Partnerships, sustainability are key in Haiti’s earthquake recovery

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Soon after a monstrous earthquake devastated much of Haiti three years ago, the mantra among Haitian government leaders and a good share of relief and development agencies was “build back Haiti better.”

It was somewhat catchy, of course, and certainly demonstrative of the resiliency of a country battered all too often by Mother Nature.

As the Jan. 12 anniversary of the quake came and went, the “build back” slogan has faded from most discussions, but the work of rebuilding—in reality, building—a country has moved ahead even if progress has been slow and difficult to measure.

More troublesome is the continuing sense of frustration among Haitians, especially among the 360,000 who remain in tent camps, according to the International Organization for Migration—who see little visible change in their lives or their surroundings.

“Haiti is not going to become a middle-income country overnight,” acknowledged Eileen Wickstrom Smith, deputy coordinator for assistance in the Office of the Haiti Special Coordinator at the U.S. State Department, in a teleconference with reporters on Jan. 9.

Given that reality, the emphasis on development has turned to sustainability and building the capacity of Haitians from all walks of life to overcome the devastating poverty that has strangled the Caribbean nation for much of its 200-year history.

Haiti’s needs were overwhelming before the earthquake shook the Haitian landscape and claimed 316,000 lives while displacing an estimated 1.5 million people.

The catastrophe amplified the problems—lack of infrastructure, especially water and sanitation; a shortage of safe and affordable sanitation; a shortage of safe and affordable

As new legislative session begins, Catholics called to engage in political action beyond voting booth

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

“A new year, a new governor and a Republican super majority in the Indiana General Assembly bring another opportunity for Catholics to engage in the political process,” says Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), who serves as the official spokesman on state and federal issues for the Church in Indiana.

While the 150-member legislature, known as the Indiana General Assembly, reconvened on Jan. 7 for a four-month lawmaking session, the ICC geared up for another year of bringing Catholic principles to the public square by sharing a consistent life ethic that every human being, created in the image and likeness of God, has an inherent dignity that must be respected in the state’s laws and policies.

What will Gov. Mike Pence and newly elected state lawmakers contribute to the common good and the consistent life ethic? “Time will tell,” says Tebbe, but the Indiana General Assembly does have one requirement—to produce a two-year state operating budget by its April 29 adjournment deadline.

During Tebbe’s two decades of following state legislation, he notes one characteristic unique to this session’s House of Representatives is that nearly half of its members have two years or less experience in the job. That, combined with a walk-out proof Republican super majority and a diminished Democrat minority influence, will make for a unique situation in the lawmaking process.

Republican leaders in the House and Senate have stressed their focus this year will be on passing a budget and moving legislation that creates jobs.

Pence promised in his campaign to fight poverty by creating jobs and strengthening marriage and families.

In early December, Pence also expressed an interest in using some of the state’s surplus to give a 10 percent tax cut to Indiana residents.
Haiti

able to develop school-specific programs, Hercyk said. “In the end, I bought into it.”

Squalid tent camps scattered across the country. In developing responses to these calamities, Catholic organizations, such as Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), along with the U.S. government and the United Nations, now speak in similar terms. They stress that the answers to Haiti’s future lie with Haitians themselves.

“We want to build things with Haitians for Haitians, and it takes a little longer,” Darren Hercyk, country representative in Haiti for CRS, explained in an interview from Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital. “In the end, I have not found a problem where all parties have not bought into it.”

Hercyk said the earthquake changed the way CRS approaches its work from being primarily in rural areas to one with a major presence in urban programming.

For example, CRS is tackling the rebuilding of St. Franes de Sales Hospital in Port-au-Prince, which was destroyed in the earthquake, into a 200-bed state-of-the-art teaching facility. The U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency has partnered with the Haitian Ministry of Health and the Catholic Health Association to carry out the project.

The goal, Hercyk said, is to network the rebuilthospital with others across the country for the delivery of care and the training of future doctors and nurses.

Other key partnerships that Hercyk includes: CRS include a Catholic education program and the development of affordable and safe housing to move people still living in squalid tent camps scattered across the country.

Thanks to a recently completed nationwide assessment of 2,315 Catholic schools that enroll more than 638,000 people, according to the Haitian Ministry of Health and Population, CRS and the University of Notre Dame will be conducting an assessment of 2,315 Catholic schools that enroll more than 638,000 people, according to the Haitian Ministry of Health and Population.

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Their research staff and network coordinator in Haiti, Father Juan Molina, director of the U.S. bishops’ Office for the Church in Latin America, told Catholic News Service that some Haitian bishops have visited U.S. dioceses at the invitation of the USCCB to see how ministries are carried out. parishes are managed and vital fundraising is conducted.

“I think Haiti has a lot of human and other resources that are untapped, but because of the present situation there is no coordination,” Father Molina said. “If we can garner especially the human resources and an image that can help everyone go beyond the present desperation and see that Haiti can work, I think we’ve done our job of supporting our brothers and sisters in Haiti.”

Hand-in-hand with capacity building is an effort by JRS to take a holistic approach to development through projects in local communities.

Working largely along the Haitian-Dominican Republic border, JRS has undertaken a series of efforts to bring water to subsistence farmers in communities where the nearest clean water source was more than three hours away on foot. By piping in water, farmers can grow crops year-round rather than just during the rainy season, and young girls can attend local schools rather than making daily treks for far-off water for family needs, said Mary Small, assistant director for policy at JRS in Washington.

Such projects can be duplicated nationwide, Small told CNS, reducing the need for Haitians to flee illegally into the Dominican Republic looking for work and a better life.

While such programs are beneficial, the State Department’s Smith admitted huge challenges remain for Haiti.

At a U.N.-sponsored meeting of donor nations two months after the earthquake, governments pledged $5.3 billion through 2011 and a total of $9.9 billion through 2014 for Haiti’s rebuilding. Less than half those amounts have come through. Smith acknowledged that there has been a “slowness of donors to make good on pledges. Much work remains to be done,” she said. †
Br. Joseph remembered for his commitment to others

Holy Cross Brother Joseph E. Umile remembered for his commitment to others

By John Shaughnessy

By Natalie Hoefle

The Criterion  Friday, January 18, 2013  Page 3

Archbishop Tobin to celebrate Mass in each deanery

In an October interview with The Criterion, newly appointed Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin was asked what he could do to help the archdiocese and if he planned to visit any parishes.

“I want to be patient,” Archbishop Tobin said. “I’m not going to learn [about 39 counties overnight or in six months].”

To help learn more about the archdiocese, Archbishop Tobin had a desire to celebrate Mass in each of its 11 deaneries.

“I find that really life-giving, too,” he said of visiting parishes. “I won’t always strike me in [S.] Paul’s letters how often he thanks the people for their faith. I expect that I’ll more and more give gratitude for the faith that’s being lived here.”

The archdiocese has released a schedule of deanery Masses in January and February where Archbishop Tobin will be the principal celebrant.

In recalling that moment, Brother Joe gave his sense of humor, friends also recalled the immense softer side to the heavy-smoking, sometimes-glaring man who quietly took care of people and situations, visited people with the Holy Cross Brothers at the Notre Dame, Ind., where he had been working since 2011.

On that spring day in 2007, just before he stepped aside as president of the North Deanery interparochial high school. Brother Joe recalled how he initially heard that the school was searching for a leader in 1993.

When I went back to New Rochelle, I asked my professor if there were any maps left. He said yes, it was 40 minutes from South Bend to Indianapolis.”

That moment was among the many stories and memories shared after a service that Br. Joseph died on Jan. 13 at age 64. At the time, Brother Joe was serving as the project leader of the park, officials looked at the boulder and determined.

He will always be remembered as one of the finest bishops and humanitarians ever to be associated with the Holy Cross order. That is why his legacy will be the principal celebrant. Each Mass will be held at Notre Dame in January and February where Archbishop Tobin will be the principal celebrant.

