A Caring Place celebrates 25 years of providing compassion, care for older adults

By John Shaughnessy

If one moment could capture the depth and the history of the love between an aging parent and her grown children, this could be the one.

In this moment, 87-year-old Dorothy Porter, sitting with her youngest child, Berton Graves, and the three of them are laughing with each other. A moment to savor for Madeline Bonds, left, and Berton Graves share a memory and a laugh with their mother, Dorothy Porter, during time together at A Caring Place. The Catholic Charities Indianapolis program is marking its 25th year of providing day care services for older adults, and a daily respite for their caregivers.

The joy is contagious as Madeline Bonds, left, and Berton Graves share a memory and a laugh with their mother, Dorothy Porter, during time together at A Caring Place.

A Caring Place is a place of shared memories and laughter. It’s a place where the love between an aging parent and her grown children is celebrated.

Catholic values are at the heart of award recipients who strive to make a difference in lives of others.

Celebrating Catholic School Values
Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards

By John Shaughnessy

Tom Dale couldn’t stop smiling as he watched the joy of the boys putting on their new football equipment and getting the awe-inspiring experience of practicing at the indoor facility of the Indianapolis Colts.

As a volunteer with the Mother Theodore Catholic Academies (MCCA), Dale wanted to give the children from the archdiocesan center-city Indianapolis schools the same opportunity to play sports in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) program that had so positively influenced his life and the life of his six children.

After all, Dale knew that studies showed that being involved in sports and other activities helps children in a number of ways, including academically and spiritually.

Yet on the following day, Dale’s expression changed from smiling to serious when he noticed that half the boys who showed up for practice didn’t have a shirt covering their football pads. For Dale, it was a small but telling moment.

“It told me that a father figure wasn’t there in their lives,” Dale recalls about that moment in 2010. “That’s what kept me going in trying to help them. They needed a father figure. They needed structure, just like I did when I was growing up. They needed someone and something to help them develop their character and help them out of poverty.”

That combination of a grand vision of how to make a difference and the commitment to the small details to make it happen has long marked Dale’s life. That combination has also defined the lives of Dave Gehrich and Drs. Pam and Marianne Price.

That’s why these four individuals from the archdiocese will be honored during the Celebrating Catholic School Values Awards dinner in Indianapolis on Oct. 26. Dale and Gehrich will receive Career Achievement Awards, while the Prices will be honored with the Community Service Award.

Here are the stories of the recipients.
Dave Gehrich

In his tireless efforts to lead youths to a closer relationship with God, Dave Gehrich always shares this perspective: “Wherever you are is not who we are.”

For Gehrich, those words are not only meant to reassure teenagers who are struggling in one way or another, “they’re also an opportunity for him to share his own struggles in life and faith.”

He admits that he was a “complete knucklehead” as a youth. And he talks about how far he had strayed from his Catholic faith as an adult. Indeed, the father of three shares how he would drive his then-small children to religious education classes on Sunday morning, walk them to the classroom, and return to his car in the church parking lot, where he would read the newspaper instead of attending Mass.

Then one Sunday while he was away on business, his wife Angie—a non-Catholic at the time—took their children to Mass, stayed to pass the time, and decided she wanted to become a Catholic.

“On Holy Saturday night, I was sitting in the church and watching the most important person in my life get baptized,” he recalls. “I said to myself, ‘You’re a real idiot. You’ve been raised in the Church, and you didn’t do anything with it.’ Watching her, I asked God to use me.”

For the past 15 years, Gehrich has served God as a director of youth ministry at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Decatur County. Since then, he has also expanded the reach of his ministry beyond traditional expectations.

He uses humor and unusual props—including a shower curtain—when he talks about issues of faith. He also connects with them “where they are.”

“I’m the vice president of a company, I travel a lot. I’m busy, but God has put me in a position to be there for young people. I know nothing about girls’ volleyball, but I go to their games. I go to their plays, their choir concerts. I’ve even been to a soil judging contest for Future Farmers of America. I text with them. I visit them at college. The days of being a youth minister are gone. We’re now in an era of being a minister to the youth. He has also served the past 10 years as a chaplain/resource source for the North Decatur High School football team, and he has also helped develop programs and leading prayers before and after games.

He also leads a weekly religious education program on Wednesdays that draws 200 youth from the small, rural parish.

“At 50 years old,” says Gehrich, a graduate of Holy Spirit School and Cathedral High School, both in Indianapolis, “I tried to retire from this year from ministry. I wasn’t going to do the football program at the high school and I was thinking of hanging away from this [youth ministry], but I was politely told I wasn’t going to be allowed.”

Not that Gehrich minds. The fire still burns to serve God and young people.

“I try to let them know that, no matter what, at least one person cares about them. Sometimes they have to get so deep down into a hole they can’t get themselves out of. I tell them, ‘You have been given everything you need to God to be an exceptional person’—and I mean literally everything they need to to

“When young people realize that God isn’t an imposing figure, it gives them a sense of freedom. When they give them the freedom to own their faith, they have an interest in it.”

Tom Dale

After 35 years of coaching in CYO, it would have been understandable if Tom Dale stayed on the sidelines as his grandchildren became involved in sports at St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. Instead, Dale signed up this year to become the coordinator of the parish’s football program.

“I’m almost 60, but I wanted to make sure my grandchildren got the right experience,” he says. “Football is one of the sports I really believe in at the grade school and high school level. It builds a lot of character and teaches teamwork.”

This latest volunteer effort reflects the approach to life that guides the father of six and the grandfather of 12.

“There’s a Bible verse [Luke 12:48] that roughly says, ‘When much is given to you, you’re expected to give back.’ And I’ve learned that the more you give, the more you get back in the intangibles.”

Dale’s coaching career has earned him the highest honor the archdiocese’s CYO gives, the St. John Bosco Award. The 1975 graduate of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis has also been a member of the board of directors of the Mother Theodore Catholic Academies for eight years, often raising scholarship funds for students. And he has served St. Barnabas as a member of the stewardship committee while also leading a capital campaign that resulted in a new gym and classrooms for the parish.

Still, Dale turns the conversation to all the people who have influenced his life: his mother who made sure her children had a Catholic education; his grade school coach Dave Hager who built up his confidence; and his wife of 38 years, Joanie, who first caught his attention when they sang in the choir together at the former St. James School in Indianapolis.

“Joanie has been the best supporter of my efforts over the years, holding down the fort at home and allowing me to help others fortunate. Joanie and I wanted our children to be in Catholic schools because we felt we were lucky with the teachers we had—and the formation of our faith. Catholic schools formed me into the man I am today.”

Drs. Frank and Marianne Price

Similar to most people who receive Community School Awards, Drs. Frank and Marianne Price have never sought recognition for their contributions to society. Instead, they have looked to the parable of the three servants to guide their lives.

“In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus shares the story of a master who entrusts his money to three of his servants before taking a long trip. Two increase the value of their master’s trust in them while the third servant buries his gift. We’re each given talents to do different things, and you have to try to use those talents to help people,” Frank says. “That’s what we try to do.”

Marianne also sees a biblical connection to the couple’s efforts in promoting the restoration of the vision of people locally and globally.

“It’s healing,” she says. “Your gifts come from God, and you’re supposed to use your gifts to glorify God.”
Consecrated religious gather with archbishop to celebrate ‘different communities all focused toward God’

By Natalie Hoefer

Full veils, short veils, no veils. Habits and robes of brown, gray, white, blue, black and lavender. Races including African, Caucasian, Filipino, Hispanic and Indian.

The look of the religious men and women at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on Sept. 13 was as varied as the different orders serving throughout central and southern Indiana. They came together to celebrate solemn evening prayer with Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin in honor of the Year of Consecrated Life. The archbishop also recognized those religious celebrating 25-, 50- and 75-year jubilees.

