends on the help people that received and continue to get after the largest natural disaster in U.S. history. Catholic Charities USA outlined the broad extent of its outreach in U.S. history. Catholic Charities New Orleans alone distributed $55 million in direct financial assistance to those in need, provided $335,000 nights of shelter, gutted and rebuilt 3,200 homes, distributed 250 million pounds of food and provided counseling for 900,000 people.

Since Katrina, the organization has increased its efforts on preparing for future disasters. “Now we’ve got a plan for whatever comes our way,” said Carol Sprelli, communications coordinator for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

Craig Fugate, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has told reporters that his office is similarly better prepared for a major disaster after being severely criticized five years ago for a perceived slow response.

In the days before Katrina’s fifth anniversary, U.S. government officials announced more than $25 million in aid for newly approved Gulf Coast rebuilding projects, which includes $1 million to the state of Louisiana to help rebuild the student center at Xavier University in New Orleans—the country’s only historically black Catholic university.

Xavier University was virtually underwater after Katrina. When floodwaters subsided, they left behind layers of mildew and mold along with damaged books, furniture, a ceiling and a buckled hardwood gym floor. The storm also destroyed buildings and ripped off roofs.

Since then, the university has focused on getting back on track. This fall semester, it opens a new wing at its College of Pharmacy that FEMA had given the archdiocese about $61.9 million by the end of 2009 for rebuilding, repairs and alternate projects. The archdiocese anticipates receiving another $108.1 million for ongoing repairs and upgrades.

Although Mississippi has received less attention than New Orleans, the state’s coasts was devastated when the hurricane hit and some areas are still struggling to recover. In the Diocese of Biloxi, schools and churches damaged from wind and severe flooding are slowly being repaired. In some cases, destroyed for damage repairs, churches have merged and some churches will not be rebuilt. When Katrina hit Mississippi, the sign at least one stop in Mississippi to mark the storm’s anniversary and to emphasize recovery and restoration efforts.

Father Larry Snyder, the president of Catholic Charities USA, planned similar visits to local Catholic Charities agencies.

Sarah Comiskey McDonald, director of communications for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, told Catholic News Service that FEMA had given the archdiocese about $61.9 million by the end of 2009 for rebuilding, repairs and alternate projects. The archdiocese anticipates receiving another $108.1 million for ongoing repairs and upgrades.

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When Katrina hit Mississippi, the sign

Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes, who was head of the New Orleans Archdiocese at the time, stands amid the rubble of the collapsed roof of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Sildell, La., after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Aug. 29 marks the fifth anniversary of the storm’s landfall in Louisiana.
The mosque in New York

What should a Catholic position be concerning the controversy over the Muslim center in New York? The towers were built two blocks from where the World Trade Center twin towers once stood. The towers were destroyed by Muslim terrorists.

President Barack Obama spoke in favor of the center during a visit to Covenant House in New York on Aug. 18. The controversial 13-story, $100-million center, which includes a mosque, is to be located two blocks from the former World Trade Center site.

The pope sees the “clash of civilizations” not between Islam and the West but between belief and unbelief. However, he has said frequently, Muslims need to rein in their radicals and extremists who kill abortionists. Too many Americans fear Muslims today, just as too many Muslims fear Christians. As recently as 1975, there were an estimated 25 million Christians in al-Qaida. That is like blaming Catholicism for the acts of Christian extremists who kill abortionists.

My family and I spent Katrina in an enclosed corridor leading to the stairwell of my fourth-floor office, a decision that with the clarity of 20/20 hindsight ranks somewhere on the “Top 10 List” of “Mistakes I Have Made in My Brief Sojourn on Earth.”

There is a line describing a person who turns an easy job into something difficult as “someone who could make a freight train take a dirt road.”

Our office is right across the street from the Union Passenger Terminal on Louisiana avenue and, believe me, the “freight train” that Monday, Aug. 29, at 3 a.m. careened across the asphalt and headed straight up the stairs like some Monster Zephyr at Ponchartrain Beach. Would the building stop swaying? Would the building stop talking?

Why—why—had I brought my family up here to die? Just to save a few hours in traffic?

I still have difficult dreams about that morning. I remember listening to WWL radio, our information lifeline. Truly, the WWL reporters forever will remain heroes in my eyes because they honored their profession and risked their lives to save others.

But that crucifix also symbolized the hope, the determination, the desire for new life. It was a woman’s plain gold wedding ring. Msgr. Doug Methe crystallizes what I was feeling that day—a small white crucifix half-buried in the cracked mud. This was Calvary, horizontal and below sea level. But that crucifix also symbolized the promise of the empty tomb—and new life.

When the roller coaster of my daily emotions swayed wildly from hope to despair, Methie’s stunning picture of the large crucifix above the altar at Immaculate Conception Church in Marrero reminded me of the meaning of redemptive suffering. Katrina’s winds had blown off the right arm of the corpus, and a shard of stained glass, traveling at warp speed, became a spear that buried itself in the left side of the crucified Christ. The brown shard remains in the restored crucifix as a symbol of Katrina. It speaks this to me: Though we were pierced and suffered so many deaths, big and small, through the faith we grasped the promise of Resurrection and wouldn’t let go.

Methe’s picture of a college group from the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio, in their overalls, pausing from their gutting of a house to receive ashes from their spiritual director, Father Ed Brienz, on Ash Wednesday 2006 is chilling. How many thousands of God’s foot soldiers, like these from Ohio, helped us rise from our ash heap? Thanks be to God.

Finally, for me the image of God’s faithfulness is manifested in the story of the second collection for Katrina relief taken up on Sept. 18, 2005, by St. Lawrence of Brindisi Parish in the Warren County, Pa., working-class parish’s average weekly collection was $5,000, but on this day, it raised $10,000 for the relief collection alone. That money was earmarked for St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in New Orleans.

But the real treasure was buried inside one of the collection envelopes. On the outside of an envelope, written in Spanish, were these words: “Para las victimas del huracan, no traua dino pero esto dabo una bendicion. Es de todo corazon” (“For the victims of the hurricane, I did not bring any money but this is of true value. It is with all of my heart.”)

It was a woman’s plain gold wedding band.

Methe’s picture of Msgr. Doug Doussan, the pastor of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, who did not have money to send the message of Christ’s hope. Said Franciscan Father Peter Banks, pastor of a small church in New Orleans: “It is very humbling to realize I am living among the poorest of the poor, but they are the wealthiest in so many ways.”

And they have enriched our lives.

(Peter Finney Jr. is the editor and general manager of the Clarion Herald, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.)

