By Sean Gallagher

Six men are ordained priests for archdiocese during Holy Year of Mercy

The heart, joy and identity of a priest

He later reflected on three questions that Pope Francis put to thousands of priests in St. Peter’s Square a few weeks ago during a special jubilee for priests during the Year of Mercy. Where is the heart of a priest? Where is the joy of a priest? And what is the identity of a priest?

Archbishop Tobin said a priest’s heart “knows only two directions: the Lord and his people.” It is intent on prayer leading to an ever closer relationship with Christ and intimate service to God’s people.

“Pope Francis described the heart of the priest as a heart pierced by the love of the Lord,” Archbishop Tobin said. “For this reason, he no longer looks to himself or should look to thievery as a special jubilee for priests during the Holy Year of Mercy.

Top left, Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin prays the eucharistic prayer during a June 25 ordination Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. Joining him at the altar from left, Fathers Anthony Hollowell, James Brockmeier, Douglas Hunter, Kyle Rodden, Matthew Tucci and Nicolás Ajpacajá Tzoc, who were all ordained to the priesthood during the liturgy. Standing behind them are, from left, Deacon Stephen Hodges, Father Patrick Beideman, Deacon Scott Bowman of the Colorado Springs, Colo., Diocese and Bishop James F. Checchio of the Metuchen, N.J., Diocese.

Top right, Father Kenneth Taylor, pastor of Holy Angels Parish and St. Rita Parish, both in Indianapolis, exchanges a sign of peace with newly ordained Father Douglas Hunter during the June 25 ordination Mass. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Bottom, newly ordained Father Nicolás Ajpacajá Tzoc gives a blessing to Pilar Sayoc, a member of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis, during a reception in the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis following the ordination Mass. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Six men are ordained priests for archdiocese during Holy Year of Mercy

By Sean Gallagher

“An extraordinary class … in an extraordinary year.” That’s how Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin described the six men he ordained to the priesthood on June 25 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis during the Church’s Holy Year of Mercy.

It was the largest number of men who were ordained priests for the Church in central and southern Indiana since 2002 when eight men were ordained.

This year’s class members are Fathers James Brockmeier, Anthony Hollowell, Douglas Hunter, Kyle Rodden, Matthew Tucci and Nicolás Ajpacajá Tzoc.

Moments before he ordained them, Archbishop Tobin reflected on the connection between the Year of Mercy and the ordination.

“We have turned to God, begging for mercy and have been strengthened as ambassadors of reconciliation,” he said. “Since we recognize that God has torn down each and every barrier that could really divide us, we have deepened our commitment to build bridges, not walls.”

Supreme Court strikes down regulations on Texas abortion centers; impact on Indiana law expected

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a 5-3 vote announced on June 27, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down restrictions on Texas abortion facilities that required them to comply with standards of ambulatory surgical centers and required their doctors to have admitting privileges at local hospitals.

The case, Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt, challenged a 2013 state law, H.B. 2, placing the requirements on the state’s abortion centers. Opponents of the law claimed the requirements were aimed at closing the facilities. But the state and many pro-life advocates maintained that the law protected women’s health.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and other religious groups submitted a joint friend of the court brief in the case supporting the Texas law, which was similar to other state laws, including two in Indiana, regulating abortion facilities across the country.

Justice Stephen Breyer, who wrote the majority opinion, said the restrictions on the clinics “provide few if any health benefits for women, pose a substantial obstacle to women seeking abortions and constitute an ‘undue burden’ on their constitutional right to do so.”

University of Notre Dame law professor Richard Garnett told The Criterion that he expects Indiana laws with similar provisions to those in the Texas statute will be challenged in the wake of the ruling, and likely be struck down.

Other reactions to the court’s ruling were immediate. Those in favor of the regulations said the court’s opinion put women at risk, and those opposed to the state law called it a major victory.

See ABORTION, page 12.

A pro-life supporter stands outside the U.S. Supreme Court on June 27 during protests in Washington. In a 5-3 vote that day, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down restrictions on Texas abortion clinics that required them to comply with standards of ambulatory surgical centers and required their doctors to have admitting privileges at local hospitals.

