Nuncio praises Turkish decision to return some religious properties

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Turkish prime minister’s announcement that the government will return hundreds of properties confiscated from non-Muslim religious groups or compensate the groups for properties sold to third parties is “a historic decision,” said the Vatican nuncio to Turkey.

“Even though the Roman Catholics will not benefit from this, it is an important step that is a credit to Turkey,” said Archbishop Antonio Lucibello, the nuncio.

“It is a sign that is not just good, it’s an excellent sign that the government wants to reconstruct the unity of the country so there no longer are first-class and second-class citizens,” the nuncio told Catholic News Service on Aug. 30 in a telephone interview from Ankara.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced on Aug. 28 that his government would return hundreds of pieces of property—including schools, orphanages and hospitals—that were confiscated by the government in 1936. The properties involved belonged to officially recognized religious minorities—Jews, Greek Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox and Armenian Catholics, Syrian Orthodox, Syriac Catholics and Chaldean Catholics.

Although Pope Benedict XVI, human rights supporters and the European Union have pressed Turkey to recognize all religious groups or compensate the groups for properties confiscated from non-Muslim religious groups, the Latin-rite Catholic community and Protestant Churches do not have official religious standing in Turkey.

Archbishop Lucibello said the decision does not include the Church of St. Paul at Tarsus, now a government-run museum, although government-run museums would allow religious groups to practice their faith. Although a government-run museum could not be “a place of worship,” the archbishop said, “It’s a step in the right direction.”

The government has made a commitment to continue looking for a solution, and this decision gives us good reasons to hope,” the archbishop said. The case of the Church of St. Paul at Tarsus, now a government-run museum, which Church officials have asked to have back. The government has made a commitment to continue looking for a solution, and this decision gives us good reasons to hope,” the archbishop said. The case of the Church of St. Paul at Tarsus, now a government-run museum, which Church officials have asked to have back.

One of the many fun things about World Youth Day is connecting with people from other countries. Dana Petricka, left, a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, signs the shirt of a young pilgrim from Paris, France. Behind her, Father Rick Nagel, director of the archdiocesan Office of Young Adult and College Campus Ministry, Catholic chaplain at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), and administrator of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, signs the shirt of another pilgrim.

Young adults from archdiocese embrace the universal spirit of World Youth Day

MADRID—In the distance, Kate Eder saw the storm clouds forming as she stood among the 44 young adults from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and Diocese of Lafayette who had traveled to Spain to take part in World Youth Day.

Part of the crowd of 1.5 million people from around the world, the pilgrims waited on Aug. 20 for the arrival of Pope Benedict XVI, who joined them in eucharistic adoration on Aug. 20.

Shortly after the Holy Father arrived, the wind gust ed and the rain drenched the pilgrims, who huddled together at the Cuatro Vientos air base.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, Marian’s president, Daniel Elsener, also announced that the building for the new education building, Michael A. Evans, second from left, shakes hands with U.S. Senator Dan Coats. The building will be named in honor of Evans, who donated $48 million to jumpstart the plan for the university’s medical school, set to open in 2013. Also in the photo are Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard and Franciscan Sister Barbara Piller, the congregational minister of the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg, who founded Marian University.

Benefactor of Marian University medical school says faith calls him to share his gifts with others

By John Shaughnessy

He was shot while serving the United States in the Vietnam War—a life-threatening injury that led him to spend nearly eight months in an Army hospital.

He worked in a steel mill and did road construction to help pay for his college education. He also founded a health care company in Indianapolis, leading it back from the verge of bankruptcy at one point.

For Michael Evans, all those experiences have shaped his approach to life. He firmly believes that the choices we make, the trials we endure and the dreams we follow will eventually lead us to a defining moment in our lives.

On Aug. 24, Evans lived one of those defining moments when it was revealed that he had donated $48 million to Marian University—to jumpstart the Indianapolis college’s plan to create a medical school that is scheduled to open in the fall of 2013.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, Marian’s president, Daniel Elsener, also announced that the building for the new education building, Michael A. Evans, second from left, shakes hands with U.S. Senator Dan Coats. The building will be named in honor of Evans, who donated $48 million to jumpstart the plan for the university’s medical school, set to open in 2013. Also in the photo are Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard and Franciscan Sister Barbara Piller, the congregational minister of the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg, who founded Marian University.
college for osteopathic medicine and the school of nursing will be called the Michael A. Evans Center for Health Sciences. Both announcements were reluctantly agreed to by Evans, a 1957 graduate of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in New Albany and 1961 graduate of Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville.

For 18 months, Evans had declined Elsener’s request to have his contribution made public and have his name attached to the center. But Elsener kept asking Evans to reconsider. The college president finally persuaded the benefactor that it would be beneficial to have the center connected to a person who believes in the need for another medical school in Indiana.

“This wasn’t about me,” Evans said. “It’s more about educating young men and young women to be doctors and nurses. There’s the thought that having my name on it will personalize it. People can identify with it, relate to it and support it. But for me, it’s about letting them know their talents to the best of your abilities, you’re called to use your gifts with others as selflessly as he has,” Elsener noted.

Elsener acknowledged that many of the values and priorities of his life became connected during the groundbreaking ceremony.

“Everything kind of came together in that moment,” said Evans, who has led ATT Laboratories in Indianapolis since 1990. “It really did bring things together in a lot of ways—my love for education, my involvement in health care, my willingness to help others.

“I’ve been given a lot of gifts in life. My favorite parable in the Bible is the parable of the talents. You’re called to use your talents to the best of your abilities, and use them for the betterment of others.”

Elsener alluded to those qualities when he talked about Evans during the groundbreaking ceremony.

“Our hope is that every student who is educated here will be inspired by his legacy and understand how they can share their gifts with others as selflessly as he has,” Elsener noted.

Elsener says his desire to lead and inspire people came from the moment in Vietnam when he nearly lost his life. After graduating from St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Ind., in 1967, Evans was drafted into the Army. Two years later, he was seriously injured when he was shot during combat. “An inch either way and I’d be dead,” he says. “It took a couple hours to get a chopper in and out to help me. I think things happen for a reason. Even when I was in the hospital, I knew I was lucky. I felt blessed when I saw the other injuries that people had in the hospital.”

“I really think that it made me what I am today. I did not want to waste my time. I’m competitive. It made me passionate about being productive, of being of value to other people. Any place I was after Vietnam, I always did the extra stuff.”

His faith also guides his life. “It’s a huge part,” he says. “It’s not the external faith. It’s more inside. I grew up in a family of others.”

“I’ve been given a lot of gifts in life. Important enough that Evans put aside his personal preference to remain anonymous in support of Marian University’s future medical center. It’s an osteopathic school that has a faith-based approach,” he says. “It’s a different education. I feel like if I donate the money to it, it will be put to the best possible use.”

“We all want to make an impact. It’s our nature as humans to want to help one another, particularly if we can make a difference. This is creating something new from scratch, and it will put out 150 new doctors every year. At the end of the day, I think this will be an impact that will carry on forever.”

Golden Jubilee Mass is scheduled Sept. 18 at cathedral

Couples from parishes in central and southern Indiana that have been married for 50 years or longer are invited to join Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, auxiliary bishop and vicar general, for the annual archdiocesan Golden Jubilee Wedding Celebration at 2 p.m. on Sept. 18 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis. Bishop Coyne will represent Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein as the principal celebrant at the liturgy.

A reception for jubilarian couples and family members will be held after the Mass at the Archbishop O’Meara Assembly Hall, 1400 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis. Reservations for the special anniversary Mass, which includes the renewal of matrimonial commitment and a blessing from the bishop, are due by Sept. 8. To register, call the archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries at 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.
In Mexico City, Blessed John Paul’s relics bring hope for peace

MEXICO CITY (CNS)— Julian Salvador and his wife, Paola Rivera, hold fond memories of Blessed John Paul II. The couple saw him during his inaugural visit to Mexico City in 1979.

