New shelter transforms women’s lives, including the woman who leads it

By John Shaughnessy

Cami Pritchett kept fighting God. She also kept fighting nearly everything she had learned through the years—that to change a life for the better, you have to help people remove their fears, doubts and excuses, and open them to the wondrous possibilities of a new start.

Pritchett knew in her heart that God was doing some amazing things.

A child has fun playing with a toy at Becky’s Place, a Catholic Charities homeless shelter for women and children in the southern Indiana community of Bedford.

Unions have essential role in creating a renewal that helps people escape a ‘broken economy,’ bishop says

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Labor unions and other worker associations are necessary to help propel workers and their families out of poverty amid a “broken economy,” said the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

“Economic renewal that places working people and their families at the center of economic life cannot take place without effective unions,” declared Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif.

“This renewal requires business, religious, labor and civic organizations to work together to help working people defend their dignity, claim their rights, and have a voice in the workplace and broader economy,” he said.

“Everyone and every institution has a role to play in building a more just economy,” which “serves the person rather than the other way around.”

Bishop Blaire made his remarks in the annual Labor Day statement issued by the committee he heads. Dated Sept. 3, this year’s observance of the federal Labor Day holiday, the statement, “Placing Work and Workers at the Center of Economic Life,” released on Aug. 13, looks at economic issues through Church teaching.

“Our country continues to struggle with a broken economy that is not producing enough decent jobs. Millions of Americans suffer from unemployment, underemployment or are living in poverty as their basic needs too often go unmet. This represents a serious economic and moral failure for our nation,” Bishop Blaire said.

“As people of faith, we are called to stand with those left behind, offer our solidarity and join forces with ‘the least of these’ to help meet their basic needs.”

Bishop Blaire said Catholic agencies and institutions are trying to provide help and hope “to exploited and mistrusted working people.” He singled out the work of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the bishops’ domestic anti-poverty arm, and its Department of Migration and Refugee Services, which works to resettle immigrants arriving in the United States.
to do with your life. ’I prayed about it and
walked through the door.’

Two years later, the shelter, which
opened in February, has changed the lives of
Pritchett, the women and children who
come there, and even the community that
has banded together to make it possible.

’God is doing some amazing things,’
Pritchett says. ’Lives are changing.’

Such transformed lives underlie some of the success stories,
starting with one about a mother and her
5-year-old son.

Life-changing moments

’She was already working, but she was
desperate,’ Pritchett recalls. ’While she
was at Becky’s Place, she received some
assistance with budgeting. She was able to
save money, we got some educational
resources for her son, and she ended up
moving out and into her own place after
twelve weeks with us.’

There’s also the story of the mother
who took her children to the doctor after the family spent several weeks at
Becky’s Place.

’The doctor said that her children were
healthier than the last time he had seen
them because they were eating better,
drinking more water and juice, and they
had more structure—far as meal time and
bed time,’ Pritchett says.

’We also have a couple of current
residents who were unemployed when
they came into the shelter. After helping them prepare their resumes and helping them
make use of other resources, they both have
employment.’

The shelter has been life-changing
in other ways for the female residents,
including a woman named Carrie who
struggled to reclaim her life after making poor choices and mistakes.

’They offer the structure I need to get
back on my feet,’ Carrie says. ’I got a job,
and I have a roof over my head. The staff at
the shelter is easy to talk to. They all listen, and they’re there for me. It’s
nice to have that. I feel like I’m
moving forward.’

The successes not only encourage the residents to make more changes, they motivate Pritchett and her staff of
even more workers to make a difference in the lives of the women.

’If I don’t take time to see the
successes, they can get lost,’ Pritchett says.

’Like any part of life, if you take
your eyes off God and just focus on the
everyday things, you’re going to miss out on
the miraculous things that are
happening around you.’

Like the story of the 81-year-old
woman that Becky’s Place is named for, and
the story of how churches, businesses and
individuals have rallied together through
Catholic Charities to make the shelter a reality.

A woman’s example, a town’s gift of
love

Becky’s Place is named in honor of Becky Ryan, a longtime Pentecostal
pastor in Bedford who has dedicated most
of her life to helping people in need. That
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Holy Angels parishioners mourn loss of church; work to grow parish

By Mary Ann Garber

As Holy Angels School sixth-grade students sadly watched a demolition crew use excavators to tear down the parish's historic church on Aug. 22, their principal, Sheryllyn Pillow, explained that the 109-year-old white frame building wasn't safe to worship in anymore.

Decades of weather damage had weakened the wooden structure, she told the children, so the church had to be taken down.

While she talked with the students, a large section of the roof fell to the ground without being pushed by an excavator.

During a media interview, Pillow said she has many memories of the little church built on a hill at the corner of West 28th Street and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street in Indianapolis.

"I was raised in this community," she said. "It's very hard for me to watch this building go down because I was baptized here."

She recalled, "[Sen.] Robert F. Kennedy stood on the parking lot here.

"One of my friends has a picture of her dad lifting her up to shake his hand right here. A lot of historical things have happened here." She added, "We are the Church." So they understand that this is the only spiritual home that many of them have it was going to have to be torn down someday."

"I was hoping to be graduated there [next May] ... I hope the twins were born in 2000—97 years after the church was dedicated on Oct. 4, 1903."

Pillow said, "With all the problems it had we kind of knew it was going to be torn down sometime in the future."