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<th>Hurricane Recovery Funds</th>
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<td>Seven states and the District of Columbia received more than $1 million in Catholic Charities grant funds for recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.</td>
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Cualquier alumno de sexto grado me escribió que ama a Dios con todo su corazón, expresó una Francisco de Asís, y desde entonces lo he rezo la “Oración para una muerte feliz” del cardenal John Henry Newman. Rezo algunas oraciones compuestas por San Ignacio y por San Francisco de Asís. Describo la forma en la que porque algunos de ustedes me lo han preguntado y porque es algo sencillo y nada fuera de lo común. Espero que les ayuda. microbes empiecen a dudar de si realmente podemos encontrarlo. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica dice: “La dificultad habitual de la oración es la distracción. En la oración vocal, la distracción puede referirse a las palabras y al sentido de éstas. La distracción, de un modo más profundo, puede referirse a Aquel al que oramos, tanto en la oración vocal [litúrgica o personal], como en la meditación y en la oración contemplativa. Salir a la caza de la oración es caer en sus redes; basta volver a concentrarse en oración: la distracción descubre al que ora aquello a lo que su corazón está apagado. Esta humilde toma de conciencia debe empujar al orante a ofrecerse al Señor para ser purificado” (#2729). Debo admitir que la oración es un recurso importante para ayudarnos a escuchar el anhelo de Dios de nuestros corazones.

En nuestra cultura no resulta fácil estar en otra parte. Aprendí que así es como debe ser. Parte de esa primera hora es rezar la Liturgia de las Horas, lo cual fue una invitación para mantener la purificación de mi corazón. Con frecuencia, la hora de oración concluye con la Santa Misa, si no tengo programado estar en otra parte. Después de que mamá volvió a casa con Dios, me encontré un libro de oración que ella tenía cuando joven. En Roma, en 1988, mandé a encuadernar nuevamente el libro de oración y desde entonces lo he utilizado todos los días en mis oraciones. Algunas de esas oraciones son el Vía Crucis, aunque en la meditación consagrada a Jesús, Mary y St. Francis Xavier y María Theodora Guérin. Es raro el día en que no rezo al menos dos o tres rosarios, una de mis devaciones preferidas. Durante la Cuaresma rezo el Vía Crucis, en ocasiones en mi automóvil si estoy haciendo diligencias. Es decir, la oración se entretiene a lo largo de mi día y me recuerda por qué hago lo que hago como obispo y pastor. De ser posible, muy temprano en la mañana dedicado media hora antes del Santísimo Sacramento, como un tiempo de oración de intercesión para que mis intenciones las personas me encomiendan. También es un momento apacible. Supongo que es lo más cercano que llego a la oración contemplativa con cierta regularidad. Mi devoción a la Santa Madre y a San José data del seminario menor. Rezo a San Francisco Javier Cabrión y a Santa Theodora Guérin. Desde que cumplí 50 años rezo la “Oración para una muerte feliz” del cardenal John Henry Newman. Rezo algunas oraciones compuestas por San Ignacio y por San Francisco de Asís. Describo la forma en la que porqué algunos de ustedes me lo han preguntado y porque es algo sencillo y nada fuera de lo común. Espero que les ayuda.

¿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

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en septiembre
Maestros/Directores de Educación Religiosa: que ellos puedan contar con la fuerza y dirección del Espíritu Santo cuando pasen la fe Católica a los jóvenes y los den ánimo a ellos a considerar las vocaciones al sacerdocio y la vida religiosa!
Events Calendar

September 3-6
Sacred Heart Parish, 558 Nickel St., Clinton. “Little Italy Festival.” Water Street in downtown Clinton. Fri. 6 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Mon. 11 a.m.-closing, Italian food, entertainment. Information: 812-342-8468.

September 4
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 533 S. Washington St., Indianapolis. “Laundres and Irvington On-site Chili Cook-off” noon-5 p.m. sample all recipes and vote, $5 per person, children under 7 free. Information: 317-506-1955 or www.lordeschillicookoff.org

September 5
Massilon National Home Picnic Grounds, 21340 Yates Lane, Avon. Slovenian Society, annual celebration and festival, 10 a.m.-Mass., noon, $5 admission, children 16 and under free. Information: www.dm硇ionalseniors.com

St. John the Evangelist Parish, 9995 E. Base Road, Enochsburg. Parish festival, fried chicken and roast beef dinners, 11 a.m., $10. Information: 812-934-2880.

MKVS, Divine Mercy and Glorious Cross Center, Ruxville, located on S 225 South, 8 miles east of 421 South and 12 miles south of Versailles. Mass, noon, on third Sunday holyhour and pitch-in, groups of 10 pray the Marian Way, 1 p.m., Father Elmer Burwinkel, celebrant. Information: 812-689-3551.

September 6
St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 4791 E. Morris Church St., Morris. Labor Day picnic, games, food, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-934-6218.

St. Peter Parish, 1207 East Road, Brookville. 90th annual Labor Day Festival, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., country style-“all-you-can-eat” chicken dinner. Information and reservations: 812-623-3670.

September 7
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 14598 Oak Ridge Road, Carmel. Ind. (Diocese of Lafayette) Catholic Business and Professional Mass and breakfast, Paul Lundford, president of Guerin High School, speech, 6:30 a.m., $15 members, $25 non-members. Information: 317-590-6634 or info@cpbc-ld.org

September 9-11
St. Joseph Parish, 1830 S. Mckinley Ave., Indianapolis. “Fall Festival,” food, rides, games, 5-10 p.m. Information: 317-244-9902.

September 10
St. Pius X Parish, 7200 Sartre Drive, Indianapolis. Catholic Charismatic Renewal, song and praise, 7 p.m., Mass, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-467-0075.

St. Anne Parish, 5267 N. Harding Road, Oldenburg. Turkey supper, 5:30-7 p.m. Information: 812-934-5854.

September 11
St. Mary Church, 317 N. New Jersey St., Indianapolis. Indianapolis Firefighters Local #416, Memorial Fund for firefighters who gave the ultimate sacrifice, 11 a.m. Information: 317-894-4361.


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

Geneva Hills Golf Course, 13446 S. Geneva Hills Road, Clinton. Saint Mary-of-the-Woods Alumni Club “Scholarship Golf Scramble,” noon, $70 per person includes lunch, green fees and cart, registration due Sept. 7. Information: 812-239-3050 or marvadl@verizon.net

September 12
St. Michael’s Parish, 1207 E. Main St., Charlestown. “Fall Festival,” music, dancing, noon-10 p.m., children dinner. Information: 765-932-2588.