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“I think of the Book of Micah when I think of him,” said Benedictine Sister Louise Hoening, who served as the head of Bishop Chatard’s guidance department during Brother Joe’s tenure. “It mentions three things we should do: To act justly; to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.” (Mi 6:8).

The touch of humility came through in that he didn’t talk about his own dwellings or educational background. A 1970 graduate of Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn., he also studied at the University of Paris from 1968 to 1970. He then earned a bachelor’s major in American history while at the Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vt., by studying for eight brothers while he was a teacher. He entered the Church in 1969 and was ordained the next six years, he served as the school’s headmaster before being named provincial in 1983. A year later, he came to Bishop Chatard.

“Joe was the guy whose strong personal identity was needed to validate the success of Bishop Chatard High School. His skills in development and advancement were instrumental in bringing in new students, programs and donors. He was a deeply committed individual who wanted to see good things happen in the North Deanery of Indianapolis as they related to education, spirituality and athletics,” Lentz also remembers Brother Joe for his “freely given opinions that never closed,” adding that “many of them were right.”

“Joe was the guy who had to make himself the perfect partner to the school. That faith and sheer determination were keys to O’Donnell surviving the worst naval disaster in U.S. history.

As the title of the book succinctly states, only 317 ultimately survived the ordeal, including O’Donnell. As a USS Indianapolis survivor and retired firefighter, O’Donnell dedicated much of his adult life to keeping the memory of the USS Indianapolis alive. He served for years as a member of the USS Indianapolis Memorial Association’s board of directors. In 1995, the group saw the fruits of their labor materialize as the memorial was unveiled along the Central Canal in Indianapolis.

In 2009, O’Donnell was honored by the City of Indianapolis with the placement of his likeness in bronze in the City Market Plaza.

Mayor Greg Ballard honored the passing of O’Donnell in a written statement.

“The sinking of the USS Indianapolis is one of the greatest tragedies in U.S. Naval history,” he said. “The statue of Jimmy in the City Market Plaza honors his service and that of his shipmates.”

As a USS Indianapolis survivor and retired firefighter, O’Donnell said that the USS Indianapolis was an American hero and a great citizen of Indianapolis.”

O’Donnell is survived by his wife, Alice, who raised their four children as a stay-at-home mom. He is also survived by their children, Mary Theresa Hofmeister, and James, Thomas and Timothy O’Donnell, several grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Paul Hermitage or the USS Indianapolis Survivors’ Organization.

Indianapolis and the Catholic community of central and southern Indiana lost a treasure on Jan. 8. James E. O’Donnell—husband, father, firefighter and last Indianapolis-native survivor of the sinking of the USS Indianapolis—died at the age of 92. He and his wife, Mary Alice (Gears), celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary a little more than a week before his death.

On July 30, 1945, two torpedos from a Japanese submarine sank the USS Indianapolis, which had played a role in delivering components of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Of the nearly 1,200 men on board, roughly 300 went down with the ship.

Those remaining, including O’Donnell, survived five days in the Pacific Ocean with no food or water. Soaked in the fuel from the sunken ship, the men were burned by the sun by day and chilled by night.

In his submission to the 2002 book Only 317 Survived!, O’Donnell wrote, “We faced our worst nemesis the first morning in the sea. Sharks were in the area and had started to attack the survivors.”

Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin processes into St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis on Dec. 12 to celebrate a Mass in Spanish marking the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Behind him is Ford Cox, executive assistant to the archbishop and liaison for episcopal affairs.

US$ Indianapolis survivor, husband of 70 years, dies

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40 years after Roe v. Wade

O n Dec. 3, 2012, a gunman killed 20 children in Newtown, Conn. On that same day, an abortionist killed 35 children in Indianapolis. During the past 40 years, since the Roe v. Wade decision, pro-lifers have continued to fight for that decision to be overturned.

Roe v. Wade decision is having an effect. There are, obviously, many pro-life organizations and pro-life leaders, which every year attracts greater numbers of pro-lifers. And most of those marchers attest to one letter every three months. Concise and heartfelt way that the ultimate purpose of pro-life work can be realized. Ridiculing readings, though, Shields said, even after Roe, though, Shields wrote, even when they return home.

Today there is no doubt that our society is the most secular and liberal in American history on any number of issues, but particularly on any issues that pertain in some way to—defining marriage, cohabitation, contraception, dating, etc. Despite that, Shields said, “pro-choice sentiment stopped increasing after Roe altogether, even though it had grown dramatically in years prior.”

Pro-lifers, though, are as determined to limit abortions and put an end to this heinous practice as they ever were. That’s obvious when you see people praying near abortion centers, hoping to persuade women to change their minds. On that December day when an abortionist from Dayton, Ohio, killed 15 children in Indianapolis, there were two “saves”—women who changed their minds and let their children live.

The Roe decision also galvanized pro-lifers to help women during and after their pregnancies. Today in the United States, there are some 3,000 pregnancy help centers—more than there are abortion centers—providing alternatives to abortion.

The centers are heavily dependent on volunteers. According to Shields’ article, “the average center has about one employee and six volunteers. Since most of the women they serve are poor, the centers try to meet their economic needs.

We hope and pray that those who marched in Washington will continue their enthusiasm for the pro-life movement when they return home.

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Olive Smith said. “The best scenario with more than 100, one of many who supports the law is not. A number of the more than 1000 letters (usually less than 300 words) are more likely to be printed.

Letters must be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld. Send letters to “Letters to the Editor,” The Criterion, 1800 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Readers accessing e-mail may send letters to editor@ criterion.org.

Reve Module Raymond T. Bouler, Founding Editor, 1915 - 1994
Most Recent: Joseph C. Stohr, Editor-in-Chief, Publisher
After Krause, John F. Fink, Editor Emeritus

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Sections are separated by 

**LIMA, Peru (CNS)—When Venezuela’s bishops spoke out against the actions of their nation’s President Hugo Chavez, the president’s supporters accused them of meddling in politics, while government opponents said they were disloyal.

That latest round of Church-state sparring is typical of the uneasy relationship between Church leaders and government officials throughout Latin America amid shifts in the balance of power between the Church and political leaders.

The Venezuelan Supreme Court allowed indefinite postponement of the inauguration, scheduled for Jan. 10, of State Department Secretary-designate Susan Rice, due to Chavez's illness. Chavez had to readjust its relationship with each newly independent Latin American country, says Alexander Wilde, a senior scholar in the Washington-based Wilson Center’s Latin America program.

Most countries’ constitutions gave the Catholic Church a privileged place, but some of those privileges have eroded as those documents have been revised over the years.

One sign of the shifting relationship was a Jan. 10 meeting between Argentine President Cristina Fernandez and leaders of the Argentine Federation of Evangelical Churches. During the meeting, Fernandez—likely a first step toward constitutional separation of Church and state—said Washington Uranga, a Uruguayan journalist, political analyst and university professor in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The archbishop said the project to publish the complete works of Cardinal Ratzinger-Pope Benedict XVI, said the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

During the presentation, the archbishop also underscored how deeply Pope Benedict XVI, who had been pope for 26 months, has influenced the Church and its relationship with society, and where the lines are drawn as a practical matter may change over time.

Cardinal urges governor to rethink support for ‘radical’ abortion bill

NEW YORK (CNS)—A New York measure that would prevent state regulations on abortion is a “radical” bill in a state where the abortion rate is already “double the national average,” Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said in a Jan. 10 letter to Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

“Each year, the New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said in a letter to Cuomo on Jan. 9. The cardinal made the comments in a letter to the governor after Cuomo delivered his annual State of the Address, which opens the legislative session.

### January 20

**Catholic Community of Richmond, 701 N. “A” St.** Richmond: Charismatic prayer group. Information: dickinsonparish.waols.com

**January 23**

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Father Courtney Room, 7575 Holliday Dr., Indianapolis. Catholic Apologetics A-Z, 7-9 p.m. Information: deacon@stukke.org

**January 24**

Fairview Presbyterian Church, 1507 E. 79th St., Indianapolis. Catholic Charities Indianapolis, murder victim support group, 5:30-7 p.m. Information: 317-236-3778.