"The twins were born in 2000—97 years after the cornerstone was laid on April 26, 1903, and the church was consecrated on Jan. 5."

"I was hoping it would last a little bit longer," Immanuel said, "but with all the problems it had we kind of knew it was going to have to be torn down someday."

"We knew that the church was in very bad shape," he said. "We are the Church. So they understand that this is just a structure, but the Church continues on. Holy Angels Parish continues on, and we have the mission of upholding the name. I don't want people to think that Holy Angels [Parish] is gone. We're still a vital presence on the near west side."

Twins Imman and Immanuel Buntin may not realize how important the church has been as a symbol of the black Catholic presence in this neighborhood for many years, but they know how much they liked participating in Catholic presence in the neighborhood."

"I received all of my sacraments here," he said. "I went through school here through the eighth grade. I was ordained a deacon in this church then [after his ordination to the priesthood] celebrated my first Mass here in this church."

In April 2011, Father Taylor said, the parish was notified by city inspectors that there were a number of code violations in the building."

"We knew that the church was in very bad shape," he said. "[Sen.] Robert F. Kennedy stood on the parking lot here. They thought that this is just a structure, but the Church continues on. Holy Angels Parish continues on, and we have the mission of upholding the name. I don't want people to think that Holy Angels [Parish] is gone. We're still a vital presence on the near west side."

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"We had quite a crowd for the last Mass," said Pillow recalled. "You know, you have a sad day because the church was going down, however the building is not the Church. They asked them, 'Who is the Church?' And they all said, 'We are the Church.' So they understand that this is just a structure, but the Church continues on. Holy Angels Parish continues on, and we have the mission of upholding the name. I don't want people to think that Holy Angels [Parish] is gone. We're still a vital presence on the near west side."

What was in the news on Aug. 31, 1962? A study on large families and vocations as well as an update on total Catholic school enrollment

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 Aug. 31, 1962, issue of The Criterion:

- Study the social encyclical, labor, management advised
- New high schools:
  - Expansion of facilities mark school opening
  - Family, Church rights in education stressed
  - Labor Day Mass slated in two cities
  - Who is 'nominal' Catholic?
  - At Helsinki Youth Festival: How Hoosier Catholic newsman 'tricked' Reds
  - Protestant Labor Sunday message
  - Jewish Labor Day Message
  - Petition at convention urges English at Mass
  - Esteem for others seen first step toward unity
  - Radio and Television Council will be unique in annals of the Church

- Large families and vocations
  - MONTREAL—A sociological survey among Quebec major seminarians published here indicates that vocations tend to come from large families. The results of the 1961 survey, which appeared in a recent issue of The Criterion, showed that the families which produced seminarians averaged 7.3 children. Of a total of 593 seminarians, only 12 came from one-child families, while 46 came from families with 10 children and nine from families with 16 or more children. The survey further indicated that 28.1 percent of the candidates for the priesthood had brothers or sisters in the religious life.

- Hadfield Edith Stehn begun
  - Vacation 'Catechism Camps'
  - Pray-and-pay role of the laity deposed
  - School enrollment nears 6 million

- WASHINGTON—The Nation's more than 13,000 Catholic schools and colleges are expected to enroll about 5,917,000 students this year, another record high total. As in past years, the biggest increase is expected in the grade schools, about 113,000 children. High school enrollment should go up by about 64,000 youngsters and colleges by nearly 29,000 students.

- Americans to staff India med school
- $2 million plant: New Brebeuf Preparatory School ready to welcome first students
- Cardinal asks missionary post
- Hopes shared-time plan will be given fair trial
- 54 percent of graduates going to college
- $2 million plant: New Brebeuf Preparatory School ready to welcome first students
- K.C. asked to provide loan fund

(Read all of these stories from our Aug. 31, 1962, issue by logging on to www.criteriononline.com)
Archdiocese is a leader in Church finances transparency

Of all the organizations that serve America’s poor, few do more good work than the Catholic Church. Its schools and hospitals provide a lifetime for millions.

Thus begins a comprehensive four-page “Briefing” on “The Catholic Church in America” in the Aug. 18 issue of The Economist. However, the next sentence is, “Yet even taking these virtues into account, the finances of the Catholic Church in America are an unholy mess.”

The magazine studied the Church’s finances and concluded, “The picture that emerges is not flattering. The Church’s finances look poorly coordinated considering or perhaps because of their complexity.”

Exactly. They are not coordinated. “The Economist” estimates that annual spending by the Church and entities owned by the Church was around $178 billion in 2010 (the Church does not release such figures).

That’s because that estimated figure includes 630 Catholic dioceses, 244 colleges and universities, Catholic Charities, and 196 archdioceses and dioceses. There is no chief executive officer over all that, as The Economist would seem to want.

The magazine says that, for purposes of comparison, in 2010 General Electric’s revenue was $150 billion, as if the Catholic Church in America is one big corporation. It isn’t.

Where does all that spending go? The Economist says, “We think 57 percent goes on health-care networks followed by 28 percent on colleges, with parish and diocesan day-to-day operations accounting for just 6 percent and national charitable activities just 2.7 percent.”

We agree that the finances of many Catholic institutions could be managed better. We believe that seminaries could do a better job of preparing future priests to handle parish finances since that is a substantial part of what they will be doing.

