Baltimore Archbishop-designate Lori reflects on ties to Cardinal Ritter, New Albany, family
By Sean Gallagher

Archbishop-designate William E. Lori of Baltimore has walked the halls of political power in the U.S. Capitol in Washington many times during the last several months, advocating for a renewed defense of religious freedom.

As chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Freedom, the New Albany native has been one of the Church’s chief voices calling on President Barack Obama to rescind his administration’s mandate that nearly all employers provide free abortifacient, sterilization and contraception coverage to their employees even if they are opposed in conscience to these medicines and procedures.

In being such a prominent public advocate for religious freedom, Archbishop-designate Lori is following in the footsteps of another son of New Albany, Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter.

Nearly 50 years ago, Cardinal Ritter stood on the floor of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome during the final session of the Second Vatican Council to persuade his brother bishops from around the world that religious liberty is part of the teaching of the Church.

In the end, the vast majority of bishops voted in favor of “Dignitatis Humanae,” the Council’s “Declaration on Religious Freedom.”

At the time, Cardinal Ritter was serving as the archbishop of St. Louis. He had previously led the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Archbishop-designate Lori was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Washington in 1977.

For the past 10 years, he has served as the See LOR, page 9

Bishop Coyne commends St. Francis Xavier parishioners, assures archdiocese’s long-term commitment to tornado-ravaged area
By Patricia Happe Cornell

HENRYVILLE—Beneath the tarp-covered roof of St. Francis Xavier Church, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne consecrated Mass on March 25 with Father Steven Schafflein, the parish’s pastor. Plywood covered some windows, and a box-like supporting structure blocked the area beneath the church’s damaged roof.

Orange work lamps provided lighting for the organist and cantor.

In his homily, Bishop Coyne, apostolic administrator, commended parishioners for actively demonstrating their Christian faith during the aftermath of the recent tornadoes.

“In this community in the past few weeks,” he said, “we’ve seen people step up and show others what it’s like to be a good Christian and a good Catholic. Jesus tells us over and over that we have to die to ourselves and live for others. It’s not about me. It’s about the needs of others.

“We can see the devastation when a tragedy like this occurs, but we can also see how God works. God works through the people around us, answering our prayers through the people in our community.”

The bishop pledged the archdiocese’s resources to help restore the parish and community “for as long as you need us,” and said, “thank you for showing [others] what it means to be Catholic.”

To date, the archdiocese has received nearly $300,000 in its tornado relief efforts. Father Schafflein, pastor of both St. Francis Xavier Parish in Henryville and St. Michael Parish in Charlestown, said that during the first 10 days after the disaster, St. Francis parishioners fed 5,000 people per day. Henryville’s population is only 1,000.

See ST. FRANCIS, page 2

Spirit of Service winners are committed to helping those in need
By John Shaughnessy

William Spangler believes in the simple approaches that can change a person’s life and the lives of others.

Take the first step, knowing it can lead to an amazing journey.

Speak up, knowing your voice can help others pursue a worthy purpose.

So it seems fitting to share a simple, revealing story about Spangler—one of the six people who will be honored by the archdiocese with the 2012 Spirit of Service Award, a group that also included Tom Episl, Pat and Elaine Jerrell, and Fred and Mary Pitzer.

Spangler’s telling story took place at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis when a parish committee was trying to decide the needs of the parish during an archdiocesan capital campaign.

“All of the committee members had an idea for what the parish needed the most,” recalls Tom Hirschauer, a St. Luke parishioner. “Expand the school. Repair the roof. Add a community center. Then came the voice of Bill. He said that while all these things were needed, shouldn’t we think about the real work of the Church and how we could use this campaign to provide for those less fortunate.

“Bill’s suggestion was to raise at least $250,000 to start a St. Luke Endowment to be used to help the poor. Bill was heard, and the parish responded. We now have an endowment that is providing funds to help the poor.”

Spangler’s actions also back his words. He has served as the chairman of the board of Catholic Charities Indianapolis. He has volunteered on the board of Holy Family Shelter. And he has been a member of St. Luke’s Christian Social Action Mission for 20 years.

“I really feel blessed because service has strengthened my faith immeasurably,” he says. “We tend to think we need to be some tremendously gifted person to help others. But we all have the tools to do something for someone. Take that first step, and let God do the rest.”

It also helps to remember that “Jesus...”
The parish provided food to victims and volunteers with help from the Clark County Sheriff’s Department, Little Caesar’s, Papa John’s Pizza, Taco Bell and individual donors. Representatives of the Red Cross, Indiana United Methodist Security, National Guard and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) converged on Henryville immediately after the disaster, and the archdiocesan Catholic Charities staff organized training sessions for volunteer case managers. The case managers from parishes throughout the archdiocese will stay in contact with assigned families to help them through the process of accessing available resources, and rebuilding their homes and lives.

Trudy Stephens of Marengo volunteered to conduct intake interviews for Catholic Charities in a trailer at the St. Francis Church parking lot. “It was sad because I could help,” she said.

Her words could be the anthem of thousands of volunteers who converged across the area following the March 2 tornadoes when 175-mile-per-hour winds flattened much of the small towns of Henryville, Marysville and Ongood.

“The first 10 days, thousands of people took it upon themselves to clean up, to help clean up,” Father Schaftlein said. “The town is almost ‘immaculate’ now compared to what it looked like at first. It’s not clean, but it’s quickly it is being cleaned up. We’re in the rebuilding mode already. A thousand people have already signed up for FEMA aid in this area.”

Although cleanup is under way, the town is still a scene of devastation, the first impression as a driver leaves Interstate 65 at Highway 160 is a sea of bright blue tarps covering roofs and vehicles everywhere.

The first tornado to touch down in Henryville was an EF1 tornado with winds packed 175 mile-per-hour winds, destroyed much of the town. Where homes and businesses once stood, there are piles of debris. Trees are uprooted. Vehicles are packed with baseball-size hail damage, their windows blown out as if in a war zone. Insurance adjusters and FEMA representatives arrived in the town on March 3, and most had completed their assessments and left by March 17. The deadline for applying to FEMA is May 8. People seeking aid at St. Francis Xavier Parish are now being referred to Catholic Charities.

At the St. Francis parking lot, trucks are filled with essentials—from soap and socks to shovels and food. Shelves were delivered on March 23 so supplies could be organized in the church basement. Donated goods are being stored at St. Francis and a nearby lumber warehouse because people whose homes were demolished have nowhere to keep large quantities of goods at one time. “Traffic [of victims requesting aid] has dropped to about 10 percent of what it was right after the tornadoes. But the need continues. We want to be able to completely restock a family’s needs a house at a time,” Father Schaftlein said.

The parish will now begin sending out volunteer crews to help rebuild homes, a prospect that the pastor expects to go on for a year. He expects the number of out-of-town groups offering help to with reconstruction will also “ramp up” in April as weather becomes milder.

Nearly 100 Purdue University students were among the first volunteers to arrive to help with cleanup in Henryville and nearby Marysville. The students were from 20 counties, including China, India, Colombia and Brazil. While such volunteers are a great help, “only the local people can manage the reconstruction properly,” Father Schaftlein said on March 25. “We need local people with experience as carpenters, plumbers, landscapers and other professionals to be project supervisors. An outside group can help, but it doesn’t have a sense of ownership.”

He noted that the Knights of Columbus are conducting a nationwide drive to collect donations of tools and compressors.

“The biggest thing is getting people to go to help,” Father Schaftlein said. “Rural people have that [attitude of] self-sufficiency. There is a sense of pride. They think, ‘Somebody else is worse off than me.’ But if you go on and get help, maybe you’ll be in a better position to help someone else the next time. You pay it forward.”

