Priests must live holy lives to be effective ministers, Vatican says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Ten years after a historic papal response to clerical sex abuse, the Vatican urged priests to strive for greater holiness in their own lives so that they might effectively minister to others and reverse the tide of atheism.

In its annual letter to priests for 2012, the Vatican’s Congregation for Clergy focused on Blessed John Paul II’s 2002 Holy Thursday letter to clergy, in which the late pope responded to the growing revelations and scandal of sexual abuse of minors by priests.

The congregation’s letter also gave priests a guideline for examining their consciences concerning everything from how they celebrate Mass to how well they are living a sanctified life without working on the holiness of our brothers unless we have first worked on and continue to work on our own holiness,” it said.

Urging others to strive for the “ideal of perfection,” it said, “does not mean that we are not aware of our personal shortcomings, or of our personal shortcomings, or of

By John Shaughnessy

It was a short, touching story of faith, love and service in the middle of the Super Bowl that focused on community service, including such efforts as improving 300 homes on the east side of Indianapolis and delivering 7,000 Super Bowl baskets to sick children at hospitals across the country.

The woman’s story involved a service project that Melangton was told was “crazy” — a project in which 13,000 scarves were made after she asked people from around the world to knit one for the Super Bowl volunteers who would greet visitors to Indianapolis.

“We asked people to turn in a note with the scarves,” Melangton said during her speech at the archdiocese’s Spirit of Service Awards dinner in Indianapolis on April 26.

“The note from one woman read, “This note was made during a tough time in my life. My husband was in the hospital for two months so while sitting at his bedside and praying for a recovery, I made this scarf. There were a lot of tears shed while knitting it. I have to say that he is at home now, and he’s getting stronger every day. Have fun while you are wearing my scarf outside in Indiana during the Super Bowl,” and know it was

Supreme Court considers state and federal lines of authority in Arizona immigration law dispute

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Arizona’s attempt to manage its population of undocumented immigrants by stepping into enforcement of federal laws led the Supreme Court on April 25 to try to parse where the lines lie between state and federal authority.

During oral arguments in the case Arizona v. United States, questions from the justices focused largely on sections of the 2010 law that require law enforcement officers to investigate the immigration status of anyone they stop for any reason if the officer suspects the person might not be in the country legally.

Central to the case being made in oral arguments by Arizona’s attorney, former U.S. Solicitor General Paul Clement, was his repeated insistence that the state is not seeking to do anything more than enforce federal laws that the U.S. government isn’t managing.

He argued that the law provides only for possible immigration law violators to be held to give the federal government the chance to step in and prosecute them.

“There is no interference with enforcement priorities by simply giving the federal government information on which to bring their enforcement priorities to bear,” Clement said.

Clement also suggested that the provision making it a state crime to

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See SPIRIT, page 8
Meet our future deacons

Richard Cooper

Age: 53

Wife: Wendy

Homes Parish: St. Mary Parish in Lanesville

Occupation: Executive Director of Harrison County Community Services

Who are the important role models in your life of faith?

One who would be Myra Janco Daniels, who has clearly demonstrated how leadership, intelligence and determination—noteworthy traits that our graduates share—can impact your life and shape the future of our world.

What are your favorite Scripture verses, saints, prayers and devotions?

My favorite Scripture verse is John 2:5: “Do whatever he tells you.” These words of Mary have guided me on my journey to the diaconate. My favorite prayer is the rosary. The Blessed Mother is my favorite saint because of the model of her obedience. Next is St. Joseph. I see him as a model for how we are to reach out and accept others, and to care for those we choose as our families.

Deacons often minister to others in the workplace. How have you experienced that already, and what do you anticipate doing in the future?

The organization that I work for provides services to people in need. One of our primary works is a food pantry. We provide food and other crisis assistance to the people of our county who are in need. We work to treat each person with dignity and respect, to accept others as Christ himself.

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a deacon?

For most of my life, I have wanted to help others. I worked for many years in social services, and was devoted to my parents, especially my mom, showed me the way to God. The eight years that I spent at St. Nicholas School in Ripley County gave me guidance from the sisters who taught me and a love of their faith. The priests here at St. Louis Parish have shown me Christ in many ways. The saints have inspired me to trust in God.

St. Mary-of-the-Woods College

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in St. Mary-of-the- Woods will celebrate its 171st commencement on May 5 when the 107 graduates of its Class of 2012 will be honored.

Graduates will receive their degrees during the ceremony that begins at 2 p.m. in the Cecilian Auditorium of the college’s Conservatory of Music.

The commencement speaker will be Myra Janco Daniels, an advertising executive, entrepreneur and philanthropist with a passion for the arts. The college’s president, Dottie King, describes Daniels as “a visionary businesswoman” who “has clearly demonstrated how leadership, intelligence and determination—noteworthy traits that our graduates share—are critical to shape the future of our world.”

Daniels will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology

Seventy-four students are expected to receive master’s degrees when Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad holds two commencement ceremonies at the Archabbey Church.

The first ceremony—at 7 p.m. central time on May 11—will honor students who have earned the Master of Divinity degree or the Master of Catholic Philosophical Studies degree.

The second ceremony—at 9:30 a.m. central time on May 12—will honor students who have earned the Master of Theological Studies degree or the Master of Arts in Theology degree.

Both ceremonies will begin with Mass followed by the conferral of degrees.

Bishop Paul D. Etienne of the Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyo., will be the presider and homilist at Mass, and the commencement speaker at both ceremonies. He previously served as a priest in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and as a spiritual director at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Meet our future deacons

Ronald Freyer

Age: 53

Wife: Mary Beth

Homes Parish: St. Louis Parish in Batesville

Occupation: Plant Manager for Custom Conveyor Inc.

Who are the important role models in your life of faith?

My wife has been a wonderful friend and helper through this process. Her love and guidance has led me thus far. My parents, especially my mom, showed me the way to God. The eight years that I spent at St. Nicholas School in Ripley County gave me guidance from the sisters who taught me and a love of their faith. The priests here at St. Louis Parish have shown me Christ in many ways. The saints have inspired me to trust in God.

What are your favorite Scripture verses, saints, prayers and devotions?

My favorite Scripture verses are Isaiah 40:31, Philippians 4:13 and John 14:6. My favorite saints are St. Francis of Assisi, St. Stephen and St. Joseph. My favorite prayers are the Prayer of St. Francis and the Serenity Prayer. The devotion that I enjoy the most is when we pray after our meal in the evening. We offer a few prayers and some petitions to help each of us stay focused on what is important.

Deacons often minister to others in the workplace. How have you experienced that already, and what do you anticipate doing in the future?

Most of my life is very good, and being ordained is one of the best things that already, and what do you anticipate doing in the future? This is something that keeps evolving. I try to listen to everyone when they speak to me. I tell them that my door is open and if they need to talk that I am here. I treat everyone with respect, and try to do the right thing for them and for my company.

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a deacon?

My call is a deep feeling that I feel strongly in my heart. I know I am doing the right thing. I am not sure why God is calling me to be a deacon, but time will tell. I hope that I can bring Jesus to all I meet.

How will being ordained a deacon have an impact on your life and family?

My whole life has been changing since I started this process nearly nine years ago. God has been calling me, and I have been listening to him. I hope that my family will see that God works in all our lives, and we all need to listen. My life is very good, and being ordained is the beginning of the rest of my life in Christ.

See more stories published in the weeks leading up to that important day. A series of profiles of these men that will be published in the weeks leading up to that important day.
Vanderbilt University Catholic student organization readies for unofficial status

Jedlovec said, because each article is open to review, discussion and correction. Much of the information that people access through the news media tends to be inflammatory. That doesn’t contribute to peace at all,” he said. His goal is to have Wikipedia be “calmer, simpler, more neutral than that.”

Wikipedia pursues its goal of promoting “a more thoughtful world,” even as the site was under fire for how it referred to those who oppose and support legalized abortion.

PRIESTS

The Hustler

The Criterion Friday, May 4, 2012

Page 3

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS)—As the fight over Vanderbilt University’s nondiscrimination policy continues to make national news, members of Vanderbilt Catholic are hoping their “15 minutes of fame” are almost over.

