Bishops discuss religious liberty, economy, 10-year review of charter

ATLANTA (CNS)—During the public sessions of their spring meeting in Atlanta, the U.S. bishops received a 10-year progress report on their abuse charter, voted to draft a message on work and the economy, and heard reports about religious liberty issues in the United States and abroad.

They also listened as an Iraqi bishop made an impassioned plea on behalf of Iraq’s dwindling Christian population, and called on the U.S. prelates to press the Obama administration to take steps to protect religious rights in the Middle Eastern country.

The meeting was on June 13-15 with public sessions the first day and a half. The rest of the time was scheduled for executive sessions and not open to media coverage.

On the opening day, the bishops voted 171-26 to move ahead with a draft of a message on work and the economy as a way to raise the profile of growing poverty and the struggles that unemployed people are experiencing. It is expected to be ready in time for a final vote at the bishops’ fall meeting in November.

Titled “Catholic Reflections on Work, Poverty and a Broken Economy,” the message would advance the bishops’ priority of human life and dignity to demonstrate the new evangelization in action, explained Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

It would be a follow-up to a Sept. 15, 2011, letter by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. bishops’ conference, in which he urged bishops and priests across the country to preach about “the terrible toll the current economic turmoil is taking on families and communities.”

CHA urges expanded religious exemption for HHS mandate

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The Catholic Health Association (CHA), a major supporter of President Barack Obama’s health reform law, is urging the government to expand its definition of religious employers who are exempt from the requirement to provide contraceptives, sterilization and abortifacients free of charge to their employees.

In comments filed on June 15 with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the top three CHA officials also said the Obama administration should provide and pay for the contraceptives itself if it insists that they must be provided at no cost to women.

The five-page comments were signed by

CHA festivals celebrate the joy, faith and bonds of parish communities

By Alison Graham and John Shaughnessy

It’s the season when festival committee members pray for sunny afternoons and moonlit evenings touched by soft breezes—a time when families and friends gather to eat, laugh, drink, dance, play and eat some more, all with the hope of building a closer faith community.

Enchiladas are the centerpiece of a traditional Mexican esquites, cooked corn served in a cup with mayonnaise, parmesan cheese, hot sauce and a touch of lime. And to cool the heat of your body from the food and the sun, she strongly

The spirit of Catholic fun
BISHOPS
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Young People.” The charter was part of the U.S. bishops’ response to the clergy abuse scandal that was a major concern when they met in Dallas in 2002. While the Catholic Church has taken major steps in addressing allegations of clergy sexual abuse, it must continue to be vigilant in assuring that victims and their families will receive the attention and care they deserve, Notzon told the bishops.

Meeting that transparency remains a crucial component of building and maintaining trust among the Catholic faithful as well as the general public, he said.

Despite the successes, Notzon said the Church’s credibility continues to be complicated by problems by not reporting allegations of abuse to local authorities.

“This suggests a trust problem and must be met with serious adherence to the charter,” he added.

In a presentation on religious liberty issues, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Freedom, acknowledged the U.S. bishops “Fortnight for Freedom” campaign has come under heavy criticism in the secular media, in the blogosphere and by some Catholics as being a partisan political effort.

But the two-week period is meant to be free of politics and to emphasize Church teaching on religious freedom, he said. “Already, we realize that defending religious freedom is not a walk in the park,” he said. “We’ve seen some reaction to our work that is sometimes hostile, sometimes unfair and inaccurate, and sometimes derivative.”

The criterion for religious liberty is clear, and the forthcoming, which takes place on June 21-July 4, will be a period of prayer, education and action aimed at explaining how a federal health care reform enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its requirement that certain preventive services mandate requires most religious employers to provide contraceptive mandate violates religious principles. The action aimed at explaining how a federal health care reform enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its requirement that certain preventive services

primarily employs persons who share its religious tenets; and is a nonprofit organization” under specific sections of the Internal Revenue Code.

The CHA leaders proposed instead that an organization be defined as religious if it “shares common religious bonds and convictions with a Church”—a definition already applied in Section 414 of the Internal Revenue Service code.

As a result, they noted, that would allow nonexempt religious employers to provide the contraceptives through a third party “three-party administrator” or “independent agency” that would be in compliance with the religious liberties of all of our members and other religious groups.

They said the current definition of a religious employer in the HHS rules raises “serious constitutional questions.”

To be exempt from the contraceptive mandate, a religious organization “has the incalculable value of its religious purposes as its primary goal, and it must be prevented from using funds that are against its conscience.”

In a footnote, CHA said the drug known as ella “can cause substantial bodily injury and death.”

Note: If you are receiving duplicate copies please send both labels.

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Sister Carol Keanan, a Daughter of Charity who is CHA president and CEO, Robert V. Stanek, who recently completed a term chairing the CHA board, and Joseph R. Swedlund, the chairman for 2012-13.

They said the administration’s proposed “accommodation” that would allow nonexempt religious employers to provide the contraceptives through a third party “would be unworkable and would be unlikely to meet the religious liberty concerns of all of our members and other religious groups.”

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6/22/12

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These restrictions may be relaxed by the administration if it decides not to exempt those religious employers that offer contraceptive services to women who are not employees.

The spring assembly opened with Mass celebrated by Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory at Sacred Heart of Jesus Basilica, who urged his fellow bishops to recall the life of St. Anthony of Padua to help them renew religious life. The saint, whose feast day was on June 13, demonstrated a deep devotion to Christ through his preaching.

“Certainly here, our contemporary Church ought to seek his assistance since we seem to have lost something of our confidence and vitality in proclaiming the Gospel,” Archbishop Greg said in a brief homily.

“Unfortunately, we may also have occasionally misplaced clerical identity and the facility of announcing the good news of Jesus Christ with conviction. Religious life has suffered confusion and needs serious renewal. That, perhaps, St. Anthony can once again help us to rediscover,” he said.

The Church is rethinking how to communicate its Church’s work while remaining true to authentic Church teaching, Bishop Wester said.

The two-week period is meant to be free of politics and to emphasize Church teaching on religious freedom, he said. “Already, we realize that defending religious freedom is not a walk in the park,” he said. “We’ve seen some reaction to our work that is sometimes hostile, sometimes unfair and inaccurate, and sometimes derivative.”

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Bishop Bruté Days helps young men learn about the faith, priesthood

By Sean Gallagher

JOHNSON COUNTY—Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis helps junior high and high school-age boys across the archdiocese and beyond learn more about their faith and a vocation to the priesthood through its annual Bishop Bruté Days.

This vocations camp and retreat experience was held for the sixth consecutive year on June 11-14 at the Future Farmers of America Leadership Center in southern Johnson County near Trafalgar.

It drew nearly 50 participants from 23 archdiocesan parishes. Four young men attended from parishes in the Lafayette Diocese and Cincinnati Archdiocese.

It is a combination of presentations on the faith from Father Robert Robeson, Bishop Bruté’s rector, Father Patrick Beidelman, seminary vice rector, and other priests as well as daily Mass, eucharistic adoration and outdoor activities, such as swimming, soccer and capture the flag.

Seminarian Timothy DeCrane, who will be a junior at Bishop Bruté in the upcoming academic year, participated in Bishop Bruté Days several years ago when he was in high school.

This year, he was a leader at the camp for many of its first-time participants in the junior high track for seventh- and eighth-graders.