The lay organization known as Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities (FADICA) has long encouraged better financial education for priests, and the National Leadership Roundtable of Church Management is helping dioceses improve the way that finances are managed. Leon Penna, U.S. secretary of defense, was a director of the Roundtable until 2000.

American Catholics have reason to be proud of the fact that, as The Economist reports, “The Church is the largest single charitable organization in the country. Catholic Charities USA, its main charity and its subsidiaries employ over 65,000 paid staff and serve over 10 million people. These organizations distributed $4.7 billion to the poor in 2010, of which 62 percent came from local, state and federal government agencies.”

Naturally, the article pointed out that the clergy sex-abuse scandal “has resulted in more than $3.3 billion of settlements over the past 15 years, $1.3 billion of that in California.” Since those molestation reports became known, the article said, “Donations from the faithful are thought to have declined by as much as 20 percent.”

Eight dioceses have declared bankruptcy as a result of those settlements, and more could do so. The article reports on what it calls “questionable financial management” in some of those dioceses. This has included the raiding of priests’ pension funds to cover settlements and other losses, according to the article. The Economist briefing ended by reporting that influential Catholics are calling for more openness and accountability, which, it said, “might have the added benefit of bringing in the acumen of a knowledgeable and concerned laity.”

In that regard, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis has long been way ahead of other dioceses, apparently mainly in the northeastern part of the United States. The finances of the archdiocese are monitored closely by a Finance Council composed currently of Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator, and nine lay men and women knowledgeable about financial matters. The board of trustees of the Catholic Community Foundation is also composed almost entirely of financially savvy lay men and women.

The archdiocesan financial statements, which are audited by Deloitte & Touche, are posted on the archdiocesan website at www.archindy.org. So are the annual reports of the Catholic Community Foundation. The archdiocesan accountability report, which includes the financial statements, is published annually in The Criterion along with detailed messages from Bishop Coyne and the archdiocesan’s chief financial officer. It was published most recently in our Jan. 20 issue. That report is also available on the archdiocesan website.

It’s hard to imagine how the archdiocese could be more transparent when it comes to financial matters.

—John F. Fink

Be Our Guest/Stephen Kent

Make Labor Day a time to reflect on the economy, election

It’s oxymoronic—if not tasteless—to “celebrate” a day marking something that for millions of Americans is but a memory.

We’re approaching the first Monday of September, which marks Labor Day in the U.S., and almost 13 million Americans—8.3 percent of the workforce—remain unemployed. Another 8.2 million will remain in involuntary part-time jobs.

The traditional Labor Day is a bitter reminder to millions of our fellow citizens that they are more on the road to poverty than prosperity, leaving little to celebrate.

Once every four years, the nation has the opportunity to make changes in its management. The privilege of voting this year is a moral responsibility for the well-being of all. This Labor Day should be the beginning of a period of study and reflection leading to the ultimate decision day—Nov. 6.

There is more to do than feel sorry for those without work or contribute to food banks. This period before the elections should be one of understanding our responsibility as Christians to analyze the position of candidates, and apply these standards to our choice.

Billions of dollars are expected to be spent on political campaigns, especially advertising, this year.

We need not be passive recipients of other people’s political pabulum, photo-ops of the less-than-shirt-sleeve candidates’ appearances at state fairs.

“The relative silence of candidates and their campaigns on the moral imperative to resist and overcome poverty is both ominous and disheartening,” the U.S. bishops say in their annual Labor Day statement. “Despite unacceptable levels of poverty, few candidates and elected officials speak about pervasive poverty or offer a path to overcome it.”

“We need to hear from those who seek to lead the country about what specific steps they would take to lift people out of poverty,” the statement says.

Think of these next few weeks as an extended job interview and analyze candidates accordingly.

“If a job applicant said, ‘I will increase profits,’ the interviewer should be quick to ask for specifics. What is your plan? Will you increase revenues, reduce costs, develop new products? Tell me what you can do for this company?”

Voters should do no less when choosing a chief executive.

When just 10 percent of Americans approve of the board of directors—the U.S. Congress—it is time for some serious introspection. A Gallup poll shows 83 percent of Americans disapprove of the way Congress is doing its job—an all-time low. The situation is unacceptable.

“Work is more than a paycheck. It helps raise our families, develop our potential, share in God’s creation and contribute to the common good,” says the bishops’ Labor Day statement.

In this time of economic turmoil and uncertainty, we need to reflect on the moral and human dimensions of too much poverty and not enough work,” the bishops say.

These weeks prior to Election Day are a good time to do just that. Prepare for voting as if your vote may put one person back to work. It just might.

Stephen Kent, now retired, was editor of archdiocesan newspapers in Omaha and Seattle. He can be contacted at considerkk@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC POPULATION 1990–2010

The majority of the world’s Catholic population lives in the Americas and Europe, but the growth rate of Catholics over two decades has been strongest in Africa and Asia.
Catholic agencies in Caribbean assess damage after Isaac passes

NAPLES, Fla. (CNS)—Catholic agencies were working on Aug. 27 to assess damage in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Isaac’s pass over the Caribbean, where at least 24 people died and tens of thousands were evacuated.

The storm left widespread flooding and wind damage in Cuba and Hispaniola, the island shared by the Dominican Republic and Haiti, before turning north toward the U.S. Gulf Coast.