Henryville’s public schools were extensively damaged by the tornadoes, and students will finish the school year at borrowed facilities. Elementary students resumed classes on March 19 at the vacant Graceland School in New Albany, and high school students will return to classes on April 2 at Mid-America Science Park in Scottsburg. Tractor-trailer loads of school supplies have been donated by Staples Midwest Distribution Center in Terre Haute, Vigo County Schools and other organizations.

West Community Schools officials expect Henryville Junior-Junior High School to be rebuilt by September. A total of 65 tornadoes on March 2 and March 3 were confirmed by the National Weather Service. The twisters were on the ground in 10 states, and left 41 people dead in five states, including 15 in Indiana.

Father Schaftlein said that weeks after the disaster, people are now starting to come to him for help with spiritual needs related to the shock of their losses.

After the March 25 Mass with Bishop Coyne, he told the congregation, “Part of the realization that’s taking place is that hurt is that things may not be the same as before. We may have to be in a different house, we’re moving toward normalcy, but it’s a new kind of normalcy. Like Jesus in the Gospel, we must die to some of our old ways and rise to new ways. And we will move forward and be a stronger community of deeper faith because of this.”

(Patricia Happl Cornell is a freelance writer and member of St. Joseph Parish in Corydon. Information on how to volunteer is available at www.archindy.org/tornadoes or at 317-361-3500 or 800-382-9836. Ext. 7560. Checks made payable to Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, with “tornado relief” on the memo line, may be mailed to Catholic Charities, Attention: Tornado Relief, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367)
Benedictine Father Boniface Hardin founded Martin University

By Mary Ann Garber

Benedictine Father Boniface Hardin, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad who was the founder of the university, died March 29 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. The people of the city of Indianapolis have lost a voice for justice, and the disadvantaged and for his vision in establishing Martin University," Archabbot Justin said. "These works shaped his life as a monk and a priest. The people of the inner city neighborhoods at that time in the 1960s. He fought against that because he wanted the neighborhood to be as strong as it possibly could be.

"His whole impetus in starting the Martin Center was to improve the community, improve society and improve individuals," Father Taylor said. "Martin Center started out as an effort to combat racism. He saw racism as something that divided the community and kept people down. Any ways that [prejudice] could be removed would help lift up people's lives."

St. Joseph of Carondelet Sister Jane Schilling helped Father Boniface complete his tasks at Martin Center, which evolved into a college then university. "Later in his life, Father Taylor said, "after he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, he became an advocate for prostate cancer awareness initiatives." Father Boniface was "a brilliant man," Father Taylor said. "Often told that he resembled the late abolitionist Frederick Douglass, Father Boniface created and performed an educational and educational outreach about the former slave. In 2002, he was diagnosed with cancer. Also that year, Father Boniface was honored as a Living Legend by the Indiana Historical Society and International Citizen of the Year by the International Center of Indianapolis. In 2004, he was recognized by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis with a Celebrating Catholic School Values Award. Father Boniface retired as president of Martin University in 2007 after three decades of leadership there and was named president emeritus. For many years he was a member of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus. Surviving are three brothers, William Harding of Louisville, Albert Harding of Louisvile and John Harding of Bowling Green, Ky., as well as several nieces and nephews. Memorial gifts may be sent to Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, 1000 N. Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577 or Martin University, 2171 N. Avondale Place, Indianapolis, IN 46218.

Archdiocese buys land, new Catholic high school a possibility for site

By John Shaughnessy

When the archdiocese recently purchased 87 acres of land in Johnson County, it did so with the possibility that the land may be used in the future for a new Catholic high school, according to Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator.

"It’s one of the possibilities," Bishop Coyne said. "It’s probably the strongest possibility. The reason we’re looking at the possibility of adding a high school down there is that there really isn’t a private high school from the southwest down to the state border, to Bloomington and elsewhere.

"It's a real growth area in terms of population, especially Catholic population. We want to give people options to send their children to Catholic high schools. I see it as a great sign of hope that we’re even talking about the possibility of building a Catholic high school or even doing something more in that area as part of our Catholic institutions." The land is located near SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood. While a new Catholic high school is a possibility for the site, there are no immediate plans to build a school or even a commitment that a new high school would be built there.

"We bought the land, but we may decide later that we want to sell it and buy land farther southwest," Bishop Coyne said. The land was purchased on March 15 for $286,500. From the land, the archdiocese plans to take an investment to protect against increases in property values in the general area, said Jeffrey Stumpf, chief financial officer for the archdiocese. "Any study of the needs in the area would also include an evaluation of the best place to locate services. If a location different from this location is preferred, the property could be exchanged or sold and the proceeds used to acquire a more suitable property." Bishop Coyne noted that any future discussion of plans for the land’s use would include input from people in the area and representatives of the existing Catholic high schools.

"We wouldn’t do anything without consultation, not only with the people of the area, but also with the existing Catholic high schools, especially Roncalli High School, which is on the south side of the city," Bishop Coyne said. "We wouldn’t want to do anything that would negatively affect its mission, which it does so well.

The land purchase reinforces how demographics in the archdiocese continue to change, he said. "In some places in the archdiocese, we’re closing parishes because the numbers aren’t there anymore," Bishop Coyne said. "In other places in the archdiocese, we’re expanding our parishes and expanding our footprint because that’s where the Catholics are."
**Opinion**

Now is the time to be ‘all in,’ stand firm for religious liberty

They came by the hundreds in a steady rain to the Indianapolis Statehouse in Indianapolis on March 23.

People of various faiths wanting to voice their desires to be heard as they stood up for religious freedom.

Need more proof that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mandate that forces employers, including religious ones, to provide contraception, sterilization and abortifacients in their health plans doesn’t sit well across America?

The scene was repeated in Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Philadelphia, San Diego and more than 130 cities for gatherings throughout the United States that day.

Young people, middle-aged folks, seniors—thousands of citizens of all ages and walks of life—were united in prayer and convictions.

Speakers throughout the country urged people of faith to stay strong in their defense of our first freedom, religious liberty, which was written into the laws of the U.S. Bishops recently noted “is not only protected by the laws and customs of our great nation, but rooted in the teachings of our great tradition.”

Father John Hollowell, chaplain of Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis and associate pastor of St. Malachi Parish in Brownsburg, had it right while speaking to about 700 people at the Indianapolis rally when he said that Americans are “endowed by their Creator, with certain inalienable rights.”

“It’s important to note that the Founding Fathers saw these rights and freedoms as things given to each person by their Creator,” Father Hollowell said.

“There’s a very simple statement that has begun to creep into our vocabulary in this country. And that is—some [people] are beginning to suggest that the rights that we have are given to us by the federal government or the state government or some other government.”

What the government seems to be providing us these days is more “mandates” of how we should live our lives according to our free exercise of religion, to our freedom of conscience, to our freedom of association and our right to worship.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, we have to ask the question, “Is the government an employer?”

In Henryville, God is at work

LIFE in rural America is simple for most people.

But as we learned again recently, all of that can change in an instant.

The tornadoes that ravaged Henryville and its surrounding area earlier this month offered a lesson on how quickly things out of our control can affect us.

The March 2 tornadoes that decimated a good portion of the area left homes and hearts tattered and torn, but out of the tragedy we see how God works.

Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator, said as much as he celebrated Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church in Henryville on March 25. He praised parishioners for actively demonstrating their faith during the aftermath of the tornadoes.

“In this community in the past few weeks,” he said, “we’ve seen people step up and show others what it’s like to be a good Christian and a good Catholic. Jesus tells us over and over that we have to die to ourselves and live for others. It’s not about me. It’s about our needs of others.”