“We’re very much moving on. We’re excited about moving forward,” according to P.J. Jedlovec, president of Vanderbilt Catholic, the university’s Catholic campus ministry.

For most of the school year, Vanderbilt Catholic and other campus religious organizations have been in the news, battling with the school’s newly enforced nondiscrimination policy, which requires leadership positions in all religious organizations to be open to everyone, regardless of their beliefs.

In March, the student board of Vanderbilt Catholic declared its “shadow of suspicion” over the many good priests in the Church, after a letter from a decade ago.

PRIESTS (continued from page 2)

The faults committed by some have brought shame upon the priesthood throughout the world.”

While not specifically mentioning clerical sex abuse, the letter said that given the worsening situation reported in the news, priests must take “with great strength and urgency.” Blessed John Paul’s Holy Thursday letter from a decade ago.

It said the letter condemned the perpetrators of such scandals as betraying the priesthood, and cast “a shadow of suspicion” over the many good priests in the world.

Blessed John Paul called on priests “to commit themselves more fully to the search for holiness,” it said. The letter from the Congregation for Clergy said one of the principal offenders today is people who do not share these things may be a very worthwhile and benevolent organization, but it would not be Catholic in the fullest sense of the word.”

Jedlovec doesn’t think the nondiscrimination policy is intended to undermine religious groups on campus, but “the groups most ardently about their living their faith are the Christian groups” so they are the ones who are on the front lines, fighting back the hardest to preserve their identities.

Eleven evangelical Protestant groups, united in a coalition called Vanderbilt Solidarity, have so far refused to comply with the policy and stay on campus. Stacey Croft, Reformed University Fellowship chaplain, told World Christian magazine that the policy is not stopping them from carrying out their mission. “Until I feel like my integrity, my conscience and the Gospel are compromised, I don’t think we need to stop on campus,” Croft said.

Since the nondiscrimination policy debate has kicked into high gear, the Christian student groups at Vanderbilt have banded together like never before. Whether they choose to comply with the policy or not, each is pressing to think about their mission and place on campus, and to dialogue with each other in new ways.

Because of the flap over the policy, “there’s a unity among Christian groups that hasn’t been there before to the extent it is now,” Jedlovec said. “I’ve worked with students in other Christian groups in ways I wouldn’t have otherwise.”

“I’m very grateful for that,” he added. “God can bring great things out of even a bad situation.”

The online site conducted a “community consultation” of users from March 23 to April 23, asking them to discuss the terms, their implications and list why they prefer the terms they thought were most appropriate. Wikipedia administrators were scheduled to review the discussion and votes before issuing a final ruling on May 1 that would be binding for three years. As this

Wikipedia head joins Vatican meeting, talks about abortion controversy

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The co-founder of Wikipedia told a Vatican audience that his online encyclopedia “has a significant role to play” in peacemaking because it encourages participation, has a broad reach, makes information accessible and is available in about 280 languages.

The English, German, French and Dutch pages each have more than 500,000 articles, and the French and Dutch pages each have more than 1,000,000 articles.

The letter from the Congregation for Clergy said one of the principal offenders today is people who do not share the Catholic faith on campus, “The young people cheer.”

In an interview after his speech, Wales also spoke about Wikipedia’s arbitration process to determine the correct Wikipedia use of the terms “pro-choice,” “pro-life” and “abortion rights” and “anti-abortion” to describe individuals and movements.

Wikipedia administrators—usually longtime contributors who volunteer their time and are elected by Wikipedia users—and to an arbitration committee.

The on-line site conducted a “community consultation” of users from March 23 to April 23, asking them to discuss the terms, their implications and list why they prefer the terms they thought were most appropriate. Wikipedia administrators were scheduled to review the discussion and votes before issuing a final ruling on May 1 that would be binding for three years. As this
Greg A. Otolski,
outside for a few minutes away from
on your way to work or heading home.
need to make time to listen, too.
prayer affect our listening skills
for your family and friends or praying
can become a problem, including
ends up on the backburner—except on
prayer regimen or do you need that
it to heart?

As Pope Benedict XVI said at the
World Day of Prayer for Vocations,
which was released last year, gay and
lesbian youths are much more likely than their
heterosexual peers to have thought
about suicide or to have attempted suicide.
Why do they commit suicide?

Some are bullied at school. Some feel
rejected by their peers, parents and families. Sometimes they feel rejected by their
religion and pastors. Some feel they are
unacceptable to the God who made them.
That is a great wrong and a great tragedy.

What can people in pastoral ministry say
to them?
First, I think we should say that we love them.
Second, we can offer them prayer.
Twenty years ago, I was asked to
represent Catholic University at the reading
of names of people who had died of AIDS at
the presentation of the NAMES Project
AIDS Memorial Quilt in Washington, D.C.
Each of us was given 20 or so names to read.
We were told by the organizers not to add anything or to give any speeches.
When I got to the microphone, I read my
list of names just as I was told.
At the end of the list, something moved me to want to pray for them. It did not
seem adequate to merely say their name. So I simply said our traditional prayer for
the dead, “Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon
them in their souls, and all the saints of the faithful departed, rest in peace.”

As I came down from the podium on the
National Mall, an elderly couple approached me. They were crying. They said I had
read their son’s name. They told me their pastor had refused their son a burial when he
had died of AIDS because he was publicly gay.
They said that I was the first priest who ever
prayed for their son in public, and they were grateful. I embraced them.

How could any pastor of souls refuse comfort for one of his own, a prayer for the
dead? They are part of the spiritual works of mercy. That is our reason for being.
If we are in the business of showing love to God’s children, we don’t have
a reason to be in business. I thought of
that elderly couple as I sat across the
from the young man who had tears flowing down his
face.

No one should feel excluded from God’s
love. No one should ever be driven to
despair.

(Father Peter Daly writes for Catholic News Service.)
Priest uses business experience to aid Church in Holy Land

By Sean Gallagher

Franciscan Father Peter Vasko is a traveler. Over the past 20 years, this Brooklyn, N.Y.-born priest has crisscrossed the Holy Land in leading approximately 400 pilgrimage groups to the places where Christ lived, died and rose again.

Nearly 15 years, Father Peter, whose ministry is based in Israel, has spent three months each year in the U.S., traveling across the country seeking support for the Church in the Holy Land as president of the Franciscan Americanization for the Holy Land (FFHL).

“I get tired,” said Father Peter about living so often out of a suitcase. “But it’s such a high spiritual plane. Travel is a needed part of letting people know what’s going on in the Holy Land.”

Father Peter spoke during a recent trip to Indianapolis about Father Peter’s early spiritual journey that led him to the Franciscans in the Holy Land, and the hope he has for the Church there.

He reflected on how his experience as a fast-rising young adult in the travel industry in the 1970s unexpectedly prepared him for the ministry that has been the focus of his life for the past two decades.

After graduating from the Catholic University of America in Washington, Father Peter worked in marketing and public relations for a company that operated 28 Holiday Inn hotels across the southeastern U.S. He then worked for an Atlanta company that made travel arrangements for the many companies that did business there.

He was materialistically successful—owning two homes, two cars and taking frequent vacations.

“But there was a void in my life,” Father Peter said. “One day, I was in one of my houses and I just said, ‘I have all these things and I feel so empty. What am I here for?’”

He then started a spiritual quest to answer that question. After a series of profound experiences in prayer, he felt convinced that God was not only calling him to be a Franciscan, but to join the order’s Custody of the Holy Land, a mission he had known about since the 14th century.

Father Peter was familiar with these friars because of the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land that they maintain in Washington, D.C., which is adjacent to Catholic University.

He became a novice in the order in 1980 and soon thereafter took his first pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

“When I went in [Christ’s] tomb—Oh, my God,” he said. “It was such an emotional thing for me, realizing that this was where he resurrected and how unworthy I was to be there.”

Father Peter was eventually ordained as a friar in 1987.

“When I walked through Jerusalem, I think that in one moment I can’t thank God enough for giving me the vocation to become a Franciscan.”

At that point, Father Peter said he had left behind for good his work in travel and public relations.

For the first five years after his ordination, he was involved in parish ministry in the Holy Land and loved it.