The islands largely escaped a direct hit, however, as the storm’s center passed south of Hispaniola before scraping the northwest coast of Cuba.

“The rains were heavy at times and the winds were strong, but it didn’t have the force of a hurricane,” said Lorenzo Garcia-Troncoso, director of Caritas Dominican Republic.

On Aug. 27, officials in Haiti raised the death toll there to 19, reflecting the vulnerability of a country still recovering from the 2010 earthquake. Some 421,000 Haitians still live in tents and tarp-covered shacks.

“For thousands of families, Isaac is still a horrible ordeal. I saw busloads of children without parents still arriving at shelters, and heard from a woman who lost her child as they ran, terrified, from their flooded homes,” said Stephanie Musset, a spokeswoman for Oxfam, a humanitarian group working in the country.

Haiti’s Civil Protection Office reported six more people were missing and that 335 homes had been destroyed. Officials evacuated roughly 15,000 people, the office said.

Catholic agencies were collecting information from various dioceses around the country. Damage appeared to be heaviest in the Southeast department.

Church officials planned to meet on Aug. 27 to determine how to respond, a spokesman for Caritas Haiti said by telephone. Groups had not launched a formal appeal for emergency assistance, but aid groups feared the storm could leave conditions ripe for the spread of cholera, a disease that has killed more than 7,500 people in Haiti during the past two years.

Cholera posed the most pressing concern for staff members of the U.S. bishops’ Catholic Relief Services (CRS). They fanned across southern portions of the country to assess the condition of the network of cholera treatment centers that the agency supports.

A CRS spokesman said that while damage appeared to be less severe than expected, two cholera treatment centers in the capital of Port-au-Prince were hit. The centers must be able to handle the expected influx of victims contracting the water-borne disease so that early treatment will prevent deaths and limit the spread of the illness.

CRS staff members reported that the damage and flooding appeared to be most severe in the Southeast department, with numerous homes in the communities of Bainet, Jacmel and Kay Jacmel destroyed.

Flooding was reported in some neighborhoods of the capital of Port-au-Prince. The CRS spokesman said some temporary shelters the agency funded after the January 2010 earthquake were damaged by Isaac’s 60-mph winds.

In neighboring Dominican Republic, two people died after being swept away by a river ravaging with rainfall from the storm. Emergency officials in that country said at least three others died and nearly 13,000 people had fled their homes.

Cuban officials reported some 25,000 evacuees and minor damage to infrastructure, according to news sources. García said Caritas and several Catholic dioceses were working with Dominican farmers who had lost banana and plantain crops.

“Compared to what we were expecting initially, the damage was far more minor,” he said. †

Residents stand in line to receive relief goods at a camp for displaced people in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Aug. 26. Tropical Storm Isaac dumped torrential rains on Haiti, where thousands of people remain homeless more than two years after a devastating earthquake.
Events Calendar

August 31
St. Monica Church, 6131 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis. Office of Family Ministries, “Family Mass and Social for Separated and Divorced Couples,” 7:30 p.m., gathering 6:30 p.m., Mass. Information: 317-236-1586 or dwayne@archindy.org.

St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 7575 Holiday Drive, Indianapolis. Charismatic Mass, praise and worship, 7:30 a.m., Mass, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-846-0705.

St. Paul Hermitage, 501 N. 176th St., Beech Grove. Ave Maria Guidi, rummage sale, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Information: 317-685-5098 or beagledrector@aol.com.

Slovenian National Home, 2712 W. 31st St., Indianapolis. “Pieka Jam,” 6 p.m., music, food. Information: 317-672-0619 or slovenianny@gmail.com.

August 31 - September 2
St. Joseph Church, 1375 S. Central Ave., Indianapolis. “Fall Fest,” food, rides, games, 5 p.m.-1 a.m. Sat. 5-11 p.m., Sun. 3-11 p.m. Information: 317-244-9002.

August 31 - September 3
Sacred Heart Parish, gymnasium, 558 Neketer St., Clinton. Spaghetti dinner, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Information: 765-432-6468.

September 2
St. John the Evangelist Parish, 9955 E. Base Road, Einschlag, Parish festival, fried chicken and roast beef dinners, 11 a.m. p.m. Information: 812-943-2880, Slovenian National Home, 1340 Yates Lane, Avon. “Slovenian Festival” in honor of all veterans, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., $5 per person, children 16 and under, no charge when accompanied by an adult. Memorial Mass, noon. Information: 317-612-0619 or slovenianny@gmail.com.

September 3

St. Peter Parish, 1207 East Road, Brookville. “Labor Day Festival,” 10 a.m.-4 p.m., country style chicken dinner, 10:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m., quilts, games. Information and reservations: 812-623-3670.

September 5
Archbishop Murry Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Sidewalk Sales, Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over; single, separated, widowed or divorced, new members welcome. 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-370-1189.


September 6
St. Susanna Parish, 1210 E. Main St., Plainfield. “Pie with a Point,” a speaker series, 6:30-8 p.m., no charge. Information: 317-838-7722 or kswaner@saintsusanna.com.

September 7
Maryman University, chapel, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Lumen Dei meeting, Mass, 6:30 a.m., breakfast following Mass, information: rumpett99@yahoo.com.

St. Anne Parish, 5267 N. Hamburg Road, Oldenburg. Turkey supper, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Information: 812-934-3584.