**January 25**


**January 27**

St. Lawrence School, 6950 E. 46th St., Indianapolis. Open house, 1-3 p.m. Information: 317-543-4923, ext. 238 or saintlawrence.net

**January 29**


**January 30**

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Father Courtney Room, 7575 Holliday Dr., Indianapolis. Catholic Apologetics A-Z, 7-9 p.m.

**February 1**

SS. Francis and Clare School, 7091 Olive Branch Rd., Greenwood. Open house, Thurs., 6-8 p.m., Fri. 9-11 a.m. Information: 317-215-2826 or office@franciscanclare.org

**February 2**

Marian University, Bishop Chartrand Chapel, 5200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Lumen Dei meeting, Mass, 6:30 a.m., breakfast following Mass. Information: 317-435-3447 or HumphreysCPA@gmail.com

**February 4**

Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Solo Seniors, Catholic educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced, new members welcome. 6-30 p.m. Information: 317-370-1189.

**February 9**


**February 19**

Holy Family Parish, 815 W. Main St., Richmond. 6th Annual Catholic Festival, 6-9 p.m. $12 adults, $5 children 6-12 years old. $5 children under no charge. Information: 765-969-4919 or louise66@hotmail.com

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**Righ to Life of Indianapolis hosts Roe v. Wade 40th anniversary event**

At 3 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 20, Right to Life of Indianapolis will mark the 40th anniversary of the devastating Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion. The event will take place at the Indiana War Memorial Auditorium.

Singer and songwriter Maria Jones will give the keynote address. Her talk will be followed by a rose ceremony commemorating by year the victims of legalized abortion.

After the ceremony, attendees are invited to join on a memorial walk around Monument Circle in honor of the 55 million lives lost to abortion since the Roe v. Wade decision was handed down on Jan. 22, 1973. The Indiana War Memorial Auditorium is located at 431 N. Meridian. Enter from Michigan Street.

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### Events Calendar

#### Jan 19

**Morning for Moms:**

40th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Mass, 6 a.m., presentation and discussion, 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-846-0705.

**Family Love:**

Couples retreat, “Building Family Love,” Bob and Father Noel Mueller, presenter. Information: 317-357-6858 or noel@stlukein.edu

**Couples Retreat Day:**

Gifts for the Precious Infants, pro-life Mass, 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-923-8817.


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**Pre Caena Conference and Tobit Weekend prepare engaged couples for marriage**

Two marriage preparation programs offered in the archdiocese— the Pre Caena Conference and Tobit Weekend— help prepare engaged couples for the sacrament of marriage as well as the challenges of married life.

Pre Caena Conference programs are scheduled during February 2013 on Feb. 10, March 3, April 7, May 5 and 19, June 2, July 21, Aug. 25, Sept. 8, Oct. 6, 2013 at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 3533 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis. The program, sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education, is presented by a priest and trained volunteer couples. It begins with check-in at 11:15 p.m. and concludes at 6 p.m. on the Sundays listed above.

Registration is required. A $46 fee per couple helps pay for a workbook, other materials and refreshments. The registration fee is non-refundable. To register, log on to www.archindy.org/fatima.


The registration fee of $292 includes the program presented by trained facilitators, meals and overnight accommodations for the weekend. Registration is required. A $150 non-refundable deposit is required at the time of registration. To register, log on to www.archindy.org/fatima.

Early registrations are recommended because both marriage preparation programs fill up quickly.

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**Multi-choir concert**

New Albany Deanery parishes held a multi-choir Epiphany concert on Jan. 6 at Holy Family Church in New Albany. Seven parish choirs, above, and the Holy Family children’s choir, below, performed. The event was the brainchild of Jasmine Stigel Newcom, music director at Holy Family Parish. Participating choirs included: St. Nicholas Parish in New Albany; St. Joseph Parish in Corydon; Our Lady of perpetual Help Parish in New Albany; St. Michael Parish in Bradford; and St. Joseph Parish in Clark County.

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**Retreats and Programs**

**January 9**

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1002 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. “Ways of Grace—The Experience of Prayer Practices,” Benedictine Sister Susan Marie Lindstrom, presenter. 9:30-11:30 a.m., $25 per session. Information: 317-788-7581 or benedictinum@gmail.com

**Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg.**

“Self Image,” Franciscan Sister Doris Heiligenstein, presenter. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. $45 per person, includes lunch. Information: 812-933-6437 or oldenburgfranciscancenter.org

**January 12**


**February 1**

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1400 Southern Ave. Beech Grove. “Visio Divina: Leuten Series,” Benedictine Sister Angela Jarebe, presenter, 7-9 p.m., $25 per session, includes lunch. Information: 812-933-6437 or benedictinum@gmail.com

**February 22-24**

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 3533 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Office of Family Ministries, “Retrouvial weekend: A LifeTime for Marriages,” Information: 317-489-6811 or retrouvialindy.com or register online at retrouvialindy.com

**February 25**

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 3535 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Our Lady of Fatima and the Benedict Inn, “R.I.L. Lent: Reconciliation—A Holistic Approach to Peace,” Franciscan Sister Norma Rocklage, presenter. Mass, 5 p.m., brief meditation, 6:30 p.m., presentation and discussion, 7-9 p.m., $30 per person, includes dinner. Information: 317-545-7681 or benedictinum@gmail.com

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**Winter park**

February 6

Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Solo Seniors, Catholic educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced, new members welcome. 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-370-1189.

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Holy Family Parish, 815 W. Main St., Richmond. 6th Annual Catholic Festival, 6-9 p.m. $12 adults, $5 children 6-12 years old. $5 children under no charge. Information: 765-969-4919 or louise66@hotmail.com
Grow closer to Christ to find healing, piece of mind and heart, speaker says

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have launched “Nine Days of Prayer, Penance and Pilgrimage” to take place on Jan. 19-27 as part of events marking the 40th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion virtually on demand in the U.S.

Jan. 22 is the actual anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 decision, but because this year it is the day after public ceremonies for the presidential inauguration, the annual March for Life in Washington will take place on Jan. 25.

Materials about the “Nine Days” program posted on the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) suggest prayers, activities and other ways U.S. Catholics can mark the Roe anniversary, whether they planned to come to Washington or to attend local or regional pro-life rallies, events and vigils.

A signature event of the program is a novena, which people can participate in via a daily e-mail by signing up at www.usccb.org/9days or by texting “9days to 99000 to receive a daily text message.

Described as “youth-friendly,” the daily message will include: an inspirational scripture passage, a brief reflection on the saint of the day or a lesson from the daily readings, suggestions for ways to put into practice acts of prayer, penance and charity; and “a powerful myth/reality comment related to young persons.”

In other “Nine Days” suggestions:
- On the weekend of Jan. 19-20, diocesan pro-life and youth ministry directors are invited to assemble local students/pilgrims who will be making a pilgrimage to Masses, rallies, marches and other events marking the Roe anniversary.
- The “Nine Days” program is part of a pastoral strategy the U.S. bishops approved during their fall general assembly in Baltimore to address life, marriage and religious liberty concerns.
- Components include monthly eucharistic holy hours in cathedrals and parish churches, daily rosary, special prayers of the faithful at all Masses and fasting and abstinence on Fridays.
- A second “Forpight for Freedom” event is planned for 2013 to raise concerns about infringements to religious freedom.
- In 2012, the first “Forpight for Freedom” was held on June 21 to July 4, and Catholics around the country responded by participating in Masses, devotions, holy hours, educational presentations and rallies.

(More information about the “Nine Days” program is available at www.usccb.org/9days.)

“Nine Days” program is part of ‘Nine Days’ event to mark Roe decision

By Mary Ann Garber

Sometimes both faith and courage are needed to reach out to those who may be facing difficulty without the help to overcome it.

Jannette Pruitt, project coordinator of multicultural ministry, and a committee of volunteers in response to the Church’s International Year of Faith.