“Some of the questions [about the faith] they were answering for Father Bob and Father Pat were impressive,” DeCrane said. “I didn’t expect them to know some of the information that they knew. A lot of them seemed to be open-minded and glad to be here.”

A first-time Bishop Bruté Days participant, Thomas Benkert of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood, was excited about his camp experiences.

“There have been a lot of great talks. It’s a great learning experience,” said Thomas, who will be a freshman this fall at Center Grove High School in Greenwood. “I’ve learned a lot of things that I haven’t learned about the Catholic faith in the past. There are a lot of great guys here.”

He hopes that what he learned at Bishop Bruté Days will help him bring more friends to the camp next year.

“It will change the way that I think about the Catholic faith,” Thomas said. “So when I go to church on Sunday, I can experience it more and participate more in the Mass. And I can talk about this to some of my friends who are Catholic who haven’t gone to it. Maybe they’ll go next summer.”

Father Dustin Boehm, associate pastor of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, assisted at the camp this year. He said that the young men who participated may have helped him as much as he helped them.

“It’s inspiring for me to remember what a gift the priesthood is, and what a gift it is to be with and watch young men just kind of struggle with that question, whether or not they end up choosing to go [to seminary],” Father Boehm said. “It’s also good to see them, at the same time, grow in holiness and be better men by just being here this week.”

Thomas Sweeney is one of the young men that Father Boehm knows well since he is a member of St. Monica Parish. Thomas said praying the Liturgy of the Hours and praying in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament at the camp were important for him.

“This has opened me up to experience more types of prayer than I’ve known before. And so I can be more faithful in the future,” said Thomas, who will be a freshman this fall at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis.

Father Robeson invited the camp participants to take shifts in an all-night eucharistic adoration vigil during Bishop Bruté Days.

“We’re kind of hoping that it will challenge them a little bit and help them develop a deeper appreciation for the Eucharist and Christ’s presence in the Eucharist,” he said. “Also, we’re trying to help them to see that, as a Christian Catholic man, your faith is something that you should challenge yourself with. Staying up all night is a way to appeal to their manhood, in a sense.”

Joseph Montgomery attended Bishop Bruté Days for a second time this year. A member of St. Michael Parish in Bradford in the New Albany Deanery, he will be a sophomore in the fall at West Washington High School in Washington County.

“The prayers are a good spiritual time, and the outdoor activities are fun,” Joseph said. “Coming here, you meet more people. It makes you more outgoing, and makes you want to go out and meet more people and teach them about God.”

“You realize that [priests and seminarians] are pretty much just normal guys like everyone else. That’s pretty cool. It’s interesting because you realize that it could also be for you.”

More than 40 junior high and high school-age boys kneel in prayer while Father Patrick Beidelman elevates a chalice during a June 13 Mass at the Future Farmers of America Leadership Center in Johnson County. The Mass was part of Bishop Bruté Days, a vocations camp and retreat experience sponsored by Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, where Father Beidelman serves as vice rector.

Above, Father Robert Robeson gives a presentation on the Ten Commandments to a group of boys participating in Bishop Bruté Days on June 13, a vocations camp and retreat experience sponsored by Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. Father Robeson is rector of the seminary.

Left, Thomas Benkert, a member of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood, holds a Bible on his lap while listening to a presentation on June 13 on the communion of the saints during Bishop Bruté Days.

Above, Anthony Chipp, left, Noah Mussin-Phillips, Matt Ohlhaug watch Sam Gillam dive into a pond on June 13 during Bishop Bruté Days.

Left, Cincinnati Archdiocese seminarian Joshua Miller, left, Thomas Sweeney, Thomas Drake, Adam Kopach and Nathan Hubert play soccer on June 13 during Bishop Bruté Days.

Daniel Pearson, a member of St. Gertrude Parish in Madiera, Ohio, in the Cincinnati Archdiocese, kneels in prayer during a June 13 Mass that was part of Bishop Bruté Days.

(To view more photos from this year’s Bishop Bruté Days, log on to www.CriterionOnline.com. For more information on Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, log on to www.archindy.org/bsb.)
Opinion

Be Our Guest! Dr. Hans Geisler

The struggle for religious freedom: A confrontation that must be won

Most Americans, not only Catholics, but also the majority of Christians, in addition to Jews, Muslims and others who are not a,nostic or atheist, agree that “religious freedom” is one of the basic concepts, if not the basic concept, on which the United States was founded. That bedrock idea is enshrined in our Bill of Rights of December 1791 by our Founding Fathers, must be maintained and preserved, evermore.

To illustrate the importance being strong in our opposition to the Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate, here is a story from the late 1930s.

In 2012 the only son of those who had not been fitted with the truths of our Catholic faith. Recent popes since the time of the Second Vatican Council have affirmed the work of those who introduce the person of Jesus Christ to those who have not yet heard his Good News. But they have also emphasized the importance of calling all baptized Catholics to the renewed encounter with the One who is the source and substance of all that we believe.

Why should we observe a Year of Faith? With all the pressing issues facing the Church today, why is it important to take time out to revisit our most fundamental beliefs in a community of Jesus’ disciples?

According to Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay, Wis., chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, “The central image of the Year of Faith is the ‘door of faith’ based on [the] Acts of the Apostles. In his presentation to the bishops during their summer meeting in Atlanta last week, Bishop Ricken noted that “the ‘door of faith’ is opened at one’s baptism, but during this year we are called to open it again, walk through it and rediscover and renew our relationship with Christ and his Church.”

The Year of Faith calls us to rediscover and renew what happened to each of us at the time of our baptism. We were called out of darkness into the light of Christ. We were washed in the ‘water’ of baptism. We were ‘thrown into’ the ‘fire’ of baptism, and we were committed to走 on a journey with Christ, who is light, holiness and everlast­ing life. It’s a good idea to re­open the ‘door of faith’ periodically to remind ourselves that we have been transformed by grace and are called to live as saints, the children of God and disciples of Christ, who bear witness to our Lord’s victory over darkness, sin and death.

Living in a predominately secular culture, we forget how blessed we are. We are too often given to the temptation to think that the sin and evil around us will have the last word. We need to be reminded—sometimes forcibly—that we have reason to celebrate and be joyful because we have been united with Christ through our baptism.

In his presentation, Bishop Ricken said the U.S. bishops’ promotion of the Year of Faith will include a website that helps pastors, a gathering of theology professors and even Facebook posts. The bishops’ efforts are a response to recommendations made by the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on how bishops’ conferences can help dioceses in their observances of the Year of Faith. Pope Benedict has made this Year of Faith a priority. He believes strongly that a fundamental renewal of the experience of baptism is critical to our experience of the faith, not as “rules and regulations” or burdens that weigh us down.

Christian faith can, and should, be a source of liberation and an experience of joy. To get to that point, especially in today’s secular culture, we have to rediscover and renew the freedom that can only come from conversion in Christ.

Other online resources for the Year of Faith include the expansion of Facebook posts about the lives of saints, an online catechism quiz and a website for teachers at www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/ year-of-faith/aflashcard.html.

Let’s make the Year of Faith a year of renewal and rediscovery. Let’s make it an opportunity to meet the Lord face-to-face in our prayer, in the sacraments and in our service to those in need.

—Daniel Conway

Letter to the Editor

Families need to have difficult discussions about health care decisions, doctor says

Father Ted Pacholczyk’s column, “What about Ventilators?”, in the June 15 issue of The Criterion provides an excellent overview of the issues facing patients, families and health care professionals regarding ventilators and the critically ill.

