Pope establishes panel, with lay members, to oversee Vatican finances

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In a move reflecting both his drive to reform the Vatican bureaucracy and his oft-stated desire to include laypeople in the leadership of the Church, Pope Francis established a new panel, to include almost as many lay members as clerics, to oversee the finances of the Holy See and Vatican City State.

Another new office, to be headed by Cardinal George Pell of Sydney, will oversee Vatican finances. The Vatican announced the changes in a statement on Feb. 24, explaining they would “enable more formal involvement of senior and experienced experts in financial administration, planning and reporting, and will ensure better use of resources,” particularly for “our works with the poor and marginalized.”

The Council for the Economy will include “eight cardinals and bishops to reflect the universality of the Church,” and “seven lay experts of different nationalities with strong professional financial experience,” the Vatican said. They will “meet on a regular basis to consider policies and practices and to prepare and analyze reports on the economic-administrative activities of non-clerics in the Vatican, where the highest offices have always been reserved for cardinals and bishops. The Vatican did not release any names of council members.

Reporting to the council will be the new Secretariat for the Economy, which will exercise “authority over all the economic and administrative activities within the Holy See and the Vatican City State,” including budget making, financial planning, hiring, and the Church have in their lives.

Young adult Catholic returns to the Church after journey of heartbreak and separation

Michael Waltermann, left, said Father Gerald Kirkhoff, pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis, played an integral role in making him feel welcome when he returned to the Catholic Church.

A few moments later, Waltermann adds, “After abandoning God, things became increasingly difficult for me.” He says he went to college, but with more trouble than success. He left college and separated from God to take another look at their faith.

It’s a story marked by two devastating changes: First, it was the day when one of his best friends committed suicide. And, because of that death, it was also the day when he turned his back on God. “I wanted no part of a God who would allow these types of things to happen,” Waltermann recalls. “I couldn’t understand. I basically gave up on God.”

A mother’s illness, a mother’s plea

A few years later, Waltermann discovered that God never gave up on him. Those two polar-opposite revelations hinted at the profound, deeply personal story of Waltermann’s return to faith over the past 15 years. Now 33, Waltermann wants to share the details of that story, hoping it will inspire other young people who have left the Church and separated from God to take another look at their faith.

A mother’s illness, a mother’s plea

After the suicide of his friend, Waltermann stopped going to Mass and gave up on his plans to receive the sacrament of confirmation. “After abandoning God, things became increasingly difficult for me,” he says. “I went to college, but with more trouble than success. I felt overconfident in my intelligence, thinking that alone would earn a degree, not giving much time to my studies. I also battled depression for many years.”

Dropping out of college, he saw “a cycle of depression, loneliness and separation from God” continue for a few years until his mother sat down with him one night and told him that he needed God in his life. “She was crying for me and made me

Knights, Catholic Athletes for Christ sponsor football combine for Special Olympians

Jerry Moore took the handoff and ran hard with the football to his left, flashing into the end zone ahead of chasing defensive players. Celebrating a two-point conversion after his team had scored a touchdown, Jerry spiked the football and did a joyous end zone dance.

That moment capped a fun-filled morning on Feb. 22 for Special Olympics athletes from across central Indiana at the Indianapolis Colts practice facility in Indianapolis.

Special Olympian Bradley Johnson of Whiteland completes a jump in the broad jump portion of a National Football League-like combine event for athletes with developmental disabilities on Feb. 22 at the Indianapolis Colts practice facility in Indianapolis. Assisting him are, from left, former Indianapolis Colt Jim Sorgi, a member of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield; and two members of the Knights of Columbus, Dennis Gochoel, a member of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis; and Pat Rondinella, a member of St. Malachi Parish in Brownsburg.
Pope Francis, with retired Pope Benedict present, creates new cardinals

Pope Francis, with retired Pope Benedict XVI present, created new cardinals on Feb. 22, the feast of the Chair of Peter, marking the first time he had joined Pope Francis for a public liturgy in the basilica. Pope Benedict resigned on Feb. 28, 2013, becoming the first pope in almost 600 years to do so.

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, said all the already existing cardinals went over to greet Pope Benedict. "The ushers kept saying, 'Please, your eminences, take your seats, the Holy Father is coming,' and we thought, 'But, but … …'

Before beginning the liturgy, Pope Francis walked over to Pope Benedict, who removed his zucchetto, a ring and the assignment of a "titular church" in Rome, becoming part of the clergy of the pope’s diocese. After they received their red hats, each of the new cardinals walked over to Pope Benedict and greeted him.

Only 18 of the prelates Pope Francis had chosen to be among the first cardinals created during his pontificate were present. The oldest of the new cardinals—and now the oldest cardinal in the world—Cardinal Loris Capovilla, 98, was not present at the ceremony although he became a cardinal the moment that Pope Francis pronounced his name. A papal delegate will deliver his red hat to his home in northern Italy.

Delegate will deliver his red hat to his home in northern Italy.

Pope Francis embraced new Cardinal Chibly Langlois of Les Cayes, Haiti, after presenting a red biretta to him during a consistory in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican on Feb. 22. Pope Francis created 19 new cardinals in the presence of Pope Benedict XVI, who made his first public appearance at a liturgy since his retirement.

The pope also told the cardinals that the Church needs their “compassion, especially at this time of pain and suffering for so many countries throughout the world,” and for so many Christians who face discrimination and persecution. “We must struggle against all discrimination,” he said.

Retired Pope Benedict XVI greets Pope Francis at the conclusion of a consistory at which Pope Francis created 19 new cardinals in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican on Feb. 22. Pope Benedict’s presence at the ceremony marked the first time he had joined Pope Francis for a public liturgy in the basilica.
Pope Francis: Professing the faith without good works is just spouting hot air

Viewed as a celebration of faith, mercy and heart, the 9th Annual Women’s Conference will be held in Indianapolis on March 22.

The all-day event at the Indiana Convention Center is being sponsored by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in partnership with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

The main theme of the conference will be, “The greatest gift of all … mercy,” according to Kathy Denney, director of the conference and the Marian Center.

Denney said the theme is a tribute to Blessed John Paul II, who stressed during his tenure as pontiff the importance of divine mercy and the new evangelization.

“We always pray and make a decision on the theme for the conference, and since Blessed John Paul II is about to be made a saint in April, we thought we would take up his cause this year,” Denney said.

Speakers at the conference—which will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:35 p.m.—will include some of the most influential Catholic advocates.

Julia Calandra Lineberg will speak about the life of St. Padre Pio, an Italian priest who had a deep love for God and who received the wounds of Christ, the stigmata, in the early 1900s.

“We thought we would make the life of St. Padre Pio...
Be more intentional this Lent, thanks to God’s love and mercy

We are creatures of habit. Or so the adage reminds us. And when we come to the Lenten season, many of us live up to that saying. We already have our minds made up that the practices we’ve implemented in years past will just do fine—again.

When Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and continues for the next six weeks, some people will refrain from things that satisfy their sweet tooth, pass on soft drinks or coffee, or fast from something else that has become a necessary part of their everyday lives.

Others will focus on improving their lives of prayer by adding recitation of the rosary or daily Scripture reflection, while some will make a concerted effort to focus more intensely on almsgiving—donating money or goods to charitable organizations or performing other acts of charity.

All these practices are admirable, but maybe the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius has been gently nudging you to be even more intentional this year—whatever you decide to do—thanks to God’s love and mercy.

