Pope says Americas need renewed missionary spirit, well-catechized laity

Pope Benedict XVI. (CNS) — The universal Church needs Catholics in the Americas who are joyful missionaries, well-catechized and faithful to the teachings of the Church, he said.

The pope made his comments during the opening Mass of a Dec. 9-12 international congress marking the 15th anniversary of the Synod of Bishops for America.

The congress, organized by the Pontifical Commission for Latin America and the Knights of Columbus, was looking at ways that Catholics can cooperate more closely to confront today’s challenges in North, Central and South America.

The pope said some of the problems that the two continents must deal with include increased secularization, affinities to human dignity, threats to the institution of marriage, migration, violence, the illegal drugs and arms trades, corruption, inequality and poverty “caused by questionable economic, political and social” policies.

While the solutions will require careful technical or institutional responses, nothing will ever be fully resolved without an “encounter with the living Christ,” he said.

It is that personal rapport with God that “gives rise to attitudes and ways of acting based on love and truth”—the true source and light for real transformation, he said.

While the solutions will require careful technical or institutional responses, nothing will ever be fully resolved without an “encounter with the living Christ,” he said.

Toy drive to help less fortunate is a mission fortified by faith

By John Shaughnessy

The Food Link pantry is hoping to provide toys for nearly 1,000 children from Indianapolis families in need this Christmas. Maria Sasso, from left, April Sasso, Wynn Tinkham and April Sasso, members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, sort some of the toys that will be distributed on Dec. 22 at the food pantry that Dick and Wynn Tinkham started 30 years ago.

The plan is simple and special in a season that focuses on the birth of a child and the difference he makes to the world.

Dick and Wynn Tinkham and April and Maria Sasso came up with the plan after 15,000 people were served during one month at the Indianapolis food pantry that the Tinkhams started 30 years ago.

As parents and families in need lined up for food in early November, the list kept growing until nearly 1,000 children’s names had been added. Providing just one toy for each of the children from newborn to age 16 would have been daunting enough, but the Tinkhams and the Sassos decided to shoot for a goal that matches the magic of the Christmas season.

“The only way to solve today’s problems is through credible and effective Christian witness and charity,” he said, since only actions based on God’s truth and love can be the “decisive force which will transform the American continent,” he said.

Pope Benedict XVI said.

The congress, organized by the Pontifical Commission for Latin America and the Knights of Columbus, was looking at ways that Catholics can cooperate more closely to confront today’s challenges in North, Central and South America.

The pope said some of the problems that the two continents must deal with include increased secularization, affinities to human dignity, threats to the institution of marriage, migration, violence, the illegal drugs and arms trades, corruption, inequality and poverty “caused by questionable economic, political and social” policies.

While the solutions will require careful technical or institutional responses, nothing will ever be fully resolved without an “encounter with the living Christ,” he said.

It is that personal rapport with God that “gives rise to attitudes and ways of acting based on love and truth”—the true source and light for real transformation, he said.

While the solutions will require careful technical or institutional responses, nothing will ever be fully resolved without an “encounter with the living Christ,” he said.

This will be encouraged by a correct and ongoing doctrinal formation marked by

Supreme Court to hear cases on same-sex marriage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court announced on Dec. 7 that it will hear two cases challenging federal and state laws that define marriage as a union of a man and a woman.

The cases likely will be on the court’s calendar for argument in March with a ruling before the end of the term in late June.

After weeks of court-watching when the petitions for review of more than a dozen cases over same-sex marriage were on the justices’ list for consideration, the orders on Dec. 7 suggested that the justices worked at covering multiple bases in what they granted, noted court-watchers at the Supreme Court blog, SCOTUSblog.

The Food Link pantry is hoping to provide toys for nearly 1,000 children from Indianapolis families in need this Christmas. Maria Sasso, from left, April Sasso, Wynn Tinkham and April Sasso, members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, sort some of the toys that will be distributed on Dec. 22 at the food pantry that Dick and Wynn Tinkham started 30 years ago.

By John Shaughnessy

The plan is simple and special in a season that focuses on the birth of a child and the difference he makes to the world.

Dick and Wynn Tinkham and April and Maria Sasso came up with the plan after 15,000 people were served during one month at the Indianapolis food pantry that the Tinkhams started 30 years ago.

As parents and families in need lined up for food in early November, the list kept growing until nearly 1,000 children’s names had been added. Providing just one toy for each of the children from newborn to age 16 would have been daunting enough, but the Tinkhams and the Sassos decided to shoot for a goal that matches the magic of the Christmas season.

“Ideally, we’d love to give every child three toys to represent the gifts that the Christ Child received from the Wise Men—gold, frankincense and myrrh,” says April Sasso, a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. “One of the women who signed up for her children hadn’t had a job in eight months. She needed a little help with toys, and she was so excited about this. That’s when we knew we were doing something really wonderful.”

Equally wonderful is that six Catholic

See TOY DRIVE, page 2

The Food Link pantry is hoping to provide toys for nearly 1,000 children from Indianapolis families in need this Christmas. Maria Sasso, from left, April Sasso, Wynn Tinkham and April Sasso, members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, sort some of the toys that will be distributed on Dec. 22 at the food pantry that Dick and Wynn Tinkham started 30 years ago.

By John Shaughnessy

The plan is simple and special in a season that focuses on the birth of a child and the difference he makes to the world.

Dick and Wynn Tinkham and April and Maria Sasso came up with the plan after 15,000 people were served during one month at the Indianapolis food pantry that the Tinkhams started 30 years ago.

As parents and families in need lined up for food in early November, the list kept growing until nearly 1,000 children’s names had been added. Providing just one toy for each of the children from newborn to age 16 would have been daunting enough, but the Tinkhams and the Sassos decided to shoot for a goal that matches the magic of the Christmas season.

“Ideally, we’d love to give every child three toys to represent the gifts that the Christ Child received from the Wise Men—gold, frankincense and myrrh,” says April Sasso, a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. “One of the women who signed up for her children hadn’t had a job in eight months. She needed a little help with toys, and she was so excited about this. That’s when we knew we were doing something really wonderful.”

Equally wonderful is that six Catholic

See TOY DRIVE, page 2

The Food Link pantry is hoping to provide toys for nearly 1,000 children from Indianapolis families in need this Christmas. Maria Sasso, from left, April Sasso, Wynn Tinkham and April Sasso, members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, sort some of the toys that will be distributed on Dec. 22 at the food pantry that Dick and Wynn Tinkham started 30 years ago.

By John Shaughnessy

The plan is simple and special in a season that focuses on the birth of a child and the difference he makes to the world.

Dick and Wynn Tinkham and April and Maria Sasso came up with the plan after 15,000 people were served during one month at the Indianapolis food pantry that the Tinkhams started 30 years ago.

As parents and families in need lined up for food in early November, the list kept growing until nearly 1,000 children’s names had been added. Providing just one toy for each of the children from newborn to age 16 would have been daunting enough, but the Tinkhams and the Sassos decided to shoot for a goal that matches the magic of the Christmas season.

“Ideally, we’d love to give every child three toys to represent the gifts that the Christ Child received from the Wise Men—gold, frankincense and myrrh,” says April Sasso, a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. “One of the women who signed up for her children hadn’t had a job in eight months. She needed a little help with toys, and she was so excited about this. That’s when we knew we were doing something really wonderful.”

Equally wonderful is that six Catholic

See TOY DRIVE, page 2
The Food Link pantry in Indianapolis is collecting toys to give to children, from newborn to age 16, for Christmas.