Unfortunately, many people do not discuss with their families what they would or would not wish to have done for them were they seriously ill. This includes decisions regarding the institution or withdrawal of ventilators, medications, etc.

As a physician who cares for critically ill patients, I often encounter families who are forced to make very difficult and heartbreaking decisions for their loved one who is sick.

Sometimes, due to guilt or uncertainty, they cannot make the hard decision that may be in their family member’s best interests. Their loved one is then subjected to additional treatments that he or she may never have wanted.

Although our mortality is difficult to speak about, especially with those who are closest to us, it is important to have these discussions.

Families are open to having such discussions, it may save someone from unwanted treatment and may spare the family members from making very painful decisions regarding such treatment.

Dr. Stephen O’Neill

Indianapolis
DUBLIN (CNS)—Irish Catholics’ deep desire to strengthen their faith must form the basis of a radical new evangelization, said Dublin Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. Addressing an estimated 80,000 pilgrims at the closing Mass of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress on June 17, Archbishop Martin said that “in these eight days, the Eucharist has awakened in our hearts something which went way beyond our plans and expectations.”

He said high interest in catechetical sessions “tells us just how much thirst there is in our Catholic community to deepen the understanding of our faith.”

To sustained applause, Archbishop Martin said, “Tomorrow we must start our catechetical anew to prolong the fruits of this eucharistic congress through a dynamic new evangelization.”

Pope Benedict XVI, who addressed the event via a pre-recorded video message, also paid tribute to Ireland’s long history of faith. “In a changed world, increasingly fixed on material things, we must learn to recognize anew the mysterious presence of the risen Lord, which alone can give breadth and depth to our life,” he said.

Cardinal Ouellet told worshipers that “faith is the most precious gift we have received with baptism.” “Let’s not keep it private and fearful,” he said. “Let it grow as a splendid tree through sharing everywhere.”

Before Mass started, the pilgrims were treated to a celebration of traditional Irish music and song. The names of every parish in Ireland were emblazoned on ads throughout the stadium, and pilgrims waved flags and banners as the Mass got under way.

What was in the news on June 22, 1962? A warning about over-optimism regarding Church unity, and faiths joining the fight against racism.

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 June 22, 1962, issue of The Criterion:

† Major Protestant, Catholic and Jewish groups will jointly convene a National Conference on Religion and Race here on January 14 to 17, 1963. The conference—the first such meeting across religious lines—will work to bring the joint moral forces of Churches and synagogues to bear on the problem of racial segregation.
† More vernacular: Changes are authorized in adult baptism ritual
† Flexibility in baptism was needed
† Aims in life emphasized by pontiff
† Commissions set up: Vatican implements decree on Latin, Greek
† Use vacations: Laity serve as part-time monks
† Responsible parenthood: The hardest job a man or woman will ever have to face
† Germany’s Protestants issue social manifesto
† Cardinals vote safety over new Litanie rite
† Ribicoff cites methods to aid private schools
† 1962 Marian graduate will teach in Japan
† Important rules for confession
† 1962 Marian graduate will teach in Japan
† Governor makes Ohio sterilizations
† Benedictines list 10 changes among school principals
† Group to promote school bus rides
† Five Spanish bishops deny backing strikers
† Council commissions make final proposals
† First officials of Council may be named in July

(Read all of these stories from our June 22, 1962, issue by logging on to our archives at www.CriterionOnline.com)
Retreats and Programs

June 24-30
Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southaven Ave., Beech Grove. “A Monastic Retreat—Let Us Set Out on This Way with the Gospel for Our Guide,” Benedictine Abbot Joseph Kovak, presenter. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 317-788-7581 or benedictine@archindy.org

June 26
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5535 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Come Away and Rest Archville—Silent Non-Guided Day of Reflection,” $30 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org

July 1

July 2-6
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. “Bringing to Life the Word of God in Songs” session one, Benedictine Father Columbus Kelly, presenter. Information: 812-357-6585 or mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu

July 9-13
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. “Bringing to Life the Word of God in Songs” session two, Benedictine Father Columbus Kelly, presenter. Information: 812-357-6585 or mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu

July 12-16
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5535 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Come Away and Rest Archville—Silent Non-Guided Day of Reflection,” $30 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org

July 13-15
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5535 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Women’s 12 Steps to Recovery Week” Information: 317-459-6174 or mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu

July 15-22
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5535 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Silent Directed Retreat.” Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org

July 17-19
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. “Tools for Good Works” midweek retreat, Benedictine Brother Luke Wagh, presenter. Information: 812-357-6585 or mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu

July 19
Cathedral High School, auditorium, 5225 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House program, “An Evening with Immaculata’s Illegitimate Love Child.” Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org

July 20-22
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. “A Step 11 Retreat for Recovering Alcoholics and Addicts,” presenter. Information: 812-357-6585 or mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu

July 30
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5535 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Friends of Fatima monthly Mass, breakfast and social” 9 a.m. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org

VIPS

Leo and Jean (Kimmel) Kruhkath, members of St. Michael Archangel in Beech Grove, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 20. The couple was married on June 17, 1952, at St. Peter Church in Franklin County. They are the parents of four children: Lisa Brown, Teresa Rosenberger, Dan and Robert Kruhkath. They also have 13 grandchildren.

Franciscan sister from Minnesota celebrates golden jubilee

Franciscan Sister Phyllis Sellner, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Rochester, Minn., is celebrating the 50th anniversary of her profession of vows.

She currently ministers as a counselor for the Indianapolis Council of the Society for the Prevention of Suicide. She ministers at St. Vincent de Paul at its food pantry, the Prati-Quegley Center, in Indianapolis. Previously, she ministered as a chaplain and counselor at Fairbanks Hospital, St. Vincent Hospital and the St. Vincent Stress Center, all in Indianapolis.

Sister Phyllis entered her community from St. Mary, Help of Christians Parish in Sleepy Eye, Minn., in the New Ulm Diocese. She earned a bachelor’s degree in education at the College of St. Teresa in Winona, Minn., and master’s degree in mental health, addiction and substance abuse counseling at Butler University in Indianapolis.

Sister Phyllis will celebrate her golden jubilee with family members and friends on Aug. 11.

Benedictine sister professes first vows at Our Lady of Grace Monastery

On June 9, Benedictine Sister Heather Jean Foltski professed first vows as a member of the Sisters of St. Benedict of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove. The temporary vows of stability in the monastery, fidelity to the monastic way of life and obedience according to the Rule of St. Benedict further incorporate Sister Heather Jean into the life of Our Lady of Grace Monastery as she prepares for a possible future perpetual profession of vows.

Sister Heather Jean is the daughter of Paul and Christine Holtz of Dyersville, Ind. She is a graduate of the University of Indianapolis and worked at Horizon House, a homeless day facility in Indianapolis, before entering Our Lady of Grace Monastery in 2008. For more information about Our Lady of Grace Monastery, log on to www.benedictines.com.

Run for Relief

Youths and adults prepare for the second annual 5K Run for Relief on June 9 in Franklin. The running and walking event, co-sponsored by Sr. Rose of lime School in Franklin and the Indiana National Guard, seeks to raise awareness of the benefits of healthy living, encourage service to the families of National Guard members and raise funds for tuition assistance for the Seymour Deaneley elementary school.
WASHINGTON (CNS)—Repeating over and over that “it’s the right thing to do,” President Barack Obama announced on June 15 that, effective immediately, the U.S. will stop deporting certain young people who are in the country illegally because they were brought to the United States as minors.