Pope Francis offered a unique perspective on the Lenten message. We published an article about this message in the Feb. 14 issue of The Criterion. The pope focused on the theme of Christ’s poverty, with the title: “He became poor, so that by his poverty we might be made rich” (2 Cor 8:9).

In the Catholic News Service story, the Holy Father encouraged people to courageously follow Jesus in seeking out the poor and sinners, and in making difficult sacrifices in order to help and heal others.

People of faith, Pope Francis said, are called to confront the material, spiritual and moral destitution of “our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to spiritual and moral destitution of "our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to..." [Image 24x1026 to 374x1132]
Revised marriage amendment will not go to voters this year

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

A revised resolution to change Indiana’s Constitution to define marriage as being exclusively between one man and one woman passed the Senate on Feb. 17 by a vote of 32-17. However, since the marriage amendment was changed from the resolution that passed in 2011, it will not go to voters this year.

To amend Indiana’s Constitution, an identical resolution must be passed by two separately elected Indiana General Assemblies and then be approved by a majority of voters by referendum. The process to amend Indiana’s Constitution was in its final stages and was expected to pass the Indiana General Assembly this year, and be put on the ballot for approval by state voters this November.

While the introduced version of HJR 3 had the identical language of the resolution that passed in 2011, when the Indiana House removed the second sentence, it caused the process to be postponed.

For more than a decade, the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) has supported a constitutional amendment to protect traditional marriage.

The Senate vote was met with mixed emotions by advocates on both sides of the debate. It now leaves the amendment in a state of limbo in Indiana.

Proponents of traditional marriage do not feel that HJR 3, in its current form, goes far enough to protect traditional marriage because it was watered down in the House, deleting a second sentence which would have prohibited civil unions and anything similar to marriage. Opponents do not want a constitutional ban or any restriction on same-sex marriage because they claim it is discriminatory.

A push to change Indiana’s Constitution has been in the works for over a decade, said the bill’s author, Rep. Eric Turner, R-Cicero. He added that “not having constitutional protection makes our state susceptible to judicial interpretation.”

Turner further noted that “the future of marriage belongs in the hands of Hoosiers.”

Curt Smith, president of the Indiana Family Institute, a defender of traditional marriage who advocated passing the original version of HJR 3, testified in support of HJR 3 in the House. He urged the Senate to restore the second sentence language to HJR 3.

“If it’s not enough to define marriage in an amendment like this, you must define marriage,” Smith said. “That’s the lesson we have learned from the courts around the country.”

Smith quoted University of Notre Dame law professor Dr. Gerald Bradley, saying “that one of Bradley’s key conclusions regarding marriage is ‘the most effective way to preserve marriage as the union of one man and one woman is by making sure that no same-sex relationship is treated as a law substantially equivalent to it.’”

Megan Robinson, Freedom Indiana campaign manager, was an opponent of HJR 3 and supporter of redefining marriage who has led the effort to defeat the bill, said, “We remain determined to defeat HJR 3.” She added, however, that she was grateful that the Senate did not restore “the extremely dangerous second sentence that would permanently prohibit civil unions, domestic partnerships and other legal protections for same-sex couples.”

Current Indiana law defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman. But there are concerns that without a constitutional amendment to explicitly define marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman and to ban any similar legal relationships that are substantially equivalent to marriage, a challenge to Indiana’s current law could force Indiana to recognize marriage between two people of the same sex.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director for the ICC, who serves as the official spokesman for the Catholic Church in Indiana on public policy matters, said the inability of the amendment to be approved by a referendum by state voters would be 2016. “While it’s disappointing that HJR 3 didn’t pass in its original form, meaning the process to amend Indiana’s Constitution will be delayed, it could prove to be a blessing in disguise,” said Tebbe. “As we have seen play out in other states in recent weeks, a successful constitutional amendment of this nature would most certainly be challenged in federal court under the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The effect of this type of challenge could potentially upend the unwavering of Indiana’s current definition of marriage, inadvertently having a reverse effect. ‘So rather than protecting traditional marriage, which is the goal of this constitutional amendment, it could have the unintended consequence of putting Indiana on a fast track of being forced to recognize same-sex marriage.’

The striking phenomenon and remarkable speed of changing attitudes of the nature of marriage. ‘Defending the authentic nature of marriage is going to be an ongoing struggle in our modern secular culture, and an effort our community will be engaged in.’

—Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference

Constitutional amendments defining marriage as between one man and one woman

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 29 states have adopted constitutional amendments that define marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman.

Of these, nine refer only to the definition of marriage; 17 both define marriage and disallow civil unions between people of the same sex; two define marriage as between one man and one woman but also disallow civil unions and other contracts; and one allows marriage to be defined as a similar legal relationship but does not specify an identity of the same sex; and two have been found by federal judges to be unconstitutional.

As of January 2014, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, Maine, Maryland, Washington, California, Rhode Island, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Illinois and the District of Columbia have redefined marriage so as to allow it for couples of the same sex.

Amendment to U.S. Constitution urged to protect traditional marriage

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution “would secure in law throughout the country the basic truth known to reason of marriage, that it is the union of one man and one woman,” said San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone.

In a Feb. 19 letter, he urged the U.S. House of Representatives to pass the Marriage Protection Act. The act, a joint resolution sponsored by Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Kan., and introduced last August.

The archbishop, who is chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, urged other House members to co-sponsor the measure.

To amend the U.S. Constitution, it must be approved by two-thirds of the House and the U.S. Senate and then be ratified by three-fourths of the states.

“An amendment to the U.S. Constitution is the only remedy in law against this judicial activism that may ultimately end with federal judges declaring that the U.S. Constitution requires states, and consequently the federal government, to redefine marriage,” the archbishop wrote in the letter, which was addressed to Huelskamp.

Archbishop Cordileone was referring to recent federal court decisions striking down a number of state marriage laws. One of the most recent was a Feb. 13 ruling by a federal judge that struck down Virginia’s ban on same-sex marriage as unconstitutional. U.S. District Court Judge Arenda Wright Allen stayed her ruling pending an appeal to be heard, so same-sex marriage licenses will not be granted immediately.

In recent months, decisions similar to Wright Allen’s have been handed down by federal judges in Utah and Oklahoma. On Feb. 12, a federal judge in Kentucky must recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states or other countries, A Kentucky couple sued the state on Feb. 14 to force the state to issue same-sex marriage licenses. Similar lawsuits have been filed in Alabama and Louisiana.

Catholic and other opponents of same-sex marriage point to the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in United States v. Windsor that found the federal Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, but also required the federal government to respect the privacy of the states in defining marriage.
Greenwood. Right to Life of Indianapolis, Pre-Life 101 Apologetics training for adults and young adults, Mike Spencer, presenter, 7:30 p.m. Information: www.rtlindy.org.

March 7
St. Mary Church, 317 N. New Jersey St., Indianapolis. Young Adult Group, first Friday adoration, 7 p.m., dinner and social. 8 p.m. Information: kushin@archindy.org.

March 11
St. Paul Hermitage, 501 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. Ave Maria Guild, Mass for deceased members, 11 a.m., meeting, 12:30 p.m. Information: 317-888-7625 or vlemink@atul.com.

March 12
St. Joseph Church, 1375 Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. Harvest House Seniors, monthly gathering for adults ages 55 and older, noon Mass followed by luncheon and fellowship. RSVP: Shirley Miller, dealer, 317-259-4373, ext. 256 or lvm@atul.com.

March 13
St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, Media Center, 541 Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis. Lenten Soup Supper and speaker, 6:30-7:15 p.m. Information: 317-879-9535 ext. 241.