Effective Jan. 13, 2016

Rev. Eric M. Johnson, director of the archdiocesan Office of Vocations and sacramental minister of St. Agnes Parish in Nashville, appointed administrator of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany and chaplain of Our Lady of Providence H.S./St. High School in Clarksville, including enlisting the help of other New Albany Deaconery clergy to assist at the school from time to time.

Rev. Eric M. Augusten, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany and chaplain of Our Lady of Providence H.S./St. High School in Clarksville, including enlisting the help of other New Albany Deaconery Deacon clergy to assist at the school from time to time, to director of the archdiocesan Office of Vocations and sacramental minister of St. Agnes Parish in Nashville.


Correction

In the Nov. 30 issue of The Criterion, an article about Joseph W. Tobin’s friends in Rome mistakenly noted that he traveled to England to visit the relatives of the deceased wife of John Heineman.

The people he visited were relatives of Patricia Merrikin, the woman that Heineman married after the death of his previous wife, Maura.

The Criterion (ISSN 0574-4350) is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

The Address: 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367.

Toll free: 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1570

Periodical postage paid in Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2012 Criterion Press Inc.

Postmaster: send address changes to: Criterion Press Inc., 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

The Criterion is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

The Address: 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367.

Toll free: 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1570

Periodical postage paid in Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2012 Criterion Press Inc.

Postmaster: send address changes to: Criterion Press Inc., 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

The Criterion is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

The Address: 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367.

Toll free: 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1570

Periodical postage paid in Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2012 Criterion Press Inc.

Postmaster: send address changes to: Criterion Press Inc., 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

The Criterion is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

The Address: 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367.

Toll free: 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1570

Periodical postage paid in Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2012 Criterion Press Inc.

Postmaster: send address changes to: Criterion Press Inc., 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

The Criterion is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

The Address: 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367.

Toll free: 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1570

Periodical postage paid in Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2012 Criterion Press Inc.

Postmaster: send address changes to: Criterion Press Inc., 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

The Criterion is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

The Address: 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367.
New Marian statue graces Mary, Queen of Peace Parish

By Mary Ann Garber

DANVILLE—Reverence for the Mother of God abounds at Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, where several unique beautiful Marian statues are displayed for veneration.

For several decades, a weathered concrete statue of Our Lady of Grace had graced the parish’s front lawn at 1005 W. Main St.

On Nov. 3, the war monument depicting the Blessed Virgin was replaced with a contemporary bronze statue of Our Lady of Peace cradling a dove in her hands.

Inside the contemporary church, a modern sculpture of Mary overlooks a Marian shrine near the sanctuary.

Religious art is an important part of the worship environment at Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, Father Bernard Cox, pastor, explained after blessing the new Marian statue during a Mass on Oct. 28.

“We want to thank everyone for all of their hard work and contributions for our new statue,” Father Cox said. “It seems like we’ve been waiting for her to arrive forever. She is finally here, and she’s truly beautiful.”

Mary’s serene expression as she embraces the dove of peace is very inspirational, he said, and the statue is a powerful witness to “her love for her son, Jesus, and her love for all of us and the Church as well.”

The Marian statue, which was made in China, is “something that we’ll be proud of for many, many years to come,” Father Cox said. “She is [cast in] bronze so she will hold up in [the inclement] weather.”

In his homily before blessing the statue, Father Cox reminded members of the 475-household parish that “God loves and cares for all of his people … even today ‘God cares for us so much that he gives us all the grace and strength that we need to deal with any difficulties that come our way in life,’” he said, “especially through the gift of the Eucharist.”

In return, we must “give thanks to God, who gives back to us far more than we give to him,” Father Cox said. “We are all called to follow Christ and the example that he gave for us by loving one another as we know he loves us. It’s so simple, but so often in life we allow ourselves to become spiritually blind to concerns about all the things that go on in our lives.”

Parishoner Rita Rodrigues of Danville said the new Marian statue will serve as an invitation for Catholics and passers-by on the busy highway to turn their attention to God as well as welcome them to visit the church.

Phil Schneider, who helped Father Cox with the liturgy, also was excited about the arrival of the new Marian statue.

“It’s joyful to see,” Schneider said. “It’s been a dream of Father Bernie to get a new statue. If you go up and look at her, she’s very, very pretty.”

In recent years, Mary, Queen of Peace members also purchased a large Celtic cross for the parish property to honor their former longtime pastor, Father Charles Chesebrough, before he died on May 28, 2008.

Parishioners also donated money to buy a statue of Rachel weeping for her dead child as a pro-life memorial in a meditation garden accentuated by rose bushes near the church.

Father Cox smiled when he was told that the well-manicured parish grounds could be featured in a landscaping magazine.

“It was a lot of hard work,” he said, laughing, “but it was all worth it!” Schneider also helped Father Cox with landscaping, and spent a lot of time digging in the dirt with him.

“We worked on the [turfed] gardens out front for two years,” Schneider said. “It took that long to get everything planted!”

Father Cox said he enjoyed helping the parishioners landscape the parish property during their work there.

Their gardening project was a labor of love, he said, which gave the people an opportunity to demonstrate the depth of their devotion for God and Mary as well as faithful support of their beloved parish.

“Without zeal, we won’t really act,” he said, “but if it’s not zeal that’s well-formed—and desires and knows it needs to continue to be formed—we will not be able to make the impact that Christ really calls us to have.”

Above, Father Bernard Cox, pastor of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Danville, blesses a new bronze statue of Our Lady of Peace during a Mass on Oct. 28. At left, parishioner Phil Schneider assisted him with the ceremony.

Left, this contemporary statue of Mary overlooks a Marian shrine and bouquet of roses inside the church.

Post-Vatican II ecumenical partners, such as the Anglicans, ‘have slipped away from the basic teaching about Jesus Christ, the human person and marriage, which has made dialogue and cooperation with them much more difficult,’” he said.

Newer dialogue partners, such as the Orthodox Churches and Mormons, and even communities that were once anti-Catholic, such as the Baptists, not only share many of the same values concerning the sanctity of life and marriage, but also are eagerly seeking active partnerships with the Catholic Church to protect such values and religious freedom.

Bishop Olmsted said the Church can better evangelize by looking at legitimate strategies employed by evangelical movements. While proselytism must be avoided because it doesn’t fully respect the human person nor present the truth in its fullness, “we can still learn a lot” from sects and other movements.

“For example, we should learn from the way they use mega-events to move people in a way that helps them to realize this is a really important issue,” he said.

“Sects also see people that have leadership abilities and train them to go back to their peers and influence them, which is exactly what we need to do as well,” he added.

While the Church tries to foster the enthusiasm and love for Christ seen in many evangelical and Catholic charismatic movements, the bishop said, it should also promote solid formation “because zeal alone is a dangerous thing.”

Without zeal, we won’t really act,” he said, “but if it’s not zeal that’s well-formed—and desires and knows it needs to continue to be formed—we will not be able to make the impact that Christ really calls us to have.”
Making Sense Out of Bioethics/ Fr. Tad Pochleczynski

Tabooos and tattoos

On TV these days, we’re seeing more and more programs about “body art” and tattoo design. A study in the Dallas Morning News a few years ago chronicled the story of a young man named Jesus Mendoza, who was “going to great lengths to remove the six tattoos that hint at his erstwhile gang involvement. … He feels branded. Is it the sterriestyping?” he said. “The question is, What do you think when you see a young Hispanic male with tattoos? You’re going to think gangs. And I think that, too, now.”