Then his superiors saw that his previous experience could be tapped to help the Church in the Holy Land that continues to struggle to survive.

“The Church needs help now,” Father Peter told the Catholic Register. “I think it’s a mission for us.”

They told him, “We see that you have this marketing and PR background.” Father Peter said, “I kind of said, ‘Leave me alone!’ But it’s obedience, and the rest is history.”

A few years later, the FFHL was founded and Father Peter began making regular trips to the U.S., often visiting with benefactors and appearing on EWTN, Discovery Channel, BBC, NBC and CBS.

“I go around the United States. I tell the story and the needs [of the Church in the Holy Land],” he said. “And I don’t care if they give or don’t give. But guess what? The money is coming in only because God is doing that.”

With the financial support gained through donors to the FFHL, Franciscans in the Holy Land operate an array of programs that help young Christians there receive college or vocational educations, and find jobs and housing so they can stay there and keep alive the Church in the place where it was born.

Father Peter sees and his brother Franciscans as rebuilding the Church there, a task similar to that of St. Francis of Assisi, who physically rebuilt a chapel after a spiritual inspiration from Christ.

He only later understood that Christ wanted him to lead a spiritual rebuilding of the Church in the 13th century.

“It’s a Franciscan task to rebuild the Church,” he said. “That’s what I’m doing. I’m a poor instrument in many ways, but he uses poor instruments.

“This is God’s mission. It isn’t my mission.”

He is inspired in this ministry by the example of the Christians in the Holy Land whose families have lived there for centuries.

“They’re the guardians of Christianity, and they’re still there,” Father Peter said. “I’ve been so impressed with that. I want to alleviate some of their suffering.

“We’re such a minority there. Other people [there] aren’t going to help us.”

But he has found that Catholics across the U.S. are generously supporting their brothers and sisters in faith in the Holy Land.

Many of them are inspired to give by taking pilgrimages there led by Father Peter.

“I know that I have ‘responsibility,’” he said. “I want to help them strengthen their spirituality. The Lord wants to do one of three things for them [during a pilgrimage]. He either wants to touch their heart, heal them of something or guide them in something.

“I feel a great responsibility as a Franciscan guide to facilitate this spiritual initiation within their hearts.”

Although being constantly on the go in the Holy Land can be tiring, Father Peter smiles and laughs when reflecting on his busy priestly life and ministry.

He likened it to his days in the business world, and agreed that he feels like he is working in a corporate headquarters with a corner office.

“I’m working for a great boss. His name is God,” Father Peter said. “He’s the best boss I’ve ever had in my life.”

(For more information on the Franciscan Americanization for the Holy Land, log on to www.ffhl.org)†
May 5
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. Catholic Homeschool Conference, “Que Vida–Where Are You Going?” 9 a.m., suggested donation $20 per couple. Information: 317-786-3859 or lhencey@yahoo.com.

May 6
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5355 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Discalced Carmelites Secular Order meeting, noon. Information: mcbrader.tom@gmail.com.

May 7
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5355 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Cana Area and Rest Assilt–Silent Non-Guided Day of Reflection,” $30 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org.

May 8
St. Paul Hemitage, 501 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. Ave Maria Guild meeting, 12:30 p.m. Information: 317-855-5009 or beegroveavemarya@gmail.com.

May 8–10
St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish, 236/30 Salt Fork Road, Lawrenceburg. Concert, “Let it Be–Mary’s Story,” Tajei (Tatiana Camerson), performer, 7 p.m., free will offering. Information: 812-656-8708.

May 10
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5355 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Catholic Vigil for Mary,” brown-bag lunch and Marian prayers, bring brown bag lunch, walk the trails, pray at the shrine, pray the rosary, noon, registration, 10:45-11:15 a.m., no charge. Information: 317-545-7681.

May 10–12
St. Roch Parish, 3355 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Multicultural Ministry Commission will sponsor a Pentecost Concert featuring religious music from many countries at 7 p.m. on May 10 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Information: 317-441-8956 or musicministery@archindy.org.

May 11
St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Multicultural Ministry and the Multicultural Ministry Commission will sponsor a Pentecost Concert featuring religious music from many countries at 7 p.m. on May 10 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Information: 317-441-8956 or musicministery@archindy.org.

May 12
St. Roch Parish, 3355 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Multicultural Ministry Commission will sponsor a Pentecost Concert featuring religious music from many countries at 7 p.m. on May 10 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Information: 317-441-8956 or musicministery@archindy.org.

May 13
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. “Care of Creation Pilgrimage–Praying for the Planet, Home Earth.” Franciscan Sister Janet Born, presenter, 6:30-8 p.m., $15 per person. Information: 317-933-6487 or center@oldenburgherfranciscancenter.org.

May 14
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5355 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Fighting the Good Fight,” bishop of Diocese of Evansville, $50 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org.

May 15

May 15–16
Benedict Inst Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. “Woman Talk: Happiness–Be Happy in Spite of Yourself,” session four of five, Betsy Robbins, presenter, 6:30-9:30 p.m., $25 per person includes dinner. Information: 317-788-7581 or benedictinst@benedictinst.org.

May 15–16
St. Paul, 3970 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Multicultural Ministry Commission will sponsor a Pentecost Concert featuring religious music from many countries at 7 p.m. on May 10 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Information: 317-441-8956 or musicministery@archindy.org.

May 18
Northside Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. Catholic Business Exchange, Mass, breakfast and program, “Fighting the Good Fight.” Joyce Johnson, executive director of Rock Steady Boxing, 6:30-8:30 a.m., $14 members, 20 non-members. Information: 317-945-2000 or Leah@nadyouth.org.

May 30
St. Joan of Arc Parish, Doyle Hall, 4217 Central Ave., Indianapolis. Ministry through the Arts Project Inc., feast day of St. Joan of Arc, 6 p.m., 100th anniversary of her birth. The Passion of Joan of Arc, 6 p.m. Information: 317-283-5508.

May 31
St. Mary’s Academy, 812-357-6501.


May 6
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5355 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House program, “Exorcism-It’s Relevance for Today.” Father Vincent Lampert, presenter, 7 p.m., $15 per person if registered by May 13, $20 per person at the door. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima.

May 14

May 14

May 19
St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. “Our Lord’s Help of God’s Precious Infants, pro-life Mass. Father Eric Johnson, celebrant, 8:30 a.m., followed by rosary outside abortion clinic and Benediction at church. Information: Archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry, 317-236-1509 or 800-382-8836, ext. 1569.

May 20
St. Paul, 3970 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Multicultural Ministry Commission will sponsor a Pentecost Concert featuring religious music from many countries at 7 p.m. on May 10 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Information: 317-441-8956 or musicministery@archindy.org.

50th musical
Students at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville perform a scene on April 2 from Willie Wonka for the school’s 50th spring musical production. Acting in the scene are, from left, seniors April Stiller and Brian Davis, eighth-grader Jack Elias, seniors David Gatz, McKenzy Stiller and Candace Popp, and junior Daniel Fernandez. The musical was the last performance directed by Dale Durham, who directed 21 of the last 22 musicals at Providence. Durham will now serve as the producer of the spring musicals, and remain the chairperson of Providence’s performing arts department and director of campus ministry.

Pentecost Concert set for May 20 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral
The archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry and the Multicultural Ministry Commission will sponsor a Pentecost Concert featuring religious music from many countries at 7 p.m. on May 20 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 3347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Information: 317-236-1502 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1562.

VIPs
Joseph and Dorothy (Laker) Schmoll, members of SS. Francis and Clare Parish in Greenwood, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 5. The couple was married on May 5, 1962, at St. Roch Church in Indianapolis. They are the parents of four children: Marsha Campbell, Barbara Fahringer, Anthony and Robert Schmoll. They also have six grandchildren.

Domnick Morales, left, and Tyler Poff ride on a teetertotter on a fence on April 20 on the grounds of the Agape Community, 701 N. “A” St., Richmond. Charismatic prayer group, 7 p.m. Information: dtkcgroup@parallax.ws.

