More than 2,200 gather in Indianapolis for National Black Catholic Congress

By Sean Gallagher

Hands were raised in prayer and Gospel music echoed in a large ballroom at the JW Marriott on July 19 as some 2,200 people from across the country gathered for the start of the National Black Catholic Congress XI in Indianapolis.

At the beginning of the congress’ opening general session, a roll call was taken of the dioceses across the country that were represented.

As each diocese was named, groups large and small, often wearing colorful T-shirts, stood up and cheered.

The congress in Indianapolis was the first one attended by permanent Deacon Lawrence Houston, who ministers at St. Peter Claver Parish in New Orleans. He said his positive experience during the congress’ opening session “started with the music.”

“It just touched my spirit,” Deacon Houston said. “And just to be among so many African-Americans who know who they are as Christians, and ... are not afraid to let people know that we are black and we are Catholic and that there’s no separation in that was a powerful thing.”

The congress was founded in 1889, and met several times until the late 1890s. It did not meet again until 1987 in Washington, D.C., and has convened.

Pro-life walker tragically killed in Indiana was eager to serve God and help unborn children

By Mary Ann Garber

Andrew Moore felt called to walk across America this summer with pro-life college students to help save the lives of unborn babies in at-risk pregnancies.

The 20-year-old Concord, Calif., collegian joined a group of Crossroads volunteers walking from San Francisco to Washington, D.C., to pray for an end to legalized abortion and educate people about the Holocaust which has killed more than 54 million babies in the U.S. since 1973.

Tragically, while trying to save unborn babies’ lives, he lost his own life early on July 20 when he was hit by a car and killed instantly as he walked along a highway in west-central Indiana with another Crossroads participant.

It was about 5 a.m. and the collegians had only been walking along U.S. 40 near Stilesville for about 15 minutes when they decided to cross the highway at County Road 480 West so they could see oncoming traffic while they prayed the rosary.

They were wearing reflective safety vests, and the Crossroads van with other walkers was just ahead of them along the south/central walk route to the nation’s capital.

With just 600 miles to go, the collegians were on schedule to participate in a pro-life rally on Aug. 11 at the U.S. Capitol.

Shortly after the accident, Crossroads organizers cancelled the remainder of the 18th annual Canada, northern, south/central and southern walks this summer so the grief-stricken young adults could receive counseling and return to their homes.

Moore was a student at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, Calif.

Before the walk, he wrote a reflection on why he decided to spend his summer giving pro-life talks and praying outside abortion centers en route to Washington.

“I had already been involved in the pro-life movement for several years,” Moore wrote. “When I am at home, I pray in front of the local abortion mill almost every day and try to speak to the people going in.

“Crossroads sounded like a good way to serve God and help his children,” he wrote. “... I have been considering a vocation to see MOORE, page 7
every five years since then. Dominican Father Reginald Whitl, a law professor at St. Thomas University in St. Paul, Minn., gave the opening address. He spoke about the early meetings of the congress in the late 19th century when they discussed how black Catholics should respond to racism in the broader society and the Church, and to the need for education for their children.

"Some of those issues persist," Father Reginald said. "Some assert themselves anew. And black Catholics must constantly and repeatedly confront them." He then reflected on the re-emergence of a distinctly black Catholic identity following the Second Vatican Council, especially with the U.S. black Catholic bishops issuing in 1984 the pastoral letter "What We Have Seen and Heard," which showed that black Catholics "had come of age in the Church.

"We were authentically black," Father Reginald said. "We were truly Catholic. And, hence, we were called to evangelization. Thus, began the current era of the Black Catholic Congress." Father Reginald also reflected on the fact that black Catholics are a small minority within the larger black community in the U.S., making up approximately 5 percent of the black population.

He pointed to the many blessings that black Catholics receive through the Church, especially in the sacraments and particularly in the Eucharist. "The sacrifice of the Mass is the highest form of worship a black Catholic can offer to Earth, God," he said. "But it’s just not us on Earth. When we offer unleavened bread and wine to the Father, and recall the Passion and the resurrected glory of his Son, the angels fall down in awe and declare ‘Alleluia!’ and our beloved dead shout, ‘Thank you, Jesus!'

"I told them that the present crisis that black Catholics are faced with in terms of a change in the American political system does not produce saviors of the nation or knights in shining armor who will fulfill all of our dreams. It's important that he did that." †

In speaking about contemporary issues in society that affect black Catholics, Father Reginald said that laws passed some 50 years ago to protect their civil rights are "barely enforceable" and need vigilance to protect them. He also said that black Catholics "must work to change the world and to protect the lives of the poor," and must ensure all citizens are "free to vote and to challenge them to reflect and pray about the issues involved in the upcoming election. Their are issues that we should place before the Lord for guidance," Bishop Braxton said. "They are issues about which we should search the Scriptures and the teachings of the Church, to see our consciences and our hearts deeply.

"And the black Catholic who, as an 18-year-old, will be eligible for the first time to vote in a general election this November, said, "I appreciate Bishop Braxton’s comments about the election.

"To stand in front of his own people, and challenge them to reflect and pray and think about their faith and what we believe and where our country is going— that is the most profound thing," Bishop Braxton said. "That’s something that I haven’t seen. It’s important that he did that." †

Official Appointment

Effective Aug. 1, 2012

Rev. Michael P. Hoyt, a son of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis and ordained a priest for the Congregation of Saint John in Fley, France, on June 25, 2005, now requesting incardination in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, appointed associate pastor of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg.

This appointment is from the office of the Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.
Genocide survivor offers faith-filled testimony of love and forgiveness

God answered Immaculee Ilibagiza’s desperate prayers by keeping the door to her cramped hiding place in a Pastor Jean’s house closed for 91 days to save her life.

The genocide ended when Paul Kagame, the leader of the Hutus, ordered the Tutsi army to Rwanda. The Tutsis then began killing the Hutus. When violence erupted after the president’s plane was shot down in 1994, Rwanda was plunged into a brutal, three-month civil war.

Ilibagiza fled from her hiding place in the Hutu pastor’s tiny bathroom to a safer place with seven other terrified Hutu women for three excruciating months to a refugee camp and finally to New York, where she worked for the United Nations.

In New York, she met author Wayne Dyer, who helped her publish an account of the senseless, politically motivated violence of a lifetime that was one of the biggest stories of the world.

Yet, her beloved homeland and village near Lake Kivu became a killing field. The then-President Juvénal Habyarimana was assassinated in 1994 and chaos reigned after a brutal, three-month civil war.

Some of the proceeds from the sale of her first book and the publication of her book on Ash Wednesday in 2006.

Last year, it was 30.4 percent of Black Catholics. By Mary Ann Garber

There are significant “within-group” differences among African-American Catholics, Pope-Davis said, which reflect considerable diversity of experiences.

This survey shows black Catholics are more engaged in their faith than whites.

The late Reverend Father Joseph Taylor, former president of Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis, said, “This is a problem particularly in this economy.”