Those needs continue. Information on how to volunteer is available at www.archindy.org/tornadoes or 317-236-1500 or 888-382-9836, ext. 1500. Checks made payable to Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, with “tornado relief” on the memo line may be mailed to Catholic Charities, Attention: Tornado Relief, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202.

May God bless you for your generosity.

—Mike Krokos

Be Our Guest/Dr. Richard Feldman

Mandate infringes on religious rights

The Obama administration’s mandate that religious-sponsored institutions provide contraceptive benefits in their employee insurance plans has created a confrontation between religious leaders and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The decision further defines the Affordable Care Act provision that insurance companies must provide certain preventative services at no cost.

HHS followed the Institute of Medicine’s recommendation that contraception, including sterilization and emergency contraception—considered by many to be an abortifacient and identified as such in HHS informational releases—should be included in those free preventative services.

The ruling exempted religious institutions, such as houses of worship and those that employ and serve members of their own faith. But the exemption excluded other religious entities, including religious-affiliated universities and hospitals.

Outraged religious institutions, primarily Catholic, passionately object to the requirement of providing these insurance benefits. For them, it would be a compromise of their religious beliefs and immoral and unconscionable to be involved in their provision.

The Catholic Church and many institutions consider this a direct assault on religious freedom and a violation of the First Amendment.

Conservatives agree and relish the opportunity to use this against the Obama administration in an election year, although outrageous comments by some may impede any potential benefit of influencing independent voters.

Meanwhile, liberals and women’s health advocates believe the Church should not be allowed to compel their beliefs on others, and hail the decision as a victory for wider access for health and preventative services.

What a mess.

An already deeply politically divided country has one more issue to fight about. State attorneys general are filing suit, and states and Congress are considering legislation in an attempt to block the implementation of the rule.

The Obama administration really stepped in it. I was surprised that President Barack Obama would alienate such a large segment of employers, especially more than 600 Catholic hospitals.

The administration actually thought it could soothe the pain by giving religious institutions an extra year before implementation to figure out how to violate their consciences.

And then it tried to calm the storm by requiring the insurance carrier to provide these services by separate contract with the employee, thus keeping the religious employer completely out of it. Sound like a solution? Probably not.

Most Catholic institutions continue to object. They believe they will still be at least indirectly involved and paying the insurance company for contraception even though the insurance company is supposed to cover this “separately” at their own cost.

The insurance company will recoup their costs one way or another from these objecting employers. And many large religious organizations are self-insured, and are thus guaranteed to pay for it.

The administration must re-evaluate its position. A totally employer-independent solution must be created. Otherwise, hundreds of religious employers will drop their health insurance plans and pay the significant, but much less expensive penalty, of not providing their employees insurance.

In the end, more working people will end up paying more for health insurance. Another reason why health insurance should not be employer sponsored.

Is the regulation lawful or constitutional? Relevant federal laws make the answer clear. A Supreme Court decision on the parameters of religious liberty would be important if the administration cannot fix this.

This column is concerned exclusively about the rightness of government to impose its position on those who would be forced to violate their religious beliefs, ethics and values by fiat.

Some will be surprised by my opinion, but I agree, as do a number of Jewish and Protestant groups, with the position expressed by the Catholic Church that feels so violated.

President Obama’s decision would have disappointed James Madison and Thomas Jefferson.


**Editorial**

Wendy Langer, left, and Maria Western, members of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Henryville, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese, hold signs showing their support for religious freedom during a March 23 rally on the grounds of the Indianapolis Statehouse in Indianapolis.

resources that have been posted there.

Let your congressional representatives in Washington know how you feel about this issue.

And, finally, pray.

“Prayer is the ultimate source of our strength—for without God, we can do nothing. But with God, all things are possible,” the bishops said in their recent statement titled “United for Religious Freedom.”

Pray that our efforts to stand up for religious liberty bear much fruit.

—Mike Krokos

**Percent saying the administration is toward religion**

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An increasing number of Catholics say the administration is unfriendly toward religion.

Based on telephone interviews conducted March 7-11 among a national sample of 1,502 adults. The sampling error for the entire sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points; plus or minus 6.5 percentage points for the Catholic group.

Source: Pew Research Center

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See related story, page 10.
Pope Benedict XVI uses a censer as he celebrates Mass at Guanajuato Bicentennial Park in Silao, Mexico, on March 23.

At mass, Pope recognizes Cubans’ struggles, calls for freedom

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Cuba (CNS)—Celebrating an outdoor Mass on his first day in Cuba, Pope Benedict XVI acknowledged the struggles of the country’s Catholics after half a century of communist rule, and described human freedom as a necessity for both salvation and social justice.

The pope spoke on March 26 in Antonio Maceo Revolution Square in Cuba’s second-largest city. He had arrived in the country a few hours earlier, after spending three days in Mexico.

The Vatican had said the square would hold 200,000 people and it was full. Several thousand also filled the streets leading to the square.

Cuban President Raul Castro, who welcomed the pope at the airport, sat at the front row for Mass.

Thousands of those at the Mass were wearing white T-shirts welcoming the pope as the “pilgrim of charity.” Many also held baseball caps to protect them from the hot sun.

Before the pope arrived in the poorest of 17 communist states, Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, Cuba’s patroness, was driven atop a white truck through the cheering crowd. The statue then was enthroned near the papal altar.

In his homily, Pope Benedict recognized the “effort, daring and self-sacrifice” required of Cuban Catholics “in the concrete circumstances of your country and at this moment in history.” Though now more tolerant of religious practice than in earlier decades, the communist state continues to prevent the construction of new churches and strictly limits Catholic access to state media.

In a possible allusion to reports that the regime had prevented political opponents from attending the Mass, Pope Benedict extended his customary mention of those “absent for reasons of age or health to include people who, for other motives, are not able to join us.”

Before the pope arrived, a man in the crowd shouted an anti-communist slogan and was immediately taken away.

The pope painted a dire picture of a society without faith.

“When God is set aside, the world becomes an inhuman place for man,” he said. “Apostate from God, we are forced to live our lives in fear and from ourselves and are hurled into the void.”

Obedience to God is what opens the doors to the world to the truth, to happiness,” the pope said. “Redemption is always this process of the lifting up of the human will to communion with the divine will.”

Taking his theme from the day’s liturgical feast of the Annunciation, when Mary learned that she would conceive and bear the Son of God, the pope emphasized that fulfillment of the divine plan involved accepting her “yes.”

“Our God, coming into the world, wished to depend on the free consent of one of his creatures,” Pope Benedict said. “It is touching to see how God not only respects human freedom. He almost seems to require it.”

The most specific advice in the pope’s homily regarded a familiar history of families in particular countries of Western Europe and North America—the sanctity of the “family founded on matrimony” as the “fundamental cell of society and an authentic domestic Church.”

“Deeply hurtful and wives are called to be, especially for your children, a real and visible sign of the love of Christ for the Church,” Pope Benedict said. “You are the witness of your fidelity, your unity, your capacity to welcome human life, especially in those cases of complexity and demand.”

According to the Center for Demographic Studies at the University of Havana, Cuba’s divorce rate has almost doubled in four decades, rising from 22 divorces per 100 marriages in 1970 to 64 in 2009.

In response to a campaign led by Marila Castro, daughter of President Raul Castro, the country’s wishes is to curbed. This later year to consider the legal recognition of marriage.

Despite his challenges to Cuban society, Pope Benedict concluded his homily by repeating an earlier call for patience with the Catholic Church’s policy of dialogue and cooperation with the communist regime, a process initiated by Blessed John Paul II during his 1998 visit to Cuba.