St. Michael Church, 101 St. Michael Drive, Charlestown. Sesquicentennial Celebration and Bilingual Mass, 11 a.m., Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, celebrant, lunchbox following Mass. Information: 812-256-3850 or dbuechlein3831@bol.com

Retreats and Programs

September 11
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. “Tboolard de Chardin-Lessons from a Modern Day Mystic,” Franciscan Sister Barbara Fularz, presenter, 9:15-11:30 a.m., $20 per person. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgosf.com

September 12
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. “Coffee Talk-Piano Playing, Weightlifting and Prayer: What Could These Things Have in Common?” Franciscan Sister Sharonl Sheridan, presenter, 9:30 a.m. lunch, 11:45 a.m. free-wheel offering. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgosf.com

September 13
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. “Men’s Night at the Burg,” Franciscan Father Carl Hauser, presenter, 7.8-10 p.m., free-wheel offering. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgosf.com

September 17-19
Saint Michael Archcibury, 109 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. “Living In Love-A Couples Retreat,” Benedictine Father Noel Melier, presenter. Information: 800-581-6903 or MMeiler@saintmeinrad.edu

Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center, 8220 W. State Road 48, Bloomington. “Athletes for Christ-Cancer Cure” retreat open to all ages, Mercy Father Frank Sherry, presenter. Information: 812-825-4642, ext. 1.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5335 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Bibl Weekends” marriage preparation retreat. Information: 317-543-7681 or suspet@archindy.org

September 18
Cathedral High School, O’Malia Performing Arts Theater, 5225 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Indiana Catholic Women’s Conference—“Teaching Womanhood,” 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m., $50 adults, $25 students. Information: www.indianacatholic-wm.org

Kordes Retreat Center, 802 E. 100th St., Ferdinand. “Saturday Morning at the Dome—Listening and Responding to the Wisdom of Your Body,” 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Information: 812-367-1411 or www.thedome.org

September 19
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. “Youth Night at the Burg,” learn about youth spirituality, 6:30-8 p.m., pizza, talks and prayer, high school and older. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgosf.com

September 21
Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. “Catholic Identity and Doctrine-Prayer in the Catholic Tradition,” Father Jim Farrell, presenter, session two of four, 6:30-9 p.m., $25 per session includes dinner and presentation. Information: 317-788-7583 or www.benedictine.org

Baby alpaca

Newborn alpaca Providence Vincennes, right, stands by his mother, Providence Providentia, just hours after his birth on Aug. 24 on the grounds of the Vincennes Vetern Farm Alpaca’s, a ministry of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods at their motherhouse near Terre Haute. More than 60 male alpacas have been born at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods since the herd was introduced in 1986.

VIPS

Charles and Helen (Lotus) Kestler, members of St. Augustine Parish in Jeffersonville, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept. 2.

The couple was married on Sept. 2, 1950, at St. Boniface Church in Louisville, Ky. They are the parents of five children: Patricia Dallas, Laura Fain, Dennis, Stephen and the late Charles Kestler. They have eight grandchildren.

John and Marie (Smith) Mitchell, members of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 6.

The couple was married on Aug. 26, 1950, at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bloomington.

They will celebrate their anniversary the 11 a.m. Mass on Sept. 5 at St. Pius X Church in Indianapolis followed by a family dinner.

They are the parents of eight children: Mary Ann Holand, Janet Inderstick, Marilyn Rodney, Greg, John, Tim and Will Mitchell. They have 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Norbert and MaryLynne (Smith) Hornek, members of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 5.

The couple was married on Sept. 5, 1960, at Holy Family Church in Lawrenceburg.

They are the parents of six children: Terri Woods, Alan, Dan, Jim, Mark and Mike Hornek. They have 14 grandchildren.†

George and Ruth (Uhl) Kaiser, members of Holy Family Parish in New Albany, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. X.

The couple was married on Sept. 3, 1960, at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Clarksville.

They are the parents of four children: DeAnn Burns, Dr. Sheryl King, Becky Wenning and Chris Kaiser. They have 14 grandchildren.†

James and Theresa (Werner) Nobbe, members of St. Maurice Parish in St. Maurice, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 27.

The couple was married on Aug. 27, 1960, at Holy Family Church in Oldenburg.

They are the parents of 11 children: Mindy Grunkemeyer, Becky Kinkert, Patty Maurer, Joyce Moeller, Janet Porter, Debbie Schneider, Kay Schwering, Bill, Fred, Sam and the late Neal Nobbe. They have 24 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.†
Summer youth volunteer effort helps Brown County residents

BROWN COUNTY—At the beginning of August, a group of eight teenagers from St. Agnes Parish in Nashville and 12 teenagers from St. Ann, St. Benedict and Sacred Heart of Jesus parishes in Terre Haute came together with their youth ministry leaders to help people in need in Brown County.

Indiana Nazareth Farm is an annual service camp sponsored by St. Agnes Parish and the Terre Haute parishes. It is based on four cornerstones—community, prayer, simplicity and service.

Each teenager and adult leader provided more than 28 hours of intensive hard labor in just three and a half days, equaling 728 hours of volunteer service. Team leaders were youth ministry coordinator Adrienne Spahr from St. Agnes Parish in Nashville and Janet Roth, the youth ministry coordinator at the three Terre Haute parishes.

This year, projects included excavating and moving hundreds of rocks to build a dam and a retaining wall to protect property from water damage, staining a huge wrap-around deck, demolishing a two-and-a-half car collapsed garage, assisting with the building of a Habitat for Humanity house, cleaning up yards, mowing, spreading mulch, washing windows, cleaning gutters, moving dirt, weeding yards and large slopes, and general yard cleanup.

Though the group spent many hours working, the youths and adult leaders set aside time for prayer and reflection every morning and evening as a group.

The original Nazareth Farm was formed as an association of the Catholic Church, and is located in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in West Virginia. Its purpose is to provide volunteer service to the people of Appalachia.

In 1994, the program was started in Brown County by youth ministry leaders in Nashville and Terre Haute.

Each year, the youths are exhausted but energized, and look forward to participating again.

Brown County residents who need assistance are encouraged to keep this outreach in mind if they have needs that could be accomplished next summer.

The project is held annually during the first weekend of August.

In message to nuns, pope says Mother Teresa models ‘Christian virtue’

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Blessed Teresa of Calcutta is “an exemplary model of Christian virtue” who showed the world that an authentic love for others opens the door to knowing and being with God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Marking the 100th anniversary of her birth, the pope sent a message to Sister Mary Prema, the superior general of the Missionaries of Charity, the congregation that Mother Teresa founded in 1950.

The Vatican released the message on Aug. 26 after it was read in Calcutta, India, at the end of a special Mass commemorating the 100th anniversary of Mother Teresa’s birth.

In Calcutta, most of the Missionaries of Charity nuns gave up their regular seats in their convent “to open their hearts and home to the poorest of the poor,” the pope said, adding that the nuns’ service was an example and challenge to others.

“Other people have come before you, but few have been as effective as you in serving the poor,” he said.

“None of us can ever be as successful as you,” the pope said.

He urged them to continue to love the poor “in the name of the Lord,” and to continue to inspire others to do the same. The pope also praised the missionaries’ adherence to the principles of religious life and vowed to support them in their efforts.

Pope Benedict XVI said that Mother Teresa continued to inspire the faithful to love their brothers and sisters as Jesus wishes, and to work to help the poor.

After the visit to the tomb, Sister Prema sent a message to Sister Mary Prema, the superior general of the Missionaries of Charity, the congregation that Mother Teresa founded in 1950.

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In Calcutta, most of the Missionaries of Charity nun gave up their regular seats in the motherhouse chapel to accommodate a special Mass of pilgrims and volunteers who arrived for the early morning Mass.

After the Mass, the bishops, priests, nuns and visitors processed to Mother Teresa’s ground-floor tomb. Sister Prema handed Cardial Telesephone Tappo of Ranchi a lamp, and he lit a candle to mark the beginning of the centenary celebrations.

