A love rooted in music

Gardners’ 40-year marriage, ministry as pastoral musicians centered around music

By Sean Gallagher

Charlie and Dianne Gardner have been making music together for more than 40 years. And, over that time, they have helped Catholics across central and southern Indiana sing praise to God. They met in the late 1960s when Charlie was a seminarian for the archdiocese at the former Saint Meinrad College and Dianne, a native of Jeffersonville, was taking classes at nearby Indiana University Southeast in New Albany. They were both interested in music, and would play and sing together with groups of friends. “Music did really draw us together,” Charlie said. “And then I think music has always been a part of the deepening of our relationship. It’s developed just as our relationship has.”

Charlie eventually discerned that God was calling him to married life, and he disaffiliated with the archdiocese in 1970. He and Dianne were married in 1971. In the years that followed, they became trailblazing lay pastoral musicians in the archdiocese, ministering at a number of parishes over the past four decades. For more than 30 years, Charlie has ministered full time at the archdiocesan level, and is currently executive director of the archdiocese’s Secretariat for Spiritual Life and Worship. Over the years, Dianne served as music director at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. She is currently music director at Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis. She is currently music director at Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis.

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A labor of love: Ministry that grants wishes coming to an end

By John Shaughnessy

For the past 11½ years, Bob Haverstick, left, has used his non-profit organization, Never Too Late, to grant wishes for senior citizens in this 2008 photo, he poses with Margaret (Gintert) Trout, one of the senior citizens that he helped, and Leo Hine, a supporter of Never Too Late.
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the ship like he was 19 again. Jon couldn’t believe how his father had been transformed—that he got to see him the way he once was. Jon said it was something he would never forget.
A labor of love comes to an end
The memories come rushing back to Haverstick, executive director of Never Too Late, an Indianapolis nonprofit organization dedicated to making dreams come true for senior citizens.
After 17½ years and 2,500 granted wishes, the 63-year-old Indianapolis resident has decided to end his all-volunteer program. The program never charged for a wish to come true, and Haverstick never took pay for his efforts. Donations from individuals, businesses and foundations were always directed toward turning an elderly person’s dream into a reality.
Haverstick often worked with the
Senior Companion program of Catholic Charities Indianapolis. A program that helps low-income elderly and homebound people maintain their independent living.
"He’s just been an angel," says Ellen Brown, senior service director for Catholic Charities Indianapolis. "He understands that as we all age, you never outgrow your desire for your dreams—things you would love to do, but you never had the means to do.
"He’s done so many good things. He reunited people with their families. When people are low income, they keep in touch with their family, but they don’t have the means to visit. He made that happen, and it meant so much to people. He’s always felt for the elderly population. He won’t take the credit, but he inspired people to give. He made other people realize how important it is to help. He’s a remarkable guy.
Now Haverstick’s labor of love will come to an end on June 30.
"In the last year or so, I could see the handwriting on the wall," he says. "There was the perception that what we were doing wasn’t as nice, but there were so many other things going on with people facing tough times just trying to make it. People needed basics. Then there were the natural disasters both in this country and in other parts of the world. Discretionary income just wasn’t what we did it. So it seemed like a natural evolutionary thing to let it go.
Haverstick’s sense of resignation is tempered by a feeling of fulfillment.
"The Old Testament promises home the point that there is an appointed time and season for everything—that there is a time for every meaningful delight under heaven," he notes.
"No man has been happier in his mission than I have this past decade.

Much of that happiness stemmed from the emotional and spiritual impact of many of the dreams that he made possible.
One of the most poignant wishes that Haverstick granted involved an Indiana woman named Emma. In her 80s, she wanted to return to her hometown in Michigan one more time, a place she hadn’t visited in nearly 30 years. She wanted to see her sister, visit friends, tour the town and stop by the gravesites of her parents.
"She did it all, and on the way back home, the people in the car with her that it was one of the best weekends [that] she ever had," Haverstick recalls. "A little while later, she died while she was still in the car on the way home.

"God was there with his hand on this"
The dreams could be as grand as an Army veteran of World War II—a survivor of the D-Day invasion of 1944—wishing to return to Normandy, France, to pay his respects to his fellow soldiers who did not survive.
The dreams could also be as simple as an 82-year-old retired farmer living in a nursing home, wanting to visit a farm and drive a tractor one more time.
"I’ve especially enjoyed the wishes that stretch the spirit and imagination. Haverstick says. ‘We’ve touched a lot of lives. It’s humbled me.’
Never Too Late also saved him during one of the toughest periods of his life.
Recalling the years 1997 through 2000, Haverstick describes that period as “my spiritual wasteland.” During that time, his wife, Cathy, asked him what he would like to do if he could make it happen.
That conversation led to Never Too Late. He chose the name for the program after he read a story about a man in his 70s who as a training man in a military. The story, the runner was asked, ‘Why are you doing this at your age?’ The runner said, ‘It’s never too late to pursue your passion, to follow your dream.’
Following his dream has led Haverstick on a journey that he never expected.
"Early on, I didn’t see this as a ministry," he says. "I saw it as a way to make people feel good. But as time went on, I realized that God was there with his hand on this. I’ve learned more to look up and say, ‘Thank you, Lord.’ It’s made me more thankful for the little things and the kindred spirits who wanted to help with a wish. It’s made me feel more humble before God. He manages to take my actions and channel them toward good.

The man who has made so many wishes come true for others has a wish for himself.
"The last 11½ years have taught me that it’s definitely worthwhile to be of service to others, he says. ‘I hope God can still use me in some way, whether it’s big or small.’

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He warned that privatization efforts have seen multinational companies “turn water into business” to the detriment of the wider population.
Catholic lay groups have moved into the business, he says.
At the Vatican, the clean water issue has been a subject of study sessions on water, and warned that water shortages could easily become a conflict.
In 2005, Bobby Shults, a World War II Navy veteran, wanted to sail again on a U.S. Navy ship. His wish was made possible with the help of Bob Haverstick, the executive director of an organization called Never Too Late.
In 2000, retired farmer Edwin Jackson, center, who was living in a nursing home, wanted to visit a farm and drive a tractor. The dream became possible with the help of his daughter, Dianne Norris, farmer Don Lamb, and Never Too Late, an Indianapolis-based organization that grants wishes for senior citizens.
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Experts say tomb shows how Christian art grew from pagan Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—A newly restored family crypt at Rome’s Castel Sant’Angelo tomb shows the gradual flowering of Christian funerary art as it grew out of ancient Rome’s multireligious and pagan cultures, said members of a Vatican archaeological commission.

While early Christian catacombs offer clearer examples of early Christian iconography, the burial chambers of the Aureli family are more complicated and confusing in that they mix pagan, Christian and Gnostic symbolism, representing “an evolving cultural process” at work in Rome at the time, said the secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology at the unveiling of the tomb on June 9.

The figures on the tomb’s walls “are the first step toward the religious transformation of the city” of Rome, from being a rich mix of pagan cults, Jewish, Christian and Gnostic symbolism, to becoming “suspended in the cosmos,” balancing between the earthly world and a supernatural one, all of which is fertile ground for the Christian world of heaven.

The iconic mix shows the multireligious and tolerant civilization that reigned between the second and third centuries and before the persecutions of Christians by emperors Valerian and Diocletian intensified, Bisconti said.

The tomb of the Aureli family was discovered in 1919 when workmen were digging to build a garage. Today the tomb is located under an enormous car showroom of the Italian carmaker, Fiat, in the center of Rome just inside the Aureli walls on Viale Marmor.

Because burial sites were always built outside the city walls, the date of the tomb is set at early third century to A.D. 250—well before the nearby Aurelian Walls were completed in 273.

The Vatican’s archaeological commission is in charge of the site and just finished an extensive restoration.

Restoration work lasted more than a decade and much time had been spent trying to delicately chip off a stubborn crust of calcium carbonate that had created a thick white “veil” over the images, obscuring the details and dulling the colors, said Barbara Mazzei, who was in charge of the restoration work.

Several months ago, Vatican restorers started using a sophisticated laser on the walls to flake off the crust without damaging the underlying paint. It was the same laser technique that they used with tremendous success a few years ago on other Roman catacombs.

However, in an interview with the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano, Mazzei said they ran into a problem with the Aureli paintings because the laser darkened any image that was painted with the red mineral cinnabar. They switched to a new kind of laser that could be recalibrated better and treat every surface without altering the colors made from cinnabar, she said.

The success of the new technique meant restorers were able to uncover a surprising image from The Odyssey in which Ulysses’ men—in a cloud of smoke and fire—are transformed back from swine into men.

The tomb is only open to small groups of people who make a reservation with the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology.