Similar branding concerns were raised in a recent column by David A. Whiteley about San Franciscos’s 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, whose arms and back are covered with tattoos. “NFL quarterbacks occupy the ultimate position of influence and responsibility,” he wrote. “He is the CEO of a high-profile organization, and you want your CEO to look like he just got paroled.”

That branding communicates a message that can make life more difficult for those who have tattoos. It should come as no surprise that employers often associate tattooed workers with “reduced work ethic and productivity,” and may show a preference for unmarked employees in hiring or promotions. Even for the vast majority of tattoo recipients who have no connection with gangs or an indolent lifestyle, a psychological problem is raised by the way they seem to serve as marks of vanity.

Placing tattoos in positions where they can be easily missed—on the neck, the forehead or even the face—can play into a disordered desire to be flamboyant, disruptive and self-seeking with our bodily image.

One young woman, tattooed with the image of a fairy having “stylized butterfly wings in a spray of pussy willow” expressed her sentiments this way: “I am a shameless exhibitionist and truly love having unique marks on my body.”

These questions about vanity lead us to consider the modernity in its essential meaning involves the decision to not draw undue attention to ourselves. Tattoos and body piercings modestly draw attention, and often may be desired for precisely these uncommon reasons.

We ought to dress modestly in part, to prevent others from being attracted to us out of a mere “focus on body parts.”

One aspect of dressing modestly is to make sure everything needed to be covered is, in fact, adequately covered. Placing tattoos in unusual positions on the body may tempt us to dress modestly so as to assure that the tattoo is visible and exposed for general viewing—the very same way that elective breast augmentation may tempt some women to lower their necklines.

Tattoos, chosen as a permanent change to one’s own body, may also suggest issues with psychological self-acceptance. One young woman wrote, “When a tattoo expressed her desire to look “edgier” after concluding that she was just too “square.”

The simple beauty of the human body constitutes a real good, and that basic goodness ought to be reasonably safeguarded.

Permanent, radical changes to the human body are not an ideal solution. People should accept its fundamental goodness and, in certain cases of very radical tattooing and in some cases of minor tattooing, accept it and be proud of it.

Jazz musician great Dave Brubeck died on Dec. 5 at age 91, one day before his 92nd birthday. He was the last remaining survivor of his generation in the 1970s, while I was president of OSV, conducted its quarterly newsletter (OSV) in Huntington, Ind., Ed Murray came to me with an interesting proposal. Ed was assistant director of OSV’s Religious Education Department. His proposal was that OSV publish the music for the Mass, and that we try to get great jazz as an accompaniment. I asked Dave Brubeck to write the music.”

“Tam you mean you want OSV to publish a jazz Mass?” was not a first reaction. Ed assured me that Brubeck was a “serious” musician as well as a great jazz musician, and that he would not be a “jazz Mass.”

I thought about it for a while, but I finally gave Ed the go-ahead to contact Brubeck. He did and succeeded in convincing Brubeck, who was not Catholic, to compose a Mass for OSV.

Brubeck’s Mass was called “To Hope: A Mass for a New America” and was published in the music in September 1980. Before the music was published, though, the Mass was performed at St. Paul and Paul Cathedral in Philadelphia during a convention of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians early in 1979. For this first presentation, Brubeck decided not to perform, but to watch and listen—and perhaps make some changes if he thought they were warranted.

Before the concert, Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia had a large reception and dinner for Dave and Iola Brubeck, my wife, Marie, and me and Murray and his wife. We stayed at a hotel several blocks from the cathedral and walked several blocks to the cathedral for the concert. The cathedral was packed, with some people standing in the rear. Cardinal Krol, Brubeck and Iola Brubeck, the Murray’s and me. The concert was a complete success, and OSV received wonderful compliments during another party in the rectory afterward.

The next place we presented “To Hope” was in Cincinnati. This time, the Mass was performed by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Eric Kunzel, with the Dave Brubeck Quartet. I invited Archbishop Joseph Bernardin, then
Conventional Franciscans take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience
By Natalie Hoefer
Special to The Criterion

The family of Franciscan orders was founded in the 13th century by St. Francis of Assisi. Franciscans take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and all share in the mission of living the Gospel and serving the poor.

Several Franciscan communities have been founded since the 13th century. Today, among them are several orders of Franciscan nuns and Poor Clare nuns.

There are three main communities of Franciscans for men: Friar Minor—This is the largest and oldest Franciscan community, and all share in the mission of serving the poor.

Conventional Franciscans—They are identified by habits of black or varying shades of gray or white. St. Maximilian Kolbe was a Conventual Franciscan friar. "O.F.M. Cons" follows the names of the members of this order.

Each branch has subdivisions. The Conventual Franciscans of Immaculate Mary, who operate Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center in Monroe County, are a division of the Conventual Franciscans. They take an additional vow of consecration to the Blessed Mother.

The Conventional Franciscans were invited to Terre Haute in 1872 by Bishop Maurice de St. Palais. The decree of invitation can be found in the "Conventual of the Parish of St. Joseph," published in 1938. Bishop Palais called the

Conventional Franciscans to Terre Haute "to provide for the care of souls" at the churches of St. Benedict and St. Joseph. The friars have ministered at both parishes ever since.

There are currently four friars in community in Terre Haute. All live at the rectory at St. Benedict Parish.

Father Mark Weaver is pastor of St. Joseph University Parish. He is assisted by Father John Barrman, associate pastor.

Father Edmund Goldbach serves as pastor of St. Benedict Parish. Retired Friar Joel Burget, a native of Terre Haute, is a former pastor of St. Benedict Parish. He celebrates the sacraments in Terre Haute whenever a substitute priest is needed.

Another Conventional Franciscan and native of Terre Haute is Father Basil Heiser. He was elected to the highest office of the Franciscan order—minister general—in 1960, and served as the 114th successor of St. Francis until 1972. He was 100 when he died in 2009.

Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator, was the principal celebrant during the Oct. 27 Mass at St. Joseph University Church in Terre Haute marking the parish's 175th anniversary.

Above, this banner promotes the 175th anniversary of St. Joseph University Church in Terre Haute.

Left, St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute is celebrating its 175th anniversary.

(Natalie Hoefer is a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis. For more information on St. Joseph University Parish, log on to www.stjoeup.org.)

The family of Franciscan orders was founded in the 13th century by St. Francis of Assisi. Franciscans take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and all share in the mission of living the Gospel and serving the poor.

Several Franciscan communities have been founded since the 13th century. Among them are several orders of Franciscan nuns and Poor Clare nuns.

There are three main communities of Franciscans for men: Friar Minor—This is the largest and oldest Franciscan community, and all share in the mission of serving the poor.

Conventional Franciscans—They are identified by habits of black or varying shades of gray or white. St. Maximilian Kolbe was a Conventual Franciscan friar. "O.F.M. Cons" follows the names of the members of this order.

Each branch has subdivisions. The Conventual Franciscans of Immaculate Mary, who operate Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center in Monroe County, are a division of the Conventual Franciscans. They take an additional vow of consecration to the Blessed Mother.

The Conventional Franciscans were invited to Terre Haute in 1872 by Bishop Maurice de St. Palais. The decree of invitation can be found in the "Conventual of the Parish of St. Joseph," published in 1938. Bishop Palais called the

Conventional Franciscans to Terre Haute "to provide for the care of souls" at the churches of St. Benedict and St. Joseph. The friars have ministered at both parishes ever since.