The action—taken under existing law that allows for prosecutorial discretion—effectively creates an administrative version of the DREAM Act, legislation that enjoys popular, bipartisan support but has long languished in Congress.

“It makes no sense to expel talented young people who for all intents and purposes are American,” said Obama at a news conference from the White House Rose Garden. The new policy will make the system “more fair, more efficient and more just,” he said.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said in a memo announcing the change that immigration laws “are not designed to be blindly enforced without consideration given to the individual circumstances of each case.”

“Are they designed to remove productive young people to countries where they may not have lived or even speak the language? Indeed, many of these young people have already contributed to our country in significant ways. Prosecutorial discretion, which is used in so many other areas, is especially justified here.”

But Congress still needs to act, Obama said, and the sooner the better because the changes are only a temporary fix.

As Obama described the order, eligible applicants between the ages of 15 and 30, who arrived in the U.S. by the age of 16 and have been here at least five years, will be able to request “temporary relief from deportation proceedings and apply for work authorization.”

“Let’s be clear,” Obama said. “This is not amnesty, this is not a path to citizenship, this is not a permanent fix. It is a temporary stopgap measure that allows us to focus our resources.”

The new approach will apply to people who complete high school or get a GED or serve in the military. It will not result in citizenship, this is not a permanent fix.

Deportation will be deferred for two-year renewable periods during which time the applicants could obtain in-state college tuition, get driver’s licenses in most states and participate in many kinds of opportunities, such as government-funded scholarships. Currently, they risk deportation if they come to the attention of immigration authorities.

While many supporters of the DREAM Act were jubilant, legal analysts were more cautious, noting that the new policy is possible because of prosecutorial discretion that has been available to immigration authorities for years.

Among those hailing the announcement was Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Migration Committee.

“The young people to whom the action would apply are bright, energetic, and eager to pursue their education and reach their full potential,” said Archbishop Gomez’s statement.

He echoed Obama’s point about needing more permanent action by Congress.

“The action by the president today is not a substitute for enactment of the DREAM Act in Congress,” he said. Archbishop Gomez encouraged elected officials to make a bipartisan effort to “give these youths a path to citizenship and a chance to become Americans,” and to enact a comprehensive immigration reform law.

One law professor, Michael A. Olivas of the University of Houston, observed in an analysis that the action “shows new political will, but does not change existing law or available discretion.”

Olivas noted that there is little data about how similar discretion has been used under a review process begun last year for the entire category of undocumented immigrants who have no criminal records but are facing deportation. That program, known as the Morton Memo, encourages authorities to exercise their discretion to not deport such immigrants who have been in the U.S. for many years and have strong family ties here.

Among advocates for the DREAM Act, the announcement was lauded.

Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., one of the most ardent supporters of the DREAM Act in Congress, said the administration’s action “sets the ball in motion to break the gridlock and fix our laws so that people who live here can do so legally and on the books, and people can come with visas instead of smugglers in the first place.”

“Today, the students are being protected,” Gutierrez said. “But we have to fix the system for their families, and for the country once and for all.”

The change will mean eligible students can apply for a Social Security number and seek work legally, Martha Arevalo, executive director of the Central American Resource Center in Los Angeles, said in a statement released by the National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities.
Congratulations Class of 2012

Christopher Shrack
- GPA: 4.42
- Parish: Christ the King
- College: Wabash College
- Parents: Thomas & Jennifer
- Summa Cum Laude Graduate

Rebecca Hilton
- GPA: 4.39
- Parish: St. Lawrence
- College: Butler University
- Parents: Gary & Karen
- Summa Cum Laude Graduate

Bishop Chatard High School
5885 Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
(317) 251-1451
BishopChatard.org
Through donations of items, St. Ann Parish continues to live on

TERRE HAUTE—With faith in God’s loving Providence, endings can become grace-filled beginnings.

As part of the Terre Haute Deanery future parish staffing plan, St. Ann Parish was closed by the archdiocese on May 2. St. Ann parishioners have been welcomed by members of the receiving community—St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute—and other area parishes. They are understandably sad about the closing of their small but vibrant faith community, but also happy that liturgical furnishings and religious artwork from their beloved church have gone to the archdiocesan college seminary, several local churches and a parish in the Diocese of Lexington, Ky., whose church was destroyed by a tornado on March 2.

Providence Sister Connie Kramer, St. Ann’s longtime pastoral life coordinator, has been busy in recent weeks arranging for the delivery of several hundred donations.

“Death leads to resurrection if you let it happen,” she said.

“That’s why the donation of items to area churches and to St. Luke Parish in Salyersville, Ky., was so significant. You feel like an organ donor. You feel like you’re passing on your life.”

That is an appropriate response to the parish closing, she said. The closing thing we have here is a gift from a loving God.”

On May 22, some of the members of Indiana State University’s football team volunteered to help employees of two moving companies load St. Ann’s donations onto vans for transport to their new church homes. Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis received the tabernacle, pews and other liturgical furnishings.

St. Joseph University Church, the receiving parish in Terre Haute, is the new home for the liturgical furnishings—including the presider’s chair and other furnishings.

St. Benedict Parish in Terre Haute was the parochial agent for St. Joseph University Church, the receiving parish, and other items were given to St. Luke Parish in Salyersville, Ky., whose church was destroyed by a tornado on March 2. St. Ann Parish was closed by the archdiocese on May 20 as part of the Terre Haute Deanery future parish staffing plan.

The Criterion  Friday, June 22, 2012

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

Within the context of the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, take time to “Be still….” (Psalm 46:10)

~Join us for a 3, 4, or 5-day directed silent retreat~

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House offers the following options for you to come away, be still, be aware and listen for God.

July 15-20 * $360
July 15-19 * $299
July 15-18 * $230

Registration includes accommodations, all meals & snacks, daily Liturgy and daily with a spiritual director. You are contacted prior to your arrival so that you can be paired with a director who meets your needs.

Available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fr. Peter Marshall  *  Mary Schaffner  *  Kathleen Sisk

What silent directed retreat participants are saying:

“I appreciated the stuff making a great effort to observe the silence with us. I’ve experienced Fatima in a new way—saves before, I felt like I was being crucified in the heart of God.

“Beautiful grounds, delicious food, perfect atmosphere’’

“Words cannot describe this experience”

Vatican says agreement will not recognize Israeli occupation

ROME (CNS)—An eventual agreement between Israel and the Vatican over property taxes and property rights in no way will imply that the Vatican recognizes Israel’s claims over East Jerusalem and the West Bank, a top Vatican official said.

Vatican and Israeli representatives are continuing their long-running negotiations over the legal and financial status of Catholic Church property in Israel, but the Vatican has excluded from the discussion property located in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, said Mgr. Cristiano Balestero, Vatican undersecretary for relations with states.

Prior to the Vatican-Israeli commission’s negotiating session on June 12 at the Vatican, news reports from Israel and the Palestinian territories suggested that the Vatican would indirectly recognize Israeli control over the disputed territories by negotiating how Israel would tax Church property, including in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, which Israel annexed in 1967.