Teetertotter for Tennessee
Richmond Catholic Community, 701 N. “A” St., Richmond. Charismatic prayer group, 7 p.m. Information: dtkcgroup@parallax.ws.
Summer pilgrimage includes visit to Saint Meinrad Archabbey, Bardstown

By Mary Ann Garber

Back by request, the Archdiocesan Summer Pilgrimage will revisit several historic monasteries and a cathedral during a bus tour through scenic southern Indiana and northern Kentucky in early August. Archdiocesan pilgrims enjoyed these pilgrimage destinations in 1999 so Carolyn Noone, associate director of special events, arranged a similar three-day itinerary that includes a popular musical in Bardstown, Ky., and relaxing lunchen cruise on the Ohio River.

Msgr. Frederick Easton, adjunct judicial vicar of the archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal, will serve as spiritual director for the Aug. 6-8 pilgrimage to Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad and Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Ind., in the Evansville Diocese, then on to the Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist, Ky., and the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown, Ky.

The pilgrimage begins with Mass celebrated by Msgr. Easton at 8:30 a.m. on Aug. 6 at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Indianapolis then the bus departs from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis at 9 a.m. at the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown then a tour of the first cathedral constructed west of the Appalachian Mountains.

In 1808, Pope Pius VII created the new Diocese of Bardstown from the Diocese of Baltimore, the only Catholic diocese in the country. The basilica was built in 1819.

To conclude the pilgrimage, the group will return to Louisville and board the Spirit of Jefferson riverboat at noon for a luncheon cruise on the Ohio River then return by bus to Indianapolis.

**This is an extremely popular pilgrimage, and people have asked to do it again**, Noone said. “Pope Benedict XVI has designated The Year of Faith for the international Church beginning on Oct. 11, and this pilgrimage is a way to prepare for that observance.”

She said the first pilgrimage stop—where ancestors of Ted Huber’s family planted fruit orchards and have farmed the fields for more than 100 years—also features a petting zoo, restaurant, market and gift shop.

Saint Meinrad is “a very holy and beautiful place,” Noone said. “I understand that the new guest house is very nice.”

The Abbey of Gethsemani, nestled among rolling hills in Kentucky, has welcomed guests since 1848 and is the burial site of Father Thomas Merton, a well-known Trappist monk and author. She said, “The monks have a shop where we can purchase some of the famous fudge and fruticakes that they make there. Msgr. Easton said, "I think it will be a lot of fun."

They will stop for lunch at a restaurant on the Ohio River cruise and return by bus to Indianapolis.

**The river cruises are quite nice**, Msgr. Easton said. “I think it will be a lot of fun.”

Pilgrimages to holy places are part of the longstanding tradition of the Church, he said. “This pilgrimage will encompass what is called ‘the Kentucky Holy Land.’”

(Pilgrimage costs $389 per person for a double occupancy room and $469 per person for a single occupancy room. The price includes deluxe motor coach transportation, all meals, overnight accommodations, admission tickets and other fees. For more information or reservations, call Carolyn Noone at 317-236-1428 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1428, or log on to www.archindy.org/pilgrimage to register online.)

**Saint Meinrad Archabbey**

 Completed in 1919, the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown, Ky., was the first cathedral built in the United States west of the Appalachian Mountains.
made with real love.”

That note matched the theme of the awards dinner, an event that celebrated two individuals, two couples and two communities of religious sisters—and raised more than $163,000 to benefit Catholic Charities Indianapolis in its efforts to help the poor and the vulnerable.

“The people who served our Super Bowl came about our project, they cared about Indianapolis and they cared about people,” Melanson said. “The human services are very critical in so many ways. That’s why I’m so excited to be a part of honoring folks with your Spirit of Mission Award tonight. Because it makes a difference.”

Melanson also emphasized that her faith family—her faith family—was the reason she was planning the Super Bowl event that drew overwhelming praise from visitors and media alike.

“If I didn’t have faith, I wouldn’t have survived the past four years,” she said.

“Which sustained me were the prayers I got,” Mr. Pitzer said. “Faith guided her during the four years of planning the Super Bowl event that drew a large audience at the awards dinner.

“Our emphasis lies in providing help to, and creating hope for, all of those whom we encounter—those who face homelessness, loneliness, disability, vulnerability and the far-reaching impact of a challenging economy.”

During the past two years, Catholic Charities of Indianapolis has experienced a 30 percent increase in the number of people requesting help, the executive director noted.

“We served 28,000 people in need of food, of whom 15,000 were children,” he said. “We provided more households with financial assistance to avoid disconnect of their utilities and possible eviction from their homes. We served more people in our emergency family shelter, and perhaps the most striking reality behind this number is that we include 600 homeless children.”

Serving more than 43,000 people overall, Bethlehem said, was made possible through the “compassion and generosity” of Catholic Charities benefactors, staff and volunteers.

“Two qualities—compassion and generosity—are also evident in the recipients of this year’s Spirit of Service Awards.”

Consider the life of Tom Egold. For years, he volunteered at St. Barnabas Parish, Marian University and the Catholic Youth Organization, all in Indianapolis. There was even a moment when he thought he could step down and accepting roles that lasted until Father John McCaslin told Egold about his vision to revitalize neighborhoods surrounding Holy Trinity and St. Anthony parishes in Indianapolis by forming an organization that would buy and rebuild homes so low-income families could purchase them.

Egold set up the organization, which he called the House of Angels, and took on the leadership team of its Marriage Enrichment program and Christ Renovos Family Teams and as an extraordinary ministers of holy Communion. They have also been presenters for the archdiocesan Pre-Cana Conference for engaged couples.

In a marriage relationship, you need time together,” Pitzer said. “But you also need to plug into something bigger than yourselves.”

Fred and Mary Pitzer share that same view of life. In 55 years of marriage, they have served as long-time volunteers at Hunger Inc., a south side Indianapolis program that provides food for the hungry.

For more than 20 years, the couple from Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis has worked on the parish’s funeral meal ministry, planning, preparing and serving grief-stricken families. They also lead the effort to prepare more than 400 pounds of “St. Mark’s Famous Barbecue” for the parish’s annual summer festival.

Fred has donated blood for 50 years while Mary has poured her heart into making quilts that raise money for the parish.

“You can’t live your life in a shell,” Fred said. “You have to be there for other people.”

William Spangler has embraced that approach to life, too. He has served as chairman of the board of Catholic Charities Indianapolis. He has volunteered on the board of Holy Family Shelter. And for 20 years, he has been a member of the Christian Social Action Mission at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.

At St. Luke, he was influential in helping the parish start an endowment of $250,000 designed to provide funds to help the poor.

“I really feel blessed because service has strengthened my faith immeasurably,” Spangler said. “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.”

That simple philosophy has guided the Daughters of Charity and Sister Maryкрепendons, St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration—the two religious orders that were honored with Spirit of Service Community Awards for their longevity in supporting Catholic Charities—has served as the focus of the celebration, he also praised all the people who support Catholic Charities and its commitment to be a “presence of hope.”

“The support you give to Catholic Charities is just so amazing,” he said. “It means so much to the work that we do—to feed the hungry, to clothe those in need, to support the homeless and the new immigrants. It’s about the impact of what you do, and the generosity of your hearts.”

S.B. 1070 served as a model for laws passed by other states, including those in Arizona, that were struck down during pending judicial review.

Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli, arguing for the Justice Department, disputed Clement’s attempts to portray Arizona law as “unlawful.” The federal government’s case is not based on racial or ethnic profiling claims. Verrilli confirmed that. But that area of litigation still could reach the high court through other challenges.

The court heard the case without the participation of Justice Elena Kagan, who recused herself, presumably because she was U.S. solicitor general when the administration decided to sue Arizona over S.B. 1070. Without a ninth vote among the court, a 4-4 ruling would mean that lower court rulings blocking these provisions would stand.

At the news conference before the hearing, several Arizonans spoke, including 75-year-old Jim Shee, a plaintiff in the case who said he and his Japanese-American wife never leave home without their passports now because of being stopped for questioning since the new law passed. Dulce Matus, 27, president of the Arizona DREAM Act Coalition, a recent Arizona State University graduate who said her real estate license was revoked because she was not in the country legally. She was recently named one of Time Magazine’s 100 Influential People.

