Archbishop Buechlein leaves archdiocese with humility and a promise of prayer

Retiring shepherd most proud of achievements in education

By John Shaughnessy

On an emotional day when his early retirement was announced, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein shared the unexpected words of wisdom that have guided him through the past three years of serious health problems—advice that he drew upon again as he reflected on the end of his 19 years as the spiritual leader of the archdiocese.

During a press conference on Sept. 21, the 73-year-old archbishop recalled a homemade card that he had received from a then-12-year-old boy in 2008 when the child learned that the archbishop had been diagnosed with cancer.

“He wrote, ‘Stay glad because God loves you,’” recalled the archbishop, who also suffered a stroke in March of 2011.

“Coming from a young kid, that advice has always lifted me up. He really gave me inspiration.”

That tone of graciousness, acceptance and humility flowed through the archbishop’s comments, which were also laced with several touches of ad-lib humor that led to smiles and laughs from an audience filled with priests, friends, archdiocesan employees and members of the media at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis.

Then there was the one moment when the emotion of the day’s significance overwhelmed the archbishop. He first made a reference to the Diocese of Memphis, where Pope John Paul II appointed him as bishop in 1987. Then he referred to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, where he has led more than 225,000 Catholics in 151 parishes in central and southern Indiana since 1992.

“Let me be clear on the Memphis Archdiocese. When I was appointed archbishop of Memphis, I got in trouble when I was appointed archbishop of Indianapolis and stated that the Memphis diocese would have a new bishop within eight months. Still, he added that “the process of consultation has begun” to select his successor for the archbishop.

Bishop Coyne praised the archbishop during his opening remarks at the press conference.

“Last week, I was over in Rome for a study week that is offered to new bishops,” said Bishop Coyne, who was ordained on March 2. “I was able to tell Church officials that they need not be concerned about the direction the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is going because, under Archbishop Daniel’s leadership, this archdiocese has excelled and is still continuing to do so.”

Bishop Coyne then listed several of the most notable accomplishments that the archdiocese has achieved under Archbishop Buechlein’s leadership.

• The services of Catholic Charities and other social outreach ministries were expanded, which helped about 180,000 people in need in 2010.

• Twenty-six Catholic schools in the archdiocese received recognition as Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence from the U.S. Department of Education, more than any other diocese in the country.

• He ordained 40 of the priests who are in active ministry in the archdiocese, and opened Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis in 2004 to prepare college seminarians for major seminary.

• Capital campaigns and annual appeals resulted in $300 million for building projects.

A message from Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein acknowledges the standing ovation that he received from priests, friends, archdiocesan employees and members of the media at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis on Sept. 21 after it was announced that he is retiring as shepherd of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

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A message from Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein

(Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein issued the following statement on Sept. 21.)

After much prayer and consultation, I recently requested that His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, give me permission to retire early due to my health issues.

Today, the Holy Father has granted my request and appointed the archdiocese’s auxiliary bishop, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, as the Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis until a new archbishop is named. My retirement is effective immediately.

It has been a joy for me to serve as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for the past 20 years. I want to thank all of the clergy, religious, archdiocesan staff and lay people for the support you have given me over the years. You truly have been a blessing to me.

With your help and the help of God, we have been able to accomplish much. I am aware more than ever that God gives each of us the grace to do what he asks.

As you know, I’ve had some health issues in recent years.

In 2008, I was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma, and underwent several months of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. In March of this year, I suffered a stroke. I went through several months of intensive physical therapy in the hope that I would regain enough strength to return to work at the Catholic Center.

I have completed my physical therapy, but it still remains a challenge for me to get around without assistance. This decline in my health led me to ask Pope Benedict for an early retirement.

In my retirement, I plan to return to southern Indiana to Saint Meinrad Archabbey to live in the Benedictine community where I took my solemn profession as a Benedictine monk nearly 50 years ago. In my remaining years, I hope to continue to serve the Church and to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to people in whatever way God sees fit.

I am most grateful to all of the people of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for the fulfilling years of ministry as your Archbishop.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.
The archbishop said that his most important accomplishment during his 19-year tenure was in the area of education.

"Those are just a few of the many significant accomplishments of the archbishop’s tenure here," Bishop Coyne said. "While we are sad to see his ministry here in Indianapolis come to an end, we are so grateful for Archbishop Daniel’s long and successful service to the people of central and southern Indiana.

The archbishop said he would continue to write. "I will continue to serve the Church, the archdiocese and God in the way I can. I will continue to write. I’ve been encouraged, even by my doctors, to write my memoirs."

In parting, Archbishop Buechlein made one request and one promise to the members of the archdiocese he has served for 19 years. "I ask that you continue to pray for me, and know that you will always be in my prayers."

(Senior reporter Mary Ann Garber and reporter Sean Gallagher contributed to this story.)
Sixth annual Indiana Catholic Men’s Conference is set for Oct. 29

The sixth annual Indiana Catholic Men’s Conference, sponsored by the Marian Center in Indianapolis, will take place on Oct. 29 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

This year’s scheduled speakers are Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator of the archdiocese, as well as Benedictine Father Benedict Grosche, Benedictine Father Cassian Folsom and Tim Staples.

Father Benedict is the author of several books on Catholic spirituality and host of Catholic audiences across the nation.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

October 17, 2011

‘Listening to God the Benedictine Way’

A Day of Reflection with Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB

The Benedictine lifestyle is an intensification of Baptismal grace—a call to simplicity in a world overwhelmed by choices and demands for commitment; a call to humility in a culture where success is measured by prestige and power; a call to stillness and silence in a society filled with the noise of contradictory messages; and a call to live in and with creation in the way we often look for either answers to the most amazing questions, the mysteries that ground us in existence, the greatest mystery of all!

Join Fr. Adrian, a monk of St. Meinrad Archabbey since 1992, for this thought provoking day and how we can include these Benedictine themes in our daily lives.

