Quarter century of stewardship praised during Catholic Community Foundation annual meeting

By Sean Gallagher

The annual meeting of the Catholic Community Foundation’s board of trustees usually is a time to review the state of the endowments it manages and the overall financial health of the archdiocese over the previous fiscal year.

A broader view was emphasized in this year’s annual meeting on Nov. 7 at the Archbishops Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Community Foundation in Indianapolis.

That’s because the Catholic Community Foundation (CCF) is marking the 25th anniversary of its founding. (See related story on page 3.)

“This celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Catholic Community Foundation is a testament to all that is good about the Archdiocese of Indianapolis,” said Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator, during the meeting. “Vision and strong leadership, combined with the generosity of tens of thousands of Catholics over the past 25 years, have created a foundation that will continue supporting the work of passing on the faith long after all of us are gone.”

Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara established the CCF in 1987 to manage endowments that were intended to provide long-term support for ministries at parishes, schools and archdiocesan agencies in central and southern Indiana.

The foundation began with a handful of funds valued at less than $1 million.

Today, there are more than 400 endowments valued at nearly $140 million.

“There is no part of the archdiocese that hasn’t been lifted up by the

See STEWARDSHIP, page 3

Speaker encourages youth to trust God and all he brings them on their journey of faith

By John Shaughnessy

The teenagers smiled as Katie Prejean told a story about the unlikely guy who made her take a deeper look at her faith—a guy in a gas station with these words tattooed across the back of his neck, “I light it Up. Salty.”

The youths also laughed when the 23-year-old Prejean shared another unusual part of her faith journey—the moment when she set the record for the longest time it’s ever taken to scale a 50-foot-high climbing wall.

Then there was the quiet appreciation that the high school students showed when Prejean mentioned the secret to life that she learned from a young saint, a secret the saint revealed on her deathbed when she shared the six words that guided her life.

Katie Prejean related those stories as the keynote speaker of the Indianapolis Catholic Youth Conference on Nov. 4 at Marian University in Indianapolis.

Taking the stage in front of an enthusiastic audience of nearly 700 youths from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Lafayette, Ind., Prejean showed the teenagers how even the ordinary moments and seemingly different people we meet can sometimes help lead us to a deeper relationship with Christ.

To the delight of the teenagers, the youth minister and high school religion teacher from Louisiana illustrated that point in her story about the guy with the unusual tattoo. She recalled how she stood behind the man as they waited to pay for gas, awkwardly staring at the tattoo.

Trying to make sense of its meaning, she wondered if it was some kind of drug reference. Then the man turned around, caught her staring at him and shared the origin of the tattoo.

“He smiles and says, ‘You are the light of the world. You are the salt of the earth,’ Look it up. It’s the Gospel of Matthew,’” Prejean recalled.

She looked it up. She found the words in

See FAITH, page 8

Events connected to Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin’s installation as new shepherd are announced

CriterionOnline.com November 16, 2012 Vol. LIII, No. 7 75¢

The heart of a missionary

Saint is a model of the new evangelization, priest says, page 16.

The 2012 Indianapolis Catholic Youth Conference begins with singing, dancing and cheering on Nov. 3 at Marian University in Indianapolis. Nearly 700 youths from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Lafayette, Ind., attended the event.

By John Shaughnessy

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See FAITH, page 8

Events connected to Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin’s installation as new shepherd are announced

 Criterion staff report

Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin will be formally installed as the sixth archbishop of Indianapolis during a 2 p.m. Mass on Dec. 3 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

Seating for this Mass will be by invitation only, and attendees will need a ticket to enter the cathedral.

This is due to the large number of bishops, priests, family members and friends of Archbishop Tobin expected to attend.

Also participating in the installation Mass will be priests and deacons ministering at archdiocesan parishes and schools, and parish life coordinators and representatives of religious orders that minister in central and southern Indiana as well as representatives of other area faith communities and civic leaders.

Two tickets to the Mass have been offered to each of the archdiocese’s 147 parishes. The pastor or parish life coordinator of each faith community has been asked to submit the names of the people who will receive these tickets by Nov. 28.

The installation Mass can be viewed live online at www.archindy.org.

At 5 p.m. on Dec. 2, a Solemn Evening Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent will be prayed at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

Like the installation Mass, seating for it is by invitation only. Those planning to attend need to RSVP. Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator, will be the homilist.

Participating in this liturgy will be guests of Archbishop Tobin, archdiocesan clergy and parish life coordinators, religious priests living and ministering in central and southern Indiana, other members of the men’s and women’s religious communities in the archdiocese, and representatives of Catholic groups and fraternal organizations that have a special relationship with the archdiocese.

During the Dec. 2 liturgy, Archbishop Tobin’s mitre, crosier, ring and pectoral cross will be blessed.

Other events connected to Archbishop Tobin’s installation are open to the public.

“A Mission of Prayer: A Year of Faith with Archbishop Tobin” will take place on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., in Greenwood.

Although the event is geared especially
安装

为修道院和青少年以及年轻人的天主教团体提供欢迎和祝福。展览和敬意的庆祝活动将在7月7日由晚7点到晚10点。一个由祈祷和赞美与友谊和谈话将会继续到7月7日到8月10日。

一个欢迎的活动组织的天主教的修道院和神职人员将从11月10日到30日。一个由祈祷和赞美与友谊和谈话将会继续到7月7日到8月10日。

组织的天主教的修道院会和天主教的修道院会将为玛利亚和她们的奉献。弥撒的时间和地点的事件会已经决定。天主教的修道院和南部的天主教的修道院会将会有机会去祈祷和赞美。

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By Sean Gallagher

In July 1987, Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara made a single decision that, for the past 25 years, has borne fruit at parishes, schools and archdiocesan offices across central and southern Indiana.

At that time, he established the Catholic Community Foundation (CCF) to manage endowments that would be established to support the long-term ministry of these institutions across the 39 counties of the archdiocese.

Shortly before Archbishop O’Meara died in January 1992, the CCF managed just 10 endowments whose overall value was less than $1 million.

That was soon to change.

Soon after Archbishop Emeritus Emeritus Daniel M. Buechlein became archbishop of Indianapolis in July 1992, he made developing the foundation a high priority.

“He knew from his many years in leadership at Saint Meinrad [Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad] how important it was to have a strong foundation to support the long-term financial stability of the archdiocese,” said Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator, during the Nov. 7 annual meeting of the board of directors at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis.

J. Patrick Byrne, the newly elected president of the CCF board of trustees and a member of St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish in Floyd County, had similar words of praise for Archbishop Buechlein.

“He, vision, focus, energy, and great love of God and of us helped Catholics across the entire archdiocese to become better stewards,” Byrne said. “He was able to balance being the shepherd of 147 parishes with knowing the needs of each individual parish.”

During Archbishop Buechlein’s 19 years of leadership, the number of CCF-managed endowments grew to 337 with their value reaching nearly $109 million.

Msgr. Joseph Schaedel, pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, served as CCF treasurer from 1994 to 2011 while he also ministered as archdiocesan vicar general.

“During Archbishop Buechlein’s foundation emergency, he established the foundation in 1987, but I didn’t foresee at the time how impressive the numbers were,” said Byrne.

Byrne said he was impressed by how the foundation has grown over the past quarter century.

“There’s probably a critical mass of endowments there. We like the assurance that it will be around,” Byrne said.

Msgr. Schaedel noted that Archbishop Buechlein was able to grow the CCF to the extent that he did because he was extremely experienced in lay catholics across central and southern Indiana.

“They are top flight professionals in their fields,” Msgr. Schaedel said. “They continue to provide a lot of advice and expertise that we just wouldn’t have otherwise in finance, in communications and in all kinds of fields. We have volunteers doing other places pay to have done by consultants.”

One of those volunteers is George Kempf. A vice president of a large financial services firm, Kempf just completed a term as chairman of the board of trustees.