The survey found that 36 percent of respondents were satisfied with the targeting of black vocations.

“Rwanda is a tiny country in central Africa,” Ilibagiza said. “I was in school and I had a wonderful teacher. I always gave the best to my students. I thought our black Catholic community was in disarray.”

The survey found that religious engagement of blacks is greater than among whites (39 percent to 35 percent), Pope-Davis said. “By almost every measure of religious engagement, African-American Catholics are considered stronger in their faith than white Catholics. The levels of religious engagement, as we defined it in this study and were measured, include three distinct areas—spirituality, emotionality and social participation.”

Ilibagiza's prayers have been answered in a surprising way.

When Ilibagiza was reunited with her husband and children in 1994, she knew she had to face her past and to help others do the same. She began to pray for a change of heart, thought about her future and learned to speak English with a French and German accent.

When she met Dyer in New York, he asked her how she came to this country. She told him that she had lost the key to that bathroom. He said, “We had to sleep on top of each other.” She said, “He told me that if I wanted to go out of bounds, I should say God will help you if you do your best. We are so blessed to have God. Our Church gives us a great feeling and we have to listen to that. Take the Bible seriously as the commandments of God.”

Ilibagiza was brought and brought back tears, she recounted her journey and fight struggles through the bloody holocaust.

Some of the respondents from the sale of her first book and the targeting of black vocations. "One of the interesting things—and this may come as no surprise to you—is that one in four African-American Catholics perceive some form of racism in the church. This is a concern because our Catholic faith tells us that we are one in the body of Christ and we express our faith as a community. There is also a cultural nuance that helps us think of the world in a particular way.”

At the beginning of 2012, Ilibagiza began to pray for a change of heart, thought about her future and learned to speak English with a French and German accent.

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Sensless violence in Colorado is painful and confusing for all.

After praying the Angelus today (on Sunday, July 22), the Holy Father spoke of the shock at the "senseless disaster which took place in Aurora, Colo.

"I share the distress of the families and friends of the victims and injured, especially the children, Pope Benedict XVI said. "Assuring all of them and their families and friends of the victims and injured, especially the children, the Pope said. "I express the same kind of pain that they must have felt during the same weekend that we mourned the tragic loss of life and meaninglessness at the Batman movie The Dark Knight Rises."

"The lives of these victims, including those who were injured, have been cut short because of the senseless violence which took place in Colorado."

"The intentional use of violence—the unjustified use of senseless and senseless violence. He saw firsthand the darkness in one of human history's most shameful episodes.

"But theinate and innocent people—especially children—were killed by malevolent spirits who hate all that is holy and innocent and who use poor twisted souls like the young man in Aurora, Colo., as instruments of their destructive hatred.

"That's why we need God."

"We are right to turn our attention to Jesus Christ in times of terrible, senseless tragedy. His story is one of monstrous evil overcome by God's love and goodness. He was abused, tortured and killed in spite of—a perhaps because of—his innocence. He was crucified for no good reason with no legal or moral justification. He was murdered by madmen who allowed themselves to be used by the powers of darkness in one of human history's most shameful episodes.

"Christ knows the pain and suffering of all victims, and their families and friends. He experienced the same kind of senseless violence. He saw firsthand the evil that we humans are capable of, the evil we do. We forgave him and promised to send him his Holy Spirit to help us live not as madmen, but as sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters to each other."

"In the wake of the Aurora, Colo., massacre, we have two choices. We can become bitter and angry at the horrifying loss of life and meaningless violence inflicted on the safety and security of innocent people watching a movie. Or we can forgive those who have trespassed against us and pray for peace—in our own hearts and in the hearts of all who seek to harm others in any corner of the world."

"Before he became pope, Cardinal Joseph Kittinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, wrote, "We must be made that God can enter into union with man. Man, who seems at first sight to be a kind of unfortunate monster produced by evolution, at the same time represents the highest possibility the created order can attain. And this possibility becomes a reality, even if we are the saddest kind of failure on the part of the human race."

"Last week, we witnessed monstrous inhuman behavior on the part of a fellow human being. We also witnessed in his inhuman actions and compassion and bravery—the""highest possibility the created order can attain."

"Why the two exist side by side in the human community is a mystery that none of us understands or can ever hope to solve."

"We don't understand the mystery of sin and evil. But we trust in God's love and forgiveness, and we hope for a better world to come—both here on Earth and in our heavenly home.

—Daniel Conway

Reflection/Sean Gallagher
Penn State scandal is a reminder that sexual abuse affects all of society.

On July 30, NCAA president Mark Emmert announced massive penalties against Penn State University's football program during a press conference at the college sports sanctioning body's headquarters in Indianapolis.

The penalties were harsh and as punishment for the sexual abuse of minors carried out over several years by then Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, and the university, including in the Penn State's former head coach, the legendary and now deceased Joe Paterno, to cover up Sandusky's crimes.

The press conference took place a day after a statute of limitations on Pennsylvania's sexual abuse of minors law expired.

The tragedy of what happened at Penn State cannot help but remind us in the Catholic Church of the evil acts of sexual abuse committed against young people by clergy for decades that came more fully to light in 2002.

Church leaders acknowledged that scandal by establishing comprehensive procedures to care for the victims and to prevent such abuse from occurring in the future.

Those procedures include training clergy, religious, employees and volunteers to spot possible abusive situations and take steps to end them. We also audits make sure that does not happen.

Church leaders also pledged to cooperate immediately with law enforcement officials when they learn of allegations of sexual abuse by clergy or anyone who minister the name of the Church.

And, of course, a zero-tolerance policy against abusers was established. Anyone in the Church who sexually abuses minors while ministering in its name will never carry on such ministry in the future. In fact, Church leaders also used the tragedy of raising awareness that sexual abuse is a problem for society as a whole, not just within the Catholic Church.

Sexual abuse of children sadly often occurs in many homes, schools and other institutions throughout the country every year.

A bright spotlight was shined on the heinous crimes in the Penn State scandal because of its famous football program and the horror of Sandusky's acts.

The steps taken by the Church to prevent sexual abuse of children have actually helped the Catholic Church become a leader in the prevention of sexual abuse of minors in the U.S. and elsewhere.

If such procedures are lacking in athletic programs at various levels or other places where children may be at risk, perhaps leaders could look to the response of the Catholic Church to its own sexual abuse scandal for possible steps to be taken.

While Church leaders would be happy to further the effort to protect children from abuse, we must convince us that all of our own problems are now solved and that abuse will never take place again in the Church.

The tragedy of what happened at Penn State should sadden all of us for the evil that exists in the world. But it should also inspire us to always be vigilant and determined to never let it happen again within the Church and in society at large.

(Sean Gallagher is a reporter for The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.)

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

The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to edit letters from their authors, as necessary. Based on space limitations, partial or full text may be carried.

Letters must be typed, double spaced, with a letter limit of 300 words. They must be signed and include your name and mailing address.

Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.
Denver prelates offer consolation in wake of Aurora shootings

DENVER (CNS)—Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila of Denver and his auxiliary Bishop James D. Conley offered prayers and support to the victims, survivors and the community after a gunman killed at least a dozen people and wounded dozens more during a July 20 midnight screening of the movie *The Dark Knight Rises in Aurora.*

“For those who were killed, our hope is the tender mercy of God that He has promised in a joint statement: ‘— ’Never death nor life,’ reflected St. Paul, ‘can separate us from the love of God’ ” (Rom 8:38-39).

“Those who were wounded—physically, emotionally and spiritually—our hope is in their recovery and renewal. To them we offer our prayers, our ears to listen, and our hearts to love for their suffering that may be long, but in hope we are granted the gift of new life.”

Archbishop Aquila and Bishop Conley also prayed for the families of the victims, for the families of the injured, especially the children,” he said to pilgrims gathered at the papal summer residence of Castel Gandolfo.

James Holmes, 24, who had been a doctoral student at the University of Colorado before he chopped off an arm and leg, is at large in connection with the mass shootings. Police said Holmes was still wearing a bulletproof vest in the movie theater’s parking lot when he was apprehended. Law enforcement authorities put the number of wounded at 58.

Archbishop Aquila, who was to celebrate an evening Mass for those affected by the shooting, and Bishop Conley regina Caeli Corner of Catholic Charities in the archdiocese would offer counseling over the next few weeks for those who need it. “We look for opportunities to pray with our community,” the bishop added. “We will continue to stand by our neighbors and support families and communities in forming people of peace.”

Federal judge dismisses Belmont Abbey College’s lawsuit against mandate

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (CNS)—A federal judge has dismissed Belmont Abbey College’s lawsuit against the Obama administration that had challenged the federal contraception mandate, but lawyers for the Benedictine college in Belmont say they will continue the fight.

U.S. District Judge James C.reff Scott Gibbons of the District of Columbia dismissed Belmont Abbey’s case on July 19, saying that the college did not have standing to bring the case to court, nor could it demonstrate it had been harmed yet by the mandate.

The mandate—issued in August 2011 by the federal Department of Health and Human Services as part of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act—requires nearly all employers to provide free artificial contraception, sterilization and abortion-causing drugs in their insurance plans.

There is a narrow exemption for employers who object to providing contraception on religious grounds, as well as for congregations in religious orders if they serve and hire people primarily of their own faith. The contraceptive mandate takes effect for new health plans on Aug. 1, and for changes to existing plans on Aug. 1, 2012—unless the narrow religious exemption applies or a one-year “temporary enforcement safe harbor” applies.

Following an outcry over the mandate from Catholic institutions across the country and the U.S. bishops past spring, the Obama administration established the “safe harbor” period to allow those employers that do not provide the mandated medicines and procedures for religious reasons to figure out how they will comply with the mandate. The “safe harbor” period expired on Aug. 1, 2012.

The mandate forces individuals to get health insurance or face fines goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2014. The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, a nonprofit law firm representing Belmont Abbey College in the lawsuit, argued that paying for contraceptive services for employees and students would force the Catholic college and Benedictine monastic community to violate Church teaching against artificial contraception.

The firm argued that the mandate would mean an unconstitutional infringement of their First Amendment right to free exercise of religion, and that of Belmont Abbey College said it could not be exempted from the mandate’s requirements.

Bosaberg agreed with the Department of Justice’s position that the mandate was constitutional, and that more time is needed to see if the government would modify the mandate and further accommodate the concerns of religious employers, which federal officials have promised they would do.

“The court holds that the challenged rule is not ‘sufficiently final,’ ” Bosaberg said in his opinion. “The government has done nothing to suggest that it might abandon its efforts to modify the rule—indeed, it has steadfastly pursued that course—and it is entitled to a presumption that it acts in good faith.”

The court did not consider the merits of Belmont Abbey’s case, and Belmont Abbey may file a lawsuit if and when it can demonstrate harm caused by the mandate.

Belmont Abbey College’s case was the first to be filed challenging the HHS mandate last November. The liberal arts college has been operated by the Benedictine monks of Belmont Abbey since 1876. The Becket Fund is representing clients—including other religious colleges, EFWT and Priests for Life—in some of the 23 other similar lawsuits filed in federal district courts around the U.S.

Hannah Smith, senior counsel for the Becket Fund, said in a statement that the decision in Belmont Abbey College’s case was “on technical grounds. The judge thinks that the case should be delayed for a matter of months to give HHS time to fix the problem.”

“The decision says nothing about the merits of Belmont Abbey’s religious freedom claims, and has no effect on any of the other 22 cases currently pending in federal court,” she said. “It simply delays Belmont Abbey College’s ability to challenge the mandate for a few months, and the court made clear we have the right to re-file the case if HHS does not fix the problem.”

This empty evil adds to a series of violent acts that weigh heavily on the national consciousness, acts that must surely occasion focused discussion on the interplay of violence and the availability of guns,” said the Rev. Francis H. Wade, interim dean of the Episcopal Church’s Washington National Cathedral.

“This moment also calls for prayer,” he said. “Our prayers at the National Cathedral today will mourn the fallen—and we will continue to remember those injured, along with their communities, as we renew our calls for healing and peace.”

Joanne Schwartz, executive director of Progress Now Colorado, said, “Today, we offer condolences to the families affected, and to all of our neighbors in Aurora as they struggle to cope with this terrible act of violence. And we call on Congress and elected officials at every level to put aside partisan differences, and take action to stop the gun violence that takes place every day across America.”

Schwartz noted in her statement that after the Columbine High School slayings, also in Colorado, in 1999, “Republicans and Democrats came together to support closing the ‘gun show loophole’ by an overwhelming margin—a model of cooperation we should aspire to today.”

Federal judge in Nebraska dismisses one lawsuit against HHS mandate

LINCOLN, Neb. (CNS)—A federal judge dismissed a lawsuit against the Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) mandated contraceptive coverage under the new health reform law on July 17, saying it was “based on layers of conjecture.”

U.S. District Court Judge Warren K. Urbom ruled that the Department of Health and Human Services’ mandate to cover contraceptives for employees and students would force the Catholic college in Belmont say they will continue the fight.

Spokesmen for several of the attorneys general said they were considering whether to appeal Urbom’s ruling. The dismissal does not affect more than a dozen lawsuits brought in May by 43 dioceses and Catholic organizations or another 10 suits brought by various Catholic and Protestant colleges, organizations or employers.

The diocesan lawsuits have continued to add plaintiffs since their filing, with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago joining on July 9 with the dioceses of Joilet and Springfield, Ill., and their Catholic Charities agencies and Wheaton College, an evangelical liberal arts college in Illinois, signing on July 18 to a lawsuit that includes the Archdiocese of Washington and The Catholic University of America.