“It was the most beautiful thing and incomparable to anything [that] I’ve ever experienced,” Rivera recalled.

Holding onto memories and candles, they prayed the rosary on Aug. 24 outside the papal nuncio’s office in Mexico City. Inside was blood drawn from Blessed John Paul shortly before his death. It was there to be venerated and taken to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the following day. Later, it will be taken to all of the country’s dioceses as part of a pilgrimage of peace.

Peace in Mexico was on the minds of Salvador and Rivera as they prayed with approximately 100 others on a cool evening.

“We’re praying that it quiets down, that there’s peace. It’s important that it [peace] returns to this country,” Salvador said.

“We’re praying for a miracle,” his wife added.

Salvador and Rivera came to pay for peace in a country where drug violence has claimed more than 40,000 lives since December 2006. The Church has confronted the challenges of ministering to populations in violent pockets of Mexico and fending off allegations that cartel kingpins—who are often described as religious—have laundered money through collection plates.

Census data shows the number of Mexicans declaring themselves Catholics has declined, reaching 84 percent in 2010.

That the Mexican bishops’ conference would request relics of Blessed John Paul’s blood be sent to wear cassocks or habits—were still owned. The latest decision would have the government return much of the confiscated property it

TURKEY

continued from page 1

that it was built by the Armenians, then taken over by the

The Jesuits, Franciscans and Dominicans had many

Still owned. The latest decision would have the government compensate religious communities for properties the government has sold to third parties.

“it will be costly for the Turkish state. I’ve read 700 million euros or about $1 billion,” he said.

The Turkish Constitution proclaims Turkey as a secular country, but its unique brand of secularism involves almost absolute control over religion, including Islam. The government builds and funds mosques, and employs Muslim prayer leaders. It has granted full legal status only to the foundations formed by a few minority religious groups, including the Jewish community and the Greek Orthodox. Minorities like the Latin-rite Catholic and Protestant communities, “which do not have foundations, aren’t affected by the new decision. This means that the Catholic Church is in the same negative position it was in.”

Latin-rite Catholic parishes, dioceses and religious orders

“own property, but it’s not clear if that ownership will be recognized. Tomorrow the government could say, ‘You don’t exist legally, so you don’t own it,’” he said.

Other Catholic properties are owned by a foreign government, he said. Catholic parishes operate on property owned by the Italian and French embassies in Ankara and the French consulate in Istanbul. The Latin-rite cathedral in Izmir is a protectorate of France, he said.

“For many years, non-Muslims were too afraid to ask for their properties back, but there also is the fact that there are no longer Christians in many of those places,” Oehring said.

“The Jesuits, Franciscans and Dominicans had many buildings all over Turkey, and they just don’t care because they don’t have the numbers of ‘faithful to use them or personnel to staff them, he said. “But they still should seek compensation.”

St. Teresa Benedicta Festival

23670 Salt Fork Road – Bright, Indiana

September 16 & 17, 2011
5:00 to 11:00 p.m.

2011 HARLEY MOTORCYCLE RAFFLE
SUPER SPLIT-THE-POT
Kids Games • Pull Tabs • Carnival Rides • Wagon of Cheer
Basket Raffle • Food • Refreshments
Beer Garden with live music and much more!
Friday—Fish Fry • Saturday—Chicken Dinner 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
www.sttbc.org
812 656-8700 for Directions or Raffle Info
Licenses #124397

Come to Batesville for
ST. LOUIS CHURCH FALL FESTIVAL
September 17
1011 E. St. Clair
Cost $50 per person
RSVP by September 7th
Amy Brammer: 578-4581 or Kevin Perry: 695-6323

Holy Cross Church Feast of the Holy Cross Dinner, Dance and Silent Auction
A few of the auction items include:
Tickets for Colts Football Games
Autographed sports memorabilia
Various Gift Certificates & Gift Baskets
And much, much more!
An Elegant Evening Overlooking the Indy Skyline
Saturday, September 10th, 2011
6:00–10:30 p.m.
Marinelli Ballroom
1011 E. St. Clair
Rev. Randall Semmers, Pastor
License # 124829

People crowd around the casing containing a relic and wax effigy of Blessed John Paul II at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City on Aug. 25. The relic—a vial of blood drawn from the Polish pope before he died in 2005—was being taken to all 91 dioceses in Mexico on what is being called a pilgrimage of peace.

A woman joins in a rosary outside the apostolic nunciature in Mexico City on Aug. 25 as a relic of Blessed John Paul II is prepared to be taken across Mexico. The relic—a vial of blood drawn from the Polish pope before he died in 2005—will tour the country on what is being called a pilgrimage for peace.

"This is a country deeply rooted in faith," said retired Cardinal Rivera.

"We’re praying for a miracle," said retired Patria Ayala.

"This is about faith, about hope," said banker Ernesto Rowe as he used his phone to take photos of a replica of Blessed John Paul II and the glass container of blood. "Maybe we don’t have our faith, but it is there."
What does it mean to be Catholic?

S
ome estimates suggest that a majority of those who identify themselves as Catholic—say, 77 percent—do not attend Sunday Mass each week. How is it possible to call yourself a Catholic, but ignore the most fundamental dimension of that identity?

For us Catholics, Sunday Mass is not optional. It is an essential requirement for all of us, and the Church teaches that unless we have a serious reason, there is simply no excuse for missing Mass on the Lord’s Day.

If through our own fault we miss Mass on Sunday, we are committing a serious sin. We should not receive Communion until we have gone to confession.

So Catholics who do not attend Mass regularly are not practicing their faith. But are they still Catholic? In other words, are they bad Catholics—serious sinners who have violated their responsibility to practice the faith—or have they lost the right to call themselves Catholic?

Once a Christian has been baptized and has confessed his or her faith, he or she becomes a Catholic, a member of the community of believers, the Church.

In other words, a Catholic is not a solitary individual. A Catholic is a member of the community of faith, a Christian who follows Jesus Christ in communion with all those—living and dead—who make up the one Body of Christ.

There is only one Church. In spite of the fact that the Body of Christ has been wounded by division, we Catholics believe that the Church remains one. In spite of the fact that her members are sinners, we believe that the Church remains catholic or universal.

Finally, the Church is apostolic—faithful to the teaching of the Apostles dating back 2,000 years to the first Pentecost. Once we join the community of faith that is the Church, we become Catholic. It is part of our fundamental identity as persons.

So what does it mean to be Catholic? To be authentically Catholic means to be an active member of the Body of Christ, to be faithful to the teaching and practice of the Church, and to be engaged personally in a relationship with Jesus Christ that involves spiritual growth and responsible stewardship of all God’s gifts.

In other words, to be truly Catholic we must be actively engaged in the life of the Church—especially by our participation in the Sunday Eucharist, our reception of the sacraments, our commitment to prayer and growth in holiness, our fellowship with other Christians, and our involvement in the Church’s outreach to others through ministries of evangelization and social justice.

To be active Catholics, we must be present at Mass each Sunday. And we must seriously take the Church’s teaching on matters of faith and morals—living them as best we can in our daily lives, at home, at work and in the public arena. That is the minimum.

So what about our family members and friends who no longer practice their faith? Have they lost the right to call themselves Catholics?

Those who deliberately, publicly or defiantly refuse to follow Church teaching separate themselves from the community of faith in a radical way. We pray for them, and urge them to repent and to full communion with the Church.

Fortunately, formal excommunication is rare today since most specific actions that are outlined in the Code of Canon Law (1363-1389) have been rescinded.