Holy Father entrusts cause of world peace to concentration camp martyrs

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI entrusted the cause of world peace to the martyrs of World War II concentration camps, including a German priest executed for his hostility to the Nazi regime.

Speaking to pilgrims at his noon prayer noontime, the pontiff said the Church was about to beatify a priest executed for his hostility to the Nazi regime. He prayed that God would “rectify hearts that have been twisted by selfishness,” and help the human family “to rediscover its fundamental unity.

Father Andrzej Andritzki, the latest in a long line of Catholic martyrs under Nazism, was beatified on June 13 in Dresden.

Ordained in 1939, Blessed Andritzki was engaged in youth ministry when he was interrogated by the Nazis for his theater productions’ “hostile statements” about the regime. He was arrested in 1941 for “treacherous acts” against the state and sent to Dachau, where he formed a fiddler study group.

After more than a year in the camp, sick with typhoid, he asked a guard if he could receive Communion. Instead, they gave him a lethal injection. He died on Feb. 3, 1943, at the age of 28. His sainthood cause was introduced in 1998, and Pope Benedict approved his martyrdom last December.

Earlier on June 12, Pope Benedict celebrated Mass for the feast of Pentecost in St. Peter’s Basilica. In his homily, reflecting on the birth of the Church, he said the Church was holy “not thanks to the abilities of its members, but because God himself, with his Spirit, created it and sanctified it.”

If the Church were merely an institution born of human initiative, he said, “it would have died out long ago, just as every human thing passes.”

Archbishop: Marriage not private agreement, but a ‘public good’

LONDON (CNS)—The spiritual leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales has praised traditional marriage as a “public good.”

Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster said it was “vitally important” for the “whole of society” to support marriage at a time when more British couples than ever were choosing to live together outside of marriage and to have children out of wedlock.

He said the British had acknowledged the importance of marriage by rejecting over the April 29 marriage of Prince William and Catherine Middleton in London’s Westminster Abbey.

The “magnificent public cheer” that rang out after the couple exchanged vows showed an “instantive and profound public understanding of the nature and consequences of marriage itself,” said Archbishop Nichols, who was a guest at the royal wedding.

“Marriage, as a permanent, exclusive commitment between this man and this woman was welcomed, applauded;” the archbishop said in a homily at a Mass for married couples in Westminster Cathedral on June 11.

There was rejoicing in what the newlyweds had just done,” he said. “Marriage, then, is a public good.

“Marriage is not simply something done in church by those for whom it is meaningful; it is part of the public good.”

“Marriage is of our nature. It is not created by the Church, but blessed by her. Christian marriage is a sacrament,” he added. “In celebrating marriage, in defending marriage, the Church seeks to promote that which is good for us human beings, for our human nature and for our society.”

The archbishop’s words were directed primarily at a personally invited congregation of 54 married couples from his diocese who had a combined total of 18,048 years of marriage. 

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An image of 12 figures dating from the third century are seen in the burial crypt of the Aureli family in Rome on June 9. The recently restored crypt bears evidence of Christianity and other religious and philosophical thought present in Rome at the time.
Charity is what Catholics do

Sometimes abortion rights supporters accuse those who oppose abortion of caring only about the unborn. They might ask, “Why can’t you be as concerned about life after a baby is born as you are before the baby is born?” or something equivalent to that. Or, “Why don’t you care as much for the pregnant woman as you do for the baby?”

That absolutely cannot be asked about the Catholic Church. There is no other organization that does so much for as many people in need, regardless of religion or anything else. Since we have mentioned abortion, let’s start there with archdiocesan ministries.

The archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry operates Birthline, crisis pregnancy intervention and material assistance, with help from dedicated volunteers.

St. Elizabeth/Coloman Pregnancy and Adoption Services staff members counsel girls or women who experience an unplanned pregnancy, and help them decide whether to parent the child or place the baby for adoption. If they choose the former, St. Elizabeth/Pregnancy makes sure they know about many community services available to them. If they choose the latter, the staff helps with the entire process.

St. Elizabeth/Coloman is only one of the agencies that are part of the Catholic Charities and Family Ministries’ Secretariat in the archdiocese. Collectively, those agencies served more than 100,000 people last year.

There are Catholic Charities offices in Bloomington, Indianapolis, New Albany, Tell City and Terre Haute. In New Albany, the office operates another St. Elizabeth that supports pregnant women and helps with adoptions, if the mother desires. All Catholic Charities agencies serve the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the elderly, neglected children, and other needy people with spiritual, material and emotional support.

In Terre Haute, Catholic Charities includes Bethany House, an emergency shelter for the homeless plus a soup kitchen and clothes ministry, Christmas House, which provides Christmas presents to families who otherwise cannot do so, a foodbank that distributes food to Wabash Valley charitable food banks; a household exchange that provides needy families with basic household necessities; and Ivyies Youth Center at Elting Hall that provides after-school and preschool services. Similarly, Catholic Charities Indianapolis includes Holy Family Shelter for homeless families and Holy Family Transitional Housing. It operates various programs for refugees, foster care resettlement, a crisis office and St. Joan of Arc Neighborhood Youth Outreach. Last year it served 42,700 people.

Besides Catholic Charities, we would be remiss if we didn’t mention the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The remarkable thing about the Indianapolis chapter is that it is operated completely by volunteers. There are no salaries or other monetary compensation for any of its staff. Therefore, 100 percent of all donations go to help the needy.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society operates the largest food pantry in the Midwest. It serves an average of more than 3,000 households per week. It has a large distribution center where it accepts donations of clothing, bed, linen, appliances and furniture for distribution to the poor.

“Beggars for the Poor” receives payment from the St. Vincent de Paul Society to purchase food and personal items for the homeless. Every Saturday, this organization parks a truck on a downtown Indianapolis street, serves a hot meal, and distributes clothing and other items to hundreds of homeless people.

The Catholic Church in this archdiocese is not only one of the oldest agencies to serve the needy in the 39 counties of Indiana where it is located, but also cooperates with Catholic Charities USA to provide relief to individuals and families devastated by natural disasters, such as the floods and tornadoes that have caused so much destruction this year.

Catholics help the poor throughout the world, not only in the United States.

Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the U.S. bishops. Since then, it has expanded to much more than 100 million people in more than 100 countries in five continents. Although it responds immediately to disasters, its main objective is to help people in developing countries learn to help themselves.

CRS can’t match Indianapolis’ St. Vincent de Paul Society’s 100 percent rate of donations going to the needy mentioned above, but it comes close. Last year, more than 94 percent of CRS revenues went directly to programs that benefit the poor overseas.

At the closing of the Spirit of Service Awards dinner held by Catholic Charities Indianapolis on May 11, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne said that the term “Catholic Charities” is redundant “because charity is what Catholics do.”

Yes, it is.

—John F. Finn

Be Our Guests/Viola Maria Miller

Remember, a father is love

As I remember my late father with much kindness, love and gratitude, I think of my heavenly Father, who loved all of his children so much more. God sent me an earthly father, who loved me so much that he gave his own blood for my operation as a baby.

This same Father also gave his only Son, Jesus, who gave his blood for my very life.

God sent me a father who was always there for me when I was growing up. He provided well for his family and was a joy-filled man who clearly loved his children.

I remember my dad debating the Bible with me when I was a child. I remember his sea blue and very kind eyes, and his strong heart and hands. He often climbed church steeples in his work to provide a living for his eight growing children.

Then I get to thinking about how: • Our Father in heaven sent us his own Son who died for us on the Cross. That is love. • Our Father in heaven gave us the Apostles, who followed our heavenly Father early each Church. That is love. • Our Father in heaven sent us a father who guides our Church, Pope Benedict XVI. That is love. • Our Father in heaven sent us an earthly father, St. Joseph, who took care of Jesus. That is love. • Our Father in heaven sent us a father patron, St. Joseph, who takes care of my parish church, St. Joseph Church in Shelbyville. That is love. • Our Father in heaven sent us our priest, who is committed to our spiritual care. With holy affection and deference, we call him “Father.” That is love.

Our Father in heaven gave each one of our life—our hearts that beats, our eyes that see, our very soul and every breath we take.

He gave us the sun that shines, warms us and grows our food as well as the animals that feed and clothe us, newborn babies and every star that has ever shone in the night sky.

Most of all, the Father gave us Jesus. This gift is indescribable in human terms—love beyond comprehension, beyond measure, beyond human understanding and beyond the depth of our being. This love gift of Jesus is such a beautiful gift from the Father that you can’t even give your own father, give him your tender consideration because he is a gift of Love. Love him with your whole heart.

Love your Father in heaven, and love your father on Earth in every language with the words for “Dad” and “father.”