“Certainly Pope Francis gave us this year for the Church as a whole to thank God for the gift of consecrated life, and for people like us to look at our past with gratitude, our present with serenity, and our future with hope,” the archbishop said during his homily.

In 1997, St. John Paul II designated February 2—the Feast of the Presentation—as the World Day for Consecrated Life to honor all men and women religious. On Nov. 30, 2014, Pope Francis took this honor one step further by declaring that date Feb. 2, 2016, as the Year of Consecrated Life.

“This year is a letter of encouragement for consecrated life,” Archbishop Tobin continued in his homily. “The celebration tonight remembers how consecrated life has encouraged the Church in Indiana.

“When you think of the role of religious in the history of this state, we can marvel at the works that were accomplished. We can say that the history of this Church is about the history of the state—and probably the history of the state—could not be complete without the contributions of the Franciscan Sisters of Oldenburg, or the Sisters of Providence at St. Mary-of-the-Woods, who currently live and volunteer in Indianapolis.

To encourage those living consecrated lives in the archdiocese to inspire more vocations, Archbishop Tobin quoted directly from St. John Paul II’s 1996 apostolic exhortation, Vita Consecrata: “You young people will not be deceived: when they come to you, they want to see what they do not see elsewhere.

An immense task awaits you in the future: in a special way, young consecrated persons, by witnessing to their consecration, can lead their contemporaries to a renewal of their lives.

An impassioned love of Jesus Christ is a powerful attraction for those other young people whom Christ in his goodness is calling to follow him closely and forever. Our contemporaries want to see in consecrated persons the joy which comes from being with the Lord.

“You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount, but also a great history still to be accomplished! Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things!” (#109-110).

Sister Christabel Mary, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary based in India, reflected on the solidarity of the many religious orders present for the prayer service.

“I think when we get together and pray together, and think of religious life, we are all one in Christ,” she said. “We have different charisms, but one way to get to heaven, different ways and different communities, but all focused toward God.”

At a reception following the prayer service, a spirit like that of a class reunion hovered in Assembly Hall at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center in Bloomington.

“Some people ask if I’m worried about the numbers of religious going down. But I’m not. “There will always be consecrated life. There will always be a call there.”

Franciscan Brother Moises Gutierrez, director of the archdiocesan Intercultural Office, left, and Dominican Father John Meany, pastor of St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington, chat during a reception at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis on Sept. 13. (Photos by Natalie Hoefer)

Top photo, sisters of different communities, including Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart from India in the front row and Little Sisters of the Poor in the second row, bow their heads during solemn evening prayer for consecrated religious at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on Sept. 13.

Three sisters from different orders in various locations across central and southern Indiana share stories in the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis during a reception for all consecrated religious in the archdiocese on Sept. 13. They are Carmelite Sister Martha Hall of the Carmelite Monastery in Terre Haute, left, Franciscan Sister Martha Ann Rich of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, who serves at St. Francis Hospital in Indianapolis; and Providence Sister Marilyn Herber of the Sisters of Providence at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, who currently lives and volunteers in Indianapolis.

Members of the Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis in Oldenburg sing the entrance hymn during solemn evening prayer commemorating the Year of Consecrated Life. The service for consecrated religious in the archdiocese was led by Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on Sept. 13.

A reception for all consecrated religious in the archdiocese was led by Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center in Bloomington. The Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate Father Alan Bernardino Mark Wharton at a reception at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis. The Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate serve at Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center in Bloomington.

Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin talks with Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate Father Alan Bernardino Mark Wharton at a reception at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis. The Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate serve at Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center in Bloomington.

Sisters of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy order from Africa serving in the archdiocese celebrate their vocation as consecrated religious during solemn evening prayer at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on Sept. 13. Joining them on the far right is Benedictine Sister Jennifer Mechtild Horner, prioress of Our Lady of Grace Monastery of the Sisters of St. Benedict in Beech Grove.

“[The Year of Consecrated Life has] come at a time where it’s really needed [because of] the struggles that women religious have gone through with Rome recently,” she said. “Some people ask if I’m worried about the numbers of religious going down. But I’m not.”

“You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount, but also a great history still to be accomplished! Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things!” (#109-110).

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At a reception following the prayer service, a spirit like that of a class reunion hovered in Assembly Hall at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center. Members of the various religious orders in the archdiocese mingled, chatted and laughed.

“Some people ask if I’m worried about the numbers of religious going down. But I’m not. “There will always be consecrated life. There will always be a call there.”

The look of the religious men and women at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on Sept. 13 was as varied as the different orders serving throughout central and southern Indiana.
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She had refused to affix her signature to licenses being bought by two people of the same sex, even after the U.S. Supreme Court had legalized gay marriage. According to him that this would force her to act against her conscience and her deeply held religious convictions.

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A warm Hoosier welcome for Pope Francis

Una cálida bienvenida estilo hoosier para el papa Francisco

A

s you read this column, the Catholic Church in the United States is celebrating the historic pastoral visit of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, to our country. On behalf of all the people of central and southern Indiana who live in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, I offer a heartfelt Hoosier welcome!

I know something about Hoosiers welcome less. Less than three years ago, I experienced the warm hospitality of Catholics—and people from many other traditions—as I began my ministry here. I have confessed before that I initially thought “Hoosier Hospitality” was just a P.R. slogan. I learned quickly that there is a genuine and heartfelt manner of welcoming that is distinctive to this region. It’s that welcome that I wish to extend to Pope Francis as he arrives in the United States for his first visit here as the Bishop of Rome.

The Criterion’s publication schedule requires that I write this column several weeks before it is printed and distributed throughout our diocese. That means that I don’t know for sure what Pope Francis will say or do when he is here. (As you probably know, this pope frequently sets aside his script and his published schedule to respond to the pastoral opportunities presented to him along the way.)

Since I can’t comment on what has happened (or is happening now as you read these words), let me offer a few reflections on what I believe is likely to happen when Pope Francis visits us. You can then compare these “predictions” with the actual occurrences.

I must start with a disclaimer. Although we Catholics believe that the Bishop of Rome can—under very limited and strictly defined conditions—speak infallibly, an individual bishop is never infallible. Keep that in mind as I offer some predictions about what will happen when Pope Francis is in our midst!

My first prediction: The Holy Father will speak about the poor and our need as people who have been blessed with abundance to play a leading role in partnering with our sisters and brothers who are poor—both here at home and throughout the world. The pope will challenge us to share our resources with the poor, but he will also urge us to do whatever we can to create the economic, social and political conditions that can allow every human being to thrive and grow and be productive.

My second prediction: Some will misunderstand the pope’s message and read into it an ideology that is contrary to the American spirit. If this happens, I pray that everyone will keep an open mind and heart. The pope speaks as a pastor, not as a politician or an economist. What Pope Francis has to say about social issues is no different than what his predecessors—St. John XXIII, Paul VI, St. John Paul II and Benedict XVI—said about these same issues. But Pope Francis uses dramatic gestures (such as driving in an old car) to illustrate the Church’s teaching. These gestures often capture attention and stir up controversy!

My third prediction is that the now-familiar smile and evident sense of humor that characterizes Pope Francis will dominate the mainstream and social media accounts of his visit. Millions of people will experience (directly or virtually) the Gospel joy that this pope carries with him on all of his pastoral visits throughout the world.

My fourth prediction is that too much media attention will be given to controversial issues such as same-sex marriage and climate change, and too little time will be spent discussing the fundamental principles underlying these issues. Sad to say, the pope’s teaching on the dignity of all human life and the sacred duty to care for and protect all that God has made will probably be overshadowed by more superficial accounts of his message.

My final prediction, which is also my profound hope, is that the Catholic Church in the United States will experience a genuine renewal of faith and commitment because of our Holy Father’s visit. I also predict that all people of good will—our friends and neighbors here in Indiana and throughout the United States—will recognize Pope Francis as a man of God whose only desire is to bring us all together in pursuit of truth and the common good of all.