Dozens of Missionaries of Charity novices gathered around the tomb and sang “Happy Birthday.”

In his message, Pope Benedict said celebrating Mother Teresa’s birth centenary “will be for the Church and the world an occasion of joyful gratitude to God for the inestimable gift that Mother Teresa was in her lifetime, and continues to be through the affectionate and tireless work of you, her spiritual children.”

The pope said Mother Teresa was a living example of St. John’s words: “Beloved, if God so loved us, we must also love one another. One has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection.”

He asked the order’s sisters, brothers, priests and lay members to let God’s love continue to inspire them to give themselves “generously to Jesus, whom you see, and serve the poor, the sick, the lonely and the abandoned,” and to draw constantly from Mother Teresa’s example and spirituality.

After the visit to the tomb, Sister Prema said anniversary celebrations being held throughout India had brought “a ray of hope and joy to thousands of poor, underprivileged, disadvantaged and marginalized in India,” especially as the nation struggles with violence, injustice and natural disasters.

The events received wide media coverage, helping to make the Gospel message better understood in India, he said in an Aug. 26 interview with Fides, the news agency of the Vatican’s Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

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VATICAN CITY (CNS)—When a pope attends a public event like a general audience in St. Peter’s Square or meets a head of state in the papal apartment, he is not exactly free to “wing it” with his wardrobe. His choice of outfit is dictated by a precise protocol.

Recently, a Vatican official published two extensive articles in the Vatican newspaper, “L’Osservatore Romano,” in an effort to help observers decipher the papal dress code.

In what can seem like a page of “do’s and don’ts” from Emily Post, Msgr. Stefano Sanchirico, an assistant for papal ceremonies, spelled out the current norms on how popes should dress for a nonliturgical event.

First, a peek at what is in the papal closet: a white cassock, a white zucchetto or skullcap, a white fascia sash, a short white surplice-like garment called a rochet that is worn over the cassock, an elbow-length white cape called a mozzetta, a red velvet mozzetta trimmed with ermine fur, a white damask mozzetta with or without the white fur trim, a selection of red stoles with gold embroidery, white shoes with gold embroidery, red shoes, and a pair of white loafers.

Even though the items are few, they are worn in particular combinations for specific occasions.

The basic outfit is the white cassock, white fascia with gold fringe and the white zucchetto. This is what the pope wears for almost all public events: the weekly general audience, the Sunday Angelus, an audience with a government official and during most meetings on papal trips abroad.

When the pope holds an official audience with a head of state or ambassador at the Vatican, the rochet and mozzetta are added on top of the basic papal attire. If the visiting head of state is Catholic, then a stole is included. According to Msgr. Sanchirico, the stole and the shoes should always match the color of the mozzetta. However, papal tastes trump sartorial standards in the shoe color of the mozzetta. However, papal tastes trump sartorial standards in the shoe color of the mozzetta. Whether red or white accessories are worn depends on the time of year.

Msgr. Sanchirico wrote that the white mozzetta—with or without the ermine trim—is worn after the Easter Vigil until the second Sunday of Easter. However, Pope Benedict prefers to wear the white mozzetta until Pentecost.

The red mozzetta is worn the rest of the year. Whether it is trimmed with ermine fur or not depends on the season. A red mozzetta trimmed with fur is worn from the feast of St. Catherine of Alexandria on Nov. 25 through to the Ascension in the spring, and the red mozzetta without trim is worn from the Ascension to Nov. 25, wrote Msgr. Sanchirico.

Pope Benedict has reintroduced to the papal wardrobe a wide-brimmed red straw hat that Blessed Pope John XXIII often wore and a red velvet cap trimmed with ermine, called a “camarro,” in which Pope John was the last to wear.

The one thing all the pope’s nonliturgical garments and accessories have in common is that they are either red or white. The colors, Msgr. Stefano Sanchirico, an assistant for papal ceremonies, wrote, “are distinctive of papal dignity” with white symbolizing “innocence and charity” and red symbolizing the blood and sacrifice of Christ.

But the colors are also rooted in the historical process of the early Roman pontiffs taking on the customs and clothing of the Roman emperor, as outlined in the so-called Donation of Constantine, he wrote. He said the document, which was probably written around the eighth or ninth century, claims that Emperor Constantine handed sovereign authority over to Rome and the western part of the empire to Pope Sylvester I.

To reinforce the legitimacy of the pope’s role as a sovereign ruler, the document established that the pope could wear imperial garments and use the scepter, “which already from the ninth century began to play a role in the rite of installation of the new pontiff,” wrote Msgr. Sanchirico.

The first systematic description of what the pope was to wear upon his election was written out for Pope Gregory X sometime between 1272 and 1273 by the papal master of ceremonies. Earlier norms specified only the importance of the red cloak, wrote the monsignor.

From the time of Pope Gregory, both white and red were to be visible to show that the pope represented “the person of Christ and his mystical body, the Church,” Msgr. Sanchirico wrote.

Further codifications of papal dress stipulated that, upon his election, the pope was to put on a white cassock made of linen or other material appropriate for the weather and that a high-ranking cardinal would then place the red papal mantle over his shoulders.

Msgr. Sanchirico said that the installation outfits eventually became the pope’s everyday attire for public events and formal meetings.

Even with a few modern modifications, the traditional papal outfit has never gone out of style. Sticking with the same look for centuries offers continuity, and “makes visible the uniqueness and singularity of the ministry of the successor of Peter,” Msgr. Sanchirico said.
Being the pope is serious business.
As shepherd of the universal Church, Pope Benedict XVI’s primary responsibility is to preserve unity and proclaim the Gospel as handed down through the centuries from the time that Jesus appointed Peter and his successors to lead the Church. That is a challenging vocation, to say the least.
Those who know the pope well speak of him as a holy, gentle, humble and compassionate man who embraces the Church’s mission of spreading the Gospel and saving souls. But that doesn’t keep the Holy Father from lightening the mood at the Vatican and abroad by occasionally donning new headwear.
In the accompanying photo essay, the pope has been spotted “wearing many hats” during the five years of his papacy.

Above, Pope Benedict XVI, wearing a miter, waves as he celebrates Mass during his pastoral visit to Sulmona, Italy, on July 4.

Right, Pope Benedict XVI smiles as he wears a hat presented to him as a gift in Altotting, Germany, on Sept. 11, 2006.

Pope Benedict XVI wears a Spanish Guardia Civil cap, donated by an unidentified Spanish official, after his weekly general audience at the Vatican on Oct. 25, 2006. The Guardia Civil is a police force.

Pope Benedict XVI tries on a cap from Italy’s Alpine regiment during his weekly general audience at the Vatican on June 7, 2006.

Pope Benedict XVI, wearing a red hat, leaves St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican following his weekly general audience on June 13, 2007.

Pope Benedict XVI tries on a fire helmet given to him as a gift by Italian firefighters at his general audience in St. Peter’s Square on June 15, 2005.