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, retired archbishop of Los Angeles, said he and other religious leaders were there “because we see our immigrant brothers and sisters in a different situation.” He said many children have told him they start each morning in fear—worried that their parents might be picked up because of their immigration status and never come back.

“We can’t have that kind of fear,” he said. †
Dialogue between Catholic leaders, Girl Scouts addresses criticisms

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)—Tina Kent credits the Girl Scouts for teaching her skills in leadership, conflict resolution and critical thinking and for giving her an appreciation for the outdoors and opportunities to travel. Kent became a Brownie at age 8 in her native Vermillion, S.D., and remained a Scout until she was a teenager in Waco, Texas.

Now a wife and mother of five, Kent lives in the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa., and is a Girl Scout troop leader in York, Pa., where her troop meets at St. Joseph School.

Her daughter Maggie, 7, a first-grader at the school, is a Girl Scout Daisy. Kent hopes daughter Ruth, 3, will one day join her sister in the Scouts.

Among other projects, her troop makes Christmas and Valentine’s Day cards for the elderly, and this year donated 46 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to the local Catholic food pantry and sent 85 boxes to a girl’s school in Afghanistan.

“As Catholics, we are called to be serving others, to be reaching out, to be trying to do good in this world,” said Kent, 44, who became a Catholic at Easter 2003 when she was 15.

Kent is well aware of claims by some that the Girl Scouts of the USA promotes Planned Parenthood, and its advocacy of birth control and abortion. Others have complained that some printed material distributed to Scouts contained references that countered the Catholic Church’s teachings.

After looking into the criticism herself, she told Catholic News Service, “I just don’t buy that it’s happening.”

Kent acknowledged, however, the organization on occasion may end up “associating with people who are associating with people who are not who the Catholic Church would choose to be associating with.”

The Girl Scouts of the USA, known as GSUSA, is marking its 100th anniversary this year. It has 3.2 million girl and adult members. An estimated 500,000 Catholic girls and adults in the U.S. are involved in Girl Scouts.

Criticism of the Scouts as an organization has surfaced off and on over the last several years, and earlier this year made the rounds again on the Internet.

In response, GSUSA has strongly stated that it “does not have a relationship or partnership with Planned Parenthood and does not plan to execute any guidelines that take no position on abortion or birth control.”

“Parents and volunteer troop leaders in Catholic parishes may control the content of the Girl Scout programming their girls receive,” McCarty said.

“GSUSA has a large number of Catholics involved in Girl Scouts, such concerns prompted the bishops’ Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth to convene a group soon to discuss what resources and tools would help create dialogue among Church and Girl Scout leaders “more intentionally,” and provide clear guidelines for predominantly Catholic troops where “Catholic teaching is honored and at the forefront.”

Beyond the Church’s relationship with Girl Scouts is the bigger issue of “how does the Church engage secular organizations?” McCarty stated. “We evaluate for Church teaching through direct engagement and honest respectful dialogue.”

In her interview with CNS, McCarty said he has met with Girl Scout leaders in New York to convey concerns the federation has raised from the field, though he added that the effect that Girl Scouts promotes Planned Parenthood.

In January, Anna Maria Chavez, a Catholic who has been the Girl Scouts CEO since last November, came to Washington from New York, along with the chair of GSUSA’s board of directors, to meet with McCarty.

“For nearly 100 years, we have partnered with the Catholic Church to support the growth and development of millions of girls,” Chavez told CNS on April 19. “It is a wonderful legacy, and we’re grateful for the opportunity to participate in the process that will only enhance our partnership.”

She said her organization has had meetings with Catholic dioceses around the country, and said “these conversations have been very valuable in strengthening that relationship.”

“Working closely together, we will continue to provide girls with the guidance, confidence and character they will need to make our world a better place,” McCarty said.

The bishop invited Robert McCarty, executive director of the Washington-based National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), to Philadelphia, and Kathleen Carver, the federation’s associate director and communications director, to the meeting to give committee members their perspective on the claims made about the Girl Scouts.

A new online forum, www.nfcym.org, has a question-and-answer section on the issue, and according to McCarty, dialogue between the national Girl Scouts office in New York and the federation has been ongoing.

McCarty told CNS on April 9 that the bishops’ Secretariat for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth would convene a group soon to discuss what resources and tools would help create dialogue among Church and Girl Scout leaders “more intentionally,” and provide clear guidelines for predominantly Catholic troops where “Catholic teaching is honored and at the forefront.”

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As a spiritual resource for our nation, the cathedral is a great and beautiful edifice in the city of Washington, and an indispensable ministry for people of all faiths and perspectives,” said a Girl Scouts announcement about the interfaith event.

Organizers planned to recognize girls who had earned the pin by the date of the event during the service. In addition to the “My Promise, My Faith” pin, Catholic Girl Scouts can earn these faith-based awards: “Family of God,” “I Live My Faith,” “Mary the First Disciple,” “The Spirit Alive,” “St. Elizabeth Ann Seton” and “St. Anne.”

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WASHINGTON (CNS)—As the Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) marks its centennial year, Catholic dioceses around the country are marking the 100th anniversary with special Masses bringing together Catholic Girl Scouts, their parents and troop leaders with the larger Catholic community.

At one such Mass at Boston’s Cathedral of the Holy Cross in March, Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley in his homily discussed the connection between Scouting and the Church.

“In our life, all of us have a very special vocation. The Lord is calling us to service in a special way. Scouting is about service and how we can serve a community, but each of us has a very special calling,” he said.

“We discern in prayer, trying to see what God is calling us to do as individuals. But all of us share in a mission that God loves them,” the cardinal said.

Although it is a secular organization, GSUSA has several religious awards troop members can earn, and in 2011 it developed an additional award, a pin titled “My Promise, My Faith,” which girls can earn “by carefully examining the Girl Scout Law and directly tying it to tenets of her faith.”

On April 28, the “My Promise, My Faith” pin was highlighted at a national celebration of all faiths represented in the Girl Scout community at the National Episcopal Cathedral in Washington.

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Robert McCarty

We appreciate being part of the conversation and moving the curriculum of Girl Scouting to its more traditional, original roots—protecting families and also valuing their national connection and notoriety,” he said.

But... at some point, if parishes are looking for something that’s a more substantial faith organization, Girl Scouts is only going to be able to carry them so far because they’re a secular organization.”
Hidden helpers: Vatican ushers bring tots, disabled closer to pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The cameras are trained on the cute baby being hoisted up to the pope for a kiss and papal blessing, not on the dapper gentleman trying to handle the precious, often squirming, child with care.

Vatican ushers attend every weekly general audience, helping visitors with special needs and picking out the cutest babies in the crowd for the photo op of a lifetime. And they welcome dignitaries and heads of state visiting the pope with all the pomp and circumstance suited for their stature as “gentlemen in waiting.”

These laymen, called “sediari” or chair-bearers, did just that for centuries—carried the pope on an elevated chair high above the crowds so everyone could catch a glimpse of the pontiff.

But Blessed John Paul II discontinued the practice when he was elected in 1978, preferring to walk and be close to the people.

The “sediari” stayed on, but their role no longer included carrying the pope on their shoulders—until Blessed John Paul’s death more than 26 years later.

When he died, Blessed John Paul’s body was carried by 12 papal gentlemen on a red velvet stretcher in a solemn procession from the Apostolic Palace to St. Peter’s Basilica.

Because so many of the papal ushers were young, only a few older veterans knew how to carry a pope either on the portable chair or the stretcher.

All ushers’ eyes and ears were on Massimo Sansolini, who served four popes after he became a “sediario” in 1964.

He spelled out the correct procedure for smoothly and decorously lifting and carrying the papal platform so that it would stay as horizontal and secure as possible while the men navigated corridors and numerous marble staircases.

Two of his essential rules—“Carry it with just the shoulder, without help from the hand,” and always begin walking with the left foot.

The rules were in his recently published Italian memoir, a follow-up to a volume that he published in 1999 in which he told of his life as a papal gentleman, revealing the not-often-seen world of the Apostolic Palace, at the service of the pope.