September 7-9
St. Mary Parish, 12421 W. Washington St., North Vernon. Parish festival, rides, music, silent auction dinners, Fri. 5 p.m-midnight, Sat. 9 a.m.-midnight, Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 812-346-3604.

September 8
St. Mary Parish, Family Life Center, 3603 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Single Seniors meeting, 1 p.m., age 50 and over. Information: 317-784-4207.


September 9
St. Susanna Parish, 1210 E. Main St., Plainfield. “Praying through the seasons workshop,” 9:30-11:30 a.m, no charge. Information: 317-838-7722 or kswaner@saintsusanna.com.

Carmelite Monastery, 59 Allendale, Tecumseh, Helpers of God’s Precious Infants, prayer vigil, Mass, 7:30 a.m., Planned Parenthood, 30 S. 3rd St., 9:30 a.m., prayer, St. Patrick Adoration Chapel, 1807 Poplar St., 10 a.m., Divine Mercy Chaplet. Information: bhmunson.non@gmail.com.


September 8-9
St. Michael Parish, 145 St. Michael Blvd., Brookville. “Fall Fest,” family style chicken dinner, Sat. 4-10 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Information: 765-647-5462.

September 9
St. Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish, 512 N. Perkins St., Rushville. “Fall Festival,” music, dance, Sun. 8 a.m.-6 p.m., chicken dinners. Information: 765-932-2588.


VIPs

Donald and Sue (Radcliff) Kochert, members of St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish in Floyd County, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 1.

The couple was married on Sept. 1, 1962, at St. Augustine Church in Salem.

On Sept. 2, they will renew their vows during the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Church. They are the parents of three children: Anthony, Charles and Jeffrey Kochert. They also have five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Michael and Eleanor (Luthman) Kolbus, members of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 1.

The couple was married on Sept. 1, 1962, at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church in Indianapolis.

They are the parents of four children: Carol Czaplicki, Jeff, Mark and Tim Kolbus. They also have seven grandchildren.

Conference for pastor nurses is Sept. 14 in Indianapolis

The eighth annual conference of the Indiana Center for Parish Nursing and Health Ministries in Sept. 14 at the Marden House Hotel and Lilly Conference Center, 1801 W. 86th St., in Indianapolis.

The conference, titled “Spiritual Vitality of the Maturing Adult,” will feature speakers Richard Johnson, nationally recognized for his pioneering work in maturing adult faith formation and spiritual gerontology, and Baxter Odum, faith community outreach director at the Memphis, Tenn.-based Church Health Center.

For more information contact Kathy Hetzler, conference chair, at hetzlerk@indy.com.

Romero documentary and worship examine Church teachings on justice

Moonsweeper, The Last Journey of Oscar Romero, a 2012 documentary, will be part of a social justice workshop on Sept. 15 at St. Monica Parish, 6131 N. Michigan Road, in Indianapolis.

The workshop will examine how the moral and spiritual choices of one person can make a difference for many people. 

It begins at 9:45 a.m. and concludes at 4 p.m.

The speakers are members of the theology staff at the University of Notre Dame as well as experts on the struggle for justice in Central America and South America. Holy Cross Father Robert Petlon, professor of theology, Margaret Preil, assistant professor of theology and Victor Maqopa, a sociologist and Ph.D candidate, will address Catholic teaching on social justice and human dignity.

For more information or to register for the workshop, log on to www.moonsweeper.org/RomeroWorkshop or contact Anne Corcoran at the parish office at 317-253-2193, ext. 5, or by e-mail at acrecoran@stmonicaindy.org before the Sept. 10 registration deadline.

Actors, dancers and vocalists are needed for program on life of St. Jeanne Jugan

Auditions for actors, dancers and vocalists are underway to perform in a dramatic, musical and choreographed production called “Work Which is Still Unknown” on Oct. 11 at the Carmel Center for the Performing Arts Palladium in Carmel, Ind.

The production will be video reproduced for international distribution.

The performance is a celebration of the life and sainthood of St. Jeanne Jugan, the founder of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

For more information about auditions, roles and the production, contact Lorrie Doucette at 317-251-1815 or by e-mail at lorried@stmonicaindy.org.

Kickball tournament raises funds for St. Mary Parish in Greensburg

St. Mary’s Alumni and Friends Association (SMATA) will sponsor its second annual “Kickball Classic” to benefit the capital campaign of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg.

It will begin at 1 p.m. on Sept. 15 at the Decatur County Sports Complex, 245 S. County Road 200 W, in Greensburg.

Kickball brackets include elementary grades 1 to 3 through adults. The cost is $10 per person. Families can play for $50 per team.

For more information or to register, call 812-663-2849 or send an e-mail to brnndbje@ctezone.com.
conventions that Cardinal Dolan would come to the events to pray and not endorse any political party or candidate. In the past, bishops, priests and women religious have offered prayers at both parties’ conventions as have clergy from many Christian communities.

In 2000, Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles opened the Democratic National Convention in his city with a prayer calling on delegates to be committed to protecting the life of all people from unborn children and the elderly to those on skid row and death row.

The same year at the Philadelphia site of the GOP convention, Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua offered the closing benediction in his home city.

At the 2008 conventions, neither Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver nor Archbishop John C. Nienstedt of St. Paul-Minneapolis, Minn., participated in the Democratic and Republican conventions, respectively, in their cities. Archbishop Chaput said he was never approached about it, and Archbishop Nienstedt said he declined.