Those who drift away for whatever reasons—and are, therefore, called inactive or fallen away—also separate themselves from the Church, often unconsciously. But they remain Catholics. We pray for them, too, and we invite them to “come home” as soon as possible. We miss them, and we care for them.

What does it mean to be Catholic? In the simplest possible terms, it means belonging to the community of the blessed, the Church.

What does it mean to be a good Catholic? It means being present, especially at the Sunday Eucharist. It means being engaged in the Catholic way of life through prayer and the sacraments, through efforts to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church, through a commitment to reach out to others by sharing our faith—evangelization—and serving those who are in need of our help through the spiritual and material works of mercy.

We are called to be good stewards of our Catholic identity—by nurturing our faith and by sharing it generously with others.

—Daniel Conway

Letters to the Editor

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry needs donations to help hungry families

It has been interesting to read the debate that has occurred in The Criterion over the last several weeks regarding the question of brain death and organ transplantation.

It is clear that the people contributing their opinions have all been well-intentioned. It is important to clarify that some misconceptions about the question of organ procurement have been stated.

Brain death means the cessation of brain activity. A patient who is “brain dead” still has a beating heart and functioning organs. So during an organ procurement operation, the heart is beating.

There is no pain so there is no need for pain medicine.

An anesthesiologist is present during the organ procurement procedure in order to make adjustments to the ventilator, which is breathing for the donor patient, and to administer drugs to maintain the adequate blood flow to the organs, and to counteract certain chemicals released by the body that may be harmful to those organs.

By doing these things, the best outcome can be assured for the transplanted organs and the patients who receive them.

I hope that people will understand these things so they can feel comfortable with the whole process of organ transplantation, and may even someday give the gift of life to another person.

Dr. Stephen O’Neill

general surgeon, Indianapolis

Problem of immodesty is everywhere in society and must be addressed, reader says

It is in response to the letter with the headline “Why don’t all teenagers and men wear their best clothes to meet Jesus at Mass?” which appeared in the July 15 issue of The Criterion.

The letter is appropriate for this time of year, but the writer only addresses teenagers and men wearing shorts. The problem is much deeper and broader than that.

The problem cannot be focused on in any one age group or gender. The problem of immodesty is everywhere, and is very much tied to the widespread impurity in our culture and society today.

On a pilgrimage to Rome this spring, I visited St. Peter’s Basilica. Posted at the entrance are pictorial signs explaining the dress code. Swiss Guards routinely turn away men and women in shorts or with bare shoulders.

Our Lady of Fatima, in 1917, told the three visionaries: “Certain fashions will be introduced that will offend our Lord very much. ... More souls go to hell because of sins of the flesh than for any other reason.”

Can it be that our Lady is talking about us now?

Today, in our culture and in Church services, less clothing covers the body, not only of young people, but their parents, who should know better. Instead, they are oblivious to the virtue of modesty and dress in “fashions that offend our Lord very much.”

Paul Kuchinski

Indianapolis

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are published in The Criterion as part of the newspaper’s commitment to “the free exchange of freely-held and expressed opinion among the People of God” (Communicatio in fide, 116).

Letters from readers are welcome and every effort will be made to include letters from as many people and representing as many viewpoints as possible. Letters should be informative, relevant, well-expressed and temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

Letters to the Editor, The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2467. Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@catholicindy.org.
La misión de la Iglesia es buscar el rostro del Señor

(El autor no: While Archbishop Buechlein continues to invite others to offer some reprints of his various columns for your enrichment. The following column is from The Criterion, a 2006, issue of The Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Nuestros rasgos como la Iglesia particular conocida como la Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis datan de tiempo atrás. En ellos se puede ver una organización social con el título de Católicos. Para poder tener arraigo en nuestra iglesia local nos remitimos a donde todo empezó, a saber: en Dios El Creador. El plan de Dios en la creación del mundo fue dignificar a la familia humana otorgándole un destino divino. Pese a que al principio nuestra familia humana le dijo no a este maravilloso plan, en el contrato solemne en el Monte Sinaí. Dios preparó, vinieron a ver la amistad única entre ellos a considerar las vocaciones al sacerdocio y la vida religiosa!

Intenta que todos las personas humanas en un glorioso lazo de unión y unión en la unidad del Espíritu Santo. La función de Dios es la representación de todos los tiempos, el Dios invisible (Col 1:15). Nacido de una mujer, al igual que todos nosotros excepto en el pecado. Cristo vino en un misión enviado por su Padre. Cristo es la total revelación de Dios; el Dios que había plenamente entre nosotros. Sin embargo, Cristo también es completamente humano. Por lo tanto, en su persona se logra finales la unidad tan vehementemente deseada entre Dios y nuestra familia humana, presagiada por el contrato solemne con Israel y proclamada por los profetas. Cristo representa todo aquello que siempre desearía expresarnos; y Cristo también representa todo lo que Dios espera que nosotros respondamos.

Lo que se le agradece en defensa de la integridad de la Iglesia. Nuestro deseo de Dios es que algún día su reino en pleno abarque la unidad de todas las personas humanas en el espíritu de amor. Ese es el “reino” donde “todos la gracia será enriquecida” (I n. 1:5). Por lo tanto, en el contrato solemne con los apóstoles, bajo el liderazgo del obispo de Roma y sucesor de Pedro, la Iglesia es más que una con Iglesia local. ¿Qué sucede ahora? Desde que Cristo sobró al cielo y hasta que vuelva con gloria, ¿qué ocurre? ¿Cuál es el propósito de Cristo? En su persona se logra la unidad de la familia humana.

La misión de la Iglesia es buscar el rostro del Señor.

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 Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

Arzobispo Buechlein? Puede enviar su correspondencia a:

List of prayer intentions
Arzobispo Buechlein
Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis
1400 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

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

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en septiembre

Teachers/Religious Education Directors: that they may rely on the strength and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they hand on the Catholic faith to our youth and encourage them to consider vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
Benedictine Sister Julie Sewell, presenter, Mass, 5:15 p.m., three women for service to others

‘Angels of Grace’ awards recognize three women for service to others.

The program is free to members of the Thomas More Society or $50 for guests. Participants will earn one hour of continuing legal education and one hour of ethics credit.

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. with the rededication formal, followed by the fashion show at 11:30 a.m., luncheon and awarod ceremony at 1 p.m.

‘Angels of Grace’—A Celebration of Women, the fourth annual award luncheon fashion show presented by the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.

The program, during the program, Patrick Olmstead of Hoover Hill LLP will discuss “Avoiding Malpractice Complaints and Grievances.”

The program is free to members of the Thomas More Society or $50 for guests. Participants will earn one hour of continuing legal education and one hour of ethics credit.

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. with the rededication formal, followed by the fashion show at 11:30 a.m., luncheon and awards ceremony at 1 p.m.

‘Angels of Grace’—A Celebration of Women, the fourth annual award luncheon fashion show presented by the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.

The program, during the program, Patrick Olmstead of Hoover Hill LLP will discuss “Avoiding Malpractice Complaints and Grievances.”

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. with the rededication formal, followed by the fashion show at 11:30 a.m., luncheon and awards ceremony at 1 p.m.

‘Angels of Grace’—A Celebration of Women, the fourth annual award luncheon fashion show presented by the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.

The program, during the program, Patrick Olmstead of Hoover Hill LLP will discuss “Avoiding Malpractice Complaints and Grievances.”

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. with the rededication formal, followed by the fashion show at 11:30 a.m., luncheon and awards ceremony at 1 p.m.

‘Angels of Grace’—A Celebration of Women, the fourth annual award luncheon fashion show presented by the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.

The program, during the program, Patrick Olmstead of Hoover Hill LLP will discuss “Avoiding Malpractice Complaints and Grievances.”

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. with the rededication formal, followed by the fashion show at 11:30 a.m., luncheon and awards ceremony at 1 p.m.