At the time, the Hackls wanted to support Catholic Charities, the formation of future leaders at Saint Meinrad Seminary and donor-advised funds that we have. It’s really phenomenal.”

The breadth and depth of the more than 400 endowments currently managed by the CCF is due in large part to the generosity of lay Catholics across central and southern Indiana who established them to support the long-term ministry of their parishes, schools and archdiocesan agencies spread out across 39 counties.

Jim and Christine Hackl, members of St. Luke Parish, established three such endowments in 1999 and 2000 to support their parish’s school as well as archdiocesan Catholic Charities, the formation of future priests, pro-life education and other Catholic schools across the archdiocese.

At the time, the Hackls wanted to support Catholic ministries, and sought an institution that could manage and distribute their gifts in a trustworthy manner. They chose to put their trust in the CCF.

“We’ve felt very good about it,” Jim Hackl said. “And we also feel that we went about it in the right way, that it’s in the right hands, and that’s what we’re doing this.”

Sue and George Kempf, from left, members of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis, and Steve Stapleton, a member of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, kneel in prayer on Nov. 7 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis during a Mass celebrated prior to the annual meeting of the Catholic Community Foundation (CCF) board of directors. Concelebrating the Mass were, from left, Fathers Vincent Lampert, Steven Gannini and Clifford Vogelsang, at right (partially obscured).

“God’s hand is clear in steering the foundation in a way that is far better than what we could have done by ourselves.”

Hackl is also pleased with how the endowment has grown over the past quarter century.

“Maybe it’s not to disappear,” he said. “But I’m really comfortable that Archbishop Tobin is going to do the right thing and that it’s going to be there.”

Ellen Brunner, archdiocesan director of Stewardship and Development and acting chief financial officer, noted that, because of fluctuations in the stock markets, the CCF endowments lost about 1 percent in value during the fiscal year.

“The breadth and depth that you see in the support that is provided is really something we can be proud of,” Milroy said. “It’s only been 25 years. People talk to me about how wonderful it is to look at our annual report and see the number of endowments and donor-advised funds that we have. It’s really phenomenal.”

Milroy emphasized that they have nonetheless grown by 400 endowments now managed by the CCF.

“Many of his Catholic colleagues in his field, people in many of his Catholic colleagues in his field, have distributed nearly $77 million to parishes, schools and agencies spread out across 39 counties.

Despite these challenges, which in part have led to a $2 million reduction in the archdiocesan budget to $34 million, Milroy said that the overall good financial health of the Church in central and southern Indiana will help Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin when he begins his ministry in December.

“Every ministry needs more funds than it has,” Milroy said, “but I’m really comfortable that Archbishop Tobin is inheriting a very solid organization on which to build his vision with us.”

(For more information on the Catholic Community Foundation, log on to www.archindy.org)
Families and evangelization

“Ever since the first evangelization, the transmission of the faith from one generation to the next found a natural home in the family.”

That’s a quotation from the statement directed to “the People of God” from the bishops who attended the Synod of Bishops’ meeting on the “new evangelization.”

The importance of families in the new evangelization was stressed repeatedly during the synod’s meeting.

Carl A. Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, who was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI to be an observer at the synod, told the bishops that the sacrament of matrimony makes Catholic spouses and their families public signs of God’s love and thus missionaries.

It should hardly be a surprise that the importance of Catholic families was recognized. It is within families that children are, or aren’t, introduced to the truths of the Catholic faith and are, or aren’t, taught to pray. The family is absolutely essential in the transmission of the faith.

That’s why the bishops wrote: “A new evangelization is unthinkable without acknowledging a specific responsibility to proclaim the Gospel to families and to sustain them in their task of education.”

It is also within families that we have witnessed members falling away from the practice of their Catholic faith. Few families have not been touched by this.

So few families can assert that they don’t need help in bringing members back to the Church.

From the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Benedict has emphasized that the new evangelization is directed “principally at those who, though baptized, have drifted away from the Church and live without reference to the Christian life.”

Those people come from Catholic families.

The bishops took note of the fact that the family is being assailed by crises everywhere in our modern secular society.

“It is precisely this, however, that impels us to say that we must particularly take care of the family and its mission in society and in the Church, developing specific paths of accompaniment before and after matrimony,” they said.

Couples who are living together, and families that are established after the failure of previous marriages, got the bishops’ attention.

They told them “that the Church loves them, too, that the Church is a house that welcomes all, that they remain members of the Church even if they cannot receive sacramental absolution and the Eucharist. May our Catholic communities welcome all who live in such situations.”

Perhaps the parents of those who live in such situations can emphasize that point to their sons or daughters—that they are still members of the Church and should continue to practice their faith within those limitations. They should also rear their children in the Catholic faith.

Our young people are a particularly essential part of families so the synod’s bishops also had a word about them. They admitted being concerned about them, but not pessimistic.

“We are concerned because the most aggressive attacks of our times happen to converge precisely on us. We are not, however, pessimistic because we sense in our youth deep aspirations for authenticity, truth, freedom, generosity, to which we are convinced that the adequate response is Christ.”

Teenage and young adult years is a time for searching when each young man or woman discovers who he or she is and either takes possession of the Catholic faith or doesn’t. Our parishes must support them in their search by listening to them and dialoguing with them.

We need our Catholic youths and young adults to be evangelizers in their world, and that can only be done by catching their enthusiasm, and directing it toward various experiences of spirituality, service and mission to others who is are already being done in many places.

Families come together in our parishes, of course, and the bishops said in their statement that the work of evangelization “is the work of ecclesial communities as such, where one has access to all the means for encountering Jesus—the word, the sacraments, fraternal communion, service and mission, for recreation, for leisure, for work.”

The bishops’ statement noted that Blessed John XXIII liked to call the parish “the village fountain” from which all can drink. Our parishes must be able and eager to help families in their important role in the new evangelization—leading us to Jesus.

—John F. Fink

Editorial

Paola Correra, 14, of Sacred Heart Parish in Baltimore and Auxiliary Bishop Alberto Vargas of Chicago fills meal bags with grains, dehydrated vegetables and spices to be donated during a “Helping Hands” project on Nov. 11 ahead of the bishops’ annual fall meeting in Baltimore. Young people joined several bishops in packaging 50,000 meals destined for people in the Western African nation of Malawi. The project is a joint effort of Catholic Relief Services and Stop Hunger Now.

A dream on 25 cents a day and resilience in Madagascar

On a recent trip to Madagascar, I visited a rather extensive vocational training center, Ankohanana Sahirana Cenancy, run by the Franciscans.

The center offers workshops in embroderoy, basket-making, sewing, formal tailoring, textile, weaving, plumbing, wood-carving and other trades. Such skill development offers participants a chance to make a good living. For many, that means supporting their own families.

Sixty participants of all the people who had completed their training gathered to greet us as we arrived. They brought their hardwork and impressive enthusiasm to showcase what success looked like.

One woman, Germaine, brought a boy’s long-sleeve shirt and a common household plastic bucket to illustrate her transformation. She began with a dream and a plan that was built on 25 cents per day. Her idea was to buy a room for her family of four daughters rather than living with others and relying on their charity. Her plan, after attending an international workshop, was to make school uniform shirts for boys.

Germaine needed capital so she set aside 25 cents a day from her food budget of about $1.50 until she saved up $25. One hundred days of sacrifice gave her the investment to buy her family a “wholesale rate” of $1 each.

She resold them in her neighborhood for $1.50. The fledgling bucket trade eventually generated enough capital to buy a sewing machine and materials that bongy fingers, tireless efforts and skill learned at the training center transformed into shirts for little boys.

Germaine happily told us that her daughters are now also in the business, and thinks she is on her way to owning a home.