Kyle Duncan, general counsel of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, said at a July 18 teleconference that the Urbom ruling had “no application” to the remaining lawsuits because they can easily demonstrate that the HHS mandate will impact them immediately.
Events Calendar

Retreats and Programs

**July 30**
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Friends of Fatima” monthly Mass, breakfast and social, 9 a.m. Information: 317-545-7681 or maria.johnson@archindy.org

**August 3-5**

**August 10-12**
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad. “Benedictine Approaches to Spiritual Needs,” session one of four, Judith Cebula, Benedictine Father Eugene Hensell, presenter. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org

**August 17**
Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. “Catholic Identity and Doctrines—Spiritual Reading in Faith,” session one of four, Judith Cebula, presenter. 6:30 p.m., $25 per session includes dinner. Information: 317-788-7851 or www.benedictinum.org

**August 17-19**
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad. “The Letter of James,” Benedictine Father Eugene Hensell, presenter. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org

**August 19**
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Pre Cana Conference,” marriage preparation program, 1:15-6 p.m., 545 registration fee. Registrations: www.archindy.org/ftmum

**August 20**
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Pray All Ways,” Father Jim Farrell, presenter. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org

**August 26**
Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. “Catholic Identity and Doctrines—Spiritual Reading in Faith,” session one of four, Judith Cebula, presenter. 6:30 p.m., $25 per session includes dinner. Information: 317-788-7851 or www.benedictinum.org

**August 21-23**
Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. “Peacemaking—new midweek retreat,” Benedictine Brother Maurus Zoeller, presenter. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org

**August 28**
Conventual Franciscan Friar Don Bassana, left, poses with Conventual Franciscan Father Jim Kent, right, of Our Lady of Consolation Province, during the Fourth Biennial Convention of Conventual Franciscan provinces across the U.S. during the same liturgy.

**Events Calendar**

**Retreats and Programs**

- **July 28**: Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. “A Cup of Coffee and a Dose of Conscience.” Josh Cole and Jerry Mattin, presenters. 9:30 a.m. Reservation: 317-498-6087 or martyrs257@yahoo.com
- **July 28-29**: St. Martin Parish, 8044 Yorkindle Road, Yorkville. Parish festival, Sat. 5:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m., barbecue pork dinner, Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., fried chicken dinner, food, games, music. Information: 317-623-3408.
- **July 29**: Saint Augustine Parish, 18020 Lafayette St., Leopold. Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., fried chicken dinner, quilts, games. Information: 812-843-5143.
- **August 1**: Archdiocese O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Solo Seniors, Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced, new members welcome, 9:30 a.m. Information: 317-370-1189.
- **August 3**: Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 1530 S. Union St., Indianapolis. Lumen Dei meeting, Mass, 6:30 a.m., breakfast following Mass, Sisters’ Place, 215 S. Terrace Ave., Indianapolis. Information: rhumper69@yahoo.com
- **August 3-4**: St. Joseph Parish, 2805 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. Parish yard sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-246-2512.
- **August 5**: St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 523 E. Merrill St., Fortville. Parish festival, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., games, food, entertainment, silent auction, chicken and noodles dinner. Information: 317-489-6811.
- **August 8**: Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, Madame Hall, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. “What is Catholicism Anyway? The Sequel,” session four of five, 7 p.m. Information: 317-888-2861.
- **August 11**: Pearl Street Pizzeria and Pub, 65 E. Pearl St., Indianapolis. Theology on Tap, young adults ages 21-35, program, 7 p.m. Information: mflav@archindy.org
- **August 14**: St. Christopher Parish, 5301 W. 16th St., Indianapolis. Scripture study, 7 p.m., $100 for 30 sessions. Information: 317-241-5169 or jansenml@iquest.net.
- **August 16**: Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Discalced Carmelites Secular Order meeting, noon. Information: 317-545-7681.
- **August 21-23**: St. Mary Parish, 2500 St. Mary’s Drive, Lawrenceville. Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 812-925-2833.
- **August 28**: Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Pre Cana Conference,” session four of five, 7 p.m. Information: 317-888-2861.
- **Aug. 11**: St. Joseph Parish, 2805 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. Parish yard sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-246-2512.
- **Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. “Catholic Identity and Doctrines—Spiritual Reading in Faith,” session one of four, Judith Cebula, presenter. 6:30 p.m., $25 per session includes dinner. Information: 317-788-7851 or www.benedictinum.org
- **Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. “Catholic Identity and Doctrines—Spiritual Reading in Faith,” session one of four, Judith Cebula, presenter. 6:30 p.m., $25 per session includes dinner. Information: 317-788-7851 or www.benedictinum.org
- **Open house, 1-3 p.m. Information: 317-888-2861.
- **VIPs**

- **Holy Angels parishioner Amanda Strong of Indianapolis earned a Student of Christ Award for her volunteer service to the Church during the National Black Catholic Congress awards ceremony on July 21 at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis. Strong has served her parish as council president, and also was president of the Catholic Interarchdiocesan Council and Black Catholics Concerned, Indianapolis Caucus.**

- **Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House to host missions bazaar on Aug. 11.**

- **Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis will host its seventh annual “Missions Helping Missions” bazaar and family picnic on Aug. 11. A variety of vendors will sell hand-crafted gifts at fair-trade prices from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Proceeds from sales will support ministries here and abroad. An outdoor buffet featuring a pulled pork barbecue will be served from noon until 7 p.m. The meal costs $10 per person or $30 for families of up to four people. The Southside Jazzers will provide music throughout the afternoon. For more information, call 317-545-7681, send an e-mail to Fatimat@archindy.org or log on to www.archindy.org/ftmum.

- **Profession of vows**

Conventual Franciscan Friar Don Bassana, left, poses with Conventual Franciscan Father Jim Kent on July 20 at the chapel of the Franciscan novitiate in Mishawaka, Ind., after Friar Don was invested as a novice for the Our Lady of Conception Province. Father Jim leads the province, which is based in Mount St. Francis, as its minister provincial. Eight other men were invested as novices for other Conventual Franciscan provinces across the U.S. during the same liturgy.
Couples need to talk to each other, said Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state. "The gentle and smiling face of the Church, the best and most convincing heralds of love sustained and nourished by faith," said a message to the participants in the international meeting of the Teams of Our Lady.

The group, a movement for Catholic couples started in France in 1938, was meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, on July 21-26. The papal message to the couples was signed by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state. While pressures on married couples have increased since the movement's founding, the message said, married couples are committed to "this newness, this fundamental truths about human love" and how it is a reflection of God's love for humanity.

The movement helps couples recognize the grace of the sacrament of marriage and encourages them to "sit down," that is to say, to commit to setting a regular time for personal dialogue between the spouses, in which each presents to the other, with all sincerity and in a climate of mutual listening, the issues and topics most important to a life as a couple.

"In our world, so marked by individualism, activism, eagerness and distraction," Cardinal Bertone wrote, "sincere and constant dialogue between the spouses is essential for avoiding the emergence of misunderstandings that grow and harden," and which can cause irreparable damage.

