Indianapolis parish invites all to pray nine novenas for an end to violence

By Natalie Hoefer

"Prayer is the least we can do" said Dabrice Bartet moving 22 years ago because Indianapolis "was a very safe place."

"I was going to move to [Washington] D.C. after I graduated [from college in France], but it was too scary. So I moved to peaceful Indianapolis," says the member of St. Monica Parish on the city’s northwest side.

But she doesn’t feel so safe anymore.

"The violence now is very unsettling. You go home and you just pull right into the garage. You can no longer leave your garage door open. You feel like you have to be watching all the time."

"Novenas give stability in prayer"
That’s why Bartet and a team of nearly a dozen other St. Monica parishioners have implemented a program of prayer—a series of nine novenas (a prayer recited for nine days) promoting peace.

"I came up with the idea for novenas because prayer is very powerful," says Bartet. "For me, novenas give you stability in prayer for nine days. We will be doing it for 81 days."

The novenas will occur during a timeframe that includes a semi-annual Service of Remembrance and Peacemaking sponsored by The Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, which will take place at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Indianapolis on Sept. 25 for the families of recent murder victims. (See related article on page 8 for more information on the prayer service.)

"We wanted to pray every day leading up to the city-wide prayer service on Sept. 23," says Bartet. "We started too late for..."
Archdiocesan priest leads Holy Land pilgrimage during Gaza conflict

By Sean Gallagher

continued from page 1

CHRISTIANS

United States to Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. The Administration temporarily grounded all flights from the U.S. before the grounding took effect.

Tekton Ministries arrived at the meeting in Philadelphia. "I did not fear the airports, attacks or terrorists," said Father Meyer. "I have a bigger distraction than the conflict in Gaza."

As flying between Israel and the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip intensified in late July, the Federal Aviation Administration temporarily grounded all flights from the United States to Tel Aviv.

A pilgrimage group led by Father Jonathan Meyer and organized by Carmel, Ind.-based Tekton Ministries arrived at the airport on the second-to-last flight from the U.S. before the grounding took effect.

The violence in the region and the temporary grounding in response to the made headlines across the U.S. Father Meyer and his pilgrimage group also garnered the attention of Indianapolis media outlets.

"They don't have to throw stones," he said. "The love and hope of God, even in periods of death and suffering for people, serves to bolster our sincere hope that Philadelphia will welcome Pope Francis next September."

Some Mexican media have cited government officials saying a September trip to North America also could include stops in Mexico, but Father Lombardi said at this moment "nothing operational has begun relative to a plan or program for a visit to the United States or Mexico. Keep in mind, there is still more than a year to go before the meeting in Philadelphia."" }

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Do you have something exciting or newsworthy you want to be considered to be printed in The Criterion?

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E-mail

Staff

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Syriac patriarch decries ‘mass cleansing’ of Mosul by ‘a bed of criminals’

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Syriac Patriarch Ignace Joseph III Younan, in Washington to meet with federal government representatives and members of Congress, decried the “mass cleansing” of Christians from Mosul, Iraq, by what he called “a bed of criminals.”

“We wonder how could those criminals, this bed of criminals, cross the border from Syria into Mosul and occupy the whole city of Mosul … imposing on the population their Sharia [law] without any knowledge of the international community,” Patriarch Younan said on July 25, referring to Islamic State in Iraq and Syria fighters, formerly known by the acronym ISIS.

“What happened is really kind of a cleansing based on religion. You have heard about what they did: proclamation—they announced publicly with street microphones, the ISIS—there’s no more room for Christians in Mosul, that they either have to convert, pay tax, or just leave. And they have been leaving now since then with absolutely nothing” he added.

“It is a shame that in the 21st century, you have such kind of behavior,” the patriarch lamented. “It’s mass cleansing based on religion, not only for Christians, the Christian minority, but for other minorities,” among them the Yazidi, an ethnic group of 700,000 based in Iraq’s Mesopotamia region.

In Mosul itself, “there is no more Christian presence,” Patriarch Younan said. “It’s tragic because it’s the largest Christian city in Iraq; it was what you call the nucleus of Christian presence for many centuries. And we have at least 25 churches in that city. All are abandoned. No more prayers, no services, no more Masses on Sundays in Mosul because no clergy, no people there that are Christian.”

ISIS, he said, “took advantage of the Christians who are defenseless in that country, and they have no other means to stay in that country. They have nowhere else to go. They have been taken out with force and injustice.”

“Christians used to make at the time of Saddam (Hussein), especially before 1980, about 2.5 percent [of the population in Iraq]. That means almost 1.4 million. Now they account for less than 300,000. This is a kind of tragic dwindling of their number,” Patriarch Younan said. “It’s just because of Christian belief and that they are different from the majority,” he added.

Mosul’s Christians have fled to neighboring Kurd-controlled areas. The “Kurdish government took care of them, trying to help them,” Patriarch Younan said. “Of course, they are still in dire need for assistance for those refugees being forced to leave without any means.”

The patriarch visited them on June 27. He said he “urged them to take refuge and go back to their home city” because of Kurd assurances of protection.

Among Patriarch Younan’s appointments in Washington was one with Reg. Jeff Fortenberry, R-Nebraska, who is crafting a bill calling for internationally protected zones for threatened religious and ethnic minorities in the Middle East.

On a separate front, the patriarch said he has suggested a joint meeting of Eastern Catholic and Orthodox patriarchs to advocate for the region’s vulnerable populations, most of whom are adherents to their respective faiths.

“We have to take our responsibility very seriously together,” Patriarch Younan said. “We are on very good terms, the patriarchs. We are aware of the biggest challenges we are facing or our communities are facing, and we have to go throughout the world and bring the voice of our people to those who have a word to say on the international scene, whether the United Nations, United States, European Union, Russia, China, the Vatican—and even top Sunni leaders in Egypt and Shiite leaders in Iran.”

“We have to tell them that we have been here for millennia. We don’t have any ambition to fight any people, any community, or have ambition to govern or to make coup d’etat, but we have the right to live peacefully in the land of our forefathers as we did for the past 2,000 years,” Patriarch Younan said.
Let’s all be ‘Nazarats’ who pray, work for the peace of Christ

“Our worst fears have come true, and we don’t know what to do,” said Chaldean Auxiliary Bishop Saad Sirop of Baghdad. What were the bishop’s worst fears? The Islamic State in Iraq and of Baghdad.

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in a July 24 demonstration in Irbil, Iraq, against militants of the Islamic State. Hundreds of thousands of Christians marched to the United Nations office in Irbil, calling for help for families who fled in the face of threats by Islamic State militants. (CNS photo/Reuters)

Let’s all be ‘Nazarats’ who pray, work for the peace of Christ

Christian justice calls us to assist displaced children of God

Christian justice calls us to assist displaced children of God

When the president of the United States and abroad to take action on behalf of

of the displaced children from Central

Letter to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are published in The Criterion as part of the newspaper’s commitment to “the responsible exchange of freely-held and expressed opinion among the People of God” (Comunicandums Progressionis, 116). Letters from readers are welcome and every effort will be made to include letters from as many people and represent as many viewpoints as possible. Letters should be informed, relevant, well-expressed and temperate. Letters must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect.

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How can the Holy Spirit help us strengthen marriage and family life?

I have been asking the question: Where is the Holy Spirit calling us to open doors here in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis? When I ask this, I don’t mean to suggest that our problems are unique to this part of the world—or that solutions to the problems we face would be qualitatively different here than elsewhere.

Especially when the subject of concern is marriage and family life, we are dealing with the most basic institution of human society whose fundamental importance crosses all racial, ethnic, political, cultural, and economic lines.

In a letter dated Feb. 2, 2014, Pope Francis asked all the families in the world to pray for the next Synod of Bishops, which will take place in Rome from Oct. 5-19, 2014. The theme of this Extraordinary Synod is “pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelization.” This Extraordinary Synod will be followed a year later by the Ordinary Assembly, which will also have the family as its theme. In addition, there will also be the Church-sponsored World Meeting of Families due to take place in Philadelphia in September 2015.