I heard many similar stories of ingenuity, persistence and sacrifice. They reminded me that mothers and fathers everywhere a better life for their families. They wish to be able to send their children to school, afford tuition and books, provide sufficient food so their children do not go hungry. What do their families have that for many is the ultimate luxury—a safe, secure home. In Madagascar, that means one made of concrete so that it does not blow away or collapse in a storm.

Another workshop participant—a widow and mother of three—lost everything after a bad harvest. If she had not joined the program, her only option was to send her small child, a girl of 14, into prostitution. These are the kinds of choices that the poor of the world face daily.

I grew up in Hong Kong, where entrepreneurial spirits flourished. Many people sold newspapers, fruits, cheap toys, batteries and watches in retail spaces of 50 square feet in some apartment building stair landings, but saved until they could open a proper store. I saw many people who parlayed humble beginnings into successful businesses.

Such ambition is not limited to Madagascar. Throughout the poorest countries in Africa, I have met countless individuals who were associated with workshops like the one in Madagascar. They saved from meager earnings, maybe $1 to $3 a day, and invented and traded, bought and sold, and became more effective fertilizers to turn their farms into agribusinesses. Others bought water pump parts, set up mini-factories, or opened small-scale cafes or ovens so they could start a cookie business or materials and tools so they could create something they could sell.

These are the paths taken by so many smallholder farmers, widows, and the poor and vulnerable so they can have more than just subsistence.

They can have something to call their own. They can have independence and a sense of worth. They can experience achievement and know the excitement of transforming an idea into a reality. They can feel the fascination for what is possible in the future. They can know that there is something to live for.

Is this what “thy kingdom come” means? Is this the “bounty of the Lord in the land of the living” (Ps 27:13)?

**Visiting elderly pope says ‘it’s wonderful being old’**

**ROME (CNS)—** Presenting himself as “an elderly man visiting his peers,” Pope Benedict XVI visited a Rome residence for the elderly, urging the residents to see their age as a sign of God’s blessing, and urging society to value their wisdom and wisdom.

“Though I know the difficulties that come with being our age, I want to say, it’s wonderful being old,” the 85-year-old pope said on Nov. 12 during a morning visit to the residence run by the lay Community of Sant’Egidio.

The residence includes apartments for independent living as well as those requiring more skilled care. Younger members of the Sant’Egidio volunteer their time assisting and visiting with the residents, who include an elderly couple from Haiti whose home was destroyed in the 2010 earthquake.

Events Calendar

November 15-17
Roncalli High School, 3300 Prague Road, Indianapolis.
“Crazy for You,” Thurs. 7 p.m., Fri. 7 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., $7 adults, $5 Roncalli High School students and children 14 years or under. pro-sale tickets available. Information: 317-787-8277, ext. 249.

November 16
Northside Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis.
Catholic Business Exchange, Mass, breakfast and program, “Learns, Earls and Retire,” Michael Evans, CEO of AIT Bioscience and founder of AIT Laboratories, presenter, 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m., $25 per session includes dinner. session four of four, Benedictine Sister Jolette Wittekind, presenter, 11 a.m.-noon, $15 per session. Information: 317-371-2728.

November 17
St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 50th St., Indianapolis, Helpers of God’s Precious Infants, noon Mass, Father Todd Goodson, pastor of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, celebrant, 8:30 a.m., followed by rosary outside abortion clinic and Benediction at church. Information: Archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry, 317-256-1569 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1569.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 1530 Union St., Indianapolis.
“Saturday Morning Reconciliation,” 9 a.m. Information: 603-556-5607 or stcharlesparish@sbgl.net.

St. John the Evangelist Parish, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. “Faithful Citizens” rosary procession through downtown Indianaplis, Mass, 12:10 p.m. procession following Mass. Information: Faithful citizen 2016edinemail@email.com.

Joy Carol, presenter.

Submitted photo

November 18
Most Holy Name of Jesus School, Hartman Hall, 21 N. 16th Ave., Beech Grove.
Parent Teacher Organization, “Holiday Bazaar,” chicken and noodles dinner, craft booth, holiday booth, country kitchen, white elephant booth, visit by Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, 1-3 p.m., bazaar, 12:30-5 p.m. Information: 317-754-5545.

Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Twister Circle, Oldenburg. Open house, 1-3 p.m. Information: 812-933-0737, ext. 244, or kalinewww.oldenburgacademy.org.

St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Providence Center, St. Mary-of-the-Woods.
Dinner, auction 7:30 p.m., $10 per person. Information: 812-335-2947 or grovesnation@aol.com.

St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Providence Center, St. Mary-of-the-Woods.
Bake sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-555-2947 or 866-996-2947 or www.ProvCentre.org.


St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Thanksgiving Eve Mass, 6-8 p.m. Information: 317-634-4519.

November 22
Our Lady of Ladewites Parish, cafeteria, 30 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis.
Annual Irvington Thanksgiving Dinner, social hour, 11 a.m., dinner served noon-2 p.m., reservations to attend the dinner or request delivery by Nov. 20. Information: 317-356-7291 or parishsecretary@oldfamily.org.

November 24-25
Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 600 W. 34th St., Indianapolis. Opening Mass for the 50th anniversary of ministry, 11 a.m. Information: 317-291-7014.

November 28
Columbus Bar, 322 Fourth St., Columbus.
Theology on Tap, “Is This the End?,” 7 p.m. Information: 812-379-9353, ext. 241, or tracetelli@yahoo.com.

Retreats and Programs

November 19
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis.
“Come Away and Rest: Ashilene Still-N-Guided Day of Reflection,” $30 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or nanciajohnson@archindy.org.

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.
“Catholic Identity and Doctrines: The Sermon on the Mount … Becoming Beautiful People,” session four of four, Benedictine Sister Susan Marie Lindstrom, presenter, 6:30-9:30 p.m., $25 per session includes dinner. Information: 317-788-7851 or www.benedictoin.org.

November 20
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg.
“Grieving with God,” Franciscan Sister Olga Wittkinder, presenter, 11 a.m, $15 per session. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.oldenburgfranciscancenter.org.

November 20-21
Floyd County, fundraiser at Huber Family Farm, Starlight.
“Abundance of Harvest,” 15th annual night out, dinner, dance and silent auctions, $40 per person. Information: 812-925-3011.

November 20
Our Lady of Peace Retreat House, 1001 N. Herrickville Road, Indianapolis.
Memorial Mass for deceased archbishops, bishops, priests and deacons of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, 4 p.m., Father Gerald Kiekhoff, archiwirecian vicar for priests’ advocacy, principal celebrant. Information: 317-236-1589 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1589.

November 21
Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum Chapel, 355 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis.
Memorial Mass, 2 p.m. Information: 317-574-8989.

November 25
St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 600 W. 34th St., Indianapolis. Opening Mass for the 50th anniversary of ministry, 11 a.m. Information: 317-291-7014.

November 28
Columbus Bar, 322 Fourth St., Columbus.
Theology on Tap, “Is This the End?,” 7 p.m. Information: 812-379-9353, ext. 241, or tracetelli@yahoo.com.

C. Vanessa White

Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels speaks to students at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis about civic engagement during the private Catholic high school’s “Americafest” program on Nov. 2.

‘Americafest’

Indianapolis Catholic business organization offers ‘Americafest’

Indianapolis — The Americafest, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, is underway, offering a variety of events geared toward engaing young people in civic engagement.

The event, which kicked off on Nov. 1, is intended to help African-American women deepen their spirituality and celebrate the Church’s international Year of Faith.

The keynote speaker is C. Vanessa White, an assistant professor of spirituality and director of the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program located at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. White is the author of several books. She also teaches part-time and serves as coordinator of spiritual formation at Xavier University in New Orleans. She also ministers at the Institute for Black Catholic Studies and is an adjunct faculty member for Loyola Marymount University’s African-American Ministries Program in Los Angeles.

The retreat begins with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m., includes lunch and concludes after a 4 p.m. Mass in the retreat house chapel. The cost is $15 per person.