“We may accept with patience and faith whatever opposition may come,” the pope said. “Armed with peace, forgiveness and understanding—steer to build a renewed and open society, a people, one more worthy of humanity, and which better reflects the goodness of God.”

After the Mass, the pope paid homage to Our Lady of Charity by placing at the statue’s base a gold rose weighing more than a pound and standing almost a foot tall.

A 30-year-old woman in a baseball cap was identified herself as Xiomara Cazadores, a Catholic News Service she and about 100 other people traveled about 165 miles from Camaguey for the Mass, and she hoped to see the pope in Havana. Other pilgrims traveled by train or bus, she said.

“I come to see the pope because I am Catholic and he is the successor of Peter, who was the first pope,” she said, adding that she saw Blessed John Paul in Camaguey in 1995.

During a visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity El Cobre on March 27, Pope Benedict prayed that Mary’s maternal care would wrap her golden mantle around the people of Cuba.

For 400 years, Cubans—believers and nonbelievers alike—have brought their sorrows and joys before the little statue of Mary, and even Cuba’s communist rulers have claimed her as a cultural icon of the Cuban struggle for freedom and equality.

When Pope Benedict visited the Virgin’s shrine, he joined the thousands of pilgrims marking the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the statue, and he echoed the prayers of many of them for a future marked by less poverty and greater freedom.

“I have turned to the mother of God for the future of your country, advancing along the ways of renewal and hope, for the greater good of all Cubans,” he said.

People cheer as they wait for Pope Benedict XVI to arrive for Mass at Antonio Maceo Revolution Square in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, on March 26.
**March 30**

St. Paul Hermitage, 501 N. 177th St., Beech Grove.

**St. Meinrad**

Benedictine Brother Maurus Zoeller, presenter.

5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, April 1:

$m286 per couple. Information: 317-545-7681 or Father John Mark Ettensohn, $153 per person/

**March 31**

Knights of Columbus Hall, 5350 Allied Blvd., Indianapolis. St. Christopher Parish, day of reflection, “The Passion of Jesus and the Sorrow of the Blessed Mother,” Passionist Father John Schork, presenter, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., $10 per person includes lunch, reservations due March 24.

Most Holy Name of Jesus School, gymnasium, 21 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove.

Spring rummage sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 317-784-5434.

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.


**April 1**

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis.

“Outdoor Stations of the Cross,” 4 p.m. Information: 317-545-7661 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org.

**April 2**

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis.

“Come Away and Rest While I Send You,” quiet, non-guided days/evenings of reflection, $50 per day, $25 per night. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org.

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.

“A Thomas Merton Seminar-Bridges to Contemplative Living,” session two of four, Benedictine Sister Julie Sewell, presenter, 5:15 p.m., Mass, 6 p.m., simple supper, $89.95 includes book and supper. Information: 317-786-7581 or benediction@benedictinn.org.

**April 4**

A fundraising run and walk event in memory of Katie Lynch will begin at 10 a.m. on April 21 at Roncalli High School, 3300 Prague Road, in Indianapolis.

The Roncalli student died at age 17 in 2011 after a three-year battle with cancer. Proceeds from the 5K running and walking event will benefit the IU Riley Dance Fund for future Roncalli students.

The entry fee is $25 for adults, $15 for students and $100 for families. Participants who register by April 14 will receive a T-shirt.

Registration on the day of the event will begin at 8 a.m.

For more information or to register, log on to www.katelynchrunwalk.com, or call Neidhardt at 317-787-5672 or Patty Liebeg at 317-439-3313.

Checks for the registration fee can be mailed to Neidhardt at 5842 Perry Woods Way, Indianapolis, IN 46227. Make checks payable to “Katie’s Hope.”

**Inclusive Mass**

Indianapolis South Deanery Special Religious Development participants, from left, Vincent Perr and John McGee, and SPRED volunteer Jim Milharcic bring up the offertory gifts during a Mass for persons with disabilities on March 11 at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis.

Cancer research memorial fundraiser for Katie Lynch is set for April 21

**Events Calendar**

**March 30-40**

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis.

“Transformation—Change That Lets Your Life Bloom,” speaker TBD. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad.

“St. Benedict’s Way,” Benedictine Brother Mauro Zoller, presenter.

Information: 812-357-6595 or rmarsili@abbeypress.com.

Benedictine Sister Barbara Leonhard, presenter, Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg.

“RCIA Retreat—A Call to Discipleship,” Franciscan Sister Barbara Leonhard, presenter, 1:30-5 p.m., $45 per person includes supper. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgcfs.com.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis.

April 2-5

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis.

“Come Away and Rest While I Send You,” quiet, non-guided days/evenings of reflection, $50 per day, $25 per night. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org.

April 4

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.

“A Thomas Merton Seminar—Bridges to Contemplative Living,” session two of four, Benedictine Sister Julie Sewell, presenter, 5:15 p.m., Mass, 6 p.m., simple supper, $89.95 includes book and supper. Information: 317-786-7581 or benediction@benedictinn.org.

April 7

Oldenburg Academy, 1 Twister Circle, Oldenburg. Alumni Association, Easter egg hunt, 10 a.m. Information: 812-934-4440, ext. 240, or trmay@oldenburg academy.org.

“Golf Fore Faith” outing set for May 14

The archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education is sponsoring its third annual “Golf Fore Faith” outing on May 14 at Crooked Stick Golf Club, 1964 Burning Tree Lane, in Carmel, Ind. The outing includes cocktails, food, scholarships and foursome packages are available.

Bishop Christopher C. Coyne, apostolic administrator, will play in the tournament as part of a foursome as an additional fundraising opportunity.

Proceeds will include tickets to the 2012 BMW Championship to be held at Crooked Stick as well as tickets to Colts, Pacers, Indiana University, Purdue University and University of Notre Dame football games.

The outing begins with registration at 10:30 a.m. and will include short game and swing clinics, lunch and an awards reception.

For information about registration and sponsorship opportunities, send an e-mail to Margaret Hendricks at mhendricks@archindy.org or call her at 317-441-8956 or 317-236-1478.

Saint Meinrad to host theater group for two plays on April 20-21

The National Players, America’s longest-running classical touring company, will perform two plays on April 20 and April 21 sponsored by Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad.

Because the seminary’s St. Bede Theater is undergoing renovations, the performances will take place at the Forest Park High School auditorium, 425 E. 15th St., in Ferdinand, Ind.

On April 20, the company will perform William Shakespeare’s “The Taming of the Shrew.”

On April 21, they will perform John Steinbeck’s “Of Mice and Men.”

Both performances begin at 7 p.m. CDT.

Both performances are free. For more information, call 812-357-6501.
Ken Hackett, retired CRS leader, to receive 2012 Laetare Medal

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS)—Ken Hackett, who retired in December after 18 years as president of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), will receive the University of Notre Dame’s 2012 Laetare Medal.

Hackett joined CRS, the U.S. Catholic relief and development agency in a West African country,” he said recently.

“Ken Hackett has responded to a Gospel imperative with his entire career,” Father Jenkins said in a statement.

Father Michael Magiera, administrator of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, in a press release.

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Then Catholic Relief Services President Ken Hackett speaks with a CRS partner in Galle, Sri Lanka, in this 2005 file photo. Hackett will receive the University of Notre Dame’s prestigious Laetare Medal during commencement exercises on May 20.

