Jami Allee’s deepened faith and love for God have become the foundations for her marriage with her husband of 21 years, David.

Despite differences, couple supports each other through respect, love and patience

(One in a continuing series on marriage.)

By John Shaughnessy

Like most couples, Jami and David Allee have learned more than a few lessons about life and love during their 21 years of marriage.

They know that even the day-to-day routines of living are marked by challenges and celebrations. They’ve come to understand there are moments when faith restores and deepens love—and love restores and deepens faith.

They’ve also learned that their marriage is a journey, sometimes taking them in directions they never expected.

“Our marriage is somewhat unusual because I am a Panamanian native married to an American,” Jami notes. “Our race is different. So are our languages, cultures and beliefs. I’m a cradle Catholic, and my husband does not practice any religion. We could not be more different.”

They met at a dance club, four years after she and her two sisters moved from Panama to Indianapolis in 1987 to learn English as a second language. It was a time when their love and their faith would be tested. And there are moments when faith restores and deepens love—and love

Pope calls for more ‘integration’ of divorced Catholics, gays

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis said that the Catholic Church must consider various ways to integrate the divorced and civilly remarried in the life of the Church—not merely allowing them to receive Communion, but letting them serve as extraordinary ministers of holy Communion and godparents—and to make it easier for Catholic families to accept their homosexual members.

The pope also said he would travel to three Latin American countries and several African countries in 2015, and that major reforms of the Vatican bureaucracy, including the possible appointment of a married couple to head a new office, will not be ready before 2016.

Pope Francis made his remarks in an interview published on Dec. 7 in the Argentine newspaper La Nación. The interview, with journalist Elisabetta Pique, was conducted on Dec. 4 in the pope’s suite at the Vatican guesthouse, where he lives.

The pope answered several questions about the October 2014 Synod of Bishops on the family, which considered a controversial proposal to allow some divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to receive Communion even without an annulment of their first, sacramental marriages. By Church law, such Catholics may not receive Communion unless they abstain from sexual relations, living as “brother and sister” with their new partners.

Regarding such Catholics, “we posed the question, what do we do with them? What door can be opened for them?” Pope Francis said. “Communion alone is no solution. The solution is integration.”

The pope promised several currently prohibited activities, including serving as godparents and performing various ways to integrate the divorced and civilly remarried in the life of the Church—not merely allowing them to receive Communion, but letting them serve as extraordinary ministers of holy Communion and godparents—and to make it easier for Catholic families to accept their homosexual members.

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catholics and distributing Communion, that he said amounted to the de facto excommunication of divorced and civilly married Catholics.

“Let us open the doors a bit more. Why can’t they be godfathers and godmothers?” Pope Francis said, dismissing the objection that they would set a poor example for the baptized.

Divorced and civilly married godparents offer their godchild the “testimony of a man and a woman saying, ‘My dear, I made a mistake. I was wrong here, but I believe the Lord loves me, I want to follow God, I was not defeated by sin. I want to move on.’ Is anything more Christian than that?”

Such godparents are more worthy of their role than “political crooks” who happen to be properly wedded, he said.

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“Is anything more Christian than that?”

Pope Francis said his ongoing reform of the Vatican bureaucracy is a “slow process” that will not be ready before 2016. He said it was possible that a new office, the product of a merger of the current pontifical councils for the Laity, the Family and Justice and Peace, could be headed by a woman or even a married couple.

The pope also announced that he would travel in 2015 to “some African countries” and three Latin American countries, not including his native Argentina, which will have to wait until 2016.

In his address, the pope said, “We have to find a way to help that father or that mother stand by their [homosexual] son or daughter. That’s what the synod addressed. That’s why someone mentioned positive factors [of same-sex unions] in the first draft. But that was just a draft.”

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DENVER (CNS)—The Little Sisters of the Poor aren’t seeking special privileges. They just want the same exemption from the federal mandate requiring nearly all employers to provide abortifacients, sterilizations and contraceptives to all employees that is offered to others, a provincial in the order said on Dec. 8.

"I believe they are right, they should not be forced to provide contraception," said Bernice Bertolli, 63, a retired legal secretary and member of Holy Ghost Parish in Denver, was among those waiting outside the courthouse to hear the arguments in the Little Sisters of the Poor appeal.

"I am really doing what we believe is right for the Little Sisters. I had a good feeling coming out," she said.

"They can certainly get contraceptives to people they want to get them to without involving the Little Sisters," a Catholic News Service report from HHS was not immediately returned.

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**Slow down, witness to Christ during Advent, Christmas and beyond**

If you take to heart the messages many in our ever-growing secular society send us, we are way behind if we haven’t almost completed our Christmas and holiday shopping.

Many retailers had their “holiday” decorations on display—as many politically correct people try to remind us since they tell us we can’t specify just the season of Christmas any more—before the warmth of summer days had ceased and the coolness of fall nights had replaced them.

The message is crystal-clear. Let’s zip through Halloween and barely get our plates from our Thanksgiving dinner and our eyes distracted by the Internet traffic to get good online buys on Cyber Monday.

As Catholics, something tells us things should be a little different—much different—than the way this time of year is portrayed. We know there are much more important things than fighting the traffic and crowds at the nearest mall.

We are in the second week of Advent, now two weeks from Christmas, and we should be slowing down, not letting chaos reign as we prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth.

In a homily he shared during Advent in 2013, Pope Francis reminded us that, though many may be spending time searching for the perfect gift during this time of year, it might be even more difficult to find the perfect Advent atmosphere: a bit of silence.

“If we take time to examine our lives, we can search for ways to find that quiet time that is desperately needed this time of year. One question we should also ask ourselves is: How do I listen more closely to Christ during Advent? Why not?”

• Turn the radio or CD player off driving to or from work, and spend the time in prayer. Or just be silent. Listen to hear if God speaks to you.

• Make a visit to an adoration chapel and spend some time in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

• Get away from the distractions and find a quiet space in your home to pray the rosary or any other prayer that seems appropriate.

• Participate in an Advent reconciliation service at your parish or a nearby parish.

Though the calendar year is nearly complete, Advent offers us another opportunity to give ourselves the spiritual recharge many of us need in our lives of faith.

As Advent drew to a close in 2013, Pope Francis asked Catholics to imagine themselves as Mary. During Advent’s final week, “the Church is like Mary. She is awaiting a birth.”

Pope Francis said, Mary, believers should say of Jesus and mean with all their hearts: “Come! I want to see your face.”

Advent, then Christmas and the entire liturgical year, gives us the chance to share that Good News with all people who cross our path—“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us’” (Mt 1:23, 8:14).

May we slow down, and always allow our lives to witness to this tenet of our faith.

—Mike Krokos

**Letter to the Editor**

**Sisters’ letter was thoughtful, but misleading, reader says**

The “Be Our Guest” written by the Sisters of Providence in the Dec. 5 issue of The Criterion was a thoughtful, but misleading, response to the events in Ferguson, Mo.

I applaud the sisters for their efforts to “transform the congregation into an open, inclusive and anti-racist congregation.” They had many meaningful suggestions to promote more dialogue to further educate ourselves on these issues. More communications will surely improve relations between the parties involved.

I especially support “ongoing dialogue regarding the statistics mentioned in the letter concluded. Those statistics consisted of: 1) 34 percent of the persons in prisons and jails are African-American and 2) Of the state’s population, African-Americans make up only 9 percent.”

In these statistics, the Sisters of Providence’s Anti-Racism Team concluded we live “in a culture of gun violence, ongoing racial profiling and increasing militarization of law enforcement, as well as a criminal justice system rampant with racist narratives and violations.”

These conclusions may all be true, but are they the “cause” of those statistics, the “cause” of the violence or rather “rampant rights violations,” which needs further proof, these sad statistics are very likely the result of the state of affairs as they exist today.

We all know what happened in Ferguson, but we do not know why it happened. The grand jury had so much more evidence than we did.

—Mike Krokos

**Letters Policy**

Letters from readers are welcome and should be no more than 200 words long, typed, doubled spaced, with references as necessary. They should include the writer’s name, address and phone number. Letters should be sent to “Letters to the Editor,” The Criterion, 480 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.

**Letters to the Editor**

Dear Editor,

Patience has never been my strong suit. Waiting can feel agonizingly prolonged and sometimes pointless.

Often, the effort to be patient is accompanied by varying degrees of excitement or fear—whether it comes from awaiting a currently unsustainable good, living through a painful situation, or the loss of a number of other reasons.

In the last couple of years, I’ve begun to question more deeply what patience is, realizing that it must be more than waiting for something.

One day, while crawling along in traffic, I considered what God might be offering me in that moment. Taking in my surroundings with this question in mind, I noticed some flowers growing on the median. The small buds waved gently in the breeze, and as I enjoyed the simple moment of beauty and serenity, I had a realization.

Perhaps part of practicing patience is engaging in the present moment, being present and looking for whatever it is that God has in it for us. He gives us so much that we often overlook. Had I settled for staring inwardly over the traffic, I could easily have missed this valuable life lesson, which I’ve found also applies to periods of awaiting and suffering a larger scale.

This is not to say we ought to shut our eyes and ignore what is painful to us. Rather, we can take comfort in the fact that even in the midst of challenging situations, there is always something for us. Christ gives meaning to our suffering, and showed us in his passion and death that he can bring good out of the worst situations.

Moreover, as retired Pope Benedict XVI wrote in his encyclical “Saved in Hope,” we can search for ways to find that quiet time that is desperately needed this time of year. One question we should also ask ourselves is: How do I listen more closely to Christ during Advent? Why not?

• Turn the radio or CD player off driving to or from work, and spend the time in prayer. Or just be silent. Listen to hear if God speaks to you.

• Make a visit to an adoration chapel and spend some time in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

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May we slow down, and always allow our lives to witness to this tenet of our faith.

—Mike Krokos

“Man is worth so much to God that he himself became man in order to suffer with man in an utterly real way—in flesh and blood... Hence in all human suffering, we are joined by one who experiences and carries that suffering with us” (#39).

We are not alone. We are not abandoned in suffering, whether great or small.

As imitators of Christ, we also are called to share compassionately in the suffering of others and share Jesus’ love with our brothers and sisters. Pope Francis recently addressed the Association of Italian Doctors and spoke to them about the nature of authentic compassion.

“The dominant thinking sometimes suggests a ‘false compassion,’ that which believes that it is helpful to women to promote abortion; an act of dignity to obtain euthanasia; a scientific breakthrough to ‘produce’ a child and to consider it to be a right rather than a gift to welcome; or to use human lives as guinea pigs presumably to save others. Instead, the compassion of the Good Samaritan is the ‘sees,’ ‘has compassion,’ approaches and provides concrete help” (cf. Lk 10:33).

When we choose to engage actively in the present moment and appreciate God’s gift of life, we open the door to a deeper relationship with Christ.

This awareness and friendship with Jesus can open our eyes to how we may be involved in the company of others in their suffering and show them his love.

As we continue our pilgrimage on Earth together, let us hold fast to God, who is the source of all true compassion.

Anne McGuire is assistant director of Education and Outreach for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat for Life Activities. To learn more about the bishops’ pro-life activities, please visit http://www.usccb.org/prolife/
El Adviento es una época de preparación para la venida de Cristo

**Todas recordamos la aclamación que solíamos cantar durante la oración eucarística: “Christo ha muerto. Cristo ha resucitado. Cristo volverá. **

Durante la Santa Misa, recordamos y revivimos los tres misterios de nuestra fe: el sacrificio de Cristo, la pasión, muerte y resurrección, la paz, y las oportunidades especiales para meditar acerca de estos misterios sagrados. La Cuaresma y la Navidad nos ayudan a prepararnos para la muerte de Cristo.

Durante la Pascua celebramos la alegría de la resurrección de nuestro Señor. El Adviento es la temporada de espera atenta para el “regreso” de Jesús.

Siempre he considerado el Adviento como una época de preparación para celebrar las tres venidas de Jesús: en Belén, hoy en día y al final de los tiempos (la parusía).

Lo que podríamos llamar la primera venida de Jesús, su nacimiento en Belén, fue un hecho histórico así como también uno de los grandes misterios de la gracia de Dios (la encarnación). La Navidad es el día en el que celebramos el misterio de la venida de Cristo, el nacimiento del Dios-hombre, la aparición milagrosa del muy esperado “Emmanuel,” que significa: “Dios con nosotros.”

La última venida de Jesús todavía no es un hecho histórico, pero creo que lo será algún día. Aunque no sabemos cuándo, sabemos que nuestra fe en su retorno, su venida, volverá, el propio Señor nos exhorta a que nos preparemos y a que estemos listos. Preparémonos para una venida que hará que nuestra fe en el regreso de Cristo se incremente.

La venida de Cristo es un hecho más afortunado de que he experimentado en mi vida. Con cada venida, con cada misterio, nos damos cuenta de lo profundo que ha sido el amor de Dios por nosotros. Por esa razón, le supliquemos a nuestro Señor que nos prepare para la venida de Cristo. Un esfuerzo extra a lo que hacemos normalmente, en esta época de los días de la Navidad, en la que celebramos los dos misterios: la primera venida de Jesús y su regreso glorioso al fin de los tiempos.

Si nos permitimos adentrarnos en las profundidades de esta festividad, nos sentiríamos maravillados del milagro del nacimiento del Hijo de Dios hace 2,000 años. También estaremos mejor preparados para su regreso.

¿Cómo podemos comprender la festividad de la Navidad: el cumpleaños de un bebé? La fe es una visión que nos permite percibir más allá de la magia de todo lo que ocurre a nuestro alrededor: la música llena de alegría, la buena comida, las luces y los clásicos favoritos que vemos por televisión. ¿Cómo podemos aprovechar esta época desde una perspectiva más espiritual?

¿Cómo celebramos este día sagrado, a pesar de todas las distracciones festivas tradicionales que tanto disfrutamos?

¿Cómo nos preparamos para una festividad que celebra un evento histórico (el nacimiento de Jesús en Belén), la realidad que vivimos en el presente (que Dios está con nosotros) y un misterio futuro (el regreso de Cristo)?

He aquí algunas sugerencias para ayudarnos a prepararnos para la Navidad, la fiesta que celebra la venida de Cristo, pasada y presente y futura.

1. Dedicuemos tiempo para la oración. Debe ser un momento de tranquilidad, un momento para estar solos con Dios. Debe ser un momento de reflexión, de permitir a Dios entrar en nuestras vidas, de tiempo para solas con Dios. Agradeciendo el obsequio de la Navidad y todas las bendiciones que ha traído consigo esta época de tiempos de preparación, tiempo para aquellos que están incomodando. Y, a continuación, escuchen atentamente su respuesta. Quizás no lo sepamos o no lo comprendamos, pero Dios siempre responde a nuestras súplicas. La mejor manera para prepararnos para este día sagrado de la Navidad es entregarle a Dios nuestros corazones en la oración. La Cuaresma es el período de tiempo que nos da la oportunidad de recapacitar sobre nuestras vidas, de repasar nuestra vida en la luz de la Palabra de Dios. En la penitencia, en la oración, nos encontramos con el Señor en repetidas ocasiones. No tenemos que soportar la pesada carga de la culpabilidad en nuestro interior, y no debemos permitir que las viejas heridas y desilusiones arruinen la celebración de la Navidad. Podemos pedir—y tener la confianza de que recibiremos—el perdón de Dios para nuestros pecados, así como también la gracia para perdonar aquellos que nos han ofendido. Este sacramento es un excelente obsequio de Dios. ¡Acéptemolo con agradecimiento y usémoslo con sabiduría!

2. Seremos más fieles y estaremos más atentos a asistir a misa. Las liturgias del Adviento son una de las celebraciones más hermosas y esperanzadoras del calendario litúrgico. Disfrutaremos de la música, el simbolismo, los sonidos y los aromas de esta época tan especial del año para prepararnos interiormente para la venida de Cristo. La Navidad no es la época para saltar misa. El día de Navidad y a lo largo de toda la temporada navideña llenará sus fiestas de alegría y celebración, no olvidemos que Dios verdaderamente se encuentra entre nosotros y que realmente volverá.

3. Dejemos atrás los obsequios espirituales. El intercambio de regalos es un aspecto importante de la tradición navideña, pero los regalos que ofrecemos—y que recibimos—no tienen que ser materiales. Una sonrisa, una palabra amable y un gesto encantador—son regalos que nos puedes regalar. Háganos de esta una verdadera temporada de obsequios, pero procuremos que sean misales espirituales del propio ser, como también nuestros materiales presentes!

Preparamos espiritualmente para la Navidad no es una tarea sencilla. Hay muchas cosas en nuestro interior y a nuestro alrededor que intentarán distraernos de nuestra concentración de la maravilla del nacimiento de Cristo y de la promesa de su regreso glorioso. Restámos la tentación de vivir la Navidad como si fuera simplemente otra festividad. Convertíamela en un día sagrado, un día de espera y un día en el que experimentamos nuevamente la poderosa presencia de Jesús—quien realmente es Dios con nosotros—en nuestras vidas personales y nuestro mundo.

Te pido a ti, y a toda la comunidad, que te prepare para la navidad. Dame tu corazón y tus acciones por un regalo para esta navidad. ¡Ayúdanos a preparar a los demás para esta navidad de bendiciones, un día de esperanza y un día de alegría! ¡En nombre del Señor!”

**Traducido por: Daniela Guanipa**
Events Calendar

December 12-14
Mount Saint Francis Retreat Center, 101 Mt. St. Francis Drive, Mt. St. Francis.
Christmas Pottery Sale featuring artists from the Mary Anderson Center.
Fri. 6-8 p.m., Sat. and Sun. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-923-8817 or retreats@mountsaintfrancisco.org.

December 13
St. Roch Parish, Family Life Center, 3605 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis.
Santa’s Christmas Bash, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Information: 317-236-7707.

December 14
St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis.
Mass in French, 1 p.m. Information: 317-523-4195 or ucfal42014@gmail.com.

December 14
St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church, 4720 E. 17th St., Indianapolis.
Class of ‘63 monthly gathering, 6 p.m. Mass, optional dinner afterward.
Information: 317-408-6936.

December 14
Most Holy Name of Jesus Church, 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove.
Christmas Concert No. 51, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., $7 for adults, $5 for seniors and children 12 and younger. Tickets available for purchase at the door or in advance by calling 317-787-1682.

December 17
St. Joseph University Parish, 113 S. Fifth St., Terre Haute.
Divine Mercy Chaplet and Per-Life Mass, chaplet 4:30 p.m., Mass 5:15 p.m., pro-life ministry meeting 6:7 p.m. Information: 812-232-6577.

December 17
Calvary Cemetery Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis.
Mass of Remembrance, 2 p.m. Ornaments available to sign and hang on a tree at the cemetery in remembrance of loved ones, with a blessing of the trees after Mass. All are welcome.

December 18
St. Paul Parish, 375 S. Mckee Ave., Indianapolis.
Third Saturday Adoration, interceding for women experiencing crisis pregnancy, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., with Mass at 5:45 p.m.

December 18
Our Lady of Peace Cemetery, 9001 Havencrest Road, Indianapolis.
Mass of Remembrance, 2 p.m. Ornaments available to sign and hang on a tree at the cemetery in remembrance of loved ones, with a blessing of the trees after Mass. All are welcome.

December 20
St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis.
Helpers of God’s Precious Infants, Mass and Divine Mercy Chaplet 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.

Retreats and Programs

December 27
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg.
Bird Count, meet at Michaela Farm, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Information and RSVP: 812-933-6437 or e-mail lunker@oldenburgosf.com.

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. Mindfulness for the New Year, Franciscan Sister Olga Wenzelkand and Chair Sherman, PhD. presenting, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., $45 includes lunch, $65 includes two meals and tea or water. A cash bar is also available.

The deadline to register is Dec. 28. Registration is available online at www.sfhkc.org. For more information, contact Romona at 317-258-2761. †

Jan. 10
Marriage on Tap has Event has Dec. 28 registration deadline
Marriage on Tap, a ministry of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, will host dinner and speakers at Bravato Restaurant, 2658 Lake Circle Drive, in Indianapolis, from 7-9:30 p.m. on Jan. 10.

The guest speakers for the event are Tyler and Allissia Mayer. They will speak on “Instilling a Love of Catholicism in Our Children.” The couple has four young children and has served in various Church ministries and in parochial schools in the archdiocese.

Marriage on Tap is a ministry hosting monthly dinners with speakers addressing topics of marriage, love, faith and children. The $35 cost per couple purchases two meals and tea or water. A cash bar is also available.

The deadline to register is Dec. 28. Registration is available online at www.sfhkc.org. For more information, contact Romona at 317-258-2761. †

Centre College Choir to perform Christmas concert in Jeffersonville on Dec. 16
The Centre Singers will perform a Christmas concert at St. Augustine Parish, 315 E. Chestnut St., in Jeffersonville on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.

Centre Singers is a choir of 26 select undergraduates from Centre College in Danville, Ky. The group has performed internationally, including in Spain and Greece.

The concert at St. Augustine Parish will include traditional and classical Christmas songs. Refreshments will be available after the concert.

For more information, call the parish office at 812-282-2677. †

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center to host Blue Christmas Prayer Service on Dec. 21
The Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., in Beech Grove provides a Blue Christmas Prayer Service from 1-3 p.m. on Dec. 21.

During the holidays, some may find it difficult to be joyful due to grieving a loss, job stress, unemployment, illness or loneliness.

A Blue Christmas Service—also known as a Service of Solace or the Longest Night—is intended to help those who struggle during the holidays to acknowledge and honor “blue” feelings.

The service offers an experience of prayer that remembers and names the losses or struggles while being in a community of support.

Free will donations will graciously be accepted. Registration is requested. To register, call 317-788-7581. †

Event to raise funds for adoption to be held at St. Barnabas Parish on Dec. 13
An event sponsored by The Owl Project—an effort to raise funds to help a parishioner of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis pursue her dream of loving a child through adoption—will be held at 6 p.m. on Dec. 13 at St. Barnabas Parish, 8300 Rahke Road, in Indianapolis.

The $10 fee covers dinner and the opportunity to bid on silent auction items, which include an autographed Pacers basketball, massages, facials, hand-knit scarves and more.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at TheOwlProjectForBabyBailey.weebly.com. Make a $10 donation there, then e-mail stacecame@yahoo.com stating that a ticket has been purchased online for the dinner.

Those wishing to purchase tickets at the door are asked to RSVP to stacecame@yahoo.com for planning purposes.

To contribute to the project but not attend the event, or to learn more about the efforts of The Owl Project, log on to the website listed above. †

Warm Heart, Warm Toes
Brooklynn Hattabaugh, left, Becky Wilson and Becca Hattabaugh smile on Nov. 24 behind the shoes and socks they gathered to distribute to children at Brownstown Elementary School in Brownstown through a project they initiated called “Warm Hearts, Warm Toes.” The three women—grandmother, mother and granddaughter—are members of Our Lady of Providence Parish in Brownstown.

They coordinated the effort with the help of the school’s guidance counselor and with funding from the St. Vincent de Paul Society council affiliated with Our Lady of Providence Parish and St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour. In this fourth the family trio has organized the project. Becca recognized the need for the effort while working at the elementary school several years ago. (Submitted photo)
Knights of Columbus send $2.2 million to assist Christian refugees in Iraq, Syria

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS)—The Knights of Columbus, headquartered in New Haven, began the fund in August with $1 million and has since raised an additional $1.7 million in donations from individual Knights, local Knights councils and others, for a total of $2.7 million, of which $2.2 million has been distributed.

The donations were "accompanied by fervent prayers for all those suffering in the land of the holy Apostles," Anderson said.

The area, and who have been living in emergency shelters and random locations far from their homes, are involved in high-level dialogues, there is still much to be done, including recognizing that "women play a key role in peacebuilding."

"Enough is enough. We are involved in high-level dialogues, there is still much to be done, including recognizing that "women play a key role in peacebuilding."

"Women play a key role in peacebuilding, and we must be examples." Anderson added.

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Faith is at the forefront of couple’s commitment to each other
By John Shaughnessy

After 68 years of marriage, couple’s love continues to grow
By John Shaughnessy

The journey of marriage and faith for E.J. and Lauretta Kurek started as a romance during World War II. Their love continues to grow, as a note from E.J. shows.

“We are an old couple in our 90s,” he writes. “Ours was a wartime romance. She was a rock-solid Catholic, I am agnostic willing to ‘jump through the Church hoops’ for her love.”

When the ship returned home from the war, we got married and enjoyed a six-month honeymoon in sunny California while I groomed the ship in readiness for the next war. We returned home in June 1946 to begin married life which has endured 68 years so far, and has produced six living children. We are now trying to keep count on the children of our children’s children.

“Even after three years of marriage, I couldn’t understand her enthusiasm for novenas and women’s club meetings. Then I made my first retreat with the ‘jolly’ Franciscans. I had never heard men praying in unison or experienced spiritual camaraderie. I entered that weekend a closet agnostic and emerged a religious ‘fanatic’ which I have been since. Now, the club meetings. Then I made my first retreat with the Franciscans.”

At their age, the members of St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville describe their life now “as being in the VIP departure lounge, waiting for our flights to be called.”

“The TV is on a lot,” E.J. notes. “We favor old reruns and EWTN [Eternal Word Television Network], which is very hot currently on the new evangelization. My wife has many questions about this development. It is all too ‘Protestant’ for her. But a little kid solved the issue. ‘Did you see the TV shot where Pope Francis is addressing an outdoor audience, blessing some children?’ A tyke emerges, making himself at home at the foot of Pope Francis who doesn’t miss a beat. The boy even tries the papal chair, but suddenly drops to the foot again and hugs the pontiff’s leg! That’s my wife’s spouse at a retreat. (Submitted photo)

“We are old and have the children’s children’s children.”

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—“Everyday saints” are those for whom faith is not just about appearances, who do not go around strutting like peacocks, but who live God’s love even in the midst of struggle, Pope Francis said.

Those who are only “apostle Christians,” who put on the faith as if it were makeup, will see that with the first rain of tears they will be washed away, the pope said on Dec. 4 at his morning Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae where he lives.

“Many ‘apostle Christians’ will be found in heaven. They have built their faith on sand, like the person in the day’s Gospel reading from the seventh chapter of Luke. Those who built on the rock of Jesus are the many saints—not necessarily canonized, but saints—men and women who put into practice the love of Jesus.”

Pope Francis said the “everyday saints” include “many priests who are hidden away, but work in their parishes with a love of: catechists for children, caring for the elderly, married couples and the sick, preparing people for marriage. And every day is the same, the same, the same, but they do not get bored because their foundation is the rock, Jesus.”

The holiness of everyday saints, he said, “gives holiness to the Church and that gives hope!”

The fact that those same people make mistakes and sin, the pope said, does not destroy their witness. “If sometimes one of these Christians commits a serious sin, but repents and asks forgiveness,” that too is a sign of having a faith grounded on the rock of Christ.

The pope ended his homily praying that, as Christians prepare for Christmas, God would help them build their faith more solidly on Jesus. “We are all sinners, we are weak, but if we put our hope in him we can move forward. This is the joy of a Christian: knowing that in him there is hope, forgiveness, peace and joy.”

Faith in Jesus, he said, is the source of hope, not “things that are also here today and gone tomorrow.”

E.J. and Lauretta Kurek (Submitted photo)
By Brandon A. Evans

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

Here are some of the items found in the December 11, 1964, issue of The Criterion:

- Pope back in Rome after triumphant trip
- Pope asks for halt to arms race
- Seminary to absorb Passionist clerics
- Population data called misleading
- Enrollment surge noted in colleges
- Catholics mark Jewish festival
- Permits Masses for housebound
- List of Non-Catholic schools
- Catholic agencies aid job corps
- Psychiatrists called sanctity observers
- Junior Legion member makes rosary necklace
- Christmas schedule announced at Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church
- Why the hierarchy is critical of movie trends, and Catholics adjust to the ‘New Mass’

By Sean Gallagher

Spotlights flooded the dance floor. Salley Dooley stepped onto it wearing a flowing fuscia dress, a bright smile and sparkling eyes.

Father Aaron Pfaff, her partner for the dance, was dressed to the nines, complete with white tie and tails. But his face betrayed the fear and nervousness that filled his heart as he and his partner prepared to dance before an audience of 400 people to Benny Goodman’s famous rendition of Louis Prima’s big band classic, “Sing Sing Sing.”

“She looked like a regular Miss Congeniality, wavy, confident, smiling,” said Father Pfaff. “I just had that charging bull look. I’m not smiling. I’m not breathing. I look like I’m being led to a guillotine …”

Since he wasn’t personally inclined to perform a ballroom dance before a large audience, Father Pfaff chose to do so for a higher reason. He did it to support the broader community in Shelby County.

The dance was part of “Dancing with the Shelby County Stars” fundraiser event at Indiana Grand Racing and Casino in Shelby County. Proceeds from the event benefited two community organizations in Shelby County—Shelby Senior Services Inc. and Shelby County Players.

Shelby Senior Services is a non-profit community organization that helps older residents of Shelby County by providing transportation, caregiver support, legal information and health promotion. Shelby County Players is also a non-profit organization. It operates The Strand, a community theater in Shelbyville and produces theatrical productions for the broader community.

“It’s very easy to get focused on your flock,” said Father Pfaff, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and sacramental minister of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County. “I wanted to do something for the greater community and I knew that this would be a good opportunity to do that.”

When Father Pfaff was initially asked if he would be willing to help the community by dancing, he really didn’t want to. He said he would only if Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin gave his permission—something he didn’t expect to happen. When the archbishop “gave the green light,” Father Pfaff said he was shocked.

“I felt like Jeremiah. I had been duped and I had let myself be duped,” said Father Pfaff with a laugh, referring to Jeremiah 20:7.

“I’m happy for the community that I won,” said Father Pfaff. “But I think there were a lot of sympathy votes thrown in there. Although only in its third year, ‘Dancing with the Shelby County Stars’ has become a popular event. Its 400 tickets sold out in three hours, and approximately $100,000 was raised through the event for the two organizations.

Father Pfaff and the nine other dancers in the event worked with their partners for five months prior to ‘Dancing with the Shelby County Stars’ to prepare their dances.

“Some of us contestants were comfortable dancing,” Father Pfaff said. “But many of us, myself included, were just naturally terrified.”

When the big night arrived, however, Father Pfaff courageously stepped onto the dance floor and performed the quickstep with Dooley, a dance enthusiast and special education teacher for Indianapolis Public Schools.

“Somehow, preservation mode kicks in and you simply execute what you’ve learned,” said Father Pfaff. “It’s hard to make it look like you’re enjoying it when you’re semi-panicked and trying to control everything and just executing the moves.”

What was in the news on December 11, 1964? The hierarchy is critical of movie trends, and Catholics adjust to the ‘New Mass’

The National Legion of Deaconess. This ‘moral bribe’, in the committee adds, ‘is compounded by the double standard wherein the few available family films with adult or objectionable films.’ This trend and practice, the Episcopal Committee says, reflects ‘an avid desire for mass audiences and high profits, and a disregard for the spiritual and moral requirements of the spectators.’

- Legion of Decency Pledge
- New board announced at Alverna
- English bishops: Ease bars on attending non-Catholic services
- A loud ‘Amen’: New English Mass catching on
- ‘Archdiocesan Catholics, along with their counterparts throughout the United States, are voicing a loud and distinct ‘Amen’ to the extensive use of English in the Mass.”

The third week of the revised liturgy is about to begin, both clergy and laity are becoming more confident of their roles in the holy Sacrifice. Early stage of O’Neill’s plays are largely despising as prayer cards are increasingly utilized, microphones are adjusted, his commentators say, as readers become more experienced, and the distribution of Communion is now more freedom vote postponement for best, Father Murray says

- ‘Permits Masses for housebound
- Gives good report on ‘shared-time’ in Oregon District
- Alcohol is included in new fasting law
- Catholics mark Jewish festival
- Pope’s trend worries three Dutch observers
- Catholic agencies aid job corps recruitment
- No Junior Legion member makes rosary necklace
- Enrolment surge noted in colleges
- Psychiatry is called sanctity’s handmaid
- New school approach urged by Dr. Ellis
- ‘Blind’ leading the blind
- Fulda native to aid in foundation
- Named vicar general of Evansville Diocese
- Finish birth regulation study
- Church hit by money crisis in England

Christmas schedule announced at Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church

The public is welcome to join the Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, Ind., as they celebrate Christmas in the Archabbey Church. All times are Central Time.

On Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, vigils will begin at 7 p.m. and Mass will be celebrated at 10 p.m.

The Mass of Christmas Day will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 25.

Mass is celebrated each day in the Archabbey Church at 7:30 a.m. on Monday through Saturday, and at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday and feast days. However, during the Christmas season, Mass will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 26 and on Dec. 27.

The Mass on Jan. 1, 2015, for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Also, the Archabbey Library will be closed on Dec. 24-28 and on Jan. 1, 2015.

The Saint Meinrad Archabbey Gift Shop will be closed on Dec. 24, 25, 31 and on Jan. 1.
Donor says helping her pastor an easy decision: 'He needed a kidney'

WEST SIMSBURY, Conn. (CNS)—A parishioner walks up to her pastor and says, “I want to give you my kidney.”

The pastor smiles and says, “OK.”

Don’t expect a punchline. It’s no joke.

Father Michael G. Whyte arrived at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in 2007 and has been pastor there since 2008. A type 1 diabetic, he began experiencing extreme tiredness and nausea at about that time, signs of kidney failure as a result of diabetes. Doctors gave him three choices: go on dialysis and live five or six more years, do nothing and die within six months; or get a kidney transplant and—if it’s from a live donor—live 20 to 25 years.

Two years ago, he announced at Mass that he was on the waiting list for a kidney. More than one parishioner offered to be tested to see if they would be qualified donors, but Margaret Domashinski, a parishioner who lives in West Suffield, Mass., already knew she would be the one.

“I knew I was a match,” she said during an interview at the parish rectory on Nov. 19. “I know that’s kind of spooky, but it’s true. I knew.”

Asked what it was about Father Whyte that prompted her to make the offer, Domashinski paused, as if puzzled by the question. “He needed a transplant. He needed a kidney,” she said.

Father Whyte, looking fit as he sat beside his donor 10 weeks after the transplant surgeries, said, “I think it is very difficult when someone tells you that he was walking around his hospital room, not even in the slightest pain. (Domashinski actually had more pain than he had.)

They were both released three days later. At Mass a week later, Father Whyte praised the medical team.

Domashinski said, “And I was sitting in front of the altar. Yeah, that’s mine! You’ll get 30 years out of it!” In telling the story, she punched the air with her fist.

Turning to his donor, Father Whyte said, “I don’t know how you feel, but we are obviously operated on at the same time—the parish held a prayer vigil and ... they said it was a nonstop streaming of people coming in lights candles and saying prayers.”

Surgery was on Sept. 9 at Yale New Haven Hospital. Before undergoing three-port laparoscopic surgery to remove one of her kidneys, Domashinski told her doctor, “I do like during this procedure, make sure you give me my pancreas” as well.

But she and Father Whyte came through their surgeries fine. Domashinski said that Father Whyte’s surgeon, Dr. Peter Yoo, came to see her in recovery and said, “Oh, your kidney started working before we even finished sewing it up! Oh, your kidney!”

Meanwhile, just hours after his surgery, Father Whyte was walking around his hospital room, not even in the slightest pain. (Domashinski actually had more pain than he had.)

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Learn to speak the language of the Lord during Advent

By David Gibson

What language does the Lord speak? Advent is a great time for listening to the language of the Lord and learning to speak it—or perhaps better, for learning to sing it. Pope Francis proposed as much a year ago during Advent.

To speak the language of the Lord, it is essential not only to learn "what" to say, but "how" to say it, said the pope. He meant that students of this unique language need to pay close attention to the way the Lord expresses himself.

The Lord speaks to us in much the way that a father or mother draws near a little child who is afraid, speaking tenderly and in words the child understands. The pope explained. Someone overhearing it might find the conversation ridiculous, with all its affectionate, endearing words. 

But Pope Francis commented, "The love of a father and a mother needs to be close." Thus, they "lower themselves to the world of the child." The Lord draws near "without making a spectacle," becoming "small in order to make strong," said the pope. The quiet closeness and tenderness that characterize this way of speaking are "the music of the language of the Lord."

This is how "it is with the Lord," he noted. "This is the language of the Lord, the language of the love of a father or a mother." It could become our language too, he made clear. Learning any new language is a real accomplishment. It requires time and commitment. But as this demanding process unfolds, a new person emerges, someone able to speak in a new way.

The same is true of journeys toward many important points of destination in life. In retrospect, people see how they were transformed by the somewhat long, complicated process of acquiring needed job skills, caring for a baby during the early years, healing a broken friendship or coping with an energy-sapping illness that lingered for months and months.

Perhaps they discover that the entire process mysteriously changed them for the better in large or small ways. Maybe their self-respect grew. Or they may notice, with some surprise, that they now interact with others in a more understanding manner.

In any event, becoming new persons in large and small ways is what the Church encourages by inviting Christians to see Advent as a time of conversion, of transformation. This is a season of watching for the Lord's coming, conversion in Advent can have a lot to do with the process unfolds, a new person emerges, someone able to speak in a new way.

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Old Testament: Book of Proverbs teaches wisdom

(=Forty-ninth in a series of columns=)

Normally, in this series about the Old Testament, the promise I'd be writing about is the Book of Psalms. However, back in 2009 I wrote a series of 17 columns about that book, so it seems best to skip to the Book of Proverbs.

From the Seven Wisdom Books, the Book of Proverbs is probably the one that best provides the guide for successful living that the ancient Israelites sought. But, of course, it isn't only the Israelites who struggle with questions about the meaning of life. Every culture has universal appeal and significance.

The purpose of the Book of Proverbs, spelled out in the first chapter, is to teach wisdom: "That men may understand words of wisdom and may appreciate wisdom and discipline, may come to teach wisdom: "That men may understand words of wisdom and may appreciate wisdom and discipline, may come to know that the fear of the Lord is wisdom and understanding." (Prv 1:7). This concept is repeated in chapter 9: "The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord." (Prv 9:10). This fear is a reverence and awe of God because of his sovereignty, goodness and justice. Besides being the beginning of wisdom and knowledge, this "fear" is also the foundation of religion.

The authors of these collections of proverbs believed that God is the order in nature and, if we could discern how that order operated and managed our own lives, we'd be able to achieve wisdom, live successful lives, and find happiness.

The moral value of virtue was seen as an important part of achieving wisdom and happiness. Discipline and self-control were seen as "the road of knowledge and honesty, diligence, docility and humidity were considered necessary for a good life.

Chapter 5 is a warning to young men against adultery and the seduction of women. It apparently was not deemed necessary to warn young women since, in patriarchal societies, they were kept in seclusion to guarantee their Fidelity and only seductions had freedom of movement.

The Book of Proverbs doesn't seem popular today, but there's a great deal of wisdom in this book written some 2,500 years ago.

The Criterion (Forty-ninth in a series of columns)

The Human Side/Fr. Eugene Heinrich

Paying attention ahead of the Christmas season

For some, the Christmas season is a time of joy, while for others it's a time of sadness or stress. For most of us, it never quite matches the white Christmas of our dreams, or the one we hope we should be having. Could it be that we don't pay enough attention to capture its real spirit?

An excellent means for changing our attention is found in Father John Dunne's book Dark Light of Love. In it, he quotes Nicolas Malebranche, who writes, “Attention is the natural prayer of the soul.”

Father Dunne explains the “attention” part of this prayer with God and with others and with all living beings. It is by way of attention that we walk the road of union and reunion. Attention is how we find our way through the dark night of faith, attention to the things that hurt and the heart speaking, to the way opening up before us.”

The undesirable side effects of our times is that we live in a world full of distractions. These distractions leave us without the attention. These distractions have created less introspective on our part, heightened our sensitivities, Sponges, children and friends and "become a burly as we rush through the day, especially on the day of the Christmas season.”

Problems may plague us, yet we never seem to take time to listen to what the heart tells us to do to fix our problems. We need to ask: Is life merely a series of passings and passing? Do I fail to enter into life more deeply because of inattentiveness? Do we ever think of how much we miss out on because we're rushing? When last have we truly stopped to smell the roses? Have we taken time for our loved ones and imbibed the wonders of God’s creation?

Father Dunne speaks of union and connection as outcomes of paying attention. Implied here is the forming of relationships in which we put aside our self-interests and give full attention to others, to those who mean the most to us in life. We need to unite with them. This attention forms the heart of real friendship, of true love or cherished commonalities.

Most important, forming a relationship with God is at the very heart of the heavenly Christmas that we dream about and deserve because it forces us to focus our attention on our heavenly Father, its creator.

(Father Eugene Heinrich writes for Catholic News Service.)

The criterion (Forty-ninth in a series of columns)

Light the candles, pour the wine: the Catholic call to celebrate

Grace Ostertag was a 24-year-old bride-to-be when she took her first cake-decorating class, and the impulsive congregation to make that $35 investment remains today, now a $5 million business. “I wanted to make the Catholic events of our lives super special,” she says. Grace and her husband, Paul, are both frugal, raised Catholic kids, and celebrating was minimal,” she says. There’s a widely circulated story Paul’s family didn’t want Grace to light candles at her daughter’s wedding reception until she and the groom arrived, hesitating to burn them longer than necessary, a Great Depression mentality he couldn’t shake.

An exasperated protest from the groom’s mother: “Pour a drink and light the candles!”

There are several reasons why this might happen in a Catholic marriage. Graces of marriage:“ I can’t think of a better way to start a brand new tradition that provides an opportunity to recognize the moral value of certain scientific advances or changes in social attitudes. The Catholic Church is known for its respect for tradition. We love the old-fashioned rituals, the glorious Latin hymns, the traditions are important. The Catholic Church has such a rich history with so much joy and suffering, it is by way of attention that we can learn from it. We can learn from it.

Speaking of families, they seem to have a different point in our culture. Today we have little kids around, perhaps, or far away people we love. Still, we think that traditions are important. The Catholic Church teaches that tradition is essential to our faith.

Having said that, I must admit that this tradition just for its own sake is neither valuable nor necessary. Clinging to a tradition just for its own sake is neither valuable nor necessary. Clinging to a tradition just for its own sake is neither valuable nor necessary. Clinging to a tradition just for its own sake is neither valuable nor necessary. Clinging to a tradition just for its own sake is neither valuable nor necessary. Clinging to a tradition just for its own sake is neither valuable nor necessary.

By 22, Greg was dressing up as Santa Claus at the marina, handing out sweets and making inroads in his business. One year, Greg decided to enter into the holiday spirit, attention to the way of life. We need to unite with them. This attention forms the heart of real friendship, of true love or cherished commonalities.

Most important, forming a relationship with God is at the very heart of the heavenly Christmas that we dream about and deserve because it forces us to focus our attention on our heavenly Father, its creator.

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Sunday, December 14, 2014

Sunday Readings

- Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
- Galatians 5:1:6-24
- John 1:6-8, 19-28

This weekend, the Church celebrates “Gaudete Sunday,” the name coming from the opening word of the entrance antiphon of the Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent. In Latin, “gaudete” means “to rejoice.” Rejoicing is not indicated because Advent and its stress on prayer and penance almost are completed, but rather because Christmas is nearer.

Another reason for rejoicing is that everyone hopefully feels closer to God as a result of observing Advent with prayer, reflection and penance. And if Advent has been followed as intended by the Church, all are nearer to a fuller communion with the Lord, the “light of the world.”

Fists may wear rose-colored vestments on this weekend, symbolizing that the dark violet of Advent is already being lightened by the forthcoming light of the Lord’s arrival in our souls.

The third part of Isaiah furnishes the first reading. When this passage was written, the people of God were weary and, frankly, quite frustrated. They, or their forebears, had undergone great hardship in Babylon. When finally allowed to return to Babylon to return to their homeland, they understandably were overjoyed.

Returning home, however, they found a sterile and parched land. What was once was everywhere. Had God tricked them? Did he provide for their release from Babylon only to subject them to further trials at home? Did God even exist, anyway?

Typically for the last section of Isaiah, this reading glows with optimism. Whatever may be the reality of the moment, a wondrous future awaits those loyal to God. Whatever may be the reality of the moment, a wondrous future awaits those loyal to God. This reading is a story about John the Baptist, whose own identity puzzled many of his contemporaries. Some assumed that John was the Messiah. Others wondered if he were Elijah, or another prophet who had returned to Earth.

St. John’s Gospel is the source of the last reading. The reading is a story about John the Baptist, whose own identity puzzled many of his contemporaries. Some assumed that John was the Messiah. Others wondered if he were Elijah, or another prophet who had returned to Earth.

John was very firm in replying to this speculation. Another would follow him. John’s calling was to prepare the way for the true representative of God, who eventually would come. It will be wonderful. John is not worthy even to untie the straps of his sandals.

The Church calls us to rejoice, presuming that we have spent the weeks of Advent pondering within ourselves the meaning of salvation for us personally and individually. It presumes that we have sought God and truth in our prayer and in our penance. It supposes our sincerity.

It also presumes that we have increased in faith in Jesus through this process of prayer and reflection. When the Lord’s kingdom comes, we are prepared to sing, “Gaudete!” “Rejoice!” We will face obstacles prior to the Lord’s glorious second coming when the Church will anticipate in Advent. We will be tempted to ignore God, to forsake our resolve to become saints. The Israelites exiled in Babylon and the early Christians in Thessalonica were also tempted. The Lord, however, will prevail. Our patience and determination will not be in vain.

All good teacher, always interested in guiding us to God’s presence in the reality of our lives, the Church instructs us in these readings to continue looking for the authentic Jesus and not create our own version of the messiah. If we have the true image of the Lord in our eyes, we will reject sin. We will find God.†

By Natalie Hoefer

Finding God in the Chaos

Christmas cards seem to have it all wrong—

The serene scene of Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds and beasts Gathered in reverent peace around the manger
While angel choirs sing pious songs
No worries, it wouldn’t happen that way
All is tranquil with friend and stranger
Are you kidding me?
A young woman, her first time in labor,
Away from home, lodging in a stable,
A feeding trough as bed for the baby.
And a smell of donkeys and a neighbor
That calm seems less real, more fabled
The whole situation sounds frantic to me.
Yet there, in the midst of it all
And chaos, can be found the one true God.
So maybe when we find life to be a busy,
Stressful, tumultuous mess,
We’ll do well if we paused—
And looked for God’s presence in the chaos.

(Natalie Hoefer is a reporter for The Criterion and a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis. The poem was inspired by a Christmas homily given by Msgr. Paul Koetter years ago at St. Monica. People surround a Nativity scene set under a large Christmas tree in Manger Square in the West Bank town of Bethlehem Christmas Eve on Dec. 24, 2012. The Church of the Nativity, seen in back, is revered as the site of the birth of Jesus. (CNS photo/Anne Amato, Reuters))

Daily Readings

Monday, December 15
Numbers 24-2, 17-1a
Psalm 23:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9
Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 16
Zechariah 3:1-2, 9-13
Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23
Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 17
Genesis 49:2-8, 10-14
Psalm 72:3-4, 7-8, 17
Matthew 1:1-17

Thursday, December 18
Jeremiah 23:5-8
Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19
Matthew 1:18-25

Friday, December 19
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a
Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17
Luke 1:5-25

Saturday, December 20
Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24:1-6b, 5-6
Lkue 1:26-38

Sunday, December 21
Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 1:7-15, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29
Romans 13:7-14
Lkue 1:26-38

Question Corner/By Kenneth Doyle

Cremated remains should be treated with reverence and not be scattered

Q. Understand that, as Catholics, if we choose to cremate our cremaens are to be treated with dignity and must be buried or entombed. My husband and I have two family members who have asked us to arrange to have their ashes “scattered.” One is a Catholic, one is not. Does our duty to follow Church teaching on this matter override the wishes of our family members (even of the non-Catholic one)? I am uncomfortable with having to carry out their request, but I’m unsure as to how to respond. (Virginia)

A. You are correct on the Church’s teaching. Although the Vatican in 1963 in the ban on cremation, the Church specifies that cremated remains are to be treated with the same reverence as the body of a deceased person. This means that the cremains are to be placed in a worthy vessel and, following the religious services, to be buried or entombed in consecrated ground.

They are not, for example, to be kept on a mantelpiece or scattered in the deceased’s favorite park. Your duty as faithful Catholics overrides the desire of your family members. I see no philosophical justification for distinguishing between the Catholic relative and the non-Catholic. The Church’s reverence for the remains of each of them is equal. (My guess is that you would also buy yourself some extra family trouble if you did distribute the ashes.) I think this is a “teachable opportunity” for you. You should tell each of the two that, as a faithful Catholic, you would... (Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at kdoyles@archindy.org and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, NY 12208.)†

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to faith or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the “My Journey to God” column.

Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions

Send material for consideration to “My Journey to God,” The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to kdoyles@archindy.org.
Rest in peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication to 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.


MULLIS, Janet S., 78, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, Nov. 25. Mother of Ursula Cartwright and Brian Cartwright. Grandmother of eight.


PIAZZA, Anthony Vincent, 61, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Nov. 27. Brother of Pete Piazza. Uncle of several.


Thanksgiving charity

Sister Ruth earned a bachelor of science degree in business from Drexel University in Philadelphia, and a master’s degree in biblical studies from Marywood University in Scranton, Pa. During 61 years as a Dominican, Sister Ruth ministered in Catholic education in Havana, Cuba. She later served on the staff of retreat centers in Alaska, N.M., Elkins Park, Pa., and Kendall, Fla. and as an assistant archivist at St. Katharine Hall at Elkins Park. She dedicated herself entirely to prayer beginning in 2013 at Sanitary Care Center. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Office of Mission Advancement, 2320 Airport Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43219-2988 or donate online at www.oppeace.org.

The Sisters of Peace, based in Columbus, Ohio, have given a lifetime.

Sisters Elizabeth Mary (left), 79, Carolyn (center), 99, and Bridget, 96, have together devoted more than 200 years to religious life. They and some 35,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your gift helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more.

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Retirement Fund for Religious

www.retiredreligious.org

Over 93 percent of donations aid senior religious.

To donate:
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Mission Office
1400 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis IN 46202
Make check payable to Mission Office with Religious Retirement on memo line.
Or give at your local parish December 13–14.
Former chaplain receives prestigious Franciscan Alliance award

Father John Mannion received the Blessed Maria Theresa Award from Franciscan Alliance health system during a ceremony on Oct. 28.

The award is named in honor of Blessed Maria Theresa Bonzel, foundress of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, the order which created Franciscan Alliance. The award is presented to “a person who exemplifies the personal qualities of our foundress,” explained St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Sister Jane Marie Klein, president of the Franciscan Alliance board, before presenting the award.

She described Father Mannion as one who “has shared his dedication and service without counting the cost, his love for the sick and the elderly.”

Since his retirement—at last count, his third,—Sister Jane Marie quipped—in 2014, Father Mannion has spent time caring for his older brother in Florida, who is in declining health, visiting him twice a day.

“It’s a pretty prestigious award,” Father Mannion commented of the Blessed Maria Theresia Award. “I was sure humbled when they called me in Florida.”

Father John Mannion received the Blessed Maria Theresa Award from St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Sister Jane Marie Klein, president of the Franciscan Alliance board, on Oct. 28.

Advent penance services are scheduled at archdiocesan parishes

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

Batesville Deanery
• Dec. 14, 1:30 p.m for Immaculate Conception, Millhouse; St. Charles Borromeo, Milan, St. Maurice, Napoleon, and St. John the Baptist, Osgood, at St. John the Baptist, Osgood
• Dec. 16, 6-8 p.m at St. Michael, Brookville
• Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m at St. Louis, Batesville
• Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m at St. Teresa Benedicita of the Cross, Bright
• Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m at St. Catherine of Siena, Decatur County, at the Enocchio campus

Bloomington Deanery
• Dec. 16, 7 p.m at St. Agnes, Nashville
• Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m at St. Jude, Spencer
• Dec. 18, 6 p.m at St. John the Apostle, Bloomington

Connersville Deanery
• Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m, following 5:15 p.m. Mass for Richmond Catholic Community at St. Mary, Richmond

Indianaapolis East Deanery
• Dec. 14, confessions will be heard in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel after the 10:30 a.m. Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Confessions are also heard in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel from noon to 1 p.m. each Friday.
• Dec. 14, 7 p.m for Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower)
• Dec. 17, 8 p.m St. Mary

Indianaapolis North Deanery
• Dec. 14, 2 p.m deanery service at St. Simon the Apostle
• Dec. 15, 7 p.m deanery service at St. Luke the Evangelist
• Dec. 16, 7 p.m deanery service at St. Luke the Evangelist

Indianaapolis South Deanery
• Dec. 15, 6-30 p.m at Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
• Dec. 16, 7 p.m at St. Jude
• Dec. 17, 7 p.m at St. Mark the Evangelist
• Dec. 18, 6 p.m at St. Barnabas
• Dec. 22, 7 p.m at Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood

Indianaapolis West Deanery
• Dec. 17, 7 p.m at St. Gabriel the Archangel
• Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m at St. Susanna, Plainfield

New Albany Deanery
• Dec. 14, 3 p.m at Holy Family, New Albany
• Dec. 16, 7 p.m at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
• Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m at St. John Paul II, Sellersburg
• Dec. 17, 7 p.m at St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville
• Dec. 17, 7 p.m at St. Mary, Navilloton
• Dec. 21, 4 p.m at St. John the Baptist, Starlight

Seymour Deanery
• Dec. 14, 2 p.m for Holy Trinity, Edinburgh, and St. Rose of Lima, Franklin, at St. Rose of Lima, Franklin
• Dec. 17, 7 p.m for Our Lady of Providence, Brownstown, and St. Ambrose, Seymour, at St. Ambrose, Seymour
• Dec. 21, 4 p.m for American Martyrs, Scottsburg and St. Patrick, Salem at American Martyrs, Scottsburg.

Advent resources are available on archdiocesan Web site

During the season of Advent, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will have a special webpage at www.archindy.org/advent

The page contains various Advent resources, including links to the daily readings, past reflections from Archishop Emeritus Daniel M. Buechlein, penance service schedules, images of past Criterion Christmas issue covers and links of interest to other Advent websites.

Sacred Heart Model School faculty, staff, and students strive to live out the Ursuline Core Values of community, justice, service, faith, and leadership. The Model School is the only Catholic and private school in Kentucky authorized as a Middle Years Programme school for grades 6-8. The small class sizes, differentiated instruction, specialized science faculty, concentration on world language development, and expressive arts offerings set the Model School apart. Sacred Heart Model School is a Catholic school where all faiths are welcomed.

The principal will be a dynamic and highly motivated individual, will provide outstanding leadership, and will collaborate with all constituents as well as Sacred Heart Schools personnel. The principal must be a mission driven, visionary leader committed to diversity with exceptional communication and organizational skills who is current in education and technology trends and has experience in instructional leadership, curriculum development and school management. The applicant must be a practicing Catholic, with a minimum of 3-5 years administrative experience and be eligible for Kentucky certification in instructional leadership. Doctorate preferred. Sacred Heart Model School is a member of Sacred Heart Schools and is sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters. Send resume and cover letter to scott@angelgroup.com. EOE.

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

Published by Natalie Hoeter

Father John Mannion received the Blessed Maria Theresa Award from Franciscan Alliance health system during a ceremony on Oct. 28.

The award is named in honor of Blessed Maria Theresa Bonzel, foundress of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, the order which created Franciscan Alliance. The award is presented to “a person who exemplifies the personal qualities of our foundress,” explained St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Sister Jane Marie Klein, president of the Franciscan Alliance board, before presenting the award.

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Seniors lead Cathedral to Class 5A state title—again

Coach Rick Streiff always tells his football players at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis that their season—like life—is a journey.

He continually makes that point to remind them to not get caught up in the emotional swings of the season, to keep their focus on their effort, their dreams and their goals.

“I say it so much that they tease me about it,” Streiff says with a laugh.

Streiff’s laugh is touched by pure joy, the same joy that has marked the journey of another successful football season for Cathedral. On Nov. 29, the Irish won the Class 5A football state championship for the Indiana High School Athletic Association. The team also collected several defining records this season.

The football team of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis poses with the Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 5A trophy after their 56-7 victory over LaPorte High School in the state championship game on Nov. 29 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)

The Irish also set records by earning a fifth straight championship and winning 30 consecutive tournament games since 2010.

Streiff also earned his 10th state title as the head coach of Cathedral, making him the state’s all-time leader in that category.

“It’s been quite a run,” the coach says about Cathedral’s five straight state championships. “It’s really a credit to a lot of people—the kids, the coaching staff, parents, the administration and the school. It all has to be in place and be supported for it to happen. Everything is in place to get the best out of the kids on the football field and off the football field.”

Streiff especially credited the seniors for the team’s success this year.

“One of the things we talk about a lot with all our seniors is, ‘What’s your legacy? Your team will go as far as you will take us.’

“The kids listened,” Streiff says. “There’s just a firm belief that when the tournament rolls around, we’ll be playing our best football. There’s a sense of pride in being able to have that kind of success.”

“One of the things we talk about a lot with all our seniors is, “What’s your legacy? Your team will go as far as you will take us.”

There’s an expectation of, ‘This is my stamp on the program.’

“With all our seniors is, ‘What’s your legacy? Your team will go as far as you will take us.’

“This is a group that had a lot of tenacity. When they got ahold of you, they wouldn’t let go. The other thing about them is their perseverance. They just hung in there.”

Their coach saw that quality shine through in the semi-state game against Bloomington South High School, a game Cathedral won in overtime, 27-24.

“We were never ahead until the last play of that game,” says Streiff, who has been the head coach at Cathedral for 20 years. “That was the coming together of all that tenacity and perseverance.”

It all made for a joyous end to the journey.

“The kids listened,” Streiff says. “There’s just a firm belief that when the tournament rolls around, we’ll be playing our best football. There’s a sense of pride in being able to have that kind of success.”

Archdiocese seeks representatives to attend 2015 World Meeting of Families

This will be the eighth World Meeting of Families, and will take place in the United States for the first time. It is expected to draw thousands of attendees from more than 150 countries and more than 1 million pilgrims for the Sunday Mass at which Pope Francis will be the principal celebrant.

The theme for the 2015 World Meeting of Families, “Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive,” emphasizes the impact of the love and life of families on society. This worldwide gathering will allow families to hear distinguished speakers, share thoughts, participate in dialogue and prayer and work together to grow as individuals and families while focusing on the role of the Christian family in the Church and society.

The World Meeting of Families was initiated by St. John Paul II to strengthen the sacred bonds of families across the globe.

The first World of Families took place in Rome in 1994, the International “Year of the Family,” and has been held in Rio de Janeiro (1997); Rome (2000); Manila (2001); Valencia, Spain (2004); Mexico City (2009), and Milan (2012).

Financial assistance for participating in the weeklong pilgrimage to Philadelphia may be available.

For more information, to nominate a family or to apply as a family to represent the archdiocese at this historical event, please visit www.worldmeeting2015.org or contact Scott Seibert at 800-317-236-1527 or scott.seibert@archindy.org.

For general information regarding the World Meeting of Families as well as parish and school catechetical resources, visit www.worldmeeting2015.org. |