There are currently four friars in community in Terre Haute. All live at the rectory at St. Benedict Parish.

Father Mark Weaver is pastor of St. Joseph University Parish. He is assisted by Father John Barrman, associate pastor.

Father Edmund Goldbach serves as pastor of St. Benedict Parish. Retired Friar Joel Burget, a native of Terre Haute, is a former pastor of St. Benedict Parish. He celebrates the sacraments in Terre Haute whenever a substitute priest is needed.

Another Conventional Franciscan and native of Terre Haute is Father Basil Heiser. He was elected to the highest office of the Franciscan order—minister general—in 1960, and served as the 114th successor of St. Francis until 1972. He was 100 when he died in 2009.

Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator, was the principal celebrant during the Oct. 27 Mass at St. Joseph University Church in Terre Haute marking the parish's 175th anniversary.
Dec. 15—10:30 a.m. Mass.

Dec. 24—5 p.m. vigil Mass with carolers singing at 4:30 p.m. before the start of Mass.

The Christmas liturgical schedules of other religious communities or parishes in the archdiocese, contact their offices. †
Rerenovated St. Francis Xavier Church is rededicated

By Leslie Lynch

Special to The Criterion

HENRYVILLE—The short summary of the devastating tornadoes of March 2, 2012, still leaves a haunting feeling: A deadly outbreak of tornadoes strikes the Midwest United States, from Illinois to Ohio, from Tennessee to Indiana. One touches down near Fredericksburg, Indiana, and travels nearly 50 miles on the ground, gathering strength to become an EF-4 and cutting a swath half a mile wide. The towns of Borden and New Pekin are impacted in varying degrees; much of Henryville is leveled, and Marysville is destroyed. St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Henryville, damaged but still standing, becomes a beacon of hope and a hub for relief efforts.

Nearly nine months after the deadly storm, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator, traveled to Henryville to bless the repaired and renovated church on Nov. 25. Father Steven Schaftlein, pastor of both St. Francis Xavier Parish and nearby St. Michael Parish in Charlestown, concelebrated the Mass.

The tornado caused $250,000 in structural damage to St. Francis Xavier Church, but the church, which was centrally located in the damage area, was quickly filled with donations of clothing, food, and tools.

"Since the night of the March 2 tornadoes, we have tried to open our doors to all of its victims and to all of the volunteers who have come to help," Father Schaftlein said. "We have tried to be a place of welcome."

At first, the focus was on emergency responses, which soon transitioned into disaster relief. St. Francis Xavier Parish supported the rebuilding effort and community healing by collaborating with other area churches and organizations.

The result was March2Recovery, a community organization formed to oversee the rebuilding and promote events aimed at emotional healing.

St. Francis Xavier Parish purchased two adjoining plots of land and renovated their existing buildings. In July, a house on one of the plots became the administrative offices of March2Recovery. Its garage became a work center.

Efforts initially focused on removing debris, and providing thousands of meals to volunteers and victims. Representatives of archdiocesan Catholic Charities and Indiana Project Aftermath—a team of mental health workers—assisted residents in accessing resources that provided emotional support.

The parish and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul have helped many residents with funds for rent, utilities and car repairs from hail damage.

In the midst of these efforts, the damage to the church’s roof was discovered to be much more serious than first thought. Members congregated in a parish hall below the church to celebrate Mass while repairs were done. They moved back into the sanctuary just weeks before the blessing.

During the Mass on Nov. 25, Father Schaftlein thanked the parish, community, volunteers and agencies that have helped during the past nine months. Father Schaftlein also thanked Bishop Coyne “for joining with us in our time of distress, and now in our time of celebration. We are a symbol of what our community is. More than buildings and people, we are God-fearing spirits.”

Bishop Coyne responded, “There is one other person in this space that needs to be thanked. He’s had a hammer in his hands more than a chalice over these past few months. He’s been such a good leader for all of us, not just this parish but also for this town. That is Father Steve.”

The blessing of the repaired and renovated church touched many parishes.

The cross on the church’s steeple was a symbol of life for Emily Horine, who was a senior at Henryville High School on March 2. She had gone to her mother’s classroom after dismissal to help with Vicki Horine’s class of preschool students with special needs.

Emily’s extended family banded in the church basement during the tornadoes. Her biggest concern upon emerging from a classroom closet was the church. She was told that the town had been leveled and the church had been demolished. Fearing the worst, Emily ran outside. The first thing she saw was the cross. With a flood of relief, she knew that her family had survived the devastating storm. The experience changed her life.

“I know I want to help,” Emily said. “I cherish every moment a lot more. A lot of kids are ready to leave their small town behind and go to college. I can’t wait to get back, to be part of it.”

She also carries an unshakable belief that “God can be with you regardless of the circumstances.”

Vicki Horine shepherded her students into a closet when the alarm was sounded that day, and grabbed her holy water and rosary on the way.

“I was raised by my grandmother to get the holy water when there’s a storm,” she said. “It’s like turning the light off when you leave a room. I asked one little girl if I could sprinkle her with ‘Jesus water,’ and she said ‘yes.’

“Of course, it’s not [only] the water that brings the blessing, it’s the prayers that go with it. Now, her mom says the 3-year-old doesn’t go to bed at night without having her ‘Jesus water’ close by,” Vicki Horine said. “Her mom says, ‘I’m glad she feels safe having it there.’ It gave us a chance to teach something that’s important to us as Catholics.”

Both Horines point to the incredible rise of ecumenism in Henryville since the storm.

“The walls between churches came down,” Vicki said. “If it hadn’t been for those tornadoes, we never would have seen this.”

Father Schaftlein said the deeper sense of community is epitomized in the Gospel of St. Matthew, “Amen. I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Mt 25:40).

The outpouring of hearts and service has brought healing and recovery to the area, but there is still much work to do. Recovery will continue for at least another year.

The need for volunteers has not diminished, but it has changed. In the spring, another call will be made for skilled volunteers.

And St. Francis Xavier parishioners in Henryville will continue to minister to the spiritual and temporal needs of all who ask for help.

(Levi Lynch is a member of St. Mary Parish in Lenaweeville. Catholic Charities is still looking for skilled and unskilled volunteers to help with rebuilding efforts in Henryville and the surrounding area. For more information, send an e-mail to Jane Craypa, coordinator of disaster preparedness and response for Catholic Charities, at jacrepa@tds.net or call 317-642-7322.)

Father Steven Schaftlein, left, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Henryville, and Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator, greet members of St. Francis Xavier Parish after concelebrating a rededication Mass on Nov. 25. The church was seriously damaged when a tornado hit Henryville on March 2.

I know I want to help. I cherish every moment a lot more. A lot of kids are ready to leave their small town behind and go to college. I can’t wait to get back, to be part of it.

—Emily Horine
Catholics find new Mass translation to their liking study finds

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A wide majority of Massgoers are satisfied with the new English translation of the Roman Missal introduced a year ago during Advent, a survey showed.

Seventy percent of Catholics responding agreed that the translation is a "good thing," according to results of the study conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. Half of respondents agreed with the assessment while 20 percent strongly agreed with it, the survey found.

That still left three in 10 Catholics saying they disagreed with such an assessment. Seven percent said they strongly disagreed that the translations were good for the Church.