"It is a precious habit of setting down beside each other to talk and listen so that you understand each other," he said.

Moore continued from page 1

the priesthood for some time, and Crossroads is a great way to work on my discernment—prayer, sacrifice and separation from the distractions of the world." Moore has enjoyed posting updates on social media sites during their trek through the West and on to the Midwest.

Two days earlier, Moore and other Crossroads walkers had recorded two radio interviews with the Msgr. Lawrence Morlan, Father John Hollowell and Mike Moroz for broadcast on WBOJ-FM (91.3) in Terre Haute.

Moore was scheduled to speak at several Indiana area parishes last weekend.

Jim Nolan, president of Crossroads Pro-Life, wrote on the organization's website that "the mission of Crossroads family is devastated by the loss of such a courageous young man. Andrew will be missed deeply by all who knew him. His memory will be preserved in the work of Crossroads and all work to build a culture of life. Andrew was praying the rosary at the moment he was hit. He is now praying in the merciful love of God!"

American Life League president Judy Brown issued a statement on July 23 to pay tribute to Moore's tragic death. "It was very sad." †

Indiana abortion law blocked by regulator; Mississippi abortion clinic stays open

JACKSON, Miss. (CNS)—A federal hearing officer considering Mississippi's request for an exception to the Medicaid rules said the law is unacceptable, putting at risk the state's more than $4 billion in federal Medicaid funding.

Hearing Officer Benjamin Cohen of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said for the first time that Mississippi's $30-a-patient fee for Medicaid patients who choose their own health care provider is illegal, violating the rights of Medicaid patients to choose their own health care provider.

Cohen recommended to the centers' administrators that Mississippi's request for an exception to the Medicaid rules be turned down, and his recommendation was accepted earlier this month.

For now, Mississippi already prohibits the use of federal funds to pay for abortions for Medicaid recipients, but Indiana's law forbids any Department of Health contracts with groups performing abortions except hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers.

The Indiana law also prohibits any abortions in the state after 20 weeks of pregnancy in cases where the life or health of the mother is at risk.

An injunction against enforcement of the law has been in effect since it was signed into law in 2011, and a lawsuit to remove the injunction is pending before the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago.

Meanwhile, a federal judge allowed Mississippi's only abortion clinic to remain open while it continued to work toward compliance with a new state law permitting only certain doctors to perform abortions.

District Court Judge Daniel J. Bookhoff of Mississippi partially lifted the injunction on a law that had been scheduled to take effect on July 1, but he continued to block sections of the law imposing civil or criminal penalties on violators.

The law requires that abortions be performed only by obstetricians-gynecologists with privileges to admit patients to local hospitals. Currently, neither of the out-of-state doctors who provide services for women at the Jackson Women's Health Organization have such privileges.

"The act will be allowed to take effect, but plaintiffs will not be subject to the criminal penalties upon which the state is relying at this time or in the future for operating without the relevant privileges," said Jordan in his July 13 decision.

The judge held that, by the legal standards of this case and the ambiguity still present, the court finds that there would be a chilling effect on the plaintiffs' willingness to continue operating as a result of the state and its newly adopted laws that they obtained the necessary privileges," he added.

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant said the state would "continue to do everything important measure as the legal process moves forward."

Closure of the Jackson clinic would bring an end to abortions performed in Mississippi. About 2,000 abortions are done there each year.

A spokesman for Bishop Joseph N. Latino of Jackson said the bishop has taken no public stance on the bill or the lawsuit.

A suit pending before the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York is designed to compel New York state to issue a "Choose Life" license plate supporting the work of pregnancy care centers.

The lawsuit was filed by the Children First Foundation after his application for a "Choose Life" plate was denied. The organization contends that it met all the requirements for a custom plate under New York law, but was denied because the plate carried a pro-life message.

New York offers dozens of custom license plates for a wide variety of sports teams, organizations, professions and causes. Currently, "Choose Life" plates are available in 27 states, including Indiana, with plates pending in two additional states. †

What was in the news on July 27, 1962? Questions about whether the Council will address the liberty of non-Catholics currently, "Choose Life" plates are available in 27 states, including Indiana, with plates pending in two additional states. †

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 July 27, 1962, issue of The Criterion:

• Little Sisters announce site of home for aged
• Council may discuss liberty of non-Catholics

• "ROME—The question of freedom of conscience for non-Catholics in Catholic countries—already an object of heated controversy at top levels, judging from recent statements—may get a thorough airing at the Second Vatican Council. While no abrupt shifts in basic views are to be expected, a start may be made toward enlarging the Catholic Church's recognition of valid subjective elements in religious faith, with the resulting duty on the part of other countries to recognize consequent consequences arising in favor of their Catholic minorities. The issue of toleration and civil liberties for Protestants in such countries is one of the perennial sources of interreligious tension."—U.S. liturgists. See more vernacular as result of council
• New academic dean named for Marian
• Beech Grove mayor, city officials enjoy Lady of Grace hospitality
• Catholic Charities plans special exhibit Sunday
• The shocking story of the freedom riders

What was in the news on July 27, 1962? Questions about whether the Council will address the liberty of non-Catholics currently, "Choose Life" plates are available in 27 states, including Indiana, with plates pending in two additional states. †

• U.S. Providence Sisters at intercessional seminar
• Atlanta Catholic schools to enroll 11 Negro pupils
• Catholic observers plan to attend WCC meeting
• Extension given for Easter Duty
• Liturgical reform is initiated for the Malabar Rite
• The Vatican Council: Secretariat for Unity has immense potential
• Council official sees “surge” toward unity
• Set up benefit plan for lay employees
• Vocations flourish in mountains
• Confirmation anointing is still a requirement
• Controversy over new film Lolita, critical wonders
• Protestants, Jews get bids to attend Pontifical studies
• Warms of “slavery” of materialism
• ‘Man’ on translation of pastoral clarified
• Ex-insurance executive now ‘apostle’ to lepers
• Study rental plan in textbook crisis
• In Florence: Prelate meets with laity to discuss council
• Spanish bishops deplore lack of ‘social conscience’
• Need for ‘Catholic brains’ seen factor in school crisis
• ‘Prayer pickets’ seeking return of worker-priests
• Urges that laymen, nuns be permitted to give Communion
• Hits Jewish council ‘representations’

(Read all of these stories from our July 27, 1962, issue by logging on to our archives at www.CriterionOnline.com)
Above, participants in the National Black Catholic Congress prepare to receive Communion from Bishop Joseph N. Perry, an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Chicago, during the conference’s opening Mass on July 19.

Left, archdiocesan seminarian Doug Hunter of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis prays during the National Black Catholic Congress Mass on July 20 in Indianapolis. Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, the principal celebrant, urged congress participants to promote religious vocations to African-American Catholic youths.

Right, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator, welcomes the approximately 2,250 participants of the 11th National Black Catholic Congress during its opening session on July 19 at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis. The archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry also helped present the congress for more than 2,200 African-American Catholics from dioceses throughout the country.