Mgr. Balestero told Vatican Radio on June 12 that while some of the Church properties facing heavy tax burdens under Israeli law are in the disputed areas, the Vatican-Israeli agreement would concern only property located in the territory internationally recognized as belonging to Israel.

He said the confusion was caused by an improper use of a working document, which already had been changed.

While the Vatican-Israeli commission said on June 12 that “significant progress was made toward the conclusion of an agreement,” members said they would meet again in December in Israel.

The meeting marked a continuation of negotiations on legal and fiscal issues that remained unresolved after the two launched full diplomatic relations in 1993. The Fundamental Agreement between Israel and the Vatican stipulated that an agreement was to be reached within two years, but a bilateral agreement commission had been trying since 1999 to resolve the differences.†
ENCORES bring the 80s: Downtown Indianapolis, INDIANA, New Life Church, Friday, June 22

The ‘80s are back and they’re here to stay! This summer, New Life Church is taking things a step further and bringing back a hit ’80s pop culture experience to downtown Indianapolis with Encore: The ‘80s Experience. From June 22 through July 28, the church will be transformed into a ‘80s pop culture playground where visitors can enjoy a variety of interactive experiences that transport them back to the decade of big hair and bold fashion.

The event will feature a full schedule of live music performances, ‘80s-themed activities, and interactive exhibits. Visitors will have the opportunity to experience the ‘80s in various ways, including a ‘80s dance party, a ‘80s costume contest, and a ‘80s-themed photo booth. There will also be a variety of ‘80s-inspired food and beverages available for purchase.

Encore: The ‘80s Experience is free to the public and open to all ages. The event will take place at New Life Church, located at 900 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, INDIANA 46202. For more information, visit www.newlifeindy.com/encore.

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FESTIVALS

The Criterion  Friday, June 22, 2012

PARISH FESTIVALS CATCH THE SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC FUN AND COMMUNITY

ST. MARY'S PARISH IN TROY, OHIO

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2012!

Providence Cristo Rey High School is an academically rigorous, college-preparatory school.

- We are an A-rated school by the Indiana Department of Education
- We confer Core 40 and Core 40 with Academic Honors diplomas
- Our curriculum exceeds the Indiana DOE graduation requirements in math, science, and foreign language
- Many juniors and seniors are taking dual credit courses at IUPUI and Marian University

Add to this the professional work experience every PCRHS student receives through our distinctive Corporate Work Study Program, and you can see that our graduates are college ready, not just college bound.

Parents have a choice of which high school their child attends. Providence Cristo Rey High School accepts Indiana school vouchers. Your child deserves to attend a high quality, academically challenging private high school.

WE ARE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS UNTIL JULY 5. For information or to apply, contact Deandra Grady at 317.860.1000 or dthompson-grady@pcrhs.org.
Church bombings, reprisal attacks, claim 45 lives in Nigeria

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Bishop George Dodo of Zaria, Nigeria, was in the middle of his homily on June 17 “when we heard a loud explosion.” A car bomb had just exploded near the Cathedral of Christ the King, where the bishop was celebrating the second Mass of the day.

“The car bomb created a crater two feet deep. All around there was broken glass, rubble and burning cars,” the bishop told Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. Reuters, the British news agency, reported 10 people were killed at Christ the King. Bombings also were reported at the Evangelical Church of the Good News in Zaria and at churches in Kaduna.

Vatican Radio said on June 18 that the total death toll from the Sunday bombings had reached 45 and some 100 people were reported injured, either by the bombings or by reprisal attacks afterward.

Bishop Dodo told Fides, “I am in contact with the governor and police authorities to see how to ensure the safety of the faithful. The maximum security authorities of the governor of Kaduna state and the president of Nigeria are available for dialogue.

People gather near the damaged Shalom Church in the northern Nigerian city of Kaduna on June 17. Bombings at three churches, including Zaria’s Cathedral of Christ the King, killed at least 45 people and wounded others, triggering retaliatory attacks by Christian youths.

Especially when the news of the attack against the Pentecostal church spread, young people responded with anxiety and apprehension are written on the faces of Christians. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, also said the attacks seem to reflect “an absurd plan of hatred.”

Sister Semira Carrozzo, an Italian member of the Oblates of Nazareth who has been in Nigeria for 22 years and runs a school in Kaduna, told Vatican Radio on June 18, “We are very close—less than a kilometer—from the place where an attack was yesterday.”

She said Boko Haram, which does not like the fact that the governor of Kaduna state and the president of Nigeria are Christians, is carrying out the attacks to destroy or at least dishearten Christians and make sure only Muslims win in the next elections.

The members of Boko Haram “are extremists,” she said. Since her school opened in 2000, there always have been Muslim children enrolled, and the parents are supportive and friendly, she added. 

Priest named head of Australian ordinariate just before ordination

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—One hour before the Mass at which he was to be ordained as a Catholic priest, Father Harry Entwistle, 72, was named by Pope Benedict XVI as the first head of the personal ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, a jurisdiction for former Anglicans in Australia.

Father Entwistle, who was ordained an Anglican priest in England in 1964, immigrated to Australia in 1988, joined the Traditional Anglican Communion in 2006 and was later named Australia’s Western regional bishop. The Traditional Anglican Communion is a worldwide group of Anglicans that separated themselves from the Anglican Communion led by the archbishop of Canterbury.

Also on June 15, as had been announced previously, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith formally erected the personal ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross.

Earlier in the evening, around 40 former Perth Anglicans entered into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

Priest Entwistle celebrated the evening Mass at Father Entwistle’s ordination, Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe praised the priest for his courage, both in embracing Catholicism and in accepting his new role as ordinary.

“The rich Anglican tradition has formed and nourished you all, and has been the home in which you have discovered the beauty and the call of God,” the archbishop said.

In 2009, Pope Benedict issued the apostolic constitution “Anglicanorum coetibus” providing for the establishment of ordinariates for former Anglicans who join the Catholic Church while retaining some of their Anglican traditions, spirituality and prayer. The first ordinariate, Our Lady of Walsingham, was established in 2011. The personal ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, for former Anglicans in the United States, was erected in January.
The Vatican presents SSPX leader draft proposal for personal prelature

Opportunity to provide the appropriate means to reconcile the society with the rest of the Church, the Vatican said in a written document "proposing a personal prelature as the most appropriate instrument for any future canonical recognition of the society," it said.

A personal prelature is a Church jurisdiction without geographical boundaries designed to carry out particular pastoral initiatives. It is headed by a prelate, who is appointed by the pope. Currently, the Church's only personal prelature is Opus Dei.

When asked whether giving Bishop Fellay such a proposal was a sign that the Vatican had approved the bishop's response to the doctrinal preamble, Father Lombardi told journalists that all doctrinal differences had to be resolved before any formal recognition could be made. "However, evidently the prelature proposal was presented so that if the doctrinal issue is resolved, the canonical part is ready," he said.

The discussion process is "still open," the Vatican spokesman said, but it seems the Vatican and the SSPX are "drawing closer to agreement in the formulation and presentation of the doctrinal questions" at hand.

The Vatican statement said, "The hope was expressed that this additional opportunity for reflection would also contribute to reaching full communion between the Church of the Society of St. Pius X and the Apostolic See.

However, evidently (the prelature proposal) was presented so that if the doctrinal issue is resolved, the canonical part is ready," he said.