Among the previous recipients of the Laetare Medal are Civil War Gen. William Rosecrans, President John F. Kennedy, Catholic Worker founder Dorothy Day, jazz composer Dave Brubeck. †

Popular Italian Street Festival in Indianapolis to resume in 2013

A committee of volunteers from Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish and the Italian Heritage Society of Indiana have dedicated themselves to resurrecting the annual Italian Street Festival in June 2013. This year’s festival was recently cancelled.

“We want to assure the public that this much-loved civic event has not seen its final days,” said Father Michael Magiera, administrator of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, in a press release.

“The festival had grown so large, it had become, in its way, a small business enterprise that consumed much of David’s time throughout the year,” Father Magiera said. “No one individual—or even a group of individuals—was immediately ready to take over such a large undertaking. By the time our volunteer committee stepped forward, we deemed it imprudent to do a ‘rush job’ and have a festival this year that wouldn’t live up to our standards or the expectations of those people who come here year after year.”

The “mini-festival” being planned for later this year, possibly under the title “Taste of Italy,” will serve as a transitional event. The exact date for the 2013 festival will soon be determined. †

Easter

Easter TV Mass for Shut-Ins

The Mass is produced from the Crypt Church at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

WTTW/WB4
Sunday, April 8
9:00 a.m.

We invite you to participate in the financial underwriting of this program. Please send contributions to Catholic Communications Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367.

Write or call for a free copy of the weekly missal for your use at home. Send a request to the above address or call (317) 236-1585 or 1-800-382-9636, ext. 1585.

Sponsored by...
Daughters of Charity, Sisters of St. Francis to receive special Spirit of Service awards

By John Shaughnessy

It will be a moment of humility and appreciation. On April 26, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will present the Catholic Charities Indianapolis Spirit of Service Community Awards to the winners who have dedicated their lives to helping others. It is one of the best compliments that one could be given, says Sister Catherine Weber, the archdiocesan vice president for mission and core values, and also one of the best descriptions of a life lived in service to others.

The Spirit of Service Community Awards are sponsored by the Daughters of Charity, the founding order of Catholic hospitals in Indianapolis, the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, and the Franciscan St. Francis Health. The awards are given to people who have worked throughout their lives to help the sick and the poor at the two Catholic hospitals in Indianapolis that their orders started.

On April 26, the archdiocese will present Spirit of Service Community Awards to the Daughters of Charity, the founding order of St. Vincent Health, and the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, the founding order of Franciscan St. Francis Health.

The awards will be made during the Spirit of Service Awards Dinner at the Indiana Roof Ballroom in Indianapolis, an event that benefits the work of the Catholic Charities Indianapolis.

As they talked...
Lori

Foundation of Archbishop-designate Lori's vocation laid in New Albany

By Sean Gallagher

Archbishop-designate William E. Lori of Baltimore has followed a winding path to become the leader of the oldest diocese in the United States.

That path began in New Albany, his boyhood home.

In the news reached the southern Indiana town that Pope Benedict XVI had appointed him to become the 16th shepherd of this 227-year-old archdiocese on March 20, his parents, friends and well-wishers there had been not necessarily surprised.

“I wasn’t surprised by it,” said Frank Lori, Archbishop-designate Lori’s 90-year-old father. “I feel very proud of him,” said Margaret Lori, his wife of 65 years, is a member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville.

Such might be the words of a proud father. But Frank and Margaret didn’t use that word to describe their feelings regarding their son’s accomplishments.

“I don’t use the word ‘proud,’” said Margaret. “We are grateful for his vocation. We’re grateful for the inspiration that he has had since the second grade.”

Archbishop-designate Lori was a student at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in New Albany, which proudly displays a picture of him as a bishop in one of its hallways.

“I’m very proud of him,” said Theresa Horton, the school’s principal. “It’s great to have him from our parish and our school.”

The following is an edited version of that interview.

Q. What’s it like for you to consider that, in many respects, you are following closely in the footsteps of Cardinal Ritter in providing leadership and service for the Church in our community?

A. “Certainly, Cardinal Ritter was a great and visionary leader who was an example of following in his leadership. His vision is something that one prayerfully aspires to. Not his honors [as a cardinal], but his leadership.”

Q. The tie that binds you and him even deeper than your shared hometown. He was an advocate for religious freedom nearly half a century ago. And now you’ve taken up that cause today.

A. “That is a wonderful connection, and one that is really humbling for me to consider.

“Cardinal Ritter was really a very strong advocate of religious liberty. And I believe that he brought to the Church in our country?”

Q. How did the broader Catholic community in the Church in central and southern Indiana and the Archdiocese of Baltimore have special meaning for you as you look forward to beginning your leadership there?

A. “They do. I knew Archbishop Borders because I served in Washington for so many years. I liked Archbishop Borders very, very much. So I immediately thought of that connection when I was appointed. And I made the connection as well between Bishop Bruté and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary. The thought that someone who has a deep Maryland connection and a deep Indiana connection, and whose cause for sainthood is now proceeding [is special to me]. I feel that I have an additional friend who can pray for me as I begin my work in Baltimore.”

Q. How widespread is the Catholiic community in the New Albany Deanery contribute to the foundation of your life of faith and your priestly and, ultimately, episcopal vocation?

A. “I’m very proud that the thought of a priestly vocation occurred to me. It was education by the Franciscan sisters of Oldenburg. I remember very well Sister Mary Viora. She taught me how to be a priest in the orphanage in Vincennes. She had him in the sixth grade, and taught me in the third grade. Well into the 1980s, my parents and I would visit with Sister Viora and Sister Mary William, who had been the principal and my eighth-grade teacher.

“They had a big influence on me.”

Q. How would you describe the effect of your parents and their example on the development of your own life of faith and your vocational discernment?

A. “One of the first things that I must have come to know was how seriously my mom and dad took their faith. The rosary was very much a part of our life as was Sunday Mass. When Mom and Dad could do it, they were daily communicants.

“The parish was very much at the heart of our life at home. There was no question that I would be sent to the Catholic elementary school at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. I was encouraged to serve [at Mass].

“When I first thought about having a priestly vocation, Mom and Dad very wisely didn’t push me and they didn’t pull me.

“I have a brother with special needs. And their love for him, which is not always easy, influenced me greatly. I’m sure it played a role in my own life of faith, but also in my vocation as a priest. I think about living out your vocation to love.

“In the baptizing rite, it says that parents are to be the first teachers in the ways of faith. Mom and Dad have been and remain the best of teachers.”

Q. As your own vocation has unfolded over many years now, how has your gratitude for their love and guidance grown over the years, especially as they have been faithful to their own vocation for 65 years?

A. “I’d say that it grows exponentially. It really does. The older I become, the more I appreciate it.”

In this file photo from 2008, Archbishop Daniel M. DiNardo tells a tale of Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter with Frank and Margaret Lori, members of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville. The Lori are the parents of Bishop William E. Lori. Bishop Lori grew up in New Albany. On March 20, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him to be the 16th archbishop of Baltimore.

“It’s not that much different, really, than with Cardinal Ritter,” Hock said. “You can go to school at Our Lady of Perpetual Help and be anything that you want to be. It’s a neat thing that they’ve come out of these local parishes.”

Although Archbishop-designate Lori had the foundation of his vocation in part laid in the education that he received at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the constant prayer of his parents also played an important role.

“And they continue to pray for him today. The only thing that we can offer is our prayers,” said Margaret Lori. “We give thanks to the Lord for his vocation, and all the wonderful people who have worked with him throughout Connecticut [and elsewhere]. We give all of them complete thanks for their support.”

E. Ritter with Frank and Margaret Lori, members of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville. The Lori are the parents of Bishop William E. Lori. Bishop Lori grew up in New Albany. On March 20, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him to be the 16th archbishop of Baltimore.