For more information or to register, contact Franciscan Sister Janet O’Donnell, project coordinator for the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry, at 317-236-1474 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1474, or call Jane Cooley at 317-632-9394, Brenda Ray at 317-547-8830, Elizabeth Malone at 317-842-5150, Diana Davis at 317-441-9498 or Marilyn Crane at 317-253-1461.

Bishop Brute exhibition

November 14
St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 3425 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis.
“Simon Gabriel Bruté: Physician of Body and Soul,” an exhibit titled “Simon Gabriel Bruté: Physician of Body and Soul” at the St. Mary Spiritual Center and the theme for the first archdiocesan African-American women’s conference is Dec. 15 at Fatima Retreat House.

Touched by the Heart of His Garment’ is the theme for the first archdiocesan African-American Catholic Women’s Advent Day of Reflection” on Dec. 15 at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis. It is based on a Scripture passage from the Gospel of St. Matthew about a woman who suffered from bleeding and was healed after touching Jesus’ robe (Mt 9:20-22). Sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry, the conference is intended to help African-American women deepen their spirituality and celebrate the Church’s international Year of Faith.

The keynote speaker is C. Vanessa White, an assistant professor of spirituality and director of the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program located at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. White is the author of several books. She also teaches part-time and serves as coordinator of spiritual formation at Xavier University in New Orleans. She also ministers at the Institute for Black Catholic Studies and is an adjunct faculty member for Loyola Marymount University’s African-American Ministries Program in Los Angeles.

The retreat begins with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m., includes lunch and concludes after a 4 p.m. Mass in the retreat house chapel. The cost is $15 per person.

For more information or to register, contact Franciscan Sister Janet O’Donnell, project coordinator for the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry, at 317-236-1474 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1474, or call Jane Cooley at 317-632-9394, Brenda Ray at 317-547-8830, Elizabeth Malone at 317-842-5150, Diana Davis at 317-441-9498 or Marilyn Crane at 317-253-1461.
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REASON #10

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Matthew, Chapter 5, verses 13-16.

“It’s a command to all of us to really light it up,” Prejean told the youths. “God is telling us, ‘Go into the world I made and help make it better by your witness. Help people realize that they are meant for greatness. They are meant for so much more.’ ”

Yet, Prejean acknowledged that greatness was the last thing on her mind when she was a high school senior on a spiritual retreat that involved climbing a 50-foot-tall wall. She just wanted to survive.

As she looked for a way to avoid the climb, a fellow student encouraged her. Then when she finally neared the top, a burly man reached down from atop the wall and pulled her up the last few feet.

“I still hold the record of taking the longest time to climb the 50-foot-wall—57 minutes,” Prejean proudly noted to the youths, who cheered in response.

She then shared how the climb was just part of the adventure. The second part involved riding a zip line through the forest at the retreat center. The same man who pulled her to the top of the wall encouraged her to push off on the zip line twice. Both times, she stayed put. The third time that he encouraged her, he also pushed her off the platform.

“You’re faith is a journey,” Prejean said. “It’s a process where you are getting to a point where you can literally launch yourself into the arms of God. You are never going to reach a point in your faith where you cannot believe more.

“Every single time you get to a point in your faith where you think you can’t go anymore, you hear the cheers of those supporting you. You’ll see the hands coming up to grab you. You’ll feel the presence of people pushing you to go further. When you fall off the wall and go forward in your faith, there’s somebody waiting there to catch you. It’s Jesus. And he never drops you. Never.”

She finished her talk with a story about St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

“A priest heard her confession [before she died]. When she’s done confessing, he gives her absolution, and he turns to her and says, ‘Thérèse, what’s the secret to faith? What’s the secret to holiness? Tell me your secret.’

“She said to the priest, ‘It is love alone that counts.’ ”

Prejean repeated those words a few times to the youths.

“In the moments when your faith is a struggle, in the moments when your faith is a challenge, in the moments when your faith seems like just a list of rules that don’t make sense, go back to this: It’s ultimately love.”

It’s a love that God offers us as his people, Prejean said.

“God made us so we can love him,” she noted. “Our faith is all about that relationship we are supposed to have.”

Father Patrick Beidelman shared a similar message with the youths in his homily during the closing Mass of the conference.

“In the face of our transcendent God, who is one and who desires to be one with us, our only response is holy, single-minded, wholehearted love,” said Father Beidelman, director of liturgy for the archdiocese and vice rector of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis.

“Such love finds its precedent and inspiration in the absolute, complete and unreserved gift of Jesus on the Cross.”
Men's conference participants called to evangelize

By Sean Gallagher

Nearly 600 Catholic men from across Indiana came to the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis on Oct. 20 to be strengthened in their faith.

The event was the seventh annual Indiana Catholic Men’s Conference organized by the Indianapolis-based Marian Center and St. Michael Foundation.

The day got off to a rousing start when the attendees gave a standing ovation to Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, who just two days earlier had been introduced as the next archbishop of Indianapolis.

Archbishop Tobin opened the conference with a prayer and short reflection on the important role that Catholic men can play in the Church’s mission of evangelization.

“I think that the fact that you are men banding together to be formed by the word of God and to be sent as missionaries wherever the Lord wants you is really encouraging,” he said. “... I’m so happy that you’re here today because—whether it’s your sons or your nephews or the kid down the block—all of you have an opportunity to be a missionary, to show, especially young men, that it’s possible to be a man in every sense of the word and to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.”

Archbishop Tobin recalled in his reflection how his father taught him the basics of football in their backyard in Detroit during the 1950s and 1960s.

A priest who could have been an offensive lineman in the NFL spoke after the archbishop.

Father Michael Lightner, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wis., stepped up to the podium standing 6 feet 4 inches tall and weighing approximately 300 pounds.

As an undergraduate at Eastern Michigan University, he had NFL scouts evaluating him as a prototypical offensive lineman.

But then he participated in a Marian pilgrimage in which he had a profound conversion experience. That soon set him on the road to the seminary and ordination to the priesthood.

Like Archbishop Tobin, Father Lightner exhorted his listeners to embrace in their own daily lives the mission of evangelization.

“Imagine what Jesus did with the 12 Apostles as he started Christianity all over the world,” Father Lightner said. “… Imagine what he could do with 600 men in Indianapolis with one archbishop. Be faithful to the Church’s magisterium. Be faithful to the truth. Imagine what you can do.

While encouraging them to take action to spread the Gospel, Father Lightner also emphasized the critical role of prayer for men in making changes in society.

“You do want to defeat the HHS [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services] mandate? Start praying the rosary,” he said. “Do you want to get rid of abortion? Start praying the rosary. We have to humble ourselves and go to Mary because she is the most beautiful creation that God has created.”

Father Lightner was followed by Mark Houck, co-founder and president of The King’s Men, a national Catholic organization promoting an authentic Catholic male spirituality and faith formation, and advocating against pornography.

Houck described how pornography had left a deep wound in his soul as a young adult. He had tried to fight his problem by returning to the sacrament of confession; but soon learned that he also needed to get to the heart of his problem before God could bring long-lasting healing to his heart.

“Going to confession without addressing the wound is like putting a bandage on a huge shark bite,” Houck said. “It’s not going to work. God wants you to go to the place where you don’t want to go. He wants you to go to the center of the wound. That’s where he wants you to go because that’s where the healing is.

“Pornography is an intimacy disorder. We’re only as intimate as we are honest. So when you start letting truth into your life, that’s when you’ll be set free from those things.”

Houck encouraged his listeners to turn to Christ as a model of strength and virtue.

“He’s got a manly heart,” Houck said. “He loves like a man. You need to love like that. You need to call upon that love.

“You have that heart, men. You’re grafted onto the sonship of God. You’re his brother. … So draw on that strength, men. Draw on that courage for yourself as you deal with these issues in your community. And come together as brothers and draw on that strength because you’re going to need it.”