On behalf of the entire Catholic community in central and southern Indiana, and all our sisters and brothers in the state of Indiana, I offer a warm Hoosier welcome to the man from Argentina who now serves as the Bishop of Rome. You are welcome here, Pope Francis. Una cálida bienvenida de parte de todos los hoosiers, Santo Padre!"
September 25-26
SS. Francis and Clare Parish, 501 Olive Branch Lane, Greenwood. Fall Festival, Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. noon-midnight, zip line, art in the park, entertainment. Information: 317-845-4673.

September 26
St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. Faithful Citizens Rosary procession, 1 p.m., processional. Information: faithfulcitizens2016@gmail.com

Sarah Shalk Golf Course, 2901 S. Keystone Ave., Indianapolis. Nativity Knights of Columbus, golf scramble, 8 a.m., $80 per person entry fee. Information: RCChesnut8@bghglobal.net

Parish Picnic, St. Michael Parish, 1723 I St., Bedford. Great Adventure Bible Study, 7:30-8 p.m. each Wednesday, $8 per person for materials. Information: 827-275-6552, ext. 227 or fishforkids184@comcast.net

October 2
Marian University chapel, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Lumen Dei Catholic Business Group, Mass and lunch meeting, 6:30-8:30 a.m., breakfast, $15 per person. Information: 317-345-6747 or lumen_dei@comcast.net

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. First celebration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mass, 5:45 p.m., exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, following Mass up to 10 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation available. Information: 317-888-2861 or info@lvogreenwood.org

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

St. Nicholas Parish, 6461 E. Nicholas Drive, Indianapolis. Fall Festival: Supper, also serving chicken noodle soup, chicken and noodles, 5 p.m.-9:5 p.m. Information: 823-626-2924.

October 3
St. Paul Parish, 202 E. Washington St., Greensville. Knights of Columbus of Indianapolis, Mass, Entertainment, music, games; 4-11 p.m. Information: 765-720-5497 or outlaw@alliant.com

St. Mary Parish, 415 E. Eighth St., New Albany. Fall Festival. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., games, booths, inflatables, games. Information: 812-944-0417.

Red Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis is set for Oct. 5

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish seeks volunteers for neighborhood service project

Parishioners at Sacred Heart Parish in Indianapolis have organized an effort to help in a near southwest side service project in the neighborhood surrounding the parish from Oct. 5-22. The project, called “Miracle on Caven Street,” involves the building of a home for a newly family. The family was selected from among many applicants.

The Thomas More Society of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is an organization of Catholic lawyers and judges who will host a Red Mass celebrated by Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin at St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., in Indianapolis, at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 5.

Mass will be followed by dinner at the nearby Crown Plaza, with a keynote address by Michael Crowther, president and CEO of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and the United States Trustee for regions 10 and 13. Nancy Gargula will receive the Archdiocese of Indianapolis’ Heart of a Saint Award.

Dinner tickets are $50 for members and $60 for non-members. Table sponsorships are $100.

For more information, contact Rachel Van Tyle at 317-402-3090 or e-mail rvantyle@ncelcginc.org.

Sisters of Providence hosting Fall Discernment Weekend on Oct. 16-18

All single Catholic women ages 18-42 are invited to learn more about becoming a Sister of Providence during the order’s Fall Discernment Weekend on Oct. 16-18 at St. Mary of the Woods.

The event, which coincides with the Saint Mother Theodore Guérin and the congregation’s 175th anniversary celebration, will include time for prayer, reflection and time to get to know the Sisters of Providence and other women in discernment who have similar questions about life as a vowed religious woman.

The weekend is free, and includes housing and meals.

To register, call Providence Sister Editha Ben at 812-535-2895, or e-mail her at edbeth@spwsp.org.

Jubilarian celebrates 75 years

Sister Gratcia Daly, B.V.M.

Sister Gratcia Daly, a Sister of Charity of Blessed Virgin Mary, has been a nun for 75 years. Sister Gratcia celebrated her jubilee in September, and her Mass was celebrated in September.

Sister Gratcia was born in Burlington, Iowa, and entered the community on Sept. 15, 1943. She was assigned to the community’s first vows on March 19, 1944, and final vows on Aug. 15, 1949.

Sister Gratcia was assigned to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and has taught in many schools throughout the nation.

To send a congratulatory message to Sister Gratcia on her jubilee, or to make a donation to the congregation on her behalf, log on to www.hvmcong.org/whatson?jub.jsp.

"Two Benedictine sisters make first monastic profession at Our Lady of Grace Monastery"

Benedictine sisters Gayla Marie Aspromonte and Susan Nicole Reuber made their first monastic profession on June 13 at Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove. Sister Gayla Marie was a hospital pharmacist, and the daughter of Sheila Ann and the late Dominic Aspromonte. She received her bachelor’s degree in pharmacy from the University of Colorado. Prior to her entrance at Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Sister Gayla Marie was a hospital pharmacist. During her second year in the novitiate, she worked as a part-time staff pharmacist at St. Vincent Anderson Hospital.

Sister Susan Nicole of Evansville, Ind., is the daughter of Paul and Linda Reuber. She received a bachelor’s degree in secondary education/English from Franklin College and a master’s degree in education from Indiana University at Bloomington. Prior to her entrance at Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Sister Susan Nicole taught at Switzerland County Middle School in Vevay and at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. She is now serving full time in the English department at Roncalli.

First monastic profession covers a span of three to six years. During this time, the sisters live as vowed community members while continuing to study and engage in a full-time ministry and discernment of a lifelong commitment. For the next three years, they promise stability in the monastery, fidelity to the monastic way of life, and obedience.

Citation: Sisters of Providence. For a list of events for the next four weeks as reported to The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/events
Painting by young adult Catholic will be used to promote vocations

By Sean Gallagher

The canonization of St. Junipero Serra by Pope Francis on Sept. 23 during a Mass outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington drew the attention of Catholics across the country, and helped introduce them to the 18th-century Franciscan missionary to present-day California.

But members of Serra International have known about and had a devotion to St. Junipero for decades.

The Indianapolis branch of the organization that promotes vocations to the priesthood and religious life was founded in 1953. Now Serrans in Indianapolis and staff members of the archdiocesan Vocations Office will use a newly painted image of St. Junipero to encourage people to consider their call from God.

The painting, the image of which will be used on vocations prayer cards and posters, is the creation of Mike McCarthy, a young adult member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.

An outreach coordinator for the archdiocesan Catholic Charities “refugee settlement program, McCarthy will soon begin work full time in creating sacred art.

“I love the saints,” McCarthy said. “[St. Junipero] just adds another brother, another intercessor to my prayer family. I definitely ask his prayers for the painting.”

The 18-inch-by-24-inch oil painting features St. Junipero wearing a Franciscan habit carrying a walking staff shaped like a cross because he is known for walking across Mexico and California in spreading the Gospel. Behind him is Mission San Carlos Borromeo, which he founded and where he is buried. The Pacific Ocean is also depicted in the background.

Junipero Serra and his work in founding the missions of California are important parts of our history as Catholics in the United States, and their story is often forgotten when the history of our country is recounted,” said Father Eric Augenstein, archdiocesan vocations director. “I hope that bringing more attention to Serra at this time in his canonization will encourage people to learn from his missionary zeal and perhaps even be inspired in their own journey as missionary disciples.

Carl McClelland, vice president for vocations for the Indianapolis Serra Club, was impressed by how the painting is “very colorful and positive.” He hopes it will help the club draw more people across central and southern Indiana into its ministry of vocations promotion.

“We want to get more involved in the schools and the parishes,” said McClelland, a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis. “The canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra, our namesake, helps with that. Now we have something that we can give out to people as we go along.”