‘Angels of Grace’—A Celebration of Women, the fourth annual award luncheon fashion show presented by the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.

The program, during the program, Patrick Olmstead of Hoover Hill LLP will discuss “Avoiding Malpractice Complaints and Grievances.”

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. with the rededication formal, followed by the fashion show at 11:30 a.m., luncheon and awards ceremony at 1 p.m.

‘Angels of Grace’—A Celebration of Women, the fourth annual award luncheon fashion show presented by the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.

The program, during the program, Patrick Olmstead of Hoover Hill LLP will discuss “Avoiding Malpractice Complaints and Grievances.”

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. with the rededication formal, followed by the fashion show at 11:30 a.m., luncheon and awards ceremony at 1 p.m.
Arizona court affirms state abortion limits; seven clinics to stop them

PHOENIX (CNS)—Just two years ago, those attending the annual luncheon of parish respect life coordinators in the Phoenix Diocese were rather discouraged as they faced a new, pro-abortion administration in Washington and the specter of the Freedom of Choice Act that threatened to guarantee abortion rights, and negate federal, state and municipal restrictions on abortion.

But this year’s gathering on Aug. 19 came after the Arizona Court of Appeals ruled that restrictions on abortion passed by the state Legislature were both reasonable and constitutional.

“We didn’t give up, did we? We kept moving and we’re certainly not here, but since that time we’ve been abundantly blessed, especially in Arizona,” said Ron Johnson, executive director of the Arizona Catholic Conference.

“We really need to give thanks for these great laws!”

Following the Court of Appeals decision, Planned Parenthood announced that effective on Aug. 22, it would no longer perform abortions at seven of its Arizona clinics. That leaves Glendale, Tempe and Tucson as the only sites where Planned Parenthood will provide surgical abortions.

Johnson noted that one of the key provisions of the law that was upheld by the Court of Appeals is that only a physician may perform an abortion. With so few doctors willing to perform the procedure, that left nurse practitioners to do so. Not anymore—at least not in Arizona.

Planned Parenthood almost certainly will appeal the court’s decision, Johnson said, and has until mid-September to do so. The Arizona Supreme Court was expected to decide by the end of the year whether to consider the appeal.

Bishop Thomas J. O’Msted of Phoenix said he was pleased with Planned Parenthood’s announcement that it would no longer perform abortions at seven of its Arizona clinics.

“I give thanks to God that the killing of unborn children will cease, at least for the time being, at a number of Planned Parenthood’s facilities,” he said. “This is a small victory in a long struggle, but an important one because each day innocent lives will be saved as a result of it.”

Mike Pethan, director of the Office of Marriage and Respect Life for the Phoenix Diocese, said the decision means that “our pro-motherhood, pro-life clinics will be busier helping those in need, and we will need to be ready to support them even more than we have—and this is great news.”

Meanwhile, the executive director of the North Dakota Catholic Conference criticized the filing of a lawsuit aimed at blocking a new law requiring that abortion-inducing drugs be taken only in accordance with protocols approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Despite an FDA report that abortion drugs have killed 14 and injured more than 2,000 women, “extreme abortion advocates seek to stop reasonable regulations on the drug’s use, thus putting women at greater risk of harm,” said Christopher Dodson.

He said a similar law passed in Ohio was recently upheld by a federal court.

“Considering the drug’s dangerous record, it is shameful that abortion extremists will once again tie up the courts and fight reasonable efforts to protect women’s health,” Dodson added.

A hearing on the lawsuit was set for Oct. 26.

Baltimore archbishop named head of Knights of Holy Sepulcher

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI has named Archbishop Edwin F. O’Brien of Baltimore as pro-grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.

The appointment was announced in Washington on Aug. 29 by Msgr. Jean-Francois Lantheaume, charge d’affaires of the Vatican Embassy to the United States.

Archbishop O’Brien, 72, succeeds Cardinal John P. Foley, 75, a former editor of The Catholic Standard & Times in Philadelphia and former director of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications at the Vatican, who retired in February after being diagnosed with leukemia and anemia.

Also known as the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, the order is a fraternal organization dedicated to supporting the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and responding to the needs of Catholics in the Holy Land.

The order is usually headed by a cardinal, and past Vatican protocol would call for Archbishop O’Brien’s title to become grand master once he is named to the College of Cardinals.

Bishop Coyne posts podcast about multicultural parishes

The latest podcast of Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, auxiliary bishop and vicar general, is a three-part conversation with Father Robert Murray, pastor of St. James and St. John the Baptist parishes in Haverhill, Mass., at the Boston Archdiocese, about parousing multicultural parishes.

In their conversation, Father Murray and Bishop Coyne discuss the importance of building unity in a multicultural parish so that it can witness to the life and teaching of Jesus as one community of faith.

Father Murray also offers advice to those ministering in multicultural apostolates, and speaks about their experiences as priests of the people of God as the basis for any ministry, regardless of the number of cultures present in the parish.

Links to this podcast as well as Bishop Coyne’s previous podcasts can be found at www.archboston.org/auxiliary.

The podcasts can also be downloaded through iTunes.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Virginia Simmonds, The Criterion
Aug. 15

After two days of air travel, the pilgrims arrived in Seville. Seville, Archdiocese and one of three female saints in the history of the Catholic faith who have been honored as a doctor of the Church.

In the late morning, the pilgrims participated in a Mass at a church dedicated to St. Teresa. A choir spontaneously composed of pilgrims from across the United States filled the church with song.

For archdiocesan pilgrims Maggie Hagenauer, it was a special moment because of her devotion to St. Teresa. "I was so humbled to be here," said Hagenauer, a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. "I felt at peace as I looked around and saw all of the images and statues she looked at when she prayed." It will forever be in the hearts and minds of the pilgrims. It will also remain in the hearts and minds of the more than 1.5 million young people who came together to celebrate their faith, and are already excited about World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Aug. 18

The center for youth catechesis in the front row of the center for the catechesis Aug. 19

A group from the archdiocese sat in the front row of the center for the catechesis and Mass with Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York.

During the Mass, young people waved their country’s flags as they sang, “Love the Church and every aspect of it.” Archbishop Dolan said, “This is more than living for one’s self, but also to invite others.”

In the afternoon, the 44 pilgrims formed smaller groups to weave through the streets of Madrid for the vivid, life-size Stations of the Cross. The stations were collected from many of the churches throughout Spain. As the pope traveled the path in his popemobile, young people walked alongside his vehicle.

“It was very inspiring to see so many young people journeying through the Lord’s Passion with the Holy Father,” said pilgrim Danny Holley, a student at Indiana University and a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. “It was a very special event.”

Aug. 20-21

As the afternoon of Aug. 20 approached, the archdiocesan pilgrims geared up to make the four-hour journey by foot to the site of the vigil and Mass with the Holy Father. The group prayed the rosary along the way.

“It was a great opportunity to evangelize through the streets of Madrid,” said Dana Petrich, a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. “It was a true witness of living out our Catholic faith.”

The vigil with the Holy Father had a short weather delay, but was carried on into the night with pilgrims participating in exuberant adoration and the sacrament of reconciliation. As the night drew to a close, many people tried to catch a few hours of sleep to be ready for Mass with the Holy Father on Aug. 21.

After a rainy, cold night, the sun rose to clear skies, and the Holy Father arrived with a warm and humble greeting for the young pilgrims.

“Amigo, amigo,” he addressed the young adults, thanking them for welcoming the storm.

Father Rick Nagel was among the persons who congratulated the Mass.

“Looking out from the stage, all you could see was a sea of people,” said Father Nagel, director of the archdiocesan Office of Young Adult and College Campus Ministry, Catholic chaplain at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and administrator of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. “It was very jumpy to see all the people in the crowd.”