During a break at the conference, Jason Frey, a member of St. Louis Parish in Batesville, spoke about how he came to the second Indiana Men’s Conference with a cousin and has come back each year with more of his relatives. This year, he brought along 13 men.

“I just had a feeling of the Spirit. I guess, to bring more people in here,” Frey said. “I learned so much about my faith—like praying the rosary on a daily basis, the power of confession, the power of the Eucharist. Hearing it from men made such a difference in my life.”

In addition to the speakers, the conference also featured opportunities for confession, eucharistic adoration and Benediction as well as celebration of the Mass.

Catholic author and commentator George Weigel spoke after lunch about the important role that Catholic men can play in society in the United States, which is becoming increasingly secularized.

He pointed as evidence of this to the HHS mandate, announced in January, that forces abortifacients, sterilizations and contraceptives to be paid for by nearly all religious employers and other business owners opposed in conscience to these medicines and procedures.

“Over these past 10 months, I’ve had occasion to think seriously about the wonderful saying of Pope Pius XI,” Weigel said, “which that great pope articulated when the shadows of a harder totalitarianism were lengthening across Europe in the 1930s. “Pope Pius XI said, ‘Let us thank God that he makes us live among the present problems. It is no longer permitted to anyone to be mediocre.’ ”

Weigel then exhorted his listeners to go forth from the conference to take up the defense of religious freedom and to see this task as a gift.

“It is a gift to defend religious freedom in full, which includes the right of religious institutions to conduct their educational and charitable activities according to their own religious and moral self-understanding,” Weigel said. “It includes the necessity of defending the conscience rights of religious believers, particularly employers, when an aggressive secularism tries to use state power to coerce these consciences.

“This is the freedom for which Christ has set us free. And may we be given in this grave hour in the history of our American democracy the grace, the wit, the wisdom, the humor and the guts to live that freedom nobly.”
New cemetery crypt blessed after All Souls Day Mass

By Mary Ann Garber

Cardinal sees ‘phenomenal’ solidarity, compassion in Sandy recovery

NEW YORK (CNS)—Everywhere that New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan has said he has gone to visit people and communities in the hurricane-ravaged areas of the archdiocese, he has heard stories “not just of the pain and destruction caused by Sandy, but the overwhelming goodness of people in helping those in need.”

He made the comments in a Nov. 8 statement to announce the success of special collection to respond to the destruction caused by Sandy, but the overwhelming goodness of people in helping those in need.

“Cardinal Dolan praised the responses of individuals and agencies alike to the devastation and hardship caused by the super storm. “Catholic Charities and our parishes are doing a magnificent job in reaching out and providing help to people on Staten Island, in Lower Manhattan and elsewhere, as are so many other agencies and individuals,” he said. “This new fund will augment those efforts already under way in providing direct aid where it is needed most.”

A board of pastors from those areas of the archdiocese most affected by the hurricane will oversee distribution of the funds to ensure that they go to the people and institutions most in need of help with their recovery efforts. “We have an obligation—a sacred duty—to help those who are hurting,” Cardinal Dolan said. “The efforts of the Catholic Church, along with so many other organizations and individuals, are helping us to fulfill this responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters in need.”

During a visit on All Saints’ Day, Nov. 1, to emergency shelters, embattled firehouses and flooded churches in Manhattan and on Staten Island, Cardinal Dolan said he wanted to “bring a word of encouragement or inspiration” to people struggling to put their lives back in order after Hurricane Sandy.

Instead, he said he found himself being stirred by the New Yorkers that he encountered. “I got it backwards. These people inspire me! They are a living homily,” the cardinal told Catholic New York, archdiocesan newspaper, as he visited a shelter set up after the super storm. “In the Paschal Mystery—Jesus’ saving death and resurrection—we celebrate the annihilation of the effects of sin and death, and the restoration of our deep communion with Our Triune God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit to us all.”

“In the celebration of this ancient commemoration of the sacrifice of Christ and the banquet of his love,” Father Beidelman said, “we are reminded of and renewed in our call to holiness in this life, a call that is best expressed in a life lived in service and care of others.”

God’s gift of salvation is offered to each of us, he said, and we are called “to live our lives in faithful service as our response to God’s love for us.”

Catholics can help the faithful departed through their prayers, almsgiving and good deeds, Father Beidelman said, and especially by the sacrifice of the holy Mass.

“If our prayers are earnest and sincere, if our loving concern is expressed in solidarity, with the compassion, and if our discipleship is marked by humility and kindness, we can and will be drawn into the mystery of our life with God as we strive boldly for the communion to which we have been called by Jesus,” he said. “So even if today our hearts are heavy and we come [here] with some sadness, … we know that we are called to be people who are hopeful.”

We need to ask the Lord to transform us as well as our hearts and prayers, Father Beidelman said, to better reflect God’s glory. “May our lives be transformed by the example of love, obedience and service,” he said, “which we celebrate in this Eucharist.”

Autumn sunshine carved bright angles of light against the shadows along the sides of the new garden crypt as Father Beidelman led prayers then blessed the mausoleum with holy water.

“As we bless this place of rest for the bodies of the faithful departed, let us ask the Lord to strengthen us with his consolation, his grace and his mercy,” Father Beidelman said. “Grant that this mausoleum placed under the patronage of the Apostles may be—by the power of your blessing—a place of rest and hope. May this place be a comfort to the living, and a sign of their hope for unending life.”

St. Barnabas parishioner Celia Woodard of Indianapolis, the mother of Deacon Russell Woodard, was widowed two years ago. Her husband, Melvin Woodard, died on March 11, 2010.

“On this feast of All Souls, we especially remember those who have died, who have passed from this life to heaven,” Father Beidelman said. “We also gather to be renewed in our hope in the resurrection—we celebrate the annihilation of the effects of sin and death, and the restoration of our deep communion with Our Triune God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit to us all.”

“The liturgy also gave mourners an opportunity to open their hearts to God’s consolation and comfort,” Father Beidelman said. “We gather today to remember to God those who have died, who have passed from this life to the next life, and who stand in need of our prayerful support as they come face to face with God in heaven.”

Candles burned brightly inside the Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum Chapel in Indianapolis on All Souls Day as Catholics from a number of central Indiana parishes offered their heartfelt prayers to and for the faithful departed.

Their prayers for deceased loved ones were an emotional expression of grief as well as a fervent witness of belief in the communion of saints and life everlasting.

Father Patrick Beidelman, archdiocesan director of liturgy and vice rector of Bishop Simon Brute College Seminary in Indianapolis, was the celebrant for a Nov. 2 Mass at the chapel.

He also presided during the blessing of the cemetery’s new Court of the Apostles Garden Crypt, a 384-space mausoleum constructed just east of the chapel.

Father Beidelman represented Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator, who had traveled to Boston to celebrate the Mass of Christian Burial for his late father, William Coyne Jr., on Nov. 3 with family members and friends.

“On this feast of All Souls, we especially remember those who have died within this past year and all the faithful departed,” Father Beidelman said. “Today, we also gather to bless a new mausoleum where the bodies of our brothers and sisters in Christ will be buried and sealed with the name of Christ.”

“As we prepare this resting place for the dead, we should raise our hearts from Earth to heaven and look to Christ, who suffered, died and rose again for our salvation,” he said.

“Christ has commended us to keep watch for his coming, and has promised to meet us when we rise again,” he said.

Father Beidelman said, “we are reminded of and renewed in our hope in the resurrection—we celebrate the annihilation of the effects of sin and death, and the restoration of our deep communion with Our Triune God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit to us all.”

Cardinal Dolan praised the responses of individuals and communities in the hurricane-ravaged areas of the archdiocese, he has heard stories “not just of the pain and destruction caused by Sandy, but the overwhelming goodness of people in helping those in need.”

John Jay College of Criminal Justice on Manhattan’s West Side.