“The more you can we show than to touch the hem of his garment!” Sister Jannette said, citing the Gospel story of the woman with the hemorrhage who was healed when she touched Jesus’ cloak (Mk 5:25-34 and Lk 8:43-48).

This program was designed to help enrich the fabric of who we are,” she said. “African-American women have a deep faith. We know that God is our Savior, and we believe that anything we ask God for will come to pass.”

White’s presentation encouraged the women to look closely at their personal needs to achieve balance in the midst of busy schedules and stressful life situations.

Take time to think about how you are using your time and energy, she said, and what problems challenge you each day.

“Name it and claim it,” White said, then—if necessary—change it.

Next, reflect on how God is working in your life, she said, and whether Jesus is your primary focus.

“What are you thirsting for?” she asked the women.

“What may be standing in the way of you reaching out to Jesus and really beginning to care for yourself?”

Consider ways to strengthen your spirituality, White said, which will enhance your joy in life.

“Love your life,” she said. “Live your passion.”

Praying the rosary is a powerful Catholic spiritual practice because this Marian prayer “allows the Holy Spirit to work” in your life, she said. “Spiritual practices are transformative. … They lead you to a new way of life.”

“Jesus said, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.’” White reminded the women, “and the second part is ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these’” (Mt 22:37-39 and Mk 12:29-31).

“But how are you living and caring for yourself?” she asked. “Scripture says to treat your body as a temple of the Holy Spirit. It’s about balance and wholeness … Women are good at loving and caring for others, but we are not good about loving ourselves!”

Honor your body, White said, in order to be the nurturing, loving, Christian woman that God has called you to be.

The best ways to do that are to pray more, she said, be grateful for your blessings, drink a lot of water, eat the right foods in moderation, get enough rest, and make time to enjoy the simple things in life like activities or hobbies that renew your body and spirit.

Divine Word Father Charles Straw, a Catholic chaplain at the Veteran’s Administration Hospital in Indianapolis, was the celebrant for a Mass in the retreat house chapel.

“We cannot forget that God is in the business of helping us to redeem who we are and who we are,” Father Charles said. “There’s been a lot of tragedy in our world, a lot of sickness and pain. But God is still able to help us to have some hope despite the misery and the pain. So let us rejoice. Let us give praise … God is the Savior of the universe.”

Holy Angels parishioner Cheryl Shields of Indianapolis, a nurse who cares for nursing home patients, said she like White’s suggestion to take Sabbath time for rest and relaxation every week.

“We, as women, are so nurturing and giving that we very seldom take time for ourselves,” Shields said. “But if we don’t take that time for ourselves then how can we [continue] to give to others and provide for others? I’m going to try a Sabbath day once a week.”

Angel Ingram, a tax manager who also is a Holy Angels parishioner in Indianapolis, said the retreat gave her tools that she can use to grow in her spiritually and deepen her relationship with Christ.

“I think this has been a great opportunity to get together with women and take some time out to reflect on our faith,” Ingram said, “and how we can take better care of ourselves and [focus on] what we need to do for God.”

“You are thirsting for? What may be standing in the way of you reaching out to Jesus and really beginning to care for yourself?”

—Dr. C. Vanessa White

Page 7

The Criterion Friday, January 18, 2013

READY TO GET RID OF YOUR FRIDGE YET?

If the Avocado color turns you green or the Harvest Gold is causing you to go pale, why not let your “old” become someone else’s “new”?

The people we serve need your stoves, washers and dryers, too—regardless of their color that looked so good 20 years ago. They need them badly.

To schedule a pickup of household items, please call 317-687-1006. You can also make a monetary contribution by becoming a volunteer online.

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Page 7

The Criterion Friday, January 18, 2013
MOORE continued from page 1

a teenager. Teresa started to share in some of the activities at St. Rita Parish in Indianapolis, where her friends were members. She thought of belonging to being Catholic this would be the major focus, there will be many other topics that will require scrutiny as well. Tebbe expects the ICC to participate in the passage of a possible amendment to the Indiana Constitution that would define marriage as between one man and one woman. If passed, it would become a ballot measure to be voted upon by state voters in the November general election.

During the 2012 election, Tebbe expects, however, that the General Assembly will not take action on the possible amendment because the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule in June on cases involving same-sex marriage.

The ICC will also watch for any progress in the passage of a possible amendment to Indiana’s constitution that would define marriage as between one man and one woman. If passed, it would become a ballot measure to be voted upon by state voters in the November general election.

Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Action

"Governor Pence will reiterate these proposals and survey the agenda of the upcoming State of the State address to be televised on [Tuesday] night, Jan. 22," Tebbe said.

While budget and economic issues will be the major focus, there will be major policy topics that require scrutiny as well. Tebbe expects the ICC to continue to address these issues this year, such as medical care coverage for low-income families, education programs, criminal sentencing reforms, choice and autonomy in end-of-life regulations, mass transit and early childhood education initiatives.

"Our role at the ICC is not only to inform and educate our elected officials, but to serve as a conduit to facilitate or make political engagement easier for the Catholic in the pew," Tebbe said. "I invite interested Catholics to stay connected to what’s going on through the ICC’s electronic Legislative Action Center available on the ICC’s Web page."

"When the Indiana General Assembly is in session, getting input from constituents in a timely manner on legislation is vital to the process," Tebbe added. "When Catholics contact their representatives in unison with the work of the ICC, it allows the Church to be more effective in shaping morally sound public policy. The use of this service by Catholics has the potential to significantly impact the Church’s role in the public policy arena. It is my hope that our faith community will seize the opportunity to take advantage of this online tool.

"Catholics that have a particular interest in pro-life, social justice, education, immigration reform, health care or family life issues will be able to stay connected, and be counted when important legislative decisions are made on priority issues the Church is following."

The Indiana General Assembly is made up of 50 state senators and 100 state representatives, and is expected to consider more than 2,000 bills this year. Since 1967, the ICC has worked to bring about moral progress. The ICC’s legislative action center can be found at www.indianacatholic.org and click "Legislative Action Center."

"Bridget Curtis Aver is a correspondent for The Criterion. For more information about the Indiana Catholic Conference, log on to www.indianacatholic.org."
Bishop Kicanas, chairman of the Board of human rights and humanitarian needs of refugees from the international community for the Holy Land is to make a pilgrimage and to visit Gaza. Bishop Kicanas said that the situation is not well known, the circumstances of their lives, he said.

The situation is bleak and, yes, one of darkness, but we continue to hear of light in the darkness, moments of hope,” he said.

One helpful way of understanding the complexity of the situation in the Holy Land is to make a pilgrimage and meet the people to experience the circumstances of their lives, he said.

“The protection of Israel is important to me,” he said. “But the other piece of the situation is not well known, the feelings involved when one is in a situation of occupation and limitation.”

The annual Holy Land Coordination is designed to show support for the local churches there, and the focus this year was on the suffering and vulnerable in the Holy Land.” The bishops were calling for a more effective response from the international community for the humanitarian needs of refugees from the Syrian civil war as well as other Middle East wars.

Braving a brewing winter storm, Bishop Kicanas, chairman of the Board of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), was the only bishop who was able to cross Gaza through the checkpoint at the Israeli border. For “unclear” reasons, including the possibility that permit applications were filled out incorrectly, the other bishops scheduled to visit Gaza did not receive their permits.

In Gaza, Bishop Kicanas met with parishioners who revisited their experiences during the recent fighting with Israel, and he viewed areas of the city by the Israeli forces. He noted that the sites appeared to have been “very strategically” bombed.

“Not whole neighborhoods were [hit] but individual houses; he added, though neighboring properties did suffer some damage as well because of their proximity to the targets.

CRS helped repair the Rosa Parks School windows were shattered by the bombings. Local officials confirmed that two soccer stadiums that had been targeted by Israel had most likely been used as a warehouse for weapons, he said.

One mother recounted how she was able to use the skills she had learned as a participant in the CRS risk-reduction program to help her children through difficult moments of the war, Bishop Kicanas said.