Father Augenstein was glad that the Vocations Office and the Serra Club were able to commission a young adult Catholic to create this new painting of St. Junipero.

“There are extraordinary gifts and talents in people all around us,” Father Augenstein said. “At the heart of discernment is discovering how God is calling you to use your particular gifts and talents to build up the kingdom and give in holiness.

“When we see other people using their gifts—like Mike using his artistic ability to paint an image of a saint—it can compel us to reflect on how God is calling us to use our own gifts and talents as people of faith to build up the kingdom.”

The prospect that his painting may inspire the vocational discernment of Catholics across central and southern Indiana is astonishing for McCarthy.

“I think it’s amazing,” he said. “I’m humbled that I was asked to make this painting. I hope it’s something beautiful that people can respond to and pray with.”

(For more information on vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, log on to www.HearGodsCall.com. For more information on the Indianapolis Serra Club, log on to serrany.org. For more information on the artistry of Michael McCarthy, log on to www.michaelmccarthyart.com.)

Oct. 4 Mass will help St. Agnes Parish in Nashville celebrate 75 years of faith

Special to The Criterion

St. Agnes Parish, 1008 McLary Road in Nashville, will celebrate its 75th anniversary with a 2 p.m. Mass on Oct. 4. Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin will be the principal celebrant. Concelebrating the Mass with the archbishop will be Father Eric Augenstein, current sacramental minister at the parish, and Msgr. Mark Svarczkopf, Father Stanley Herber, Father Clem Davis, Msgr. Paul Koetter, Msgr. Fred Easton and Father Eric Johnson, all former sacramental ministers of the parish.

The parish dates its founding to the opening of a modest log chapel in 1940 at the north edge of town. The donors for the purchase of the land at that site were a Bloomington couple, Joseph and Agnes Nurre, who wished to make a memorial of thanksgiving for their children.

Now that 75 years have passed, the people of St. Agnes are expressing their Thanksgiving for their parish that continues to grow in spirit and faith. The congregation outgrew the small chapel, and now worships in a beautiful new church that was built and dedicated in 2003.

After the anniversary Mass, parishioners and guests will share a luncheon at The Seasons Lodge in Nashville. To commemorate the occasion, a time capsule will be buried which will be opened at the 100th anniversary of the parish.

For more information on the parish anniversary Mass, call 812-988-2778 or 812-988-0932.

CATHOLIC LIFE PRESENTS

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

This year Sacred Heart’s Catholic Life Series will be at the Parish Hall, 1125 S. Meridian St. on October 5, 6, and 7. We will explore the concept of religious liberty. This has been a topic that has been the subject of significant debate for a few years, most recently in the States of Indiana and Kentucky. We will explore this topic through the legal and moral perspectives.

Monday, October 5: Religious Liberty and the Constitution of the United States of America by Fr. Jeremiah Lynch S.J. Prior to his entrance into the Jesuit Community, Fr. Jeremiah was a prosecutor in Cook County (Chicago), Illinois. He brings to the discussion a rich legal background and his dedicated service to the Church as a Catholic priest. He is currently Associate Pastor of Sacred Heart and St. Patrick.

Tuesday, October 6: Moral Dimensions of Religious Liberty by Fr. Tom Nairn, OFM. Fr. Tom is the Senior Director of Ethics at Catholic Health Association. Fr. Tom has previously lectured at the Catholic Life series at Sacred Heart on Sexuality/Reproduction, and the Development of Conscience. Fr. Tom has been with Catholic Health Association for 6 years and has lectured in various parts of the world.

Wednesday, October 7: Panel Discussion: Fr. Jeremiah and Fr. Tom will lead discussion on a number of issues that surface on Monday and Tuesday.

Each evening will begin with a light super at 6:30 p.m. at the Parish Hall 1125 S. Meridian. Donation $10.

Saint Mother Theodore Guin FEST

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• Enjoy keynote speakers: Father Mark Joseph Celotta, OFM Cap.

The FEST is a great way to nourish your faith life and spend time with family and friends! Cost: $20 per person or $75 for families of four or more

For more information visit: Fest.SaintMotherTheodore.org or call 812-535-2952

St. Agnes Parish, our namesake, helps with that. Now we have something that we can give out to people as we go along.”
Biannual grants awarded to parishes, schools and archdiocesan agencies

**Criterions report**

During the spring of 2015, nearly $350,000 was awarded in grant monies to parishes, schools and agencies in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. The grants, awarded twice a year, are made available through the Catholic Charities Indianapolis; Indiana Fever basketball games, and Dairy Outings for the adults, including trips to Indianapolis Indians baseball games, Indiana Fever basketball games, and Dairy Queen and Steak n’ Shake. “We also use the money to help people enter the program while they’re waiting for their funding source to be approved,” Sczesny says. “That’s another part of Sister Susan’s legacy.”

Hoping to supplement that legacy, Sczesny surprised Sister Susan during the “Magic of Caring” 25th anniversary celebration of A Caring Place on Sept. 18. Sczesny told Sister Susan that she was creating a “Bucket Wish” in her honor that would help the facility recognize and celebrate significant moments in the adults’ lives.

“Some examples, we have a couple here who has been married for 65 plus years, but they couldn’t celebrate because she’s going through treatments for cancer and he’s been hospitalized several times,” Sczesny says. “We’re going to have an anniversary party with a wedding cake, punch and a gift. A money for that will come from the Bucket Wish.”

The 25 years of A Caring Place represent the fulfillment of a wish for many adults, their caregivers and the staff. “Most of our clients are at the poverty level,” Sczesny says. “We provide care, but we also buy shoes for them if we see they are worn out. Sometimes, we even provide clothes and underclothes. But we give them as hanger prizes because they have a lot of pride. And they just think it’s wonderful.”

“Like one of the women who comes here. Every morning, we ask her, ‘How are you doing today, Mary?’ She grins and says, ‘I’m blessed. I love it here.’”

“‘That’s the way we all feel.’”

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**St. Nicholas Turtle Soup Supper**

Friday, October 2, 2015

5:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Featuring:

- St. Nicholas Famous Turtle Soup
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Fish and Pulled Pork Sandwiches
- Carry out available
- Beer Gardens
- Games for the whole family

Directions:

- E-4 to the Simmons-Milan exit #156
- Turn west on SR 101 to St. Nicholas (approx. 4 miles)
- Alive RR tracks turn right and follow signs to St. Nicholas Church (approx. 3 miles)

Contact the parish office with any questions (317)262-2964
Serve people, not ideology, pope tells Cubans at Havana Mass

HAVANA (CNS)—As Cubans finally face the prospects of calmer relations with the United States, Pope Francis told the Cuban people that love and service, not anyone’s ideology, are the keys to their happiness.

“We do not serve ideas, we serve people,” the pope told hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Havana’s Revolution Square for Mass on Sept. 20.

For decades, the square has been the site of major communist government rallies, and is dominated by a huge image of Ernesto “Che” Guevara, an Argentine Marxist who became a leader in the Cuban Revolution of the 1950s. The image of Che was prominent at the pope’s Mass, but so was a banner proclaiming Pope Francis a “missionary of mercy,” and an even bigger image of the merciful Jesus.

After decades of communism, Mass attendance in Cuba is low. Even the Vatican reports that only 60 percent of the population is baptized Catholic. But as a sign of the pope’s hopes for the growth of the Church in Cuba, he granted a new patroness to Cuba’s bishops conference, Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, and ended in Santiago de Cuba, on the eastern tip of the island.

Before the prayer service, the pope spent close to 45 minutes meeting with Cuba’s 17 bishops. As is his custom with bishops’ conferences with few members, the pope did not have a prepared speech for the meeting, which was private.