• German—Vater, Papa
• French—Papa
• Italian—Papa
• Spanish—Papa
• Hebrew—sounds like abba, abba
• Arabic—sounds like ab-ba, ab-ba
• English—love, Father, Dad, Daddy

He is the only Father in heaven on this Father’s Day.

Say the Lord’s Prayer, which Catholics call “The Our Father,” with all your heart and soul at Mass. Also honor your father by going to Communion and receiving Jesus. That is a great gift and a great receiving. Give your heart to the Father, to our Father in heaven.

One great earthly gift to your father is to offer Jesus to your father in holy Communion in your heart. A present would be nice too, but Jesus is the greatest gift that you can never give to your dad.

Remember to give your father a hug on Father’s Day. “A-ba, Father, ab-ba-ha-ha.”

(Viola Maria Miller is a member of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville.)

Consider This/Stephen Kent

The legacy of ‘Dr. Death’

“Dr. Death” died earlier this month to the regret of few people.

Dr. Jack Kevorkian, a convicted murderer, a disgrace to the medical profession and who proposed death as a solution, whether for the pre-born life or to the patient, died with no publicity as the assisted suicide “suicide machine” in the back of a cardigan sweater to talk about death with dignity.

He was a convicted murder in 1999 after a national television broadcast showed him administering lethal drugs to a person diagnosed with Lou Gehrig’s disease. Kevorkian was paroled after serving eight years.

“We can aid people coming into the world, why can’t we be as concerned about the world?”, he once asked.

The short answer: “The first helps to facilitate life, the latter to terminate it.”

Kevorkian was just one of the people who propose death as a solution, whether for unwanted children, as an element of foreign policy or as part of the justice system.

He said he participated in the deaths of 130 people. Many of those people were not terminally ill, autopsies showed. Kevorkian would often appear on television wearing a Mr. Rogers-style cardigan sweater to talk about death with dignity.

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‘Dictatorship of relativism’ separates God from human life

(EDITOR’S NOTE: While Archbishop Buechlein continues to recover from a stroke, we offer some reprints of his columns for your enrichment. The following column is from The Criterion, June 17, 2011, page 5)

Of the blessings of my summer vacation is the opportunity to read books and articles at leisure. The most challenging read of this past summer was a work by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, called ‘Truth and Tolerance,’ published in 2004 by Ignatius Press. He reflects on the problem of truth, religion and culture in our world.

In the face of the vast array of religions in the world, the (shifting) majority has recognized that there cannot be a true relationship between faith and reason, and between faith and science. If there is no absolute truth, God is separated from human life. Therein are the seeds of National Socialism (Nazism) in Germany and atheistic Communism in the Soviet Russia. Therein also are the seeds of secular materialism.

If there is no absolute truth, then faith is determined by the individual. As Benedict XVI has said, “A faith we can decide for ourselves is no faith at all. Either the faith and the practice comes from God by way of the Church and her sacramental services, or there is no such thing. The reason many people are deserting the Church is that it seems to them that the faith can be decided by some officials or institutions, that it is a kind of party program, whoever has the power is able to decide what should be believed, and so it is a matter of getting hold of power oneself within the Church or, on the other hand—more obviously and logically—just not believing” (p. 129-130).

A clear example of relativistic thinking is apparent in the speculation among pundits within and outside the Catholic Church before last April’s papal election. A frequent media question was posed in these similar words: “What changes in the Church will the election of a new pope (‘liberal or conservative’) bring about? How will Church teaching change?”

This line of questioning implied that the popes can determine the Church’s doctrine. It implies that the doctrine of the Catholic faith is relative, that it is changeable. Neither a pope nor any other authority figure arbitrarily determines Church doctrine. Papal authority is significant, but it does not determine the truth of the faith. Defend the faith? Yes. Teach the faith? Yes. Explain the faith? Yes. Apply the faith? Yes. Change it? No. Of course, there is a difference between changing the received doctrine of the Church about faith or morals and certain practices, e.g., abstaining from meat on Fridays.

As the title of Cardinal Ratzinger’s book, Truth and Tolerance, suggests, he discusses the possibility of absolute truth in the context of contemporary concerns for the sensitivities of others who perceive faith and reality different than we do. The “dictatorship of relativism” would impose a restriction of freedom when “tolerance” overrides a claim to the truth. The values of pluralism and inclusivism may lower the threshold of what may be asserted as true. Theoretically, this implies that faith and its expression are determined by plausible cultural values that are determined by majority opinion.

Pope Benedict’s assertion that the growing “dictatorship of relativism” is a grave challenge for contemporary society and not only for our Catholic faith is timely. His voice and capacity to address the challenge may be the legacy of this papacy.†

Do you have an intention for Archbishop Buechlein’s prayer list? You may mail it to him at: Archbishop Buechlein’s Prayer List Archdiocese of Indianapolis 1400 N. Meridian St. P.O. Box 1410 Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

**Ambición de vocaciones del Arzobispo Buechlein para junio**

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

**La ‘dictadura del relativismo’ separa a Dios de la vida humana**

(Estando la bendición de mis vacaciones de verano es la oportunidad de leer libros y artículos a placer. La lectura más desafiante de este verano fue una obra del Cardenal Joseph Ratzinger, hoy en día el Papa Benedicto XVI, llamada ‘Verdad y Tolerancia’, publicada en 2004 por Ignatius Press. Él reflexiona sobre el problema de la verdad, la religión y la cultura en nuestro mundo. A la hora de una amplia variedad de religiones en el mundo, el (cambiable) mayoría ha reconocido que no existe una relación verdadera entre la fe y la razón, y entre la fe y la ciencia. Si no existe una verdad absoluta, Dios está disociado de la vida humana. Allí encontramos las semillas del Socialismo Nacionalista (Nazismo), en Alemania y el comunismo en Rusia. Sorvidad. Asimismo, allí encontramos las semillas del materialismo secular.

Si no existe una verdad absoluta, entonces la fe depende de los individuos. Como dice Benedicto XVI: “Una fe que podemos decidir por nosotros mismos no es absoluta. O bien la fe y su práctica nos viene del Señor por intermedio de la Iglesia y sus sacramentos, o no existe tal cosa. La razón por la cual muchas personas están abandonando la fe es debido a que les falta la impresión de que la fe es algo arbitrario de los funcionarios o las instituciones, como una suerte de programa de partido, quien sea que tenga la capacidad puede decidir sobre las creencias y por lo tanto, es cuestión de apoderarse del poder dentro de la Iglesia o, por otra parte y de manera más lógica, simplemente no creer” (p. 129-130).

Un claro ejemplo del pensamiento relativista se hizo evidente en la especulación entre expertos dentro y fuera de la Iglesia Católica, antes de la elección papal del pasado abril. Una pregunta frecuente de los medios de comunicación fue formulada en términos similares a los siguientes: ‘¿Qué cambios ocasionará en la Iglesia la elección de un nuevo papa (“liberal” o “conservador”)? ¿Cómo cambiarán las enseñanzas de la Iglesia?’

Este tipo de preguntas implica que el Papa puede determinar o cambiar la doctrina de la Iglesia. Implica que la doctrina de la fe católica es relativa, que es maltable. Ni el Papa ni ninguna otra autoridad determinan arbitrariamente la doctrina de la Iglesia. La autoridad papal es significativa, pero no determina la verdad de la fe. ¿Defender la fe? Sí. ¿Imponer la fe? Sí. ¿Explicar la fe? Sí. ¿Aplicar la fe? Sí. ¿Cambiarla? No. (Por supuesto que existen diferencias entre cambiar la doctrina recibida de la Iglesia sobre la fe o la moral, y ciertas prácticas, como por ejemplo, la abstención a la carne los viernes).

Como sugiere el título del libro del Cardenal Ratzinger, Verdad y Tolerancia, se discute la posibilidad de una verdad absoluta en el contexto de las propuestas, o perspectivas contemporáneas, frente a la susceptibilidad de otros quienes perciben la fe y la realidad de manera diferente a nosotros. La ‘dictadura del relativismo’ impone una restricción a la libertad cuando la ‘tolerancia’ cuenta más que un llamado a la verdad. Los valores del pluralismo y el inclusivismo podrían reducir el umbral de lo que sea percibido como verdadero. En teoría, esto implica que la fe y su expresión se encuentran definidos por valores culturales plausibles determinados por la opinión de la mayoría.

La aseveración del Papa Benedicto de que la ‘dictadura del relativismo’ creciente representa un serio desafío para la sociedad contemporánea y no solo para nuestra fe católica es muy oportuna. Su voz y su capacidad para abordar este reto positivamente se han convertido en su legado.