She was able to anticipate what to do in that situation,” he said.

Meeting with the parishioners and listening to their stories was a “heartwarming, moving experience,” he said.

Other bishops participating in the coordination included: Archbishop Richard Smith of Edmonton, Alberta, president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops; Bishop Declan Lang of Bristol, chairman of the UK’s Bishops’ Conference; Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto of the Vatican’s delegation to the Holy See; Archbishop Joan Vives Silicia of Barcelona, representing the Latin Patriarchate Fouad Twal and the Southern Africa Catholic Bishops’ Conference; and Archbishop Juan Vives Silicia of Urgell, Spain.

Prior to the start of the coordination, they visited Jordan and met with Israeli refugees. A planned visit to a Syrian refugee camp on the border was canceled by the Israeli authorities, but they met with the carrying aid workers who work with those refugees.

In Bethlehem, the group met with Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal and the Vatican’s ambassador to Israel, the Palestinian territories and Cyprus, Archbishop Giuseppe Pizzaballa. They were also briefed by nuns working with the most vulnerable communities of African refugees and asylum seekers, Caritas aid workers who work with those refugees.

He said. “The fight is yours, but victory will also be yours,” he said. —

Bishop Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., shares a light moment with Bethlehem University students during a Jan. 9 visit to the West Bank campus. Bishop Kicanas said young Christian Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and West Bank demonstrated “a great deal of hope and vision,” despite the reality they face.

Catholics gather for Mass with a group of bishops from other countries on Jan. 6 in Zerqa, Jordan. The bishops were in the Holy Land in early January to assess the needs of the people and local Churches there.

What gives them hope in such a situation is the love and support of their families, said Georgina Mukakur, 18, in response to a question by Bishop Kicanas. Father Peter-John Pearson, director of the Southern Africa Catholic Bishops’ Conference Parliamentary Liaison Office and a participant in the coordination, urged the students to have the courage not to give up.

“The fight is yours, but victory will also be yours,” he said.

Allowing driver’s licenses for undocumented benefits all, say advocates

CHICAGO (CNS)—Undocumented immigrants who can prove they have lived in Illinois for at least a year will soon be eligible for temporary driver’s licenses, under a bill passed on Jan. 8 by the Illinois state Capitol in Springfield. The Illinois Senate passed the bill in December, and Gov. Pat Quinn has said he will sign it.

Advocates for the program say that it benefits everyone in the state because all drivers—including some 250,000 undocumented drivers—would be tested on their driving skills and on the rules of the road before being granted a license, and all of them would be eligible to, and required to, obtain insurance.

Undocumented immigrants who get a temporary visitor’s driver’s license would no longer have to live in fear that being pulled over for a minor traffic infraction would lead to deportation, said Robert Gilligan, executive director of the Catholic Charities of Chicago.

“Too many of our immigrant families have been torn apart by the simple act of driving,” Gilligan said.

This bill, he said, is unprecedented, undocumented drivers are detained rather than ticketed when they cannot produce a driver’s license if they are pulled over, even for something as minor as having a tail light out.

When Catholic immigration advocates participated in a special lobbying day on the issue in Springfield on Nov. 28, 2012, Sister Marilyn Medinger was among them, even though she might not have the kind of story that would lead to deportation, said Robert Gilligan, executive director of the Catholic Charities of Chicago. “We need them to be educated in our Carmen of Catholic University of Illinois and the Catholic University of Chicago.

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They would lead to deportation, said Robert Gilligan, executive director of the Catholic Charities of Chicago. “We need them to be educated in our Carmen of Catholic University of Illinois and the Catholic University of Chicago.

“One of my immigrant families has been torn apart by the simple act of driving,” Gilligan said.

This is because once unwound, undocumented drivers are detained rather than ticketed when they cannot produce a driver’s license if they are pulled over, even for something as minor as having a tail light out.

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The Illinois Catholic bishops came out in support of the idea on Nov. 15, and it also won support from a group calling itself the Highway Safety Coalition, which includes representatives of a number of law enforcement agencies; Gov. Quinn, and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Temporary driver’s licenses now are available to visitors to Illinois who have proper documents but not permanent residency or Social Security numbers. They are good for three years and are valid for driving purposes only, not for identification for other purposes. Undocumented immigrants would be able to get them with an IRS-issued individual taxpayer identification number, which undocumented immigrants can use to pay federal taxes, a passport from another country; or a consular identification card.

The Criterion Friday, January 18, 2013 Page 9
Pope administers the sacraments as chief shepherd of the Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—As the chief shepherd of the Catholic Church, Pope Benedict XVI plays many roles, among them minister of the sacraments.

With his daily celebrations of the Eucharist, the pope’s 2013 agenda opened with the ordination of new bishops on Jan. 6. Just a week later, he marked the Jan. 15 feast of the Baptism of the Lord by baptizing 20 infants in the Sistine Chapel.

For most Catholics, receiving any sacrament from the pope would be a special event, yet such opportunities are necessarily rare. On what occasions does the pope personally administer the sacraments and to whom?

Baptism—The babies whom the pope baptizes in the annual January rite usually are the children of Vatican employees, as was to be the case this year.

The pope also traditionally administers the sacraments of Christian initiation—baptism, confirmation and first communion—to a group of adult converts in St. Peter’s Basilica on Holy Saturday every year. This event became the focus of controversy in 2008 after one of the baptized, Egyptian-born journalist Magdi Allam, publicly and emphatically repudiated his former Islamic faith.

Pope Benedict has not continued Blessed John Paul I’s practice of baptizing adults during foreign trips, occasionally that the late pope used to initiate hundreds into the Church.

Communion—Who receives Communion from Pope Benedict at papal Masses in Rome and elsewhere is up to the pope’s master of liturgical ceremonies, Msgr. Guido Marini. During papal trips, prominent or highly active members of the local Churches are usually among those chosen. Though parents around the world have asked, Pope Benedict has never celebrated a Mass specifically for a group of children receiving their first communion, but a few children have received their first communion from him at Mass during papal trips.

The pope gives Communion at the Mass he celebrates every morning in his private chapel. During the pontificate of Blessed John Paul, these Masses were often attended by dozens of outside guests, but Pope Benedict has typically limited attendance to members of the papal household.

Confession—Pope Benedict heard the individual confessions of young people in St. Peter’s during Lent in 2007 and 2008, then again at World Youth Day in Madrid in August 2011. He has not continued Blessed John Paul’s practice of administering the sacrament in St. Peter’s on every year for Good Friday morning.

Confirmation—Pope Benedict confirmed a group of young people attending World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008 and will confirm another group in Rome on April 28 of this year, one of the events organized for the 2013 Year of Faith.

Matrimony—While this sacrament is actually administered by the spouses themselves, the Church normally requires Catholics to exchange vows of marriage in the presence of a priest or deacon.

Pope Benedict has not celebrated a marriage ceremony as pope, but given his increasing emphasis on the need to defend traditional marriage, it would not be surprising if he were to do so soon. At a Mass marking the Jubilee for Families in October 2000, Blessed John Paul celebrated the weddings of eight couples, using his homily to affirm the family as a life-long union of husband and wife with naturally conceived children.

The late pope also married a young couple from Rome in 1979. Blessed John Paul had been visiting a sanitation center there when the bride, the daughter of a street cleaner, asked him to celebrate her wedding, which he did in the Vatican’s Pauline Chapel.

Holy Orders—Pope Benedict ordains priests in St. Peter’s Basilica every year on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Good Shepherd Sunday, which will be on April 21 this year.

Since his election as pope, he has also ordained 22 bishops, most recently on Jan. 6, when he ordained four new prelates including Archbishop Georg Gaenswein, his longtime personal secretary who is now also prefect of the papal household.

Anounting of the Sick—the pope has administered this sacrament in public only once since his election, to 10 sick pilgrims at the shrine of Lourdes in southwestern France in 2008.