“Whatever they do to us is like a page out of the Gospel. They say, ‘My house is destroyed, all my earthly possessions are destroyed but, I’ve got my life, I’ve got my faith, I’ve got my friends, I’ve got my family, I’ve got my community.’ That’s a pearl of great price. Jesus said that,” he said.

“They are people of tremendous profoundly faith,” the cardinal added. “Faith comes through at moments of trial, and that’s what we’ve got now.”

After that visit, the cardinal immediately headed to Staten Island, where he spent the afternoon comforting residents who were still reeling from the storm. He visited some of the areas hardest hit by Sandy from South Beach to Tottenville.

Being with New Yorkers in the days after the storm, Cardinal Dolan said, had given him a heightened respect for some of the areas hardest hit by Sandy from South Beach to Tottenville.

Donations also can be made by calling toll-free 800-919-9338 or by mail to P.O. Box 17066, Baltimore, MD 21297-1066. †
Vatican II emphasized that the Church is a mystery

By Kristin Colberg

Many argue that the Second Vatican Council’s “Dogmatic Constitution on the Church” (“Lumen Gentium”) stands as the jewel in the council’s crown. Blessed John XXIII convened the 21st ecumenical council with the hope that the Catholic Church would engage in “aggiornamento” or updating.

There were that the bishops would consider ways that the Church might contribute meaningfully to the decisions facing the modern world.

Achieving this required the Church to look seriously at itself so that it could better understand and articulate the wisdom it had to offer.

In the centuries preceding Vatican II, especially those years following the Protestant Reformation, Catholic thinking about the Church often adopted a defensive character. External challenges to its authority led the Church to describe itself in a narrow view, and they focused on the issue of hierarchy, focusing on the issue of religious freedom, more robust roles of the people of God ahead of such an examination, the council fathers powerfully affirmed that what unites members of the ecclesial community is more significant than what distinguish them. The third chapter, on the hierarchy, focuses on the issue of collegiality—shared authority among the bishops and the pope. The success of this chapter is a rediscovary of the theological importance of local ecclesial communities, and affirms that they are not just branch outposts of Rome. They are, instead, true ministers of Christ and, at the same time, in communion with other local churches and the Church of Rome.

This section articulates a robust view of episcopal authority, yet it does not present it as competitive with papal power but as complementary to it.

The succeeding chapters on the laity, the universal call to holiness, the religious and the pilgrim Church examine the roles played by the people of God who are not ordained. These chapters stress the critical importance of baptism and acknowledge the existence of a variety of ways that the faithful advance the Church’s mission.

The final chapter on Mary provided some of Vatican II’s most vigorous debates. Primarily, the dispute was between those who were adamant that a council about the Church’s self-understanding should honor Mary with her own separate chapter, and those who wondered whether this was theologically and ecumenically appropriate. By an extremely narrow vote (1,114 to 1,074), it was decided that the last chapter of “Lumen Gentium” would be dedicated to Mary, a placement that pays tribute to her role as mother of the Church.

The constitution’s shift to understanding the Church as a mystery opens the way for many of the council’s subsequent and remarkable achievements.

Vatican II’s willingness to embrace the notion of the Church as mystery reflects a dynamic sense of God’s presence throughout creation and a confidence that the Church is not isolated. Rather, the Church’s mission calls it to engage the world in order to transform it.

While the council achieved many things, it can be argued that its greatest achievement is not found in any one of its teachings, but in the way that it renewed the Church’s understanding of itself and its relationship with the world. This fundamental shift is the aspect of Vatican II that most fully captures Pope John’s vision and the one that most profoundly shapes our experience of the Church today.

(Kristen Colberg is adjunct assistant professor of theology at St. John’s University and The College of St. Benedict in Minnesota.)

Few road ‘maps’ existed to guide Second Vatican Council reforms

By Father David K. O’Rourke, O.P.

When I was ordained in 1962, the Second Vatican Council was in full swing.

And when I began my full-time ministry in 1964, a couple of years later, implementing the documents of the council became our daily work.

Only as the months rolled by did it become clear just how hard that work was going to be. What we—those of us ministering in local churches—were being asked to do was to reform the way the Church celebrated its sacraments. That had not been done in such a comprehensive way since the Council of Trent hundreds of years earlier.

“Reform the way we celebrate the sacraments!” can sound abstract. But there was very little about it that was abstract.

Equally important, there wasn’t a lot about it that was concrete, either. We knew that the traditional ways of “saying Mass” were being changed, starting with the words. We now “celebrated the Eucharist!”

But how did the changes take shape?

Well, those in my generation found out that there were few road maps. It took a long time to put them together. In many ways, we struggled as we went along. And we were not alone because the entire Church was doing the same.

Catholic liturgy takes rituals very seriously. They play an important role in the dignity and strength of our worship. The small things, like whether to stand and when, who stands where, and how does it start and end are taken for granted—except when rules or guidelines have not been established.

During our first year, when we had to learn to make some of the changes, there were no clear rules or guidelines. It taught my generation that no one cared about excuses. We were there and we had to make it work. That meant going ahead and doing it.

Interestingly, the first thing I had to learn was not on anyone’s job list. I had to learn to be a host. No one really thought much about it. For an introverted intellectual like me, being out front, greeting everyone, being visible and being there on a regular basis did not come easy.

Hosts welcome people. Hosts open doors. Hosts let everyone know that they are welcome. And that is what Blessed John XXIII and Pope Paul VI wanted in the new sacramental rites for the Mass, for baptism, for welcoming the laity, the universal call to holiness, the religious and the pilgrim Church.

The world we lived in during those days, as we now know, was becoming very chaotic. People were looking to the Church after Vatican II as a place of hope. But for many, it was a somewhat distant hope.

Lots of people felt like outsiders to this new Church. It was our challenge as the Church’s parish leaders to open the doors, help them become insiders, and open the Church’s storehouse of human and religious treasures.

I know that all of this can sound on the level of importance very low. The Second Vatican Council, by contrast, was such a historic event. But I and, I think, many like me read those wonderful documents from the council then looked out our windows and front doors.

What we saw was that same world, except now in the late 1960s it was slipping into real trouble.

I am an old man now. I look back 50 years. I marvel at what we were called to do when we were so young, so inexperienced in the ways of institutions. But we were on deck, and it was on us to make it work.

(Dominican Father David K. O’Rourke is a senior fellow at the Santa Fe Institute in Berkeley, Calif.)

FaithAlive!

Pilgrims attend a candlelight vigil in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican on Oct. 11 to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. The council’s “Dogmatic Constitution on the Church” reached back to scriptural and patristic sources to emphasize that the Church is a mystery.

Bishops arrive in St. Peter’s Square in Rome before a meeting of the Second Vatican Council in 1962. Implementing the reforms of the council in the tumultuous years after its conclusion in 1965 was challenging for priests ministering in parishes.
Year of Faith: Catholics believe that hell exists

As I continue my discussion of the Four Last Things, I’ll take my cue from Dante Alighieri. In his masterpiece, The Divine Comedy, the Roman poet Virgil conducts Dante through hell, then purgatory, and finally to heaven. So I’ll treat them in that order.

Does the Catholic Church really teach that hell exists? Yes, it does. There are too many references to hell in Scripture to just pretend that it doesn’t exist.

It’s a place of eternal damnation for those who reject the grace of God. Hell is a place where people are separated from God and eternally punished for rejecting God’s love. It is the ultimate consequence of one’s rejection of God.

**From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink**

The Divine Comedy

Four Last Things, I’ll take my cue from respected if it doesn’t include the right to... hell in a certain sense the ultimate condition of self-alienation from God.

If you are an elderly person, be kind, relaxed, enjoy life and follow the advice of... is a “mission territory.” Many people have heard the Gospel, but have no idea how it applies to them.