Walburga Maria Ziegler, director of CARA, said the study showed "the majority of Massgoers are satisfied with the new language of the Mass." Msgr. Richard B. Hilgartner, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Divine Worship, said the findings in the CARA study reflected the "positive feedback" his office had received in the year since the translations had been used.

"What we've found ... is that catechesis was done well and preparation was done well, there's more acceptance and embracing of it," Msgr. Hilgartner told Catholic News Service. "I think now is the time to start asking questions about what people understand about the new texts. Now it's not different and unfamiliar, but it's starting to get a little bit comfortable on several levels.

"More priests, I think, have struggled with the new language found in the Mass prayers. Some worshipers, he added, have told him the new language is too formal and hinders their worship. Msgr. Hilgartner compared some of the concerns about the changes to those today that emerged when the Missal of Paul VI was approved in 1969 that adopted the intensions expressed in the Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy ("Sacrosanctum Consilium") that emerged from the Second Vatican Council. In 1970, he recalled, some Catholics were offended by the less formal vernacular language of the then-new missal.

The current translation of the Roman Missal was issued in 2001. It took the International Commission on English in the Liturgy nearly a decade to translate the changes into English and gain Vatican approval after what, at times, contentious discussions.

"We, for centuries, have been a people of story," said Father Graham. "This week, we continue to examine what was going on in the Church and the world is different than the male way, and that's not bad," she said.

"Women who are involved in the Church have to tell the story, and they take on the task of what we have done because we get caught in the authority issue," she said.

"Women have had different kinds of authority in the Church in different eras, in different situations, in religious communities, schools, hospitals and other institutions even long before they were allowed such positions in secular society.

In the next session, for example, of the "Veggie Tales" Christian video series for children, Thorn said, Catholic media could create compelling videos for children that explain the lives of women saints and help children apply those stories' lessons to real-life problems.

"There are great adventures in many of these lives," she said, like St. Teresa of Avila who, opposed to her father's wishes, sneaked away in the dead of night to a Carmelite convent to escape being married off.

"This is a vacuum in a lack of catechetical adults, including parents, who are knowledgeable about Church history, she said.

Given the success, for example, of the "Veggie Tales" Thorn said, "I think, in some respects, over time we grew away from the practical work of the Church and we became more bureaucratic."

"Feeding the people, walking with Jesus, making sure he who had was needed, that's what's important," she said.

Msgr. Hilgartner said.

"At the conclusion of the council's two-month-long opening session, declared that the council "really remains open during the next nine months" until the start of its second session next September.

"Father Graham: Council developments 'positive, encouraging' 

Orders of priests, monks and nuns, said. "I think, in some respects, over time we grew away from the practical work of the Church and we became more bureaucratic."

"Feeding the people, walking with Jesus, making sure he who had was needed, that's what's important," she said.

Msgr. Hilgartner said.

"At the conclusion of the council's two-month-long opening session, declared that the council "really remains open during the next nine months" until the start of its second session next September.

"Father Graham: Council developments 'positive, encouraging' 

Orders of priests, monks and nuns, said. "I think, in some respects, over time we grew away from the practical work of the Church and we became more bureaucratic."

"Feeding the people, walking with Jesus, making sure he who had was needed, that's what's important," she said.

Msgr. Hilgartner said.

"At the conclusion of the council's two-month-long opening session, declared that the council "really remains open during the next nine months" until the start of its second session next September.

"Father Graham: Council developments 'positive, encouraging' 

Orders of priests, monks and nuns, said. "I think, in some respects, over time we grew away from the practical work of the Church and we became more bureaucratic."

"Feeding the people, walking with Jesus, making sure he who had was needed, that's what's important," she said.

Msgr. Hilgartner said.

"At the conclusion of the council's two-month-long opening session, declared that the council "really remains open during the next nine months" until the start of its second session next September.

"Father Graham: Council developments 'positive, encouraging' 

Orders of priests, monks and nuns, said. "I think, in some respects, over time we grew away from the practical work of the Church and we became more bureaucratic."

"Feeding the people, walking with Jesus, making sure he who had was needed, that's what's important," she said.

Msgr. Hilgartner said.
Great moments came in “threes” recently for the football programs at Bishop Chatard High School and Cathedral High School, both in Indianapolis. For the third straight year, both schools won Indiana High School Athletic Association state football championships on Nov. 24 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

The Trojans of Bishop Chatard—the archdiocesan interparochial high school for the Indianapolis North Deanery—earned a record 12th state title in football when they defeated Hamilton Heights High School 30-13 for the Class 3A championship.

The Irish of Cathedral—a private Catholic high school—won their 10th state football championship by beating Mishawaka High School 56-29 for the Class 4A championship.

Bishop Chatard head football coach Vince Lorenzano credits the championship season to the team’s resiliency and its commitment to reaching its potential.

“When the team started workouts in the summer, the students often practiced on the front lawn of the school because a new athletic complex was being built,” Lorenzano said. “The team also had to endure injuries to key players during the season.”

“They handled the difficult times with character,” Lorenzano said. “Nothing seemed to shake them. When someone went down, another guy stepped in there and filled his shoes.

“What’s important is not so much the winning. It’s reaching the God-given potential that you have. When you do that, it makes you feel good. That’s what makes me proudest of what we accomplished. We made the investment in reaching that potential.”

Cathedral’s football team also showed perseverance in the face of adversity, according to head coach Rick Streiff.

“We finished the [regular] season 4-5 [four wins and five losses], and the last game was a 48-13 loss,” Streiff recalled. “We limped our way into the tournament.

“You hope your kids learn that everybody gets knocked down. The important part is what you do after you get knocked down. Our senior leadership was outstanding. They were a great group of kids. They came in ready to do anything we wanted to get done.”

Joseph Sweeney, a senior at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis, received the Class 2A Mental Attitude Award for football. The Raiders of Ritter—the archdiocesan interparochial high school for the Indianapolis West Deanery—lost the 2A state championship game on Nov. 23 to Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne by a score of 40-28.

The football team of Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School also ended a successful season at Lucas Oil Stadium on Nov. 23. The Crusaders of Scecina—the archdiocesan interparochial high school for the Indianapolis East Deanery—played in the Class A championship, losing 14-0 to Lafayette Central Catholic High School.

“[Winning] is three-peats for Bishop Chatard and Cathedral in football,” said Lorenzano.

“What’s important is not so much the winning. It’s reaching the God-given potential that you have.”

—Vince Lorenzano

Bishop Chatard head football coach
Amid ongoing violence, Chicago-area Catholics challenged to build peace

CHICAGO (CNS)—In a metropolitan area rocked by crime, Chicago-area Catholics are being challenged to respond and realize their spiritual responsibility to build peace.

More than 200 children and adults gathered on a street corner on Chicago’s south side on Nov. 30 to pray for peace on the morning of Dec. 3 and into the next morning. The city’s homicide rate also has increased over the past year.

So far in 2012, homicides have risen to 480, a 21 percent increase from 399 a year earlier. If trends continue, the Chicago Tribune will likely exceed 500 homicides for the first time since 2008.

The Chicago area’s violent trend, however, encompasses far more than the headline-grabbing incidents of violence.

From armed robberies and home invasions to child abuse and domestic incidents, violence in the Chicago area crosses the area’s diverse geography, touching all races, ethnicities, socioeconomic groups and ages.

The violence claims a direct impact on the social, spiritual, economic, intellectual and physical dimensions of communities big and small.

And Catholics, many local faith leaders contend, have a role—one would even argue a leading role—in combating the grim realities.