What was in the news on Jan. 18, 1963? A united religious plea for racial justice, and the archbishop’s request for prayers of unity

By Brandon A. Evans

This week, we continue to examine what was going on in the Church and the world 50 years ago as seen through the pages of The Criterion.

Here are some of the items found in the Jan. 18, 1963, issue of The Criterion.

• Eradicate racial prejudice. US interfaith leaders urge CHICAGO—A cardinal, a rabbi and a leader of Protestant laymen called here for coordinated efforts by the three major religious faiths to eradicate prejudice in this country.

Cardinal Albert Meyer, Rabbi Julius Mark and J. Irwin Miller told delegates to the National Conference on Religion and Race that religious must be in the forefront of the battle against racial discrimination. Cardinal Meyer, Archbishop of Chicago, called the race issue the ‘nation’s unfinished business’, and said that ‘our whole future as a nation and as a religious people may be determined by what we do about the race problem in the next few years’.

• The common touch: Pope warmly praised by Methodist bishop

Archbishop Schulte urged the faithful of the archdiocese to ‘pray fervently for Church Unity during the annual Chair of Unity Octave observance, which opens today, Jan. 18, and extends through January 25. This year’s observance, the archbishop pointed out, takes on a special meaning because the emphasis Pope John has placed on the work for unity through the Vatican Council. Protestants and Orthodox throughout the world will be praying for the same intention. Churches affiliated with the World Council of Churches are observing a ‘Week for Prayer for Christian Unity’.

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Ecumenists report: Observers ‘genuinely happy’ with their treatment at council

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• Se
Hispanic Catholics in the U.S. enter the new evangelization

By Marcellino D'Ambrosio

In 1946, a book was published by a French priest that said what faithful Catholics in Europe did not want to admit, particularly that France, “the eldest daughter of the Church,” had, for the most part, lost its faith. 

France, “Mesrine Country,” showed that the trend toward secularization had begun to empty the pews in the 19th century, and this change became more prevalent among the working class in the 20th century.

As people picked up their heads and glanced at the other countries of Europe, they noticed much the same thing. Hence, a new emphasis on evangelization was placed in the documents of the Second Vatican Council and in the writings of every pope since.

This “eclipse of God in the West,” in the words of Pope Benedict XVI, has cast its shadow on the Americas as well. It has spared neither the Anglo-French communities of the North nor the Latin communities of the South.

While theoretical atheism is restricted to a few, there is a widespread and growing “practical atheism” in popular culture that dismisses faith as irrelevant to the concerns of daily life. Whether they are produced in the U.S. or Mexico, in English or Spanish, most contemporary movies, songs and books promote the same culture of individualism, sensuality and secularity.

As a consequence, we see Mass attendance in the Western Hemisphere on the decline. We also witness increasing numbers, especially of young Hispanics, declining to identify themselves with any church or religious tradition at all.

So how can we encourage and empower an intensification of the new evangelization in this Year of Faith in the Hispanic community in the U.S.?

Let’s draw on several strengths of the Hispanic community and also address some challenges.

• Gender roles. — If joy is “the most infallible sign of the presence of God,” as French writer Leon Bloy said, then the natural exuberance and joyful “alabanzas” (songs of praise) that have come to characterize Hispanic liturgy in the Americas may be a spiritual gift.

Organizers of English-language retreats and meetings need to find ways to reach out and attract English-speaking Hispanics to their events and add more Spanish-language events. Small groups need to be organized and creatively promoted.

• Male leadership. — Mothers and grandmothers have too often carried complete responsibility for spiritual leadership in Hispanic families, and done so valiantly. There are many reasons for this, including fathers absent due to divorce or having to work far from home.

But we need to find ways to encourage lay men to step up to greater spiritual leadership in the Hispanic community, particularly in the domestic church of the family as fathers, grandfathers, uncles and older brothers.

They can provide a witness that faith is an essential part of real life. This will have a significant impact on the evangelization of youth and inactive or unchurched Latinos.

• Youth. — It is stunning that six out of every 10 Catholics under the age of 35 are Latinos. But we are losing Hispanic youth to the secular world’s “practical atheism” at an alarming rate. While many parishes do a good job catechizing young children, many drop out of the practice of the faith from the years of middle school to mid-20s at about the same rate as the wider Catholic community.

The vast majority of Hispanic teens speak English. I believe all Catholics in any given locale, Hispanic and non-Hispanic, need to collaborate and invest in youth ministry that is vibrant, creative and effective.

Music and fun, along with retreats and small group experiences, need to be part of any teen and young adult ministry that hopes to have a profound and life-changing impact. Parishes or groups of neighboring parishes need to invest in gifted young adults to staff such ministry, including bilingual Hispanic young adults.

We can no longer object that we don’t have the funds. We need to raise the funds. This is the future of the Church and the nation. Failure is not an option.

(Marcellino D’Ambrosio writes from Texas. For his Spanish and English resources, log on to www.crossroadsinitiative.com.)


By Mar Munoz-Visoso

Latinos can be a source of renewal for the Church in America

Latino/as have evangelized me anew in many ways over the years.

I can tell you of the young adult group that would gather after the Sunday evening Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Denver, Colo., filled with faith and energy. I dearly remember those two to three hours together, filled with “alabanzas” (songs of praise), prayer, Scripture, small-group reflection and “convivencia” (social gatherings).

I can tell you of the anxious Spanish-speaking adults who would sign up for our archdiocesan catechetical education programs so they could participate in and, at times, lead the religious education programs in their parishes. How beautifully these faces lit up with the emotion of just having learned something new in the treasure of their faith or having found the words they knew all along but didn’t know how to explain. They couldn’t wait to share it with others.

It is this third for the word of God that made us want to learn the faith better, not just so I could teach it better, but live it better myself.

I can tell you, too, of Hispanics’ public testimony of faith, such as praying the Stations of the Cross on a street, “pousadas” and “pastorelas.” These are significant in a culture that tends to relegate religious practice to the private sphere.

They are reminders, to Catholics and others, of Jesus’ presence in our midst. They are a call to conversion and his message of salvation and special closeness to the poor and vulnerable.

I can tell you of their love for Mary, whom they often refer to as “Madrecita” (an enduring term for “mother”). That has transformed my own relationship with her so that she is not just the beloved mother of Jesus who can intercede for me, but also my mother. Jesus’ words on the cross, “Behold, your mother,” have taken on a new dimension for me (Jn 19:27).

The same can be said of the relationship between the saints and even their sanctifiers in the faith. One could well say that the relationship between the Church on Earth and the Church in heaven is a daily affair among Latino Catholics that goes beyond the Mass.

I can tell you that liturgical revival for them means respect and reverence, but also a true sense of celebration, a fiesta of thanksgiving and praise through conscious participation. I can tell you that diocesan pastoral and catechetical certification programs around the country could help Latinos grow in their faith and that, in the last couple of decades, Hispanics have been responsible for 70 percent of the growth of the Catholic Church in the United States.

But I can also tell you there are far too few of them in Catholic schools, higher education theological programs and in positions of responsibility within the Church in the U.S.

In my experience, many Latinos are natural evangelizers. They evangelize with words and, most often, they evangelize with actions.

Now, imagine if we arm them with a good solid Catholic education! And what if we make an extra effort to promote vocations among younger Latinos? Then the Catholic Church in the United States would really be on for a revival of evangelization.

(Mar Munoz-Visoso is executive director of the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church.)
Learning from a gold medalist what it takes to win

Yes, we Catholics do take Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. I wanted to make that point at the start of this series because some people seem to think that we don’t. Perhaps this is because they have of Catholics with rosary beads in their hands or saints pictures in their homes. They know that we pray, and they may even have a greater devotion to Mary than do most Protestants. Maybe that’s why they have the impression that Jesus has gotten lost in the shuffle.

That would be tragic, of course. As Pope John Paul II wrote in his best-selling book Crossing the Threshold of Hope, “From the beginning, Christ has had a greater devotion to Mary than do many ordinary people.” Although she sometimes wishes she could initiate to ask her tutors for assistance, since she is homeschooled, teachers and hear gymnast Gabrielle Douglas as the world.