Instead, Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., now archbishop of Miami, offered a prayer at the GOP convention in Sept. 1, and St. Joseph Sister Catherine Pinkerton, a lobbyist with the social justice organization Network, prayed at the Democratic convention.

The history of Christian leaders of many denominations praying at the party conventions goes back more than 100 years. Archbishop Demetrios is a perennial favorite and has appeared at both parties’ conventions multiple times over the years.

In 1948, Philadelphia Cardinal Dennis J. Dougherty prayed with both parties when the nominating conventions met in Philadelphia.

The announcement about Cardinal Dolan’s participation at the convention comes just a week after he was criticized for inviting both President Barack Obama and Romney to participate in the Al Smith dinner on Oct. 18 in New York.

Cardinal Dolan defended the decision to invite both candidates in a blog post, noting that, “An invitation to the Al Smith dinner is not an award or the provision of a platform to expound views at odds with the Church. It is an occasion of conversation. It is personal, not partisan.”

Above, the stage is set for the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., on Aug. 20. Among those offering prayers during the convention is New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan. He will deliver the benediction on Aug. 30 following the major address by Mitt Romney, the presumptive Republican nominee for president.

Right, delegates bow their heads for prayer during the opening session of the 2012 Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., on Aug. 27.

Labor

“The broken economy also places additional strain on other Catholic organizations, such as Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, that struggle to fulfill our Gospel mandate in the face of increased demand and fewer resources,” Bishop Blaire said.

“This broken economy also contributes to the danger that workers will be exploited or mistreated in other ways. For example, many employees struggle for just wages, a safe workplace and a voice in the economy, but they cannot purchase the goods they make, stay in the hotels they clean, or eat the food they harvest, prepare or serve,” he said. “Immigrants and their families are especially vulnerable, which highlights the urgent need for comprehensive immigration reform.”

He cited Pope Benedict XVI’s 2009 encyclical on economic and social issues, “Cura in Veritate” (“Charity in Truth”), for the link between work and dignity.

“In many cases, poverty results from a violation of the dignity of human work,” the bishop said, “either because work opportunities are limited—through unemployment or underemployment—or because a low value is put on work and the rights that flow from it, especially the right to a just wage and to the personal security of the worker and his or her family.”

Bishop Blaire quoted Blessed John Paul II, who in his 1991 social encyclical “Centesimus Annus” (“The Hundredth Year”) said that “society and the state must ensure” adequate wages for workers and their families.

“‘This requires a continuous effort to improve workers’ training and capability so that their work will be more skilled and productive as well as careful controls and adequate legislative measures to block shameful forms of exploitation, especially to the disadvantage of the most vulnerable workers, of immigrants and of those on the margins of society,’” the late pope said. “‘The role of trade unions in negotiating minimum salaries and working conditions is decisive in this area.’

‘Unions and other worker associations have a unique and essential responsibility in this needed economic renewal,’” Bishop Blaire said. “At their best, unions demonstrate solidarity by bringing workers together to speak and act collectively to protect their rights and pursue the common good. Unions are a sign of subsidiarity by forming associations of workers to have a voice, articulate their needs, and bargain and negotiate with the large economic institutions and structures of government.’

He acknowledged that, like other institutions, unions “sometimes fall short of this promise and responsibility.”

Some union actions, he said, “can contribute to excessive polarization and intense partisanship, can pursue positions that conflict with the common good or can focus on just narrow self-interests.”

But even when they do fall short, Bishop Blaire said, “it does not negate the contributions of this promise and responsibility.”

(For the full text of the statement can be found at www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/labor-day-statement-2012.cfm.)
The biblical readings in the Office of Readings next week are selected from the Book of Jeremiah. They don’t get any more whole book. Last week, I wrote about Jeremiah’s background so this week I’ll pick up with the readings. They begin on Sunday with Chapter 12 of Jeremiah, which says in verse one that the prophet had to discuss with God: “Why does the way of the godless prosper, why live all the treacherous in contentment?” Chapter 17 tells us that God is the one who created the world and that God’s words will not return to him without fulfilling their purpose. Jeremiah is told to tell the people that God will use them as an example of how not to live. Chapter 19 concludes with verses 9 through 14. This is a beautiful section about the importance of living a life of faith and obedience to God. We can see how Jeremiah’s message continues to be relevant today as we strive to live out our lives according to God’s will.

In the Old Testament, the Prophet Jeremiah is known for his bold messages and challenges to the Israelites. He warned them against their sins and called on them to return to the Lord. In the book of Jeremiah, we see how the prophet faced persecution and suffering for his faith. Yet, he remained steadfast in his commitment to God and his message. The story of Jeremiah is a powerful reminder of the importance of standing up for what is right and speaking the truth, even when it is difficult. We can learn from Jeremiah’s example as we seek to live out our own faith journeys, challenging the status quo and speaking out for justice and righteousness.

In the New Testament, we see the Prophet Jeremiah’s message come to life in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus, the ultimate fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, was himself a prophet and brought the message of salvation and redemption to all people. Like Jeremiah, Jesus faced opposition and persecution from those who did not want to hear his message of love and mercy. As we learn more about Jesus’ life and teachings, we can see how his message continues to be relevant today as we seek to live out our own faith journeys, embracing the challenges that come our way and sharing the message of Jesus with those around us.