This year, Father Michael Pfleger, senior pastor of St. Sabina Parish, was named the archdiocesan representative for the criterion of more than 200 people down the streets of Chicago’s southeast side.

Together, the group—predominantly a collection of parishioners from four south side parishes—prayed for a more peaceful community, lit candles in memory of local residents who died as a result of violent acts, and reflected on the individual and collective roles which they might play in constructing peace.

At one point, the traveling group stopped at an intersection dubbed “Death Corner.” There, Father Quebedeaux, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, blessed the intersection and—borrowing a Native American tradition—offered prayers in all four directions.

The march then continued on, concluding with a Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church where participants made a public pledge to create peaceful environments and protect the gift of life.

“It was an effort to join in prayer, to build community and to awaken the courage to resist violence in our communities and our homes,” Father Quebedeaux said.

“There’s a tendency to grow numb and say, ‘Violence isn’t my problem,’ but this is something we’re all involved in,” the priest said.

Students at the school at Holy Angels Parish on the south side have adopted anti-violence as their signature cause. Back in May, they joined more than 350 students from nine other south side Catholic schools for an anti-violence rally.

“We want to keep kids aware of their role in this issue, and understand that they play a part in bringing about change,” Holy Angels Deacon Leroy Gill told the Catholic New World, Chicago’s archdiocesan newspaper.

In the months since, Deacon Gill said the school’s older students have taken ownership of the issue and committed themselves to bring positive, peacemaking role models for younger students.

Father Pfleger continues pushing for solutions that will curb violence, and promote tolerance and respect. He has called for Church-led workshops teaching conflict resolution, sponsored a petition calling for the banning of assault weapons, and urged his fellow priests to preach about the need for Catholics everywhere to fill peacemaking roles.

“There’s an unraveling of society, and we need to counteract this,” he said. “Peace has to be created—that’s our job as Catholics and Christians.”

With archdiocesan resources and more than 2 million Chicago-area Catholics, Deacon Gill said the local Church is well positioned to take a stand on violence and spur change.

“I believe that if we take the lead, others will follow,” he said.

The marches were organized by the archdiocesan newspaper, the Catholic New World, and Catholic Charities.

Online Lay Ministry Formation

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has partnered with the University of Notre Dame and Catholic University (CDU) to offer not-for-credit online theology classes:

• Courses on the Catechism of the Catholic Church from CDU
• All 12 classes for a Certificate in Lay Ministry available online
• 25% discount for all employees, volunteers, and parishioners
• Employees also receive reimbursement upon course completion

For more information, please log on to www.archindy.org/layministry

The Criterion

(John F. Fink is editor emeritus of The Criterion. )
Advent repentence leads to Christmas peace

By Marcellino D’Ambrosio

Christmas cards speak about it. Christmas carols sing about it. Even the angels at Bethlehem proclaimed it. “Peace on Earth” (Lk 2:14).

The coming of the Messiah obviously has something to do with the advent of peace. But we need to examine the biblical notion of peace. It is not quite the peace that some have in mind. It is notocus on a harmonious relationship between people that flows from the right relationship with God. Pope Paul VI said that “if you want peace, work for justice.”

Justice, however, is not just fair laws and political rights, but the interior justice that the Bible calls righteousness. The world is obviously not at peace because human hearts are not at peace. We are all pulled in opposite directions by competing desires. So before the Prince of Peace can usher in a season of tranquility and refreshment, the forerunner must come with a stern message of warfare. The enemies of peace will not lie down on their own accord. They must be put down. Peace is a fruit of victory. The world’s approach is quite different—first the fast, then the feast. The true reason for the season.

The Christian attitude toward holidays is simple—first the fast, then the feast. The world’s approach is quite different—first the feast, then the hangover. “Peace on Earth” (Lk 2:14). If Christmas is preceded by a sober season of repentance, it will please God even more than the holly and ivy.

Pope Benedict XVI’s message

In an apostolic letter titled “The Door of Faith” (”Porta Fidei”), the pope said, “Faith enables us to recognize Christ. His love ‘impels us to accept and follow him wherever he becomes our neighbor.”

However, if it is vital to recognize Jesus’ face in others, it is also vital to assure that others discover a reflection of Jesus’ face in ours.

The October 2012 Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization described in a concluding message how the Samaritan woman at the well had, at first, stood “with an empty bucket” though hoping that her “heart’s most profound desire” might be fulfilled. It added, “Like Jesus at the well of Sychar, the Church also feels the need to sit beside today’s men and women. She wants to render the Lord present in their lives.”

(David Gibson served on Catholic News Service’s editorial staff for 37 years.)†
Christmas is a nostalgic occasion and holy time for people of faith.

It rebuilds our muscle memory of the wonder, a gift we’ve never needed more. Childhood revisited. A Christmas-morn kiss. Then I set to work, signing the tag in loopy cursive. Then I made the round from closet to closet, making the rounds from closet to closet, introducing a simple device that artfully wrapped gift that makes you feel something, not just something.

(Stephen Kent is the retired editor of archdiocesan newspapers in Omaha and Seattle. He can be contacted at Considersk@gmail.com.)

Advent and the art of anticipation

Twenty-five years ago, Hallmark introduced a simple device that revolutionized the mechanics of gift giving—"a paper bag" offered to two handles.

The gift bag freed as shoppers from sifting, from sizing and snipping and folding. As a child, I would anxiously pull up present and package, until the shop to run, to pick up present and packaged. I used to stop—en route to the party even.

With its cheery red design and bold hues, the gift bag won us over, becoming the norm and often the sole present carrier at birthday parties and bridal showers. It’s sleek, modern and eminently recyclable, making the rounds from closet to closet, across neighborhoods and through extended families, sometimes returning to the original buyer.

Yet I can’t help but wonder if something has been lost with this added convenience.

Intact before the gift bag, presents had personality. Aunt Kathy wrapped everything in the funny pages. Grandma tied a packet with yard, miss could trace a person’s fingerprints on the gift that she had prepared. For a moment, you paused to take in, to tilt your head and behold.

There’s something about receiving an artfully wrapped gift that makes you feel special, that makes you feel warm for you. And nothing looks better beneath a Fraser fir than wrapped presents, a wide, wire-rimmed ribbon and adding a tag bearing the names of the giver, a cranberry swirl, a glittery reindeer or a glass ornament. I think of the recipient as I wrap, of the past and the present, the emerging theme, coordinating colors, signing the tag in loopy cursive. Then I tuck and press.

For me, it’s a way to sink into Advent, that hushed, holy season muffled by big business. Advent reminds us how to wait and wonder, a gift we’ve never needed more. It holds our reflection of the memory of the times we used stamps and landlines and phone books, when we snapped pictures of our lives and the stories we could be told.

(Christmas Carpechi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristmas.com.)
The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012

• Zephaniah 3:14-18a
• Ephesians 4:4-7
• Luke 3:10-18

For centuries, this Sunday was called Gaudete Sunday, name the coming from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice" or, in Latin, "Gaudete." The antiphon calls worshipers to rejoice because the Lord’s arrival into human experience will be coming soon! While violet is the color prescribed for liturgical vestments in Advent, on this weekend priests may choose to wear rose-colored vestments. The rose represents the more somber violet lightened by the brightness of the imminent dawn of Christ’s birth.

The first reading is from the Book of Zephaniah. A book that traces events from the seventh century before Christ. It is a rather short work—just three chapters in length—but its language and message are powerful.