Starting the new year open to revelation in our lives of faith

Gabrielle keeps focused on her goals. At 17, Gabrielle seems to have it all—scholastically, athletically and in interpersonal relationships. Although she sometimes wishes she could go off as much as her friends and classmates, she told the audience that part of the reason she feels she was able to get to the Olympics was that she kept her determination to succeed. As an elite athlete, she has to pay attention to good nutrition and health. For food likes she eats, because food is an important part of her athletic performance. Gabrielle has learned to deal with pressure. During the Olympics, she had to compete in front of millions. Instead of thinking about all those eyes on her vault and bar, she imagines she has imagined herself doing well. Focusing on the positive and eliminating the negative helps her win.

Gabrielle doesn’t let feeling afraid keep her from learning new things. She wasn’t born a gold medalist and wasn’t always at the top of the heap. Ten years ago, she was just like any young gymnast, scared of falling off the high uneven bars. She found that the best way to get over paralyzing fear was to do the thing she was scared of doing and not to be afraid to use the help of a spotter.

We tend to think that successful people are superhuman, when they are just like us. Their lives are not without struggle, but they have developed ways to deal with challenges.

In other words, devotion to Mary must be a way of life. I’ve known a few older folks who looked up at the stars above Assisi,” writes Father Richard Rohr. Like a voyage, this quote is used as a justification for not professing or explaining the faith. This is a problem.

Catholics need to tell the story of our faith to others. We aren’t being asked to stand on a hilltop and proclaim the faith shouting out pious statements. We are being asked to share our story of faith with others when the opportunity presents itself.

Pope Benedict XVI is even more specific in his announcement of the Year of Faith, which culminates in the celebration of the Epiphany on Jan. 6, and whether you have already experienced it as you read this matters little. This certainty strikes different people at different times. We’ve got it all figured out, until we spend the rest of their lives trying to figure out. Don’t “expect,” just pay attention.

I recently had the opportunity to see the 2012 Winter Olympic winners’ list from last year’s London Olympics. If you don’t know the names of some of the people mentioned in the following paragraphs, you should be able to experience God’s presence among us. This is one of the keys to the new evangelization.

Promoting the faith is one of the Year of Faith’s objectives. We need to have in mind the importance of your Catholic faith in relationship to your life. Of course, of two minutes cannot cover the breadth or depth of anyone’s faith. However, we can hover in on a few key themes and/or events.

How does the Catholic faith help Jesus touch your heart? Would it include devotion to the Eucharist, holy Scripture, Mary or another saint? What practices or traditions would you include? It should be no surprise to anyone who is familiar with the message about and sharing faith in Jesus Christ is essential to reviving the faith in our culture.

Find your dream, focus on achieving it and wear a positive attitude.

(Karen Osborne writes for Catholic News Service.)

An ‘elevator pitch’ for the faith?

An “elevator pitch” is a short, to-the-point summary lasting no more than two minutes— the length of a typical elevator ride— that defines and explains the values of the Gospel. We need to have in mind, and ready at a moment’s notice, “an elevator pitch” for the Catholic faith.

Catholic Evangelization Outreach/Peg McEvoy

We need to be open to receiving and communicating the faith in a way that makes sense. This can be a family activity in the car on the way home from the grocery store. It can be a organized activity for a small group like an evangelization team. You can have it ready for the welcome booth at the parish fair or you can print it out and use it as a reminder on difficult days. But don’t be stingy!— share it!
The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013
• Isaiah 62:1-5
• 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
• John 2:1-11

The Book of Isaiah furnishes this weekend’s first reading.

When this third section of Isaiah was written, the Hebrew people had just emerged from a terrible period in their history. Their homeland, divided into two kingdoms after the death of King Solomon, had been overrun by the mighty Babylonian Empire, centered in today’s Iraq. Many people died, or were killed, in the conquest. Others were taken to Babylon, the imperial capital. There these exiles, then and their descendants, languished for four generations until political fortunes changed. The more powerful Persians conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. As a result, the exiles were allowed to return to their homeland. The prophets did not see the sequence of events leading to that return to their homeland. The prophets did not see it was coming. But when it happened, the prophet Isaiah wrote:

Isaiah 62:1-5
There will come a day when the singing of songs will fill the streets of Babylon. In that day, says the Lord of Hosts, I will open the gates of Judah. I will pour out my spirit upon you and you shall be my people. I will give you the heart of a young man and the spirit of youthful purity; I will put vigor in your weary souls and a new spirit in your mortal bodies. For I will save you as a people, and you shall know the Lord. (NRSV)

The second reading for this weekend is from the Letter to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

And there were so many occasions for diversity was welcome since it meant that special gifts and opportunities. Such a challenge for Paul. In reaction to rivalries and arguments in Corinth, Paul wrote:

1 Corinthians 12:4-11
The one who is called by the Lord is free.
So if you are caught up in spiritual gifts, keep using them. If you prophesy, keep prophesying, as long as you believe, that is, as long as you think you are really giving an inspired message from God. If you have the gift of understanding, keep using it. If you have a gift of faith, keep using it. If you have a gift of healing, keep using it. If you have a gift of giving, keep using it. If you are a leader, keep using it. If you have the gift of speaking with foreign gods, keep using it. (NLT)

The Gospel reading for this weekend is the story of Jesus and the Cana wedding.

John 2:1-12

Six days before the Passover, when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume of pure nard, worth a year’s wages. She then opened the jar, poured the perfume on his head, and wiped his feet with her hair. Now the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But one of the twelve who were with Jesus, Judas Iscariot, said, “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred silver coins and given to the poor? (NIV)

The Criterion Friday, January 18, 2013

my journey to God

By Katie Ulrich

Pillar’s gold shimmers brightly in the sun, streaming in the stained-glass windows. Quietness fills the air. Sitting silently in a pew. The mural of him is so big, so pretty. Spiral stairs adorn the sides.

(questions may be sent to father kenneth doyle or to faithcolumn@archindy.org)

Cathedral

Feel the hope, the love of this place. Eyes see the pictures of the pain, the hardship of the Rock, of our cathedral, the sacred place that consumes our hearts.

Angels above me feel the Spirit’s fiery heat, the holy flame burning bright in you, in me, because of this holy place.

My Journey to God

Cathedral

By Katie Ulrich

Pillar’s gold shimmers brightly in the sun, streaming in the stained-glass windows. Quietness fills the air. Sitting silently in a pew. The mural of him is so big, so pretty. Spiral stairs adorn the sides.

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Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to faith or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the “My Journey to God” column. Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions. Send material for consideration to “My Journey to God,” The Criterion, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2307, or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org.†
Benedicte Sister Mary Constance Kleinman, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence, foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on October 11, 1875, and of Providence schools in Indiana, was born on December 3, 1820, in Breslau, Prussia, in the Kingdom of Prussia (now Wroclaw, Poland). She entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on March 2, 1843, and professed vows on March 2, 1845. She died on January 14, 1909, at the Mother House of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indianapolis, Indiana, and was buried there. She was declared Venerable by Pope John Paul II on October 15, 1982, and was beatified by Pope John Paul II on November 16, 1997. She was canonized by Pope Francis on May 17, 2015.
Ben Barnes and Warwick Davis star in a scene from the 2008 release _The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian_. Three blockbuster movies have been released based on C.S. Lewis’ best-selling series.

_C.S. Lewis’ exploration of faith inspires new generation_

OXFORD, England (CNS)—In a wooded subah of this fabled university city, a battered typewriter sits on a desk beside a bay window that overlooks a tangled landscape of oaks and beeches. Nearby, ancient bookshelves guard a leather armchair that overlooks a tangled landscape a wooded suburb of this fabled faculty member of Oxford’s world Christianity portrays was just as profound as the best modern theology, Hooper told CNS. “All 12 cla

But Hooper predicted Lewis’ contribution to popularizing Christianity will gain even greater acknowledgment, especially when the Christian faith appears in danger of being ignored. “Lewis believed he had a responsibility to spread the Gospel through his writings and showed how Christianity could be understood in almost any form, from science fiction to children’s fables,” he said. “Because the academics wouldn’t touch him, it’s taken a long time for his legacy to be taken seriously. But Hooper believes many people are now appreciating the inspirational power which runs through his work,” he said.