In his letter, Pope Francis said: “Indeed, in our day the Church is called to proclaim the Gospel by confronting the new and urgent pastoral needs facing the family.”

He wrote that this “important meeting” will involve not only bishops and priests, but also consecrated men and women, and “lay faithful of the particular Churches of the entire world.” Because the synod is dedicated to the topic of marriage and family, the Holy Father wrote to families: “I ask you, therefore, to pray intensely to the Holy Spirit, so that the Spirit may illuminate the synodal Fathers and guide them in their important task.”

Note that the Holy Father asks us to pray to the Holy Spirit. We believe that the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, is the source of life and love, courage and hope, wisdom and fidelity to God’s loving plan for us. It is the Holy Spirit who unites men and women in marriage. It is the Spirit who guides families, and helps them stay together during hard times.

In his letter to families, Pope Francis says that by the power of the Holy Spirit, “Jesus is the one who brings together and unites generations!” He is the inexhaustible font of that love which overcomes every obstacle of self-absorption, solitude, and sadness. In your journey as a family, you share so many beautiful moments; meals, rest, housework, leisure, prayer, trips and pilgrimages, and times of mutual support.

Nevertheless, if there is no love then there is no joy, and authentic love comes to us from Jesus. He offers us his word, which illuminates our path; he gives us the Bread of life which sustains us on our journey.

It is the grace of the Holy Spirit that makes Jesus present to us in the sacraments—including the sacrament of marriage—and who fills our hearts with the profound love and joy that alone can sustain us as families journeying together on the rough roads we often have to travel during our daily lives. The pope urges us to turn to the Holy Spirit for guidance, strength and hope.

Where is the Holy Spirit opening a door for us here in our archdiocese? Lots of attention is paid today to the changing face of families, which frequently look and act differently than in previous generations.

All of us are challenged now to welcome and accept “blended families” and “stepfamilies” resulting from divorce and remarriage or from other forms of civil union. We should not allow this very real cultural dynamic to cause us to forget where the real crisis is today.

Traditional marriage, and the resulting “nuclear” family, are threatened today as never before. Surely this is an area that the Holy Spirit is calling us to pay close attention to in our pastoral planning.

Surely here is a “door” that we must open with courage, compassion and deep confidence in the power of God’s love.

With Pope Francis, I urge all families in central and southern Indiana to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us in our pastoral planning and in our outreach to families throughout this region.

In the words of the Holy Father to families, “May the protection of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph always accompany all of you and help you to walk united in love and in caring for one another.”

¿Cómo puede el Espíritu Santo ayudarnos a fortalecer el matrimonio y la vida familiar?

H estando planteando la siguiente interrogante: ¿Qué oportunidades nos brinda el Espíritu Santo aquí, en la Archidiócesis de Indianapolis? Al formular esta pregunta no insinúo que los problemas que nos aquejan son exclusivos de esta parte del mundo, ni que las soluciones a los problemas que enfrentamos serían cualitativamente distintas aquí, en comparación con otros lugares.

Especially when the subject of concern is marriage and family life, we are dealing with the most basic institution of human society whose fundamental importance crosses all racial, ethnic, political, cultural, and economic lines.

En una carta con fecha 2 de febrero de 2014. El papa Francisco pidió a todas las familias del mundo que rezaran por el próximo Sínodo de los Obispos, que tendría lugar en Roma del 5 al 19 de octubre de 2014. El tema de este Sínodo Extraordinario es “Los retos pastorales de la familia en el contexto de la evangelización.” Después de este Sínodo Extraordinario seguirá la Asamblea Ordinaria, cuyo tema también será la familia. Además, un año más tarde, en septiembre de 2015 está programado el Encuentro Mundial de la Familia, en Filadelfia.

En su carta, el papa Francisco expresó: “Puesta la Iglesia hoy está llamada a anunciar el Evangelio afrotrizando también las nuevas emergencias pastorales relacionadas con la familia.”

Escrito que este “encuentro importante” involucrará no solamente a obispos y sacerdotes, sino también a hombres y mujeres consagrados, “y fieles laicos de las Iglesias particulares del mundo entero.” Dado que el sínodo está dedicado al tema del matrimonio y la familia, el Santo Padre se dirige a las familias de esta forma: “Les pido que invoquen con insistencia al Espíritu Santo, para que ilumine a los Padres sacerdotales y los guíe en su grave responsabilidad.

Observen que el Santo Padre nos pide que recemos al Espíritu Santo. Creemos que el Espíritu Santo, que procede del Padre y del Hijo, es la fuente de la vida y del amor, del valor y la esperanza, de la sabiduría y la fidelidad al plan amoroso que Dios nos ha preparado. Es el Espíritu Santo el que une a los hombres y las mujeres en matrimonio; es el que guía a las familias y las ayuda a mantenerse unidas durante los tiempos difíciles.

En su carta a las familias, el papa Francisco dice que por el poder del Espíritu Santo “el que une a los hombres y las mujeres en matrimonio; es el que guía a las familias y la ayuda a mantenerse unidas durante los tiempos difíciles. Hace que generaciones diferentes se encuentren y se unan!” Es la fuente inagotable de ese amor que vence todo egoísmo, toda soledad, toda tristeza. En su camino familiar, ustedes comparten tantos momentos inolvidables: las comidas, el descanso, las tareas de la casa, la diversión, la oración, las excursiones y peregrinaciones, la solidaridad con los necesitados, … Sin embargo, si falta el amor, falta la alegría, y el amor auténtico nos lo da Jesús: Él nos ofrece su Palabra, que ilumina nuestro camino; nos da el Pan de vida, que nos sostiene en las fatigas de cada día.

Es la gracia del Espíritu Santo lo que hace que Jesús esté presente entre nosotros en los sacramentos—inclusive en el sacramento del matrimonio—and el que llena nuestros corazones con el profundo amor y la alegría que bastan para sostenernos como familias que transitan juntas por los escarpados caminos que a menudo debemos recorrer durante nuestras vidas cotidianas. El Papa nos invita a que acudamos al Espíritu Santo para que nos oriente, nos fortalezca y nos dé esperanza.

¿Qué oportunidad nos está presentando el Espíritu Santo aquí en nuestra Arquidiócesis? Hoy en día se precisa mucha atención al rostro cambiante de las familias, donde a menudo tienen una apariencia distinta y se comportan de forma diferente a lo que hacían las generaciones anteriores.

A todos se nos presenta el desafío de dar la bienvenida y aceptar “familias mixtas” y “familias reconstruidas” producto del divorcio y las segundas nupcias o de otras formas de unión civil. No debemos permitir que esta dinámica cultural muy real nos haga olvidar el verdadero epicentro de la crisis de hoy en día. El matrimonio tradicional y el “nuclear” familiar resultante se ven enormemente amenazados hoy en día como nunca antes. Ciertamente el Espíritu Santo nos está llamando a prestar mucha atención a este aspecto en nuestra planificación pastoral.

Ciertamente esta es una oportunidad que debemos abordar con valor, compasión y profunda confianza en el poder del amor de Dios.

Junto con el papa Francisco, exhorto a todas las familias del centro y del sur de Indiana para pedirle al Espíritu Santo que nos guíe en la planificación pastoral y a acercarnos a las familias de toda esta región.

Me hago eco de las palabras del Santo Padre para las familias: “Que la protección de la Bienaventurada Virgen María y de San José les acompañe con su protección de esta región. Hagan lo que el Espíritu Santo les diga.”

Traducido por: Daniela Guanipa
Events Calendar

August 1
St. Joseph Parish, 1375 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. 1st Friday evening of the Blessed Sacrament, rosary and Benediction, 4-6 p.m. Mass, 5:35 p.m. Information: 317-244-9002.

August 2
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 523 S. Merrill St., Fortville. Monte Carlo and Parish Fest, Fri. & Sat. 7:15-11 p.m. Parish Festival Family Dinner, 4-11 p.m. Information: 317-772-4099 or www.benedictinn.org.