Pope Francis spent about 10 minutes in silent prayer in front of the Marian statue. The brief, formal prayer that followed highlighted how the title “Our Lady of Charity” reflects the truth that God is love, and that he sent his son into the world.

The prayer asked God, through Mary’s intercession, to “give full freedom to the children of God.”

Your name and image are sculpted in the minds and hearts of all Cubans, inside and outside the country, as a sign of hope,” said the prayer recited by the pope.

Addressing Mary as “mother of reconciliation,” he prayed that she would gather her scattered children, and “make the Cuban nation a home of brothers and sisters, who open their hearts and minds to Christ.”

Pope Francis places flowers at the statue of Our Lady of Charity, patrons of Cuba, in the Minor Basilica of the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity in El Cobre, Cuba, on Sept. 21. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

CARDINAL Joaquin Esteban Echevarria, S.J., the archbishop of Havana and Cuba’s top cardinal, said that while those relationships need to develop further, Pope Francis has been pondering publicly for weeks, and he returned to the notion when he met the youths. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the papal spokesman, explained to reporters in Holguin on Sept. 21 that “social friendship is solidarity with a heart,” and a commitment to dialogue and to caring “for the smallest” members of society.

Pope Francis told the young people to beware of thinking they need to “throw stones at those who are different.”

Why not extend a hand and look for what we have in common,” he said.

In Buenos Aires, he said, he watched a new parish building an oratory for the young people. All sorts of people turned out to help. “I went at the invitation of the pastor and I saw that one of them, who studied architecture, was a communist. Another was a practicing Catholic, but they were all working together.

Social friendship builds,” he said, “enemy destroys, and the world is destroying itself with war because we do not understand that we have something in common.

Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, who traveled to Cuba with a group of pilgrims, told Catholic News Service in Holguin, “Cubans want to have hope, and they want to have hope for a future here in Cuba.

Especially for young Cubans, he said, there lingers a feeling that they only way they can realize their dreams is to leave the island. “We want a future of hope for Cuba and the Cuban people, and that is what the Church is working for here,” the archbishop said.

At Mass in Holguin, Pope Francis insisted that even someone who seems to be an enemy—or even a "traitor" like the tax collector St. Matthew was—can change, sharing his conviction that each person has the potential to become a better person and, in fact, a friend.

Throughout his pontificate, the pope has emphasized his belief that goodness exists in every person, including the communists he knew in Argentina. Although he said their ideology was flat-out wrong, it did not prevent him from identifying and admiring what was good in them.

The merciful gaze of Jesus, a motif common in Pope Francis’ homilies, is a filter that recognizes each person as a brother or sister, created by God. It is the same filter that Cubans must use to see each other—whether they stayed in Cuba or emigrated—and one that Cuba and U.S. citizens must use as well.

But while those relationships need to develop further, Pope Francis asked Cubans to take care of each other.

Cuba’s Catholic community, he said, has known suffering, but it knows how to stand “with open arms, to keep walking in hope.”

As things change, he said on Sept. 20 at a Mass in Havana, “care for and be at the service of the frailty of your brothers and sisters. Do not neglect them for plans which can be seductive, but are unconcerned about the face of the person beside you.”

The importance of an individual or of a nation, he said, is measured by care for one another.”

Pope Francis and Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alcalde of Havana arrive to celebrate Mass in Revolution Square in Havana on Sept. 20. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Photo courtesy of Pontificia Universidad Católica Bolivariana
Oct. 17 conference to promote ‘revolutionary’ hope

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Millions of Iraqis and Syrians are facing poverty and even death, neighboring countries are bearing more than their fair share of the burden of helping refugees, arms dealers are getting richer, and the international community seems helpless, Pope Francis said.

“The atrocities and unspeakable human rights violations, which characterize these conflicts, are transmitted live by the media,” the pope said on Oct. 17 at St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oakland Road, in Indianapolis. “It was the inspiration of parishioner Richard Grebenc, who has taught theology at several U.S. universities, ‘With issues surrounding life, marriage, and religious freedom being so prominent these days,’ Grebenc said, ‘it seemed to me that the lessons from history that we can learn from Mike and Jim, and how we can apply them today, deserved a wider audience, and would be of great value to the faithful in these troubling and confusing times.’


There will also be opportunities for discussion and for questioning the authors. Papandrea, who is also a singer-songwriter, will perform his music as well.

Papandrea said the conference will be hopeful and forward-looking.

‘The book ends on a hopeful note, with practical advice for what each of us can do to change the world. We have something the world needs—something greater than any one of us, something more ancient and more true than whatever the secular culture is selling at any given moment.’

Evangelization is the job not so much of institutions as of ordinary Christians, Papandrea added. ‘The Church converted the world, one neighbor at a time, by loving that neighbor.’

Papandrea and Aquilina have written, between them, more than 50 books on Christian history, doctrine and devotion. Papandrea is a noted scholar of the ancient world. Aquilina has hosted time series on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN).

(Early bird registration, available through Oct. 4, is $15 per person or $25 per family. After Oct. 4, the cost is $20 per person or $35 per family. For more information on the conference, visit www.saintsmon.org or the Seven Revolutions Conference page on Facebook.)

No one can pretend not to know Syrians, Iraqis are suffering, pope says

Late last year, Pope Francis described the human tragedies of recent decades. ‘The Church responds to the many crises during a meeting with Catholic charity and humanitarian organizations working in Iraq, Syria, the neighboring countries and elsewhere to assist victims of the fighting and those who have fled. The meeting was sponsored by the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, the Vatican office that coordinates Catholic charitable giving. The purpose of the meeting was to share information about the crisis, and the status of Christians and other vulnerable communities, the humanitarian needs, projects already underway, and priorities for the future. Cor Unum reported that since 2011, fighting in Syria and Iraq has claimed more than 250,000 lives and injured more than 1 million people. More than 1.2 million people in Syria and more than 8 million people in Iraq are in need of humanitarian aid. More than 7.6 million people are displaced within Syria, and more than 3 million are displaced in Iraq. Some 4 million Syrians have managed to find refuge in the Middle East, with 1.9 million being hosted in Turkey, 1.1 million in Lebanon and about 600,000 in Jordan, Cor Unum said.

Pope Francis described the consequences of the fighting in Syria and Iraq as ‘one of the most overwhelming human tragedies of recent decades.’

‘The international community seems unable to find adequate solutions while the arms dealers continue to achieve their interests,’ he said. ‘We need to find a solution, which is never the one of violence, because violence only creates new wounds, and new wounds create more violence.’

The pope urged the Catholic aid agencies to continue their commitment to helping in ‘this ocean of pain,’ and asked that they pay particular attention to the children and elderly and children. It would be good, he said, to make sure that children are able to get some kind of schooling, which is key to them having a decent future. In both Syria and Iraq, he said, Christians and Muslims have lived together for centuries with mutual respect. Now, he said, ‘the very legitimacy of the presence of Christians and other religious minorities is denied in the name of a “violent fundamentalism claiming to be based on religion,”’ which is the position of the Islamic State forces.

‘The Church responds to the many attacks and persecution that she suffers in those countries,’ he said, ‘by bearing witness to Christ with courage, through her humble and fervent presence, sincere dialogue and the generous service in favor of whoever that are suffering or in need without any distinction.’

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

October 5, 2015 ~ 5:30 pm
Dedication of two special additions to our Lady of Fatima Retreat House
Miracle of the Sun
A stained glass window created by Fr. Aaron Jenkins in memory of glasermeister Markus Strobl

Rosary Walk & Prayer Garden
designed & created by Eagle Scout Michael Rushka and Dammann’s Lawn & Garden in memory of Katie & Ed Lamperski

‘After our parents Katie & Ed Lamperski died in late 2013, our family began a memorial fund at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House. Through this memorial, a Rosary Walk and Prayer Garden were created.’ This prayerful space is in lasting memory of their lifelong devotion to the Catholic faith, to the Blessed Mother, and to praying the Rosary. — the Lamperski Family

Please RSVP to Marcia Johnson at 317-545-7681 ext. 107

Holy Family Church
Festival ~ Oldenburg

October 4, 2015

Delicious Chicken & Roast Beef Dinners
11:00am to 4:00pm

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Franconia Pet Blessing available Fri+Sat buck tooth...