As a young man, he was very sure of himself,” Margaret Lori said. “We didn't do anything to get him to be a priest or to keep him from being a priest.”

He is proud that the parishes and Catholic schools of the New Albany Deenery are communities that inspire young people like Cardinal Ritter and Archbishop-designate Lori to use the talents that God gave them in service to the Church.
Sainthood causes advance for Boys Town founder, other Americans

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS)—Father Edward Flanagan was declared a “Servant of God” during a Mass on March 17 at Immaculate Conception Church at Boys Town as the Archdiocese of Omaha formally opened the cause for sainthood for the founder of the home for troubled youths.

Omaha Archbishop George J. Lucas presided at the liturgy, and Father Steven Boes, executive director of Boys Town, concelebrated and was the homilist. During his homily, Father Boes sat in front of the altar with several Boys Town residents gathered around him, and he described the early days of Father Flanagan’s ministry in downtown Omaha in the early 1900s.

Directing the sermon at the youths, he said Father Flanagan helped children in need, and the internationally known ministry that stands as his legacy continues to do the same work.

“Directing the sermon at the youths, he said Father Flanagan helped children in need, and the internationally known ministry that stands as his legacy continues to do the same work. One example of the many ways in which Father Flanagan’s legacy continues is the Boys Town Microbiology and Biotechnology Program at the University of Nebraska.”

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

‘Finding God in the Garden’
A Day with Fr. Michael O’Mara
April 13, 2012
9:00 am – 2:30 pm

Spring is a perfect time to come and reflect with Fr. Michael O’Mara, pastor of St. Mary Parish, as he shares his love of gardening and this earth that is entrusted to us. He will seek to share some of the ‘secrets’ of Scripture that he has found that relate to this passion of gardening and backyard poultry.

Join us for this day which includes continental breakfast, lunch and Liturgy and enjoy the beautiful and blooming 13 acres of Fatima Retreat House.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House
5553 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226
(317) 547-7681
www.archindy.org/fatima

Lenten penance services are scheduled at archdiocesan parishes

Parishes throughout the archdiocese have scheduled communal penance services for Lent. The following list of services were reported to The Criterion.

Batesville Deanery
April 4, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for St. John the Baptist, Dover; St. Martin, Yorkville; St. Paul, New Alcnas; and St. Joseph, St. Leon, at St. Joseph, St. Leon

Indianapolis South Deanery
April 2, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood

Indianapolis West Deanery
March 31, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Michael the Archangel

New Albany Deanery
April 1, 1 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Starlight

Seymour Deanery
April 2, 7 p.m. for St. Ann, Jennings County; St. Mary, North Vernon; and St. Joseph, Jennings County, at St. Joseph, Jennings County

Tell City Deanery
April 1, 2 p.m. at St. Paul, Tell City

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When you die, how will your family pay for...

• A cemetery plot?
• A casket?
• An engraved headstone?
• Funeral service?
• Wake or visitation?
• Legal fees?
• Probate costs?
• Physician or hospital bills?
• Outstanding debts?
• Including mortgage pay-off, car loans, and credit cards?

Coverage Catholic families can count on.

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matt.ernestes@kofc.org

The average cost of a funeral alone is $15,000.

Whole life insurance plans can cover final expenses, grow cash value and provide substantial death benefit when your family needs it most.

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The Passion of Christ is a ‘tale of divine suffering’

The Passion of Christ—rife with betrayal, humiliation, torture, mockery and death—is the ultimate tale of suffering. It appears in all four Gospels: Mt 26:27-57, Mk 14:14-23 and Jn 12:39—as the climax of Jesus’ earthly life, setting the stage for his Resurrection. It begins with the conspiracy against Jesus and ends with brutal crucifixion. It is not without bright moments—Jesus has breakfast with his disciples in the garden. “Troubled and distressed … he prayed” (Lk 23:10-11).

On the road to Golgotha, an exhausted Jesus is robbed while hanging there. “He was in such agony and prayed” (Lk 23:34). It is a dishonorable death, of indignity and disgrace. Not only does Jesus suffer on the Cross, he is robbed while hanging there and stabbed after he dies. Yet, Jesus’ emotional and spiritual suffering may be worse. In tragic juxtaposition, he suffers at the hands of nearly everyone he has taught, healed and touched. From his chosen ranks, there is Judas Iscariot’s betrayal and Peter’s denial. St. John’s Gospel portrays ignorant and weak disciples. Thomas, Philip and Jude misunderstand Jesus. The rest argue about washing, debate who is greatest and get distracted by swords. And still Jesus loved them, and suffered yet further—in foresight of what was to come.

“If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first … If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you … They will expel you from the synagogues. In fact, the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God” (Jn 15:18, 20, 16:23).

In Gethsemane, following his arrest, “they all left him and fled” (Mk 14:50). And still, there is no doubt that Jesus mourned the suicide of Judas Iscariot. The ungrateful masses fared no better—demanding things, robbing Jesus of his friends and enemies. The power hierarchy gladly humiliated Jesus. He is arrested with spears, clubs and torches like a common thief or wild animal. In bondage, he is lied about, slandered and mistreated, reputedly publicly.

“The chief priests and entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus … but they found none. Many gave false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree” (Mk 14:55-56).

“They brought charges against him, saying, ‘We found this man misleading our people; he opposes the payment of taxes to Caesar and maintains that he is the Messiah, a king.’ … He is inciting the people throughout all Judea’” (Lk 23:2-5).

In Herod’s court, when Herod and his soldiers mock and scribe by accusing him harshly. “Even Herod and his soldiers respected him and mocked him” (Lk 23:10-11).

Jesus is flooded with fear and agony in the garden. “Troubled and distressed … he prayed” (Mk 14:33-34). “Save me if you will” (Lk 23:33-34).

“Save me, if you will” (Lk 23:33-34).

Worse still, all this happened before the very eyes of his most beloved, the only people who didn’t betray, desert, deny or persecute him. “Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joses, and Salome … followed him when he was in Galilee and ministered to him. There were also many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem” (Mk 15:40-41).

“Jesus’ Passion includes suffering of all types, suffering from all sides—reveling, human suffering.” Would the worst suffering be to foresee and anticipate it all? And who but God could do so and still go through with it?

(William Thorn is a freelance journalist in Milwaukee. He is an author and former reporter for Catholic News Service and the Bangko-Link of Catholic Asian News.)

Pain can be life-giving because of Christ’s suffering and death

Pain-free suffering. What a contradiction in terms. When suffering enters within the boundaries of our lives, it often arrives bearing the greatest of disappointments or frustrations. It may offer sadness or physical pain. It may drain us. Sometimes suffering makes us angry. Given all of that, it is amazing that anything good ever takes root in environments of suffering. Yet, all sorts of people testify that this happens.

Perhaps they matured as human beings while caring for a sick child or spouse. Perhaps their pain over a job loss yielded a newfound appreciation for what they had. “Save me if you will” (Lk 23:33-34).

“The cross was not a sign of failure, but an expression of self-giving love,” the pope added.

British Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor similarly pointed out in a 2010 speech that in the paschal mystery “we touch the core of Christ’s life … his continuous self-gift, which never ceases, even in the silence of the cross.”

A Easter, then, the final word is “love.” Happily, in my view, that does not mean Easter somehow glosses over the facts about Christ’s suffering by suggesting it was of a pain-free variety. What Easter does announce is the possibility of hope, which is essential for suffering people.

(David Gibson served on Catholic News Service’s editorial staff for 37 years.)

Father Fred Hill, with fellow chaplain

Theresa Maynard, blesses patient Bill Murphy at St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center in Smithtown, N.Y.