August 3

St. Boniface Parish, 15519 N. State Road 545, Falls. Parish Picnic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Central Time, dinners, famous soup, hot dogs, games, entertainment. Information: 317-357-5333.

August 6
Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Solo Singers. Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced. New members welcome. 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-242-0771.

August 9
St. Roch Parish, Family Life Center, 3630 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Singles Seniors meeting, 1 p.m., age 50 and over. Information: 317-784-4207.

August 9-10
St. Paul Parish, 9798 N. Deerwood Road, Guadalupe New Alase. Parish Festival Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, tenderloin dinner, music, kids games. Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 812-625-1094.

August 10
St. Mary Parish, 280 E. 5th St., Lakeville. Parish Picnic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 812-952-2583.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Shamrock Center. 1721 S. Street, Bedford. Parish Picnic, after 10:30 a.m. Mass, free food, bring dish to share if possible, bingo, bouncy houses, face painting, prizes. St. Susanna Church, 1210 main St., Plainfield. Central Indiana Cursillo 50th Anniversary Mass, 10 a.m. followed by lunch, talks, sharing, 5:30 p.m. Mass, carry-in dinner, final gathering 7:30-9 p.m. Non-Cursillistas also invited. Information: 765-414-8288 or tanrash@twgCCOF.org.

August 12
St. Paul Hermitage, 501 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. Ave Maria Guild, 12:30 p.m. Information: 317-888-7682 or vlemmig@sql.com.

Sacred Heart Parish, 1125 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Eucharistic prayer, seniors and retirees, 12:30 p.m. Information: 317-788-0522.

August 14

August 15

August 15-16
Notariat of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7225 Southeastern Ave., Indianapolis. “Augustavraganzza,” 4 p.m-midnight, food, music, entertainment, Mass Sat. 5:30 p.m., 5K walk/run Sat. 9 a.m. Information: 317-357-1200.

August 16
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 4625 N. Kenwood Ave., Indianapolis. “Sausage Fest,” food, music, game. Fri. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight. Information: 317-253-1461.

August 16
St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3335 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Helpers of God’s Precious Infants, Mass and Divine Mercy Chapel at 8:30 a.m., followed by prayer at a local abortion center, and continued prayer at the church for those who wish to remain.

August 20
St. Joseph University Parish, 113 S. Fifth St., Terre Haute. Divine Mercy Chapel and Pro-Life Mass, chapter 4:30 p.m., Mass 5:15 p.m., pro-life ministry meeting 6-7 p.m. Information: Connie Kell Flich, demicatholic@yahoo.com or 812-323-6517.

Programs and Retreats

August 18-20

August 19-21

August 21
Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Seasonal Community Labyrinth Walk, 7-7:15 p.m. explanation, 7:15-8:30 p.m. walk. Free—donations accepted. Information: 317-788-7581 or www.benedictinn.org.

August 22
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5335 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Come Away and Rest awhile: Silent Self-Guided Day of Reflection, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., $51 per person. Reservations: 317-745-7681, ext. 14 or seacott@archindy.org.

Graduates of the Latin School of Indianapolis celebrating 40-year reunion

Graduates of the Latin School of Indianapolis class of 1974 will celebrate their 40-year reunion at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., in Indianapolis, on Aug. 23. The celebration will begin with Mass at Holy Rosary Church at 4:30 p.m., followed by a gathering in the cafeteria from 5:30-7 p.m. Tours of the school will be available. Dinner will follow at Laria’s Italian Restaurant, 317 S. College Ave., in Indianapolis, at 7 p.m. All members of the Class of 1974 and their spouses are invited, as well as the members from any other class in that era. Former faculty and staff and former cheerleaders from those years are also welcome.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Chris O’Connor at 317-590-7219 or Charlie Glesting at 317-650-8660.

VIPS

Robert F. And Virginia (Rouek) Renn, members of St. Joseph Parish in Clark County, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 10. The couple was married at the former Holy Trinity Church in New Albany on Aug. 7, 1954. They have two children, Betty and Karen, and seven grandchildren.

They will celebrate their anniversary with a Mass and dinner with their family.

Mass in French has new location in Indianapolis

The monthly Mass in French, celebrated at 1 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month, will now be held at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., in Indianapolis. The first Mass in French to be held at St. Michael the Archangel Church will take place on Aug. 10. All are welcome. This liturgy brings together French-speaking Catholics from France, Canada, Haiti, Africa and other places. For more information, contact Darbie Bartet at 317-523-4193 or acf@archindy.org.

Burmese liturgy

At St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis, Bishop Felix Khen Thang of the Diocese of Katay in Myanmar boxes before the altar with fellow Katay diocese priest Father Joseph Mung, left, and Father Todd Riebe, right, pastor of St. Mark Parish, at the beginning of Mass on Aug. 30. Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin welcomed Bishop Felix and others before the Mass. St. Mark is home to a large Burmese community. (Submitted photo)
Growing up as a self-described “wayward kid” on the east side of Indianapolis, Father Darvin Winters never expected that he would one day represent his country and the Catholic Church on a joint task force mission to Antarctica. Nor did he imagine that he would receive a medal for his efforts and, more importantly, that the experience would draw him even closer to God.

Yet that’s what happened after Father Winters—at the time an Air Force Reserves chaplain with the Indiana Air National Guard in Terre Haute and pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greencastle—was asked to provide religious support during a National Science Foundation mission at McMurdo Station in Antarctica.

“Seeing the beauty of Antarctica, I have a better appreciation for God as the Creator of Earth and the universe,” Father Winters says in recalling his experience there in early 2013. “I’ve met a lot of interesting people. While we’re not here by chance, a higher power has his fingerprints on all of this. Every night for a week, I would sit in the chapel, look out the window and think, ‘What a magnificent God.’”

His 35 days there earned him the Air Force’s Antarctica Service Medal. Now, he’s beginning another dream experience—as a full-time chaplain for the Air Force.

“I didn’t think I could make it through" That dream has intrigued him ever since he heard a presentation about military chaplains while he was in formation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., in the late 1990s. He listened as auxiliary bishops of the Archdiocese for the Military Services talked about a group of seminarians that there was a great need for chaplains in the armed forces.

“Certain aspects of that life appealed to me—the structure of the military, and the ability to travel and see different parts of the country and the world,” says Father Winters, a 1991 graduate of Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis. After he was ordained in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in 1999, Father Winters received permission three years later from then- Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein to become a chaplain in the U.S. Naval Reserves. Training included eight weeks of boot camp.

“You learn to serve in the field, but you never touch guns,” Father Winters recalls. “It was so bad that one night another priest and I were picking up another chaplain off the floor because he was having a panic attack.”

“A lot of the lessons I learned from the army I still use every day now as an Air Force chaplain, I plan to tie that in to the people I serve.”

“I began to realize that being a Catholic priest and accepting the orders of Christ all who cross his path.” † As a Catholic priest and Air Force chaplain, Father Darvin Winters said he welcomes as Christ all who cross his path.

Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin. “In a meeting with the archbishop, he graciously offered me the opportunity to do this full time,” he says. “‘There’s an initial three-year commitment, and the archbishop has left it up to me after that.’

“I’m really a missionary to the military. Across the board with all the services, there is a shortage of chaplains. There are about 300 Air Force chaplains on active duty, and only 50 are Roman Catholic priests.”

Helping young adults find God Father Winters is especially looking forward to one part of his role as the lead chaplain at the Air Force base in Grand Forks, N.D. He believes it will allow him to continue one of the ministries he enjoyed while serving as pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish—the ministry of serving young adults that he experienced at nearby DePauw University in Greencastle.

“T’ll be ministering to young men who find themselves away from home for the first time,” he says. “I’m looking forward to that because of my four years here working with college students. That has really reiterated the fact that a person’s years after high school are critical years when people discover who they are religiously and where God fits in the picture.”

Father Winters knows that reality personally from his formative years. He remembers the lessons he learned from the Benedictine monks during his college years at the former Saint Meinrad College.