Its theme is similar to that of the other prophets. Human sin has brought great hardship and heartbreak into the world. Sin is the worst calamity, and people have no one to blame but themselves for their sins.

However, God is always faithful, forgiving and good. He rescues people by showing them the way out of their sin and by renewing the call to righteousness.

Thus, this reading exclaims in anticipation and joy that, “All is forgiven! A savior is on the way! All will be right!” Even so, God imposes nothing on people. He does not coerce them into obedience. He does not overwhelm people as a conqueror would control them.

Rather, the people turn to God and reform their lives, although certainly impelled and strengthened by God.

For its second reading, the Church presents a reading from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Philippians. As in the first reading, the theme is joy. Christ is the long-awaited Redeemer. He reunites humanity with God. In Jesus is life and hope. Redemption. He reunites humanity with joy. Christ is the long-awaited Redeemer. He reunites humanity with joy. Christ is the long-awaited Redeemer. He reunites humanity with joy.

The message is thrillingly given. Jesus is Lord! He is everything.

Opposite Jesus the Lord, the wondrous figure of perfect love and resurrected life, is human sin and the destruction that sin creates. Zephaniah alludes to this sin and its consequences as does John the Baptist in the Gospel.

Christians can rejoice, however, because they are not doomed to the eternal consequences of their sin. They are redeemed!

God, through and in Jesus, will forgive them if they sin if they renounce these sins and ask for forgiveness. Then, assured of forgiveness, they can live forever in Christ.

Christmas is near. Jesus is near. Turn away from sin. Be forgiven. Then, because we have reformed ourselves in Advent, the Lord soon will be with us personally. Thus, the Church calls us to rejoice. “Gaudete!”

Rejoicing is the Church’s choice of the Gospel reading. The principal figure is John the Baptist, one of the more striking figures of the early Church. A cousin of Jesus, he was a widely known prophet who called people to God.

Quite realistic in his understanding of Jesus, John knew that he himself was only the precursor of the promised Savior. Indeed, John said that he was not even worthy to untie the Savior’s sandal strap.

It was a testimony to John, but also to the Redeemer. John was regarded as a holy man. If John could not even perform such a menial act on behalf of the Savior as to untie a sandal strap, then the Savior most certainly was of God.

This reading would have been especially meaningful in the first century A.D. to anyone familiar with Jewish tradition and the environment surrounding Jesus.

All the Gospels of the New Testament appeared against the backdrop of God’s relationship with the Jews. Supreme in this relationship was God’s constant mercy—mercy perfected when a Savior would appear.

Reflection

No New Testament writing more splendidly presents the great majesty of Jesus—the Christ, the Savior, the Son of God—and true Christian faith than does St. Paul’s Epistle to the Philippians.

This second reading’s second so well captures this quality of Philippians. The message is thrillingly given. Jesus is Lord! He is everything.

Opposite Jesus the Lord, the wondrous figure of perfect love and resurrected life, is human sin and the destruction that sin creates. Zephaniah alludes to this sin and its consequences as does John the Baptist in the Gospel. Christians can rejoice, however, because they are not doomed to the eternal consequences of their sin. They are redeemed!

God, through and in Jesus, will forgive them if they sin if they renounce these sins and ask for forgiveness. Then, assured of forgiveness, they can live forever in Christ.

Christmas is near. Jesus is near. Turn away from sin. Be forgiven. Then, because we have reformed ourselves in Advent, the Lord soon will be with us personally. Thus, the Church calls us to rejoice. “Gaudete!”

My Journey to God

I hoped to walk this path with you and held yourself hand until the end but obstacles were placed along the way that could not be removed.

Tears of anguish I cried in mournful loss. Oh, lift the veil of sorrow and shine the light of peace upon my grieving heart.

Then in the silence of the bitter broken night, I knew that love would touch the cross upon your head and say good-bye to you, my friend.

For even in this darkest hour when all seemed lost and nothing would remain, our faith stood firm to glorify our God in one another.

By Helen Welter

(Belin Welter is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. This cross decorated with flowers is part of a collection of crosses and crucifixes on display in the office at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood.)

Daily Readings

Monday, Dec. 17
Genesis 49:2-10; Psalm 72:3-4, 7-8, 17 Matthew 1:1-17

Tuesday, Dec. 18
Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalm 72:1, 12-13, 18-19 Matthew 1:18-25

Wednesday, Dec. 19
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71:3-6, 16-17 Luke 1:5-25

Thursday, Dec. 20
Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-6 Luke 1:26-38

Friday, Dec. 21
St. Peter Canisius, priest and doctor

Saturday, Dec. 22
1 Samuel 1:24-28 (Responsory) 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-7, 8bcd Luke 1:46-56

Sunday, Dec. 23
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Question Corner

Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Bishop establishes parishes and churches in diocese and has the right to name them

Q Our Marian study club would like to know how Catholic churches get their names. Who makes this decision?

A Canon law gives the bishop the right to name Catholic churches, but it also gives the bishop the right to accept the name chosen by a parish or individual. The bishop also has the right to rename a church. This is why the same name may be given to church buildings in different dioceses.

The bishop’s role in naming a church is not a “short course” in Christianity that is usually offered over a three-day weekend. It was started by laypeople in the 1940s then became popular in the United States in the 1960s and is now a worldwide movement.

Its goal is to help by reviewing the fundamentals of Christianity in a retreat-like atmosphere, people might be energized to deepen their friendship with Christ and their commitment to serving others.

Successes from the Cursillo weekend can be well-documented. It has been, for many, a positive and even life-changing experience to share in. People find the experience to be more Christ-like.

The bishop is often asked if the church is the best he has ever known. The bishop often asks, “What advice can you offer? (Missouri)”

A First, here is some background for those who are unfamiliar with the Cursillo movement.

The Cursillo is a three-day weekend retreat in which three leaders are trained to assist with the merger. At the top of that list, the committee’s agenda was the consideration of a name for the new parish. The committee made the decision that—rather than try to combine both former names into a hybrid title—a new name would indicate more clearly that the combined parish was a fresh enterprise with all the parishioners starting off on equal footing.

After study and discussion, the committee arrived at a dozen possible names then parishioners at both churches were polled.

The three leading names from that vote were then submitted to the bishop along with the vote tally, and the bishop ratified our parish’s top choice.

Q Have not made a Cursillo myself, but I have the impression that it is an intensive study in a retreat type of atmosphere from which an individual should walk away with a more intimate relationship with God and a deeper desire to be more Christ-like.

In our parish, though, there is a group that makes just about every Cursillo in the area, and they project an attitude of being “better than the rest” of us who have not attended this retreat. Rather than seeming more Christ-like, they resemble a clique from junior high school days with them being the “cool kids.”

A A pastor just seems to encourage them. I don’t think that he sees the divisive nature of their actions toward other parishioners. What advice can you offer? (Missouri)
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 here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.