Emmasa Walk/Debra Tomaselli
Lessons from the Savior during Lenten season and beyond

"Cruelly him! Cruelly him!"

Most of us don't have to endure the intensity of suffering that Jesus bore as he stood before the angry mob clamoring for his crucifixion.

But people can say and do things that make us feel like we've been stabbed and imprisoned. In those instances, we have much in common with our Savior.

Meek and humble, Jesus did not fight or resist his captors. In fact, Pilate was so disturbed by Jesus' submission that he pulled him aside and asked, "Don't you know that I have the power to release you or to crucify you?" (Jn 19:10).

Jesus responded, "You would have no power at all over me if it were not given to you from above." (Jn 19:11).

Can you believe those words?

Initially, I couldn't relate to his statement. I would have argued and fought. But when a situation arose that left me feeling betrayered and imprecated, I suddenly understood his response.

It happened years ago when I took a job with an insurance agency. Although the position was part time, the terms of employment included a paid vacation.

However, months later, when I requested a day off, I was told that I didn't get paid vacation time. I wrinkled my nose and scratched my head.

But Nancy, the office manager, insisted, "No," she said, "You don't get paid vacation time."

Perplexed, I shrugged and left for lunch. That night, however, I was at home until I found the original employment letter. There it was, written in black and white. One week of paid vacation after six months, and two weeks of paid vacation after one year of service.

I sighed with relief. I was right. Nancy must have forgotten.

I brought the document to the office the next morning, but when Nancy saw me coming with my paperwork in hand she waved me away.

"There was a mistake," she grumbled, pointing toward my letter. "You don't get paid vacation time."

I argued. "That's not fair..."

"That was a mistake," she barked. I didn't argue. I didn't fight. I would never sue, but I went home from work that day and cried. I couldn't afford to take a day without pay. I felt impoverished. Yet, I never questioned her nor did I accept it. I trusted God to deliver peace.

Months later, something changed Nancy's mind. One day when the computer network quit working, Nancy offered everyone the choice of a paid vacation day or unpaid time off. When I didn't reply, she called me into her office.

"You didn't respond?" she asked.

"You said I don't get paid vacation," I replied.

"Well, you do now," she said.

My eyes widened in disbelief. My shoulders relaxed like a great burden had been lifted from me. I sighed with relief.

"If it bothered you that much, why didn't you say anything?" Nancy asked.

"Honestly, I felt too tired to respond. Instead, I remained silent.

Suddenly, I recalled Jesus' response to Pilate on that fateful day. As I retreated from Nancy's office, his words echoed from deep within. Christ's reply was my unspoken prayer:

"You would have no power at all over me unless it were given to you from above." (Jn 19:10).

I believed that. And a deep and abiding peace remained.

(Debra Tomaselli lives in Alumahme Springs, Fla. Her column appears in several diocesan newspapers. Her e-mail address is dttomaselli@cfl.rr.com.)
My Journey to God

In Gethsemane

I saw a solitary tree.
Planted
On the barren hillside,
Rooted deeply in the earth,
Reaching and touching the sky
As if in a posture of prayer,
Aware
Of its purpose, position and place,
Its connection to self, others,

(Cathy Lamperski Dearing is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.)

Palm Sunday Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, April 1, 2012

- Isaiah 50:4-7
- Philippians 2:6-11
- Mark 14:1-15:47

This weekend, the Church celebrates Palm Sunday, to use the older term, or the Sunday of the Lord’s Entry into Jerusalem. As the rite of the procession of the palms begins, a selection from Chapter 11 of St. Mark’s Gospel is read.

These readings examine the readings in the Liturgy of the Word itself.

For the first of these readings, the Church presents a passage from the third part of the Book of Isaiah.

It is one of the four Songs of the Suffering Servant, the fourth poetic and highly moving compositions that form one of the great glories of Third Isaiah. Over the centuries, Christians have seen the image of Christ, the innocent Lamb of God, in these Suffering Servant Songs. Scholars debate the identity of the Suffering Servant. Was he the prophet himself? Was he a collective identity for the people of Israel? Did he represent the devout and faithful among the people? Was he someone else?

In any case, the message is clear. Despite outrages brought against him, the Suffering Servant remains true to God. The second reading from St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians is one of the most eloquent sections in the New Testament. Scholars think that Paul had its origins in an ancient Christian liturgy dating from the times of the Apostles. It is appealing and very instructive in its excited proclamation of faith in Jesus.

For this year’s Palm Sunday liturgy, the Church presents the Passion Narrative of St. Mark’s Gospel. While all the Gospels go into considerable detail in telling the story of the Lord’s trial and crucifixion, they differ from each other in certain insights and emphases.

Each Gospel is the work of a distinct Evangelist. The imprint of the respective Evangelist’s sense of the meaning of what happened on the first Good Friday is clear. Without doubt, the death of Jesus occurred as a result of a horrendous process of torture and humiliation. It loses sight of the Gospel’s message, however, to see the awfulness of these tragic events and nothing more.

The story ultimately is about the inevitability of God’s will. In love, God willed that even sinful humanity should have the option of replacing disobedience with obedience. God provided a way for this to happen through the life and sacrificial death of Jesus.

Another important lesson is in the reactions of others in the story—the Jewish officials with their intrigue, the impulsiveness and then the betrayal of Peter, the pragmatism of Pilate, and the uncompromising loyalty of Mary and the women with her. They all present images of human nature, and how human nature differs as it is presented in one life and then in another.

Reflection

This Palm Sunday’s profound reading from the Gospel of St. Mark calls us to the basic fact that—despite all the horror and regardless of all the chaos and plotting—Jesus was unswerving in fulfilling God’s holy will, and indeed God’s will prevails. What was God’s will? It was that all people are to be freed of the effects of sin and be able to be at peace with God and in God to possess eternal life.

The first reading, the figure of the Suffering Servant, gives additional focus upon the obedience of Jesus.

A favorite literary technique employed by St. Mark is irony. It is ironic that humanity’s only chance for freedom and eternal life is in Jesus, yet humans schemed and maneuvered to upset the mission of Jesus.

The most pious of the Jews, presumably, even allowed themselves to ally with the pagan Romans, their oppressors, to confound the Lord’s work of salvation.

God’s will for humanity endures today for each of us. Ironically, do we—with our selfishness and in our blindness—frustrate for ourselves the opportunity given to us in Christ to be with God?

Daily Readings

Monday, April 2

- Monday of Holy Week
- Isaiah 42:1-7
- Psalm 27:1-3, 13-14
- John 12:1-11

Tuesday, April 3

- Tuesday of Holy Week
- Isaiah 49:1-6
- Psalm 71:1-4a, 5-6ab, 15, 17
- John 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday, April 4

- Wednesday of Holy Week
- Isaiah 50:4-9a
- Psalm 69:8-10, 21bcd-22, 31, 33-34
- Matthew 26:14-25

Thursday, April 5

- Holy Thursday
- Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9
- Psalm 89:21-22, 25, 27
- Revelation 1:5-8
- Luke 4:16-21

Holy Thursday Evening

- Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper
- Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
- Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- John 13:1-15

Friday, April 6

- Friday of the Passion of the Lord
- Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
- Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25
- Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9
- John 18:1-19:42