Sansolini told reporters at the second book’s launch on April 23 that because there were always 12 “sediari” helping the pope—the vicar of Christ—he always felt like one of the Apostles—a servant of the servant of God.

In his book, he described how hard the men tried to remain calm and composed, fighting back the tears, as they transferred the pope’s body before the crowds on April 4, then carried the cypress casket from St. Peter’s Basilica outside to the square during the April 8 funeral.

No layperson had ever been as close to the sacred person of the pontiff as we had for 26 years straight,” he wrote.

While those events briefly put Sansolini and his confreres in the world spotlight, their weekly routine is much less visible.

For the past 16 years, Sansolini has been in charge of helping disabled pilgrims get seating as close to the pope as possible during Wednesday general audiences and other special occasions.

There are special sections in the square or the Paul VI audience hall for Church dignitaries, important guests, newlyweds and people with special needs. All the ushers also have their eyes open for parents with tiny infants and help them get as close as they can to the barricade in the general seating section to pass the baby to the pope in the popemobile.

Sansolini said no pope has ever complained about the tradition of individually greeting all the disabled after the general audience, no matter how scarred or infirm they may be. “The pope’s love knows no limits.”

A typical Wednesday starts very early as Sansolini arranges the seating for the disabled section, leaving room for the wheelchairs between the plastic chairs for the caregivers.

Guests are asked to arrive a couple of hours early before the start of the audience so they can clear security and find their section.

Sansolini said he helps pass the time with all of them, chatting about their lives in whatever language they have in common.

Sometimes, he said, just a caress or smile is all that it takes to forge a strong bond.

He said he has been humbled by the heroism of the mothers, fathers and caregivers of the gravely ill and physically or mentally challenged adults and children he sees every week.

“There are women like Mother Teresa all over, on every continent,” caring for the unwanted or abandoned.

He said he is always touched by people whose love of a parent overcomes the disarray, but let it go. He was glad he did, he wrote, because later she pulled out a series of bottles and a syringe and proceeded to feed her child through a stomach tube.

“Every time I am present at an audience I come out with greater faith” from witnessing the unconditional love, joy and hope in people, he said.

“The love of a parent overcomes everything! The human being reaches a fullness of dignity that knows no limits” when it overcomes all challenges and suffering with love and grace, he wrote.
Social science research shows what makes marriages strong

By Sheila Garcia

Have you attended a wedding recently? You may have noticed that the bride and groom were older than in the past. They may have been at least in their late 20s. They may have already been living together. And before stepping up to the altar, they probably pondered whether a happy, lifelong marriage is still possible in our divorce-prone culture.

Some researchers have found that older as opposed to those who marry at an early age have a lower risk of divorce. For example, older couples are often better off financially, which increases marital stability.

According to the Pew Research Center, between 2009 and 2010 the median age of first marriages declined 5 percent. Today, just 20 percent of adults ages 18 to 29 are married, compared with 59 percent in 1960. Is this a long-term trend? Pew researchers caution that it’s too early to tell whether young adults are losing interest in marriage.

In other words, we know the background characteristics that increase the odds for marital success, and most of these things are under the control of these couples would choose to marry if they were not already living together. 5. Marital success is mostly a matter of finding the right person—a soul mate—and luck. Finding the right person is important, but so is being the right person. This means, for example, cultivating the virtues that are foundational for a happy marriage, such as generosity, integrity, fidelity, kindness, and a willingness to ask for and receive forgiveness.

While a little luck always nice, successful marriages don’t count on luck. Research has identified the skills and behaviors necessary for a solid relationship.

Marriage education and enrichment programs, some available online, help couples acquire those skills. The Catholic Church has led the way with its well-developed programs for marriage preparation.

Today we know a lot more about what makes marriages work. With God’s grace, young adults can use that knowledge to build enduring marital bonds.

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

Singles look at marriage from the outside, but believe it’s a lifelong commitment

By Louise McNulty

They are young, Catholic and single, and their ideas about marriage differ in many ways from the mainstream.

Take Joe Nitkiewicz, for example. Nitkiewicz is a 24-year-old from Ypsilanti, Mich., who is getting married soon. He believes his marriage will last until death...

“We both believe that divorce is not an option,” he said.

Having dated for a year before his engagement, he said he and his wife-to-be have a lot in common and love each other.

“We have a strong relationship with God, and are seeking to do his will,” the Michigan accountant said in a recent interview.

He said he believes that God will help him and his future wife get through hard times.

When reminded that so many marriages fail, Nitkiewicz says he thinks much of that is due to a failure to communicate well.

Many couples focus on feelings and succumb to outside pressures to get rid of problems instead of working them out, he said. Many people marry rashly, he added, considering what feels right at the time without thinking of their marriage as part of God’s plan for their life.

It is easier to throw away what was lightly considered than something carefully thought through beforehand, he said.

His 21-year-old brother, Paul, a college junior, said that, just like the priesthood, he thinks of marriage as a vocation. It deserves as much attention in discerning whether it is his life path, he said.

“So if I feel I am called, then what?” Paul Nitkiewicz asked. “I wouldn’t just pick a random girl. I think together we’d have to determine our compatibility including [sharing] the same faith background.”

Some of the attractions of the marriage and the ability to have a family working and providing for someone who depends on him for support, and being able to raise children strong in their faith, he said.

As to having a lasting marriage, Paul Nitkiewicz said, “I think your chances of staying together are good if both people . . . realize that marriage is a lifetime commitment.” As for me, if I marry, there is no place in my thoughts for divorce.

Katelyn Salata, a 21-year-old college senior, also from Ypsilanti, said she finds marriage attractive because of the commitment.

“Having someone to share your life with, someone who knows you better than anyone else and who you have a special bond with,” she said.

She believes the reason that many marriages fail is because divorce is so common and people “don’t work so hard to fix things.”

It’s a commitment that shouldn’t be taken lightly, she said.

“It’s important that people don’t just rush in [to marriage] all giddy, on the spur of the moment . . . because then when things are no longer all rainbows and butterflies, those same people want to get out [of the commitment].”

Couples need “a mutual sense of commitment so there is not just one person trying. They should share faith and have the same beliefs,” and be open to communicating about anything, she said.

(Louise McNulty is a freelance writer in Akron, Ohio.)
Biblical reading: Concluding the Book of Revelation

The biblical readings in the Office of Readings from this Friday through next week are from the final six chapters of the Book of Revelation. The first four of those, Chapters 17-20, are sometimes referred to as “The Punishment of Babylon and the Destruction of Pagan Nations.”

Babylon is the city both of Rome and the Roman Empire because, in the Old Testament, the Babylonians desecrated the temple and the land and people of Israel. Here, Rome is portrayed as a great harlot with “Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth” written on her forehead (Rev 17:5). She is “drunk on the blood of the holy ones and on the blood of the martyrs under Emperor Dominic, who ruled from 816 A.D. To make it even clearer, John writes that the great harlot rides on a beast with seven heads and seven horns.

It’s All Good/Patti Lamb

Getting back to the basics in our lives of faith

Recently, I was helping my 7-year-old son, Henry, with his basic math. He is in the first grade, and has not yet mastered the art of long division. He was on a hot streak for a change, and he breezed through his performance. Then came the final card, which he usually struggles with. “Nine plus eight equals seventeen—” he squealed, “What the heck?”

“Eight equals seventeen—” he squealed, and broke into a celebration dance.

I congratulated him for improving at addition, and suddenly he sobered, and took a moment to digest what we had learned. “Not so fast, Einstein,” I said, pointing out the grape juice mustache on his face and the fact that he had missed a button on his shirt. I tried to make this a teaching moment, and talked about how important it is to learn and constantly practice the basics. I told my son that the basics are the simple things we have to learn first before we can move on to other things. I said that the basics are not just facts we learn at school, but things we learn at home and church. Teaching others how we want to be treated is a basic principle. I explained, “If we can’t get the basics right, then everything else becomes hard.”

Later that day, I received two graduation invitations from his kindergarten seniors. Soon, they will turn their tassels and begin new chapters in their lives. These young adults are at the tail end of the generation. They know all sorts of stuff that I have forgotten, and a lot of things that I never even knew in the first place.