At the end of the Mass, the Holy Father gave a blessing to all the pilgrims and to their families and loved ones at home.

Many of the pilgrims placed home to share the news that the pope had just included them in his blessing.

Aug. 22

Before leaving for the airport, the group celebrated Mass in the courtyard at the hotel.

“I do not think anyone can go on this trip and not come back changed,” said Hagenauer, expressing the group’s sentiment of the 44 pilgrims.

World Youth Day ended in Madrid, but it will forever be in the hearts and minds of the pilgrims. It will also remain in the hearts and minds of the more than 1.5 million young adults Catholics from around the world who came together to celebrate their faith, and are already excited about World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

[See more photos from the archdiocesan pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Madrid, log on to www.CriterionOnline.com]
The Criterion  Friday, September 2, 2011

Catholic News Around Indiana

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

Compiled by Brandon A. Evans

DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

Tulsa crash claims priest and seminarian with Indiana connections

EVANSVILLE—Father Jorge Gomez, a Tulsa, Okla., priest, and a seminarian were killed in a crash Aug. 21 in Tulsa.

Also killed was Stanley Kuriku, a seminarian originally from Kenya who would have been starting his third year of theology studies at Saint Meinrad.

Both men were 32.

“The hearts of all at Saint Meinrad go out to the families of these wonderful young men,” said Benedictine Father Dennis Robinson, president-rector of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. “Their loss is a tragedy for the Diocese of Tulsa and the whole Church. Both of them will be sorely missed.”

The priest and the seminarian were pronounced dead at the scene of the three-car accident in Tulsa, according to reports in the Tulsa World newspaper. The newspaper reported that their car was struck by a car driven by a woman who was frightened by gunshots in the area and was speeding through an intersection. The car of the priest and the seminarian was proceeding through a green light when it was struck and pushed into a third vehicle.

FATHER GOMEZ, who graduated in May, was ordained to the priesthood on July 1.

During his four years of priestly formation, he was very active in the Spanish-speaking ministry, volunteering with Benedictine Sister Karen Durfalt in activities coordinated by the Guadalupe Center in Huntington.

“Jorge was very involved in the Hispanic community throughout his four years at Saint Meinrad,” said Sister Karen, director of diocesan ministry to the Spanish Speaking.

He was always willing to offer his time and talents to organize other seminarians when a group was needed for an activity,” Sister Karen said. “He enjoyed visiting families throughout the diocese, and supporting them in their faith and in their transition to the U.S. culture.”

The seminarian also assisted Father Gene Heerlink, the former director of the Guadalupe Center, who continues in retirement to serve in the Spanish-speaking community.

(For more news from the Diocese of Evansville, log on to the website of The Criterion at www.thecriteriononline.org.)

DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

Longtime organist Rosina Harber was born with music in her soul

ARCOLA—Rosina Harber has been an organist at St. Patrick Church in Arcola for more than 60 years. She has played for the 7:30 a.m. Sunday Mass as long as anyone can remember. It is no wonder, then, that she is finally planning to take a little easier and retire from active duty in the choir loft.

Harber was very likely born with music in her soul. For her family thing,” which has been handed down through the years, said her daughter, Annette Lamle, who is also a member of St. Patrick Parish.

Lamle says that the family’s music was boot in her grandmother, Luella Hinen, who was organist at St. Patrick Church in the mid-1900s.

These days, Lamle always sings at the Masses when her mom plays and helps out at the organ as well.

“I love music so much,” she said. “It’s a gift from God that we share.”

(For news from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, log on to the website of Today’s Catholic at www.todayscatholicnews.org.)

What was in the news on Sept. 1, 1961? A request to return religion to public schools, and German sister’s cure at Lourdes ruled a miracle

By Brandon A. Evans

This week, we continue to examine what was going on in the 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 Sept. 1, 1961, issue of The Criterion: The asks return of religion to U.S. public schools

“CINCINNATI—A way must be found to restore religion to education, Archbishop Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati said here. Addressing the International Federation of Catholic Alumni at its 47th anniversary convention in Cincinnati, he said that the removal of religion from public schools and colleges has made most Americans ‘religiously illiterate.’ The consequence is a low but inevitable erosion of Christian principles and a concomitant deterioration of morals,” he added. The archbishop predicted that, in the next 50 years, the American people ‘will demand some new approach to the moral and spiritual training of their children.’”

• Enrollment soars: School bell to ring September 6

“The lay apostolate and the Catholic school are not optional, the Pope said in a recent address to the Third World Conference of Catholic Lay Groups in Rome. “They are a priority for modern society. The Church and all her lay groups are not to be identified with acts of charity, but rather with actions directed at changing the structure of society, in order to make justice and freedom possible.”

• Silence indefensible; Says race prejudice must be condemned

“Labor Day Masses set for around the state

“ ‘Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House’

“ ‘ ‘Family, Sports, and Faith’”

“ ‘A Day with Bishop Timothy Doherty’

“ ‘An Evening with Patrick McCaskey’

“ ‘The lay apostolate and the Catholic school are not optional, the Pope said in a recent address to the Third World Conference of Catholic Lay Groups in Rome. ‘They are a priority for modern society. The Church and all her lay groups are not to be identified with acts of charity, but rather with actions directed at changing the structure of society, in order to make justice and freedom possible.’

“ ‘Greater stress on loyalty to the Constitution’

“ ‘Too much for Red to believe’

“ ‘Greatest stress on liturgy is seen among Catholics’

“ ‘Greater stress on liturgy is seen among Catholics’

“ ‘Too much for Red to believe’

“ ‘Greatest stress on liturgy is seen among Catholics’

“ ‘Too much for Red to believe’

“ ‘Greatest stress on liturgy is seen among Catholics’

“ ‘Too much for Red to believe’

“ ‘Greatest stress on liturgy is seen among Catholics’

(Read all of these stories from our Sept. 1, 1961, issue by logging on to our archives at www.CriterionOnline.com.)

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House September Program Offerings

Wednesday, September 7

‘Made in God’s Image: Does It Make a Difference in Your Life?’

A Day with Bishop Timothy Doherty

9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. $30 per person

Thursday, September 8

Silent Non-Guided Day of Reflection

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. $30 per person

Thursday, September 15

Family, Sports, and Faith

An Evening with Patrick McCaskey

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. $30 per person / $120 per family student

Monday, September 19

‘Composing a Life’

A Morning for Moms with Alice Stegpe

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. $31 per person

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House 5535 E. 56th Street Indianapolis, IN 46226 (317) 545-7681 www.archindy.org/fatima
Monumental task: Catholics hope new memorial prompts reflection, action

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Sister Antona Ebo, an 87-year-old Franciscan Sister of Mary, does not want Washington’s new memorial to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to just be a quick tourist stop.

She hopes visitors take time to reflect on the words of the civil rights leader carved in stone at the memorial, which opened to the public on Aug. 22.

Or better yet, she hopes these words and the 30-foot likeness of King carved in stone will prompt some soul searching.

“If we have to keep talking about keeping the dream alive, then what have we been doing for it still to be a dream?” said Sister Antona.

“Martin was our dreamer. His dream was for his time. Who are our dreamers today? You have to search kind of hard to find people with new dreams appropriate for our time,” she told Catholic News Service in an Aug. 24 telephone interview.

Sister Antona isn’t one to mince words, showing the same spirit that she demonstrated in 1965 when she marched with King in a legendary protest for voting rights in Selma, Ala. The march took place just days after what has been called “Bloody Sunday” when state troopers assaulted demonstrators with clubs and tear gas.

Although she lives in St. Louis, Sister Antona visited the King memorial a month before it opened during a special preview for members of the National Black Sisters’ Conference and the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus.