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

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

**Traducción por:** Daniela Guionia, Language Training Center, Indianapolis.
Two students earn scholarships for Catholic high school tuition

The Indianapolis-based Our Lady of the Knock Division of the Ladies Ancient and Noble Order of Hibernians recently awarded two $1,000 high school tuition scholarships to Alayn Gaynor, a member of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield, and Audrey Petrone, a member of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Indianapolis. Alayn will be a freshman at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis in the 2011-12 academic year. Audrey will attend Our Lady of Loretto Memorial High School in Indianapolis. The scholarships were based on the students’ ISTEP scores, performance on placement tests, attendance records and 300-word essays on the value of Catholic education.

VIPS

The couple was married on June 17, 1961, at St. Philip Neri Church in Indianapolis. They are the parents of two children, Michael and Joseph Haigery. They have one grandchild.

Priesthood ordination

Third Order Regular Franciscan Father Zygmunt Mazanowski poses outside the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of Saint Francis University in Loretto, Pa., on May 28 after being ordained a priest by Bishop Joseph V. Adamec, bishop emeritus of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. Father Zygmunt grew up in St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. He is a graduate of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., and St. Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad. He joined the Loretto-based Third Order Regular Franciscans in 2004.

Sacrified Heart reunion organizers want to contact classmatess

Members of the Class of 1961 of the former Sacred Heart High School in Indianapolis are organizing a 50th anniversary reunion on Sept. 17. They want to locate former classmates to let them know about the upcoming reunion.

Retreats and Programs

June 17-19

St. Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. “Reading the Sacred in Creation.” Benedictine Brother Francis Wagner, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu

June 19-25

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 South Ave., Beech Grove. “Monastic Retreat—To Be a Benedictine, To Be Faithful.” Benedictine Sister Karen Joseph, presenter, 6:30-9 p.m. $25 per person includes dinner. Information: 317-788-7581 or www.benedictinn.org

June 20

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5533 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Come Away and Rest Archie.” 8 a.m.-4 p.m., presenter, $25 per person. Information: 317-543-7681 or usccp@archindy.org

June 21-23

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. “Pray Your Way to Happiness,” mid-week retreat. Benedictine Brother Maurice Zoller, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu

June 24-26

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. Young adult retreat, college graduates to age 35. Information: 800-581-6905 or MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu

June 24-30

Sisters of St. Benedict, 802 E. 10th St., Ferdinand, Ind. (Evansville Diocese). “Come and See” vocation experience, single Catholic women between the ages of 18 to 40. Information: 800-734-9999 or vocation@thedome.org.

Events Calendar

June 16-18

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6500 W. 26th St., Indianapolis. “International Festival,” Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, food, games, rides. Information: 317-291-7014.

St. Bernadette Parish, 4388 E. Fletcher Ave., Indianapolis. Parish festival, Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, games, rides, food. Information: 317-356-5867.


June 17


June 18

Marian University, presenter, 6:30-8:30 a.m., $80 per person for golf, breakfast and program. Reservations and information: www.catholicbusinessexchange.org

June 19

St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 50th St., Indianapolis. Helpers of God’s Precious Infants, pro-life Mass, Father Eric Johnson, celebrant, 8:30 a.m., followed by rosary outside abortion clinics and Benediction at church. Information: Archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry.

June 20

Benedictine Monks of Saint Meinrad, 100 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. “Young Adult Retreat” in the archdiocese’s Office of Catholic Education.

The weekend retreat will begin at 8 a.m. on June 24 at the Saint Meinrad Archabbey and close 1 p.m. on June 26.

Retreat activities include daily Mass, spiritual reflections, optional prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours with the Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad, free time for personal prayer and a campfire gathering.

The $100 registration fee includes meals, lodging and retreat materials. Scholarships are available for potential candidates, social assistance.

For more information or to register for the Young adult retreat, log on to www.arkindy.org/youngadult and click on “Young Adult Summer Retreat” or send an e-mail to mfaley@archindy.org.

June 22-24

Eagle Creek Golf Club, 8802 W. 56th St., Indianapolis. St. Francis Healthcare Foundation golf outing, 7:30 a.m., shotgun start, afternoon golfers, 1:30 p.m. Information: 317-283-5508.

June 23-25

St. Jude Parish, 5533 McFarland Road, Indianapolis. “Summer Festival,” Thurs. and Fri. 5 p.m.-closing, Sat. 4 p.m.-closing, Thurs. pork chop dinner, Fri. Iaria’s Italian food, Sat. fried chicken dinner, food, games, rides. Information: 317-955-6271 or kwebb@marian.edu.

St. Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. “Come and See” vocations experience, single Catholic women between the ages of 18 to 40. Information: 800-734-9999 or vocation@thedome.org.

June 26


Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 1530 Union St., Indianapolis, 36-year Mission Anniversary, noon, confessions, 11 a.m., gathering following Mass. Information: 317-888-0873.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 2322 N. 131st St., Terrace Haute. Parish auction, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 317-846-1231.

Kindred Hospital, 1131 S. Anthony Place, Louisville, Ky. Centennial Mass of the church at St. Anthony Hospital, nursing school graduates, former personnel and families invited, 10 a.m. Information: 812-949-8970.

St. Mary Parish, exit off 1-74, south four miles, Decatur County. Parish picnic, 10 a.m. Mass, chicken and rice, food, drinks, music, games, rides, country store, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Information: 812-623-2964.

St. Maurice Parish, exit off 1-74, north four miles, Decatur County. Parish picnic, 10 a.m. Mass, chicken and rice, food, drinks, music, games, rides, country store, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Information: 812-949-8970.

The couple was married on June 17, 1961, at St. Philip Neri Church in Indianapolis. They are the parents of two children, Michael and Joseph Haigery. They have one grandchild.

Young adult retreat is set for June 24-26

“Be Not Afraid” is the title of a young adult summer retreat sponsored by Young Adult Ministry in the archdiocese’s Office of Catholic Education.

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Religion may again play crucial role in 2012 campaign

WASHINGTON (CNS)—As seven Republican candidates for president prepared for a June 13 debate in New Hampshire and others waited in the wings, there were signs that religion will play as big a role in the 2012 election as it has in other recent campaigns.

Many of the declared or potential candidates lined up in Washington on June 3–4 to address a “strategy briefing” sponsored by the Faith & Freedom Coalition, an organization headed by Ralph Reed, the first executive director of the Christian Coalition, and to pledge their commitment to the coalition’s views on abortion, same-sex marriage and similar social issues.

Polling in early June by Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn., showed that former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney had more support among Republican or Republican-leaning independent voters than any other GOP candidate, with 25 percent.

Sarah Palin, the former Alaska governor who is not an official candidate, received support from 15 percent of the poll respondents, with businessman Herman Cain at 9 percent.

But another part of the Quinnipiac survey offered less promising information for the Romney campaign.

Asked to assess their comfort level with the faith of presidential candidates, 44 percent of 1,049 adults said they would be comfortable with a Muslim candidate, and 60 percent said a candidate who was an atheist would make them uncomfortable.

Both Romney and another possible candidate, former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr., have ties to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, although Huntsman said in a recent Time magazine interview that he is “tough to define” whether he is still a member of the church. “I’m a very spiritual person and proud of my Mormon roots,” he said.

Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute, said the poll “showed that the American people—especially Democrats—have many more questions about a Mormon in the White House than they do about followers of other religions.”

The margin of error for the poll released on June 8 was plus or minus 2.2 percentage points.

David E. Campbell, an associate professor of political science at the University of Notre Dame and founding director of the Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy, said some candidates face a “stained-glass ceiling” when it comes to their faith.

“My research suggests that while Romney, like any candidate, has many assets and many liabilities, the fact that he is a Mormon ... is definitely an electoral liability for him,” in the same way that John F. Kennedy’s Catholicism was a liability to be overcome in 1960, Brown told Catholic News Service. About the same percentage of voters have negative opinions about a Mormon candidate today as did about a Catholic candidate in 1960, he added.


The two authors found that Catholics and Jews are viewed very favorably by most Americans—even slightly more favorably than mainline Protestants. They attribute the change over the past 50 years to the de-gree of “interreligious bridging” by Catholics and Jews today.

“There has been a dramatic change in the way Catholics are integrated into the mainstream of American society,” Campbell said. Fifty years ago, Catholics had their own neighborhoods and schools and a distinctive form of worship in Latin, he said. But today Catholics are much more likely to have Protestant friends and vice versa.

“Interreligious bridging is a major factor in how a religion is perceived,” Campbell said. “Mormons bridge the least of all, and they are not viewed very positively.”