“They taught me the Rule of St. Benedict. It says to welcome all, that all guests should be welcomed as Christ. And I tie that in to the people I serve.”

“No matter where an individual is in their faith journey, we are to welcome them as Christ. And that’s a challenge. People present themselves to us with their brokenness and their different temperaments. As a Catholic priest and now as an Air Force chaplain, I plan to welcome them all as Christ.”
Information on novenas, holy hours and prayer service for peace

Members of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis invite all to join them in a series of novenas and holy hours, and a prayer service sponsored by The Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, all in an effort to curb the growing rate of homicidal violence in local communities.

The nine novenas can be found by logging on to the St. Monica Parish website at www.stmonicindy.org, then clicking in the upper right on the text “Click here to pray novenas to end violence July 15-October 3.”

The novenas are also available on the St. Monica Parish Facebook page at St.-Monica-Indy.

For those without access to a computer, printed copies of the novenas can be mailed by contacting Parish member Michelle Meer, 212 Delmar Ave., Indianapolis 46220. Copies can also be obtained by contacting the St. Monica Parish website at stmonicindy.org.

Information on novenas

As of July 27, the number of murders in the city in 2014 stands at 85, including 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War, and the pope said, “Never war! Never war! I think most of all about children, whose future is, and all life—not perfect, but precious.”

Pope Francis says.

The remaining novenas and intentions are:

• St. John Bosco, to end homicidal violence in schools, July 24-Aug. 1.
• St. Dominic Savio, for young people to see the value in human life, Aug. 2-10.
• St. Michael the Archangel, to protect and strengthen civil responders as they serve the community, Aug. 11-19.
• St. Joseph, for families to become schools of love, Aug. 20-28.
• St. Francis Xavier, for God to give us the grace to know our roles as peacemakers and bring hope to the hopeless, Aug. 29-Sept. 6.
• Mary, Undoer of Knots, for perpetrators and their families, Sept. 7-15.
• Mary, the Immaculate Conception, for families who lost loved ones to violence, that they know peace, Sept. 16-22.
• St. Monica, for the return of the fallen-away to peace, to choose peace instead of violence, Sept. 23-30.
• Father Goodson issued a challenge on Facebook that starts Aug. 29 and continues through Sept. 30 on the topic of violence.

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T he pope made his appeal after prayer the Angelus prayer at the Vatican’s St. Peter’s Square on July 27.

The pope’s plea came as he recalled the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War, which, with more than 37 million causalities, was one of the deadliest conflicts in history. Beginning on July 28, 1914, the “Great War” left “millions of victims and immense destruction,” Pope Francis said.

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“Let’s remember that everything is lost with war and nothing is lost with peace,” he said.
Meeting 200 Pentecostals, Holy Father renews friendship, talks unity

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—His voice breaking with emotion, Giovanni Traettino, a Pentecostal pastor in southern Italy and longtime friend of Pope Francis, welcomed the pope, “my beloved brother,” to his partially built church in Caserta.

Pope Francis enjoined visitors to build a church that “would be more vulnerable to suicide,” he said.

Pope Francis also talked about the importance of helping immigrants, praising Sweden’s generosity in opening its doors to many people. While noting anti-immigration policies show the rest of Europe “is afraid.”

In addition to the visit, the pope fulfilled one specific request of the Italian evangelical community by recognizing the complicity of some Catholics in the fascist-era persecution of Catholics and evangelicals.

“For every man, every woman has something to give us,” the pope said. “Every man, every woman has his or her own identity. The Church grows by account of, she wouldn’t be cheated. She had many great qualities,” he said.

The iPhone video message the pope made in January on the death of his mother, “opened a door to the Holy Spirit,” Msgr. Usma said. “It’s an adventure that Pope Francis is trying to follow this pattern."

If he had gone to the Pentecostals that day, without trying to follow this pattern."

Pope Francis emphasized the importance of working for peace. “We are living in a time of many attractions, not proselytizing,” the pope said.

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Slowing down, being generous and fighting for peace are part of Pope Francis’ secret recipe for happiness.

In an interview published in part in the Argentine weekly Vive on July 27, the pope listed his Top 10 tips for bringing greater joy to one’s life:

1. “Live and let live.” Everyone should be guided by this principle, he said, which has a similar expression in Rome with the saying, “Move forward, and let others do the same.”

2. “Be giving of yourself to others.” People need to be open and generous toward others, he said, because “if you withdraw into yourself, you run the risk of becoming egocentric. And stagnant water becomes putrid.”

3. “A healthy sense of leisure.” The pleasures of art, literature and playing together with children have been lost, he said.

4. “A desire to communicate.”

5. Sundays should be holidays. Workers should have Sundays off because “Sunday is for family,” he said.

6. Find innovative ways to create dignified jobs for young people. “We need to be creative with young people. If they have no opportunities they will get into drugs” and be more vulnerable to suicide, he said.

7. Respect and take care of nature. Environmental degradation “is one of the biggest challenges we have,” he said. “I think a question that we’re not asking ourselves is: ‘Is humanity committing suicide with this indiscriminate and tyrannical use of nature?’ “

8. “Letting go of negative things quickly is healthy.”

9. “Don’t proselytize; respect others’ beliefs.” “We can inspire others through witness so that one grows together in communicating. But the worst thing of all is religious proselytism, which paralyzes: ‘I am talking with you in order to persuade you.’ No. Each person dialogues, starting with his and her own identity. The Church grows by attraction, not proselytizing,” the pope said.

10. Work for peace. “We are living in a time of many wars,” he said, and “the call for peace must be shouted. Peace sometimes gives the impression of being quiet, but it is never quiet, peace is always proactive” and dynamic.

Pope Francis also talked about the importance of helping immigrants, praising Sweden’s generosity in opening its doors to many people. While noting anti-immigration policies show the rest of Europe “is afraid.”

He also fondly recalled the woman who helped his mother with the housework when he was growing up in Buenos Aires.

Concepcion Maria Minuto was a Sicilian immigrant, a widow and mother of two boys, who went three times a week to help the pope’s mother do laundry because in those days it was all done by hand.

He said this hard-working, dignified woman made a big impression on the 10-year-old future pope, as she would talk to him about World War II in Italy and how they farmed in Sicily.

“She was as clever as a fox, she had every penny accounted for, she wouldn’t be cheated. She had many great qualities,” he said.

Even though his family lost touch with her when they moved, the then-Jesuit Father Jorge Bergoglio later sought her out and visited her for the last 10 years of her life.

“A few days before she died, she took this small medal out of her pocket, gave it to me and said: ‘I want you to have it!’ So every night, when I take it off and kiss it, and every morning when I put it back on, this woman comes to my mind.”

She died happy, with a smile on her face and with the dignity of someone who worked. For that reason, I am very sympathetic toward housecleaners and domestic workers, whose rights, all of them, should be recognized and protected, he said. “They must never be exploited or mistreated.”

Pope Francis’ concern was underlined in his @Pontifex Twitter feed just a few days later, on July 29, with the message: “May we be always more grateful for the help of domestic workers and caregivers; theirs is a precious service.”

Pope Francis also gave the priests a glimpse into his thoughts about Catholic relations with the Pentecostals, which some people have found surprising, especially given how many Catholics in Pope Francis’ Latin America have joined evangelical communities.

He told the story of a priest who went on mission in a remote area of Argentina and met a woman who told him the Catholic Church had abandoned her and her fellow Catholics.

“I need the word of God, so I had to go to the Protestant service,” the woman said.

The pope said the priest apologized on behalf of the Catholic Church, but recognized and respected the depth and sincerity of her faith.

“Every man, every woman has something to give us,” the pope said. “Every man, every woman has his or her own story and situation, and we must listen. Then, the prudence of the Holy Spirit will tell us what to say.

“Never be afraid to dialogue with anyone,” Pope Francis told the Caserta priests. Dialogue is not being defensive about one’s faith, although it can mean explaining what one believes. And it is not pressuring another to join one’s faith.