The Cambridge Companion to C.S. Lewis, _The Screwtape Letters_, _The Great Divorce_, _The Problem of Pain_, _Miracles_, _The Allegory of Love_, _The standalone Catholic_. He also wrote the _Four Loves_, a collection of essays, and _A Grief Observed_, a memoir of his wife’s death. Lewis was a prolific writer who produced over 30 books in his lifetime, covering a wide range of topics, from theology to science fiction. His work has been translated into over 40 languages and has sold millions of copies worldwide. His influence is still felt today, as his ideas continue to shape popular culture and inspire new generations of writers.

**Early Life**

Lewis was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on November 29, 1898, to prominent Anglican parents. After his mother’s death, he was raised by his aunt, Miss Mabel Williams, who helped him develop his love for literature. Lewis attended Harrow School and then Merton College, Oxford, where he studied Classics and Philosophy.

**Military Service**

During World War I, Lewis served as an infantry officer in France and later as a draftsman in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He returned to Oxford after the war and began his academic career as a fellow and tutor in the University’s Pusey House.

**Religious Conversion**

In 1929, Lewis met Anglican layman J.R.R. Tolkien, who introduced him to the idea of a personal, historical, and supernatural God. Lewis’ conversion was gradual, but it led to a deeper understanding of the Christian faith. He became a lay reader in the Church of England and later a member of the Church of Scotland.

**Academic Career**

Lewis taught English at Oxford University for over 20 years. He was a popular and respected teacher, and his students included well-known writers such as J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis himself. In 1952, Lewis was appointed the first full-time professor of Medieval and Renaissance Literature at the University of Birmingham.

**Religious Apologetics**

Lewis was a devout believer in the Christian faith, and he used his writing to explore and defend the core beliefs of Christianity. He wrote several books on religious topics, including _Mere Christianity_, _The Problem of Pain_, and _Miracles_. His apologetic writings have been widely read and have influenced many other writers and thinkers.

**Impact and Legacy**

Lewis’ work has had a significant impact on popular culture, and his ideas continue to inspire and challenge readers today. His novels have been adapted into movies and plays, and his non-fiction works have been translated into dozens of languages. Lewis remains one of the most influential and widely read Christian authors of the 20th century.
Community helps bring Eagle Scout’s prayer garden project to life

By Leslie Lynch
Special to The Criterion

LANESVILLE—Josh Hublar of St. Mary Parish in Lanesville almost quit Boy Scouts when he was 14.

“I was tired of Scouting,” he said. “It wasn’t fun.”

But Scouting is Scout-driven, not adult-led. He woke up one morning and realized the responsibility for change rested squarely on his shoulders.

“I can’t sit here and keep complaining about how things in my troop are going. I might as well step up,” he thought.

He ran for and won a leadership role in his troop, and the outcome of that decision changed his life.

The next few years sped by in a flurry of school, Scouts, family and Church activities, and Josh earned all the requirements for Eagle Scout except for the culminating project.

His mother, Donna Hublar, urged him to complete the process.

“I told him he’d regret not earning Eagle rank,” she said, “but that he’d never regret getting it.”

But no projects piqued his interest—not that they were unworthy ideas, but because they came pre-packaged, needing only a body to execute them.

He wanted to do something that would leave a lasting impression—a project over which he would have total control and a weighty responsibility.

On a Scouting trip, he walked along a trail built by another Scout as his Eagle project, and the seed was planted.

The opportunity for quiet, solitude and reflection is important to Josh, and he began to think about a place “to look over Lanesville, to sit and relax, and be by yourself for a little bit.”

The idea of a prayer garden was born.

St. Mary Church is situated at the top of a hill overlooking the town, and the parish cemetery rises on a gentle knoll above the church.

He could visualize a stone grotto at the base of the cemetery, easily accessible to parishioners from the parking lot.

Paving the floor of the grotto with individualized, engraved stones would create a link between parishioners, loved ones they wished to honor and future visitors to the space.

Josh presented a plan to the parish council then waited eight months for approval. When it finally came, he sprang into action.

In order to meet the requirements for Eagle rank, the project not only had to be completed, Josh also had to go before two review boards before he turned 18. He had just celebrated his 17th birthday, and the clock was ticking.

Josh knew that he wanted granite instead of paver stones for its enduring qualities, and by then he had researched the basics of the construction process.

Numerous companies stood ready to donate supplies, but the project’s cost skyrocketed with the choice of granite.

He launched a “Buy a Stone” campaign at the parish then lost sleep over the possibility that his family would end up bearing the cost.

“I didn’t want to put that burden on my parents,” he said. “I’ve never been so stressed in my life.”

He was ecstatic when Rena Phillips, office manager at St. Mary Parish, called and told him that enough money had been raised to begin the project.

Soon, there were other challenges.

Groundbreaking day on June 2 turned into bedrock-breaking day, which then turned into heavy equipment-breaking day. Even heavier equipment was required to get the job done. The intense labor of erecting a retaining wall happened to coincide with the hottest day of the year.

Josh despaired several times, afraid that the project had failed before it had a chance to start.

But with the encouragement of his dad, Rob Hublar, and guidance from parishioners Jerry Philpot and David Fulkerson, the prayer garden began to take shape.

Over the next few months, the foundation for the inscribed granite was prepared and final funds were raised.

A three-week delay on delivery of the granite—which came from South Dakota via an inexplicable detour through Canada—created more pressure.

The stone finally arrived, but it was already October, and Josh’s 18th birthday was on Nov. 7.

“I was able to squeeze it all in, and we got it [the prayer garden] done two weeks before my birthday,” he said.

The dual boards of review quickly followed, and Josh accomplished his goal with mere days to spare.

Parishioners supported the project with enthusiasm, ordering just shy of 150 engraved stones and raising nearly $12,000.

Eleven businesses donated material, equipment, time and labor, and 41 people volunteered more than 900 hours in sweat equity—literally—during one of the hottest Hoosier summers on record.

Josh recognized the impact of the community’s support in bringing his vision to life.

“I could’t have done it without everybody’s help,” he said.

His Eagle Scout Award has already changed his future.

Like many high school students, Josh hadn’t paid much attention to his grades until he got closer to graduation and began looking at college entrance requirements.

His grade point average on its own wasn’t enough to gain admittance to the school of his choice.

But Indiana State University officials in Terre Haute gave him a chance to answer three more questions before they decided on his admission application.

Had he done any community service projects? On what does he base his leadership? What has made a big impact in his life?

“Shoot, I might as well start talking about Eagle Scout,” Josh said. Based on his response, Indiana State University, where he plans to study automotive engineering, accepted him.

“Everything’s falling together for me,” he said. “I was so used to everything falling apart while I was building the project.”

The prayer garden was dedicated on Dec. 2, 2012.

Josh, wearing his new Eagle patch on his Scout uniform, assisted as Father Juan Valdes, the parish’s administrator, prayed for God’s blessing on the site.

Many people lingered afterward to view the stones they had commissioned.

Josh Hublar dreamed big, learned to ask for help and left this legacy for St. Mary Parish in Lanesville—“A place for prayer, meditation, silence and reflection. A place to remember those whom we love. A place to gather at one.”

(Leslie Lynch is a member of St. Mary Parish in Lanesville.)

Eagle Scout Josh Hublar poses with family members on Dec. 2 after the dedication ceremony. Shown from left are his grandmother, Virginia Hublar; Josh’s mom, Virginia Hublar; Josh Hublar; and his grandmother, Mildred Heitkemper.

The new prayer garden at St. Mary Parish in Lanesville.