“Sunday Night Live” on EWTN. He is director of the Office for Spiritual Development for the Archdiocese of New York, professor of pastoral psychology at St. Joseph’s Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., and an adjunct professor at the Institute for Psychological Sciences in Arlington, Va.

Father Cassian professed vows as a Benedictine monk in 1980 at Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad. He is currently prior of St. Benedict Monastery in Norcia, Italy—the birthplace of St. Benedict. He is a past president of the Pontifical Liturgical Institute in Rome and is currently a consultant to the Holy See’s Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

Tim Staples is director of apologetics and evangelization at Catholic Answers in El Cajon, Calif. A convert to Catholicism, Staples is an author on Catholic apologetics and speaks to Catholic audiences across the nation.

Registration fees prior to Oct. 17 are $45 per person, $40 per person for groups of 10 or more and $25 per student. Beginning on Oct. 17, registration for participants will increase to $50 per person or $45 per person for groups of 10 or more. Priests and seminarians can attend free of charge.

The registration fee includes lunch. To register or for more information, log on to www.indiana catholicmen.com or send an e-mail to Mariancenter@comcast.net or call 317-924-3982 or 317-888-0873.
Reflection/Daniel Conway

Archbishop Buechlein is first and foremost a man of prayer

When he was ordained a bishop in Memphis on March 2, 1987, after serving as a monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey for nearly 25 years, Bishop Mark Buechlein told the clergy, religious, and faithful of his new diocese that his primary responsibility as a bishop was to be a man of prayer.

In fact, it is returning to his roots in southern Indiana to continue and intensify the prayer of ministry that he first embraced as a monk of Saint Meinrad more than 50 years ago, and that he has accepted as his primary responsibility as a bishop.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “the bishop is the steward of grace of the supreme priesthood especially in the Eucharist…” (#893).

The phrase “steward of grace” is an especially apt description of Archbishop Buechlein because of his spirituality and his administrative skills. The catechism goes on to say that “bishops and priests sanctify the Church by their prayer and worship, by their ministry of the word and of the sacraments. They sanctify her by their example, ‘not as domineering over those in [their] charge but by being examples to the flock’” (cf. 1 Pt 5:3, CCC 893).

As Archbishop Buechlein takes his responsibilities seriously. Formed by loving parents who practiced their faith with devotion, and by his less-than-perfect hand on to their two sons, the young Mark Buechlein was well-prepared for the education and training he received at Saint Meinrad.

Ora et labora—prayer and work—is a cornerstone of Benedictine schools. As a student, the teaching and example of his monastic confreres, Father Daniel, as he was known, gave him the gift of faith and the practice of life that is sometimes called “contemplation in action.”

Even as a young monk, he was very busy—teaching, counseling, providing spiritual direction, and serving as an administrator skilled at planning, motivating and delegating.

But because he is first and foremost a man of prayer, the life he lived as a seminary rector, bishop and metropolitan archbishop never interfered with his ministry of word and sacrament or his commitment to sanctify by example. “I am called to be a man of prayer,” he says. “It’s my main job. It has been a joy for me as archbishop.”

He “has been a man of prayer for the people of God. It was emotional when I left Memphis 19 years ago, and it’s the same here,” he said, choking back tears. “I leave with fond memories.”

The archbishop promised to keep the people of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in his heart, and prayers, as he returns to his roots and moves back to Saint Meinrad Archabbey, where his vocation as a Benedictine monk and monastic novice was nurtured.

“I’ll be praying up a storm,” he said. “We keep Archbishop Buechlein in prayer as he begins this new chapter in his vocation.”

As Archbishop Coyne said at the end of his remarks during the press conference, “Ad multos annos”—many years—for Archbishop Buechlein.

We, too, pray that God’s grace stays temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic commitment to “the responsible exchange of views and information among the People of God” (Comunio et Progressio, #893).

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are published in The Criterion as part of the newspaper’s commitment to “the responsible exchange of freely-held and expressed opinion among the People of God” (Comunio et Progressio 116). Letters should be submitted, relevant, well-expressed and temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect.

The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to edit letters from readers as necessary based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content (including spelling and grammar). In order to encourage opinions from a variety of viewpoints, the editors will occasionally be limited to one letter every three months. Concise letters (usually less than 300 words) are more likely to be published.

Letters must be signed, but for serious reasons, names may be withheld. Send letters to “Letters to the Editor,” The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717. Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.
La misma Eucaristía venerada por Santa Teodora y el Obispo Brúte es el sustento de nuestra fe

O ctubre es un mes importante para los misioneros pioneros de la Iglesia Católica en Indiana. El 3 de octubre, celebramos la solemnidad de Santa Teodora Guérin, fundadora de las Hermanas de la Providencia de Santa María de Terre Haute, una de las congéneres de la Madre Teodora Guérin. También, el 21 de octubre, se celebra la fiesta de Nuestro Padre Jacinto de la Salle, el primer educador y sacerdote de los Estados Unidos.

El 28 de octubre de 1834, el Siervo de Dios, Obispo Simón Brúte, fue ordenado como obispo fundador de la Diócesis de Vincennes, que posteriormente se convertiría en la Diócesis de Terre Haute. Su primer acto, junto con las cinco monjas que lo acompañaban, fue llevar la Comunión al hombre moribundo en Terre Haute. Fue un gesto simbólico de la misión de las Hermanas de la Providencia, bajo la protección de la Madre Teodora Guérin, de hacerse presentes en los lugares más necesitados.

La Madre Teodora Guérin, una de las primeras misioneras en el Nuevo Mundo, sentía una profunda devoción a la Eucaristía. Desde su infancia, dedicó su vida a la misión de llevar la Eucaristía a los necesitados. Aunque fue encarcelada, continuó su servicio pastoral de forma clandestina, convirtiéndose en una modelo de cómo seguir el ejemplo de Cristo ante los desafíos de la vida.