Pope Benedict XVI was right when he said, “The Church grows not through proselytism, but through attraction,” Pope Francis said. And attraction is “human empathy guided by the Holy Spirit.”

Msgr. Juan Usmo Gomez, who handles the Catholic Church’s official relations with evangelicals and Pentecostals, told Vatican Radio on July 22 that Pope Francis teaches that “to work for Christian unity you need brotherhood,” which is why he continues to nurture the friendships he established in Argentina.

The iPhone video message the pope made in January with another Pentecostal friend, Bishop Tony Palmer, who died in a motorcycle accident on July 20, “opened a door because it reached a really significant number of people,” Msgr. Usmo said. “It’s an adventure that Pope Francis is asking us to establish. . . . He’s way ahead of us, and we’re trying to follow this pattern.”

In a meeting with Caserta’s Catholic priests and bishops from the Campania region on July 26, the pope originally scheduled for his visit with the Pentecostals, Pope Francis said he had not known that date was the city’s big celebration for the feast of St. Anna.

Pope Francis also greeted the crowd as he arrives to lead his general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican on June 18. In an interview published in the Argentine weekly Vive on July 27, the pope listed his Top 10 tips for bringing greater joy to one’s life. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)
Along the border: Agent has keen eye for signs of people on move

(Editor’s note: This report is based on Catholic News Service freelance writer and photographer Nancy Wieccek’s official ride-along opportunity with the U.S. Border Patrol’s Tucson sector. CNS requested but was denied access to the Nogales station’s placement center that was holding unaccompanied minors.)

NOGALES, Ariz. (CNS)—A shirtsleeve waved from the top of the border fence like a signal flag.

“Someone came over here recently,” said Border Patrol Agent Bryan Flowers pointing to the shirt and rubber-sole skid marks left on the 20-foot-tallusted steel fence.

Flowers has a keen eye for spotting signs of people on the move. He can make out fresh footprints in the dry desert sand, and easily spot newly discarded water bottles, backpacks or clothing.

A former teacher, he is among the 4,100 agents in the Tucson sector of U.S. Border Patrol charged with security along 262 miles of linear border extending from Arizona’s Yuma County to the New Mexico state line.

Other agents make daily arrests. Among those taken into custody are people looking for a better life, those seeking jobs or to be with family, and hardened criminals, including drug smugglers, human smugglers and traffickers.

Flowers, a public information officer, recently gave Catholic News Service a tour of a Border Patrol operation in southern Arizona.

“This border area is safer today than it’s ever been,” he said, outlining infrastructure improvements the agency has made over the last decade.

Upgrades in fencing, roads and monitoring technology, as well as an increase in the number of agents, have helped reduce the number of apprehensions made in the Tucson sector.

Even as apprehensions are down from an all-time high of more than 600,000 in 2000, the sector remains one of the Border Patrol’s busiest regions.

Last year, it took into custody 120,039 people, nearly 29 percent of all Border Patrol apprehensions that year. The Tucson sector also seized more than 1 million pounds of marijuana in 2013, accounting for nearly half of all the marijuana confiscated by Border Patrol the same year.

Just before 11 a.m. on July 17, the patrol’s Nogales station was processing more than 20 people—including women and children—arrested by agents a few hours earlier.

Unlike the Texas Rio Grande area, Arizona’s southern border did not experience an uptick in apprehensions of unaccompanied minors over the last reported year. The number of family-unit apprehensions in the Tucson sector for the same period did increase from 2,130 to 3,117. (A “family unit” is defined as a child or children accompanied by one or both parents).

In June and July, the Border Patrol’s Nogales station temporarily housed hundreds of undocumented children who had been apprehended in the Rio Grande sector.

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson said he and other community leaders continue to converse with Border Patrol about the treatment of people in its custody.

Most recently the focus has been on the unaccompanied children, who he said need pastoral and social services and legal representation.

“Border Patrol is ‘trying to be as sensitve and as helpful as possible in situations that are very challenging,’” he said. “However, we are asking that they be open to letting the community be helpful in caring for the spiritual needs of these children.”

The bishop said he had asked permission to collaborate Mass for children at the Nogales station, but his request was denied.

Bishop Kicanas also said there is still much concern about a 2012 Border Patrol shooting incident that left a Mexican teenager dead on the Sonoran side of the fence near Nogales. An agent or agents reportedly shot several times through the border fence as rocks were being thrown at them.

“I believe there has never been a full report or accounting of the circumstances of that shooting, which has left the family very concerned and anxious,” Bishop Kicanas said. “We have to keep an open dialogue about such cases.

“When you have as many Border Patrol agents as there are in the Tucson sector, it’s very difficult to make certain that all of them are following all the directives and rules, and that they treat everyone with dignity and respect,” Bishop Kicanas said.

At the same time, he added, it’s also helpful for those in the community to be mindful that agents are law enforcement people, not health care or social workers.

Flowers said that although Border Patrol agents’ first responsibility is to secure the border, they do show compassion and care for the individuals in their custody.

“I am not here to judge them,” the agent said. “I just have to enforce these laws.”

Border Patrol’s monitoring and detection tools include remote video and radar surveillance; mobile surveillance; K-9 units; infrared scopes; radiation monitors; road checkpoints; and unmanned aerial systems, among others.

Armed agents patrol roads and off-road areas using marked and unmarked vehicles, ATVs, horses, bicycles and by foot. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s Office of Air and Marine provides air support.

Even as Border Patrol bolsters its abilities to keep criminals from sneaking into the U.S., it witnesses breaches every day.

The Tucson sector reported that in early July alone its agents had seized five vehicles, more than $1.1 million in narcotics and apprehended 23 people in connection with criminal cases.

Flowers said criminal elements have means to monitor Border Patrol from Mexico and inside the U.S., and they employ a host of tactics, including violence, to distract or intimidate agents.

And does fencing help in the overall border security strategy?

Fences serve mainly as obstacles to those who are determined to make it over, said Flowers.

“Fencing is not necessarily going to stop a person from entering the country,” he said. “You can’t stop a person’s will to cross if that’s what they’ve decided to do. People will try to go over, through or even under any fence.”

Fencing does provide more time for agents to respond to illegal crossings. But it’s only one facet of Border Patrol’s overall plan to deter, detect and identify unlawful activity, Flowers said.

“There is no one-fix solution to keeping our borders safe.”

U.S. Border Patrol Agent Bryan Flowers stands on a hill near the international border west of Nogales, Ariz., on July 16. He told Catholic News Service that fencing along the international border serves as an obstacle to unlawful crossings, but it “can’t stop a person’s will to cross if that’s what they’ve decided to do.” (CNS photo/Nancy Wieccek)

Trucks and cars stop at the U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint along Interstate 19 near Tubac, Ariz., on July 16. The checkpoint is located about 25 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border.
By Sean Gallagher

Like many Catholics around the world, Glenn Tebbe has admired the way Father John Geis has served the church in his pastoral ministry in the 15 months since he became its pastor in 1973. He grew up in Decatur County and has lived in Enochsburg for nearly 40 years after working for more than 17 years he served as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Greenfield. He has been an inspiration in my life.”

One comment by the professor stuck with Father Geis. “He really was a critical element, because, in essence, all of those projects required us as a parish to come together and agree to them and support them,” Byrne said. “He had the ability to bring us together and help us to explore these opportunities and to get us to work together.”

“That was important to me,” Byrne said. “I think I also saw the gifts in people and definitely tried to encourage the use of those gifts.”

Hiring a variety of parish staff members with their gifts and expertise not only benefited St. Mary Parish, but Father Geis in his own priestly ministry and life. “To collaborate like that really built my confidence and my own spirituality,” he said. “That’s why I like so much the current Holy Father’s approach to collaborating with people and really doing things for the Church that should be done today.”

The confidence Father Geis gained at St. Mary served as the basis for the leadership he gave to a series of significant projects he oversaw in the 17 years he served as pastor of St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish in Floyd County from 1993 until his retirement in 2010.