The official dedication was scheduled to take place on Aug. 28—48 years after the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. The march took place just days after what has been called “Bloody Sunday” when state troopers assaulted demonstrators with clubs and tear gas.

The memorial has been in the works for more than two decades. It cost $120 million, most of which has already been raised through a pushed-out section of the two rocks.

The symbolism was not lost on Msgr. Ray East, pastor of St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Washington, who said it was powerful to walk through the passageway and come to the other side where crowds assembled at the foot of the King statue.

He likened it to walking through despair to new life or finding light in darkness and love in hate to view a statue that conveys the sense of greatness of a “preacher who rose up when no one else would and spoke of hope and healing.”

King’s strong sense of hope even amid racism has long inspired Father Patrick Smith, pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Washington, the oldest black Catholic faith community in Washington and a parish that housed many of the marchers that came to Washington in 1963.

Father Smith, who was born two months after the March on Washington, said he was always inspired by King “for believing in something so much that he was willing to die for it.”

He also said King’s words have had staying power because his dream was “clearly not just something for the African American community,” but instead a “vision of the kingdom of God. That’s why it’s endured,” he told CNS.

And today, nearly 50 years after King spoke of his hope for racial equality, Americans are closely divided about the extent that dream has been fulfilled.

According to a USA Today/Gallup poll released on Aug. 26, 51 percent feel this vision has been achieved while 49 percent say it has not. The poll, with a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points, was conducted on Aug. 4-7 surveying 1,319 adults.

Just visiting the memorial provides a pointed reminder of the work that still needs to be done, some say.

“We’ve come a mighty long way,” said Sister Roberta Fulton, a member of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur and president of the National Black Sisters’ Conference, “but there is still a lot of work to be done.”

Sister Roberta, who is principal of St. Martin de Porres School in Columbus, Ohio, took part in the preview tour of the memorial this summer, and said she intends to visit it every time she comes to Washington.

She described the memorial as “blessing to African-American people and to the nation” because it will enable people “to see what tremendous strength and faith Dr. King really had to keep moving forward!”

Now she said the key to keeping that momentum going is to inspire young people with King’s message.

Msgr. Dray agreed, and said he is urging people to visit the memorial as part of a pilgrimage. Personally, he knows “stands on the shoulders” of his parents and other relatives who attended the 1963 March on Washington, and he asks himself what he needs to do to continue King’s work, which echoes so many aspects of Catholic social teaching.

Beverly Carroll, assistant director of the Subcommittee on African-American Affairs for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, likewise said the work that King started remains undone.

She said King’s “presence on the National Mall reminds us the job is not finished, and calls us to leadership through service and love.”

Two Events That can change LIVES.

Do you have a FRIEND or FAMILY MEMBER who's Looking For inspiration, hope, or just a Spirit filled day?

September 17th
INDIANA CATHOLIC WOMEN’S CONFERENCE
WWW.INDIANACATHOLICWOMEN.COM
O'Malia Performing Arts Theatre, Indianapolis, IN
Saturday, September 17, 2011

INDIANA CATHOLIC MEN’S CONFERENCE
WWW.INDIANACATHOLICMEN.COM
October 29th
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER
GO ON LINE OR CALL 317-792-3982

FREELIVE ENTERTAINMENT!
- The StarKiders • Second Wind
- Mop & Glo • Living Proof

ACTIVITIES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!
- Raffle • Something for Everyone!
- Artisans!
- Bake Sale!
- Children’s Games until 5:00 p.m.

FRENCH MENU
- Tarte Flambé
- Quiche
- French Onion Soup
- Escargot and Oysters
- French Bread and herb butter
- Cheese, fruit and pole
- Rilisvian Chicken
- BBQ Ribs
- Crabmeat Etoufee
- Tenderloin tips in wine sauce
- French pastries & desserts
- Petites Flottie
Wisdom of the saints: St. Gregory the Great

St. Gregory the Great, whose feast is on Sept. 3, was pope from 590 to 604. He held the civic of prefect of Rome before giving up secular life, becoming a Benedictine monk and converting his home into a monastery. He founded six monasteries on his estate in Sicily. As pope, he represented the pope in Constantinople before being elected abbot and then pope. As pope, he concluded a peace treaty with the Lombards. He was the last of the original four Doctors of the Church from the West. The others are Sts. Augustine, Ambrose and Jerome. He was a copious writer. His most important work was Pastoral Care, a book about the qualities and duties of a bishop, read for centuries after his death. In one of his letters, he spoke about our use of temporal goods. He advised those of us who cannot give up everything of the world, “at least keep what belongs to the world in such a way that you yourself are not kept prisoner by the world. Never allow the excess to possess you; whatever you own must be under the power of your soul; for your soul’s freedom by becoming the owner of this world’s goods, it will be totally at the mercy of its possessions.”

“Skiing good help us on our way,” he said, “but our desire must be for those eternal realities which are our goal.”

As pope, he conducted a massive reform before being elected abbot and then pope.

It’s All Good/Patti Lamb

Remembering that birth with God, everything will be OK.

A friend recently told me that her husband has encouraged her to express her health concerns and a plethora of tests were ordered.

Later that same week, their basement flooded, which required major restoration efforts accompanied by a hefty price tag. She asked me to look at carpet samples and weigh in with my color vote.

At first, we discussed not sleeping talking about her frustrating string of days. I asked what I could do to help besides saying prayers.

When I said that I would pray, she made no comment but simply stopped saying prayers.

“Are you sure you want to do that?” I said. She suggested that maybe she just needed to get in touch with her inner cheerleader. Then she made a comment that I vividly remember.

“I just wish I could understand where your eternal optimism is rooted,” she said. She implied that if she could find the source of such optimism, she would surely tap into it and breathe easier.

Our conversation was interrupted when she received an unscheduled phone call, she dashed off to pick up her son. Our schedules in the following weeks were not in sync. We didn’t say much. Meanwhile, I composed the answer to her questions in my head. How do I know what’s all going to be OK?

Where is our “eternal optimism” rooted?

Simply put, it is God. God is our source of optimism. My faith is what keeps me going. If I woke up every morning and thought, “This world is all there is, that suffering and sickness were our final fate,” that quickly, I would be disheartened.

But I’ve heard the “good news.” Now I more fully understand why that is what it is called.

I didn’t realize that my faith gives me such peace. My life is not perfect by any means. But believing that I will work my way back to God, and be reunited with him in a place where there is no more suffering and sadness, helps me to endure days that make no sense. Our faith is a gift. It’s a bridge to eternal life of love.

My friend and I come from different backgrounds. She was not brought up with any sort of religion and does not attend church. This does not make her a bad person.

In fact, she is one of my favorite people. I think with someone who is not more suffering and sadness, helps me to endure days that make no sense. Our faith is a gift. It’s a bridge to eternal life of love.

I didn’t realize that my faith gives me such peace. My life is not perfect by any means. But believing that I will work my way back to God, and be reunited with him in a place where there is no more suffering and sadness, helps me to endure days that make no sense. Our faith is a gift. It’s a bridge to eternal life of love.

Faith, Hope and Charity

Faith, Hope and Charity/John F. Fink

We must do ‘something’ to assist our brothers and sisters in Africa

Last fall, I wrote about my journey with Catholic Relief Services to Eastern Africa where 12 of us from our diocese visited the countries of Ethiopia and Tanzania, with a quick stop in Kenya.

The people of eastern Africa left an indelible imprint on my heart. Because of that experience, I have been especially saddened by the recent drought and resulting famine in this part of the continent known as the “Horn of Africa.”

The United Nations has officially declared a famine in parts of Somalia, the eastern-most country of Africa that borders Ethiopia and Kenya, the first such declaration in decades. The famine is being called the worst nursing disaster today. Because of the drought and resulting famine, in addition to the horrible political circumstances, hundreds of Somali citizens are migrating out of their home country to Kenya and Ethiopia. Very desperate people are crossing the border into Kenya looking for food, water and shelter.