Just three miles off I-74 at Exit #49
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Enjoy the quaint German Town and Surroundings and Homemade Hospitality!
~ Home of the Onion Dome ~
Hope to see you there!

License # 130198
Catechists are called to help people to love Christ and the Church

By Daniel S. Mulhall

The catechism uses Scripture, tradition and the saints to present Church teaching

By Mike Nelson

A woman displays the e-book version of the Catholic Church's catechetical document (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

Faith

The purpose of all catechesis is to introduce people to Christ and his Church, and then to help people fall in love with Christ and his Church, or, as the General Directory for Catechesis puts it, to help people develop an “intimate” relationship with Christ.

In order to do this, we must first understand the culture of the people to be catechized so that we can nurture the message of the Gospel so that it can be heard and understood appropriately.

“Inculturation” is the Church’s method used to describe how faith penetrates a culture and changes it from within.

As you can see, Pope Francis’ comments flow clearly from the work of the council and of the popes who have led the Church in the past 50 years. His aim is to take this constant teaching and help us to see it with new eyes: “The Lord offers to the Church, so that she is able—as she has been for 2,000 years—to bring Jesus Christ to humanity in our times. The mission is always identical.

Our task, according to Pope Francis, is “to speak to cultures in today’s world and to help them open up to the perennial fruitfulness of Christ’s message.”

While in unity with his predecessors, Pope Francis also builds upon their work by offering additional points of emphasis. For example, Pope Francis continually points out that the joy of the Gospel message is God’s never-ending mercy. He returns to this point in almost all of his talks and writings.

He also emphasizes the importance of being close to and knowing well those we seek to catechize, thus his famous line that shepherds should have the “smell” of their sheep.

As he told the council on new evangelization: “These are times of great challenges that we must not be afraid of making our own. Indeed, only to the extent to which we are able to take on will we be able to offer answers that are coherent by virtue of being elaborated in the light of the Gospel.

“This is what people expect of the Church today, that she knows how to walk with them, offering the company of witness of faith, creating solidarity between us all, and especially the loneliest and most marginalized.”

Pope Francis points out that to be effective, catechists must “go beyond the merely scholarly sphere” so that people encounter Christ, come to know him and desire to follow him.

Here, Pope Francis again builds upon the catechetical documents, which call for a comprehensive approach to catechesis that includes knowledge of the faith, learning how to pray and worship, making good moral decisions, actively participating in communal life, and sharing our faith with others.

As the pope points out, learning to live as Christ’s disciple requires more than scholastic study. These are not new ideas. What they do, however, is make clear that catechists must do more than teach the catechism, which remains the essential norm for all teaching.

Catechists are, in fact, called to be matchmakers, people charged with helping others to meet and fall in love. Pope Francis is calling us to set hearts aflame for Christ.

(Daniel S. Mulhall is a freelance writer and a catechist for adults. He lives in Laurel, Md.) †

The catechism involves a spiritual gift but it is not the “same Spirit,” writes Paul. “There are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings, but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.” (1 Cor 12:4-6).

Each of these spiritual gifts—Scripture, tradition and the rest—serves an important purpose, a “different working,” if you will—in the service of effectively understanding, proclaiming and sharing our faith. The catechism ties them together.

(Mike Nelson is former editor of The Tidings, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.) †
Emmaus Walk

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Then, in 1012, there was another political upheaval in Rome, and the Tuscan family took power. Both John II Crescentius and Pope Benedict IX died suddenly in 1012, and the Tuscan family installed a new pope, Benedict VIII, a layman when selected, the son of the count of Tuscia. The Crescentienses weren't finished, though. They elected their own pope, named Gregory. With the help of family rule, he traveled to Pohody, in Saxony, to try to get the backing of the German king, Henry II. Henry told Gregory to stay out, whatever he says is usually taken out of context in order to make a sensational news story. But when we examine what he said, I find that he is repeating what the Church has always taught. Which brings me to the fact that many Catholics have been so poorly instructed that they really don't know what the Church teaches. I have heard horror stories from “cradle Catholics” who have gotten lost on my way to heaven and instead of moving forward in holiness, I've actually turned and gone the other way.

We are all sinners in need of God's mercy. We can receive it in a special way in the sacrament of penance, which can help us get back on track. But I will travel more with 40 other Catholics from across central and southern Indians, and will meet Catholic families from around the world at the event.

While I know that all families have the same need for grace, I also know that God has laid out for them, I expect to be impressed more by the holiness that children and parents together are showing in the families from across the archdiocese and around the world participating in the World Meeting of Families. Each family grows in holiness and shows it in a special corner of the world in the particular circumstances of their daily lives.

It happens when a mother comforts a crying baby at 2 a.m., rather than staying in bed.

It happens when a father takes time to play with and listen to his children when he only wants to sit, relax and be by himself. It happens when a father plays. It happens when children and parents together are patient with each other's shortcomings, and give in to the other's preference rather than asserting their own.

I pray that those in the holiness of families from around the world, all gathered together to worship the Lord in Pope Francis' presence at the Eucharist, will be a tremendous boost of grace for me to live out my own holiness as a husband and father.

And in a time when many in society want to mold marriage and family life solely according to their own whims and desires, I hope that this gathering of families will be a joyous witness to the beauty of God's age-old, but ever new vision of the same.
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time/ Msgr. Owen F. Campion

Sunday Readings
Sunday, September 27, 2015

• Numbers 11:25-27
• Psalms 5:1-6
• Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

The Book of Numbers, the source of the first reading for this weekend, is one of the first five books of the Bible. The ancient Hebrews, and Jews today, attribute these five books, collectively called the Pentateuch, to Moses. Jews see Moses, however, as only the human instrument through whom God spoke to the people. Thus, these five books, in the Jewish theological mind, are the very words of God. For this reason, the Pentateuch, or the Torah, is the basis of all Jewish belief and religious practice. Even historical events, such as the one mentioned in this weekend’s reading, are interpreted in a religious sense.

The message in this text is that God’s inspiration does not necessarily follow the route that humans may suppose or prefer. Additionally, mere humans cannot judge whether or not a person possesses God’s grace. Moses made this clear. The men discussed in the reading did not appear to be worthy messengers of God. Moses warns his contemporaries that they should not judge these men. God does not operate according to any human timetable or set of requirements.

For its second reading, the Church this weekend presents a section from the Epistle of St. James.

All the epistles are interesting because they reveal the circumstances of Christian life in the first generations after Jesus’ ascension. They were written years after the time immediately prior to King Henry VIII’s break with the Church, and chancellor or prime minister of England for many years—was dying, he said that if he had served God as diligently as he had served the king, he would not be afraid to die.

This worldly cardinal was hardly alone among humans in looking back upon life with regret. For that matter, Wolfe was hardly the only human approaching death to realize that he squandered time on Earth by running after material rainbows. He finally saw that only the spiritual endures.

The Church calls us all to realize that earthly achievements and gains one day will count for nothing. Only our nearness to God in this life matters, as we face our entries into the next life. The readings also remind us that we are human. We can be tempted. Temptations can be strong. We are limited. Our judgments are flawed. We need God. †

The writer of the epistle corrects this thinking. Wealth is impertinent. It guarantees no ultimate security. Furthermore, it so often is a temptation. If nothing else, it distracts us from what truly matters in life, namely being with God and building storehouses of spiritual treasures.