The current slate of declared or possible GOP presidential candidates includes several Catholics—former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and current New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

Several belong to nondomination Christian churches or evangelical branches of mainline denominations. Palin, who has said she was baptized Catholic, attends Wasilla Bible Church in Alaska. Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, who was brought up Catholic, is a member of Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, Minn. U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota belongs to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

U.S. Rep. Ron Paul of Texas was raised a Lutheran, and had each of his five children baptized as Episcopalians, but now attends the First Baptist Church of Lake Jackson, Texas.

Cain, the former president and CEO of Godfather’s Pizza, is the most overtly religious candidate so far, serving as an associate minister at Antioch Baptist Church North in Atlanta.

Although more than half of the 44 presidents in U.S. history have belonged to one of three mainline denominations—Episcopalian, Presbyterian or Methodists — none of the declared Republican candidates is a member of any of those churches.

Among the leading undeclared but possible candidates, Texas Gov. Rick Perry is a Methodist. †
VanVelse and Bickel join archdiocesan Family Ministries staff

By Mary Ann Wyand

Two new staff members have joined the archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries at the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Debra VanVelse, a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis, is the new part-time coordinator of Catholic Center in Indianapolis.

Debra VanVelse

Marilyn Hess, who retired on June 7 from her longtime position as associate director of healing Family Ministries, is the new part-time coordinator of the Catholic Center in Indianapolis.

By Mary Ann Wyand

Marilyn Hess serve as associate director of the Family Ministries office for the past 23 years," Bethuram said, "not only because of her great nature and character, but because of the quality of work she has done to help improve ministries for people who are hurting in the parishes—those who have lost a loved one either through death or divorce.

More than 60 U.S. bishops expected to join World Youth Day pilgrims in Spain

WASHINGTON (CNS)—More than 60 U.S. bishops plan to join the 25,000 U.S. World Youth Day pilgrims expected to be part of an estimated 1 million-plus young people who will attend at least one of the events in Madrid on Aug. 16-21.

A morning Mass for the U.S. pilgrims, with the bishops concelebrating, is slated for Aug. 20 at Palacio de Deportes, home to Live and Love: A Home for English-Speaking Pilgrims, which will provide English-language World Youth Day events. The air-conditioned center has seating for 15,000.

The Knights of Columbus and the Sisters of Life are lead sponsors of the Love and Life pilgrimage center. They had jointly sponsored a similar center for 2008’s World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia. Co-sponsors include Holy Cross Family Ministries, Canada’s Salt and Light Television Network, the Apostleship of Prayer, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, World Youth Alliance and the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family.

The center will be open free of charge to all World Youth Day pilgrims. A special chapel is being constructed at the site.

Activities at the center will include Masses, devotions, catechesis sessions, concerts, speakers, witness testimonies, prayer, movie screenings, a eucharistic procession, an outdoor Way of the Cross, eucharistic adoration and sacramental confession.

The Conference of Catholic Bishops will provide the animating team for an Aug. 19 catechesis session at the center. It will also offer a “lectio divina” experience on Aug. 19 following the Stations of the Cross. U.S. bishops will be present at the site to interact with the young pilgrims. Several U.S. bishops will provide catechesis at the site as well as other events.

Pilgrims in Madrid or elsewhere can connect to the Love and Life site and its activities by means of a smartphone application, which will be available from the website www.wydenglish.org. For more information, send an e-mail to www.kofc.org

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Marriage ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be a part of our Spring Marriage Edition

July 15, 2011, issue of The Criterion

If you are planning your wedding between June 30, 2011 and Feb 1, 2012, we invite you to submit the information for an announcement on the form below.

Pictures

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

E-mailed photos

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

Deadline

All announcements and photos must be received by 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 30, 2011. (No announcements or photos will be accepted after this date.)

Clip and mail for more information

Mail to: The Criterion, 4100 N. Illinois St., Swansea, Illinois 62226
Phone toll free 1-888-284-6725 • Fax (618) 234-9861

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City ____________________________________________ State __ Zip ________
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June 1, 2011
Young girl puts musical talents at service of Perry County parish

By Sean Gallagher

Dianne and Charlie Gardner began their ministry in pastoral music when they were in grade school in the 1970s.

Nearly 60 years later, a young girl at St. Mark Parish in Perry County is following in their footsteps.

A few years ago, the Tell City Deanery parish had a bit of a problem. It had no one to accompany the singing at its Sunday Mass.

The person who stepped forward to fill the need wasn’t a veteran pastoral musician or someone who had just played the piano for pleasure at home for years. It was Courtney Berger, who was 9 at the time and had just started to take piano lessons, but was starting to show some real talent.

“I’m just amazed,” said Diane Berger, Courtney’s mother. “I’m very proud of her. She gets so much back from the people at church.

“I can’t go anywhere without somebody saying, ‘Oh, your daughter does such a great job.’ It feels good, and it feels good knowing she’s doing something for God and the parish.”

One of those people who is impressed by Courtney’s talents is Marlene Kunkler, who has been a member of the parish for 44 years. She has seen a lot of things happen at the parish over the years, but few to compare to what she has seen—and heard—in Courtney.

“I think it’s a real blessing,” Kunkler said. “She’s just a lovely little girl. She just hops along with her black ponytail flipping back and forth. She’s always peppy. Everybody recognizes that she is a special little girl.

As an accomplished organist himself, Father Dennis Duvelius, St. Mark’s current pastor, is in a good position to understand just how special Courtney’s musical talent is.

“I get to hear what she does before Mass,” Father Duvelius said. “She comes in and practices, and not necessarily Church music. While no one’s in there, she just sits down at the organ and goes wild.

“It’s really quite impressive what she can do at the age of 11.”

In addition to helping Father Duvelius at the organ bench, Courtney also assists him as an altar server—sometimes during the same Mass.

“I just rely on my [fellow] server to do the parts that I can’t do,” Courtney said of the times when she pulls double duty.

Nelda Waninger, a member of nearby St. Augustine Parish in Leopold, formerly served as an accompanist at St. Mark for its Saturday evening Mass. She was happy to see the musical talent Courtney has, and helped her learn about the organ.

“She just hopped up there and wanted to do this, and played one day on Sunday,” Waninger said. “She just wanted to do it. She’ll just get better and better. I think she’s a gifted child."

Courtney was born in China. Diane and her husband, David, adopted Courtney when she was 13 months old, and brought her home to Perry County.

The fact that God placed this young girl, born halfway around the world, in a small rural parish in Perry County makes her service even more special to her parents and her fellow parishioners.

“If we wouldn’t have adopted her, we wouldn’t have any idea where she would be today,” said David Berger. “Maybe in an orphanage somewhere. She wouldn’t have to have the chance to affect people’s lives as she does now.”

Courtney is pleased that she is able to see just how she touches people’s hearts.

“It’s fun to do,” said Courtney of playing the organ at Mass. “I just love how I put smiles on people’s faces.”

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Dianne and Charlie Gardner played the piano during a choir rehearsal at Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Church in Indianapolis on May 18. She is music director at the Indianapolis South Deanery parish, and has been a pastoral musician in the archdiocese since the 1970s.

Charlie Gardner leads the congregation in singing the responsorial psalm at the June 4 priesthood ordination Mass of transitional Deacon Dustin Booth at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.
VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The civilian unrest ripping through Syria and other Arab countries is a sign that people want a better future, Pope Benedict XVI told Syria’s new ambassador to the Vatican.

“These events also demonstrate the urgent need for genuine reforms in political, economic and social life,” he said in a written address on June 9 to Hussan Edin Aala, the new ambassador.

Reform and social progress, however, must not be brought about through actions that are discriminatory, intolerant or violent, but must be achieved in ways that respect the rights and dignity of all individuals and communities as well as respect truth and peaceful coexistence, the pope said.

Government authorities should be guided by such principles and take into account the hopes and needs of their citizens as well as international mandates, he added.

The pope made his comments just as the U.N. Security Council was discussing a draft resolution calling on the Syrian government to end its repression and violence against protesters, allow humanitarian access and introduce reforms in the country.

Fearing a deadly government crackdown, more than a thousand Syrians fled to neighboring Turkey overnight on June 8.

The Syrian government of President Bashar al-Assad has used violence against demonstrators and arrested thousands of political opponents. Hundreds of people have been killed and injured in the violence. An opposition coalition has called for a new constitution that ends the al-Assad family’s four-decade hold on power.

Pope Benedict said “a solution must be found” if peace is to come to the whole region.

While cookies, camping trips and merit badges are traditional parts of the Girl Scouts of America, another special bond connected eighth graders who are part of Immaculate Heart of Mary Girl Scout Troop #1881 in Indianapolis.

The 18 girls were challenged this year by their troop leaders to earn the Marian Award, one of the highest honors for Catholic Girl Scouts. The award is given after an extensive study of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the completion of a self-organized community service project.