The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois has two parishes in Kenya were built for 90,000 people 20 years ago, and today they are home to more than 400,000! It is estimated that there will be an additional 160,000 people arriving in the near future.

The majority of the refugees are women and children who travel by foot for several days or weeks, and are subject to all that racism and does not attend church. This does not make her a bad person.

In fact, she is one of my favorite people. I think with someone who is not more suffering and sadness, helps me to endure days that make no sense. Our faith is a gift. It’s a bridge to eternal life of love.

I didn’t realize that my faith gives me such peace. My life is not perfect by any means. But believing that I will work my way back to God, and be reunited with him in a place where there is no more suffering and sadness, helps me to endure days that make no sense. Our faith is a gift. It’s a bridge to eternal life of love.

I didn’t realize that my faith gives me such peace. My life is not perfect by any means. But believing that I will work my way back to God, and be reunited with him in a place where there is no more suffering and sadness, helps me to endure days that make no sense. Our faith is a gift. It’s a bridge to eternal life of love.

I didn’t realize that my faith gives me such peace. My life is not perfect by any means. But believing that I will work my way back to God, and be reunited with him in a place where there is no more suffering and sadness, helps me to endure days that make no sense. Our faith is a gift. It’s a bridge to eternal life of love.

I didn’t realize that my faith gives me such peace. My life is not perfect by any means. But believing that I will work my way back to God, and be reunited with him in a place where there is no more suffering and sadness, helps me to endure days that make no sense. Our faith is a gift. It’s a bridge to eternal life of love.

I didn’t realize that my faith gives me such peace. My life is not perfect by any means. But believing that I will work my way back to God, and be reunited with him in a place where there is no more suffering and sadness, helps me to endure days that make no sense. Our faith is a gift. It’s a bridge to eternal life of love.

I didn’t realize that my faith gives me such peace. My life is not perfect by any means. But believing that I will work my way back to God, and be reunited with him in a place where there is no more suffering and sadness, helps me to endure days that make no sense. Our faith is a gift. It’s a bridge to eternal life of love.

I didn’t realize that my faith gives me such peace. My life is not perfect by any means. But believing that I will work my way back to God, and be reunited with him in a place where there is no more suffering and sadness, helps me to endure days that make no sense. Our faith is a gift. It’s a bridge to eternal life of love.

I didn’t realize that my faith gives me such peace. My life is not perfect by any means. But believing that I will work my way back to God, and be reunited with him in a place where there is no more suffering and sadness, helps me to endure days that make no sense. Our faith is a gift. It’s a bridge to eternal life of love.

I didn’t realize that my faith gives me such peace. My life is not perfect by any means. But believing that I will work my way back to God, and be reunited with him in a place where there is no more suffering and sadness, helps me to endure days that make no sense. Our faith is a gift. It’s a bridge to eternal life of love.

I didn’t realize that my faith gives me such peace. My life is not perfect by any means. But believing that I will work my way back to God, and be reunited with him in a place where there is no more suffering and sadness, helps me to endure days that make no sense. Our faith is a gift. It’s a bridge to eternal life of love.
The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011

- Ezekiel 33:7-9
- Colossians 13:8-10
- Matthew 18:13-20

The Book of Ezekiel is the source of the first biblical reading for this weekend. Ezekiel’s message was delivered to the exiled people of Judah as they struggled with the idea that God had brought a nation into slavery. They were supposed to be the Chosen People. So Ezekiel was told to speak their language. He spoke about how God had chosen them for His own purpose, but they had not been faithful. Thus, God would make a new choice. A new Israel would be established and this new people would be the Chosen People. The message of the readings this weekend is about the Church. The Lord should tell the Church.

**Reflection**

Ezekiel’s name in essence was a prayer for God’s strength. Ezekiel knew his limitations and also the challenges that he would face as a prophet. He needed strength from God. For weeks, and again this weekend, we have heard advice about being good disciples. To be genuine disciples, we will need strength from God. We also need direction. The Gospel reading tells us that satisfaction for this need in our lives comes in, and through, the Church. In 1943, Pope Pius XII published a marvelous encyclical about the Church, “Mystici Corporis” (“The Mystical Body of Christ”). This encyclical significantly inspired the Second Vatican Council, which came not long after Pius XII’s popency. The Church, according to “Mystici Corporis,” was founded by God and blessed by God, but it is composed of limited, and at times sinful, human beings.

When members sin, through the Church they may be reconciled with God if they humbly choose to be. The Church speaks in the name of Jesus, conveying to us divine truth, God’s law. It defines what discipleship means—“binding” and “loosening” in the process. This guidance is not intrusive or oppressive. It is God’s gift, God’s support, to us so assured that the Church guides us, we are strengthened in faith.

**Church hopes for the salvation of people who take their own life**

Recently, a friend committed suicide. He struggled with depression for years, and the depression won in the end. He had a beautiful soul, but just could not love himself as much as others loved him. He told me in the past that he did not believe in God. When a person has truly lost his way from the Lord and takes his own life, does that person still have a chance at redemption in the afterlife? (Cape May Court House, N.J.)

You describe your friend as having a “beautiful soul,” which I take to mean that he was a person of moral probity who tried to live unselfishly and with compassion. So I would think there’s a good chance that you will meet him in heaven, and I will pray that you do!

**My Journey to God**

Deepest Center

There is a “deepest center” that dwells in our soul—Where God waits for us, Desiring to unite with us, What mysteries write about And experienced, What else is prayer But to discover and rest In this “deepest center” and Touch tenderness Touch relevance Smell essence Hear eloquence See luminance, And remove all thought, reasoning and intellect, And solely with our senses Albeit Presence—To just be In this “deepest center.”

By Cathy Lampsears Dearing

(Cathy Lampsears Dearing is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. She wrote this poem after reading “The Living Flame of Love,” a poem written by St. John of the Cross. In this Catholic News Service file photo from October 1994, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta holds a candle at a gathering for families in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican. Sept. 5 is the 14th anniversary of her death.)

Daily Readings

Monday, Sept. 5
Colossians 1:24-23
Psalm 62:6-7, 9
Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday, Sept. 6
Colossians 2:1-15
Psalm 145:1-2, 8-11
Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday, Sept. 7
Colossians 3:1-11
Psalm 145:2-3, 10-13
Luke 6:20-26

Thursday, Sept. 8
The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Micah 5:1-4
or Romans 8:28-30
Psalm 13:6
Matthew 1:11-16, 18-23
or Matthew 1:18-23

**Question Corner/ Fr. Kenneth Doyle**

**Church hopes for the salvation of people who take their own life**

Recently, a friend committed suicide. He struggled with depression for years, and the depression won in the end. He had a beautiful soul, but just could not love himself as much as others loved him. He told me in the past that he did not believe in God. When a person has truly lost his way from the Lord and takes his own life, does that person still have a chance at redemption in the afterlife? (Cape May Court House, N.J.)

You describe your friend as having a “beautiful soul,” which I take to mean that he was a person of moral probity who tried to live unselfishly and with compassion. So I would think there’s a good chance that you will meet him in heaven, and I will pray that you do!

**Deepest Center**

There is a “deepest center” that dwells in our soul—Where God waits for us, Desiring to unite with us, What mysteries write about And experienced, What else is prayer But to discover and rest In this “deepest center” and Touch tenderness Touch relevance Smell essence Hear eloquence See luminance, And remove all thought, reasoning and intellect, And solely with our senses Albeit Presence—To just be In this “deepest center.”

By Cathy Lampsears Dearing

(Cathy Lampsears Dearing is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. She wrote this poem after reading “The Living Flame of Love,” a poem written by St. John of the Cross. In this Catholic News Service file photo from October 1994, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta holds a candle at a gathering for families in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican. Sept. 5 is the 14th anniversary of her death.)