March 19
Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. 5th Annual Lenten Speaker Series, Begins January 30th with Archbishop Tobin, 7 p.m. Information: 317-888-2661 or errykaren8@atul.com.

March 23
St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, 335 E. Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis. Third Thursday Adoration, interceding for women experiencing crisis pregnancy, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., with Mass at 5:45.

March 27
St. Joseph Parish in Indianapolis to host World Day of Prayer on March 7
St. Joseph Parish, 1375 S. Mickley Ave, in Indianapolis, is hosting a World Day of Prayer service at 10 a.m. on March 7. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women who come together to observe a day of prayer and action on the first Friday of March each year. World Day of Prayer promotes justice and equality for women through prayer, partnership, service and celebration.

Ave Maria Guild installs officers and board of directors members for 2014 during meeting

The Ave Maria Guild provides aid and support to the Sisters of St. Benedict and the Hermitage staff in helping to make the daily lives of residents at St. Paul Hermitage more meaningful.

George Weigel to speak at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on March 8
George Weigel, distinguished senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C., will speak at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 14596 Oakridge Road in Carmel, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese at 7 p.m. on March 8. He will speak on the topics of the Catholic Church in the 21st century; Pope Francis and the new evangelization; and the meaning of Lent.

Weigel is a Catholic theologian and one of America’s leading public intellectuals. He is the author or editor of 22 books, including the celebrated biography, Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II, as well as The End and the Beginning: Pope John Paul II—The Victory of Freedom in the Last Years of the Legacy (Doubladley, 2010). Weigel has written essays, op-ed columns, and reviews for major opinion journals and newspapers in the United States. A frequent guest on television and radio, he is also Vatican analyst for NBC News. His weekly column, “The Catholic Difference,” is syndicated to 60 newspapers around the United States. Copies of his books will be available for purchase and signing at the event. No RSVP is required, and all are welcome to attend.

Scout Sunday
Benedictine Father Anthony Viesen, pastor of St. Meinrad Parish in St. Meinrad and St. Boniface Parish in Fulda, poses with Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, along with Cub Scout leader Scott Gries and Boy Scout leader Rose Liebeschwan, on Feb. 2 at St. Meinrad Church. Scout Sunday was celebrated in Catholic churches around the United States on Feb. 2 in honor of the organization’s founding on Feb. 8, 1910. According to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting’s website, the Scout Sunday tradition was started to make Catholics aware of the organization and to allow Scouts to live out their “Duty to God” pledged each week.

Events Calendar

February 28
Marion University, Library Auditorium, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Right to Life of Indianapolis, Pro-Life 101 Apologetics training for adults and young adults, Mike Spencer, presenter, 7:30 p.m. Information: www.rtlindy.org.

March 1
Cathedral High School, Student Life Center Commons, 1153 Camden St., Indianapolis. Reverse Raffle for Benedict Inn Retreat Conference, 6-30 p.m., buy two tickets for Benedict Inn Retreat Multi-Purpose Room, Central Catholic School, www.rtlindy.org. Mike Student Life Center Commons, Cathedral High School, March 1 7-9 p.m. Information: adults and young adults, 101 Apologetics training for Right to Life Indianapolis. 3200 Cold Spring Road, Library Auditorium, Marian University, information: 317-233-2464 or usd cody@indy.com or 752-536-5998, or log on to www.facebook.com/missionfrancisindianapolis.

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March 24

March 25
St. Joseph Church, 1375 Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. Lenten Soup and Bread, Mass 6 p.m. followed by light supper and presentation by Benedictine Sister Angela Jarboe on forgiveness.

March 20
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Archbishop Tobin featured in parish Lenten speaker series

By Sean Gallagher

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., in Indianapolis, will host its 14th annual Lenten speaker series titled “Spaghetti and Spirituality,” on March 12-April 2.

Prior to dinner and each week’s presentation, the blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration following the conclusion of the traditional Latin Mass at noon. Another Mass, celebrated in English, will start at 5:45 p.m. A light, meatless pasta dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. at Priori Hall. Each presentation will begin at approximately 7:15 p.m. and ordinarily concludes by 8:30 p.m.

This year’s series include Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, who will speak on March 26 on the topic of “The Joy of the Gospel.” It is the first time in the 14-year history of the series that the archbishop of Indianapolis has been a speaker.

Bruce Konicek, a Holy Rosary parishioner who helps organize “Spaghetti and Spirituality,” is excited about Archbishop Tobin being a speaker.

“This year is incredibly special in that for the first time our own shepherd, Archbishop Tobin, will speak at ‘Spaghetti and Spirituality,’” Konicek said. “This is a great blessing and a wonderful opportunity for everyone across the archdiocese to get to hear the archbishop speak on the joy of the Gospel.”

Rita Marker, a practicing attorney and former adjunct professor of political science and ethics at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, will kick off the series on March 12. She will discuss health care decisions that face families in light of the changes made by the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Will Thierfelder, president of Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, N.C., will travel to Holy Rosary on March 19. A licensed sports psychologist and former Olympic athlete, Thierfelder will give a presentation titled “Less than a Minute to Go: The Secret to World Class Performance in Sport, Business and Everyday Life.”

Catholic author and speaker Mike Aquilina will conclude this year’s “Spaghetti and Spirituality” on April 2 with a presentation titled “Martyrdom and the Eucharist.”

Konicek is impressed by how people from across central and southern Indiana fill Priori Hall at Holy Rosary on the nights of “Spaghetti and Spirituality” in order to learn more about the faith.

“The foremost service [that] ‘Spaghetti and Spirituality’ provides is education,” Konicek said. “Whether the subject is a current topic facing the Church today or a basic tenant of the catechism, this program attracts Catholics wanting to learn more about their faith. I guarantee everyone will learn something new at ‘Spaghetti and Spirituality.’”

(People interested in attending any of the presentations are asked to call Mike Aquilina, Rita Marker, Dr. Will Thierfelder, or Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin for more information.)
WALTERMAN (continued from page 1)
promise that I would start going to Mass again at least once a month. But my hopes were dashed. I said to God, "But I didn't keep my promise—at least not until she got sick.

A few years ago, on Mother’s Day, my mom sat by my side and told me she had kidney cancer."

In the months that followed, her mother’s condition declined in an unexpected way. While her cancer treatments seemed to be working, she started to "lose the fight to early onset dementia," Walterman notes.

The family had to admit her to a nursing home for in-

"While my family and I went through this nightmare, I was comforted to believe that God was there with us," he said. "I knew that God wanted me to keep going to Mass, he wanted me to work on my faith."

"I guess I was afraid that maybe I wouldn't belong anymore or I wouldn't feel right. I'm not sure. I just didn't have the courage. That was until one morning when I experienced something. It was the most amazing moment of my life."

"Like seeing an old friend"

On a Sunday morning a few years ago, Walterman baked bread and spoke to him, telling him, "Mike, it's time to go back to church."

Walterman acknowledges that many people would say he’s "crazy" to think he heard the voice of God, but he also insists, "I truly believe that God was speaking to me."

Living in the Garfield Park area on the south side of Indianapolis at the time, he knew that Good Shepherd Church was nearby so he headed there for the Mass at 9 a.m. He was surprised and appreciated that several parishioners greeted him—a stranger—warmly as he sat back of the altar. He was surprised, and very happy, like seeing an old friend after many years. It was a big step for me. After Mass, I felt like a new person, filled with joy and relief."

He later met with Father Gerald Kirkhoff, pastor of Good Shepherd Parish. He shared his story about his husband's suicide, his falling away from God, the Church, his mother’s illness and his call from God.