St. Mark’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. Here, wealth is not the point. Instead, John is troubled by the fact that a man uses the name of Jesus to drive away demons. The Lord replies that obviously no enemy of the Lord would, or could, invoke his name to accomplish anything good. The Lord states that all of those honest faith are of God.

The reading has a second part. It reminds us that the benefits, and indeed the needs, of this world may be fleeting when eternity and things of the Spirit are considered.

Reflection

The story is told that when Cardinal Thomas Wolsey—Archbishop of York in the time immediately prior to King Henry VIII’s break with the Church, and chancellor or prime minister of England for many years—was dying, he said that if he had served God as diligently as he had served the king, he would not be afraid to die.

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The wilding is a peacock
Colors arranged as sown
But none with beauty so rare
As the flower that stands alone.

Columbine and Indian Pipe,
Lady’s Slipper of pink and gold;
Untamed treasures of nature
Are a glory to behold.

The Criterion Friday, September 25, 2015

P. Kenneth Doyle

Amun uncomfortable when Mass is interrupted by announcements relating to parish activities and events prior to the actual end of Mass. After Communion at our parish, when the vessels have been purified and the priest is seated behind the altar, general announcements are made. Then, after the reader has concluded, the priest gives the final blessing and says, “Go forth. The Mass is ended.”

Are these announcements to be considered part of the Mass? (Virginia)

As to whether announcements are technically “part of the Mass,” I suppose that reasonable minds could agree either way. My position would be that announcements can occur within the context of a Mass, but are not actually a part of it. The current edition of the “General Instruction of the Roman Missal” provides for “brief announcements, should they be necessary” (as it says in #90a) and situates them at the end of Mass, between the prayer after Communion and the blessing/dismissal prayers.

The key words here are “should” they be necessary. “I share your view that announcements will matter the flow of the liturgy and the prayerfulness that should envelop it. And so in our parish, we have a narrow guideline: Anything that can be, or has been, in our printed weekly bulletin does not get announced from the pulpit. This also encourages people to take the bulletin home and read it.

I make exceptions for the following: a) a schedule change from what had been printed; b) a coffee hour or a welcome reception for new parishioners following that particular Mass, and c) a holy day of obligation during the coming week. With all of the current confusion about holy days and which day of the week they happen to occur on, it doesn’t hurt for people to be reminded of the fact twice. The net result is that pulpits announcements in our parish happen rarely, which is what I want.

My daughter and her fiancé, who both went to Catholic schools from preschool through college, would like to get married in an outdoor ceremony in a garden. My understanding is that the Church requires that sacraments be celebrated inside a blessed building, but I just can’t understand why. The first baptism was performed outside, and the pope distributes Communion to the homeless. I would love for my daughter to have her marriage blessed by the Catholic Church, but I am afraid that it would be an unreasonable rule. Isn’t it true that wherever two or more are gathered in his name, God is there? (New Jersey)

As it is not unusual for people to say their marriage vows (in particular) that they experience the wonder of God most directly when they are outdoors—gazing at a glorious sunset over a lake, for example, or hiking in the mountains. So it is not surprising that they would opt to profess and celebrate their love in such a setting.

But you are correct that the Code of Canon Law says that “a marriage between Catholics...is to be celebrated in a parish church” (#1118). While the rule is not absolute (#1118, Section 2, does say that the local bishop can permit a marriage to be celebrated in another suitable place), the vast majority of dioceses would not normally allow it in the situation you describe.

The Church desires to highlight the fundamental spiritual nature of the occasion. The couple is affirming God’s role in having brought them together and sending him his blessing through the years to come. It is a sacred and sacramental event—an act of worship—it is celebrated where Catholics traditionally worship: in their parish church.

In my experience, the situations in which a bishop would see fit to dispense from that tradition are rare, although I have seen them (a case, for example, in which a couple from that was seriously ill and unable to leave home and travel to a church). It would be best if you could convince your daughter and her fiancé to respect your family’s Catholic faith by having their wedding ceremony in a church—followed by a reception in the garden setting. In this way, you might help them see the spiritual benefits of Mass (following their vows before the gathered Church in the place where Christ’s presence is most intensely experienced in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Daily Readings

Monday, September 28
St. Wencclesa, martyr
St. Lawrence Ruiz and companions, martyrs
Zechariah 8:1-8
Psalms 102:2, 16-23
Matthew 9:46-50

Tuesday, September 29
St. Michael the Archangel
St. Gabriel the Archangel
St. Raphael the Archangel
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalms 127:1-2a
John 1:47-51

Wednesday, September 30
St. Jerome, priest and doctor of the Church
Nehemiah 2:1-8
Psalms 137:1-6

Thursday, October 1
St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, virgin and doctor of the Church
Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12
Psalms 19:8-11
Luke 10:1-12

Friday, October 2
Holy Guardian Angels
Baruch 1:4-5, 15-22
Psalms 79:1b-5, 8-9
Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Saturday, October 3
Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29
Psalms 69:33-37

Sunday, October 4
Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 2:18-24
Psalms 128:1-6
Hebrews 2:6-11
Mark 10:2-16 or Mark 10:2-12

Question Corner

Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Announcements should be made at Mass only if they are truly necessary.
Rest in peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving 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; these are separate obituaries on this page.


KERVIN, Killian, 73. Our Lady of Lourdes, Indianapolis, Sept. 3. Brother of Maryann Vaca.


MEyERROsE, Charles Russell, 86, St. Mary, Greensburg, Sept. 12. Father of Cathy, Doug, Greg, Mike and Scott Meyerson. Grandfather of six. Great-grandfather of four. †


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Charity Sister Patricia Griffin ministered at St. Andrew Parish in Indianapolis

Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sister Patricia Griffin died on Aug. 29 at Caritas Center in Dubuque, Iowa. She was 83. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Sept. 3 in the Marian Hall Chapel. Burial was in Mount Carmel Cemetery in Dubuque.

Born Patricia Therese Griffin in Evanston, Ill., on July 28, 1932, she entered the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sept. 8, 1950, professed first vows on March 13, 1953, and professed final vows on July 16, 1958. Sister Patricia graduated from Mundelein College in Chicago with a bachelors of arts degree. She earned a master of education degree in inner city studies at Northeastern Illinois State College in Chicago, and a master of education degree in guidance/counseling from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. During her 65 years of life and ministry as a Sister of Charity, she served in Illinois, Indiana and Nebraska.

In the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Sister Patricia ministered at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis from 1991-95 and as a volunteer at Forest Manor Multi-Service Center. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of Charity, BVM Support Fund, 1100 Camel Drive, Dubuque, Iowa, 52033, or online at www.bvmcong.org/whatsnew_obits.cfm. †

Lambeau leap … of faith?

Students from Notre Dame Academy in Green Bay, Wis., were pictured outside of Lambeau Field with a cutout of Pope Francis on Sept. 7. Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmitt had hoped that Pope Francis would celebrate a Mass on the Green Bay Packers’ playing field as part of his U.S. visit. (DNS photo/Sam Lucero, The Compass)
Vatican’s take on supernatural phenomena subject of new book

By David Gibson

Catholic News Service

His duel with Satan one morning in 1982 “felt like a biblical scene,” St. John Paul II later would tell a top aide.

In The Vatican Prophecies: Investigating Supernatural Signs, Apparitions and Miracles in the Modern Age, author John Thavis describes what happened that morning when a bishop and parish priest brought a woman, named Francesca, to the Vatican for “shaming and cursing.”

In the Vatican Apostolic Palace where her encounter with the pope occurred.

Enraptured limb lit room, Pope John Paul approached Francesca and began “pronouncing the formulas of exorcism,” Thavis writes. Francesca’s writhing and menacing “demon” got her, but when the pope said he intended to celebrate a Mass for her the following day, she suddenly grew calm. “The demon appeared to have departed.”