We’ve just made it through an election cycle that brought to the forefront important topics that need to be directly enlightened by our faith. Regardless of who sits in the White House or Congress or the Statehouse, the Year of Faith is for faithful citizens. The Year of Faith provides us with the opportunity to move forward on this path.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is focusing on the Vatican II document titled “Lumen Gentium” (Light of the Church) during the Year of Faith. It reminds us “...that the laity are called in a special way to make the Church visible and present in the world there are circumstances only through them can it become the salt of the Earth. Thus, every...be a living instrument of the mission of the Church itself...according to the measure of Christ’s bestowal."

We—the laity—are being called to bring Christ, this Church into every place and circumstances. We even have a special mission to make the Church present in those places where it cannot go and cannot be reached. It is our job to “season” our families, workplaces, recreational pursuits, political views, and interactions with the truth of the Gospel.

Our Catholic faith provides so many rich and rewarding opportunities for us to share Christ in both the good and bad times. We can explain why we Catholics do what we do and be confident that our faith is the answer to...the Year of Faith is calling all Catholics around the world to do just that. In “Pope Benedict’s announcement of the Year of Faith, he says, ‘Faith is choosing to stand with the Lord so as to live with him, transcend the limits of your own existence and towards an understanding of the reasons for believing, Faith, precisely because it is a free act, also demands social responsibility for what one believes” (10.2).

You are the person—the missionary—called to be witness in the lives of those you encounter. Through prayer and the practice of the faith (catholic spirituality), through learning the reasons for what we believe (catechesis), and through generous service to others, especially the poor (charity), we become a living instrument of the mission of the Church."

A speaker I recently heard made a very significant and profound point. He said, “The work of the Church, it takes people.” I would add that it takes people of “action.”

If you feel the tug to go deeper and be more active in your faith, you are not alone. Log on to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Year of Faith web page at www.archindy.org/yearoffaith. There’s a section called “Missionary Territory” with other parishioners to pray, learn and reach out to others.

(Peg McEvoy is archdiocesan associate director for Evangelization and Family Catechesis. For questions and/or help starting a parish evangelization team, contact her at pmcevoy@archindy.org)
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Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012

- Daniel 12:1-3
- First readings 10:11-14, 18
- Mark 13:24-26

The Book of Daniel provides the first reading this weekend.

Michael, the “great prince” of the angels, is the center of attention. He is one of the few angels mentioned by name in the Scriptures. Michael’s role in Daniel is to defend God’s people. In this role, he is God’s servant and instrument. Along with the other angels, Michael is featured in this Scripture passage as opposites of the devils, the fallen angels.

In this reading, Michael protects God’s people. The fundamental point is that God protects the good from everlastings death and defeat before evil. The setting is very trying, a scene of great distress. Persecution, hardship and terror are everywhere.

Some people win. However, the names of all people will be recorded. The dead will awake. Some will live forever. Others will be cast into eternal doom.

Living forever will be the wise people. The fundamental point is that God in all things.

Difficult times might come, but no power on Earth, not even that of the mighty Roman emperor, would be able to thwart God’s plan of salvation. Even if evil seemed to prevail, the heavenly forces of God would descend from the clouds in glory and transport the faithful to everlasting joy and reward.

Reflection

The readings this weekend set the stage for next weekend, the great feast of Christ the King.

They also address a situation as ancient in Christianity as the days of the Apostle Peter in Rome. They speak of the devil living among the enemies of God amid harsh times.

In frankness, the readings put reality just as real is the fact that nothing is surprising.

The effects of the sacrament of anointing include, among others, “the forgiveness of sins, if the sick person was not able to obtain it through the sacrament of penance; the restoration of health, if it is conducive to the salvation of his soul; [and] the preparation for passing over to eternal life” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #684).

A mystery of grace

You use us despite Our rebellious ways— A mystery of grace in the graceless of days.

By Linda Abner

(Linda Abner is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis. A stained glass window at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Orad, Neb., depicts a priest’s stole surrounding the Eucharist and chalice.)

Daily Readings

Monday, Nov. 19
Revelation 1:1-4, 21-5
Psalm 1:1-4, 6
Luke 18:33-43

Tuesday, Nov. 20
Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22
Psalm 15:2-5
Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday, Nov. 21
The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Revelation 4:1-11
Psalm 150:1-6
Luke 19:11-28

Thursday, Nov. 22
St. Cecilia, virgin and martyr
Revelation 5:1-10
Psalm 149:1-6, 9
Luke 19:41-44

Thanksgiving Day
Strach 50:22-24
Psalm 138:1-5
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Luke 17:11-19

Saturday, Nov. 24
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Daniel 7:13-14
Psalm 93:1-2, 5
Revelation 19:11-22
John 18:33-37

Question Corner

Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Son should honor his dying mother’s faith by asking Protestant minister for prayers

Q My mother, a baptized member of the Baptist tradition, is 92 years old. She is currently hospitalized with some very serious health issues that may result in the end of her natural life.

A The Church’s Code of Canon Law speaks to your situation.

In reference to the sacraments of penance, Eucharist and anointing of the sick, the Church provides that “if the danger of death is present ... Catholic ministers administer these same sacraments licitly also to other Christians not having full communion with the Catholic Church, who cannot approach a Catholic minister of their own community and who seek such on their own accord, provided that they manifest Catholic faith in respect to these sacraments and are properly disposed” (#844).

If your mother is a Baptist member, then the Catholic Church is not bound to administer the sacraments to her solely because of her religious preference. You can make arrangements for a Protestant minister to pray for your mother, which is a tradition in many faith communities.

I would suggest, too, out of respect for your mother’s religious preference, that you might invite a Baptist minister to pray over her. I’m not sure of her state of awareness, but that might give her added comfort.

Are lesbians and their adopted children permitted to receive holy Communion?

I thought that homosexuality was “an abomination unto the Lord.”

A The Catechism of the Catholic Church states clearly that men and women with deep-seated homosexual tendencies have not chosen their homosexual condition, as “must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity,” and that “every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided” (#2358).

At the same time, the catechism states just as clearly that sacred Scripture presents homosexuals as gravely depraved; and that such acts are “intraginally disordered; calling them contrary to the natural law, and may, under no circumstances, be approved” (#2354).

In light of that clear teaching, those Catholics who are living an active homosexual lifestyle should abstain themselves from the reception of holy Communion until they have sought forgiveness in the sacrament of penance and resolved to amend their lives.

The same holds true for heterosexuals who are engaged in sexual activity outside the bond of a valid marriage—including those living together before marriage or Catholics who are divorced and remarried outside the Church.

Ideally, the lesbians you speak of would recognize for themselves their infertility to legitimate procreation.

The Church’s Code of Canon Law states that those who are “obstinately persevering in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to holy Communion” (#915).

The adopted children of lesbians bear no responsibility for their parents’ lifestyle, and should be welcomed at the altar rail and as servers at Mass.

Grace

How is it so
That Your grace can be shed Through so broken a vessel, So often misread?

Imperfect, unbalanced, Through turbulence wrought, Capricious by nature, Unholy in thought.

Given to whims Of emotion and fate, Captive to demons That never abate.

How can You use So repulsive a thing? How make the worthless Worthy again?