Pope Benedict XVI wearing a white baseball-style cap, walks in the gardens of the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, Italy, on July 25.
‘Hand of God’ leads to career change for Bishop Chatard technology director

By John Shaughnessy

When Todd Finnell prays, he also asks God to lead him in the right direction for his life.

So when certain events begin unfolding last year, Finnell believed that God was telling him it was time to pursue the change that the longtime employee of Eli Lilly & Co. in Indianapolis had been considering for several years.

“T’wasn’t at Lilly for 20 years,” recalls Finnell, a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis. “A year ago they announced they would be doing a corporate restructuring and that entailed 5,500 positions they are looking to eliminate worldwide. When Lilly offered a volunteer buyout package, I looked at this and said, ‘There’s no way God isn’t eliminating worldwide. When Lilly offered a volunteer buyout package, I looked at this and said, ‘There’s no way God isn’t telling me it was time to pursue the change he finally made.’

“I spent the last 12 to 13 years coaching high school or adult amateur or grade school football,” says Finnell, 43. “While I absolutely love the game, I enjoy working with young people and seeing them grow and mature. About three to five years ago, I started thinking about the possibility of education as my next career.”

For two years, he served on Bishop Chatard’s Board of Regents. He is also a board member for the Catholic Youth Organization.

“Things related to kids interest me,” says Finnell, who is the father of two daughters, Alexis, 14, and Brooke, 12. “Both those experiences led to leadership development for me and the thought of what I can do to give back to young people.”

He sees his new position as being directly targeted to the support and development of young people.

“It’s been a walk with God, with him telling me, ‘I want you to explore this path.’” notes Finnell, who has been married to his wife, Deandra, for 16 years. “For me, it’s a combination of what’s fulfilling and what God is asking me to do. I feel strongly that he’s calling me to do this right now.”

School leader trades mile-high view for up-close look at faith-based education

By John Shaughnessy

The intriguing phone call that changed everything for Joseph Heidt came in the midst of a successful five-year run as a commercial real estate broker in Denver.

The caller told Heidt that Providence Cristo Rey High School, a private Catholic school in Indianapolis, was searching for a new president—one with a background in education and business, someone who could connect with students from low-income families and develop relationships with business executives.

The more the caller talked, the more Heidt was intrigued by the school’s faith-based, work-study approach to high school education. Students attend school four days a week for extended classes. They also work a fifth day in a business setting, earning money that helps pay for their education.

“I was having a good career when the call came,” Heidt says. “But what sold me was the mission of the school.”

So the 58-year-old Heidt and his wife of four years, Stacey, packed up their belongings and their newborn baby, Nola, so he could start in the new position in July. It was a homecoming for Heidt in more ways than one.

An Indianapolis native, Heidt returned to the city where his parents, his sister, his cousins and many friends live. He also returned to education and the kind of urban, multicultural high school where he served before switching to the commercial real estate business.

From 2000 to 2005, Heidt was a faculty member at Archbishop Riordan High School in San Francisco, where he taught, coached and served as the co-dean of students. Many of his students there came from backgrounds similar to the 81 students enrolled at Providence Cristo Rey High School.

Heidt hopes to increase the number of students, the school’s supporters and the corporate-study partnerships.

“It’s an ideal job. It’s also very challenging,” he says. “A short work day here is from seven in the morning to six in the evening. In terms of what we can achieve, it’s wonderful. To meet the students and see how they benefit from this school is fantastic. Our approach allows them to make the connection between education and their career goal path.”

The benefits of a faith-based education also are apparent to Heidt.

“We offer our children the opportunity to create their own personal relationship with God,” he says. “The values of Catholicism and Christianity are imbedded in our academics and our community service. We want them to know they can make a difference.”

Heidt wants to do the same. ♦
Teachers, administrators to re-energize at upcoming conference

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

After 30 years as a science teacher, Kim Elpers continues to search for innovative ways to reach her students. She will have another opportunity to expand her knowledge when Eric Jensen serves as a keynote speaker at Indiana’s Non-Public Education Conference (INPEA) on Oct. 28-29 in Indianapolis. Jensen will discuss seven discoveries from brain research that could revolutionize education.

“Everything we do involves the brain,” says Jensen of the Jensen Learning Corporation. “That includes instruction, curriculum, environment and food. Every time something does not work at a school or in a classroom, there’s a mismatch or conflict with, one, what we are doing, and two, how the brain really works.”

Such thought-provoking research is one of the reasons that Elpers is looking forward to the conference, which is being organized by the Indiana Non-Public Education Association [INPEA].

“INPEA is very important to me as a teacher,” said Elpers, who teaches kindergarten through fifth grade at SS. Peter and Paul School in Haubstadt, Ind., in the Diocese of Evansville. “It is a celebration of our unique mission as non-public educators. We have the opportunity to network with other teachers in a similar situation and gain professional growth.”

“Unity and Diversity: A Design for Success” is this year’s conference theme. Organizers say the gathering will not disappoint the 3,000 educators that are expected to attend the conference.

“Each year, thousands of non-public school educators head back to classrooms or to their homes to ‘plug in’ to educational opportunities available to meet today’s challenging demands,” said John Elcessler, INPEA executive director. “Part of our role at INPEA is to equip our members to be cutting edge, innovative and technologically savvy.”

Debbie Silver, the second keynote speaker, will discuss how teachers can engage students from all backgrounds. “Children must be given a reasonable chance at success. It’s the job of the teacher to provide an environment for that to happen,” said Silver, who has worked for 40 years in education and holds a doctorate in education.

“In addition to the wonderful keynote this year, there are many experts from our own schools from around the state who will give presentations in the various sectional break-out sessions,” said Kathy Meers, program chair for the conference and the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for the archdiocese’s Office of Catholic Education.

The conference will offer 150 educational sessions covering topics such as multiple intelligence and effective instruction, school fundraising and marketing, faith in learning, cultural diversity and emerging technology. There will also be 100 educational exhibitors at the conference.

“Unity and Diversity,” the 2010 conference theme, reflects what INPEA is really about,” said Marie Williams, the executive director of education for the Lafayette Diocese and conference steering committee co-chair. “One of the things that I am excited about INPEA is our diversity.” Williams said that the majority of the members are faith-based, but many different faith traditions are represented—from Jewish to Catholic to Lutheran to non-denominational to non-public schools. “It is a faith tradition. While we are different, at the same time we have important things in common.”

Williams said that the most important aspect of the conference is the feeling that she is part of a larger community of educators. Teachers get a chance to grow professionally, share ideas and have an enjoyable time, she noted.

Officials from the Indiana Department of Education will present a workshop on how to comply with new state initiatives for administrators, how to meet state requirements for the new core lesson plans and the Indiana growth model. Department of Education officials will also explain how to use their new Learning Connection, which is the Facebook of education, an electronic Internet-based learning tool for teachers. INPEA conferences are important for several reasons, according to Jon Miekle, the superintendent of Lutheran Schools in Indiana and the northernmost part of Kentucky.

“First, they provide a tremendous opportunity for professional development for a large number of teachers,” said Miekle, who has been an educator and administrator for more than 25 years.