Tanto la Madre Teodora como el Obispo Brúte nos dan ejemplos de cómo seguir el camino de Cristo, incluso en los momentos más dificiles. Su fe fue un refugio en tiempos de adversidad, y su ejemplo nos invita a considerar las vocaciones al sacerdocio y la vida religiosa.

La Eucaristía es un don que nos permite estar en comunión con Cristo, recibiendo su presencia corporal en la sagrada Hostia, en el Sacramento de la Comunión. Es un signo de amor y misericordia que nos invita a compartir la alegría de la fe y a ser ministros de esta bendición a aquellos que la necesitan.

Arzobispo/Arzobispo Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.

Buscando la Cara del Señor

Everyone’s story is different, but you all have something in common. You all have a story to tell.

Si se visita la vida del Obispo Simón Brúte, se descubre rápidamente su devoción a la Eucaristía. Desde niño, durante la Revolución Francesa, cuando la Comunión no se permitía, a pesar de las limitaciones impuestas por una mala salud física y las limitaciones de los recursos materiales, batallaron con valentía y tenacidad.

Nosotras tenemos la misma oportunidad y la misma responsabilidad de decir “sí” a Dios con todo y las limitaciones que podemos tener. ¡Qué Dios bendiga también nuestros esfuerzos! ♦

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

Listas de oración del Arzobispo Buechlein
Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis
1400 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

Traducido por: Daniela Guanipa, Language Training Center, Indianápolis

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en septiembre

Maestros/Directores de Educación Religiosa: que ellos puedan contar con la fuerza y el Espíritu Santo para alentarnos a los jovencitos y a los demás a ellos a considerar las vocaciones al sacerdocio y la vida religiosa!
Events Calendar

September 30
Oldenburg Academy, 1 Twivan Circle, Oldenburg. Dare to Dance Club, high school students, learn to dance, 3-4 p.m. Information: 812-934-4440 or www.oldenburgacademy.org

October 1
St. Joseph, 1357 Mckey Ave., Oldenburg. Altar Society, craft fair, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and served, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Information: 317-271-5234.

St. Joseph Parish, 1357 Mckey Ave., Oldenburg.

October 2
St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Respect Life Sunday, Mass, 11 a.m., brunch follows at Indiana Convention Center, reservations required. Information: 317-370-1189.

October 3
St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. St. John Academic Alliance, Disney association reunion, Mass, 11 a.m., lunch follows at Indiana Convention Center, reservations required. Information: 317-370-1189.

October 4

October 4-5
St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, Gallery, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. "Recollectus," Dr. Vincent Marini 21st annual lecture in History Conference, "About Whom Does the Prophet Say This?" Dr. Rein Bos, presenter. 7 p.m. Information: 812-902-0988 or www.saintmeirad.edu.

October 5
Archbishop O'Mara Catholic Church, 830 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Solo Seniors, Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced, new members welcome, 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-370-1189.

Columbus Bar, 322 Fourth St., Columbus. "Theology on Tap" series, "There's Something about Mary," Franciscan of the Immaculate Father Elias Mary Mills, presenter, 7 p.m. Information: www.indycatholic.com or indvofthecm@gmail.com

October 7-8
St. Mary Parish, 415 E. Eighth St., New Albany. Yard sale and bake sale, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Information: 812-944-0417 or info@stmarysweb.org

October 9-10
Holy Family Holy Family Parish, Main St., Oldenburg. "Fall Festival," 9 a.m.-8 p.m., chicken and mushroom funnel cakes for children and youths.

October 10
St. Joseph Parish, 2605 S. Joe Road West, Sellersburg. "Fall Festival," 11 a.m., turkey shoot, food, games, quilts. Information: 812-952-2853 or iluv2fly130@msn.com

October 11

October 11-13
Hilotes Country Club, 830 N. Walnut St., Batesville. Oldenburg Academy, Alumni Homecoming, Fri., 6-6 p.m. "Distinguished Alumni" event, Sat. ICA Hall, breakfast, 8 a.m., Mass, 10 a.m. Information: 812-933-0737 ext. 244, or Sister Louis@oldenburgacademy.edu.

October 12
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1723 S. Bedford. Oktoberfest, polka Mass and festival, Mass, 5 p.m., German dinner, 6 p.m. Information: 812-275-6559.

October 13
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1723 S. Bedford. First annual "Holy Holy" SK rock/walk competition, 8:30 a.m. $15 pre-registration includes shirt, 5K day of race. Information: 812-279-6559.

October 14
Kordes Center, 802 E. 100 St., Ferdinand. Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand retirement program, “To Lead as Jesus Did,” Benediction Sister Helen Joan Kerner, presenter. 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m., $50 per person includes lunch, registration due Oct. 5. Information: 812-567-1411, ext. 2015, 800-880-2777, or www.thesistersofstbenedict.org

October 15
St. Joseph Knights of Columbus Council, 4332 N. Germain Church Road, Indianapolis. Baby shower for Birthline, 2-4 p.m. Information: 317-898-7409.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5535 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Discounted Carmelites Secular Order meeting, noon. Information: 317-545-7681.


Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 14598 Oak Ridge Road, Carmel, Ind. (Diocese of Lafayette) "Lenten Spirituality, "Rosary in the Sky," 7:30 p.m.

Retreats and Programs

October 4-5
St. Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. "Practical Christainity," Benedictine Father Adrian Burke, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or MZoefler@stmeinrad.edu

October 7-9
St. Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. "Living Monastic Values in Everyday Life," Benedictine Brother Martin Reiser, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or MZoefler@stmeinrad.edu

October 8
Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg. "Franciscan Wisdom for Challenging Times," Franciscan Sister Marya Grathwohl, presenter, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., $45 includes lunch. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburg.edu

October 9
Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg. "Coffee Talk--Where and How Faith and Politics Meet," Gleen Tebe, presenter, following 9:00 a.m. Liturgy. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburg.edu

October 10
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. "Men's Night at the Brewery," Franciscan Father Carl Hawver, presenter, 7-8:30 p.m. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburg.edu

VIPS

Lawrence A. and Doris J. (Hahn) Frey, members of St. Bernadette Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Oct. 6. They were married on Oct. 6, 1961, at St. John the Baptist Church in Harrison, Ohio. They have six children: Anne, Barbara, Bev, Bill, Brian and Bob Browne, as well as 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Indianapolis parish to host mission from Oct. 7-13

St. Lawrence Parish, 6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis will host a parish mission from Oct. 7-13.