You, Creator, Blessing and blest, You who see all And know us the best,

(About the readings for Thanksgiving Day: The Church seeks to call attention to all those who are suffering. This year’s focus is on the sick. The Mass reading is the Eucharist. The first reading is a parable about the Lily. The gospel is about the true vine and the false vines.)
Jodi Emerson. Sister of Laura
Wife of Jim Emerson. Mother of
EMERSON, Cec
Cesnik. Grandfather of nine.
Christopher, Michael and Robert
CESNIK, Charles
Amberger. Grandson of Jerry and
Brother of Megan and Jason
of Charlie and Keri Amberger.
St. Joseph, St. Leon, Oct. 6. Son
AMBERGER, Jacob
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Remembrance
Tombstones are pictured at a
cemetery in the western
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Oct. 31. Each year Catholics
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Franciscan Sister Alma Louise Kohnen, a member of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Oldenburg, died on Oct. 28 at St. Clare Hall, the health care center at the motherhouse. She was 101.
The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Oct. 31 at the motherhouse chapel. Burial followed at the sisters’ cemetery.
The former Florence Eleanora Kohnen was born on April 28, 1911, in Newport, Ky.
She entered the congregation of the Oldenburg Franciscans on Dec. 27, 1928, and professed her final vows on July 2, 1934.
Sister Alma Louise taught at Catholic elementary schools in Indiana and Ohio for 49 years.
In the archdiocese, she taught at the former St. Mary-of-the-Rock School in Franklin County, the former St. Joseph School in St. Leon, St. Paul School in New Albany, the former St. Martin School in Yorkville and the former St. Mary School in Lanesville.
After retiring from teaching, Sister Alma Louise volunteered in the communications office and archives at the motherhouse, and also helped care for sisters who were ill.
In 1997, she retired from active ministry, but continued to serve her community as a minister of peace until shortly before her death.
Surviving are two brothers, Clarence and Harold Kohnen.
Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of St. Francis, P.O. Box 100, Oldenburg, IN 47036.

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By John Shaughnessy

The dream of winning a state championship for the Bishop Chatard High School girls’ volleyball team had come down to this tense, emotionally-tinged situation.

The championship match on Nov. 3 had just been tied at two games each by the team from Yorktown High School—the No. 1 ranked team in Class 3A that had decisively beaten Bishop Chatard for last year’s state title.

Now, the championship would be decided by a winner-take-all fifth game—a reality that had parents in the stands praying, pace and pull in deep breaths in anticipation.

The players on the Bishop Chatard team approached this overwhelming moment in their own way. They laughed and danced before they took the court. The scene made their head coach, Nick Wolf, smile. “At the beginning of the season, we pressured the girls at times to see how they would react,” Wolf recalled later.

That positive mood before the final game exploded into a scene of pure joy when the Bishop Chatard Lady Trojans won the decisive set and the 2012 Class 3A state championship in girls’ volleyball.

The joyous feeling added another tinge when co-captain Marissa Collier was named the Mental Attitude Award winner. Marissa is one of seven seniors on the team.

“All seven of them helped lead us to the state championship,” Wolf noted. “They all had the feeling of anticipation.”

While the state championship provided a moment of redemption, the scene following it offered a surprising touch of heroism. Wolf prepared to volunteer assistant coach Suzanne Van Schaak after the trophy presentation.

“I got the ring on Friday [the day before the state championship], and a couple of coaches wanted to see it,” Wolf recalled. “Then one of the players walked by, saw it and started going crazy. The next thing you know, all 18 of the girls are around us. They asked me to ask her after the game.’’

Wolf told the players to focus on the championship match, which was played at Worthen Arena on the Ball State University campus in Muncie, Ind. “After we won, I had the ring in my pocket,” Wolf said. “I was going to wait until later in November or December to ask her. But she’s a Ball State grad and she loves volleyball so it was a good place and a good time to ask.’’

She said yes, and the laughing, the dancing, the smiling and the hugging started again.

“The biggest thing with the team this year was chemistry,” Wolf said. “They came together as a team. On the court, they all seemed to be best friends.”

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The message to Hindus was released on Nov. 8 by the Vatican.

Dowhi, a three-day religious festival, began on Nov. 13 in most parts of the world. The festival focuses on the victory of truth over lies, light over darkness, life over death and good over evil.

As the primary educators of children, the message said, parents obviously have the first responsibility for equipping their children to be peacemakers. Parents “have the unique privilege of forming their children in values that are essential for peaceful living—mutual trust, respect, understanding, listening, sharing, caring and forgiving’’

But religious leaders, too, have a special role, particularly because they are called to be spiritual and moral guides, the message said.

“It peace is to be authentic and enduring, it must be built on the pillars of truth, justice, love and freedom, and all young men and women need to be taught above all to act truthfully and justly in love and freedom,” it said.

The majority of the world’s Hindus live in India, where in the recent past Christians have endured violence at the hands of Hindu militants trying to assert their version of a Hindu India and painting Christianity as a recent foreign import despite its centuries of presence in the country.

Christians and Hindus must understand each other as equals, said the Vatican, because “religions have the same essential human value’’—the value of peacemaking.

The message said: “The Church, more than anyone else, has the mission of announcing the Gospel of peace and it is in this that it can most effectively work towards the achievement of the ideal of peace. The bishops will not fail in this mission’’

Robert C. Macelroy, archbishop of Indianapolis, will receive the message from the pope this weekend at the archdiocesan victim coordinator.

The archdiocesan victim coordinator, Paul Stoffel, said he was happy to hear the message.

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Saint is a model of the new evangelization, priest says

By Mike Krokos

The portrait painted during the Mass created a beautiful mosaic of the Church. Readings proclaimed in English and Spanish. Petitions prayed in those languages as well as in French, Tagalog and Chinese.

African-Americans and Latinos making up the majority of the choir and the nearly 250 people in the congregation during the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry’s 10th annual St. Martin de Porres feast day Mass on Nov. 3 at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Indianapolis.

“God is great, all the time. All the time, God is great,” said Divine Word Father Stephan Brown, who was the principal celebrant and homilist, at the beginning of the bilingual Mass.

“We are celebrating the greatness of God,” the priest later added.

During his homily, which he shared in both English and Spanish, Father Stephan reflected on St. Martin de Porres as a model for people of faith.

A Dominican brother who lived from 1579 to 1639 in Lima, Peru, Martin was the son of a Spanish nobleman and freed Panamanian slave of African descent. He is also much admired by African-American and Hispanic Catholics.

The priest said the saint, who was “a man of faith, a man of love and man of mission,” lived three characteristics of the new evangelization.

“The first characteristic is that we must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ,” said Father Stephan, former pastor of St. Rita Parish in Indianapolis, who now serves as university minister and assistant to the president at St. Leo University in St. Leo, Fla. “You and I must be men and women of prayer. Christ is the center of the evangelization,” he said. “Christ is the reason for which we proclaim the message. The Church exists in order to evangelize.”

The second characteristic, the priest said, is a passion for Christ, “a passion to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.”

The third characteristic of the new evangelization that St. Martin de Porres lived was having a missionary’s heart, Father Stephan said. A person who has a missionary or servant’s heart loves God “with all their heart, soul and mind,” and their neighbor as himself, he said.

“This is what it means for us as Church. The new evangelization is rooted in that personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is rooted in love of God and love of neighbor. It is rooted in service. It is rooted in extending our lives to one another,” the priest said.

The annual St. Martin de Porres celebration, Father Stephan said, is an example of African-Americans and Latinos coming together to live out that faith.

“This is what it looks like to live the new evangelization,” he said.

“Christ is the center of the evangelization,” he said. “Christ is the reason for which we proclaim the message. The Church exists in order to evangelize.”

“The main celebrant [Father Stephan] was so good, the whole message he gave us taking St. Martin de Porres as an example of evangelizing in our time.”

—Brother Moises Gutierrez, O.F.M.

Franciscan Brother Moses Gutierrez said the annual feast day Mass was an opportunity to bring together and appreciate the richness of the Church.

“This year’s celebration was more intimate,” said Brother Moses, who serves as coordinator of Hispanic Ministry for the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry.

“The main celebrant [Father Stephan] was so good, the whole message he gave us taking St. Martin de Porres as an example of evangelizing in our time.”

Brother Moses said.

Deacon Kerry Blanford, parish life coordinator of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, said the gathering was a unique way to show the local Church’s diversity.

“We don’t do enough of this. This is a much more diverse archdiocese than any of us stop to consider,” Deacon Blanford said.

Franciscan Sister Jannette Pruitt, project coordinator for the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry, agreed.

“I think that we need to come together as often as possible,” she said, “and to celebrate this oneness that we have in the Church.”