“Secondly, there is a tremendous opportunity for collegial networking. And thirdly, the collective efficacy and capacity for teachers to come together to pick and choose the sections that are of interest to them to improve their teaching practice is awesome.”

(Brigid Curtis Ayer is a correspondent for The Criterion.)

Alaska’s Catholics played key role in passage of parental notification law

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (CNS)—Alaskans passed a ballot initiative on Aug. 24 that requires abortionists to notify a parent before performing an abortion on a minor girl in Alaska.

Proposition of Passage 2 was a long-sought and welcome victory, particularly for parents and Catholics around Alaska—many of whom had collected petition signatures, waved signs on street corners and prayed hard to ensure the protection of parental rights.

“I was happy to see that common sense prevailed,” Anchorage Archbishop Roger L. Schwitz told the Catholic Anchor, the archdiocesan newspaper, after the vote.

“Parents, no matter where they are on the abortion issue, understood—to be a parent. You have responsibility for your children and therefore you should be able to know what they’re doing, and not have other people take away the right to know.”

In fact, keeping parents in the dark about minors’ abortions, he added, amounts to “subverting the heart” of family life.

In marriage, Archbishop Schwitz said, “God has brought man and woman together to bring forth children out of their love for one another and then to care for those children, to prepare them for life. If their ability to do so is taken away from them, then the state is usurping, it seems to me, the right of parents and the power of God himself.”

For a year leading up to the vote, the three Catholic bishops of Alaska—Archbishop Schwitz, Bishop Edward J. Burns of Juneau and Bishop Donald J. Keeler of Fairbanks—rallied Alaskans to support the parental notification initiative.

From Anchorage, Archbishop Schwitz sent letters to the diocese’s 32 parishes and published statements in the Catholic Anchor encouraging his flock to sign a statewide petition required for the ballot proposition, collect other signatures and otherwise “actively support” the parental notification initiative.

He prompted priests to address the issue from the pulpit and post notices in parish bulletins. Parishioners were urged to collect petition signatures on church property and in their neighborhoods.

Alaska’s Catholics helped collect more than 47,000 signatures for the petition, which was submitted to the state in January.

Jim Minnery of Alaskans for Parental Rights, the local group that spearheaded the effort, lauded Archbishop Schwitz for his “decisive leadership” in rallying support and the “dozens of parishes” that participated in signature gathering.

Once the state certified the petition, a ballot question was prepared for the August primary election. The Knights of Columbus sprang into action. Councils from around the state, along with the national Catholic men’s group, raised more than $80,000 for radio and television advertisements in support of Proposition 2. Meanwhile, Planned Parenthood and other pro-abortion groups poured more than $800,000 into opposition ads.

Our staff has over 100 years of Catholic education!
Challenged by a friend: Never too old to learn

Recently, I read a fellow Catholic writer’s article; it shared her thoughts about devotions and prayer practices. Roxane Salonen (rdfail@gmail.com) was challenged by two bloggers to do this. What she shared was perhaps less about her devotions and prayer practices, but more about what she teaches on a regular basis to keep her soul maintained. These testimonies in Ave Maria are worth comments as well as mine.

Adoration—At first, Roxane felt strange going to a chapel to sit with the Blessed Sacrament. She knew how much Catholics believe in transubstantiation: the host is truly Jesus, body and blood and soul and divinity! She never regrets taking time to do this. I feel remiss because I don’t do what I once did so regularly anymore. My reason is trite. I don’t want to use a password to enter church because— flattering me—I would probably confuse the password and set off the alarm. I have done that in my own home! Blessing children—Roxane began this practice when her two oldest children were young. She believes this is the most powerful tool she has used to stay connected spiritually with them. Whether done before bedtime or while having a family day, the children take solace in this. Sometimes it is a simple sign of the cross.

Advent—A friend of mine told me she had thought of this when her daughters were young! Food for thought—Roxane reads books on spiritual and religious topics as a way to be sustained spiritually, and because she hosts a program for Catholic radio. I also am an avid reader, often sharing what I read in “Faithful Lines.” I have no idea if anyone can hear. She does not have the time to explore the ancient prayers of the rosary. I remember well how difficult that was for me when my daughters were young.

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

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Recently, I read a fellow Catholic writer’s article that shared her thoughts about devotions and prayer practices. Roxane Salonen (rdfail@gmail.com) was challenged by two bloggers to do this. What she shared was perhaps more about her devotions and prayer practices, but more about what she teaches on a regular basis to keep her soul maintained. These testimonies in Ave Maria are worth comments as well as mine.

Adoration—At first, Roxane felt strange going to a chapel to sit with the Blessed Sacrament. She knew how much Catholics believe in transubstantiation: the host is truly Jesus, body and blood and soul and divinity! She never regrets taking time to do this. I feel remiss because I don’t do what I once did so regularly anymore. My reason is trite. I don’t want to use a password to enter church because— flattering me—I would probably confuse the password and set off the alarm. I have done that in my own home! Blessing children—Roxane began this practice when her two oldest children were young. She believes this is the most powerful tool she has used to stay connected spiritually with them. Whether done before bedtime or while having a family day, the children take solace in this. Sometimes it is a simple sign of the cross.

Advent—A friend of mine told me she had thought of this when her daughters were young! Food for thought—Roxane reads books on spiritual and religious topics as a way to be sustained spiritually, and because she hosts a program for Catholic radio. I also am an avid reader, often sharing what I read in “Faithful Lines.” I have no idea if anyone can hear. She does not have the time to explore the ancient prayers of the rosary. I remember well how difficult that was for me when my daughters were young.
Onesimus, Philemon’s slave, who had run and was intended to intercede for First and Second Corinthians or the work, written to a person, Philemon, and chapters.

All earthly beings and things. In addition to differentiating this book in Catholic Bibles. Wisdom as inspired Scripture and included English of the Bible adopted this exclusion. 40 years after Jesus. excluded it from some lists of the language, some ancient Jewish scholars Holy Land and not written in the Hebrew literature is interesting. Pious Jews felt the need to show that their belief in the One God of Israel was thoroughly consistent with sound human reason. Wisdom, as Jews moved away from the Holy Land and pagan cultures dominated the people. The book builds upon the legendary wisdom of Solomon, Israel’s great king. However, it was written long after Solomon’s lifetime and composed about 500 or 600 years before Jesus, probably in Alexandria, and written in Greek. As the original was outside the Holy Land and not written in the Hebrew language, some ancient Jewish scholars excluded it from some lists of the Hebrew Scriptures defined approximately 40 years after Jesus. The oldest Protestant translation in English of the Bible adopted this exclusion. The Catholic Church has accepted Wisdom as inspired Scripture and included this book in Catholic Bibles. The reading for this week heavily rests based upon priorities and options to inventiveness, literally a matter of life and death.