Bottom left, this historical display greeted National Black Catholic Congress participants in the exhibit hall at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis during the July 19-21 conference. The organization for African-American Catholics was founded by journalist Daniel Rudd of Bardstown, Ky., in 1889 in Springfield, Ohio.


Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary parishioner Eric Slaughter of Indianapolis talks about the importance of ending abortion with two National Black Catholic Congress participants on July 20 in Indianapolis. He volunteered at the Right to Life of Indianapolis booth during the 11th national congress at the JW Marriott.

Serra Club vocation essay

Priest, religious plant seeds of faith to help student seek God first in life

(Editor's note: Following is the fourth in a series featuring the winners of the Indianapolis Serra Club's 2012 John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest.)

Emily Prather
Special to The Criterion

“How do priests, religious brothers and sisters, and permanent deacons in their life and ministry help us seek God above all things?”

Throughout my life, several religious men and woman have influenced my spiritual life and taught me to put God first before all other things.

My first parish priest, Father Gerald Burkert, and my middle school religion teacher, Benedicte Sister Nicolette Etienne, had a tremendous impact on my faith life and helped me to seek God first.

Father Jerry was my parish priest at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove until around fifth grade. He was an incredibly kind and welcoming man. Father Jerry exemplified seeking God first. His spirituality could be seen by anyone he came into contact with. He preached to the parishioners to put God first, but it was easy to see that he practiced what he preached.

Father Jerry was always there to answer a question someone might have about the faith or about life in general. When I was in second grade, Father Jerry was the priest for my class’ first Communion and reconciliation.

He came into class to speak about the importance of the sacraments, and how we as Christians should keep God first in our lives. Through his actions and words, Father Jerry helped begin my life as a Christian and taught me to put God before everything else.

Sister Nicolette Etienne taught me middle school religion, and was the leader of the Holy Name theology club. She taught me many different aspects of life as a Christian.

She also helped me to understand why we believe what we believe. Sister Nicolette is a great friend and teacher, and her love for God is very evident for everyone who has ever met her.

During middle school, I was in Sister Nicolette’s theology club to help prepare students for “Quest for Excellence,” an academic competition at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

When at theology club meetings, she took the students to the morning Communion service on the days they did not have Mass. She also took the students to the Heilbronn's Shrine of St. Maria Goretti in Illinois to see the shrine to the girl who died a virgin.

Sister Nicolette always put Christ into the lives of everyone around her, and helped them to seek God first in life.

In my life, priests and religious have made a tremendous impact on my spiritual life. Their ministry has helped many people welcome God into their lives or deepen their faith.

Sister Nicolette and Father Jerry, by words, actions and example, brought me closer to God and taught me to always seek the Kingdom of God first in life.

Emily and her parents, Brian and Nancy Prather, are members of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis. She completed the 10th grade at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis last spring, and is the 10th-grade division winner in the Indianapolis Serra Club’s 2012 John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest.” †

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Hinting at a willingness to continue discussions with the Vatican and recognizing the full authority of the pope over the Church, the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X (SSPX) said it must defend Church teaching from error.

“As for all the novelties of the Second Vatican Council, which remain tainted with errors, and for the reforms derived from it,” the statement said, “the society can only continue to uphold the affirmations and teachings of the constant magisterium of the Church.”

The statement from the society’s general chapter meeting, which ended on July 14, was posted in French, Italian, English, German and Spanish on the society’s website on July 19.

Chapter participants “determined and approved the necessary conditions” for an eventual, full reconciliation with the Vatican, it said. If the conditions are met, “an extraordinary chapter with deliberative vote will be convened.”

The website said the statement had been sent to the Vatican prior to publication.

Jesus Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said the Vatican does not consider the statement to be a “formal response” by the SSPX to the last document that it asked Bishop Bernard Fellay, the society’s superior general, to sign.

“Because we do not consider it—and it is not—a formal response,” Father Lombardi said, “the SSPX would not comment on the statement’s content.”

The Holy See has taken note of this declaration, but awaits the forthcoming official communication of the society as its ‘dialogue with the Pontifical Commission Ecclesia Dei’ continues,” he said. “Ecclesia Dei,” now headed by U.S. Archbishop J. Augustine Di Noia, is handling the discussions with the SSPX under the guidance of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Chapter members formally affirmed their faith in the Roman Catholic Church and its hierarchical structure in which “the supreme power of government over the universal Church belongs only to the pope, vicar of Christ on Earth.” †

Society of St. Pius X recognizes papal authority, hints discussions will continue
Teenagers ‘see God at work’ during Homeland Mission project

By John Shaughnessy

The special moments started to stack up, leading the teenagers back to the challenge that a priest had given them at the beginning of their journey. At 19, Steven Meuleman recalls the older woman who cried when the teenagers helped at her home during the archdiocesan Homeland Mission effort on June 24-29.

On one of those scorching summer days, the teenagers lined the side of a hill, forming a “bucket brigade” that passed bucket after bucket of water up the hill to the woman’s home in Henryville, one of the southern Indiana communities that had been devastated by tornadoes on March 2.

The water was needed to nourish the tree saplings that had been planted to replace the towering trees near the woman’s home which had been flicked away like toothpicks by the tornadoes. “She literally broke down in tears when we helped her,” says Meuleman, a member of St. Lawrence Parish in New Washington.

At 14, Matthew Fajt recalls the unexpected reaction he received from Alzheimer’s patients at a New Albany nursing home—and the surprising feeling he experienced, too. “We played games with them,” says Matthew, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle.

“They were so grateful for us coming in. They don’t seem to get that often. It made their day—and mine.”

Looking for God

The two teenagers were part of a 50-member group from cities and towns across the archdiocese—Bloomington, Greencastle, Greenwood, Indianapolis and Terre Haute—who dedicated a week of their summer vacation to do mission work at home as part of the archdiocesan Homeland Mission effort that focused on southern Indiana this year.

The archdiocesan effort followed a week after 40 high school students from the New Albany Deanery also helped in the area devastated by tornadoes. “It was very meaningful for them to serve in their community,” says Leah Cissell, coordinator of programming for the Catholic youth ministry office of the New Albany Deanery. “They saw they didn’t need to go far to help people in need. They also learned that when things don’t work out as planned that having a joyful attitude can really enhance their experience and let them see God at work.”

A similar message was shared with the archdiocesan Homeland Mission group during the Mass at Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis, where their six-day journey began on June 24. Msgr. Paul Koetter, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish, challenged the teenagers to look for God in the situations they would face during their trip.

That theme resonated throughout their experiences for the teenagers and adult leaders on the trip. “One morning, we went to a site to haul away debris,” recalls Beth Fajt, Matthew’s mother and also a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle. “The homeowners’ son asked the kids to pray with him before we started working. His mom and dad’s house was completely demolished. We saw a lot of that in Henryville and Marysville. It was shocking for all of us. But it was more frightening when we helped at a soup kitchen, and they saw little kids in line.”