Redemptorist Father Tony Judge will lead the mission. He will be joined by Redemptorist Father Greg Schmitt, who will lead sessions in Spanish.

Following the noon Mass on Oct. 7, there will be a catered lunch to welcome the mission presenters.

Presentations will be given each night at 7 p.m. followed by refreshments and fellowship.

A bilingual Mass to conclude the mission will be celebrated at 7 p.m. on Oct. 13.

Topics include Scripture, the suffering and death of Christ, the forgiveness of sins and the Eucharist.

Transportation and care child for children in kindergarten through the fourth grade will be available for the evening sessions.

For more information, log on to www.saintlawrence.net or call 317-546-4065.

All Girls High School Mass and luncheon set for Nov. 6

Students of the former Our Lady of Grace Academy, the former St. Agnes Academy, the former St. Mary Academy, the former Ladywood School and the former immigrants St. Agnes Academy, all in Indianapolis, are invited to the final All Girls High School Mass at 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 6 at St. Mary Church, 317 N. New Jersey St., in Indianapolis.

After Mass, lunch will be held at the Rathskeller Restaurant, 401 E. Michigan St., in Indianapolis.

The cost of the luncheon is $20 per person. Shirts and sweatshirts adorned with school logos will be available for purchase at that time. Some of the proceeds of the sales will be donated to the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg and the Sisters of St. Benedict of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove.

Reservations for the lunch need to be made by Oct. 22. They can be sent to Anna Peacock, 1036 Leland Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219.

Responses should include your name (with maiden name), school attended, year graduated, return address, telephone number, and e-mail address.

School donation to National Guard

Adjutant Gen., Martin Umbargar of the Indiana National Guard presents a check to Lt. Lori McCormick and Jerry Barnett, sixth-grade students at Lima School in Franklin, at Hickory Stick Golf Course in Johnson County. The donation that the students presented to Gen. Umbarger for the Indiana National Guard Relief Fund was raised during school’s recent "SK Run for Relief." Also posing with Gen. Umbargar, Lt. Lori and Jerry is Keith Clark, a member of St. Rose of Lima Parish and an employee of Hickory Stick Golf Course.
Priests pay tribute to their shepherd for his spirituality, vision and legacy

By Mary Ann Garber

Mgr. William Stumpf felt mixed emotions of pride and sadness as he sat next to Archbishop Emeritus Daniel M. Buechlein during a Sept. 21 press conference that announced the archbishop’s early retirement for health reasons.

“I’m just so proud of him and everything that he has accomplished,” said Mgr. Stumpf, moderator of the archdiocesan curia. “I’m so glad for him to now see all the burdens lifted from him so that he can actually go and just have some well-deserved prayer and rest, and go back to the place that he loves. And yet I’m filled with real sadness.

“He’s been a big part of my own personal priesthood in terms of work here at the archdiocese,” Mgr. Stumpf said, “and I also worked with him very closely at the archdiocese,” Msgr. Stumpf said, “but yet maintaining his vocation of the Church of central and southern Indiana, probably made his letting go of his archdiocese on July 6. I want to thank him for all that he did, his support of their ministry.

The archdiocese is very supportive of our efforts to recruit very young Hispanic men for seminary studies so we have two young men from St. Mary Parish that are studying.”

Father William Elm, a retired diocesan priest, went to the seminary with Archbishop Buechlein at Saint Meinrad. They were ordained on the same day there.

“I joke to people at times that if I had known then what I know now, I would have carried his books for him,” Father Elm said during a Sept. 21 telephone interview. “I think he’s had a good business sense…. It’s the end of an era.”

Archbishop’s legacy includes establishing Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary

The idea to establish a college seminary in collaboration with Marian University started when Elsener began his tenure as president of the school in August 2001, and continued for a time.

“I call the archbishop ‘Let’s quit talking and let’s do it,’” Elsener recalled.

“We had a little conversation around our dining room table at the Allison Mansion where my office is,” he said. “He brought a couple of his top advisers, I had a couple of my provosts, and he said, ‘Let’s go. Let’s get it started.”

Under Archbishop Buechlein’s leadership, the archdiocese opened Bishop Simon Bruté House of Formation on the campus of Marian College in 2004 to prepare college seminarians for major seminary studies. In 2008, the archdiocese purchased the facilities and 17 acres belonging to the Carmelite nuns, located a mile south of Marian University, and relocated the college seminary there.

The archdiocesan college seminary has since reached its connections, and plans are under way to expand in the future to meet the growing demand.

“He has confidence in Marian to help with the intellectual formation,” Elsener said.

“He brought in wonderful people to run it.”

Father Robert Robeson, rector of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, said Archbishop Buechlein played an integral role in the seminary’s success.

“I think his vision was quite incredible, envisioning the opportunity for success in establishing a seminary here in Indianapolis in conjunction with Marian University,” said Father Robeson, who was ordained by Archbishop Buechlein in 2003.

“I think he has a special place in his heart for seminarians, and these young men who are really giving up much in order to discern and discover whether or not God is calling them to be priests.

“His leadership will be an important legacy,” the seminary rector said. “And it’s a legacy that serves the region. It’s larger than just our archdiocese. Archbishop seminarian Daniel Bedel, who is in formation for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, said in a telephone interview that Archbishop Buechlein’s “connection with seminarians is amazing. He went out of his way to do so good for each and one of us personally, said Bedel, who received priestly formation at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary from 2006-10.