As the girls pursued the Marian Award, troop leader Sidney Eisgruber hoped that they would gain a new perspective of the Blessed Mother. She also wanted them to use their gifts to help others.

“The greatest eye opener was learning all the things Mary went through at such a young age,” said Katie Bowes, a member of the troop. “After studying her life, I learned God helps us when we need it.”

Katie helped to collect books and magazines for Operation Paper Back, a project that benefits American service men and women. She collected two large boxes of reading material, which were shipped overseas.

“Pope calls for reform in Syria, promotes clean energy to protect nature”

Eighth-grade students who are members of Immaculate Heart of Mary Girl Scout Troop #1881 in Indianapolis recently received the Marian Award, one of the highest honors for Catholic Girl Scouts.

Marian Award shapes special bond between Girl Scouts

By Breanna Holder

Eighth-grade students who are members of Immaculate Heart of Mary Girl Scout Troop #1881 in Indianapolis recently received the Marian Award, one of the highest honors for Catholic Girl Scouts.

Pope Benedict XVI told Syria’s new ambassador to the Vatican that the civilian unrest ripping through Syria and other Arab countries is a sign that people want a better future.

The Marian Award is given to Girl Scouts after they have completed an extensive study of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the completion of a self-organized community service project.

The 18 girls who earned the Marian Award are Juliette Lowry, Meg Klein, Shelby Goble, Grace Dury, Lucy Eisgruber, Sophie Riegner, Katherine Graham, Maggie Dietrick, Hannah Gay, Katie Klein, Meg Turich, Kathleen Caupesren, Molly Egan, Kathryn Johanges, Monica Catto, Susie Winterheimer, Katie Bowes and Eileen Murphy.

Kathleen Caupesren, Molly Egan, Kathryn Johanges, Monica Catto, Susie Winterheimer, Katie Bowes and Eileen Murphy.

The troop leaders are Eisgruber and Karen Winterheimer.

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Proudly congratulates the 194 Graduates of the Class of 2011

These students exemplify the characteristics that define a Jesuit education by being intellectually competent, open to growth, loving, committed to promoting justice, and service as men and women for others. Best wishes are extended to the graduates as they enter the next phase of their academic career and will continue to have a profound impact in the world.

MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2011 WILL ATTEND THE FOLLOWING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:

Anderson University / Ball State University / Bates College / Bellarmine University / Belmont University / Benedictine University / Bennington College / Boston University / Bradley University / Butler University / Carthage College / College of Charleston / College of William and Mary / Colorado State University / Columbia College / Creighton University / DePaul University / DePauw University / Duke University / Emory University / Florida Institute of Technology / Fordham University / Furman University / Georgetown University / Georgia Institute of Technology / Georgia Southern University / Holy Cross College / Indiana University at Bloomington / Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne / Indiana / University-Purdue University Indianapolis / Louisiana Tech University / Loyola Marymount University / Loyola University Chicago / Marfan University / Marquette University / Miami University / Oxford / Middlebury College / Morehouse College New York University / Ohio Northern University / Ohio University / Oklahoma State University / Princeton University / Purdue University / Regis University / Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute / Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology / Saint Louis University / Saint Mary’s College / Savannah College of Art and Design / Sewanee: The University of the South / Spelman College / Texas Christian University / The University of Arizona / The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill / University of Dayton / University of Illinois at Chicago / University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign / University of Notre Dame / University of San Diego / University of Wisconsin, Madison / Valparaiso University / Villanova University / Wabash College / William Jewell College / Williams College / Wittenberg University / Xavier University /
Living in the present can help children grow in holiness

By Sheila Garcia

Children orient us toward the future. How many parents, gazing at their newborn, see images of caps and gowns, wedding finery, even grandkids? Children embody our fondest dreams and deepest fears. They can make it difficult to live in the present moment.

“Living in the present moment means to turn the worry over to God.”

Jesus’ admonition not to worry about the future, or regrets about the past, we may miss what God is saying to us right now.

Busyness, or multitasking, presents a major obstacle to living in the present moment. Technology makes it easier, or at least more tempting, to do several things at once, and busy parents always try to maximize their time.

For example, we drive our children to school, listening to their class presentations with one ear while keeping the other on the traffic report on the radio. Multitasking has its place, but it can prevent us from seeing the needs of others. We become used to juggling tasks, and we fail to notice that someone is asking us for advice, empathy or simply a listening ear.

I think of the times when I have been checking e-mail while talking on the phone to a friend. Then I realize that she has brought up a serious topic and expects a thoughtful response. Busy parents will do well to remember the advice of St. Francis de Sales, a doctor of the Church. “Do not want to do everything but only something, and without doubt you will do much.”

“Living in the present moment is a habit, a virtue that can be acquired over time. When tempted to worry about something that may or may not happen, we can stop and ask, ‘Is there something I can or should do about this now?’”

If the answer is “yes,” then we can take action. For instance, I can worry that the “check engine” light signals a serious problem or I can take the car to the mechanic. If there is nothing that I can do, or I have done what I can, then I need to turn the worry over to God.

“Living in the present moment does not preclude planning for the future. Without advance planning, whether for play dates or college, family life would be chaotic.”

Rather, having done what we can, we turn the situation over to God. We learn not to worry about events that are beyond our control or worst-case scenarios that will probably never happen.

“We need to trust that God will protect us from difficulties or that he will give us the strength to deal with them.”

For most people, learning to trust is a process. “It’s not something that we will do once and for all. A friend of mine says: “I give things over to God in the morning, but by the afternoon I’ve taken them back. So much for trust in God!”

The ability to live in the present moment is a precious gift that parents can model for their children. My mom shared this gift with me during my childhood. A few times each summer, for no particular reason, she would make a “surprise lunch,” and the two of us would stretch out in the backyard with our treats. We enjoyed the beautiful day and each other’s company.

Each day, God speaks to us through the people and events in our lives. He asks us to let go of unproductive worries and fears so that we can draw closer to him.

(Sheila Garcia is associate director of the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.)

A mother enjoys watching her young daughter play with a stuffed animal. When parents take time out of their many duties simply to enjoy the present moment with their children, they teach them good lessons about listening to the voice of God in their daily lives.


Living in the present can help children grow in holiness

By Mitch Finley

When Catholic families simplify the ways that they live, they might be motivated not by political ideologies but by Gospel values. Consider the following three families.

Family No. 1 includes a father, mother and two mid-elementary-school daughters. The family is active in an urban parish.

Dad and Mom decided to raise their children with strictly controlled access to television and the Internet. They struggle with these choices, but they believe that involving their daughters in the struggle is one way to cultivate a lifestyle based on the Gospel rather than on empty secular values.

Family No. 2 is blended. Dad, a lawyer who works for a community mental health agency, was married previously and divorced. Now he has custody of a son and daughter, who are in the first and second grades.

Mom, who brought her 13-year-old daughter to the new family after raising her as a single parent, was laid off during a corporate downsizing. She does most of the homemaking chores, and continues to look for work.

Combining the two families brought many challenges, but the parents strive to help their children learn healthy conflict resolution skills. They attend Mass together weekly.

“We try to have everyone home for most evening meals, and we have a table prayer to begin with,” says Mom. “We try to bring the liturgical seasons into our home so that affects how we pray around the family table.”

“Also, we encourage our kids, especially the older ones, to get involved in volunteer service activities, which they enjoy. As a family, each year we help serve a Thanksgiving meal for homeless folks.”

Family No. 3 is comprised of Mom and her twin boys, age 4. “It’s been a lot of work, having twins as a single parent,” she says. “Even though [their father] is recently married and has a new wife, he is now pregnant they both are fine with having custody of the twins sometimes.”

Each evening, the twins’ mom prays with them at bedtime, and they go to Mass on Sunday evenings. This is the most convenient time for them since she works at a restaurant.

“When I was in high school,” she says, “I was active in a parish youth group, and there was a focus on community service that had a big impact on my awareness of social justice issues [and] the importance of prayer. So I try to do things like recycling, and the boys and I have the rice bowl [from Operation Rice Bowl] on our table during Lent so we collect a little money that way for Catholic Relief Services.”

The ways that families are cultivating simplicity vary as much as the families themselves.

What they have in common, however, is sensitivity to the need for loving intimacy with God and neighbor.

(Mitch Finley and his wife, Kathy Finley, are co-authors of Building Christian Families, which is published by ASIA Press.)

Before dinner, Ryan-old Ben Girone picks out a slip of paper with information about a saint from a basket held by his father, Steve Girone, as his brother, Will, 10, looks on at the family’s home in Glasgow, Del. Families can simplify their lives by putting more focus on spiritual values rather than on accumulating material things.
The blessings that come from books and reading

In recent months, I have been giving many books from my collection to friends, family members and charities. My husband, Paul, also has parted with some books, but it is still a bit of a challenge for us. The process is slow and tedious.