**Church hopes for the salvation of people who take their own life**

Recently, a friend committed suicide. He struggled with depression for years, and the depression won in the end. He had a beautiful soul, but just could not love himself as much as others loved him. He told me in the past that he did not believe in God. When a person has truly lost his way from the Lord and takes his own life, does that person still have a chance at redemption in the afterlife? (Cape May Court House, N.J.)

You describe your friend as having a “beautiful soul,” which I take to mean that he was a person of moral probity who tried to live unselfishly and with compassion. So I would think there’s a good chance that you will meet him in heaven, and I will pray that you do!
Msgr. Paul Richart is a “people person.”

The pastor of St. Paul Parish in Sellersburg smiles often in the course of his daily ministries as a priest—smiles that are enhanced by the sparkle in his eyes, his frequent laughter and his delightful jokes. Over the years, the retired Air Force chaplain who achieved the rank of colonel is still shaking his head in amazement after Pope Benedict XVI named him a monsignor on April 11 for his distinguished service to God, the Church and his country.

On Aug. 14, Father Richard and four other priests—one posthumously—were honored at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, auxiliary bishop and vicar general, during an Evening Prayer liturgy at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

The ecclesiastical honories coincides with Msgr. Richard’s 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood by Archbishop Paul C. Schulte on May 7, 1961, at St. Meinrad Archabbey Church in St. Meinrad.

“You never know when lightning will strike,” the 76-year-old colonel said during a phone interview on Aug. 11. “That’s how I feel about the monsignorship. I really had no idea anything like that would happen. That was in the furthest corner of my mind. It was quite a surprise. … I think there are plenty of other priests who deserve it more than I do. It’s an honor of the Church, and it’s much appreciated. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein is very kind, and I appreciate his confidence in me.”

He often looks to his patron saint for inspiration in his priestly ministry.

“St. Paul, I thought I fought the good fight and I ran the good race” (2 Tim 4:7). Msgr. Richart explained “That’s kind of what I’m trying to do—keep running the good race. … I have not done that much. Mostly, it’s been the people that I served and worked with, like down here at St. Paul’s. I’ve got such good parishioners that I don’t have to care of the parish, they take care of me, and the staff here are the ones that really do the work. I just cover the sacramental needs.”

Looking back on his five decades of ministry, Msgr. Richart said he has enjoyed his life as a priest and 29 years of military service as an Air Force chaplain. The Seymour native, who grew up in St. Philip Neri Parish in Indianapolis, said he hasn’t thought too much about his retirement at an age yet undecided date.

Instead, he simply tries to help make people’s lives better and bring them closer to God.

“As every day you wake up, you said, ‘hope that the devil says, ‘Oh God, he’s still alive! Watch out!” Msgr. Richart said. “His Christ-like service—this is a Catholic priest has taken him all over the world in his military assignment as an Air Force chaplain. That wasn’t my plan,” Msgr. Richart said. “It was God’s plan.”

He will never forget the day that Archbishop Schulte summoned him to the chancery in 1967—during the Vietnam War—when he was serving as assistant pastor of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis.

“Father John Wright and I were there, Archbishop Schulte calmed us in and said he that we might be good military chaplains,” Msgr. Richart recalled. “In those days, it was called the Military Ordinariate, and it was under the [jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of] New York. He asked us to step out in the hall to think about it a little bit, but then come back in and tell him which branch of the service we would like to go in. When we stepped out in the hall, John said he would like to go in the Navy. … So I picked the Air Force.

His first assignments took him to Air Force bases in Washington state and Greenbelt. Next, he served at the Air Force Academy’s Community Center, the parish at the academy, in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he helped the football team as the Falcons’ chaplain.

Following an assignment in Hawaii, where he also helped refugees from South Vietnam, he completed a master’s degree in religious education at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

That master’s degree helped prepare him for service on the Chaplains Resource Board in Alabama, which published religious education materials for enlisted men and women in the Army, Navy and Air Force.

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

During those years, he logged countless air miles flying around the globe.

“…I enjoyed serving in the military,” Msgr. Richart said, with people who focus on their love for God, country and family. His special mements include an autographed racing helmet from Indianapolis Motor Speedway drivers drivers from his time at St. Christopher Parish, a signed football from the Air Force Falcons, an ice axe used to cross glaciers in Alaska and folk art from the Philippines.

He is glad that he has given his life in service to God and people’s, which he has truly been an adventure.

“Every day that I celebrate the Eucharist is an honor and a privilege,” Msgr. Richart said. “That is the center, being able to be the instrument of that. When you say: ‘This is my body’ and ‘This is my blood’, and something so miraculous happens. Everything else circles around that in the parish, and with the people I have served both in the military and the archdiocese. It’s all been focused around the Eucharist.”

Since he was named pastor of the New Albany Deanery parish in 1996, Msgr. Richart has enjoyed fishing with two priest friends—Father John Geis and Father William Ernst—as well as several St. Paul parishioners.

“How the men in the parish and I have a seniors’ fish fry in the first part of July so we had to hustle a little bit this spring,” Msgr. Richart said. “We were out fishing quite a bit in the ponds and lakes around here.”

As for the future, he said, “I want to live the rest of my life as close to God as I can.”

By Mary Ann Garber

Msgr. Paul Richart, right, pastor of St. Paul Parish in Sellersburg, greets Joyce Gambrall, a member of the New Albany Deanery faith community, during an Aug. 14 reception at the Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center Assembly Hall in Indianapolis after he was honored as a monsignor by Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, auxiliary bishop and vicar general, during an Evening Prayer liturgy at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Msgr. Richart served as an Air Force chaplain for 29 years and achieved the rank of colonel.
Youth volunteer effort assists Brown County residents

BROWN COUNTY—At the beginning of August, a group of nine teenagers from St. Agnes Parish in Nashville, and 11 teenagers from St. Ann, St. Benedict and Sacred Heart of Jesus parishes in Terre Haute came together with 16 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 three 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, equating 1,008 hours of volunteer service. Team leaders were youth ministry coordinator Adrianne Spahr from St. Agnes Parish and Janet Roth, the youth ministry leader at the three Terre Haute parishes.

This year, the youths and their leaders reached out to the Brown County community, and provided their spiritual and physical strength to make the lives of some Brown County residents easier.

In one case, a huge roof was built along the side of a trailer to provide a shady place for the family who lives there, especially for one member who uses a wheelchair, so he can sit outside under shelter. The roof took three days to construct, and significantly increases the space used by the family.

Another project involved building steps into a greenhouse attached to the home of an elderly couple. The greenhouse is an important part of their home because they use it to grow vegetables and flowers. In addition, the volunteers stained a large deck attached to the house to preserve the surface.

Other projects included laying railroad ties to create a water runoff system, mowing, washing windows, cleaning gutters, moving dirt and weeding yards. Although the volunteers 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 organize volunteer service to help the people of Appalachia.

In 1994, the program was started in Brown County by youths in Nashville and Terre Haute. As in years past, the youths came away from the experience exhausted but energized, and looking forward to participating again. Brown County residents who need assistance are encouraged to keep this outreach in mind when they have repairs that can wait until next summer.

The project is held annually at the beginning of August. 

Above, teenagers and youth ministry leaders from St. Agnes Parish in Nashville, and St. Ann, St. Benedict and Sacred Heart of Jesus parishes in Terre Haute spent three days in early August assisting people in need in Brown County.

Right, volunteers work on a Brown County home during Indiana Nazareth Farm, an annual service camp sponsored by St. Agnes Parish in Nashville, and St. Ann, St. Benedict and Sacred Heart of Jesus parishes in Terre Haute.