“He is a holy man, a man of prayer, an excellent person of the Gospel,” Msgr. William Stumpf, moderator of the archdiocesan curia, said the archbishop will continue to nurture vocations in retirement.

“He’s going to be so good for our seminarians down there, not just the seminarians from the archdiocese, but all the seminarians that are at Saint Meinrad,” Msgr. Stumpf said. “I think he’ll be a great witness to them, and I think he’ll be a great support to them.”

After the Sept. 21 press conference announcing his retirement, Archbishop Buechlein said that he is looking forward to spending time with the seminarians at Saint Meinrad as he did when he served as president and rector from August 1971 until March 1987.

“I look forward to being with them,” he said. “They give me a lot of life, and I will help them as best I can. I have a lot of experience working with seminarians.”

(Reporter Sean Gallagher contributed to this story.)

Daniel Bedel

Criterion staff report

Daniel Elsener still remembers the conversations with Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein.

The idea to establish a college seminary in collaboration with Marian University started when Elsener began his tenure as president of the school in August 2001, and continued for a time.

“When I think of him, I think of Saint Meinrad, which is like a full circle for him, coming back to his original Benedictine vocation in a sense, but yet maintaining his vocation as bishop.”

Father John Hall was among the priests who shared their appreciation for the archbishop’s support of their ministry.

The archbishop was president and rector of the seminary when Father Hall began his priestly formation at the former Saint Meinrad College in 1972 then at the School of Theology.

Father Hall now serves as the pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville and administrator of Our Lady of the Springs Parish in French Lick and Christ the King Parish in Paoli.

“I want to thank him for all that he did, all the support that he gave to me and to my brother priests,” said Father Hall, who also serves on the archdiocesan council of priests and the Catholic Charities board.

I just wish him well in this new chapter in his life, and that he be comforted and be at peace,” Father Hall said.

“He came across that way today, and I just pray and hope that continues on.”

Father Michael O’Mara, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Indianapolis, was a young priest when he was asked by Archbishop Buechlein to minister to Hispanic Catholics. He has studied the Spanish language and cultures in five Latino countries.

“When I was at Saint Meinrad, [then Father] Daniel was considered one of the best spiritual directors available,” Father O’Mara said. “He has … encouraged me to do more than I thought that I could do.”

Father O’Mara was pleased when the archbishop completed a cultural immersion and language experience in Guadalajara, Mexico, to better minister to Hispanics.

“He opened up a … relationship with the Archdiocese of Guadalajara,” Father O’Mara said. “Because of his vision, we now have a priest working here in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis from Guadalajara. … Archbishop Daniel […] was very supportive of our efforts to recruit young Hispanic men for seminary studies so we have two young men from St. Mary Parish that are studying.”

Father William Elm, a retired diocesan priest, went to the seminary with Archbishop Buechlein at Saint Meinrad. They were ordained on the same day there.

“I joke to people at times that if I had known then what I know now, I would have carried his books for him,” Father Elm said during a Sept. 21 telephone interview. “I think he’s had a good business sense…. It’s the end of an era.”

(Reporter Sean Gallagher contributed to this story.)

‘An extraordinary archbishop for us’
Here are some of the major events and moments in the life of Archbishop Emeritus Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., and the story of the archdiocese that he served.

- **March 2, 1987**—Ordained and installed as the third Bishop of Memphis, Tenn.
- **May 2, 1987**—Appointed president-rector of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.
- **July 14, 1987—Pope John Paul II names Daniel Buechlein to the fifth archdiocese of Indianapolis.
- **September 20, 1993—3,700 Catholic educators gather in Indianapolis for a Spirit of Hope conference.
- **November 1993—Saint Meinrad Seminary and Archdiocese of Indianapolis join forces.
- **1994—First Saint Meinrad Academy graduating class.
- **January 1995—Appointment of Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein to the board of advisors of Gonzaga College Preparatory School in Seattle.
- **February 1997—Chaplains at Indian School for Boys in Detroit named "Men of the Year" by the Independent Catholic News.
- **March 1998—Archbishop named as the judge for the Indianapolis Chapter of the National Catholic Educational Association.
- **April 1998—Buechlein suggests that Indianapolis be named "Cathedral City".
- **June 1998—Ground is broken for the new Holy Angels Catholic School in Indianapolis.
- **August 1998—Ground is broken for the new Holy Angels Catholic School in Indianapolis.
- **September 1998—Holy Family Shelter in Indianapolis breaks ground.
- **December 1998—25,000 Catholics celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.
- **September 1999—The Archdiocese of Indianapolis celebrates the bicentennial of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.
- **December 1999—The Archdiocese of Indianapolis celebrates the bicentennial of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.
- **February 2000—Archbishop Buechlein suggests that Indianapolis be named "Cathedral City".
- **March 2000—Archbishop names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **August 2000—Buechlein inaugurates the annual Capital Campaign.
- **October 2000—Buechlein launches the annual Capital Campaign.
- **September 2001—The Archdiocese of Indianapolis celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.
- **April 2002—The Archdiocese of Indianapolis celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.
- **October 2002—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2002-03 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2002—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2003—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2003-04 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2003—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2003-04 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2003—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2004—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2004-05 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2004—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2004-05 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2004—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2005—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2005-06 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2005—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2006—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2006-07 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2006—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2006-07 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2006—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2007—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2007-08 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2007—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2007-08 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2007—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2008—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2008-09 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2008—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2008-09 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2008—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2009—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2009-10 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2009—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2009-10 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2009—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2010—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2010-11 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2010—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2010-11 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2010—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2011—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2011-12 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2011—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2011-12 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2011—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2012—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2012-13 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2012—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2012-13 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2012—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2013—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2013-14 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2013—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2013-14 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2013—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **November 2014—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2015—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2015-16 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2015—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2015-16 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2015—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2016—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2016-17 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2016—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2016-17 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2016—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2017—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2017-18 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2017—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2017-18 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2017—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2018—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2018-19 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2018—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2018-19 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2018—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2019—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2019-20 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2019—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2019-20 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2019—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2020—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2020-21 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2020—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2020-21 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2020—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.
- **April 2021—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2021-22 Capital Campaign.
- **October 2021—Archbishop Buechlein launches the 2021-22 Capital Campaign.
- **November 2021—Archbishop Buechlein names Bishop Joseph Tobin as the first bishop of the new archdiocese.