They can easily solve a complex quadratic equation for “x” in less than a minute. And they can skillfully weave fancy words like “compendious” into casual conversation. “Imagine, right?”

Don’t we live in a smart world? Even our phones are “smart.” But amidst such wild successes, I worry that our world has forgotten the basics—simple concepts like manners, faith and friendship. We have developed technology to instantaneously send computer messages to someone across the globe, yet we have forgotten how to keep a conversation going when speaking with them when they are right in front of us.

No matter how advanced we get, we must teach our children how-its-due. Everyone has something to learn and something to teach. There are some lessons that I never show how to learn, and we must learn them if we want to live well. Those things include how to express love and kindness. “Love one another,” St. John says (1 Cor 13:4). “If I have the gift of prophecy and can foretell all mysteries and knowledge... but do not have love, I am nothing” (1 Cor 13:2).

A good friend of mine, who is very accomplished by society’s standards, has a framed sign on her desk which puts it all in perspective, “If the sign reads, ‘I’m nice, important, but it’s more important to be nice.” When things in my life go awry, it is usually because I lost sight of the basic principles of our faith—love and service—so I’ve fallen out of touch with God.

No matter how successful or accomplished we become, may God always be our anchor. (Patti Lamb, a member of St. Susananna Parish in Plainfield, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) ♦

Faith, Hope and Charity

Our sensational Catholic Church

If you were to only read the mainstream media with regard to the Catholic Church, you would form a completely inaccurate and negative opinion of the current life of our Church. You wouldn’t know that every day the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is educating millions of children around the world about the importance of exceptional health care for the insured, and the un insured and those too poor to pay anything at all.

Or caring for the poorest of the poor in nearly every city, village, and state across the nation. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops present the spiritual food that is provided every moment of every day around the world. Apparently, and many more heroic acts are not “sensational” enough to make the news.

However, we consider it truly sensational that individuals, parishes, businesses, dioceses, foundations and other philanthropists have donated more than $800,000 to Catholic Charities in our archdiocese thus far this year. By the end of September, the tornadoes in March 2 in southern Indiana with this financial support and the help of thousands of volunteers who will share their time and talent over the many months to come, we will be able to reconstruct homes that were uninsured or underinsured, help tornado victims purchase items that they need to make up people income that may have lost following the disaster. Together, it will be what we were meant to be able to accomplish.

Considering our current economy, you might also find it sensational that just six weeks ago Catholic Charities opened a brand new family homeless shelter in Bedford called Becky’s Place.

What makes this new ministry especially sensational is that the entire family, even the youngest, came together in Bedford to make it possible. It often goes unnoticed how happy we all are to be able to help those in need, in leadership bringing people together to make great things happen.

I would like to stress how necessary to sensationalize the fact that Becky’s Place is currently helping to care for eight children who were previously homeless or relocated from house to house.

I recently visited a party at the shelter to celebrate birthdays where the children were making homemade pizzas, the mothers who remarked that this was one of the many “firsts” that their children were experiencing. Here, children are learning simple things like saying “please” and “thank you.” One of the children is now excited that he has learned to cover his mouth when he coughs so “the germs don’t fly away.”

Caring for children from troubled circumstances is not easy. However, with the help of thousands of volunteers, we can make a difference.

One Becky’s Place resident recently decided that he would share his bare backside with drivers on Fifth Street! It would be best, of course, if these children’s parents would have taught them these most basic life skills, and what is and is not appropriate behavior. However, we learn that parents do not learn these skills when they were growing up, and now we have the challenges. Society has a job to raise generational patterns of behavior and hopelessness.

Now that’s truly sensational!

(David Silva is executive director of the archdiocesan Office for Catholic Charities and Family Ministries. E-mail him at d Silva@archindy.com) ♦

Perspectives

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Bishop’s column a reminder of Little Sisters’ care

Recently, I cut out a guest column from the March 25th issue of The Indianapolis Star. The headline was “Health-care mandate puts Catholic orders in jeopardy.” It focused on the Little Sisters of the Poor and their archdiocesan constituent by Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator of archdiocese.

For many years, I was a volunteer for the Little Sisters at the St. Augustine Home for the Aged in Indianapolis.

This was around the time when my mother was abused at a Belleville, Ill., facility. My sister, Velvetor, monitored Medicare care there for many years, and my husband Paul’s mother’s care at an Indianapolis facility. Paul’s mother was also monitored for many years.

I found myself frequently coming and going between Illinois and Indiana. At the facility in Indianapolis, I met a woman, Janie, who lived at an apartment building adjacent to the nursing home. Janie monitored her daughter’s care and I monitored Paul’s mother’s care. Then Janie and I were horrified to learn about some serious abuse issues there, too.

When we confronted the authorities, they suggested that we become part of the training sessions for nurses and aides. We accepted the invitation, which included needed improvements.

At some point, I heard about the Little Sisters of the Poor and their ministry to the elderly. I talked with Janie about becoming volunteers there. The volunteer coordinator suggested that we start a discussion group in the facility’s library on Mondays, and we did. That’s when we became aware of the difference between our loved ones’ facility and the St. Augustine Home.

We loved the residents and marveled over the wonderful care provided at St. Augustine Home. It was a blessing for us as a family.

We marveled at the love that the Little Sisters gave their residents. In all the time I’ve been there, I’ve never witnessed anything wrong, and we had access to all areas of the home.

While volunteering there, we could feel God’s love all around us through the Little Sisters and their staff. We never found anything wrong. How could this be?

(Shirley Vogler Meister, a member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) ♦

Page 12 The Criterion Friday, May 4, 2012
Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 6, 2012

- John 3:18-24
- John 15:1-8

The Acts of the Apostles again this Easter season is the source of the first reading.

Acts 9:1-22

On the road from Damascus to Jerusalem, Saul (as he was then called) is converted, and begins his conversion journey.

The following sentence is a direct quotation from the source.

Those who follow Jesus indeed are God's "little children," and are small in their vulnerability and need for God. St. John's Gospel supplies the last reading, and is part of the long discourse given by Jesus to the Apostles during the Last Supper.

The reading has a deep eucharistic undertone. At the supper, Jesus gave the Twelve the wine that miraculously had become, through the Lord's power, his very blood. Wine is the product of grapes, which grow on vines. In this reading, Jesus says, "I am the true vine." All who love the Lord are the branches. God protects the vine, even by cutting away branches because of sin. Thus, Jesus warns people that no vine can bear fruit if it separates itself from the true vine of God.

Bishops and Cardinals take oath of fidelity to the Apostolic See

Q recently read a book review in our local paper that states: “Cardinals take an oath to the pope to safeguard the Church from scandal—to prevent bad information from becoming public.” I’ve never heard of cardinals taking such an oath. Is this true?

According to canon law, those promoted to the dignity of cardinal are to make a “profession of faith” following the formula approved by the Apostolic See (Canon #334.8). The text of this profession of faith was promulgated in 1989 and is very similar to the Apostles’ Creed with the addition of a commitment to abide by what the magisterium teaches.

Similarly, before taking canonical possession of his office, a bishop must also make the “profession of faith” as well as take “the oath of fidelity to the Apostolic See.” Since a cardinal is also a bishop, all cardinals would take the oath of fidelity sooner or later. A copy of that oath of fidelity can be found in the Code of Canon Law Annotated (Navarre, 2004) with the commentary on Canon #334.8, but a close reading does not suggest that cardinals are obliged to cover up scandal.

Q which exactly are the holy days of obligation? I have read different answers on several Catholic websites. One website dated 1983 lists 10 days, including Epiphany, St. Joseph, Corpus Christi and Sts. Peter and Paul. I was raised in the Latin Rite, and we always had six. I’m 56. My husband was raised in the Byzantine Rite, and we attended that church for liturgy until it was closed. There were more holy days of obligation in the Byzantine rite.

According to Canon #1246 of the Code of Canon Law, there are 62 holy days of obligation, days that Catholics are obliged to attend Mass—the 52 Sundays plus Christmas, Epiphany (Jan. 6), the Ascension of Our Lord (40 days after Easter), Corpus Christi (the Thursday after Trinity Sunday), Mary the Mother of God (Jan. 1), the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8), the Assumption of Mary (Aug. 15), St. Joseph (March 19), the Apostles Sts. Peter and Paul (June 29) and All Saints Day (Nov. 1).