I assume that most Catholics who enjoy The Criterion are avid readers, but then I could be wrong.

There are so many electronic ways to know what is going on in the world, but reading might possibly go by the wayside. I applaud the work of Catholic Media Projects in Indianapolis and reading a magazine, newspaper or book could eventually become passe, but I hope not!

Recently, during a bad storm in Indianapolis, a neighbor’s huge tree came down and covered half of the front of our home. Much of the area near our parish had no power for several hours. We went to bed early, but at one point before bedtime, I decided to continue reading a book that I had started a few days before. I did this by flashlight, silently blessing my husband for receiving good weather, and then turning in the light. We both read until the batteries were gone.

That was not the first time I read in the dark, and it won't be the last. Recently I was sitting on Earth to perform a task that nobody else can do. You might be surprised to learn that I actually have some reading time. I used to make sure the time came to fulfill your destiny.

I knew a man who was so desolate over a heartbreak that he planned to commit suicide. While riding his car, he looked up at a pamphlet on the floor. He picked it up out of curiosity. It contained a message: "for those who find life difficult and joyless.” It said, "Someday in the future, God will reveal to you the many blessings you won't know. You will be enlaced with the courage to carry on. Be ready when that day comes.”

That man canceled his suicide attempt, and he was able to survive several months later to explain how the note of encouragement from Christopher News Notes that he found in the bus changed his life forever.

Please help me to keep on encouraging people to find supernatural joy even in the midst of great sorrow, as Mary did.

I want to write a new book on how a simple decision to be joyful as a way of life can save you from unending gloom and sorrow.

Come tell me your story. Write to me at P.O. Box 745, Chester, NJ 07930.

(John F. Catoir writes for Catholic News Service.)

Parent educational choice has arrived

Over the last 20 years, states and cities across the nation have implemented educational choice programs, mostly for children in public schools. This year, Indiana passed its own school choice legislation. Instead of allowing only the wealthy to have access to a quality education, whether that is in a public school, private school, charter school, virtual school or home school.

The Choice Scholarship program provides scholarships—vouchers—to students by allowing a portion of state funds allocated for that child in the public schools to follow him or her to a nonschool public if the family meets the income requirements. Students must have been enrolled in a public school for two semesters before they can receive a school voucher.

The new law does allow for any student who previously received a scholarship through a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) to qualify for a state scholarship or voucher. SGO’s are funded by donations from businesses and individuals who donate to the SGO’s receive a 50 percent tax credit for their donation. These donations are used to provide need-based scholarships to qualifying students to attend a nonprofit school.

In the 2010-11 school year, 284 students in Indiana took part in a Scholarship Granting Organization from a SGO. If these students continue to meet income requirements, they will be able to move to vouchers for the 2011-12 school year.

In addition, any kindergarten student who is enrolled in a Catholic school during the 2011-12 academic year and receives a grant from a SGO will be able to move to a voucher for the 2012-13 school year.

Thus, enrolling eligible kindergarten students into a SGO program is a primary focus of Catholic schools this year. By providing these students with SSG support then moving them to a voucher when they enter first grade, our SGO’s are able to provide a Catholic education to larger numbers of students throughout the archdiocese.

Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Ron Costello Kathy Mears Rob Rash

Kathy Mears is associate director of School Learning Resources, and Rob Rash is associate director of Schools, Administrative Personnel and Professional Development for the archdiocese Office of Catholic Education.

"How could I possibly tell you that somehow I found the courage to go on or how I found joy again? But I did. With time and the help of God, and my faith, I found joy again? But I did. With time and the help of God, and my faith, I found joy again?

John F. Catoir, I found my bearings.

Lynn Bain

I wish I could give you the magic formula, but I can’t. If you had suffered a terrible loss, please know that you will laugh again and live again, knowing that God is helping you every step of the way.

I learned the important lesson that joy really does prevail over sorrow. And, I learned that, by helping others, I myself was really helping myself.

Lynn gave me some of the credit for her recovery, and the truth is that all I ever did was hold the words of Jesus with her: "I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete." (John 15:11).

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28).

I spent the past 25 years of my priesthood writing about supernatural joy. I have written several books about how you can overcome any catastrophe. The promises of Christ are true. God has planted a seed on Earth to perform a task that nobody else can do. You must be ready when the time comes to fulfill your destiny.

I knew a man who was so desolate over a heartbreak that he planned to commit suicide. While riding his car, he looked up at a pamphlet on the floor. He picked it up out of curiosity. It contained a message: "for those who find life difficult and joyless.”

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Feast of the Most Holy Trinity/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, June 19, 2011

- Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9
- 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
- John 3:16-18

This weekend, the Church celebrates the feast of the Most Holy Trinity.

“The Trinity” is the theological term to describe the most intimate detail of the reality of God.

In the first reading, from the Book of Exodus, the Church begins its lesson for today by reminding us of God’s faithfulness.

Jesus tells Nicodemus that the Father sent the Son into the world of space and time to be with the people and to redeem humanity. God is merciful and forgiving. God loves humankind. Despite all their sins and weaknesses, God loves humans and wills that they live forever.

Jesus is the perfect intermediary between God and humanity. One of us in the Incarnation, Jesus came to the world as the very personification of God’s love.

Reflection

Using the phrase “Holy Trinity” does not customarily bring Catholics to an emotional response in their religious experience. Yet, frankly, it should evoke considerable emotion among any people who count themselves as disciples of Christ.

First, the term tells us of God’s immense love for us. The Holy Trinity, while not unreasonable in the philosophical sense, never would have been known by mere humans as the result of their deduction alone.

The Trinity was revealed to us by the Lord so that we might understand in human terms the most intimate aspect of the life of God.

Secondly, so much of Catholic teaching rests on the belief that God has created every human in the divine image and likeness. We indeed are a reflection of God’s image and likeness.

As such, we are out of kilfer if we fail to love God. We are not in accord with our nature, our ultimate DNA, if we set ourselves apart from the human community and certainly if we do not love others.

All three readings for this feast bear in common the message that God loves us.

Long ago, the great theologians saw love as the essence of divine life. It is the kernel of the life of the Trinity. This feast calls us to realize that love is of God.

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 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org.

Daily Readings

Monday, June 20

Genesis 12:1-9
Psalm 33:12-13, 18-20, 22
Matthew 7:1-5

Tuesday, June 21

Aloysius Gonzaga, religious
Genesis 13, 2-5, 18
Psalm 15:2-5
Matthew 7, 6, 12-14

Wednesday, June 22

Paulinus of Nola, bishop
John Fisher, bishop and martyr
Thomas More, martyr
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 105:1-4, 6-9
Matthew 7:15-20

Thursday, June 23

Genesis 16:1-12, 15-16
or Genesis 16:6b-12, 15-16
Psalm 106:1-5
Matthew 7:21-29
Vigil Mass of the Nativity of John the Baptist
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-3, 5-6b, 15ab, 17
1 Peter 1:8-12
Luke 1:15-17

Many techniques can help to stay focused in prayer and keep distractions at bay

Q: say the rosary, daily if possible. When I approach the mysteries, I think of them briefly, but then my mind wanders to a wide conglomeration of items. I try to get back to meditating on the mysteries, but it doesn’t always happen. What do other people think when they say the rosary? Is it wrong to let your mind wander or is this supposed to happen? I feel secure when I say the rosary—by which I mean that the mysteries can influence me. This is why I say it, but I cannot hold my attention on one single thing for the entire 10 Hail Marys.

A: You pray the rosary daily? Good for you! There are many ways to pray the rosary, and each person should let the Holy Spirit lead the way.

We should avoid distractions, if possible. There are some helpful tried-and-true ways to concentrate on your prayers.

• Kneel when you pray.
• Pray a “Scriptural Rosary,” which includes a short phrase from the Scriptures between each Hail Mary.
• Pray along with a rosary CD or DVD or a radio or television rosary program.
• Pray for specific intentions when you pray the rosary.

As Pope Benedict XVI pointed out in the first volume of Jesus of Nazareth (Douglasliber, 2007), “We are at our most attentive when we are driven by utmost need to ask God for something.”

Some people find it helpful to pray the rosary with others “family-style,” which means filling daily life with very personal items.

The kind of fear that keeps you away from the confessional never comes from God your priest cares about and he is happy to minister to you.

By the time you read this, I hope that you have already been to confession. If not, when you go to confess, tell the priest: “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned, and I really am scared because I have broken all the commandments.”