**Compiled by Brandon A. Evans**
Bishop selection process is thorough and strictly confidential

By Sean Gallagher

During the Sept. 21 press conference at which Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein announced that Pope Benedict XVI had allowed him to retire early because of health reasons, Archbishop Buechlein noted that the process to choose his successor has already started.

In response to a question from the media, apostolic administrator Bishop Christopher J. Coyne said that it is impossible to know when Pope Benedict will select a new archbishop of Indianapolis.

Part of that is due to the secrecy of the selection process. Part of that process is defined in the Church’s Code of Canon Law.

Canon #377 stipulates that, at least once every three years, the bishops of an ecclesiastical province must submit to the apostolic nuncio a list of priests who, in their opinion, are qualified to be bishops. An ecclesiastical province is made up of the dioceses in a geographical area where an archdiocese also exists. All five dioceses in Indiana make up the Province of Indianapolis.

An apostolic nuncio, also known as a papal nuncio, serves as an ambassador of the Vatican to a particular country, and as a liaison between the Church in that country and the Holy See.

Although the previous apostolic nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, died on July 27 and his successor has not yet been appointed, Archbishop Buechlein said that staff members at the nuncio’s office in Washington have been working to gather information on possible successors.

“It’s always a confidential process, but it’s going on, which just amazed me because we don’t have a nuncio,” Archbishop Buechlein said at the Sept. 21 press conference. “The staff at the embassy in Washington is really working at it.”

Canon #378 also states that individual bishops can recommend potential bishops to the nuncio at any time.

Canon #378 lists the requirements for potential bishops. They must be “outstanding in solid faith, good morals, piety, zeal for souls, wisdom, prudence and human virtues.” They also must be at least 35 years of age, and ordained a priest for at least five years.

The canon recommends—but does not absolutely require—that potential bishops have a doctorate or licentiate in Sacred Scripture, theology or canon law from a university approved by the Holy See. Since becoming a bishop in 1987, Archbishop Buechlein has participated in this selection process several times.” I give the process a great deal of thought and prayer, and try as best I can to provide a full and accurate biography of the priest whom I recommend,” he said in a 2009 interview with The Criterion. “I take this responsibility seriously to help the papal nuncio in drawing up lists of potential candidates for the office of bishop.”

According to Father James Bonke, defender of the bond in the archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal, when a diocese no longer has a bishop—either because the bishop has died, resigned or been transferred—the nuncio begins a process of assembling a list of three recommendations, known as a “terena,” to succeed that bishop. Eventually, that terena will be prepared and forwarded to the Congregation for Bishops at the Vatican.

“Those three names have to be ranked in order according to his preference,” Father Bonke said during a 2009 interview. A 2009 Catholic News Service article explained that nuncios ordinarily gather 30 to 40 written evaluations of each of the recommended potential bishops.

Archbishop Buechlein discussed being asked to assess potential bishops.

“When the papal nuncio seeks information and judgment concerning a particular candidate, the process becomes more focused. So does one’s prayer and responsibility,” he said in the 2009 interview. “Candidates proposed for nomination to the office of bishop may or may not be recommended.”

Stewardship promoters reflect on archbishop’s commitment and leadership

By Sean Gallagher

When Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein became the shepherd of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in 1992, L.H. Bayley was just beginning his service on the archdiocese’s finance council.

“He had a new job, and so did I,” Bayley said. “I told him that I hoped he knew his job better than I knew mine,” said Bayley, a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, after attending the Sept. 21 press conference at the Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center in which Archbishop Buechlein announced his retirement.

Over the course of the next 19 years, Archbishop Buechlein, Bayley and scores of other Catholics across central and southern Indiana worked hard to encourage Catholics from all corners of the archdiocese to live stewardship as a way of life.

The end result was that, thanks to Archbishop Buechlein’s leadership, approximately $300 million was raised through the annual stewardship appeal and separate capital campaigns.

These funds made possible building projects in parishes, schools and charitable agencies across the 39 counties of the archdiocese. Additionally, endowments managed by the archdiocese’s Catholic Community Foundation grew from $5 million to nearly $170 million over the past 19 years.

“Part of that is due to the secrecy of the selection process,” Father James Bonke said during a 2009 interview. “The staff at the embassy in Washington is really working at it.”
The Gloria shows ‘the full sweep of the paschal mystery’

The new translation of the Gloria has clear ties to Scripture

By Maureen E. Daly

Baltimore, Md. “Liturgical prayers, like poetry, say the same thing several times in different words,” he added. “An act of praise, it is nice to draw it out, repeating something in different ways.”

Father Carleton, who was a priest in the Church of England before being ordained a Catholic priest in 1982, considers the new translation of the Gloria to be “superior because it references Scripture more clearly.

For example, the new opening—“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will”—replaces the phrase “and peace to his people on earth,” thereby reflecting “more clearly the song of the Nativity in Luke’s Gospel,” he said.

This change in the Gloria’s first sentence emphasizes that the message “is meant to be for people of good will, not any sort,” Father Carleton said, noting too that the change “communicates more clearly the meaning of the Scripture passage that Christ came for the whole world. …

“Coming at the beginning of Mass, the Gloria is a way of coming into the presence of God, not just conscious of one’s own sins and need for forgiveness, but also specifically to give thanks and praise to God for the gift of his Son. That is the meaning of ‘thanksgiving.’ ”

Father Carleton also noted that the repetition in the Gloria’s third sentence, where “You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.” is followed by the addition “You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer,” adds rhythm, emphasis and a sense of poetry.