The statement reiterated that the Vatican would be dealing with the society's three other bishops "separately and singularly," and Father Lombardi confirmed that only Bishop Fellay was actively engaged in discussions with the Vatican.

While Bishop Fellay has been generally positive about the possibility of reconciliation with Rome, leaked letters show that the society's three other bishops have had strong objections to such a move. Pope Benedict's recent efforts to bring about reconciliation with the traditionalist group began when he lifted the excommunications incurred by Bishop Fellay and the three other SSPX bishops after they were ordained without papal permission in 1988.

In April, Bishop Fellay submitted to the Vatican his second official response to the "doctrinal preamble" outlining what the Vatican said were "some doctrinal principles and criteria for the interpretation of Catholic doctrine necessary to guarantee fidelity" to the formal teaching of the Church, presumably including the teachings of the Second Vatican Council. The bishop's reply was studied by the cardinal-members of the doctrinal congregation and, ultimately, by Pope Benedict.

The cards and the pope had said Bishop Fellay's first response, which was submitted in January, was "not sufficient to overcome the doctrinal problems that are at the basis of the fracture between the Holy See and the society."

The Vatican's position on a series of elements on which the society would have to reflect "in the context of the second step of the reflection period referred to above," the Vatican spokesman said.

Cardinal William J. Levada

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Is God there in the ordinary, chaotic lives of families?

By David Gibson

Is your family holy? What a question! Perhaps your response to it goes something like this:

“Our family is imperfect. We’re certainly no model of holiness. Most days, we race against the clock to get everyone where they need to be. Later, we struggle to get dinner on the table and the children’s homework done. It really is chaotic around here.”

Our families are works in progress, and we know that. Spouses usually realize there are steps they could take to improve their relationship. Communication in the household or find more time for each other. Perhaps they also would benefit from calling to mind everything that is good about their family.

But if holiness were ascribed only to peaceful, calm homes where the most finely tuned relationships prevail, I have a feeling not many families would qualify. The fact is that holiness, too, is a work in progress for families. But a lot that is God-like happens in families, including in imperfect ones.

Efforts to bring order out of the chaos in a family are God-like. That, after all, is what God the Creator did. Acting with love, God brought order out of chaos. Pope Benedict XVI speaks frequently about the goals of Christian family life that make it the “seedbed of virtues” and a “school of wisdom,” and thus holy.

The pope makes the point that, while the world “all too often judges the value of a person by the cold criteria of usefulness and profit,” in a family each person’s unique value is welcomed. In May 2009 while visiting Nazareth, the Holy Family’s hometown, Pope Benedict said that in a family “each person, whether the smallest child or the oldest relative, is valued for himself or herself, and not seen simply as a means to some other end.”

A key point on the pope’s part is that the virtues necessary for “authentic happiness and lasting fulfillment” are learned in a family. He has mentioned these virtues in a succession of speeches and writings, explaining that the Christian family is a place where: • Children learn to cherish and respect others. • Mercy and forgiveness are practiced and learned. • Prayer and the ways of faith are communicated. • Human life is received and protected from its beginning to natural end. • Values develop that enable people to live constructively and peacefully with others. • Self-giving and sacrifice are the norm. • Children discover what love is.

Often, the Christian family is called a “domestic Church” when its purpose and holiness are discussed today by Church leaders and educators. A family prays before sharing a meal together. In both teaching and setting an example, parents are the primary educators in the faith for their children.

Parents play a crucial role in forming the faith of their children

By Mary Eileen Andreasen

Raising Catholic children in our secular age is a huge challenge. We can’t rely on public figures to teach our children about holiness. There aren’t enough notable religious personalities, such as New York Jets quarterback Tim Tebow or New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan. It’s up to parents to lead by example. If we smoke, they will smoke. If we read, they will read. If we are religious, there’s a good chance it will be, too. If children don’t learn about God from their families, there is little hope they will learn about God from the culture. They are impressionable.

As parents, we can constantly frame ordinary experiences and point to God’s mysterious fingerprints. Who gives us the beauty of the sunset, a new baby, a kind friend or the blessing of forgiveness? God does, that’s who.

They won’t get this from the mainstream media. That’s why our domestic Churches are crucial. Beyond the religious art adorning our walls, we should talk about faith at home. We can discuss a good homily, service trips, Catholic books or a favorite priest. We can prepare a meal for a needy family. We can pray together before dinner. Our families provide a safe harbor amidst a secular world.

When our children were little, we prayed with them at bedtime. We would rotate through traditional Catholic prayers like the Hail Mary, Glory Be or the Memorare so the children could memorize them.

After formal prayers, we encouraged our children to voice their own petitions, saying something personal or asking for a favor. We were trying to expose them to the traditional prayers of the Church, but also to the personal experience of God’s intimate love for them alone. We were hoping they would soak up both. It makes a child resilient to know that in the midst of any trial, they can always talk to God or use the prayers that are centuries old. God will work. It especially helps in the stormy sea of adulthood.

When children are aware of God’s presence, they will be attentive to his action in daily life. When they need something important, they know who to ask. When they feel desperate, they seek the prayers and support of other faithful people.

It’s important for children to know that wherever they are, they are equally close to God. They can understand that because they know that their parents, even at a distance, are loving, forgiving and welcoming just like God.

Family bonds and unconditional love teach the mystery of God and a sense of the sacred. Theological knowledge is helpful, but it’s the family interaction that gives an added dimension to the profound reality that we are loved despite our failures and mistakes.

That is how children are introduced to the spiritual life. The great mysteries of God are found in the family.

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

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The family reunion could be a little hotter this summer. Not all your relatives, perhaps—even the instigator of the family reunion and the Catholic Church—when it comes to presidential candidates' recent developments in same-sex marriage and where they stand on the issue, vs. the White House, and a lot of other current issues.

As you well know, there are times when, ready or not, you are among the voice of the Church. At the reunion—or the workplace or your children’s playground—a family member or co-worker or fellow parent wants to know “Why does the Church say about …?”


That is where the recently published How to Defend the Faith Without Raising Your Voice comes in so handy. It looks at those topics, and says what it says, and points out how you can share the explanation with others.

The book itself is based on questions and answers formed by “ordinary Catholics” in the United Kingdom in a “way of explaining the Church’s teaching on contentious issues” before Pope Benedict XVII visited Britain in 2010.

The group’s “Ten Principles of Civil Communication” will work equally well in the United States, and will work when conversations this summer, such as “The bishops have filed a lawsuit? What’s up with that?”

• Look for the positive intention behind the criticism.

• Recognize the arguments you are going to face, consider the value that those arguments appeal to. Look for the—

• Check your facts, but avoid robotics.

• Shed light, not heat.

• Look for the positive intention behind the criticism.

• As people of faith, we want to shed light in the difficult topics because enough heat has already been generated.

We are all threads in ourselves and in our manner the Church that we belong to and which has formed us. When we speak—as well as how we speak—we are offering a glimpse of what we are speaking about.

• People won’t remember what you said as much as how you made them feel.

It is not just about the lucidity of your arguments, but also about the effect that your words have on others.

• Check your facts, but avoid robotics.

• Shed light, not heat.