The soup kitchen provided another surprise for Matthew. “The people were extremely grateful to us for getting them food,” he says. “It was a treat for them. They thought they were lucky to get food. And I don’t even think about it. I take for granted what I have.”

Matthew’s reaction was common among the teenagers who took part in the Homeland Mission project, says Kay Scoville, archdiocesan director of youth ministry. “Everyone kept telling the teens ‘thank you’ and ‘bless you,’” Scoville says. “It was very humbling to them. Humbling is the key word for the trip. We all learned a huge lesson in humility, especially living in a culture where we have so much and some people have so little, and they still say ‘thank you’ and ‘bless you.’”

“It was an inspiration to see them’

The teenagers seemed to grow in their faith with each day and each experience. Scoville says, “It grew as they helped repair the roof of a house owned by an elderly woman who had no insurance. It grew as they sorted donations at the community center in Henryville. It grew as they focused on their experiences during morning and evening prayers, and daily Mass. “Seeing the destruction and listening to people’s stories of survival and faith had a great impact on the teenagers,” Scoville says. “Our theme for the week was ‘Rebuild My Church.’ Our patron saint for the week was St. Francis of Assisi. And our quote for the week was from him—‘Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.’”

That quote was written on the back of T-shirts that the teenagers wore during their week of service. That quote was also imprinted in their hearts.

“My life was never the same after that trip,” Matthew says. “You really learn to appreciate what you have. And I saw how the volunteers really represented God by what they did.”

Meuleman saw that same change in many of the teenagers. “They saw they were serving Christ’s people,” says Meuleman, one of the youth group leaders during the trip.

“That was a message I kept getting from them.”

That message is a promise for the present and the future of the Church, according to Scoville. “It gave me a huge sense of hope about what the young people are capable of doing,” she says. “As the St. Francis quote goes, they did what is necessary and they accomplished so much. It was an inspiration to see them living their faith.”

High school students on the archdiocese’s Homeland Mission project on June 24-29 help clear debris left by the tornadoes that devastated the southern Indiana community of Henryville on March 2.

Left, a quotation by St. Francis of Assisi is displayed on the back of the Homeland Mission participants’ T-shirts.

Homeland Mission project participants say their outreach experience helped them see ‘God at work.’

Wanting to add a touch of color and hope to the Henryville area devastated by tornadoes on March 2, high school students helping with the archdiocese’s Homeland Mission project on June 24-29 created a large sign that included a quotation from St. Francis of Assisi about the connection between effort and possibilities.

“I liked the trip a lot more than I thought I would,” Matthew says. “You really learn to appreciate what you have. And I saw how the volunteers really represented God by what they did.”

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Paul, but Paul called them "false apostles, deceitful workers, who masquerade as Apostles of Christ" (2 Cor 11:13). Because of this opposition, Paul decided that he was forced to boast of himself. He says, "I think that I am not in any way inferior to the super-apostles." Even if I am untrained in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; in every way we have made this plain to you in all things. (2 Cor 11:5-6) He continued by describing some of the hardships he had to endure—his imprisonment, beatings with rods, scourgings, stoning and all the dangers associated with traveling in that era. We need to be about a vista, not a vista. To keep him from becoming elated, God gave him a thorn in the flesh. I invite you to read the footnotes about this parable in your Bible. Paul concludes the letter by telling the Corinthians that he plans to visit them again—the third time—and he would "not be lente, since you are looking for proof of Christ speaking in me" (2 Cor 13:2-3). It's reunion season again. Class reunions, family reunions, reunion weekend for family members, and the like. We gather buddies from the same office, you name it. Somehow warm weather brings them out. Our favorite reunions, second only to the huge one that my high school reunion, each July, is my high school class reunion. Although the impossible age of 25- or 50-year kind involve catered dinners and cocktail hours, the monthly lunches my classmates and I convene in Minnesota are less formal. And when we are there in July, we make sure we attend the reunions of old retired family reunions, reunions of old retired family and friends—this year we will get two more! We went on field trips to Taylors Falls, Wabasha, the riverboat, and lots of other places. It's reunion season again—the third time—and he would "not be lente, since you are looking for proof of Christ speaking in me" (2 Cor 13:2-3).}

Debra Tomaselli

Church is more than what we do—it's who we are. And the biblical readings for the Second half of Second Letter to the Corinthians include a goldmine of wisdom about being and doing. We're not just a church, we are a community that works together. Emmaus Walk is about remembering a time when life was easier. Cornucopia is about the bounty of God's grace. And readings next week are Chapters 7-13 in the Revised Common Lectionary, which include some of Paul's most personal letters. This collection is important not only to relieve human suffering, but because it was an example of the Gentile Christians in Corinth helping the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. Paul would see the Jewish Christians' acceptance of the Gentiles' ways as evidence of their willingness to accept the Gospel.
St. John’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. In this story, Jesus encounters a crowd on the shore of the Sea of Galilee near the ancient and still thriving city of Tyre. The Gospel notes that Passover was near. The crowd was hungry. Philip, an Apostle, approached Jesus with this fact. The Lord ordered that food be found to feed all the people. Another Apostle, Andrew, noticed that a boy had five barley loaves and a few fish. Jesus instructed the Apostles to distribute these loaves and fishes among the crowd, which numbered as much as 5,000 people. Before the distribution, the Lord blessed this food. The five loaves and few fishes satisfied the multitude. Indeed, after all the people had eaten, an abundance of food remained for another meal.

Reflection

The Church treasures us this weekend. God is never distant from us unless, of course, we distance ourselves from God by our own selfishness and sin. God is with us yet today in Jesus, the risen Lord, so we humans are not totally helpless. A man brought Elisha the loaves of bread. A boy produced the food for Andrew in the reading from the Gospel of John. Yet, in neither case, were these human provisions enough for all the people. However, God entered each story. The connection with the Apostles and attention to their role in salvation are clear. The Apostles carry our concerns to Jesus as did Philip in John’s reading. By the same token, they convey to us all the gifts of the Lord. The links between this event, recorded in John’s Gospel, and the Eucharist are many. First, bread is the food. Secondly, the meeting of the people on the shore in this story from the Apostle John happened near Passover. The Eucharist is the great Passover meal. Next, Jesus gave thanks, the same gesture that occurs in all the accounts of the Eucharist is the great Passover meal. Indeed, after all the people had eaten, an abundance of food remained for another meal.

Unclaimed Treasure

As I strolled along the path, I spied an unclaimed treasure, A lone violet in all its glory, Radiating its purple beauty Amidst a sea of green.

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

My Journey to God

This moment of creation, Speaking in utmost silence, Lifted my mind and heart To the Lord of creation Amidst a sea of green.