Bill McNamara, who is chairman of the liturgy committee at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Baltimore, said one of the positive things about the new translation is that it makes him more thoughtful.

“One of the blessings of the new Roman Missal is that it makes me much more present, [prompting me] to really think about what I am saying in the celebration of the Mass,” he said.

“I am choosing to take a positive view because we are going to do this, to implement the changes,” he said. …

“The Mass being a little more formal is not in itself a bad thing. Language that is a little richer, a little more formal, can be a very good thing for us.”

(Maureen E. Daly is a freelance writer in Baltimore, Md. For more information about the new Mass translation log on to www.archbaltimore.org/worship or www.usccb.org/romanmissal)
Parents spend years teaching their children right from wrong, urging them to be polite, not to be mean and helping people in need.

These and countless others are life lessons designed to make a child a good person and an exceptional adult. Those rules are important and can be summarized in one statement: Be a good person. A good person has the flexibility to adapt to different situations. One might argue that Paul’s letter to Timothy could be called “The Twelve Rules for Widows.”

Are you impolite? You are not being a good person.

Are you acting mean? You are not being a good person.

Did you leave someone in need because it would be inconvenient? You are not being a good person.

Think about how much better life would be if people followed these rules. Trey Hertab, for example, is a good person. The Illinois seventh-grade student was cavalry with the Park Forest police when he turned around to ask a classmate a question. When he saw the classmate, Emmanuel Marte Gil, 6, his face was red. Emmanuel used his hands to indicate that he was choking.

Trey quickly asked several questions.

**Emmanua Wall/debra tomaselli**

**Jesus’ words help us see a miracle even when it’s hard to see**

At age 33, my brother died of sudden kidney failure. We prayed for a miracle, but it never came.

We were reading the Gospel of Mark ( Mk 2:4-11), paraphrased below for perspective.

**Try going to the left;**

The men carrying a stretcher said, motioning to the crowd.

“Who does this guy think he is?” they asked.

But the physical healing simply underscores the root of all evils, and some people in their desire for it have strayed from the faith” (1 Tm 1:9).

Chapter 5 gives the qualifications for bishops and deacons, and Chapter 4 warns against asceticism. Chapter 3 gives rules for widows—some of which might sound strange to us—and presbyters.

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First Isaiah and Matthew are very instructive. By disobeying or ignoring such obedience will we find salvation. In such obedience we enable us in seeking our salvation. God gives every opportunity and aid to us to destroy us, not forced upon us, it also insists that God destroys. The issue of family remarks at a funeral. Most of the priests that I know consider the best way to speak to these “words of remembrance” at the very beginning of the liturgy rather than at the conclusion so that people can be assured of leaving the church in an uplifted mood.

All of which brings us back to the need for balance. A funeral Mass should be comforting for the family—and even uplifting—focused as it is on the promise of eternal life and the hope of eventual reunion. But sometimes, when a celebrant has done all that he can to highlight those themes, the good he has done unravels when a family member gets up at the end of the service. We create our own situation. We are with God or we are not. It is up to us to decide. God, we bring chaos upon ourselves.

The issue of family remarks at a funeral calls for a delicate balance between what is proper and what is pastoral. Fortunately, the official ritual book, Order of Christian Funerals, published by the Vatican in 1989, gives a pastor room to create that balance during the Mass of Christian Burial. Paragraph 914 of the ritual restates the long-standing prohibition of eulogies at Catholic funerals: “A brief homily based on the readings should always be given at the funeral liturgy, but never any kind of eulogy.” But further on, the same ritual (#170) allows that “a member or friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased before the final commendation begins.” While these two sections may first appear to be contradictory, they are actually not, and they hint at what a eulogy should be. It is not—a despite what many funeral programs say—a celebration of the life of the deceased person and even less a eulogy. Instead, it is a tribute to the merciful love of Christ and to the victory over death won by Jesus, together with a prayerful plea that the merits of that victory be extended now to the person being prayed for. It is not—despite what many funeral programs say—a celebration of the life of the deceased person and even less a eulogy.

The love He has shown. By Sandy Bierly

God gave me life
So that I can know His love
By following His Son,
Living the very life
Letting His love grow,
So that others may know His wondrous love.

So that others may know His wondrous love.

Sandy Bierly is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany.

(CNS photo courtesy Irio Ottavio Fantini)

Sharing His love.

In mind, heart and soul
To let it flow in me
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Mary Rose Redlich.
Dennis Alhand. Brother of Mary Lynn Flanigan, Liz and connections to it; those are archdiocese or have other unless they are natives of the priests serving our archdiocese Obituaries of archdiocesan be sure to state date of death. Please submit in writing to our Rest in peace
In Germany, pope says godlessness poses new risks for society

FREIBURG, Germany (CNS) — On his four-day visit to Germany, Pope Benedict XVI warned that godlessness and religious indifference were undermining the moral foundations of society and leaving its weakest members exposed to new risks.

The 84-year-old pope at times looked tired during the heavy program of events, but generally held up well. He beamed when enthusiastic Catholics in central and southern Germany chanted his name and waved banners with the trip’s slogan, “Where there is God, there is a future.”

On a four-day visit to Germany, Pope Benedict XVI warned that godlessness and religious indifference were undermining the moral foundations of society and leaving its weakest members exposed to new risks.

“God is increasingly being driven out of our society. ... Are we to yield to the pressure of secularization, and become modern by watering down the faith?” he said.

Addressing German lay leaders in Freiburg on Sept. 24, the pope said the Church in Germany was clearly “supremely organized.” Then he asked, “But behind the structures, is there also a corresponding spiritual strength?”

Instead, the pope preached the importance of living the Gospel and held out German saints as models of the “radical” embrace of Christ. At a prayer vigil in Freiburg, the pope rode his popemobile past screaming teenagers who snapped photos with cell phones. An oversized road sign proclaimed in English, “Highway to Heaven—B16.”