Thavis long served as chief of the Catholic News Service Rome bureau. His book benefits greatly from his vast contacts with Church leaders of all kinds in the Eternal City. In an earlier book titled The Vatican Diaries, he took readers behind the scenes to view the workings of the Church in the Vatican in each of the four years he worked there.

Exorcisms are the focus of one of the six chapters in Thavis’ book, which explores the continuing fascination in our times, when “Christianity is supposed to be the faith of reason,” with “the possibility of miracles, apparitions, encounters with the devil and other signs of the supernatural.”

Indeed, demonic possession often is viewed today as a psychological problem, the book observes.

Relics of the saints and reports of Marian apparitions are the focus of two of the book’s other compelling chapters. Vatican experts “estimate that in modern times the Catholic Church has investigated more than 1,000 alleged appearances of Mary,” Thavis reports.

Three other chapters are devoted to the Shroud of Turin and its scientific study, the place of miracles in the sainthood process, and diri prophecies concerning the Church’s future and the end times.

There is keen awareness in the Vatican of “the proliferation of visionaries and cultish movements that have attracted millions of Catholic believers, precisely by appealing to the thirst for hidden knowledge of God’s plan,” Thavis notes.

Undoubtedly, there is a degree of polarization within the Church surrounding matters this book probes. Thavis’ discussion of relics of the saints casts light on the problem.

When relics are “routinely displayed these days,” people usually are “reminded that the Mass and the sacraments are more powerful tools than relics,” he writes. Nonetheless, he affirms, “the drawing power of a relic cannot be underestimated.”

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In The Vatican Prophecies is an attempt to allow all interested parties to have their say about supernatural happenings. Thavis tells the stories of recent miracles, apparitions and prophecies from the diverse perspectives of key players – the true believers, the in-house skeptics and the Vatican’s diligent investigators.

What makes this book a page-turner that many will find difficult to put down are its countless stories about the work, convictions and religious experiences of real people.

What was in the news on Sept. 24, 1965? A historic vote on religious liberty at the council as the 4th session proceeds, and tickets sought for the papal visit to the U.S.

By Brandon A. Evans

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

Here are some of the items found in the Sept. 24, 1965, issue of The Criterion.

• Historic test vote assures approval of liberty schema “VATICAN CITY–An historic meeting of the ecumenical council voted overwhelmingly to present to the world a definitive document affirming man’s civil right to religious freedom. The vote was taken [on Sept. 23] after five days of debate on the subject by 62 council Fathers, and was a special vote proposed by the council’s board of moderators. . . . The answer to the question [on moving forward with the revised text on religious liberty] was resounding. Of the 2,222 Fathers voting, 1,997 said yes; 224 said no, and one vote was null. With the closing of the decisive day on religious liberty, the council turned to the next matter on its agenda, the lengthy and complicated schema on the Church in the modern world, sometimes known as schema 13 because of the place it occupied during the third session of the council in 1964.

• Editor comments from Rome: Pope’s move on bishops’ synod seen as capstone of Vatican II “No matter what else happens, Vatican Council II must now be considered a success. The fourth and final session is not only off to an auspicious beginning; it has already accomplished what even the most optimistic feel would not take place until sometime after the close of the council, the syndr of bishops which Pope Paul announced in his address opening the fourth session, and made a reality the next day with his men pro (by his own initiative) ‘Apostolic Solicitude’. ‘This is the most significant and historic action of the council. Coming when it did, it has a decisive effect upon the attitude of the council Fathers.’

• President will meet with visiting pontiff • Clarettians relocate novitiate • UNESCO maps out plan for literacy • Pope shows interest in racing • Anglican head tells of hopes for unity • Sunday vote idea draws criticism • Sends $5,000 for hurricane relief • Interfaith speakers see uncertainty, hopeful results for ecumenics • Astronauts’ risk ‘permissible’ • Spirituality is subject of dialogue • Paintings stolen from Guadalupe • ‘Neighborhood Mass’ program is launched • Critics of Dutch clergy off base, prelate says • CBS stepping up Vietnam relief • Canon Law revision seen badly needed • Who will get a ticket? “NEW YORK—Tickets, tickets, who’s going to get a ticket? That’s a puzzling question facing planners of Pope Paul VI’s trip to the United Nations here. There will be about 5,000 tickets for the ceremony at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, 2,000 for his UN visit and about 100,000 for his Mass at Yankee Stadium.”

• Plan stamp series for pope’s visit • Record 67,000 open classes at Woods • New parents’ group formed in Richmond • NCEA publication criticizes policy on lay principals • Enrollment sets record at Marian • Mixed marriage revision seen • Pension plan set for lay employees • Red secret to common laity • ‘Home by Christmas’: ‘Smooth sailing’ is seen for fourth session • Red writer pessimistic on council
Cardinal sees anniversary as opportunity to refocus on mission

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (CNS) — In horse-drawn carriages in honor of a leader in the movement to end slavery, the cardinal, a Capuchin Franciscan, celebrated 450 years of faith and community on Sept. 8, with festivities that began where it all started—the grounds of Mission Nombre de Dios.

Walking the bridge toward the statue of Father Francisco Lopez de Mendoza Grajales, what was the charpian of the Spanish explorer Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles, the view of the 208-foot stainless steel “Great Cross” became illuminated by the early morning sun, as it does every Sept. 8 apart were the hundreds of spiritual leaders taking the short mile trek from the mission to the cathedral basilica.

The three-judge panel said in a brief ruling that two christian schools, Dordt College in Iowa and Cornerstone University in Michigan, should not be required to even follow the process set out by the federal government to avoid having to participate in the insurance requirement. We conclude that by coercing Dordt and Cornerstone to participate in the insurance requirement to provide insurance that covers contraceptives, abortifacients and sterilization if doing so violates the teachings of the faith. Other institutions—such as colleges, charities and hospitals which are not principally involved in the inculcation of the faith and which do not primarily serve and employ people of the same faith—may follow the accommodation process. That requires either filling out a short, or simply notifying the Department of Health and Human Services that the employer will not be providing contraceptive, abortifacient and sterilization coverage. A process then kicks in by which insurance companies provide the coverage with no further action or expense required of the employer.

Appeals court differs with others, finds for colleges over health insurance mandate

The Goodness of God, and the excitement of a civilization of love.”†

When God is knocking on the door because Mary said yes to God. … To community, to service, to faith and to Jesus. He said while he prefers the Gospel reading was a shorter version than the full genealogy to be read, “...Fortunately, St. Paul was able to restore the young man to life, but it is very presumptuous to think that every preacher who makes an anti-Semitic remark, gives a boring sermon has those same miraculous powers. So it’s better to stay awake,” he said. While the cardinal received his share of laughs, he offered words of spiritual inspiration. He said while others might see the Catholic Church as a “Church of no”,” he said the Catholic community is a “Church of yes.”†

Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston leads the procession for a Mass of thanksgiving on Sept. 8 for the 450th anniversary of the founding of America’s first parish, now the Basilica of Saint Augustine. (CNS photo/Scott Suchman, St. Augustine Catholic Church)

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Sept. 17 became the first such court to rule in favor of nonprofit religious organizations that have sued to avoid having to participate in the federal government requirement to provide coverage for contraceptives, abortifacients and sterilization in employee health insurance. The court said the requirement to provide insurance that covers contraceptives, abortifacients and sterilization if doing so violates the teachings of the faith. Other institutions—such as colleges, charities and hospitals which are not principally involved in the inculcation of the faith and which do not primarily serve and employ people of the same faith—may follow the accommodation process. That requires either filling out a short, or simply notifying the Department of Health and Human Services that the employer will not be providing contraceptive, abortifacient and sterilization coverage. A process then kicks in by which insurance companies provide the coverage with no further action or expense required of the employer.

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