The message of Jeremiah is a powerful reminder that the God who created us will always be with us, guiding us and leading us. As we strive to live out our own faith journeys, we can draw strength and inspiration from the story of Jeremiah and the lessons he teaches us. Let us bebold in our faith and committed to living out the message of justice and righteousness that God has given to us.
American flags should not be displayed in the sanctuary of a Catholic church

Q: Who dictates the display of American flags in church? Some Catholic churches do and some don’t. Is it the individual pastor’s decision? What is the rule? (Lake Ozark, Mo.)

A: The Code of Canon Law does not set forth any rule pertaining to the display of American flags in Catholic churches.

In reality, the words of Jesus reaffirm the commandments of God. At times, people interpreted the Lord’s words as demeaning or maybe insignificant, overtook the debate. In reality, people interpreted the Lord’s responses in discussions as demeaning or even repudiating the law of Moses. Not only does God will that we live, but God the Father gives us the way to life. Not only does God will that we live, but God the Father has given us the way to life.

The first reading contains a thought that human beings invariably dismiss. The thought is: not simply by drawing them from the quicksand. He leads us away from the quicksand. He leads us away from the quicksand. He leads us away from the quicksand. He leads us away from the quicksand. He leads us away from the quicksand. He leads us away from the quicksand.

God actually and lovingly rescues them, not simply by drawing them from the quicksand, but by leading them away from the quicksand. He leads us away from the quicksand by giving us the law, the road map to life. God does not force us to walk along this path. We must voluntarily follow God by following God’s Son. It is as simple as that. Discipleship, total and sincere, is the only way to eternal life. It is the only logical choice to make in choosing a path through earthly life.†

A basically, no—or, to be more precise, that solution is not as generally available nor as permissive as you portray it. The internal forum solution is an option that is very closely defined and, because of that, applicable only to a very limited number of people. In his 1982 apostolic exhortation “Familiaris Consortio,” Blessed John Paul II said that admission to the Eucharist can be obtained by a divorced and remarried couple whose previous marriages have not been annulled—but only on the condition that they “take on themselves the duty to live in complete continence, that is, to avoid all abstinence from the acts proper to married couples” (#84).

This arrangement, sometimes referred to as a “brother-sister relationship,” would apply only to couples who are unable to separate because of the circumstances (e.g., responsibility for bringing up children), but who would pledge themselves to refrain from conjugal relations unless and until a Church declaration of nullity (i.e., an annulment) were obtained.

So it does not seem to be a popular or widely used option.

(Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column)

Readers may submit original prose or poetry relating to faith or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the “My Journey to God” column.

Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions.

Send material for consideration to “My Journey to God,” The Criterion, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org.
Rest in peace

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


KALLEMBACH, Ralph E., Sr., 87, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, Aug. 13. Father of Patricia Clark, Carol Heidbreder, JoAnn Rose and Ralph Kallenbach. In Brother of Florence Hebert and Lloyd Kallenbach.


SMITH, Mary Jane, 73, St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville, Aug. 10. Mother of George Smith. St. Sister of Mary Gatton, Barbara Owen, Frances Scott, James and John Staggs. Grandmother of seven.


WOODARD, Sherry L., 70, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, Aug. 7. Wife of Joseph Woodard. Mother of Matthew Woodard. Stepdaughter of Margaret Sheard. Stepdaughter of Mary Napier. Carol Vogel and Todd Buxon.†

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PHILADELPHIA Archdiocese, foundation sign pact on school management

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Philadelphia’s 17 archdiocesan high schools and its four schools for special education are officially under new management.

Under a historic agreement in principle signed by Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput and H. Edward Hanway for the Faith in the Future Foundation on Aug. 21, strategic and operational control of the 21 schools passes to the foundation effective on Sept. 1. It is believed to be the first time a diocese has given control of a major part of its schools to an independent and essentially lay board.

The announcement and signing took place at a press briefing at St. Hubert High School, which was one of the four high schools recommended for closing in the 2011 report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Catholic Education, but spared by Archbishop Chaput last February.

Archbishop Chaput said in a statement that the agreement between the archdiocese and foundation “is unlike any agreement that a diocese has achieved with its lay leadership.”

“The willingness of lay leaders with a love for Catholic education to step forward is encouraging. The commitment made by the foundation—a commitment to professional excellence in management guided by a strong and consistent identity—to run our high schools and our schools of special education well, the archdiocese has achieved,” he said.

“We have seen the momentum that the foundation has been able to generate, and the agreement that this agreement will lead to an even stronger school system for the children of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia region,” he added.

Under the agreement, which initially is for five years, the archdiocesan Office for Catholic Education, which previously oversaw the schools, will become a division of the Faith in the Future Foundation, reporting directly to the foundation’s CEO. Hanway, a former chairman and CEO of Cigna Corp., will temporarily fill the post until a CEO is hired.

The Office for Catholic Education will continue to focus on curriculum and standards, academic and spiritual development of students, co-curricular and extracurricular programming and professional development of teachers.

The presidents and principals of the schools affected by the agreement will continue to report to the education office, and the teachers remain employees of the archdiocese.

Direct ownership of the schools themselves will remain with the archdiocese, Philadelphia’s flagship Catholic high school.