Next, after telling the priest how long it has been since your last confession, try to make your confession clear, concise and complete.

I am confident that such an introduction will gain the mercy and sympathy of your confessor, and all of your fear will melt away.


Q: I am returning to the Catholic Church after being away for a very long time. I need to go to confession, but I really am scared because I have broken all the commandments.

When I go in the confessional, should I say I have broken all the Ten Commandments or do I recite all the commandments one by one, which would take a very long time?

A: I am confident that such an introduction will gain the mercy and sympathy of your confessor, and all of your fear will melt away.

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unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.


CUNNINGHAM, Thomas W., 47, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, June 3. Husband of Kristin Cunningham. Father of Anna, Natalie and Will Cunningham. Son of Dorothy Cunningham. Brother of Anne Glaser and Jim Cunningham.

DODGE, Virginia (Recher), 80, former member of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, April 29.


JONES, Davon, 26, St. Andrew, Richmond, June 1. Son of Louis Jones, Sr. and Shundra Jones. Brother of Louis Jones, Jr., Keisha, Keon, Khrista and Shundra Jones. Grandfather of one. Great-grandfather of one.


Provider of Ellen Catherine Conroy
ministered in education for 54 years in three states

Provider of Ellen Catherine Conroy died on June 4 at Mother Theodore Hall at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 92.

She entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence in 1942 and ministered in education for 54 years at Catholic schools in Indiana, Illinois and North Carolina. In the archdiocese, Sister Ellen Catherine taught at St. Philip Neri School in Indianapolis from 1948-49 and St. Joan of Arc School in Indianapolis from 1956-58. In 1986, Sister Ellen Catherine retired from teaching and continued to live in Chicago for 15 years. She returned to the motherhouse in 2002, and served full-time in the ministry of prayer. Surviving are several nieces and nephews. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, 1 Providence Road, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876.

June 20
Silent Day of Reflection
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

July 8
Silent Day of Reflection
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

All are welcome!
Visit our website to register for the silent days or call us!
GREENVILLE, R.I. (CNS)—With quiet confidence, Sydney Khoury climbed each step of the ladder as she positioned herself to place a crown of flowers atop a statue of Mary at St. Philip Church.

It was a bit of a reach for Sydney, but with determination she reached atop the head of a statue of the mother of Jesus for the Parish’s May crown festival.

A short distance away, Providence Bishop Thomas J. Tobin watched admiringly as the St. Philip School second-grader successfully met yet another challenge in her young life.

Three years ago, Bishop Tobin also witnessed Sydney overcome one of her greatest challenges. At that time, as she lay in the intensive care unit of Hasbro Children’s Hospital with her life hanging in the balance, the bishop prayed over her.

“Her lungs were just collapsing,” her mother said.

The day next, with doctors about to have a discussion with the family about their wish to fit Sydney with a tracheotomy tube to help her breathing, Bishop Tobin visited Sydney at the hospital.

As he prayed over her, he held in his hand a relic of Mother Teresa. Known as a “first-class relic,” sealed inside a memento, it was a lock of her hair.

“Very quickly after that, she got well,” Michele said of her daughter’s health. “He did the blessing, and she didn’t need the tracheotomy.”

When she was blessed with the relic, her body reacted with a fervent fervor. “Her lungs were just collapsing,” her mother said.

Both of Sydney’s parents and Bishop Tobin witnessed the young girl’s body convalesce for the prayers for her recovery.

“In addition to the unwavering support of family and friends throughout, the Khourys say they cannot thank the St. Philip school and parish community enough for helping the family navigate through their crisis as well as the continual support they give them.”

“In our family and friends had one of Sydney’s hands, and the school and the church had the other,” Michele said.

“They were like our own family,” Ken said of the St. Philip community.

For the Khoury family, there is no underscoring the impact that prayer can have on a person’s life.

“The amount of prayers god got’s attention,” Michele said. “I really feel that through the power of prayer [that] she can be healed.” Michele said. “It’s amazing. It’s a miracle.”

By Brandon A. Evans

This week, we continue to examine what was going on at St. Philip Church and the world 50 years ago as seen through the pages of The Criterion, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Here are some of the items found in the June 16, 1961, issue of The Criterion:

- “Delegate warns intellectuals of the dangers of secularism.

- Milwaukee—The Apostolic Delegate to the U.S. and Canada warned here to Catholic intellectuals who fear secularism in the hope of being accepted into intellectual circles.

- Bishop Thomas J. Tobin of Providence, R.I., greets Missy Culkin: Is it a sin to go steady?

- Rome rites planned to observe anniversary for martyrs of Uganda.

- Preparatory Commission meets on PACE program.

- Anne Culkin: Is it a sin to go steady?

- Nd head urges action, not talk.

(Read all of these stories from our June 16, 1961, issue by logging on to our archives at wwwCriterionOnline.com)
Congratulations Class of 2011

Benoit Yoan Attobra
Matthew James Aull
Emily M’Lynn Barnett
Samuel David Barnette
Oliver Henry Bauer III
Nicholas Patrick Branson
Zachary Kyle Brogdon
Andrew James Buja
Thomas James Bullock
Jordan Eileen Bangalee Cagle
Sarah Christine Cattoon
Zachary Michael Chambley
Timothy Hugh Coty Jr.
Erin Michelle Connor
Olivia Claire Crump
Angel Ignacio Cruz
James Otto Davis
John William Davis III
Kevin Quinton Davis
Nicholas Charles Day I
Dinah Kay Rose DeBruhl
Joseph Andrew Daucieff
Zachary James Duckett
Benjamin Michael Dugan
Andrew Jefferson Duncan
Luke Edward Eichholz
Gabriel Stewart Elam
Mitchell David Elmore
Jeffrey William Fleck
Margarita Flores
Sean Edward Flynn
Ariss Nicole Fonseca
Emma Hunter Foor
Robert Leo Forster
Ariel Lee Fulton
Patrick Thomas Hammans
Robert Michael Hawkins
Tomasz Martin Heil
Benjamin Dean Hindston
Alan-Micah Sean Kanibeh
Alexander Thomas Kidwell
Andrew Damon Kidwell
Dalton Dean Koontz
Danielle Marie Kurasz
Katherine Elizabeth Leczynski
Susan Ann Lulek
Tawee Luo
Neely Elizabeth Marks
Charles Michael McCallister
Devon Michael Monroe
Mackenzie Lee Moore
Harrison Robert Mowery
April Leanne Myers
Emily Elizabeth Myron
Jennifer Renee Navarro
Emily Lauren Nelson
Jasmine Lorraine Oliver
Patrick Ryan Ostrom
James Robert Perkins, III
Jewell Rose Proctor
Marisa Lynn Pyatt
Catherine Rose Rash
Edward Spencer Rector
Scott Evan Rohlman
Bailey Blackburn Shrum
Patrick Thomas Stark
Harry Edward Sutters
Lyndsey Nichole Swan
Mary Andrea Theberge
Khary Mohammad Thomas
Taylor Raquel Thomas
Wendy Sugiy Ullman
Cliff Albert Waggoner
Casiana Alexa Joston Warfield
James Michael Willett
Austin David McIntyre Wilson
Emily Marie Yoder
Garrett Richard Young
Sally Ann Young
Elizabeth Marie Zimmerman

Accepted to the following colleges and universities:

Agnes Scott College, Aurora University, Ball State University, Barry University, Bueton University, Bruxia University, Butler University, College of Charleston, College of Mount St. Joseph, DePaul University, DePauw University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautural University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Franklin College, Hanover College, Illinois Wesleyan University, Indiana Institute of Technology, Indiana State University, Indiana University-Bloomington, Indiana University-East, Indiana University-Purdue University-Fort Wayne, Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington, Ivy Tech Community College-Elkhart, Ivy Tech Community College-Indianapolis, Ivy Tech Community College-Muncie, Lake Forest College, Louisiana State University, Manchester College, Marian University, Marianetta College, McKendree University, Ohio Wesleyan University, Otterbein College, Purdue University-Calumet, Purdue University-North Central, Purdue University-West Lafayette, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, St. Joseph’s College, St. Louis University, St. Mary’s College, The State University of New York, United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps, University of Dayton, University of Evansville, University of Indianapolis, University of Southern Indiana, University of St. Francis, Valparaiso University, Vincennes University, Wabash College, Webster University, Xavier University

SCECINA MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

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SCECINA MEMORIAL, a Catholic, college preparatory school, bears witness to Jesus’ Good News by educating our diverse community of students in spirit, mind and body to become servants and leaders who give that little extra.

A = Academic Honors Diploma
N = National Honor Society
+ = High Honor
* = Honor

Based on the cumulative GPA at the end of the seventh semester.