"He was very compassionate and welcomed me back with an open embrace. "Despite my mother’s sickness, I was as happy as I had been in years. I could feel something changing in me for the better."

He decided to receive the sacrament of confirmation at Easter that year. He just hoped that his mother could be there.

A key to heaven

When Walterman received the sacrament of confirmation last year, he was surrounded by his father, brothers, other relatives and friends.

"It was one of the happiest days of my life," he recalls. "I am grateful I was able to share that moment with the people closest to me, but it was bittersweet as my mother was too ill to be there."

"In the weeks leading up to Easter, her condition was worsening steadily. But there were still plenty of times when she would have her lucid moments. When I would sit there, I would bring her figurines of angels and tell her all about going back to Mass and going through confirmation."

Walterman believes those moments helped his mother find "a little peace in knowing that my soul was healing."

He also believes that one of the reasons God led him to return to the Church was to give him strength and faith during his mother’s illness. He says he needed that strength and faith when his mother died on May 13, 2013—

the day after Mother’s Day—of complications from Alzheimer’s disease.

"At her funeral, I put a tinbrick in her blousse pocket. It was a little key—St. Peter’s key to the gates of heaven, but she did not need it. I put it there as a reminder that she was my key to heaven. I don’t claim to know or understand God’s plan, but I do know that if it weren’t for her, I would have never found my faith again."

"You are never too far gone for God"

Since his return to the Catholic faith, Walterman has found a new direction and a renewed hope in his life. He has finished his apprenticeship as a carpenter, and he has earned a degree in construction technology.

"I feel like a whole person for the first time since I was a child. I am closer to God, and I am finally able to give my love over to him. I know he has many more good things in store for me."

Now a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis, Walterman looks back on the transformation of his life during the past 15 years. He sees it as a story of faith, joy and renewal that he hopes will benefit other young adults who, like him, feel they are too far gone for God.

"If I feel that God could change my heart and bring me back to the Church, then he could do it for anyone. If you are depressed or lost or lonely or confused or hopeless, just remember that even if you have lost your faith in God, he still has faith in you."

"You are never too far gone for God to find you."

(See FATIMA, page 2)

By John Shaughnessy

Inspired by Pope Francis’ image of the Church as a field hospital, Father Jeff Godecker hopes that interested people are invited to take part in any individual retreat program at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis.

"Pope Francis has urged us to spend more time with those on the periphery of the faith," Father Godecker notes.

"I believe there are people who feel sad, lonely, or people who feel betrayed by the Church, and I truly believe God wants us to help them."

"Pope Francis told me to help people who have lost of their faith in the Church," he said. "I am closer to God, and I am finally able to give my love over to him. I know he has many more good things in store for me."

New retreats to help people who have 'Lost Sight of God'

That desire is at the heart of the “Lost Sight of God” retreat program that will be led by Father Godecker and Mary Schaffner, associate director of spiritual ministries at the Fatima Retreat House, located at 5533 E. 56th St. in Indianapolis.

The “Lost Sight of God” program has three sessions, and interested people are invited to prepare for any individual session or all the sessions.

The first one, "The Courage to Step In," is from 5 to 9 p.m. on April 10.

The second session, "I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living," is from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on June 5.

The third session, "Walking toward Wholesome Faith!" is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 18. Each session is $30 per person.

Father Godecker and Schaffner stress that listening to the retreat participants about their struggles with God will be a major part of the program.

"It’s a place to begin," says Father Godecker, a retired priest of the archdiocese. "We would start by asking them what has brought them here, what are they struggling about. There will be a structure to the program, but, by and large, what we do will depend on what we hear.

The program will also use Scripture, the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and the experiences of Father Godecker and Schaffner as ministers to offer "an opportunity for hope and healing," the priest says.

"I have faith that somehow this person has a sense of God’s love of them once again," Father Godecker says.

"Our primary purpose is working on their relationship with God and their relationship with Jesus Christ. Hopefully, that love can empower them to get whatever is keeping them from God. We want that individual to be restored, renewed and healed so that s/he will be able to attend to others."

(Online registration for each session can be made by visiting the website, www.archindy.org/fatima, and clicking “register.” Registration is also payable by calling 317-545-7681.)
Lenten penance services are scheduled at archdiocesan parishes

Parishes throughout the archdiocese have scheduled communal penance services for Lent. The following list of services was reported to The Criterion.

Batesville Deanery
- March 7, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. at All Saints, Yorkville (individual confession)
- March 10, 6:30 p.m. at St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg
- March 12, 7 p.m. for St. Nicholas, Ripley County; St. Anthony of Padua, Morris; and St. Louis, Batesville, at St. Louis, Batesville
- March 13, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Greencastle
- March 23, 1:30 p.m. for St. John the Baptist, Osgood; St. Maurice, Napoleon; and Immaculate Conception, Millhouse, at Immaculate Conception, Millhouse
- March 25, 7 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena, Enochsburg
- April 2, 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph, Shelbyville
- April 2, 6:30 p.m. m at St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County
- April 2, 6:30 p.m. at St. Peter, Franklin County
- April 4, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. at All Saints, Yorkville (individual confession)
- April 5, 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. at St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Bright
- April 10, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Aurora

Bloomington Deanery
- March 25, 7 p.m. at St. Agnes, Nashville
- April 1, 7 p.m. at St. Martin of Tours, Martinsville
- April 8, 6:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford
- April 9, 6:30 p.m. at St. Jude, Spencer
- April 10, 6 p.m. at St. John the Apostle, Bloomington
- April 16, 6 p.m. at St. Paul Catholic Center, Bloomington

Connersville Deanery
- March 11, 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Cambridge City
- April 1, 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel, Connersville
- April 2, 6:30-8 p.m. at all Connersville Deanery parishes
- April 3, 7 p.m. at St. Bridget of Ireland, Liberty
- April 8, following 5:15 p.m. Mass for Richmond Catholic Community at St. Mary, Richmond
- April 10, 7 p.m. at St. Mary (Immaculate Conception) school gym, Rushville

Indianapolis Deanery
- March 7, 7 p.m. at St. Bernadette, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Thérèse of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) at St. Thérèse of the

- Direct, instant access to any Bible verse, so you can hear and see the text instantly.
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- Remembers where you left off.
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- Airplay support.
- Support for headphone pause and play buttons.
- Room to fit an entire 22 hours of audio on your iPhone/iPad.

To download the app, go to www.downloads jesu.com

Lenten activities available online
Be sure to visit The Criterion’s Lenten Web page at www.archindy.org/lent

The page consists of links to daily readings, archived Lenten columns by Archbishop Emeritus Daniel M. Buechlein, a full list of communal penance services taking place at parishes and other features.

Catechism Corner
What the catechism says about Lent

The season of Lent is mentioned in the Catechism of the Catholic Church in various sections. It is brought up in #540 in the section that explains Christ’s public ministry. In #1095, Lent is discussed in regards to the way in which the Church, especially in its liturgy, sees Christ prefigured in various ways in the Old Testament.

Finally, in #1438, the penitential nature of Lent is discussed in the section on the sacrament of reconciliation.

#540: “Jesus’ temptation reveals the way in which the Son of God is Messiah, contrary to the way Satan proposes to him and the way men wish to attribute to him (see Mt 4:1-23).

“The way is Christ vanquished the Tempter for us: ‘For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sinning’ (Heb 4:15). By the solemn forty days of Lent, the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.” #1095...