Reflection
Intelligent human decisions always are based upon priorities and options to determine how best to achieve a purpose. The difficulty in this process is that human reasoning, although splendid and vastly forthcoming in its inventiveness, ultimately is flawed. Original sin impaired us all. We cannot see everything clearly. We are fearful for ourselves, and our insecurity can lead us into trouble. These readings remind us that God has not cursed us to our maddeningly unhappy existence. He gave us the wisdom of Solomon. Most of all, God gave us Jesus. God’s way, more often than not, will lead us contrary to human instinct. We will have to make difficult decisions. Some of our decisions will be hurtful even to the point of being a walk to Calvary. However, it is the only way to the Resurrection, to true joy and to everlasting life.

My Journey to God

Mary and Martha and ‘Many Things’

What are those “many things” we worry and burden ourselves about? We discovered Martha’s—
I wonder, What are yours? I have them too. We all do.

The “many things” That steer us off Our chosen path, That can swallow us up Whole, in fact. Mary, too, had “many things” She had to have. But she knew how to choose When “to do” and when “to be,”

By Cathy Lamperski Dearing

(Cathy Lamperski Dearing is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. She wrote this poem after reflecting on Luke 10:38-42. This artistic rendering of the road to Calvary painted with fingerprints was created by students at St. Susanna School in Plainfield. It is displayed in a school hallway.)

Daily Readings

Monday, Sept. 6
1 Corinthians 5:1-8
Psalm 5:5-7, 12
Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday, Sept. 7
1 Corinthians 6:1-11
Psalm 149:1b-6a, 9b
Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday, Sept. 8
The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Micah 5:1-4a
or Romans 8:28-30
Psalm 13.6a-c
Matthew 1:16-18, 23 or Matthew 1:18-23

Thursday, Sept. 9
Peter Claver, priest
1 Corinthians 8:1b-7, 11-13
Psalm 139:1b-3, 13-14b, 23-24

Question Corner/ Fr. John Dietzen

Aspects of ‘churching of women’ are incorporated into baptism

Q What has happened to the ‘churching of women’ ceremony? Years ago in my parish it was given often during the year, but no parish that I know of does it now. Is it still given anywhere? (Illinois)

A Part of your answer lies in the history of the ceremony. The ‘churching of women, or Blessing after Childbirth, apparently entered Christian practice as a carryover from the Jewish ceremony of purification. Under Jewish law, a number of actions incurred a certain spiritual contamination or uncleanness. Among these were many actions involving sexual functions, legal or illegal. A woman was unclearn after childbirth, for example, for seven days if the child was a boy and 14 days if the child was a girl. (See Leviticus 12.)

This uncleanness was formally removed by an appropriate rite of purification. The rite of Mary after the birth of Jesus is currently celebrated by the Church as a part of the Feast of the Presentation on Feb. 2.

In its Christian form, the ceremony took on more the theme of thanksgiving to God for the safe birth of the child, and petition for God’s blessings on the mother and child.

One reason that the blessing after childbirth is not more widespread among Christians is that many of its features, prayers and blessings are already included or included in the rite of baptism.

The rite of baptism, revised after the Second Vatican Council, contains numerous references to the parents and to what is in their hearts and prayers concerning this new child.

Q I have been devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and I question why her mother and father are almost never mentioned in the Bible.

A She confides in her cousin, Elizabeth, but not her own parents. Did I miss something in the New Testament? (Illinois)

No, you didn’t miss anything. The Gospels don’t pretend to give us a life of Mary or of Jesus himself, for that matter. Each Gospel in its own way tells the story of the Good News—the Gospel—of the Father’s love for us as revealed by Jesus Christ.

As far as we can tell, all choices of what was written in the Gospels were made on that basis. Writers were not interested in providing details simply to satisfy our curiosity.

Assuming that Mary’s parents were living and available, she probably spoke with them and sought their advice as any other young wife would. But that was not relevant to the message in the Scripture passage.

Her relationship with Elizabeth and the words concerning her visit with her cousin in the Gospel of Luke help express the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist, who would later play a major role in leading Jesus to the attention of the people of Judea.

So we know nothing much for certain about the maternal grandparents of Jesus. Their names, St. Joachim and St. Anne, come from an early apocryphal “Gospel of James.” Their feast day on July 26 has been celebrated universally in the Western or Latin Church only in the past few hundred years.

(A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunication and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address or by e-mail to jdietzen@aol.com)

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 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org.


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**CNS photos/Gregory A. Shemitz**

**Diverse group honors Blessed Teresa in New York**

**NEW YORK (CNS)—More than 1,000 people dressed in white and blue filled a confined traffic lane across from the Empire State Building on Aug. 26 to protest the decision of the building’s owner to deny a request to illuminate the upper floors in honor of the 100th birthday of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

The event, organized by the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, included local political, religious and entertainment personalities who addressed the crowd from a podium set on the back of a flatbed truck.

Since 1976, the top 30 floors of the Empire State Building have been lit regularly with colored lights to mark national holidays, and recent events as diverse as home team World Series victories, the death of Pope John Paul II, the 60th anniversary of the People’s Republic of China and the DVD release of The Simpson’s Movie.

Catholic League president Bill Donohue said he application to bathe the tower in blue and white lights, the colors associated with Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity, was turned down in May without explanation after he was given verbal assurances that it would be accepted.

Donohue said he then launched a worldwide campaign to protest the “indefensible decision.”

Lighting guidelines on the building’s website say, “The Empire State Building celebrates many cultures and causes in the world community with iconic lightings. Outside of its tradition of lightings for the religious holidays of Easter, Eid-Al-Fitr, Hanakkah and Christmas, the Empire State Building has a specific policy against lighting for religious figures, religious organizations and additional religious holidays.”

Donohue said the prohibition on religious figures was added after his request was made in honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, passed in front of the first convent established in the United States by Mother Teresa, who founded the Missionaries of Charity.

Seventeen speakers at the early evening rally competed to describe Mother Teresa in glowing terms in a global humanitarianship and to criticize the building’s owner, Anthony Malkion. They included New York state senators, New York City council members, and representatives of the Hindu, Jewish and Albanian communities.

Several speakers exhorted the polite crowd to chant, “Shame, shame, shame” and “Turn on the lights.”

Director of operations for the website InsideCatholic.com, said Mother Teresa was “dissed” by New York City, which has been blacked out because of the failure to light the building in her honor.

“This is an issue of basic human gratitude,” he said. “This is the first U.S. city where Mother Teresa came 30 years ago and cared for victims of HIV/AIDS, drawing Catholics from all over the region to help and doing it for free, without tax dollars.”

New York City police detective Steven McDonald said Malkin “has not broken any laws, but he has broken many hearts.”

When the Empire State Building’s red, white and blue lights came on at dusk, they honored Women’s Equality Day, the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment to the Constitution, which granted universal suffrage.

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**Benedictine Brother Charles DeSutter was a monk of Saint Meinrad**

Benedictine Brother Charles DeSutter was a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, died on Aug. 9 at 89, on Aug. 9 at the monastery infirmary. He was 80.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Aug. 9 at the Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln.

In living memory of the day, Father Ramon Mariant prays in front of a portrait of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta during a special Mass marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. The Mass was held at St. Rita of Cascia Church in the South Bronx section of New York by Aug. 26. St. Rita Church is located in one of the poorest sections of New York around the corner from the first convent established in the United States by Mother Teresa.