BACK, Joyce, 81, St. Michael, Brookville, Nov. 28. Mother of Steve Back. Sister of Evelyn Amhren. Grandmother of six. Great-grandmother of three. †

BLANK, Helen A., 95, St. Louis, Batesville, Nov. 22. Mother of Bill Blank. Sister of Carol Gruber. Great-grandmother of two. †

BOEHMAN, Cherie, 92, St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, Nov. 26. Great-grandmother of two. †


CALLENDER, Virginia, 91, St. Paul the Apostle, Greencastle, Nov. 16. Mother of Bernarde Hickey, John Callender and Jan Callender. Great-grandmother of 31. †

CAMPBELL, Muriel, 92, St. Louis, Batesville, Nov. 25. Mother of Don, Ken and Tom Funkhouser. Sister of Bemice Harig. Step-grandmother of Mary Ellen McCarty. Great-grandmother of four. †

CARR, Tammey, 87, St. Lawrence, New Albany, Nov. 22. Grandmother of two. †

CARR, Victor, 86, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Nov. 25. Husband of Linda Carr. Father of Trista Burns. Great-grandfather of six. †


CASSADY, Christopher, 59, St. John the Baptist, New Albany, Nov. 27. Husband of Mary Ann Cassaday. Father of Thomas. Great-grandfather of one. †

CEREZO, Raul, 81, St. Louis, Batesville, Nov. 26. Son of Juan and Carmen Cerezo. Sister of Mary and Ann. Great-grandfather of three. †


CULLBERG, Delbert, 92, St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, Nov. 16. Grandfather of Robert Cullberg. Great-grandfather of two. †

DEAN, Eleanor Maxine, 87, St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis, Nov. 13. Mother of Barbara Stuyver. Sister of Mary Schmit. Great-grandmother of two. †

DULAY, Robert J., 64, St. Rose of Lima, Bloomington, Nov. 21. Father of Nicole Dulay. Great-grandfather of one. †

ELSNER, Betty L., 92, St. Mary Greensburg, Nov. 27. Mother of James Eelsner. Great-grandmother of one. †

FAIRCHILD, Roselle V., 92, St. Louis, Batesville, Nov. 25. Mother of Don, Ken and Tom Funkhouser. Sister of Bernarde Hickey. Great-grandmother of 13. Great-grandfather of four. †


IRWIN, Paulette Ann (Bechold), 96, Holy Rosary, Seelyville, Nov. 16. Mother of Robert Connell. Great-grandmother of one. †

Klemm, Gene, 82, St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, Nov. 24. Brother of Ted Klemm and Jack Klemm. Great-grandfather of seven. †


MOHAY, John K., 82, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, Nov. 21. Husband of Mary (Waltz) Mohay. Father of Jeffrey, Kevin and Michael Mahay. Brother of Maureen Iverson, Mary Kay (Holland) Stuhldreher and Donald Mahay. Great-grandfather of four. †

MILLER, Marline, 81, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, Nov. 2. Mother of Melissa Krueger. Sister of Mark and Matthew Miller. Sister of Shirley Schreiner and Jerry Boyer. Great-grandmother of seven. †

SOLITO, Ricardo S., 89, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Dec. 4. Father of De. Leo Solito. Great-grandfather of eight. †

STRUG, ROGIER, Donald John, 87, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Nov. 19. Father of Donita Russell and John Strusweg. Stepfather of Dottie Adams. Brother of Carol Koczwara and Raymond Strusweg. †


THEISMAN, George Alan, 69, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Nov. 9. Father of Chad Theisman. Brother of Colleen, Joe and John Thompson. †


WHITFIELD, Billy Gene, 73, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Nov. 19. Uncle of several. †

In remembrance

A woman lights a candle on a grave at a cemetery in the village of Vrema, Belarus, on Nov. 1 in remembrance of a loved one on All Saints Day.

Christmas Raflle

Buy a chance for $100
No more than 800 tickets sold (may be a lot less)
On Christmas Day 2012 at 12:30pm at St. Cecilia Church, Independence, KY
One ticket will be drawn to Win $40,000

Sponsors: Berta Sparks, Keane, CPA Firm
Make checks payable to St. Cecilia Church,
St. Cecilia Church, 5313 Madison Pike, Independence, KY 41051

To purchase tickets: Call 859.363.4311 or visit STCfest.com or fill out this form and send it with check to:
St. Cecilia Church, 5313 Madison Pike, Independence, KY 41051

Selling $100 tickets to raise $40,000 for the church

Christmas Day, December 22, 2012

Select 3 number from 0 to 9

1-3-4

Great-grandmother of seven.
Advent penance services are scheduled at archdiocesan parishes

Parishes throughout the archdiocese have scheduled communal penance services for Advent. The following is a list of services that have been reported to The Criterion.

Batesville Deanery
• Dec. 19, 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County
• Dec. 20, 6:30 p.m. at St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Bright

Bloomington Deanery
• Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Providence, Brownstown, Seymour Deanery
• Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood
• Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m. at St. Barnabas

Indianapolis South Deanery
• Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. at St. John The Baptist, Sunlight

New Albany Deanery
• Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. at Holy Family, New Albany
• Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
• Dec. 17, 9 p.m. at St. Joseph, Princeton
• Dec. 18, 6 p.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, and St. Mary, Navilleton, at St. Mary, Navilleton
• Dec. 23, 1 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Sunlight

Seymour Deanery
• Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m. at St. Stanislaus Kostka, Seymour
• Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. Michael the Archangel

Terre Haute Deanery
• Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle, Greencastle, Terre Haute
• Dec. 19, 6 p.m. at St. Paul, Tell City

Tell City Deanery
• Dec. 16, 2 p.m. at St. Paul, Tell City
• Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m. at St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad

Indianapolis East Deanery
• Dec. 19, 7 p.m. at St. Pius X, Indianapolis

Indianapolis West Deanery
• Dec. 19, 7 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena, Indianapolis

Tell City Deanery
• Dec. 19, 7 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle, Greencastle †

Franciscan Father Richard Huston blesses an Advent wreath during Mass on the first Sunday of Advent at St. Mary Church in Pompton Lakes, N.J., on Dec. 2. The wreath, which holds four candles, is a main symbol of the Advent season, with a new candle lit each Sunday before Christmas.

Prayers Answered
I would like to thank God. The Sacred Heart. Blessed Mother, Srs. Joseph, Frances, Jude and Anthony for all the prayers answered. I am so thankful to all of them. If people would just ask for help it is there for them. A little faith goes a long way.

Vacation Rental

BEACHFRONT CONDO, Maderia Beach, FL, 2BR/2BA, pool & 25ft balcony overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. Must. Indpls. owner. See photos, maps. Cat Robin at 317-506-8161.

Health Care

Husser HomeCare
Trained and Compassionate Care • Elder or special needs care • Personal care assistance • Companion care • Homemaker services • Respite care • Transportation & errands Call for free in-home consultation Kathy and Terry Husser (317) 255-7500 or 332-8261 www.HusserHomeCare.com

Employment

BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL
ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATE
Bishop Chatard High School, the North Deanery High School of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, has an opening for an Advancement Associate on its Advancement Team. The position will directly report to the Executive Director of Advancement and be responsible for managing the Raisers Edge database, generating report/letters, annual grant tracking, prospect research, administrative work, and direct mail. Candidates should possess a post-secondary degree along with extensive experience utilizing Raisers Edge to create a comprehensive advancement plan.

Position offers a competitive salary at 30 hours per week. If interested, please send resume and cover letter by December 21, 2012 to Bishopchatard.org.
CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT SEASON!

The Marian University Knights played in the Russell Athletic NAIA Football National Championships Thursday, December 13. On behalf of the Marian University students, faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees, thanks for a great season.

Celebrate with the team when they return from Rome at 7 p.m. Friday, December 14 at the Physical Education Center on the Marian University campus. Come to the basketball game, cheer on the Marian University Basketball Knights, and welcome home the Football Knights at halftime.