Lenten disciplines include fasting, almsgiving, prayer
Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years and older on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. Ash Wednesday is on March 5.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are checked by a doctor may take a full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one’s needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

“The special Paschal fast and abstinence are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday. By the threefold discipline of fasting, almsgiving and prayer, the Church keeps Lent from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday, which is on April 17.

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Pope: By taking care of elders, families show all life has value

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis said the worst thing about growing old is not becoming weaker or infirm, but the “abandonment, the exclusion, the deprivation of love” in today’s “throwaway culture.”

The pope’s remarks came in a written message sent to bioethicists, scientists, health care professionals, religious, theologians and other experts attending the Pontifical Academy for Life’s Feb. 20-21 workshop on “Aging and Disability.”

The academy’s work is meant to "let people of goodwill know that science and technology, when put at the service of the human person and his or her fundamental rights, contribute to the integral well-being of the person," Pope Francis said.

The hearing was continued from Jan. 28 when a snowstorm closed federal offices in Knoxville. At the time, Thapar ordered the protesters to pay $52,953 in restitution for fence repairs, cleaning a warehouse where bomb-making uranium is stored and security improvements at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

The judge said the defendants could arrange to make payment quarterly given their limited incomes.

“I don’t think the government has any expectations that they are going to be making any restitution,” Quigley said. During their trial, the trio admitted cutting through a fence at the complex, pouring blood on the warehouse, hanging crime scene tape, hammering off a small chunk inside the most secure part of the complex and praying as they waited for security officials to arrive. They testified that their actions were nonviolent and symbolic, and were designed to call attention to the dangers of U.S. nuclear weapons production at the massive plant.

At the same time, they denied their guilt in violating federal law, saying their actions were motivated by their faith and the necessity to end what they consider the evil of nuclear weapons production.

Two great evening programs

The Woman at the Well
March 2, 2014
6:00-8:00 pm
Presented by Julie Paavola

Julie returns to Fatima to share this story of the Woman at the Well as an example of the grace and spiritual healing we are offered by Jesus. Can we glory in the simple actions of our daily lives and, in doing so, find the secret to holiness and joy?

$20 per person includes dessert and beverages.

Pilgrim Heart: Lent as Pilgrimage
March 10, 2014
5:15-9:00 PM
Presented by Sr. Julie Sewell, O.S.B.

This program is in collaboration with The Benedict Inn for our F.B.I. series (Faith Building Institutions) and will take place at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House.

A pilgrimage is one who intentionally undertakes a journey with a specific spiritual intent. To go on pilgrimage, is to journey with that intent in mind. Come and explore how people can experience Lent as a pilgrimage towards Christ. We will explore together what it means to have a pilgrimage heart and how viewing Lent as Pilgrimage can enrich our experience of Lent this year.

$30 per person Includes a light supper, program and materials

Nun, two activists go to prison for protest at nuclear weapons facility

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A woman religious and two Catholic peace activists were sentenced to prison for several years for breaking into a Tennessee nuclear weapons facility and defacing its walls in July 2012.

Sister Megan Rice, 84, of the Holy Child Jesus, Society of the Holy Cross, was sentenced on Feb. 18 to 35 months in prison. She is a member of the Pontifical Academy of Life for the Pontifical Academy for Life’s Feb. 20-21 workshop on “Aging and Disability.”

Rice, 84, of Minn., was sentenced to 62 months in prison for breaking into a Tennessee nuclear weapons facility and defacing its walls in July 2012.

The defendants were part of the group “Transform Now Plowshares.”

In announcing the sentences in a courtroom overflowing with supporters of the three protesters, U.S. District Judge Amit R. Thapar said he respected the trio’s commitment to peacemaking but that he settled on the sentences, in part, to act as a deterent to future actions by the defendants or by others at the country’s nuclear weapons facilities.

All three faced sentences of about six to 10 years on each count under federal sentencing guidelines. They have participated in similar protests prior to their 2012 action.

The judge said the defendants could arrange to make payment quarterly given their limited incomes.

“I don’t think the government has any expectations that they are going to be making any restitution,” Quigley said. During their trial, the trio admitted cutting through a fence at the complex, pouring blood on the warehouse, hanging crime scene tape, hammering off a small chunk inside the most secure part of the complex and praying as they waited for security officials to arrive. They testified that their actions were nonviolent and symbolic, and were designed to call attention to the dangers of U.S. nuclear weapons production at the massive plant.

At the same time, they denied their guilt in violating federal law, saying their actions were motivated by their faith and the necessity to end what they consider the evil of nuclear weapons production.

All three were to be held in prison since their conviction in May.

The judge said the defendants could arrange to make payment quarterly given their limited incomes.

“I don’t think the government has any expectations that they are going to be making any restitution,” Quigley said. During their trial, the trio admitted cutting through a fence at the complex, pouring blood on the warehouse, hanging crime scene tape, hammering off a small chunk inside the most secure part of the complex and praying as they waited for security officials to arrive. They testified that their actions were nonviolent and symbolic, and were designed to call attention to the dangers of U.S. nuclear weapons production at the massive plant.

At the same time, they denied their guilt in violating federal law, saying their actions were motivated by their faith and the necessity to end what they consider the evil of nuclear weapons production.

We have created a ‘throwaway’ culture that is no longer about exploitation or oppression, but about culture” that is no longer about exploitation or oppression, but about culture” that is no longer about exploitation or oppression, but about...
Faith Alive!

Lent prepares us to participate in Jesus’ dying and rising

By Daniel S. Muhull

Detox diets and drinks are all the rage. Each time you turn on the TV or look on the Internet, you will find someone promoting some combination of food and beverage that when consumed over a period of a few days is said to cleanse the body of toxins and other harmful substances.

Although there is no scientific proof that these detox diets are of value, they are being offered as a veritable formula for you to be happy and well-being.

Whether detox diets or drinks work, humans have long known the value of setting aside time to change one’s consumption habits, including food and beverages, but other things as well. This includes fasting and praying to promote physical, spiritual, emotional, moral and psychological well-being.

For Christians, Lent marks that special time.

The season of Lent—a segment of the liturgical calendar—is celebrated by most Christians throughout the world. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is held for Latin Rite Catholics falls on March 5, and concludes at the start of the Easter triduum—the three days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. For Catholics, Lent ends at Holy Thursday with the start of the Mass of the Lord’s Supper.

The season of Lent lasts for 40 days, a number of great significance in the Bible. For example, God made it rain for 40 days during the days of Noah; Moses stayed 40 days on Mt. Sinai after receiving the Ten Commandments; and, following his baptism, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert grappling with the devil.

By simply mentioning 40 days, the Bible indicates that something special is taking place, that time was to experience it by the movement of the sun and stars or the ticking of a clock (“chronos”) has been replaced by God’s kairos (“time”). What takes place during the 40 days of Lent happens in a time set aside for us to experience God in unique and special ways.

While Lent is a season unto itself, it exists because of Easter. Everything that takes place during our Lenten journey prepares us to more fully participate in Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection.

Just as Jesus, before he began his public ministry, went into the desert for 40 days “to be tempted by the devil”—as Matthew, Mark and Luke express it—so, too, must Christians confront our demons and come to understand the temptations that affect our lives.

While Lent is a period of penance, cleansing and reordering our lives, it is not a period of punishment, mortification or abuse. Rather, it is a time for taking control of our lives, getting our appetites under control, of hearing mortification or abuse. Rather, it is a time for taking control of our lives, getting our appetites under control, of hearing mortification or abuse. Rather, it is a time for taking control of our lives, getting our appetites under control, of hearing mortification or abuse. Rather, it is a time for taking control of our lives, getting our appetites under control, of hearing mortification or abuse. Rather, it is a time for taking control of our lives, getting our appetites under control, of hearing mortification or abuse. Rather, it is a time for taking control of our lives, getting our appetites under control.

From the earliest days of Christianity, Lent has been understood as a time of preparation for Easter. St. Irenaeus in the second century mentions the Lenten fast as a 40-hour practice handed down from the Apostles.

For a time, Lenten practices became very austere. Christians were required to abstain from eating meat or any product that came from animals during the Lenten season, and to practice a stringent fast from most of life’s pleasures.

The practice of March Gras, or Fat Tuesday, and Carnival developed as a result of these austere practices; people are all of the fat in their homes and had festivestations that Covenant before Lent began because they knew that they would have little to eat or celebrate during Lent.

Today, the requirements for fasting and abstinence are less severe:

• On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Latin Rite Catholics 18 and older are asked to fast by limiting themselves to one full meal a day.

• On Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday those 14 and older are to abstain from eating meat.

Pregnant and nursing mothers and those who are ill are exempt from these requirements. The fasting requirement is removed for those 60 and older. The practice of giving up something for Lent is still a valued practice, but not required.

The Second Vatican Council revitalized the baptismal catechumenate. The catechumenate is the process used by the Church to prepare adults to enter its full communion through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist, received usually at the Easter Vigil.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem noted in the fourth century that Lent is a particular period of preparation for those wishing to enter the Church. The catechumenate now shapes the Lenten experience of all the faithful.

We are called to listen intently to the Gospel readings each Sunday, and ponder with those seeking baptism what it means to have been blind but now see because of Jesus, how Jesus offers us living water that fulfills all of our thirst and what it means to be born to a new life in Christ. This is now the heart of our Lenten journey.

May Lent be a sacred time for you, a period of cleansing and of confronting personal demons, of renewal and recommitment to faith in Christ Jesus.

(Daniel S. Muhull is a catechist and writer in Laurel, Md.)

Lent is a time of spiritual training to help in resisting temptation

By Louise McNulty

As a child, I thought I deserved to celebrate on Easter if I’d managed to go 40 days without eating chocolate, binge eating or humming in church.

My grandmother, however, threw a monkey wrench into such thinking when she said, “You can’t judge your success in Lent by how you feel on Easter Monday.”

Lent is a way for us to imitate Christ by doing penance for 40 days—a kind of “thank you” for coming to Earth to suffer and die for our sins.

Lent isn’t a time for “achieving” anything. It is a time of preparation.

In the Gospel of Luke, we’re told that “in those days, [Jesus] departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God” (Lk 6:12).

Christ didn’t spend 40 days in the wilderness to prove he could resist temptation. He did it to prepare for the days ahead when he’d be mocked, scorned, beaten, crowned with thorns and mercilessly crucified. He did it to strengthen himself and show us how to resist the devil.

In a sense, we’re like athletes of a different kind during Lent. Athletes don’t just go out and play a game or compete in a marathon without first going through rigorous training. St. Paul said in his First Letter to the Corinthians, “Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one” (1 Cor 9:25).

Athletes watch their diet, exercise appropriate muscles and build up a wellspring of strength and resistance to pain and fatigue. They prepare for the perils ahead by increasing their capacity for achievement and tolerance of pressure.

Like athletic training, we employ a diet of Scripture, we exercise in the form of prayer and we build up reserves during Lent that will come in handy when we face our toughest battles throughout the year.

Remember that once it’s over, Lent doesn’t come around again for more than 300 days. So it’s important to maintain this spiritual strength gained during Lent. A marathon runner trains for a race for months. Win or lose, when it’s over he might modify his grueling regimen. But he doesn’t want to lose the stamina and muscle tone that took so much effort to build up. He’ll continue, as should we, a moderate workout, a maintenance program. In our case, it should include a maintenance program of Scripture, good deeds and fasting.

Training during Lent will provide us with a touchstone of spiritual strength. Perhaps modifying instead of abandoning Lenten behaviors will merit spiritual gold medals.

Many people have seen smokers who gave up their habit for Lent, but made it the start of quitting for life. Daily Lenten Massgoers sometimes add a weekday Mass to their routine. People who shed a few pounds because of a Lenten diet often continue to eat healthier.

Perhaps extending Lenten behaviors is the key to retaining the moral stamina built up in the season, and keeping the joy of Easter alive all year long.

(Louise McNulty is a freelance writer who lives in Akron, Ohio.)

A woman receives ashes on Ash Wednesday at St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York on Feb. 13, 2013. Ash Wednesday marks the start of the penitential season of Lent, a time of reflection, prayer, fasting and charity before Easter.

By Louise McNulty

Lent is a time of spiritual training to help in resisting temptation.
Faith and Family

Carolyn Woo

Lenten disciplines can bring chores around the house

My wife, Cindy, and I have for years tried to teach our sons how to do various chores around the house.

Some of them have gotten to the age where they can do chores well, but need to be reminded to do them. Our 11-year-old son Michael regularly helps with the dishes, but only after supper.

And all but the youngest of our children (Colin, who is 5 months old) have after-meal chores to do in addition to taking their plates to the kitchen sink. We are planning to do a little wash-up sweep up around the table. Others put away dishes that had been washed and set out to dry from the previous meal. Still others take recyclables to boxes we keep for them in our basement.

On Saturdays, the boys have such regular chores as folding and putting away their clothes, vacuuming various rooms in the house, and picking up the vast amounts of toys that get strewn on the family room floor in the basement.

All of this has developed a good system that both teaches our boys responsibility and takes some of the load off of our already heavily loaded backs.

But teaching the boys how to do these chores and helping them to be disciplined about doing them is hard work in and of itself.

There have been many occasions where I have told the boys that doing things that would be easier and quicker for us to do the chores ourselves than to have the boys do them...

But we know that, in both the short and long term, this would only hurt our boys and add to our own heavy workload.

This approach we’ve taken to household chores reminds me of the Lenten practices that Catholics the world over will take up next week.

These spiritual practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving can also be penitential. When we take extra time for prayer, we are taking it away from other things that we might prefer to do.

The same applies to almsgiving. We might give away money, clothing or other possessions to help people in need that we would have otherwise kept for ourselves.

The Church has encouraged the faithful to take up such penitential practices over the centuries, both within and beyond Lent because they are ways in which we can participate in Christ’s saving suffering, death and resurrection.

Just as the chores around our house could be done better and more quickly if Cindy and I did them alone, I think that having our boys help out with them, Christ’s suffering was more than sufficient to achieve the salvation of the world.

Yet we know from Scripture and the Church’s tradition that Christ desires us to join him in this suffering. It is a morbid way to have us feel the pain that he experienced (which would be impossible in any case), but instead for us to experience our communion with him.

So even if we fumble through our various Lenten disciplines like our boys have, as long as we’ve learned to do chores around the house, know that Christ is right there with us, drawing us closer to him in love as we seek to offer up our prayers and sacrifices.
Daily Readings

Monday, March 3  
St. Katherine Drexel, virgin  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
Psalm 111:1-2, 5-6, 9-10  
Mark 10:17-27

Tuesday, March 4  
St. Casimir  
1 Peter 1:10-16  
Psalm 58:1-4  
Mark 10:28-31

Wednesday, March 5  
Ash Wednesday  
Joel 2:12-18  
Psalm 51:3-6b, 12-14, 17  
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday, March 6  
Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 1:1-4, 6  

Friday, March 7  
Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs  
Isaiah 58:1-9a  
Psalm 51:3-6a, 18-19  
Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday, March 8  
St. John of God, religious  
Isaiah 58:9-14  
Psalm 86:1-6  
Luke 5:27-32

Sunday, March 9  
First Sunday of Lent  
Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7  
Psalm 51:3-6, 12-13, 17  
Romans 5:12-19  
or Romans 5:12, 17-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

Question Corner/ Fr. Kenneth Doyle

People are free to capitalize pronouns that refer to God or to put them in lower case

Why are pronouns referring to Jesus no longer capitalized? Using uppercase would add clarity to many passages when a reader is trying to determine whether the word “he” refers to Christ or to another person in the sentence. We have no compunction about capitalizing “I.” Yet the name at which every knee should bend is relegated to lowercase. (Decatur, Ill.)

A Whether to capitalize pronouns referring to the deity is largely a matter of personal preference and conviction, and there really is no “right” or “wrong.” In the original languages of the Bible, the issue never arose. In Hebrew, there was no such thing as capital letters, simply an alphabet. And in the original Greek manuscripts, the text was written entirely in capitals. So it is not a matter of conforming to original texts. Publishers must look for consistency, and English-language book and magazine publishers, for the most part, follow the Chicago Manual of Style, a widely-recognized authority on grammar and usage. The style guide of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) notes that deity pronouns are lowercased in USCCB publications. Similarly, Catholic News Service uses lowercase, as does the Associated Press. Most of the English-language translations of the Bible follow that same practice, including The New American Bible, which is the text used at Catholic Masses. Similarly, the Catholicism of the Catholic Church uses lowercase for such pronouns. That having been said, you are free, of course, to write it as you wish. If you feel that capitalizing pronouns referring to God or Jesus shows greater respect, by all means do so. That is what I do when I put my Sunday homily on our parish website.

O A few years ago, I fell away from the practice of my Catholic faith. During that time, I ended up marrying a man who was very abusive verbally and mentally. I divorced him recently, but not without waiting and praying for a change in behavior that would save the marriage. The situation has brought me back to the Catholic Church, where I have gone to confession, have been attending Mass weekly and reading the Bible daily. I feel blessed to know that I have such a loving and merciful Savior and heavenly Father. But my question is this: When I married this man, we were married by his father, who is a pastor of a nondenominational church. (The ceremony took place in the minister’s house.) Was this marriage recognized by God? And if I were ever to date again, would that be adultery? (At this point in my life, I am quite content to spend my time with the Bible, but I was curious as to where I stood.) (Ison, N.Y.)

A I am assuming that you did not seek permission ahead of time for your wedding to occur in a non-Catholic setting and to be witnessed by a non-Catholic minister. If this assumption is correct, your marriage would not be recognized as valid by the Catholic Church. As to whether it was recognized by God, I don’t presume to know, but I do feel sure that God approved your leaving that man, especially since he was abusive and since you made a good-faith effort to try and make the marriage work. So yes, you are certainly free to date. If you ever decide to marry in the Catholic Church, you would first need to meet with a priest and do a bit of paperwork, which he would then submit to the diocese to have your first marriage officially declared invalid. (The technical term is “lack” or “absence” of canonical form.) This is a fairly simple process that in most dioceses has a turnaround time of only a few weeks. I would suggest, though, that you do that sooner rather than later. Not only would it clear the way for you, should you ever decide to marry on rather short notice, but you might also feel a sense of closure and peace in putting that first marriage clearly in the past.

My Journey to God

Love Wins

By Sandra Biery

It is the grateful heart  
That understands  
That it’s God’s Love that will triumph  
In the end.  
It’s not wealth or fame  
But simple love  
That is found in every moment  
That will win.

To see God’s presence  
In every heart  
Is a loving gift  
That changes hearts.

It brings God’s kingdom  
To birth each day  
Reminding us  
That love will win  
In the end.

(Sandra Biery is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany, Indiana. Angelique Namakula, a member of the Augustine Sisters of Dungu and Doruma, embraces a Congolese child at a site for internally displaced people on Aug. 1, 2013, in Congo.)
Play for the people

Students from the touring orchestra from St. Anthony’s High School on Long Island, N.Y., play "Instruments for Peace" during Pope Francis’ general audience on Feb. 19 in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican.

Providence Sister Cordelia Moran ministered in education, communications in archdiocese

Providence Sister Cordelia Moran, previously Sister Ann De Sales, died on Feb. 13 at Mother Theodore Hall at St. Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 83.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Feb. 20 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse: Burial followed at the sisters’ cemetery.

Cordelia Ann Moran was born on May 8, 1930, in Adrian, Mich.


Sister Cordelia earned a bachelor’s degree at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, and a master’s degree at Indiana University.

During 62 years as a member of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Sister Cordelia ministered for 13 years as a high school teacher and staff member, including four years at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville. She was a journalism instructor at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College from 1967-76.

She later worked in communications for the congregation, and then as coordinator of public relations and marketing for Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis from 1985-90.

Sister Cordelia also served at St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis from 1993-98 and retired to the motherhouse in 2004. She dedicated herself entirely to prayer beginning in 2001.

She is survived by her brother, Chris Moran of Pittsburgh, N.C.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47850. 7

The inner desire to make a difference.

St. Vincent de Paul certainly had it. So did Blessed Fredric Oronnau and St Elizabeth Ann Seton. Maybe you do, too. If not, why not volunteer your time and talents at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Jobs available: Food sorters, truck drivers, home delivery drivers, home workers, help line responders, grocery bags, washer operators, clothing sorters and many others.

Requirements: A little spare time and a big heart.

Call: Cardiof of those less fortunate whom you might never meet.

Use our website svdpindy.org to make a donation, become a volunteer, or schedule pick-up of appliances, furniture and household items. Or call 317.687.1006.

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

Online Lay Ministry Formation

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has partnered with the University of Notre Dame and Catholic Theological Union (CDU)


- BRYANT, Carmen


- Fitzgerald, Thomas


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By Natalie Hoefer

GREENWOOD—When Carolyn Crowell retired, she looked forward to "doing nothing.

"My first year of retirement, I decided I worked all my life so I didn’t want to do anything, and that’s what I did," said the 69-year-old former health care worker.

"Now I’m getting kind of bored. ‘Nothing’ is nice for a while, but then you need something,” said Crowell.

The something she chose was a nearby volunteer opportunity working with immigrants on their language skills.

It’s an opportunity she said she would not have discovered without the help of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

RSVP is a national volunteer network for people ages 55 and older. It is a service of Senior Corps, a group of programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service federal agency (CNCS).

"RSVP is a clearinghouse of volunteer opportunities," said Monica Woodward, director of RSVP of Central Indiana, a branch operated by Catholic Charities Indianapolis that covers Hamilton, Hendricks, Johnson and Marion counties.

"RSVP volunteer Carolyn Crowell teaches English to a Burmese refugee on Feb. 10. RSVP is a clearhouse of volunteer opportunities for those ages 55 and older."

"We follow up with both the organization and the volunteer to make sure it’s working,” said Woodward. "If it is, that’s great.

"If it doesn’t [work out], we work with [the volunteer] in trying to figure out what didn’t work—did they have a change in priorities, or it just wasn’t what they thought it was going to be.

"Then we work with them [on finding something else]. Just because one opportunity didn’t work out, it doesn’t mean other opportunities aren’t still there,” she said.

Even after a successful volunteering match has been established, said Woodward, "We stay connected [with the volunteers] through educational programs and volunteer appreciation.

"At least once a year, we try to bring our volunteers together for a Senior Corps luncheon," she said.

"We’ve had [educational sessions] on disability and inclusion, and baby boomers as caregivers. We had [someone from] the Social Security Administration come.

"We like to give out information that can potentially help [the volunteers] in addition to the people they’re helping as they volunteer,” Woodward said.

"Anything we can to [offer] support”

Because all of the volunteers are at least 55, said Woodward, "we know that more than likely they’ll end up being a family caregiver at some point.”

In such situations, she said, continuing to volunteer, even if for less time, "gives them a sense of self-continuity throughout the caregiving. And when the caregiving ends, they haven’t lost everything,” she said.

Consequently, RSVP offers caregiver support.

"We have support groups. We do simple home modifications, anything we can to support [the volunteers] to do caregiving in the best way possible so they can keep their own life—which may include volunteering—but also help the person who needs them.

"We don’t want caregiving to be about [the volunteers] isolating themselves into a caregiving role,” said Woodward. "We want caregiving to be about making all the connections within their community that could possibly support them, as well as staying connected to volunteering if that has been a part of their life.”

"A way to do something useful”

Crowell said she ‘just loves’ her volunteer work for Catholic Charities Indianapolis’ refugee and immigration services, making welcome cards for refugees from Burma and tutoring them in English.

"I enjoy helping people, especially these people trying to make something of their lives," said Crowell, a mother of four and grandmother of seven. "They ask questions. They are so eager to learn. It’s just awesome.”

Crowell said that volunteering ‘gives me something to do. I figure this is a way to do something useful.”

The location where Crowell volunteers is just a few blocks from her home. Since she does not have a car, the proximity of the location not only makes volunteering possible for her, she said, but allows her to "get my exercise—it gets me out and moving.”

Jessica Inabnitt, a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, serves as the lead instructor for teaching English as a second language at the facility where Crowell volunteers.

"She’s been very helpful,” said Crowell. "A lot of the refugees took to her right away. She’s got that grandmotherly, nurturing sense about her.

"Sometimes, I think we put the elderly in a box,” said Inabnitt. "After a certain age, we think they’re of no use, and that’s just not right.”

But Crowell, now a volunteer at Crowell, engaged in helping a young Burmese woman learn the days of the week.

"She’s a great asset,” said Inabnitt. "And RSVP is a great program.”

(For more information on the Catholic Charities of Indianapolis’ branch of RSVP covering Hamilton, Hendricks, Johnson and Marion counties, contact Monica Woodward at 317-361-3577, or e-mail her at mwoodworth@archindy.org.)

RSVP branches are located throughout central and southern Indiana

Following is a list of area RSVP branches:

• RSVP of Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson and Marion counties, sponsored by Catholic Charities Indianapolis. Contact: Monica Woodward at 317-261-3378 or e-mail mwoodworth@archindy.org.

• RSVP of Dearborn, Ohio, and Ripley County (Indiana), sponsored by Dearborn County Social Services and Catholic Charities of Indianapolis. Contact: Mary Lewis at 812-539-4005 or e-mail rsvp@myrsvp.org, or log on to www.myrsvp.org.

• RSVP of Clark, Floyd and Harrison counties, sponsored by Hope Southern Indiana. Contact: Vickie Copeland at 812-265-3950 or e-mail csperzel@hopesi.org.

• RSVP of Clay, Parke and Vigo counties, sponsored by Western Indiana Community Action Agency, Inc. Contact: Jeraldine Sowards at 812-232-1264 or e-mail jsowards@wicaa.org.

• RSVP of Wayne County, sponsored by City of Richmond. Contact: Ronda Pope at 765-983-7309.

• RSVP of Effingham, Perry and Spencer counties, sponsored by Lincoln Hills Development Corporation. Contact: Kim Scales at 812-547-3435 ext. 230 or e-mail rsvp@lhdc.org.

• RSVP of Hancock, Henry and Rush counties, sponsored by Interlocal Community Action Program, Inc. Contact: Mary Malone at 765-529-4403 or e-mail mmalone@icaca.org.

RSVP matches retired and senior persons with volunteer opportunities

RSVP volunteer Carolyn Crowell teaches English to a Burmese refugee on Feb. 10. RSVP is a clearhouse of volunteer opportunities for those ages 55 and older.

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COACHES from all 32 NFL teams gather at the event to measure the athletic skills of up-and-coming football players and to interview them prior to the NFL draft, which will begin on May 8.

Fewer eyes watched the drills and flag football game that took place at the Colts practice facility.

But he also had in mind the real purpose behind the event.

“It’s fun,” Bradley said. “Special Olympics is all about having fun.”

Quite a contrast from the Combine at Lucas Oil Stadium, where athletes displayed their talents in hopes of being drafted and possibly earning millions of dollars. Former Indianapolis Colts backup quarterback Jim Sorgi said the Special Olympics combine was just as important as the NFL Combine.

“They’re both the same in my eyes,” said Sorgi, a member of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield. “You’ve got the elite athletes who are going out and trying to make a living at the combine downtown. And you have athletes here who just want to go out and have fun. That’s what it’s all about.”

Four former Colts players and members of the football team at Brebeuf Preparatory School in Indianapolis helped the Special Olympians in their drills and flag football game.

Sorgi, a former backup to Peyton Manning who is now the color commentator for the radio broadcast of Colts games, said he is grateful to have made it to the NFL, so that now he can “be on a stage where I can help those who are less fortunate go out and have fun doing the exact same things that I did.”

Lawrence Fishburne, a former member of the Knights of Columbus and a member of St. Joseph Parish in Corydon, attended the event and was pleased with the excitement of the Special Olympians.

The kids come in and look at this and their eyes light up. It’s terrific. They get the feeling of what the pros do when they come out on the football field.”

Ray McKenna, president and founder of Catholic Athletes for Christ, an Arlington, Va.-based organization that seeks to spread the Catholic faith through athletics, said he believed the Special Olympians were getting some attention on such a big weekend for the NFL.

“The Combine will be televised on the NFL Network and ESPN,” McKenna said. “The best, strongest, brightest and ablest disabled athletes will be there. We think it’s a nice complement to have Special Olympics kids who have been forced to compete as well as to compete, and to have them highlighted and recognized and have NFL players coaching and encouraging them.

Also on hand for the event was Special Olympics Indiana chief executive officer Michael Furnish. He appreciated the support that his organization receives from the Knights of Columbus and how their principles coincide.

“The Knights of Columbus have a values system that mirrors that of Special Olympics in believing that each person has something to contribute, no matter how great or how modest your skill or resources may be,” Furnish said. “It puts us on the same side of the fence on this conversation.”

Watching the drills and the game was Norbertine Father James Baramiak, who has served as the Catholic chaplain of the Green Bay Packers for the past 17 years. He appreciated how Catholic beliefs about the dignity of each human person served as the foundation of the Special Olympics combine and flag football game.

“Everybody has something to deposit toward the common good,” said Father James. “And these young people are certainly doing that in very beautiful ways.”

(Football photos from the Special Olympics southern Indiana flag football game. To see more photos, log on to www.CriterionOnline.com)

OLYMPIANS continued from page 1

“it was really exciting for all the athletes and the parents to see,” said Jerry, a Special Olympics athlete from Cicero, Ind. “This has just been a great experience. I hope that they do this again.

The athletes participated in the same kind of drills that were taking place that same weekend at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis where hundreds of the country’s top college football players showed off their talents during the annual National Football League (NFL) Scouting Combine.

Coaches and officials from all 32 NFL teams gather at the event to measure the athletic skills of up-and-coming football players and to interview them prior to the NFL draft, which will begin on May 8.

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