Saturday, April 7

- Holy Saturday
- Holy Saturday Night—
- The Easter Vigil
- Genesis 1:2-22
- or Genesis 1:1, 26-31a
- Psalm 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24, 35c
- or Psalm 33:4-7, 13-12, 20-22
- Genesis 22:1-18
- or Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
- Psalm 16:5, 6-7
- Exodus 14:15-21
- (Response) Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18
- Isaiah 54:5-14
- Psalm 30:2, 4, 6-7, 11-12a, 13b
- Isaiah 55:1-11
- (Response) Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6
- Baruch 3:9-15, 32-44
- Psalm 19:8-11
- Ezra 9:6, 16-17, 18-28
- Psalm 42:3, 5, 43-4
- or, when baptism is celebrated, (Response) Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6
- or Psalm 51:12-15, 18-19
- Romans 6:3-11
- Psalm 118:1-2, 16ab-17, 22-23
- Mark 16:1-7

Sunday, April 8

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
- Acts 10:33a, 37-43
- Psalm 118:18-20, 26-27, 22-23
- Colossians 3:1-4
- or 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
- John 20:1-9
- or Mark 16:1-7
- or, at an afternoon or evening Mass,

Question Corner/By Kenneth Doyle

Special relationship between husband and wife may continue into eternity

Q After decades of a really good marriage, my spouse passed away and I have some questions. Is there marriage in heaven? Does the one who is in heaven have a special link with the one who is still alive? When both of them have died, will there be a particular relationship between them in the context of perfect happiness? (New York)

A In a recent column, when asked whether pets go to heaven, you said that if you need your pet to be happy in heaven then you can be sure they will be there.

If the physical body gets resurrected and people meet in heaven, will sex continue to be a part of their lives?

I know this might be a delicate question, but are like the angels in heaven?

We are reduced, then, to speculation.

But our speculation must begin with what we know, which is that a similar question was once asked of Jesus. In the Gospel of Matthew, some Sadducees, in an attempt to ridicule the belief of the Pharisees in an afterlife, posed to Christ the problem of seven brothers who had been married successively to the same woman—with the issue being whose wife she would be in heaven (Mt 22:23-30).

Jesus replied, “At the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like the angels in heaven” (Mt 22:30).

Resurrection means not just resuscitation, a return to the bodies that we currently experience. In heaven, our bodies will no longer be mortal or vulnerable, nor will we need to worry about the survival of the species or the continuation of a family name.

For the same time, it seems logical that a special relationship would continue into eternity between a man and woman married on earth.

There is, in the marriage relationship, a quality of transcendence that points beyond itself to a reality that is divine.

We are made in the image of the Trinitarian God, an eternal relationship of profound self-giving love, and I can well imagine that a couple will find their ultimate fulfillment in rejoining together before the presence of God, which is the eschaton hinted at in all earthly intercourse.

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Rest in peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in The Criterion. Offer priests and religious sisters and brothers are included, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.


COGHILL, Margaret Helen, 92, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, March 10. Mother of Jane Ahaus, Jill Moody, Janice Slaughter, and David Schoettle, Rita, Trese, Chris, Joe and Mary Jo Smith and Steven Coghill. Grandmother of three. Great-grandfather of one.

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LITZELMAN, Agnes M., 98, Most Holy Name of Jesus, Beech Grove, March 11. Aunt of several.


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LOWS, Gregory Brent, 63, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, March 19. Son of Robert and Mary Lowes.


MINTA, Peter J., 76, St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville, March 2. Brother of Anne Noller and Thomas Minta.

MORALES, Richard D., Sr., 54, St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, March 5. Husband of Inna Villa.


OBERG, Clyde R., 82, St. Mary, Greensburg, March 13. Husband of Barbara Riedeman.


SCHOETTMER, Albert W., 76, St. Roch, Indianapolis, March 20. Son of Robert and Mary Lowes.


Hundreds gather in rain for religious freedom rally

By Sean Gallagher

A steady rain didn’t deter about 700 people from across central Indiana who came together to “stand up for religious freedom” on the grounds of the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis on March 23.

Right to Life of Indianapolis organized the city’s “Stand Up for Religious Freedom” rally, which was repeated in about 200 other cities across the country on the same day.

A coalition of pro-life organizations sponsored the rallies in response to the health care reform act that ultimately brought forth the constitutionality of the health care mandate, a majority of the speakers at the Indiana rally were not Catholic.


“We need to pray. If you can fast, fast and pray,” Masih said. “And cry out to the Lord that he would have mercy upon our nation, and that he would give wisdom and understanding to those judges that they may make the right decision.”
VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI called on young people to not pursue power, money and prestige, but to find true joy in Christ and live a life of generous service to others.

In his message for World Youth Day 2012, he told the world’s young Catholics to start making the world a better, more just and humane place right now even while they continue to pursue their studies, talents and interests. Do not be content in giving the minimum, he said.

“The world needs men and women who are competent and generous, willing to be at the service of the common good,” the pope said.

The Vatican and most dioceses around the world will mark World Youth Day to Palm Sunday, April 1. International celebrations of World Youth Day are normally held every two to three years.

In the message, released by the Vatican in English, Spanish, Italian and French on March 27, the pope chose the theme from St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians: “Rejoice in the Lord always” (Phil 4:4).

“Joy is at the heart of the Christian experience,” the pope said. In a world marked by so much sorrow and anxiety, “joy is an important witness to the beauty and reliability of the Christian faith.”

He told young people to recognize that the many temptations and false promises of modern-day culture yeer people away from true and lasting happiness.

People are often pressured “to seek immediate goals, achievements and pleasures” as the dominant culture “fosters fickleness more than perseverance, hard work and fidelity to commitments,” he said.

“May your entire life be guided by a spirit of service, and not by the pursuit of power, material success and money,” he said.

God loves his children so much that he sent his only Son to be with them, and he gave people specific directions—the Ten Commandments—for following the right path in life, Pope Benedict said.

While the commandments may seem like just “a list of prohibitions and an obstacle to our freedom,” in light of Christ’s message, they are “a set of essential and valuable rules leading to a happy life,” he said.

“Christianity is sometimes depicted as a way of life that stifles our freedom, and goes against our desires for happiness and joy,” he said.

Rather, faith in Christ, who is truly present for everyone, brings real joy, he said, because Christians recognize that they are not alone and that Christ is always near, especially during times of great difficulty.

“Christian joy is not a flight from reality, but a supernatural power that helps us to deal with the challenges of daily life,” the pope said.

The pope told young people, “Learn to see how God is working in your lives and discover him hidden within the events of daily life,” to know that God will never abandon anyone, and know that God in his mercy always offers the possibility of redemption.

“If the way Christians live at times appears dull and boring, you should be the first to show the joyful and happy side of faith,” he said, as he urged young people to share the good news of Christ with everyone.

What was in the news on March 30, 1962? Cardinal Ritter is praised for his fight against racism, and a rabbi gives thanks for Pope John XXIII

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.

Here are some of the items found in the March 30, 1962, issue of The Criterion:

- Cardinal Tien reports torture used against Chinese clergy
- ‘The parish with a heart’ helps a stricken member
- A Lutheranism’s appeal: Protestant devotion to Mary is advocated
- Catholic right to resist State’s injustice cited
- Rabbi lauds unity moves of Pope John

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, director of the American Jewish Committee’s Interreligious Affairs Department, also said in an interview, “Equally heartening have been the demonstrations of fraternal outreach practiced by the World Council of Churches, which represents some 300 million adherents of Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox Churches throughout the world.”

- New Orleans plans to integrate schools
- Indianapolis parish inaugurates special Bible devotions during Lent
- A citadel of liberal arts: Marian passes a milestone
- Bar Brazilian priests from political office
- Soviets vary tactics to wipe out religion
- Annual clergy institute on alcoholism scheduled
- Drop first grade in crowded schools
- Immaculate Heart wins Criterion Quiz Contest
- Family Clinic: Are today’s children more...