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Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist/Mgr. Owen E. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, June 24, 2012

- Isaiah 49:1-6
- Luke 1:57-66, 80

A very noticeable difference occurs in the Church’s liturgy between the custom in 1900 and now. Then, quite often, the Mass celebrated on Sunday would be that of the feast day of a given saint. For instance, if the feast of St. Irenaeus, celebrated on June 28, happened to fall on Sunday, the Mass for Sunday would be in memory of St. Irenaeus. Gradually, and by papal direction, this practice was changed. The liturgy for a Sunday, such as the Fifth Sunday of Easter or the Second Sunday of Advent, began to take priority over feast days—or most feast days.

As a result, today if a Sunday liturgy celebrates the feast of a saint, the Church is very interested in teaching the faithful about this saint. Such is the case this weekend. Instead of celebrating the Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Church turns its attention and directs our prayers to the feast of the Nativity, or birth, of St. John the Baptist.

Christians always have seen John the Baptist, a cousin of the Lord, as particularly important in the unfolding of salvation in Christ. In the first reading, the Book of Isaiah fairly soars in its expectation and joy, particularly important in the unfolding of the Baptist. He is the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, the son of Zachariah and Elizabeth. A noteworthy moment is when Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist, loses his ability to speak. It is not a cruel act of a harsh god. Instead, it reveals that John the Baptist has been created by God, as he will be sent by God, for in that time and place salvation will come in the person of Jesus. This special role of John the Baptist, and of its origin even in his conception and birth, is emphasized in the fact that God names him.

Naming of persons, as of things, for the ancient Jews had a proprietary quality. Parents order this custom when they name their children, one of the most cherished privileges of parenthood. John the Baptist belonged to God.

In turn, this aspect of John the Baptist’s life—namely to be with God—and who fully understood the purpose of life—namely to be with God—and who devoted everything in his life, and finally his life itself, to this purpose. Nothing is more important than to be with God and to be true to God. The eloquent verses from Isaiah stress this fact for us.

The readings also remind us that God wills that we experience eternal life. He never impedes us in our way to salvation. The exact opposite is true. He even gave us Jesus, the Son of God, as our Savior. The choice remains with us. Paul would insist. We must accept the fact that eternal life is everything. We must want to be with God.

Reflection

The Church offers John the Baptist as the great model of discipleship, as a figure, human in every respect as are we, who fully understood the purpose of life—namely to be with God—and who devoted everything in his life, and finally his life itself, to this purpose. Nothing is more important than to be with God and to be true to God. The eloquent verses from Isaiah stress this fact for us.

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Catholic value entire Bible and hear many verses proclaimed during Masses

Q: Have been a practicing Catholic for my whole life, nearly 50 years now.

A: Not too long ago, while seeking to renew my faith during Lent, I felt God very close to me, speaking to me and accepting me.

My Journey to God

Morning Reflection

I pushed up my window on a bright summer morning, and found the delight of my day. A happy crescendo of birdsong drifted in the morning, and I found the delight of my day. I pushed up my window on a bright summer morning, and found the delight of my day.

Breezes danced in my curtains, caressing my skin and filling the room with delicious morning air.

A happy crescendo of birdsong drifted in the morning, and I found the delight of my day.

Cindy Leppert is a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis. Flowers bloom outside the chapel at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis on a recent warm day.

By Cindy Leppert

Daily Readings

Monday, June 25
2 Kings 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18
Psalm 60:3-5, 12-13
Matthew 7:1-5

Tuesday, June 26
2 Kings 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36
Psalm 48:2-4, 10-11
Matthew 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday, June 27
St. Cyril of Alexandria, bishop and doctor of the Church
2 Kings 22:8-13, 13-21
Psalm 119:33-37, 40
Matthew 7:15-20

Thursday, June 28
St. Irenaeus, bishop and martyr
2 Kings 24:8-17
Psalm 79:1b-5, 8-9
Matthew 7:21-29
Vigil Mass for Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles
Acts 3:1-10
Psalm 19:2-5
Galuatians 1:11-20
John 21:15-19

Friday, June 29
Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles
Acts 12:1-11
Psalm 34:2-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
Matthew 16:13-19

Saturday, July 1
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-13
2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15
Mark 5:21-24 or Mark 5:21-24, 35b-39

For many Catholics, scriptural understanding took a quantum leap forward in the 1960s when the Mass began to be celebrated in the vernacular.

The Bible is a complex compendium of literary genres, including history, prophecy, poetry and instructional letters, to name just a few.

The Catholic Church has traditionally been itself as the guardian and authentic interpreter of Scripture.

For centuries, few Catholics read the Bible because copies were rare and expensive, and the literacy rate was much lower than it is now. As a result, biblical studies were conducted by oral tradition.

The invention of the printing press changed that, and the Bible became the most important book in the world.

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Franciscan Sister Yvonne Conrad served as a teacher and nurse then did parish ministry

Franciscan Sister Yvonne Conrad, a member of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, died on May 25 at St. Clare Hall, the health care facility at the motherhouse in Oldenburg. She was 78.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on May 29 at the motherhouse chapel. Burial followed at the sisters’ cemetery.

Anna Mae Conrad was born on May 19, 1934, in Hamilton, Ohio. She entered the Oldenburg Franciscan community on Sept. 8, 1954, and professed her final vows on Aug. 12, 1960.

After ministering as a teacher at Catholic schools, Sister Yvonne entered the nursing program at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, and graduated with distinction in 1969.

Her next ministry assignment was head nurse at the sisters’ convent infirmary. In 1972, Sister Yvonne began her studies for a bachelor’s degree in nursing at the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati.

After graduation, Sister Yvonne was appointed director of the sisters’ infirmary at St. Francis Hall.

She also served as a member of the motherhouse coordinating team until 1985. In 1996, a career change led her to pursue a master of professional studies degree at Loyola University in Chicago.

After completing that degree, she served as pastoral minister at Queen of All Saints Parish in Beechville, Ky.

In the archdiocese, she ministered as director of religious education at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Morris then as director of religious education and pastoral associate at St. Maurice Parish in Decatur County.

Sister Yvonne also ministered at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Enochsburg, and was an administrative assistant at St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.

She also served at St. Ann Parish in Hamburg, Ind., in the Evansville Diocese. In 2007, Sister Yvonne retired to the motherhouse.

Surviving are a brother, Celestine Conrad of Fairfield, Ohio; a sister, Lorraine Snodgrass of Fairfield, Ohio; and several nieces and nephews. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of St. Francis, P.O. Box 100, Oldenburg, IN 47036.

With the cross from the Berlin cathedral in the foreground, the planet Venus is seen through a special solar filter as a black dot on June 6. Venus was making a slow transit across the face of the sun—the last such passing that will be visible from Earth for 105 years.
By Sean Gallagher

For nearly 15 years, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis has been working to give lay ministers the knowledge of the Church’s teaching necessary to be effective employees in parishes and archdiocesan agencies across central and southern Indiana.

On May 30, 10 people were honored at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis after completing the theological formation program. Edward Isakson, archdiocesan dean of lay ministry and human resources, commented during the liturgy:

“We are grateful for your dedication and the witness you provide that we are never fully formed as ministers,” Isakson said. “God continually shapes and molds us to be his instruments in the world so that his love can flow through us to people who so greatly need it.

“We hope and pray that God will continue to bless you and guide you in your ministry to build his kingdom and make his love manifest.”

The people honored represent a broad variety of ministries in which lay Catholics are involved in the archdiocese. Some have served in parishes as youth ministers, directors of religious education and a parish life coordinator.