During that time, the New Albany Deanery faith community renovated its historic church, opened a parish school, built a parish activity center and a new church building.

The last of these initiatives took shape after Father Geis turned 70 when he could have requested to retire. Instead, he agreed to stay on and oversee the $12 million project.

Pat Byrne is a St. Mary-of-the-Knobs parishioner who collaborated with Father Geis in many of these efforts. He saw his former pastor as the lynching for them all. “He really was a critical element, because, in essence, all of those projects required us as a parish to come together and agree to them and support them,” Byrne said. “He had the ability to bring us together and help us to explore these opportunities and to get us to work together.”

“Father John took us to another level.”

While Father Geis was an effective leader in brick-and-mortar projects, Byrne said he always kept sight of the spiritual meaning of all of them.

“That’s what I think,” Byrne said. “He was that person whose presence could help underwrite the work of the parish.”

Father Geis said the Spirit at work when a group of about 60 parishioners came together to begin the renovation of the parish’s older church. “That was a real joy for me to do that,” Sister Shirley said. “He wants to minister until his last breath. He has been an inspiration in my life.”

For his part, Father Geis hopes he can see his former pastor for another 10 years. “I think I really was a most rewarding life.”

 Favorable hobby: Fishing

 Favorite prayer or devotion: The rosary

 Favorite author: Matthew Kelly

 Favorite hobby: St. John the Apostle

 Seminary: College Seminary in St. Mary, Ky.

 College: St. Mary’s College Seminary in South Bend, Ind.

 Parish: St. Mary Parish in Greenfield, Ind.

 Diocese: Diocese of Evansville

 Birthplace: Decatur County

 Current residence: Decatur County

 Graduated from: St. Mary’s College Seminary in South Bend, Ind.

 Current occupation: Parish priest

 Ordained: May 3, 1964

 Married: No

 Number of children: 0

 Age: 78

 Children: 0

 Siblings: 0

 Married to: No

view: Church not fully

 The Council of Nicaea (325 AD) was one of the early councils and served as a pivotal moment in the development of Christian doctrine. It was called to address the Arian controversy, and its decisions had far-reaching implications for the church's understanding of the nature of God and the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Council of Nicaea was significant for several reasons:

1. **Reconciliation and Unity**: The Council brought about a resolution to the Arian controversy, which had divided the early church. The decision to define the Father as the Word of the Son, and the Son as the Word of the Father, helped to ensure that the church would remain united.

2. **Fundamental Doctrine**: The decisions of the Council were foundational to the development of Christian doctrine. They laid the groundwork for understanding the nature of God and the personhood of Christ.

3. **Historic Importance**: The Council of Nicaea was one of the first and most important ecumenical councils in the history of the church. It set the precedent for future councils and. (Read all of these stories from our "July 31, 1964, issue by logging on to our archives at www.CriterionOnline.com)
No syllabus can prepare us for God's lessons in the 'school' of life

While shopping for back-to-school supplies with my children, we ran into a baby that was crying. The baby was wearing a dress, and I thought that she was someone who was being taken to a hospital. She was being held by a lady who was wearing a white coat and glasses. She asked me if she could look at the baby. I said yes, and she began to play with the baby. She put her hand on the baby's face and said, "This is a precious child of God." I thought that it was very touching and encouraging. I could tell that she was a very caring and loving person. I would love to see more people like her in the world.

The Supreme—she, the sing—ers are finding what heaven but heartache as controversy swings during their singing. A fruitless search for perfection, the result of lowered tolerance for human error, is resulting in criticism of the Supreme Court since its decision in the Hobby Lobby case.!

Exempting closely held businesses from some elements of the Affordable Care Act. There have been calls to overturn the decision, to deter the high court as the ultimate decision-maker. There is dissatisfaction with finality. The justice system, it is true, is a measure of procedure. Thus, any two of the sides involved is going to be unhappy with a decision. Of course there is a contradiction to be found with a court that determines a corporation to be a legal person but an unborn human is not. We are looking for a final—maybe not perfect—decision.

Some complaints about the Hobby Lobby decision centered on a key point. The Supreme—she, the jurist, not the singer—are finding what heaven but heartache as controversy swings during their singing. A fruitless search for perfection, the result of lowered tolerance for human error, is resulting in criticism of the Supreme Court since its decision in the Hobby Lobby case.!

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Sunday Readings

Sunday, August 3, 2014

• Isaiah 55:1-3
• Romans 8:35, 37-39
• Matthew 14:13-21

The last and third section of the Book of Isaiah is the source of this week’s first reading. The first section of Isaiah was written when the Hebrews were living in the Promised Land, although clashes among them had devolved them into two kingdoms. Divided, weakened and small, these countries were vulnerable before the imperialistic ambitions of neighboring powers. These vulnerabilities proved decisive when the strong Babylonian Empire overran the Hebrew kingdoms. It was a fearful day. Many died. Others were taken to Babylon, the empire’s capital, located in modern Iraq. Those who were left in the land languished in want and fear.

At last, Babylonia itself fell. The exiles returned, only to find a sterile land, where generations had passed. Exiles returned, only to find a sterile land, where generations had passed. At the time of this composition, people literally had to worry about their next meal. For its second reading, the Church offers the story of the five loaves and the feeding of the five thousand.

The prophecy’s words were very relevant. There was a great need. The Lord indeed gave a compassionate gift founded on the love of the Lord. St. Matthew’s Gospel provides the third reading. It is the familiar and beloved story of the feeding of the five thousand. The story line is well known. A large crowd followed Jesus, and within this crowd are sick people. Typically, and as surely the sick hoped, the compassionate Jesus healed the sick. Here, however, it should be noted that healing had then a meaning far different from healing an injury or disease today. It was overcoming the evil effects of sin. The ancient Jewish idea was that human sin brought every distress into the world.

At the same time, there was almost no food, only five loaves of bread and a few fish. Unwilling to send the people away, Jesus provided for them. The food, blessed it gave it to the disciples to distribute, and the leftovers filled 12 baskets.

This miracle anticipates the Eucharist. Important in the story is the role of the disciples. They literally gave the food, blessed and multiplied by Jesus, to the great throng. (Sandra Bierly is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany and a Benedictine oblate of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad. Leah Przek is a summer day camp/“Totus Tuus” counselor, and a Benedictine oblate of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad. Leah Przek is a summer day camp/“Totus Tuus” counselor, and a Benedictine oblate of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad. Leah Przek is a summer day camp/“Totus Tuus” counselor, and a Benedictine oblate of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad. Leah Przek is a summer day camp/“Totus Tuus” counselor, and a Benedictine oblate of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad.

Reflection

A great, constant, and underlying message of the New Testament is that there is more to life than what humans see or hear around them. A basic lesson of the Church, largely overlooked today, is that human existence is eternal, either in heaven or hell.

Everything in the New Testament must be seen in this context. So the story in this weekend’s Gospel is not simply about physical hunger, which passes with earthly death, but nourishment for the eternal soul. This fact is obvious. Humans are weak and unable to provide everything for themselves. They cannot assure eternal life for themselves.

The Church’s reassuring message is that God provides, most perfectly, completely and finally in Jesus. The Lord indeed gave us food, of which nothing else suffices. And he continues to do this today through the Church, his great, compassionate gift founded on the disciples. A final lesson is that all Christians should give to others as Jesus gave. 

Daily Readings

Monday, August 4
St. John Vianney, priest
Jeremiah 28:1-17
Psalms 119:29, 43, 79-80, 95, 102
Matthew 24:22-36

Tuesday, August 5
The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
Jeremiah 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22
Psalms 102:16-23, 29
Matthew 14:22-36 or Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday, August 6
The Transfiguration of the Lord
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 9, 2 Peter 1:16-19
Matthew 17:1-9

Thursday, August 7
St. Sixtus II, pope, and his companions, martyrs
St. Cajetan, priest
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalms 51:12-15, 18-19
Matthew 16:13-23

My Journey to God

Childhood Memories

By Sandra Bierly

Running barefoot through the fields, Turning and shouting towards the woods, Then waiting for the echo’s reply, Proclaiming the freedom of a child Who is protected by the angels on high.