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**Members of the Missionaries of Charity lead a eucharistic procession through the streets around St. Rita’s of Cascia Church in their South Bronx section of New York on Aug. 26. The procession followed a special Mass marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, passed in front of the first convent established in the United States by Mother Teresa, who founded the Missionaries of Charity.**
Book examines stories behind secular news reporting on abuse crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Journalist Greg Erlandson decided to write a book on the clergy sex abuse crisis because of the secular media’s treatment of the scandal and its failure to properly handle cases of abuse in the Church. He said the media reports were a “genuine curiosity about what’s going on.... It wasn’t just a bishop in this diocese or a bishop in that diocese, but now it was about the pope and his credibility,” said Erlandson, president and publisher of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Co. in Huntington, Ind. “I think there was a big chunk of the story that wasn’t being reported and part of it was not getting the perspective it deserved,” he said.


Erlandson’s book, “It’s not that the journalists are all wrong, it isn’t that they have made up the story out of whole cloth, but they were not giving the full context,” he said.

“When we’re reading the stories from earlier this year, it’s easy to think nothing had changed” in how the Church deals with abuse, he said. The Milwaukee case, involving abuse perpetrated in the ’50s to the ’70s, “was getting front-page treatment and was linked to Benedict,” he added.

The pope was accused of refusing to laicize the Milwaukee priest, but Vatican officials said by the time they became aware of the case, the priest was elderly and sick. He died before a Church trial could be carried out.

“You lose a sense of perspective and attribute to the current Church what was in the past,” he continued. “Just under a third of all bishops in Dallas have retired or moved on—there’s enormous changeover that has taken place....”

Erlandson said, “96 percent of all students in Catholic schools have gone through a child safety program. Church workers are being vetted and new standards are in place for accepting seminarians. “The Church’s zero-tolerance policy is in force in ways not obvious in a lot of other institutions,” he said.

But ongoing efforts by the Catholic Church to address the issue about “getting very little play” in the secular media, he said. “The really grave damage being done is that in the popular imagination the Catholic Church is synonymous with pedophilia, to lazy journalists that’s a stereotype—the repercussions are far-reaching and long-range,” Erlandson said. He and Bunson have “tried to be fair and complete” about the clergy abuse crisis in their book, he said, but defending the Church's progress in addressing the scandal “is not a popular opinion.”

Cardinal encourages Catholics, Muslims to work together to overcome violence

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—As Muslims around the world prepare to conclude the end of their monthlong Ramadan fast, Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran encouraged Catholics and Muslims to work together in overcoming violence among followers of different religions.

Cardinal Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, said it was important that teachers and religious leaders work together to promote peace and harmony in their communities.

“The message, released on Aug. 27 at the Vatican, was issued in 31 different languages. It was addressed to Muslims around the world to mark the end of Ramadan on or around Sept. 10,” Cardinal Tauran noted that many believers of other religions, especially Christians, have been “spiritually close” to their Muslim neighbors during Ramadan and have engaged in “friendly meetings which often lead to exchanges of a religious nature.”

Unfortunately, violence among people belonging to different religious communities is an urgent concern in some parts of the world, the cardinal wrote.

Civil and religious authorities, he said, need to help remedy the root causes of this violence “for the sake of the common good of all society.”

Some problems that contribute to fomenting violence against believers include “the manipulation of religion for political or other ends, discrimination based on ethnicity or religious identity; and divisions and social tensions” as well as ignorance, poverty and underdevelopment, Cardinal Tauran wrote.

Governments must safeguard and guarantee “the primacy of the law by ensuring true justice to put a stop to the authors and promoters of violence,” he said.

The cardinal said that, in February, representatives of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and al-Azhar University in Cairo recommended that Catholics and Muslims work to promote “mutual forgiveness and reconciliation for a peaceful and fruitful coexistence; to recognize what we have in common and to respect difference as a basis for a culture of dialogue; and to recognize and respect the dignity and rights of each human being without any bias related to ethnicity or religious affiliation.”

He said they also recommended that countries enact just laws that guarantee the fundamental rights of all people and a philosophy of education in homes, schools, churches and mosques that promotes respect, dialogue and fraternity. Education, including textbooks, has “a decisive impact” on the worldview and formation of younger generations, the cardinal wrote.

“We thus have the ability to oppose violence among followers of different religions and promote peace and harmony among the various religious communities,” he wrote. 

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Religious leaders urge Congress to keep religious hiring rights intact

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The general counsel of the U.S. bishops was one of more than 100 leaders from varying religious organizations asking Congress to turn down legislation that would deny religious charities the right to hire only people of the same faith if those charities receive federal funds.

Anthony Picarello added his name to theReligious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and even to the First Amendment of the Constitution. A unanimous 1987 Supreme Court decision also upheld the religious freedom rights of religious organizations to hire people of the same faith, ruling that the practice does not violate the constitutional principle of separation of Church and state.

The law has long protected the religious freedom of religious organizations that receive government-funded services, and the groups that provide those services—long before President Barak Obama could have been President [George W.] Bush,” said an Aug. 25 statement from Picarello that accompanied the religious letter of the letter by World Vision, which also had signatories. Stripping away the religious hiring rights of religious service providers violates the principle of religious freedom, and respects basic practice in the delivery of social services, Picarello said.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was the only explicitly Catholic organization to have a leader sign the letter. Most of the other signers came from Christian aid organizations or colleges.

The Aug. 25 letter took note of a Justice Department opinion that said the Religious Freedom Restoration Act can “sometimes” provide an exemption for a faith-based recipient of federal grant money, permitting it to consider religion when hiring.

The letter acknowledged that the exemption was “not a blanket” exemption, and that grant recipients cannot discriminate against the people who could be served by the grant.

These groups adhere strictly to the law, forbidding the use of public funds to proselytize or for any religious activities, and serve all people in need, regardless of faith,” the letter said.

“Religious leaders urge Congress to keep religious hiring rights intact”

The third annual “Angels of Grace—A Celebration of Women” awards luncheon on Sept. 25 at the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center in Beech Grove will honor three women who have made distinguished contributions to the Central Indiana community.

Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Benedict of Our Lady of Grace Monastery, the luncheon will recognize:

• Julie Molloy, the director of the Lord’s Pantry at Anna’s House in Indianapolis, with the Angel Gabriel Award for her compassion to those in need of help and assistance.

• Anne Ryder, a broadcast journalist, columnist and the president of Ryder Media LLC in Indianapolis, with the Angel Gabriella Award as a messenger who spreads words of hope and cheer.

• Caroline Fisher, the founder and coordinator of the Center of Hope at St. Francis Hospital in Indianapolis, with the Angel Michael Award as a defender of the dignity and goodness of others for her work in providing emotional, medical, and legal support for women who have been sexually assaulted.

Tickets for the “Angels of Grace—A Celebration of Women” awards luncheon and fashion show are $30 per person by the Sept. 10 deadline. To purchase tickets, call the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center at 317-788-7581 or log on to the website at www.benedictinc.org.