But not all of those days obligate Catholics living in the United States since the U.S. bishops’ conference has the power to determine which are obligatory and which are not.

As stated in Canon #1246.2: “However, the bishops’ conference may, with the approval of the Apostolic See, suppress certain holy days of obligation or transfer them to a Sunday.”

Since the November 1983 general meeting of the U.S. bishops, we have observed six holy days besides Sundays—Christmas; Mary, Mother of God; Ascension; Assumption of Mary; All Saints; and Immaculate Conception.

The Sollemnity of the Epiphany has been transferred to the first Sunday following Jan. 1, and the Sollemnity of Corpus Christi is observed on the second Sunday following Pentecost.

In 1992, in accordance with the provisions of canon law and the approval of the Holy See, the U.S. bishops decreed that “whenever Jan. 1, the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, or Aug. 15, the solemnity of the Assumption, or Nov. 1, the solemnity of All Saints, falls on a Saturday or on a Monday, the precept to attend Mass is abrogated.”

Then in 1999, in accordance with the provisions of canon law and the approval of the Holy See, the U.S. bishops decreed “The Ecclesiastical Provinces of the United States may transfer the Sollemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter to the Seventh Sunday of Easter according to the following procedure: the decision of each Ecclesiastical Province to transfer the Sollemnity of the Ascension is to be made by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the bishops of the respective Ecclesiastical Province.”

If you are like me and grew up in the 1960s and ‘70s, you remember six holy days of obligation other than Sundays.

Today, if you live in certain parts of the United States, including Indiana, the only days other than Sunday when you always have to attend Mass—even if they fall on Saturday or Sunday—are the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) and Christmas (Dec. 25).
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Connecticut governor signs death penalty repeal bill backed by Church

HARTFORD, Conn. (CNS)—In what he called “a moment of sober reflection, not celebration,” Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy signed into law a bill backed by Church of 11 prisoners currently on death row in the state.

“Justice can be served and society can be protected from violent criminals without the death penalty,” it added. “These goals can easily be met by replacing the death penalty with a lifetime sentence without the possibility of release.

Malloy, a Democrat and Catholic, signed the bill in a ceremony that was closed to the press and public, but attended by about 30 people, including some members of the clergy who were not identified.

He called capital punishment “one of the most compelling and vexing issues of our time.

“Many of us who have advocated for this position over the years have said there is a moral component to our opposition to the death penalty,” the governor said in a statement released after the signing. “For me, that is certainly the case. But that does not mean—or nor should it mean—that we question the morality of those who favor capital punishment.

“As the state moves beyond this divisive debate, I hope we can all redouble our efforts and common work to improve the fairness and integrity of our criminal justice system, and to minimize its fallibility,” Malloy said.

Connecticut is the fifth state in five years to end the use of the death penalty, following legislative action in Illinois, New Mexico and New Jersey, a court decision in New York state and a moratorium declared by the governor of Oregon.

Voters in California are expected to decide in November whether the death penalty should be repealed there. ↑

What was in the news on May 4, 1962? Observers at the Second Vatican Council, and a plea to fuse liberal and conservative principles

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 May 4, 1962, issue of The Criterion:

• Plenary sessions of Council will be open to observers

“ROME—Non-Catholic observers at the forthcoming Second Vatican Council will not be limited to formal sessions, but will be able to attend the plenary sessions. Cardinal Augustin Bea, S.J., head of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, told more than 60 representatives of the world press that the Holy See will invite to the council those non-Catholic observers who want to be invited. The cardinal made it clear that non-Catholic representatives at the council, which opens next October 11, will be observers in fact, and will take no active part in the work of the Council. He also said that the observers cannot simply be interested churchmen without any official status, but must be representing Christian bodies of significant standing. Asked if non-Christian observers might also attend the council, the 88-year-old German-born Jesuit said that the matter had been discussed by his secretariat and was still under study.

• Five to be ordained for the archdiocese

• Non-protestant “family” letter

• Parish appeal launched: Payments lagging badly in High School Drive

• Exchange of gifts: an interwar tradition

• Emergence in Africa

• Catholics urged to fuse liberal and conservative

“DEBROED”—The editor of America magazine said that Catholic colleges must be faithful to the ‘full Catholic faith and the Catholic bishops nevertheless “call us to be faithful toward our Church’s teaching on respecting the sanctity of all human life.

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(Read all of these stories from our May 4, 1962, issue by logging on to our archives at www.CriterionOnline.com ↑)

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317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548

chill@archindy.org
Chicago Archdiocese offers free burial services to indigents, unborn

CHICAGO (CNS)—Eighteen simple wooden caskets containing the remains of indigent adults and unborn babies sat atop graves at Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery awaiting burial on April 25. Beside them stood funeral directors dressed in black and holding single white carnations.

Just minutes before, each casket was removed from funeral hearses, which made a procession with a police escort from the Cook County Morgue to the cemetery on Chicago’s southwest side. With some drizzling rain mixed in, it was a solemn beginning to a Catholic gravesite memorial service conducted by Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago.

The journey began a few months back when the Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office reported a backlog of more than 300 bodies in storage, more than its capacity. Part of the reason for the backlog was that the state of Illinois hasn’t paid funeral directors to bury indigent bodies since June 2011, according to news reports.

After hearing of the situation, Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Chicago offered the county 300 graves to take care of the backlog. This was the first burial by Catholic Cemeteries since that offer was made. The county previously had other burial spaces to clear some of the backlog.

Indigent means that the deceased was considered human remains and must be buried. Other counties consider them medical waste and dispose of them.

County spokeswoman Mary Paleologos said she believes the practice in Cook County will change in the near future and the unborn babies will be disposed of as medical waste. “Thirteen adults and 120 unborn babies were buried on April 25. Each of the five fetal caskets contained 24 unborn children. The medical examiners’ office selected the bodies for burial at Mount Olivet. No family members were present at the service.

“As good citizens of Cook County, we offered burial space at Mount Olivet Cemetery to assist the Cook County medical examiner in burying the dead,” said Msgr. Pat Pollard, director of Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

“Offering to bury the indigent and the unborn babies is what we do as Catholics, Cardinal George said following the service.

“We bury the dead because it is a corporal work of mercy. It’s something that is enjoined in holy Scripture. That’s because everyone is made in God’s image and likeness,” he said. “Our way of burying people who have gone to the Lord is a way of professing that faith.”

The graves will remain unmarked unless the families pay for a marker.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago places a flower on April 25 atop one of the boxes containing the remains of 120 unborn children after presiding over the burial of some of the bodies found stockpiled at a medical examiner’s office.

In Cook County, unborn children are still considered human remains and must be buried. Other counties consider them medical waste and dispose of them.

Offering to bury the indigent and the unborn babies is what we do as Catholics, Cardinal George said following the service.

“We bury the dead because it is a corporal work of mercy. It’s something that is enjoined in holy Scripture. That’s because everyone is made in God’s image and likeness,” he said. “Our way of burying people who have gone to the Lord is a way of professing that faith.”

The graves will remain unmarked unless the families pay for a marker.

Cardinal Catholic Cemeteries, now in its 175th year, has kept open its offer to bury up to 300 adults or unborn children at Mount Olivet if the county has the need.

According to Paleologos, Catholic Cemeteries donated about $2,500 in services for each burial for a total of about $45,000. The funeral directors donated about $5,000 in services.

At Marian University, we wanted to do more than talk and wring our hands about the issue of dwindling leadership in the Church. So we took action. We created the “Rebuild My Church” program to prepare ordained and lay leaders. Then we collaborated with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and opened the Bishop Simon Bruski College Seminary to prepare college seminarians for major seminary. We also teach Franciscan values such as responsible stewardship to every student who attends our university so they will continue to give back to their churches and communities throughout their lives. It’s time to stop talking and to commit to the power of doing. Visit marian.edu/actnow and learn more about our plans for the future and our upcoming 75th Anniversary Gala.

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