(Sandra Bierly is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany and a Benedictine oblate of St. Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad. Leah Przek laughs as her water balloon bursts during a game on the final day of “Totus Tuus,” a summer day camp/mission program at St. Stephen Deacon and Martyr Church in Florence, Ky.)

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, N.Y. 12208.

Relax and don’t worry. It’s very likely that your husband will have a Catholic funeral Mass. Here is what the Church’s Code of Canon Law says #1183, Section 3: “In the judgment of the local ordinary, ecclesiastical funerals can be granted to baptized persons who are enrolled in a non-Catholic church or ecclesiastical community unless their intention is evidently to the contrary and provided that their minister is not available.” Assuming that your husband was once baptized, there are two other requirements: One is that he has not said that he does not want to have a Catholic funeral; the other is that his minister is unavailable, and since he has been attending Mass with you for many years, the practical reality is that he does have his own minister.

I would think that you would have no problem—especially since your husband has been so supportive of your family’s Catholic practice.
Rest in peace

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


DEVINE, Helene, 90, St. Andrew the Apostle, Indianapolis, May 19.


GUTIERREZ, Angelica Maria, 87, St. Andrew the Apostle, Indianapolis, March 11. Mother of Linda Gutierrez Gardner, Manicela and Jose Hernandez, Margarita Gutierrez Mesa, Gloria, Manuel Jr. and Pete Gutierrez. Sister of Lucha Gallardo. Grandmother of several. Great-grandmother of several.


NEAD, Georgia Viiolet, 92, St. Anne, New Castle, July 15. Sister of Mary Gray and Sherman H. Neal.


The blessing of freedom

Pope Francis blesses Mertam Ibrahim of Sudan during a private meeting at the Vatican on July 24. The Sudanese woman, who was spared a death sentence for converting from Islam to Christianity and then was barred from leaving Sudan, flew into Rome on July 24 in an Italian government plane. ( CNS photo/Osservatore Romano via Reuters)

Archbishop says neither Church nor courts can change nature of marriage

MIAWI (CNS)—A Florida county judge’s ruling that same-sex couples have a right to marry “represents another salvo in the ‘culture wars’ that ultimately seek to redefine the institution of marriage as solely for adult gratification,” said Miami’s archbishop.

Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski praised Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi for her decision to appeal the July 17 ruling by Judge Luis M. Garcia of Monroe County Circuit Court. The announcement that an appeal will be filed automatically stayed the ruling.

Across the country a day later, a three-judge panel of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver upheld rulings that struck down Oklahoma’s same-sex marriage ban. The court said the case was moot because a lawsuit brought by same-sex couples in the Florida Keys who challenged a validly approved state constitution of defining marriage as solely between a man and a woman “violates the right of homosexual couples to marry.” His ruling in Huntsman v. Heavilin applies only to Monroe County.

“While Judge Garcia spoke of ‘rights,’ ” Archbishop Wenski said in a July 18 statement. “Marriage, a union between one man and one woman and any children that arise from that union, is an institution that precedes Church and state; therefore neither Church nor state has any authority to change the nature of marriage.

“Since time immemorial, marriage has been primarily about the raising of children, who seem to be hardwired to be best raised by a father and a mother who are married to each other,” he continued. “Regardless of Catholic moral teaching on the subject, society has a legitimate interest in preserving marriage as a way of investing in the future of society by providing for the human flourishing of upcoming generations.”

The Catholic Church opposes redefining marriage and teaches that any sexual activity outside of marriage is sinful. But it also teaches that the dignity of homosexual individuals must be respected as well as their rights as people, such as the right to employment and freedom from unjust discrimination.

Archbishop Wenski in his statement reiterated that the Church’s “affirmation of marriage as being between a man and a woman is not motivated by unjust discrimination or animosity toward anyone. Human dignity is manifested in all persons, and all have the capacity for and are deserving of love.”

The U.S. Catholic bishops, he added, “will continue to promote the truth of marriage, its foundational significance to society, and its importance to children.”

In Florida, there is no legal recognition for same-sex couples on the state level. Lawsuits that have been filed challenging the state law protecting traditional marriage include Pareto v. Ruvin, filed in the 11th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida in January by six same-sex couples, some of whom have children or grandchildren.

The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops has filed an amicus curiae brief with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida in the case of Brenner v. Scott. The plaintiffs, a same-sex couple married in Canada in 2009, want to have their marriage recognized in the state of Florida. The case has been joined with Grimsley v. Scott, brought by eight legally married same-sex couples, challenging the state of Florida’s refusal to recognize their marriages.

The 2-1 ruling on Oklahoma’s law came from the same three-judge panel that ruled on June 25 that states could not deprive people of the right to marry because they chose partners of the same sex. If affected Utah, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Wyoming, Utah and Oklahoma was the first to appeal that earlier ruling.
In neighboring African countries, U.S. bishop sees hope, despite trauma.

CAPETOWN, South Africa (CNS)—Among almost a million people displaced from their homes through conflict in the Central African Republic are 9,000 people who have found refuge at a seminary in the capital, Bangui.

An “unbelievable number of children” are among these refugees at St. Mark’s Major Seminary, said Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, noting that the mean age in the country is 18.

“Everyone there has been traumatized. They have all witnessed atrocities,” he said, noting that the “generosity and kindness” of the Church authorities who keep the seminary’s gates open to those fleeing violence “serve as an example of how to react in a crisis.”


Thousands of people have been killed in the Central African Republic since the majority Christian state descended into ethnic-religious warfare in March 2013, and almost a quarter of the country’s 4.6 million inhabitants have been displaced.

The former French colony has a “strong presence” of French and other peacekeepers, with the result that Bangui is secure and there are limited efforts to secure the rest of the country,” Bishop Pates said.

“People seem to have a glimmer of hope that enables them to start up their lives again,” he said in a July 20 telephone interview from Bangui.

The U.S. delegation met with the interim president of the Central African Republic, Catherine Samba-Panza, who is Catholic, Bishop Pates said.

“She told us of the urgent need to restore order and to develop the economy,” he said, noting that Samba-Panza has a “good relationship” with the country’s bishops’ conference and is “familiar with the strong principles of social justice.”

The bishop said the country’s bishops told him the Central African Republic “has a history of corrupt governments that are not interested in the common good and that this needs to change, along with the culture of impunity.”

“People are literally getting away with murder,” he said, noting that the bishops and other religious leaders who have formed an interfaith forum emphasized the need for people to be held accountable for their actions.

“Without a process of justice, the violence will continue,” he said. Religious and other leaders told the U.S. delegation that their focus is on how to educate a country that is in deep crisis and emphasized the “need for healing from the trauma people have experienced,” he said.

With a population of mostly young people, the Central African Republic must prioritize education, jobs and health care, Bishop Pates said, noting that he saw “great frustration” among the youths who see no future for themselves.

In Juba, South Sudan, the trauma of the current ethnic conflict “has affected its people to their bones, and it will take a long time before healing can take place,” Bishop Pates said.

The Rev. Peter Gai Luul Marrow, moderator of the Presbyterian Church in South Sudan, told Bishop Pates he had witnessed “unbelievable atrocities” in the conflict that since mid-December has claimed thousands of lives and forced more than one million people to flee.

The Presbyterian moderator “saw an unprecedented level of terror—people were killed and their bodies strewn outside the town to be eaten by dogs and birds,” the bishop said.

The South Sudanese President Salva Kiir fired his deputy, Riiek Machar, in July 2013, the latest fighting began. The political rivalry reopened deep ethnic tensions in the country that has more than 60 ethnic groups. Kiir comes from the dominant Dinka group, while Machar is from another major tribe, the Nuer.

“Great harm and damage has been done to South Sudan through the rivalry of these two men, who are following their own agenda rather than that of the country,” he said.

Near Juba, airports are occupied by the army and there is “almost a complete lack of oversight,” Bishop Pates said.