By Sandy Bierly

Daily Readings

Monday, July 30
St. Peter Chrysologus, bishop and doctor of the Church
Jeremiah 13:1-11
(Responsorial) Deuteronomy 32:18-21
Matthew 13:31-35

Tuesday, July 31
St. Ignatius of Loyola, priest
Psalm 79:8-9, 11, 13
Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday, Aug. 1
St. Alphonsus Liguori, bishop and doctor of the Church
Psalm 59:2-3, 8, 11-17, 18
Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday, Aug. 2
St. Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop
St. Peter Julian Eymard, priest
Jeremiah 18:1-6
Psalm 146:9-12
Matthew 13:47-53

Friday, Aug. 3
Jeremiah 18:1-9
Psalm 69:5, 8, 10, 14
Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday, Aug. 4
St. Van Vianen, priest
Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24
Psalm 69:15-16, 20-21
Matthew 14:1-12

Sunday, Aug. 5
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15
Psalm 96:1-4, 23-24, 54
Ephesians 1:7, 20-24
John 6:24-35

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Canon law says deceased member of Christian faith must be given funeral or a wedding because of the church’s beauty or convenience—and often these days are staffed by only one priest. Such a guideline is probably reasonable in those circumstances. My tendency is to accommodate anyone who wants to have a religious setting for their funeral service.

My grandmother, who is in a nursing home, has used her life’s savings to pay for her care. Now she is on Medicaid and any income that she has—namely, her Social Security monthly check—goes directly to the nursing home. She is allowed $30 a month to pay for her personal needs. For 35 years, she has been a member of our local parish Catholic. She owns a burial plot in our parish cemetery and has her funeral expenses prepaid. For many years, she contributed to the financial support of our parish, but because of her current limited income is now unable to do so. She is terribly worried that the parish might refuse to host her funeral Mass and provide for her burial because she is not an active donor. If you could tell me the Church’s position on this, perhaps I could put her mind at ease.

Reflection

The two books of Kings are the historical, their purpose was religious. They attempted to look through the reigns of the kings to record and assess the fidelity of the nation to God. Prophets have a prominent role in Kings.

This week’s reading does not even mention a king. Instead, it recalls the life of Elisha, the prophet. As an act of faith in and homage to God, a devout man brought the first products of the harvest to Elisha as a gift to God. These products were in the form of 20 barley loaves. Elisha accepted the offering, but told the man to distribute the loaves among the people, who numbered about 100. The man was willing to oblige, but doubted that only 20 loaves would suffice for so many people. Nevertheless, he complied with the prophet’s instructions.

Rather than being insufficient, the loaves were plentiful enough to satisfy the crowd. For its second reading, the Church this weekend presents a passage from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians. This epistle was directed to the Christian community of Ephesus, which in the first century A.D. was a major city in the Mediterranean Sea. A port on the Asian coast of the Mediterranean, Ephesus was an important port on the Asian coast of the Mediterranean Sea. A port on the Asian coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Crowning the city was the magnificent temple of Diana, a Roman goddess. Thronging came as pilgrims to the great pagan shrine so the Ephesian Christians rejected the temple of Diana, a Roman goddess. The temple of Diana, a Roman goddess. The temple of Diana, a Roman goddess. The temple of Diana, a Roman goddess. The temple of Diana, a Roman goddess. The temple of Diana, a Roman goddess.

Unclaimed Treasure

As I strolled along the path, I spied an unclaimed treasure, A lone violet in all its glory, Radiating its purple beauty Amidst a sea of green.

As Sandy Bierly is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany.
Lightning strikes over St. Joseph Cathedral during a storm in Hanoi, Vietnam, on July 14.

\[Image\]
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- Must have a love for the Catholic faith, knowledge of and commitment to the Archdiocesan Faith Formation Guidelines and Faith-Formation Curriculum, and the ability to work together with catechists, youth ministers, RCIA team, school personnel, and pastoral staff.
- Must hold a Master of Theology/Master of Religious Education degree or a Master of Education degree or a Master of Education with 12 credit hours in theology.
- Must be highly organized, capable of delegating work, demonstrate strong leadership abilities, and have excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

**Deadline for application is July 19, 2012**

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To view the position core competencies and a complete job description, please see our parish websites at: www.smm-terrehaute-in.org or www.saintpat.org.

Please submit resumes by August 1, 2012 to:

jblackford@smm-terrehaute-in.org or jodyruark@saintpat.org

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Church's point man on AIDS: Too early to celebrate possible cure

WASHINGTON (CNS)—More than 20,000 people are descending on the U.S. capital for the XIX International AIDS Conference, and Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo feels right at home.

As the Catholic Church's point man on HIV and AIDS, he moves among the scientists, politicians and activists with ease, having worked for years to make sure that those involved in faith-based responses to the disease have their voices heard in the biennial gatherings.

Yet, Msgr. Vitillo has not always been welcomed. In the early years of the pandemic, he was provided with a bodyguard at an AIDS conference in Europe.

"A lot of the resistance to our participation has been based on misinformation and accepting some of the media's perspective on what the Church says and does rather than what we actually say and do," said Msgr. Vitillo, special adviser on HIV and AIDS for Caritas Internationalis. "I meet people all the time who are shocked when they hear what the Catholic Church does in response to AIDS.

"I know we're talking a lot about 'the cure,' but at the point where science is right now, we only have antiretroviral treatment as the best approach medically," he told CNS. "We have a long way to go. I hope there's a miracle. I hope we find a cure or a preventative vaccine soon. But for so far we don't have that, and we shouldn't forget the social, developmental, psychological and spiritual responses that are part of a comprehensive response to HIV and AIDS."

Msgr. Vitillo said antiretroviral treatment has not only saved the lives of people living with HIV, but has reduced the infection rate dramatically in some countries, primarily in Africa. Studies show people on antiretroviral treatment are 96 percent less likely to pass on the virus. This development has been critical in reducing mother-to-child infection rates.

Msgr. Vitillo will speak to a pre-conference gathering of some 80 Catholic workers from around the world, detailing his participation in a massive program that aims to halt new infections of children by 2015 in India and 21 African countries.

The plan aims to assure that pregnant women who are HIV-positive are provided with antiretroviral treatment to ensure that the child is not infected in the womb, during birth or during breast-feeding.

The plan also aims to keep the women healthy "because we don't want to save the children and then have them lose their mothers," Msgr. Vitillo said.

Although the cost of antiretroviral treatment has dropped to roughly $100 per patient per year in poor countries, Msgr. Vitillo said Church workers are continuing to push pharmaceutical companies to respond appropriately to the crisis. He said a Caritas campaign to develop better pediatric dosing of antiretroviral drugs has enjoyed some success.

At this year's AIDS conference, he and other Church leaders will be pushing the Medicines Patent Pool, where drug companies will deposit their patents for HIV medicines, allowing faster development of needed drugs. Some companies have agreed, and Msgr. Vitillo said he will be thanking them. Others will be encouraged to participate.

Msgr. Vitillo said he has worked hard to keep open a dialogue with the giant pharmaceutical companies.

"We recognize that they have a purpose that includes making a profit, but they can't forget the fact that we have large numbers of people who need their help in order to survive," he said.