His talk to the youths emphasized that faithfulness to the Church, rather than individualism, leads a prayer service at the Marian sanctuary in Freiburg on Sept. 24, the pope said the Church in Germany was clearly “superbly organized.” Then he asked, “But behind the structures, is there also a corresponding spiritual strength?”

But the pope also cautioned against viewing ecumenism as a type of negotiation. The best path to Christian unity, he said, is witnessing the Gospel courageously in a society that is often antagonistic toward the faith.

In Germany, pope says godlessness poses new risks for society

Pope Benedict XVI held a prayer vigil with young people in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, on Sept. 24. The German-born pontiff visited his homeland on Sept. 22-26.

Pope Benedict XVI holds a monstrance as he leads a prayer service at the Marian sanctuary of Ettelbruck in Germany on Sept. 23. The German-born pontiff was on a four-day visit to his homeland.

On the plane carrying him from Rome, the pope told reporters he understood the feelings of German Catholics who have left the Church because of revelations about clerical sex abuse, but he urged them to work against such crimes “on the inside.” The pope later met with five sex abuse victims in Erfurt, an encounter that the Vatican said left the pontiff “moved and deeply shaken.”

At a welcoming ceremony at the presidential Bellevue Palace in Berlin, the pope strongly defended the Church’s voice in public affairs, and said that to dismiss religious values as irrelevant would “disorient our contemporaries.”

While addressing ecumenical events on Sept. 23 in Erfurt, the town where Martin Luther was ordained and the site of an Augustinian monastery where he lived for several years. Meeting with Lutheran leaders, the pope prayed for Christian unity and said it is possible today faces threats from both secularization and Christian fundamentalism.

Meeting with Orthodox representatives on Sept. 24, the pope urged Christian Churches in Germany to speak up jointly in defense of human life “from conception to natural death,” and defend “marriage between one man and one woman from any kind of manipulation.”

In encounters with the faithful in Erfurt and Freiburg, the pope did not enter into details of the contentious issues that have divided German Catholics, such as priestly celibacy, women’s ordination and Church teaching on homosexuality.

His talk to the youths emphasized that human efforts to make a better world were never enough, and that only in God cuts through the darkness and gloom” of suffering and evil.

At a Mass on his final day in Freiburg, the pope told an estimated 100,000 people that agnostics who are troubled by the question of God are closer to the kingdom of God than Catholics whose hearts are untouched by faith.

He said that the Church in Germany would make an impact in society only if everyone works together in “fidelity to their respective vocations,” and in unity with their bishop and the pope.

In a meeting afterward with Catholics involved in Church institutions, lay movements and political life, the pope said the best way for the Church to influence society was to “set aside her worldliness” and stop adapting to the standards of secular society.

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“Obviously, it also obviates the possibility of politicizing the process,” the archbishop said. “The Church has a long and vast experience of ensuring that competent and faithful candidates are selected to serve as bishop for the common good.”

The process of gathering evaluations of potential bishops and assembling a list of three recommendations is not specifically laid out in the Code of Canon Law, but is a procedure established by the Congregation for Bishops.

Archbishop Emeritus Daniel M. Buechlein thanks Martin Jones, an archdiocesan maintenance technician who helped take care of his residence as well as the Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center and other archdiocesan properties, for his hard work through the years after the Sept. 21 press conference at the Catholic Center in which the archbishop announced his early retirement for health reasons. "He's one of a kind," Jones said about Archbishop Buechlein. "He's always got time for you. It won't be easy to replace him."

WASHINGTON—In a message marking Respect Life Month in October, the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities addressed multiple direct threats to human life as well as threats to religious liberty and conscience rights.

Echoing Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston also invited Catholics to “pray and reflect on how each of us might renew our commitment and witness to ‘respecting, promoting and teaching the transcendent nature of the human person.’”

“Jesus’ promise of ‘life to the full’ is especially poignant today,” Cardinal DiNardo wrote, “when our culture and sometimes our government promote values inimical to the happiness and true good of individuals and society.”

The cardinal reflected on the Respect Life Program’s theme—“I came that all might have life, and have it to the full” (Jn 10:10). “The unborn child, the aging parent who some call a ‘burden’ on our medical system, the allegedly ‘excess’ embryo in the fertility clinic, the person with a disability, the cognitively impaired accident victim who needs assistance in receiving food and water to live—each today is at risk of being dismissed as a ‘life unworthy of life,’” he said.

Cardinal DiNardo highlighted factors that undermine efforts to build a culture of life.

“We face increasing attempts to expunge God and religious discourse from public life…. Some now even seek to eliminate religiously motivated people and organizations from public programs by forcing them to violate their moral and religious convictions or stop serving the needy,” he said.

Cardinal DiNardo objected to the Department of Health and Human Services’ requirement to cover all forms of contraception and sterilization as “preventive services for women.”

“The decision [by HHS] is wrong on many levels,” he said. “Preventive services are aimed at preventing diseases [e.g., by vaccinations] or detecting them early to aid prompt treatment [e.g., screening for diabetes or cancer].

“But pregnancy is not a disease,” he emphasized. “…. Mandating such coverage shows neither respect for women’s health or freedom, nor respect for the consciences of those who do not want to take part in such problematic initiatives.”

Cardinal DiNardo specifically countered claims that contraception is necessary for women’s health, and that it reduces the abortion rate.

“Far from preventing disease, contraceptives can have serious health consequences of their own, for example, increasing the risk of acquiring a sexually transmitted disease, such as AIDS….” He said. "Studies report that most women seeking abortions were using contraception in the month they became pregnant. Again and again studies show that increasing access to contraception fails to reduce rates of unplanned pregnancies and abortions.”

The HHS’s “religious employer exemption” is “so extremely narrow that it protects almost no one,” he said. “Jesus himself, or the Good Samaritan of his famous parable, would not qualify as ‘religious enough’ for the exemption since they insisted on helping people who did not share their view of God.”