The school is operated by the archdiocese, but the building is owned by the Cahill Trust, established under the will of Roman founder Thomas Cahill, who died in 1878.

While the makeup of the foundation board has not yet been set and will not be announced until the fall, Hanway estimated that it will have about 15 members with the archbishop appointing only one of them.

Philadelphia Auxiliary Bishop Michael J. Fitzgerald, who oversees the education for the archdiocese, will be a board member.

The independence of the Catholic secondary system, with schools of special education, was created to allow Catholic schools to more fully address the fundraising and enrollment needs of our schools,” Hanway said. “With capacity available to educate an additional 15,000 students, we intend to grow.”

He called it a “groundbreaking approach to educating our children” and praised Archbishop Chaput and other archdiocesan leaders for being “willing to make such a bold decision in reaching this agreement with the foundation.”

“I am confident that the foundation can and will serve as a model for Catholic education across the nation as we infuse and employ an entrepreneurial approach to managing these 21 schools,” Hanway said.

In Washington, Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), said the only thing she could think of that comes close to the Philadelphia situation is that of public school districts turning over some of their poor-performing schools to an education management company.

“There’s almost no way” to predict whether the plan will succeed, Ristau said, adding that she doesn’t know how many other dioceses would emulate the Philadelphia plan, “but I’m sure everyone will be watching.”

“I am sure the archbishop weighed the pros and cons in the decision, but for the rest of us it will be really interesting to see how this goes,” she said.

John Eriksen, director of the schools program for the National Catholic Leadership Roundtable on Catholic Education Management, told Catholic News Service that entering into such an arrangement required “courage and humility.”

Eriksen said that, until he took his new job in July, he had been superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Paterson, N.J., which had a similar arrangement. “We saw some significant short-term gains. We saw some short-term pain as well,” he noted, but “over time, it has worked better and better.”

He said diocesan schools are trending to the model used by the Faith in the Future Foundation.

Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

“You talk about functionality, you talk about Catholic colleges and universities, which are some of the highest functioning temporal entities within the Church,” Eriksen added. “Now K through 12 is starting to catch up.”

NCEA’s Ristau told CNS that it’s possible that the Philadelphia plan repeated elsewhere could put the brakes on the ongoing decline in the number of Catholic schools and students nationwide.

“We know that the decline has slowed down, and I think we’re going to see a flattening and then a turnaround,” she said. “The rate of closure for schools has really slowed down. We have dioceses that actually went up last year.”

In Philadelphia, Hanway reported registration for the fall class of freshmen in the archdiocese is now at 106 percent of earlier projections.

Whether that is because of the initial efforts of the Faith in the Future Foundation or the publicity surrounding the near closing of four high schools might be impossible to say.

Registration at 11 of the 17 schools is over projection. At three schools, the incoming freshman class will be the largest in the school.

St. Hubert’s was chosen as the venue for the press briefing because of the success of its fundraising campaign, which relied mostly on small donors and community support.

Although Hanway declined to put a figure on the expected deficit this year, he estimated that it is half of the original estimate because of the increase in enrollment.

“I will say to you stabilizing enrollment is only a first step. The objective is to grow,” Hanway said.

A major part of the foundation’s work will be recruitment, development and fostering innovative programs.

“Our mission is to transform Catholic schools,” Hanway said. “Good enough isn’t enough. We must be excellent in every facet of our schools.”

While the current agreement focuses just on secondary and special education, both Archbishop Chaput and Hanway gave assurances that the concerns of elementary schools will be part of the mission of the foundation.

The agreement on Aug. 21 for the Faith in the Future Foundation to take over management and fundraising for 21 schools in the archdiocese. Hanway is the temporary CEO of the foundation.

For more information about Catholic Education, please visit cnsnews.com/catholiceducation. For more information about special education, please visit cnsnews.com/speceducation.
Seminarians take pilgrimage to New Albany Deanery parishes

Criterion staff report

Each year prior to the start of the academic year, the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis take a pilgrimage to visit parishes in central and southern Indiana. On Aug. 15, 22 of the archdiocese’s 25 potential future priests, five of whom are new this year, went on a pilgrimage to the New Albany Deanery.

Father Eric Johnson, archdiocesan vocations director, celebrated Mass with them for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the new St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Church in Floyd County, which was dedicated on March 25.

Later in the day, the seminarians visited St. John the Baptist Parish in Starlight.

The archdiocese’s seminarians receive their priestly formation at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, and Pontifical North American College in Rome.

(For more information about a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, log on to www.HearGodsCall.com.)

Seminarian Timothy DeCrane, a third-year student at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, kneels in prayer on Aug. 15 at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Church in Floyd County during the annual archdiocesan seminarian pilgrimage. DeCrane is a member of Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove.

Above, seminarians Xavier Raj, from left, Michael Keucher and Kyle Rodden pose for a photo at St. John the Baptist Parish in Starlight on Aug. 15 during the annual archdiocesan seminarian pilgrimage. All three seminarians receive their priestly formation at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad. Raj is a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis, Keucher is a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington, Rodden is a member of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Jeffersonville.

Right, seminarians Peter Jansen, left, and Daniel Bedel serve as cantors during an Aug. 15 Mass celebrated at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Church during the seminarian pilgrimage. Jansen, a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, and Bedel, a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Enochsburg, receive their priestly formation at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad.