Finding God, embracing joy

By John Shaughnessy

RICHMOND—Every school year, Mike Waters shares with students two stories that show the tremendous power that one person can have in matters of friendship and faith.

The first story takes the 32-year-old Waters back to his own days in middle school and what may be his worst—and also his best—experience during that time.

“It was a little rocky at home for me then, and it would spill over into school,” recalls Waters, the youth minister for the Richmond Catholic Community and a religion teacher at Seton Catholic School.

“IT was a little rocky at home for me then, and it would spill over into school,” recalls Waters, the youth minister for the Richmond Catholic Community and a religion teacher at Seton Catholic School. “One day, a guy was calling me names, and I started to cry, which is the worst thing a boy can do in middle school.

“My friend, Adam Golden, was part of that group of guys—the cool group. In the midst of all of them, Adam spoke up and said, ‘I like Michael.’”

Waters pauses for a moment as the emotion of that experience returns to him.

“To this day, he’s my best friend. I tell the kids how powerful they can be in situations like that—that if they see someone having a bad day to stand up and encourage them. I also tell them that no one is going to think you’re not cool if you’re friends with everyone. And I tell them that one of those moments when you know God is with you.”

That mention of God leads to the second inspiring story that Waters shares about the power that one person can have in matters of friendship and faith.

An unexpected discovery

Flash forward to 2006 when Waters was a student at Bethany Theological Seminary at Earlham College in Richmond.

The journey of Mike Waters, left, into the Catholic Church received a substantial boost from William Ritz after an unexpected encounter in an exercise facility. Here, the two friends talk after morning Mass on July 30 inside Holy Family Church in Richmond. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

It’s All Good

Columnist Patti Lamb reflects on having ‘a nice, normal family,’ page 12.

Youth minister and religion teacher uses his life story to teach young people about faith, friendship

Serra canonization should be call to respect cultures, Franciscan superior says

ROME (CNS)—The canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra honors a famous missionary who was motivated by love of God, but it also is a call to recognize how the process of evangelization must respect peoples and their cultures, said the head of the Franciscan order.

Franciscan Father Michael Perry, a native of Indianapolis and minister general of the Order of Friars Minor, will be in attendance in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 23 when Pope Francis canonizes Blessed Serra, the 18th-century Franciscan missionary who founded the string of famous California missions.

The pope’s decision to canonize Blessed Junipero has provoked some controversy, mainly because of the impact of the missions on native peoples and cultures and because of claims that Father Junipero used corporal punishment on the Indians who lived at the missions.

In an interview with Catholic News Service on July 31, Father Michael, who grew up in Holy Cross Parish in Indianapolis, said, “When I first got word about the canonization, I think it was a call to respect cultures, to teach young people about what respect means when they talk about the power of one person and how their culture can be enriched by that one person.”

Serra was to be call to respect cultures, Franciscan superior says

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Franciscan Father Michael Perry, minister general of the Order of Friars Minor, is pictured at the Franciscan headquarters in Rome on June 12. A native of Indianapolis, Father Michael said the canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra is a call to recognize how the process of evangelization must respect all people and their cultures. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)
Ethical issues arise from California center’s ‘undercover’ videos

OXNARD, Calif. (CNS) — The use of “undercover” reporting tactics by a California pro-life group in an attempt to expose suspected illegal actions by Planned Parenthood doctors in permitting to solicitation of funds for the acquisition of fetal tissue has stirred discussion and debate.

In recent weeks, the California-based Center for Medical Progress has released several videos—and plans to release more—that show doctors affiliated with the nation’s leading abortion provider discussing for fees for fetal tissue.

Federal law prohibits the sale of fetal tissue from abortions, but it allows reimbursement for some expenses connected to the handling and processing of such tissue.

In the first two videos, the center’s reporters armed with video cameras posed as representatives of a mythical fetal tissue procurement firm who met at public restaurants with the doctors. Over lunch, the reporters pretended to solicit fetal tissue from the doctors, who discussed possible price points for various body organs gleaned from abortions.

The undercover techniques—including the use of hidden cameras and “manufactured identities” including false names, fake affiliation and even disguises—have long been utilized by investigative journalists.

In the case of the center’s videos, it is unclear whether the Planned Parenthood officials were notified that they were being recorded. Under California Penal Code Section 632, “all parties to any conversation could reasonably expect circumstances where the participants of conversations made in public places, exclusion from its application any excludes from its application any

So how do the Center for Medical Progress reporters’ actions connect with these teachings? Does their exposing of alleged wrongdoing connected with the practice of abortion, the willful taking of life, as defined by the Church—trump their act of misrepresenting themselves? In other words, do the ends justify the means, especially if a greater good stands to benefit? Because that is not an argument the Church accepts when researchers who utilize embryos and aborted fetal tissue insist that cures for deadly and disabling illnesses—such as cancer, Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease—could result from such research.

“I personally am in the camp that would condone the actions of the undercover investigators, but explaining why without using an ‘ends-means’ argument is difficult,” said Vicki Evans, coordinator of the San Francisco Archdiocese’s Respect Life Program.

“The Center for Medical Progress reports’ actions connect with these teachings? Does their exposing of alleged wrongdoing connected with the practice of abortion, the willful taking of life, as defined by the Church—trump their act of misrepresenting themselves? In other words, do the ends justify the means, especially if a greater good stands to benefit? Because that is not an argument the Church accepts when researchers who utilize embryos and aborted fetal tissue insist that cures for deadly and disabling illnesses—such as cancer, Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease—could result from such research.

“I personally am in the camp that would condone the actions of the undercover investigators, but explaining why without using an ‘ends-means’ argument is difficult,” said Vicki Evans, coordinator of the San Francisco Archdiocese’s Respect Life Program.

“Do I would argue that they are bringing a corrupt institution to justice, in perhaps the only way possible, to save innocent lives—without a profit motive, with no personal benefit, and with full knowledge that they might be putting their futures in jeopardy.”

Roberio Dell’Oro, director of the Biocit Ethics Institute at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, said that while it is always best to be above board in seeking the truth, there are instances when “a conscientious objection to morally unacceptable practices” can be justified.

“Throughout history, we have numerous examples of those who have lied or broken the law because they conscientiously objected to, and sought to expose, a deeper moral evil,” he said, citing those who hid Jews from the Nazis during World War II. “And I don’t see why this shouldn’t be the case here.”

Reverend Noah J. Casey Endowment

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Pope Francis’ prayer intentions for August

• Universal: Volunteers—That volunteers may give themselves generously to the service of the needy.

• Evangelization: Outreach to the marginalized—that setting aside our very selves we learn to be neighbors to those who find themselves on the margins of human life and society.

(To see Pope Francis’ monthly intentions, go to www.wenw.com/faith/equalPrayer.htm.)

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Indiana cities join in national rally calling for investigation, defunding of Planned Parenthood

By Natalie Hoefer and John Shaughnessy

Oppressive heat could not suppress the voices of the nearly 200 people who came to the Indianapolis Planned Parenthood facility on July 28 to rally for the national investigation and defunding of the country’s largest abortion provider. The rally was one of 60 held across the nation on that day, including one in Bloomington that also drew more than 200 people.

The rallies were the result of the #WomenBetrayed campaign led by Students for Life of America in response to videos recently released in which prominent doctors of the Planned Parenthood organization discussed selling body parts of aborted children.

The videos prompted Indiana Gov. Mike Pence to order an investigation of the state’s Planned Parenthood facilities. On July 30, the Indiana State Department of Health issued a statement noting that its investigation concluded that the state’s Planned Parenthood facilities are in compliance with state law.

On Aug. 3, the U.S. Senate fell short of the necessary votes to advance a bill to defund Planned Parenthood, but the issue is expected to be revisited by the Congress in the fall. Both U.S. senators, Republican Dan Coats and Democrat Joe Donnelly, supported the bill.

“(The rally) went very well,” said Marc Tuttle, president of Right to Life of America in response to videos recently released by the Center for Medical Progress. “Siefker told the crowd that gathered near the Planned Parenthood facility in Bloomington, ‘That’s why we are gathered here today in front of this abortion facility where every week, on every Thursday, 15-20 unborn babies are killed.’”

The mother of six added, “Unless we are very careful and become determined to step out of our comfort zone and refuse to let this issue go away, the same thing is going to happen all over again—abortion is going to remain legal; the trafficking of aborted baby body parts for research will continue on, and our taxpayer dollars are going to continue being used to help facilitate these evils.”

Other speakers at the rally included Father Thomas Kovatch, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington, and Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate Father Alan Wharton of Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center in Bloomington.

Father Kovatch also offered a prayer at the rally. “I extended my hands over the crowd and prayed over people who may need healing from post-abortion trauma,” Father Kovatch said later. “I talked about God’s mercy and the forgiveness he offers people who have done it. I also talked about the hurt I witness from men and women who have been involved in an abortion.”

Besides the July 28 rally, Father Kovatch leads a prayer once or twice a month outside the Planned Parenthood facility. “We’re there on Thursdays, the day they do the abortions there,” he said. “Our focus is to promote the health of someone, not to take a life away.”

The rally achieved at least one of its main goals, Siefker said: “People felt it was time to get involved.”

“This is not health care that is happening there (at Planned Parenthood). Health care is to promote the health of someone, not to take a life away.”

—Father Thomas Kovatch, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington

People hold signs for the #WomenBetrayed rally in Indianapolis on July 28 as Susan Swayze voices a speech. Swayze is vice president of Indiana Right to Life and national women’s pro-life caucus coordinator of Susan B. Anthony List. The rally was one of 60 held nationwide, including one in Bloomington, to call for an investigation and national defunding of the abortion provider in light of recent videos revealing the organization’s selling of body parts of aborted children.

Nearly 200 people attended the Indianapolis rally. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)
Wise leaders needed now more than ever

The political season is upon us. About 20 people have announced their candidacy for the office of President of the United States, and by this time next year the battle for the White House and for many other local, state and federal offices will be raging. What should we look for in the people who present themselves for our consideration as leaders?

Marian University President Daniel J. Elsener frequently speaks about the three qualities that define true leaders. He says they are 1) intelligence, 2) experience, and 3) character. Whether we are speaking about health care professionals, educators, business people, Church leaders, civie leaders or politicians, these three characteristics must be present if good leadership is desired.

Intelligence is critically important, but it’s not enough. Smart people can fool themselves and deceive others if they don’t balance what they know intellectually with what they have experienced firsthand, and what they believe about the world we live in.

Experience says a lot about a person’s abilities and his or her performance under pressure or in crisis situations. But experience or skill alone isn’t enough for leaders who must guide us through unknown territory.

A real leader must be able to “cast vision” and imagine scenarios that are untested. That requires intelligence and a profound sense of what is right and true in challenging circumstances.

Faith grounds leaders in a system of values that go far beyond practical day-to-day experiences and intellectual pursuits. It affirms that there is more to life than what we find on the surface of things. To be women and men of character, leaders must be able to anchor their decisions in a system of values that guide their lives.

During the coming year, let’s pay close attention to the candidates who present themselves as leaders. Let’s ask how smart they are, how much practical experience they have, and how solid their character appears to be. It’s true that looks can be deceiving, and politicians are often brilliant show people with dazzling smiles and soothing words. But are they wise about the world we live in? Would you cast your vote for a politician who says one thing to get elected, and then does something very different while in office?

We need leaders who are smart, experienced and trustworthy. We need women and men whose ability to lead flows from, and is reinforced by, their character. Above all, we need our leaders to be agents of change who are “doers of the word, not hearers only who delude themselves” (see James 1:22-25).

I expect him to say something about marriage as a vocation to the service of life, and that is a call to be responded to in freedom involving a commitment to permanence, fidelity and openness to procreation. Spouses serve each other in facilitating the development of the full human potential that each brings to the marriage. The physical expression of their love opens the way to procreation. The care and education of their sons and daughters amounts to a decades-long devotion to the task of helping their offspring mature in their own original and loving to live and serve and thus find happiness and fulfillment in their lives.

The attentive listener will find much about the mystery and meaning of marriage in what Pope Francis will have to say. There is a privileged moment in the history of the American Church to be able to provide the platform for this new chapter of papal teaching.

Pax Christi Indianapolis is eager to make living and just wage a priority in Indiana

Pax Christi Indianapolis is engaged in the effort to create a living and just wage for all workers in Indiana. Thirty-seven percent of Hoosiers are struggling to support themselves. Forty-nine percent of Hoosier direct-care givers and 45 percent of fast-food workers have to rely on some form of public assistance.

When just wages for workers has been a Catholic priority since 1906 when Msgr. John Ryan, a pioneer in social justice advocacy and theory for the Church, insisted that all people have the right to a living wage, advocates support workers and their families in his 1981 encyclical, “Reorum Novarum,” Pope Leo XIII defined fair wages as at least a living wage.

Pope Francis said in a speech in July, “Working for a just distribution of the fruits of the Earth and human labor is not mere philanthropy. It is a moral obligation. For Christians, the responsibility is even greater: It is a command!”

Closer to home, the Catholic bishops of Indiana pointed out in their recent pastoral, Poverty at the Crossroads: The Church’s Response to Poverty in Indiana, that St. John Bosco taught that “the concrete means of verifying the justice of the whole socioeconomic system.”

Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin stated in his weekly column in the July 10 edition of The Criterion, “Just wages are not just a matter of justice, but the means of work itself must all be seen with new eyes.” Indiana’s working poor deserve a living wage in order to buy groceries, medicine, transportation to and from work, housing, child care, and to live their lives without being in the cycle of poverty.

We invite you to join us at our next Pax Christi Indianapolis meeting at 7 p.m. on Aug. 16 in Oldenburg Hall (formerly St. Francis Hall), Room 106, at Marist University in Indianapolis. We will be hosting Glenn Celeb, executive director of the Indianapolis Catholic Conference, in a conversation about making this a priority issue in the coming legislative session.

—Daniel Conway

Pax Christi Indianapolis is a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis.
La atención médica es un derecho humano fundamental, no un privilegio

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Events Calendar

August 7
Marian University church, 3230 Cold Road, Indianapolis. Louisuniverse.
Diocese of the City of Indianapolis.
First Friday celebration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mass, 3:45 p.m., exorcism of the Blessed Sacrament, following rosary until 10 p.m., sacrament of Reconciliation available.
Information: 317-888-2861 or info@clareeng.org.

August 8
St. Lawrence Church, 6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis. Charismatic Mass, worship, and healing prayer, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-366-4854.

August 8
Helpers of God’s Precious Infants Prayer Vigil, Terre Haute, 3:30 a.m. Information: 812-246-2252 or center@oldenburgosf.com.

August 8
St. Paul Parish, St. Paul Campus, 9788 N. Dearborn Road, Guildford Parish Picnic, Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., activities for children, games, children’s games, Sat. pork tenderloin dinner, 5-8 p.m., Sun. chicken dinner 11 a.m.-4 p.m., both dinners $12 ages 11 and older, $6 ages 10 and younger. Information: 317-576-4302.

August 8
St. Cyril of Jerusalem Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Mass in French, 1 p.m. Information: 317-523-4193 or frmeyer@etczone.com.

August 8
St. Therese of the Infant Jesus Little Flowers Church, 4720 E. 150th St., Indianapolis. Class of ’83 monthly gathering, 6 p.m. Mass, optional dinner afterward. Information: 317-408-6396.

August 11
St. Mary Parish, 2500 S. Dravie’s Drive, Indianapolis. Parish picnic, 10 a.m. p.m., quilts, games, chicken and ham dinners. Information: 317-952-2583.

August 15
helpers of god’s precious infants prayer vigil, Terre Haute, 3:30 a.m. information: 812-246-2252 or center@oldenburgosf.com.

August 15
St. Paul Parish, St. Paul Campus, 9788 N. Dearborn Road, Guildford Parish Picnic, Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., activities for children, games, children’s games, Sat. pork tenderloin dinner, 5-8 p.m., Sun. chicken dinner 11 a.m.-4 p.m., both dinners $12 ages 11 and older, $6 ages 10 and younger. Information: 317-576-4302.

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August 15-23

August 20
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg, “Praying as We Age,” Benedictine Father John Meyer at frmeyer@etczone.com. †

August 21
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 4625 N. Kenwood Ave., Indianapolis. Inaugural service, Fri. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, food, music, information: 317-253-1461.

August 21-22
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 4625 N. Kenwood Ave., Indianapolis. Inaugural service, Fri. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, food, music, information: 317-253-1461.

August 22
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg, “Core and Extension: A Day of Discovery,” two sessions, 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., $45 per person. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgosf.com.

August 28-30
Saint Meinrad Archabbot Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. “Being Born Again,” Benedictine Father Adrian Burke, presenter, $235 single, $350 double. Information: 812-357-6585 or masse@stmeinrad.edu.

August 31
Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Vatican II’s Decree on Christian Unity, Session two of four, “Decree on Christian Unity (On Ecumenism),” Benedictine Father Matthew Manus, presenter, 7:30-8:30 p.m., $15 per person. Information: 317-472-6668 or info@benedictinn.org.

September 2
Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Vatican II’s Decree on Christian Unity, Session two of four, “Decree on Christian Unity (On Ecumenism),” Benedictine Father Matthew Manus, presenter, 7:30-8:30 p.m., $15 per person. Information: 317-472-6668 or info@benedictinn.org.

September 5
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. Well of Grace at Oldenburg, Saturday, 9 am to 2 pm, $30 per person. Information: 317-788-7581 or benedictin@benedictin.org.

September 10
Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. “Vatican II’s Decree on Christian Unity, Session two of four, “Decree on Christian Unity (On Ecumenism),” Benedictine Father Matthew Manus, presenter, 7:30-8:30 p.m., $15 per person. Information: 317-472-6668 or info@benedictinn.org.

September 11-13
Saint Meinrad Archabbot Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. “Caravaggio’s Concern,” Benedictine Father Thomas O’Dwyer, guest, $350 double. Information: 812-357-6585 or masse@stmeinrad.edu.

All Saints Parish to hold two vocation events for girls and women on Aug. 22 in Dearborn County

All Saints Parish will host two vocation discernment events at the St. Martin Campus, 8044 Yorkridge Road, in Guion, on Aug. 22.
The first event, a retreat for girls in grades 6-12, will be held from 12:30-6:30 p.m. The event includes Mass, rapid fire events, and the opportunity to interact with sisters from four different religious communities: Franciscan Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi from Covington, Ky.; Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration of Mishawaka, Ind.; Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia of Nashville, Tenn. and Servants of the Lord and the Virgin Marara of Washington, D.C.
The second retreat is for women who have graduated from high school and older. It includes 3:30 p.m. Mass, followed by dinner from 6:30-8:30 p.m. with sisters from the above communities.
The event is free, but registration by Aug. 20 is required.
To register, contact Father Johnathan Meyer at fmmeyer@etczone.com.

Fatima Retreat House hosts annual Day of Prayer with theme ‘Prayer through Mary’s Eyes’

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis, will host its annual Day of Prayer from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Aug. 24. The theme of this year’s Day of Prayer is “Prayer through Mary’s Eyes.”
Join Fatima Retreat House director and retreat leader Father James Farrell as he reveals secrets of how the Virgin Mary can remind us of the essential elements of prayer.
Mary listens to, ponders, challenges and loves her son in countless ways.
Each of their interactions is a form of prayer. This prayer event renews awareness of what Mary teaches by example.
The cost is $40 and includes a continental breakfast, lunch, the art events will feature local artists displaying and selling their masterpieces—including oil paintings, water color, pen ink drawings, photography, pottery, handmade beads, jewelry, wood and art—while live music radiates and local wines are offered.
Art in the Park will be held outdoors on Sept. 26 from noon-6 p.m. Both space is a standard by 10-by-10 area, and the application fee is $30.
Art after Dark will be an indoor event on Sept. 25 from 5-9 p.m. and on Sept. 26 from noon-9 p.m. Booth space is a standard by 10-by-10 area, and overhead and row lighting will be provided.
The application fee for Art after Dark is $75.
For more information, log on to www.vsatile.com or click on the events page on the Rolly Smith at 317-572-1129 or trourymy@yahoo.com.

For a list of events for the month of September, reported to log on to www.archindy.org/retreats or www.archindy.org/events.
Seminarians, priests honored at joint black Catholic conference

By Natalie Hoefer

At a recent annual joint conference for black Catholic priests, sisters, deacons and seminarians from the archdiocese—Father Kenneth Taylor and the recently deceased Benedictine Father Cyprian Davis—and transitional deacon Douglas Hunter, an archdiocesan seminarian, received special honors.

The recognition was given at the joint conference on July 27-30 in Charleston, S.C., of four black Catholic organizations: the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus (NBCCC), the National Black Sisters’ Conference, the National Association of Black Catholic Deacons and the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association (NBCSA).

The NBCSA awarded outgoing president Deacon Hunter with the Father Clarence Williams Award—the organization’s highest award. The award is named after the founder of the association, and is given to a seminarian who distinguished himself in working on behalf of the nation’s black seminarians.

“One of the things [Deacon Hunter] did was to start to reach out to different regions of the country to try to get [black seminarians] to meet regionally, because not all of them can make it to the national meeting,” said Deacon Hunter. “I was surprised to select me out of all the members [of the organization].”

While each of the groups involved in the joint conference awarded their own honors, together they posthumously recognized Father Cyprian, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, with the Father Al McKnight Award. Father McKnight dedicated his priesthood to working for social justice for the African-American community.

Father Cyprian, who died in May at the age of 84, was given the award in recognition for the work he did bringing the history of black Catholics to the forefront of the Catholic Church.

He is the author of six books, including The History of Black Catholics in the United States, and a book considered to be the definitive biography of Mother Henriette Delille, the black foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family in antebellum New Orleans. Her sainthood cause was opened in 1988, and she was declared venerable in 2010.

“I know that there’s a deep respect for him in all four of the [black Catholic] organizations,” said Father Taylor. “There’s a deep respect for him and the efforts he has given throughout the years and the work he’s done. There was just this desire to acknowledge what he has done in some way.

“So even though it was posthumous, it was a sign of how much we all appreciate him and the work he’s done.”

Additionally, the joint conference announced that it would create an award in the name of the Archbishop of Indianapolis in June of 2016.

“I feel very honored to have been chosen by my peers to receive the award,” said Deacon Hunter. “I was surprised to select me out of all the members [of the organization].”

While the determination of the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association are determining factors in our criminal justice systems of this country, otherwise, there remains the right of everyone to stand equal before the legal reason for the abolition of the death penalty. It is impossible to imagine that states today cannot make the offender retains their God-given worth and must be treated with dignity… and support Pope Francis, who stated, “It is impossible to imagine that states today cannot make use of another means [other] than capital punishment to defend peoples’ lives from an unjust aggressor. … All Christians and people of good will are thus called today to struggle … for abolition of the death penalty…”

National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus
Father Kenneth Taylor, president
National Association of Black Catholic Deacons
Deacon Joseph Connor, president
National Black Catholic Sisters’ Conference
Sister Callista Robinson, O.S.F., president
National Black Catholic Seminarians Association
Seminarian Mark Bristol, president +

In addition to announcing the award and leadership winners, other highlights of the conference included the writing of an official statement regarding the death penalty (see related story below), and a visit to the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church where nine black civil rights workers were killed on June 19.

“We were able to hear the story of what happened, and were able to offer prayer in the church,” Father Taylor said. “That was something that was very touching as part of our meeting.”

During a joint conference of four black Catholic organizations for priests, sisters, deacons and seminarians on July 27-30 in Charleston, S.C., a public statement was issued regarding the use of the death penalty. The statement reads as follows:

“The National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, the National Association of Black Catholic Deacons, the National Black Sisters’ Conference, and the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association are profoundly opposed to the death penalty.

“We embrace the truth that all life is sacred from conception to natural death, and must not be purposely ended.

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$9 Adults - $7 Kids 10 and Under

August 15
Nativity Fit 5K Run/Walk (9:00 am)
Prime Rib and Oven Roasted Turkey
Catered Dinner
Prime Rib and Oven Roasted Turkey
$10 Adults - $6 Kids 10 and Under
5:30 pm - Evening Mass
Richmond—a time when he experienced a crisis of faith.

“I had been baptized when I was 18 into a Church of Christ,” he recalls. “My plan was to become a priest in the Brethren Church. I was studying for the ministry. But as I began to learn more about the [Catholic] Church fathers, and that’s when I first began to think about the Catholic Church. I took some time off from Bethany. I wasn’t finding what I wanted.”

Hoping to help Waters, a friend suggested he read The Seven Storey Mountain by Trappist Father Thomas Merton.

“He saw some similarities in my life journey to Merton’s life journey,” Waters says. “After reading the book, that was confirmed big time. What I saw in Merton was someone searching for something. And I saw that Merton had found fulfillment in the sacraments, and experiencing Jesus and God in the sacraments. I was in tears of joy and relief. It was one of those moments when God was speaking to me, calling me to what Merton had found. It was ironic for me because I thought the Catholic Church was the last place God was calling me.”

That first discovery led Waters to want to learn more about the Catholic Church. It also led him to an unexpected encounter with a stranger in an exercise facility.

Healing a wound in the heart

“I was at the gym at Earlham College, and I saw a friend I hadn’t seen in a long time,” Waters recalls. “I shared what I had experienced and told her I was looking into talking to someone in the Catholic Church to see what I needed to do to be Catholic.

“There was a man on a treadmill next to hers. I saw he was interested in what I was saying. I walked away and went over to do my workout with weights. He came over.”

The stranger was William Ritz, 70 years young at the time. A member of Holy Family Parish in Richmond, Ritz was also the chaplain of the parish’s evangelization committee. Ritz introduced himself to Waters, and offered to help him learn more about the Church and becoming a Catholic.

“A week later, I took him to church and explained everything I could about the Church and the loving people there,” Ritz recalls. “I think the Holy Spirit was talking to both of us.”

Ritz’s introduction still impresses Waters nearly a decade later.

“I share that story a lot of times with kids,” Waters says. “I point out to them how brave Bill was at that moment to share his faith and evangelize. If he hadn’t been brave, I don’t know how the story would have turned out.”

Shortly after they met, Ritz helped Waters join the parish, which led Waters to become youth minister for the Richmond Catholic Brethren Church. Yet through my studies, I began to learn that the Church follows the cross,” Father Michael said. “I think this was an area that was probably more important to me in the 18th century usually meant working with or under a colonial government, like the Spanish colonial government in California.”

What I think we have to learn from this canonization is that the Church follows the cross of Jesus Christ; the state has its own flag, but the Church does not follow the flag; the Church follows the cross,” Father Michael said.

“His mom wanted us to meet,” Waters says with a smile. “Mike is an outstanding Christian role model,” says Father Michael. “I think the pope already had something in mind.”

Flying back to the Vatican from the Philippines in January, Pope Francis “caught us off guard—in a good way”—with his announcement he would canonize Blessed Junipero in September during his visit to the United States, Father Michael said. The order had to scramble, he said, to collect and prepare the necessary paperwork.

“The Catholic Church is recognizing Blessed Junipero as a saint and holy man, the Franciscan superior said. “This man was in love with God,” and “was convinced he had a vocation to service the poor.”

Blessed Junipero’s birth, and it may have found its way to the pope, “But I think the pope already had something in mind.”

Waters and Ritz could share that message with the students he teaches, and the youths he helps guide. “Mike is an outstanding Christian role model,” says Rick Ruhl, principal of Seton Catholic High School.

The Franciscan leader said Blessed Junipero’s letters make it clear that while he cooperated with the Spanish colonial authorities, he was “very concerned about the plight of the people he evangelized,” especially at the hands of the colonial forces.

“There were a number of instances where Serra himself stood up to defend the rights of the indigenous peoples,” Father Michael said.

Blessed Junipero’s letters and documents about his work highlight the missionaries’ priority of preaching the Gospel, he said, but they also emphasize three goals the 18th-century Franciscans had in mind in running the mission communities where the native peoples lived.

First, he said, through education and practical training, the missionaries wanted to give the native people the skills they believed they needed for a “civilized life.” As part of the colonial structure, they also were charged with training the people “to become taxpaying, cooperative citizens” of the Spanish crown.

A third goal was to ensure the indigenous people could “continue to dream and imagine who they were from their own culture, from their own experiences,” Father Michael said. “I think this was an area that was probably more difficult for the Spanish.”

Still, he said, the fact that Blessed Junipero and his companions learned the native languages was a sign of respect that demonstrates the missionaries’ desire to go out to the people, to meet them and understand them.

Although he was a famous professor and preacher in his native Mallorca and again in Mexico City, Blessed Junipero felt driven to leave that life behind and set out for the missions, the Franciscan superior said.

He told his companions that he would no longer be known as a “maestro” of philosophy or even as “reverend,” but simply as “Brother Junipero,” Father Michael said.

“Junipero himself was trying to seek a way of humility,” he said. “He was trying to re-identify, reclaim a sense in one of the greatest qualities of Franciscan tradition for mission: to go humbly, to go simply, to go with titles.”

A statue of Blessed Junipero Serra stands in the cemetery and garden at Mission San Francisco de Asis, also known as Old Mission Dolores, in San Francisco. In the background is an Ohlone runway, a traditional California coastal native house made of tuft. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)
Those in prison ministry offer moral, spiritual support to inmates

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Washington, D.C., native and 10-year veteran of the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility in Philadelphia, Father Michael Bryant sharply demarcates his role as prison chaplain from the roles of the medical and educational staff members there. While they “have to go to them to give them something they need,” he said, “We’re the ones that they can call my name, and they know they can come to me.”

Barrere, who has been involved in jail ministry in the Diocese of Oakland, Calif., in the Diocese of Oakland, for about 12 years, said the third of the program’s goals is for inmates to return “to a better future.”

“The prisoners’ situation ‘just happens,’ she said. “Some are happy to have someone to talk to. Many just feel unsafe in all the time she has been going to Marsh Creek. ‘You feel the vibes one way or the other. I never have heard of the kind of the creepy feeling that ‘oh, I don’t want to hug this one, he’ll get the wrong idea,’ she told CNS. Not that hugging is common. After the 9/11 terror attacks, jail officials noted the hiding of hands at the Our Father Pardon Mass, as well as clasping hands at the sign of the cross.

But, inmates once released, are welcome at Barrere’s parish, St. Bonaventure in Concord, Calif., after they have been sentenced to terms of no year or less for misdemeanor offenses. Barrere disabuses anyone of the notion that Catholics are somehow more immune than the rest of the population from committing criminal offenses. ‘There are many, many Catholic parishioners who find themselves in jail,” she said. Mass is the only Sunday religious activity. Sometimes it draws a couple of people, sometimes up to 20.

The prison has the state’s highest percentage of people of color, about 150. Of the prisoners, about 40 have asked to go to the weekly Mass. Most go about a dozen cannot because they are confined to their cells. Father Frazier has to go to them to give them Eucharist directly to the men, rather than having to put his hand and the host in the bars of the cell door.

It was a matter of dignity for them,” Father Frazier told CNS. “It should be more of a personal encounter.”

Even outside Mass, Father Frazier will visit with prisoners “Some are happy to get a Bible or some religious reading,” he said. “Some of them just have a religious question. One of them, I think I’ve come a long way with. When I first went to see him, he thought there was no way God could forgive him for what he did. He’s on death row. He murdered people.” The man had been jailed for killing someone—although the conviction was for an offense less than first-degree murder—was paroled, and then killed another person. “He felt God couldn’t forgive him for that. We had a lot of talks with him on that.”

Now, Father Frazier added, “he receives Communion regularly.”

The priest speculated about what Pope Francis might, and might not, see, in his Philadelphia jail visit.

He probably won’t see the everyday running of a prison. He probably will see so many people that they pick [in advance]. I don’t think [Pope Francis] will probably get into like we call the ‘bureaucracy.’ But he might!” He might people to visit. Father Hackett said, chuckling. “But I probably don’t think he will. If he probably will do a walk-through, and I don’t think he’ll get to see people directly that they could actually sit down with him.”

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The U.S. ambassador to the Holy See believes Pope Francis is not traveling to the United States in September to scold Americans, but Hackett said the ambassador expects the pope to challenge Americans to live the nation’s ideals.

“Americans expect Pope Francis to call Americans to live nation’s ideals"
Polish bishop suggests World Youth Day 2016 should be ‘open to all’

WARSAW, Poland (CNS)—The Polish bishop overseeing preparations for World Youth Day 2016 has urged priests to ensure that no young people are excluded, because of poverty.

Auxiliary Bishop Damian Muskus of Krakow, Poland, which is hosting the international celebration, said arranging for young people who might not be able to attend the event would be “our priestly gifts for youngsters in this Year of Mercy.”

“We’re well aware how much degeneration, unemployment and neglect there is, and this requires from us all sensitivity and solidarity with the poorest, so they won’t feel left out,” he said on July 31, as preparations continued for the event set for July 26-31, 2016, in the southern Polish city.

Any assistance to young people should, Bishop Muskus explained, reflect “a communion between awareness of youth possibilities and organizational needs and costs,” but also should adhere to the event’s theme, “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy” (Mt 5:7).

Meanwhile, Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz of Krakow said he was counting on participation by young people from all over the world, “and not only young Christians.”

“We need a new view of the Church, which is the risen Christ’s gift to the world and all generations. But we also need enthusiasm in the faith, since this enthusiasm is often extinguished under the ashes of daily hardships and weaknesses,” Cardinal Dziwisz said in a homily.

“We count on words, voices and images from this shared festival reaching every country, home and family, every person seeking a sense of life and motives for hope,” he added.

Pope Francis is scheduled to lead a televised Way of the Cross procession from the Krakow’s Divine Mercy Sanctuary during World Youth Day, as well as a prayer vigil focusing on youth issues near the Wieliczka Salt Mine and a Mass in the city’s Blonia Park.

Organizers said in May they were selling 20,000 volunteers from Poland and abroad to help with the event, which is expected to attract up to 2.5 million young people, as well as 20,000 priests and 1,200 bishops.

They also have asked Poland’s Foreign Ministry to reduce visa charges for young participants, including 300,000 expected from Russia, Ukraine and other former communist countries.

Poland’s Catholic information agency, KAI, reported that 45,000 people had signed up to attend the festivities for 24 hours of the formal opening of registration on July 26.

Speaking in Krakow, Bishop Muskus said all young participants should register via the multilingual website www.krakow2016.com to be guaranteed accommodations, food, transport and pilgrim materials, and to give organizers a clearer idea of numbers.

Cardinal Dziwisz told Mass attendees that World Youth Day would emulate the pope’s wishes “that there’s greater Gospel joy, solidarity and love among us, and that the Church becomes the Church of the poor for the poor.”

“This will be a great celebration of faith for young people from the whole world, lived by the whole Church and not just by young Christians,” the cardinal said.

“As Christians, we are responsible for the fate of the world, and for ensuring greater fraternity, solidarity and peace. If we don’t live up to this challenge, they will,” he said.

A giant clock, counting down the minutes until the World Youth Day opening ceremony, was installed on July 26 on the facade of Krakow’s 14th-century St. Mary’s Basilica. □
Despite successes, Older Americans Act faces uncertain future in Congress

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The Older Americans Act, under which millions of Americans have enjoyed services, elder abuse prevention programs, and Medicare, a leadership council member. “They can continue to serve older people in very community social services for older people. Among the programs funded under the law are dozens of programs to help people at home, and give caregivers a little respite so they can continue doing their caregiving.” Despite the success of the programs that are largely funded through area agencies on aging, reauthorization of the act and the $2 billion it provides for senior services is not assured. The Senate passed the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act by voice vote on July 16 after months of delay. The 71 members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations had been urging senators to pass the reauthorization bill since January. About 11 million seniors, one-fifth of the country’s senior population, receive services through an extensive network of community organizations. From 2008 to 2012, the act provided more than 130 million rides to doctors’ offices and other places; more than 2.9 million meals; nearly 248 million hours of community service; and more than 1.5 million individual consultations to long-term care residents and their families, statistics from the Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Community Living show.

Such programs allow older Americans—those 60 and older—to remain independent later into life, saving billions of dollars in long-term care and hospitalization costs. Despite the success of the programs that are largely funded through area agencies on aging, reauthorization of the act and the $2 billion it provides for senior services is not assured. The Senate passed the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act by voice vote on July 16 after months of delay. The 71 members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations had been urging senators to pass the reauthorization bill since January. About 11 million seniors, one-fifth of the country’s senior population, receive services through an extensive network of community organizations. From 2008 to 2012, the act provided more than 130 million rides to doctors’ offices and other places; more than 2.9 million meals; nearly 248 million hours of community service; and more than 1.5 million individual consultations to long-term care residents and their families, statistics from the Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Community Living show.

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Early Church: Why Pope Gregory I was called 'the Great'

(Eighteenth in a series of columns)

Since I wrote about Pope Leo the Great last week, it seems to me to write about the only other pope called the “Great” in the fifth century, Pope Gregory I. He was pope from 590 to 604, roughly 150 years after Leo I. Pope Gregory the Great set the form and style of papacy that prevailed throughout the Middle Ages.

He exerted great influence in the art and liturgy (Gregorian Chant is named after him), became involved in temporal and ecclesiastical affairs. Those involved were John Chrysostom, Basil, Gregory of Nazianzus and Athanasius.

Gregory was born into a wealthy family that owned estates in Sicily, as well as a magnificent home on the Appian Way in Rome (where the Church of St. Gregory stands today). But Rome, once the greatest city in the world, was in chaos after having been conquered four times in 20 years. According to the historian Procopius, at one point only 500 people were left to live in the city, and it was anarchic.

At age 30, Gregory was appointed prefect of Rome. But not long after he was named to his post, his father died, and his mother retired to a convent. Gregory resigned as prefect, went to Sicily, and turned his estates into six monasteries, and made his home in Rome into a Benedictine monastery under the patronage of St. Mary. He became one of the monks there.

That lasted only for three or four years before he was made to our houseguests during the month of July. I thought: If I were in an accident and couldn’t calculate.
Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication: be sure to state date of death. Obligations 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.


Don’t be afraid or ashamed to go to confession, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Trusting in God’s infinite mercy, people should not be afraid or embarrassed to go to confession, Pope Francis said.

“There are people who are afraid to go to confession, forgetting that they will not encounter a severe judge there, but the immensely merciful Father,” Pope Francis told thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square on Aug. 2 for the midday recitation of the Angelus prayer.

The pope also told the people gathered under a scorching sun that “when we go to confession, we feel a bit ashamed. That happens to all of us, but we must remember that this shame is a grace that prepares us for the embrace of the Father, who always forgives everything.”

In his main address, the pope commented on the day’s Gospel reading from the Gospel of St. John, which recounts how the crowds followed Jesus after the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes.

“They followed him for the material bread that had满足ed their hunger the day before,” Pope Francis said.

“They didn’t understand that that bread, broken for many, was the expression of the love of Jesus.”

“They gave more value to the bread than to the giver,” the pope continued.

Feeding the crowd, he said, Jesus wanted to lead people to the Father and to a life that is about more than just the daily worries of eating, dressing, success or a career.

“Every person has within him or her a hunger for life, for meaning and for eternity,” Pope Francis said. Jesus satisfies that and gives the gift of himself on the cross and in the Eucharist.

“Jesus does not eliminate preoccupations and the search for daily bread,” the pope said. However, “Jesus reminds us that the real meaning of our earthly existence is the end—eternity—the encounter with him, who is gift and giver.”

In giving himself, Pope Francis said, Jesus also gives people a task: “that we, in turn, satisfy the spiritual and material hunger of our brothers and sisters by proclaiming the Gospel everywhere.”

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U S S IN GS A SI S T ANT:
Missionaries of Charity care for the dying in Nepal's holiest temple

KATHMANDU, Nepal (CNS)—Every Saturday morning, businessman Rajan Silwal rushes to the Pashupatinath temple in Kathmandu to see a few friends. It's a day, he said, in which he can spend time doing good for others.

“I am not coming here as a devotee, but I love to join the sisters to care for the dying people,” said Silwal, a Hindu.

The temple’s social welfare center houses 220 people. It is located at the temple because Hindu believers believe that those who die there will experience instant salvation.

Shreebinda Khanal, center coordinator, said even those who die outside are taken into the temple for cremation. Three other Missionaries of Charity sisters arrive to repeat the prayer.

Sanat Kumar Basnet, a retired police inspector general, sponsored the meal in honor of the 11th birthday of his youngest son, Bardan. As his son fed one of the residents, Basnet told Catholic News Service (CNS): “The work of the sisters is very inspiring. I want my son to have the spirit of social service from here.”

The Missionaries of Charity, who have been working in the ministry since 1978, shy away from publicity, preferring to let their actions speak instead. But others are not hesitant to praise the sisters’ work.

“They [the sisters] bring joy here and inspire many with their dedicated work,” Khanal said.

While some have questioned the sisters’ work at the temple, Khanal said the government appreciates their service.

“They are not working for [to promote] any religion,” he said.

“Now the work of the sisters is much easier as lots of volunteers and government trainees come here,” said Shree Ram Phokarel, a Hindu who served alongside the sisters for 20 years. “In the 1990s, there were hardly any volunteers. The sisters had to do everything themselves.”

Father Giri, a government official who retired in 2004 as the center’s custodian, told CNS the work of the sisters “has changed my attitude to life.”

“Our work is done with love and dedication,” said Father Shrestha, who serves as the center’s custodian. “I am not coming here as a devotee, but I love to join the sisters to do good for others.”

They are angels of love,” he said.

“Once, I was shocked to see Mother Teresa removing excreta with her hands,” Giri said, recounting a 1980s incident.

“I asked, ‘Mother, how are you able to do this?’ Mother told me: ‘If you care for them, you have to do all this.’ That changed my attitude. I started thinking. If Mother is doing like this, I should care for them more,” Giri said.

Maryknoll Father Adam Gudalesky, who arrived in Nepal in 1977, told CNS the first group of four sisters were sent by Blessed Teresa of Calcutta upon his request.

“They began to visit and to help immediately,” Father Gudalesky wrote in a July 29 e-mail from Hong Kong, where he is based now.

“None except the [Missionaries of Charity] would see to the cremation and disposal of the dead bodies,” he said.

Missionaries of Charity sister Mitra Park, superior at the Mitra Park convent, was first sent to Kathmandu in 1993. She told CNS that “it was very tough and the conditions were very challenging” at the temple.

“Now, doctors visit them regularly and give medicines. Those days there were no such facilities. We were giving nursing care and medicines we brought with us,” Sister Amy said.

While the sisters started the work at the temple from a rented house, Sister Amy said the Missionaries of Charity “are very keen that we stayed near the temple so that we can walk in easily.”

In the afternoon, another group of volunteers and interns and three other Missionaries of Charity sisters arrive to repeat the care.

In a July 31 statement, the Catholic bishops of Colorado set Aug. 28 aside as “a day of prayer and penance in response to Planned Parenthood’s horrific actions and all those involved in the procurement and use of aborted baby organs.”

“We call on all people of good will in Colorado and beyond to pray that those involved in research and medicine will fix their sights on recognizing the sanctity of life and refrain from putting human life at the service of science,” they said.

“A society can only be considered socially just if it protects the most vulnerable among us.”

The bishops also noted that Colorado State University in Fort Collins was one of the entities that has used a procurement company to purchase fetal organs harvested during abortions.

Preists for Life announced on Aug. 4 that a coalition of religious and pro-life groups plan to lead a “Week of Prayer to End the Evils of Planned Parenthood” on Aug. 22-29. Several suggested prayers for the week have been posted at www.PrayerCampaign.org.

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Planned Parenthood physicians describe how abortions are carried out to best safeguard fetal tissue and organs for researchers and described a range of prices paid for different body parts.

A third video was of an interview with a technician talking about harvesting fetal body parts and included graphic footage. A fourth video has now been released.

A temporary restraining order issued by the Los Angeles Superior Court prohibits the Center for Medical Progress from releasing any video footage of interviews of officials from StemExpress, a California-based company that provides organs and tissue to researchers.

Planned Parenthood receives more than $500 million of its $1.3 billion annual budget from federal and state programs. According to 2013 data, the latest available, Planned Parenthood says abortions represent 3 percent of the total services its facilities provide, which include dispensing birth control and doing some women’s health screenings. In addition to Republicans in the House and Senate pushing for an end to federal funding of Planned Parenthood, several states have launched investigations into the organization.

Cecile Richards, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, in a statement said that “allegations that Planned Parenthood profits in any way from tissue donation is not true.” She later apologized for “the tone” the physicians used in describing abortion procedures, and also argued the videos had been heavily edited to distort the truth.

In his letter, Cardinal O’Malley added: “The Catholic Church comes to this issue from a perspective rooted in experience. Catholic charitable agencies and pregnancy help centers have helped countless pregnant women find life-affirming alternatives to abortion.”

Other Catholic leaders across the country have called for defunding Planned Parenthood.

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“If we can all go to Washington, D.C., and beyond to pray that those involved in research and medicine will fix their sights on recognizing the sanctity of life and refrain from putting human life at the service of science,” they said.

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Ohio state Rep. Bill Patmon is among local lawmakers calling for defunding of Planned Parenthood. At the Ohio Statehouse on July 29, a crowd cheered as the Cleveland Democrat said he would introduce a measure to strip state funds from the organization.

As an African-American, he also had sharp criticism for the Black Lives Matter movement, organized to protest what his leaders say are racist police tactics that target black Americans.

He expressed his outrage at the number of unborn black babies killed by abortion, compared to other races, and labeled Black Lives Matter as hypocritical, saying the group needs to hold protests in front of Planned Parenthood facilities.

“What business is it of yours, Mr. Patmon, that 56 million unborn [are aborted],” he asked rhetorically. “It is my business, especially when 17 million of them are black women. 17 million—more than any other population [group]—17 million that look and act and talk and are similar to myself. But even more than that, they’re Americans and they’re human beings!”

He also was critical of the term “African-American.”

“I’m an American. I’m American. The Constitution applies to me. The Declaration applies to me. I don’t need any adjectives, just get out of my way. No need for any adjectives,” he said. 

Teachers’ Supply Day

A Teachers’ Supply Day was held on Aug. 3 to help students and staff members of the archdiocese’s Mother Theodore Catholic Academies (MTC) get the school year off to a good start. Teachers of Central Catholic School, Holy Angels Catholic School, Holy Cross Central School, Cross Central School, St. Anthony School and St. Philip Ner School—all in Indianapolis—were invited to the Archbishop Edward T. O’Malley Catholic Center in Indianapolis to shop for free items that ranged from crayons to backpacks.

In the left photo, Ely Mickamare of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis shows a brightly-colored backpack to Kathy Laudick of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis. Both are members of a group called “Teachers 4 Teachers” which helps with events and fundraising support for the five schools.

Anyone wishing to help or join the group should call Rose Springer in the MTC office at 317-226-7234.