“People are depending on international aid that are severely, barely tolerable, with little sanitation and an “almost inhuman” lack of facilities,” Bishop Pates said. “There are 10,000 people, including thousands of children, are living in a very concentrated area.”

Bishop Pates said he was “touched by their remarkable spirit despite their very difficult situation.”

While the political leaders “try to use the Church to create divisions,” the Catholic, Episcopalian and Presbyterian leaders “are strongly linked and working together for peace, human rights and reconciliation,” Bishop Pates said.

They have a vision of an inclusive country where resources are shared and used for education, jobs and development,” he said.

“South Sudan needs the world’s help to achieve peace, and in spite of our deep disappointment” that there is new conflict after the country’s hopeful and celebrated start, “we need to help and support its people,” Bishop Pates said.

“Radical improvement” to living conditions, including jobs and education, is needed, Bishop Pates, noting that on a visit to the mother of a Des Moines-based priest he saw severe poverty.

Although having running water and other resources that the developed world takes for granted, the priest’s mother, in her 70s, “has very strong faith, remarkable spirit and vigor,” Bishop Pates said.

While she and many others in her community “are very positive in the midst of enormous difficulties, we must not take advantage of this attitude,” he said.

The world “must address the needs of the poor, to enable people to live in a dignified manner,” he said.

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Serra Club vocations essay:

Priests, deacons and religious show God’s love in life, ministry

(Editors note: The following is the fifth in a series of articles from the annual Serra Club’s 2014 John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest.)

By Brian Martindale

Serra Club vocations essay

When one thinks of love, oftentimes the first image is that of a married man and his wife.

In this relationship, the love is obvious as the two care for each other, and it is a beautiful way in which God chooses to demonstrate just a fraction of his infinite love for us. However, it can be more difficult to understand how those in religious vocations—sisters, deacons, priests and others—respond similarly to their call to love. However, this response is obvious when one truly sees how God can work in and through them.

One of the most basic ways in which we can see priests, men and women religious and laypeople responding to the call of love is through their sacrifice.

As Christ himself said, “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (Jn 15:13).

Is this not what our priests and our religious do? They offer their lives as a sacrifice to God, giving up what pleases them to have had in family life or the whole life, in order to better serve us. Truly, this is a response to a calling of love.

Another profound way in which those in such vocations respond to a calling of love is through their great ministry. As they offer the sacraments, teach or even just lead by example, their ministry is to bring others closer to Christ.

They work tirelessly to spread the Gospel, to turn the world to Christ and to share God with their fellow man. This great desire to bring God to every person is one of the most loving actions a person could ever do: to bring love in such a meaningful way into the life of every person. This, in a very real way, is the true response to a calling of love.

Finally, they respond to a calling of love by choosing to turn to Love Himself. As they pattern their lives off of their Eternal Maker, they themselves can grow closer to Him as they share His love with those around them.

By following and listening to their calling of love, they can then share with the world as they continue to respond to their call.

As priests, permanent deacons and men and women religious live out their vocation, they respond to their calling of love. By giving up their lives for their Church, spreading the Gospel and the Good News of Jesus Christ, and by growing in their journeymen ships, each individual responds to the call to love and serve just as our Lord and God did and continues to do.

(Brian and his parents, Gary and Sandy Martindale, are members of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese. He completed the 11th grade at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis last spring, and is the 11th-grade division winner in the Serra Club’s 2014 John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest.)
Hot summer days are often opportunities for the Church to form young disciples of Christ through vacation Bible schools (VBS). The newly formed All Saints Parish in Dearborn County took hold of this opportunity in a unique way earlier this summer.

“Walking in the Light of Christ,” was the title of their unique vacation Bible school program, a dream that became a reality for Father Jonathan Meyer, pastor of All Saints Parish. The program was based on the five Luminous Mysteries of the rosary. Each evening of the five-night program, the young participants learned about one of the five Luminous Mysteries—the baptism of Jesus, the wedding at Cana, the proclamation of the kingdom of God, the Transfiguration and the Institution of the Eucharist.

St. John Paul II gave the Church the Luminous Mysteries in 2003. So it only seemed fitting to Father Meyer to celebrate this gift of the rosary during the year in which the late pontiff was declared a saint.

The program was dynamic and fun for the participants. The youth were engaged with music, games, Scripture, skits, crafts, snack time and, most importantly, prayer.

According to Father Meyer, everything in the program pointed back to the scriptural mystery that was being focused on each night. Original Luminous Mystery vacation Bible school songs were written by Matthew Keck. They emphasized the Scripture passage of the night. The games were tailored each night to remind the children of the message of salvation that was being put forward.

Even the snacks emphasized the theme. The blessing of Jesus featured blue Jello with gummy fish snacks for the Jordan River, and whipped cream for the cloud out of which God the Father spoke and identified Jesus as his Son.

Father Meyer collaborated with a team of youth ministers in 2008 to develop the idea for this VBS program. It was originally used during a eucharistic retreat for teenagers.

In 2010, Father Meyer applied the idea for the first time to a vacation Bible school for children at St. Mary Parish in North Vernon, where he was serving as pastor. Father Meyer worked on this project with Rebecca Stone, now a teacher at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School in Greenwood.

With the help of Patsy Oehlem, Dom and Michelle Paquette, the effort has blossomed into an amazing program for youths and their parents.

“When I was a seminarian and helped with VBS and even in my early years of priesthood, I realized that VBS programs were great to bring youths together and inspire them,” Father Meyer said. “However, the gimmick that the youth often left with was not authentically Catholic. This program that we designed is authentically Catholic. And what is better than the rosary and John Paul II?”

In what Zelon described as a “perfect storm,” Zelon, the father of a high school star—who would play four years at Harvard, on teams that won two Ivy League championships—found a story that spoke to him. And, he hopes, to many more.

De La Salle High School would run that winning streak to 151 games, over a dozen years, before losing. But the story told in When the Game Stands Tall is much bigger than wins and losses. Ladouceur not only coached football at De La Salle, but also taught religion.

For Zelon, finding the right director was essential. “Thomas Carter really fit the bill perfectly,” Zelon said. “He captured the raw emotion of sports in Coach Carter. He’s a huge sports fan.”

Coach Carter recounted the story of the Richmond (California) High School coach who took his team off the court until the student-athletes’ grades improved.

In casting the lead role of Ladouceur, Zelon said he was “looking for somebody who worked on multiple levels.”

“He needed to be somebody who understood sports,” he said. “He needed to understand iconic coaching. He needed to be athletic himself. He needed to have a basis of faith in his life, so he would fit both sides and give us balance.”

Scott Marshall Smith went to a De La Salle football game. “The players also earned his respect. About a year after he had received the rights to the book, Zelon and screenwriter Scott Marshall Smith went to a De La Salle football game.

“One of the things that impressed me about this team immensely was something that happened in the locker room after the game. They were playing a team, and were beating them. They were up 35-0 at the half. Lad said, ‘Seniors, you’re done for the night.’”

The juniors went into the game. De La Salle ultimately won 49-7.

Afterward, Zelon overheard some talk around the lockers—it was eight of the juniors discussing their effort that night, including the fact they “only scored 14 points in the whole second half.”

Zelon found Ladouceur to be an interesting character. “He doesn’t have to preach,” he said. “He just does it. He loves it. He walks the talk.”

Ladouceur echoed that sentiment about “Lad” being a man of few words. “He’s a guy in a room, and he’s not saying much. He’s looking at his coaches. He knows they’re capable of doing what they do. He lets them coach. But his presence is felt,” he told the Oakland paper in a separate interview.

What he read in the script “had great redemption in it,” CAVIEZEL added. He spoke to the paper in Charlotte, N.C., where the film was screened for attendees at the annual Catholic Media Conference in mid-June.

From his own time on the basketball court in high school and knowing some top coaches over the years, Caviezel said he has seen firsthand how turning boys into men, working on the qualities of the inner self and “sacrifice, brotherhood, commitment … are so essential in having a strong team.”

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