Others minister in the Metropolitan Tribunal, the archdiocese’s canon law court, and in the archdiocese’s communications office.

During her 32 years of ministry, Barbara Black has served in many parish ministries—from school principal to director of religious education and youth minister. She currently is the parish life coordinator and director of religious education of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Terre Haute.

Black participated in the lay ministry formation program for 12 years, and was happy to be honored with so many other lay Catholics ministering in the Church.

“It’s helped me by giving me the background that I need to help the people understand the faith better,” Black said. “I’m just happy to see that we’ve got so many people who are trying to further their education so that they can be better leaders of our Church.”

Marianne Hawkins served as the youth minister at St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville for 16 years, and participated in the lay ministry formation program for 11 years before being honored for completing it.

“I learned so much through this formation program,” Hawkins said. “I would recommend it to everybody. All of the classes were great. It was a wonderful, wonderful program.”

When Black and Hawkins began taking classes in the program, they were held at various locations across the archdiocese, often requiring them to drive long distances to participate in courses.

Now the archdiocese is offering theological formation for lay ministers through online classes offered by the University of Notre Dame’s Satellite Theological Education Program (STEP) and the Catholic Distance University.

Before completing the program, Hawkins took one online course on the papacy through STEP. While acknowledging that it was good to sit in a classroom with fellow students, she also saw the benefits of the online classes.

“It was good,” Hawkins said. “I can see why they’re going online with the distances that people have to travel.”

After the liturgy in which the lay ministers were honored, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator, praised them for their dedication to ongoing formation and spoke about the importance of theological education for lay Catholics serving the Church.

“What I really appreciate about the program is that it’s not more than just nuts and bolts,” Bishop Coyne said. “It’s also formation in the intellect so that people can not only speak from the heart, but they can also speak from the mind.”

(For more information about lay ministry formation in the archdiocese, log on to www.archindy.org/lvmistry)

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, Indianapolis
Seeking Part-time position (20 hrs per week)
Qualifications: General knowledge of Catholic liturgy. Keyboard experience and ability to direct choir. Will direct a number of the works collaboratively. Salary based on qualifications; generally following Archdiocesan guidelines.

STOP

LITURGY COORDINATOR

St. Benedict Parish (50+ families) is seeking to fill this position. The Liturgy Coordinator is responsible for facilitating the worship life of the parish community by coordinating and providing liturgical experience which celebrates and strengthens the membership’s journey of faith. The program will include planning and developing the full liturgical cycle, including Sunday and Holy Day liturgies and other major liturgical celebrations. The Coordinator will coordinate liturgical teams and committees to supervise the parish music program, schedule all liturgical music, and oversee the planning and preparation of worship space environment and decoration. Knowledge of Catholic liturgical practices is required, and computer skills are necessary for this position. This is a twelve-month position. Salary will be commensurate with education and experience.

Please send résumé and three references to:
Fr. Ed Goldbach, OFM Conv.
111 S. 9th St.
Terre Haute, IN 47807

By Sean Gallagher

On May 30, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis honored 10 Catholics from across central and southern Indiana for completing the theological formation program at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. Posing in the cathedral rectory after the liturgy are, from row from left, Eva Morales, Nora Cummings, Kay Summers, Colleen Velez and Barbara Black and, back row from left, Greg Otolski, Brandon Evans, Marianne Hawkins, Cathy Funkhouser, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne and Kathy Wilt.

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317-291-7014
crawford@stgabrielind.org

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Lived faith, service keys to evangelization, says synod text

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Catholics who act like their faith has nothing to do with daily life and a Church structure that is more bureaucracy than service are two impediments to the Church’s ability to proclaim faith in Jesus, said the working document for the next world Synod of Bishops.

“Every one of the Church’s actions has an essential evangelizing character and must never be separated from the duty to help others encounter Christ in faith,” said the document that will guide the work of the synod, scheduled for Oct. 7-28 at the Vatican.

Pope Benedict XVI chose as the synod’s theme “The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith.”

The working document, released on June 19, said the bishops and other synod participants will focus on faith in Jesus as the heart of evangelization; how changes in the world impact belief and the practice of the faith; how liturgy, catechesis and charitable activity do or should bring people to faith; and a look at particular ways that Catholics evangelize and educate people in the faith.

The new evangelization, it said, “will also involve the courage to denounce the infidelities and scandals” within the Church, and “acknowledge faults while continuing to witness to Jesus Christ.”

Looking within the Church, the document said, “many lament the excessive bureaucratic character” of Church structures, which are “perceived as being far removed from the average person and his everyday concerns.”

The synod’s working document is based on responses to a long outline and questionnaire published in March 2011. The responses came from 114 bishops’ conferences, 26 Vatican offices, and the international unions of superior generals of men’s and women’s religious orders, said Archbishop Nikola Eterovic, secretary-general of the synod.

“Some responses,” the document said, “complained of the excessively formal character of liturgical celebrations, an almost routine celebration of rituals and the lack of a deep spiritual experience, which turn people away instead of attracting them.”

At a news conference on June 19, Archbishop Eterovic said the synod would attempt to respond to “the need for new instruments and new expressions to make the word of God understandable in the lives of contemporary man.”

Pope Benedict called the synod to respond to a situation where, “because of a lack of faith, various particular Churches are witnessing a decline in sacramental and Christian practice among the faithful to the point that some members can even be called ‘nonbelievers,’” the document said.

During the synod, the Church also will mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, and the launch of the Year of Faith called by Pope Benedict to energize Catholics and Catholic communities and promote a deeper knowledge of the essential tenets of faith.

“The Year of Faith will remind us of the foundation of the new evangelization—faith in Jesus Christ,” Archbishop Eterovic said.

In evaluating signs that call for a renewed evangelization of the baptized, the working document cited “a weakening of faith in Christian communities, a diminished regard for the authority of the magisterium, an individualistic approach to belonging to the Church, a decline in religious practice and a disengagement in transmitting the faith to new generations.”

The document said cultural changes, especially secularization—accelerated and spread by globalization and greater global access to media—are creating a situation in which many people see faith as unimportant, old fashioned or simply irrelevant to modern life.

At the same time, it said, more and more people show signs of despair, selfishness, loneliness and a lack of purpose in life.

Faith in Jesus Christ brings the joy, enthusiasm, hope and love that people need to live better lives, it said. When faith effectively transforms people’s lives, it said, the results are “families which are a true sign of love, sharing and a hope which is open to life; communities equipped with a true eucumenical spirit; the courage to support initiatives for social justice and solidarity; and the joy of giving one’s life to the priesthood or the consecrated life.”

The document said a major challenge to the new evangelization is the growing idea that faith is opposed to freedom and that the Church’s claims to know what is true is suspect or even dangerous.

Many people today show “a widespread disorientation, which leads to forms of distrust of all that has been passed down about the meaning of life, and to an unwillingness to adhere in a total, unconditional manner to what has been revealed as the profound truth of our being,” the document said.

While many Catholics who question the Church’s claims of truth may continue to do good works, without the strength of faith and the support of the Christian community, it said, their good works are bound to weaken over time and their activity will lose its power to bring others to Christ.

One of the most effective ways to show people how faith brings true freedom, it said, is through “the witness value” of devoting one’s life “in love to those who are lonely, marginalized or rejected precisely because the face of Christ is reflected in these people,” Archbishop Eterovic told reporters, “Charity should be the language of the new evangelization.”