(CNS photo/Kevin Lamanapa, EPA)
Christians should apologize for helping to marginalize gays, pope says

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM ARmenIA (CBS) — Catholics and other Christians not only must apologize to the gay community, they must ask forgiveness of God for ways they have discriminated against homosexual persons or fostered hostility toward them, Pope Francis said.

“I think the Church not only must say it is sorry to the gay community, but also to the poor, to those exploited women and anyone whom the Church did not defend when it could have, he told reporters on June 26.

Spending close to an hour answering questions from reporters traveling with him, Pope Francis was asked to comment on remarks reportedly made a few days previously by Cardinal Reinhard Marx, president of the German bishops' conference, that the Catholic Church must apologize to gay people for contributing to their marginalization.

At the mention of the massacre in early June at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Fla., Pope Francis closed his eyes as if to recall the grisly scene.

“The Church must say it is sorry for not having behaved as it should many times, many times—when I say the ‘Church’, I mean we Christians because the Church is holy; we are the sinners,” the pope said. “We Christians must say we are sorry.”

Christians have much to apologize for, and not just in this area,” he said, referring again to its treatment of homosexual persons. “Ask forgiveness, and not just say we’re sorry: Forgive us, Lord.”

Too often, he said, priests act as lords rather than fathers, “a priest who clubs people rather than embraces them and is good consolers.”

Pope Francis insisted there are many good priests in the world and “many Mother Teresa,” but people often do not see them because “holiness is modest.”

Like any other community of human beings, the Catholic Church is made up of “good people and bad people,” he said. “The grain and the weeds—Jesus says the kingdom is like Catholic deacons do today.

The pope also joked about a president who once said that the best way to bury someone's request for action was to name a commission to study it.

Turning serious, though, Pope Francis insisted the role of women in the Catholic Church goes well beyond any offices they hold, and he said about 18 months ago he had named a commission of female theologians to discuss women's contributions to the life of the Church.

“We think differently than we men do,” he said, “and we cannot make good, sound decisions without listening to the women.”

During the inflight news conference, Pope Francis also said:

• He believes “the intentions of Martin Luther” were not wrong in wanting to reform the Church, but “maybe some of his methods were not right.” The Church in the 1500s, he said, was “not exactly a model to imitate.”

• He used the word “genocide” to describe the massacre of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians in 1915-1916 because that was the word commonly used in his native Argentina, and he had already used it publicly a year ago. Although he said he knew Turkey objects to use of the term, “it would have sounded strange” not to use it.

Faith Alive! takes vacation
The weekly Faith Alive! religious education feature, produced by Catholic News Service, takes its annual break from now until Sept. 9.
High court’s tie vote blocks president’s temporary plan to stop deportations

WASHINGTON (CNS)—With a tie vote on June 23, the U.S. Supreme Court blocked the Obama administration’s plan to temporarily protect more than 4 million unauthorized immigrants from deportation. The 4-4 vote places a lower court’s injunction blocking the administration’s immigration policy with the one-page opinion stating: “The judgment of the court of appeals is affirmed by an equally divided court.”

Legal experts have called it an ambiguous and unworkable policy that leaves many in a state of limbo. The administration has taken a lot of attention away from the Supreme Court this spring by placing a lower court’s injunction blocking the administration’s immigration policy with the one-page opinion stating: “The judgment of the court of appeals is affirmed by an equally divided court.”

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A time to rejoice, and to pray for more vocations

The numbers were impressive in several respects. Nearly 1,000 people in attendance—Priest, Father Paul Sullivan, and all the faithful, to get universal shepherd in encouraging priest. They are in life.

Facial with such dire predictions, we may feel tempted to close our eyes to the problem or to turn away in despair. But to do so is to ignore our faith in God. “Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Is 41:10).

Our faith calls us to hope. In their book “Ave, Hopec”, authors Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone say we must begin by acknowledging the painful and difficult reality of climate degradation.

Whatever challenging situation we face, we can choose our response. It is not enough to passively wait for an external agency to bring about change. Active hope is about taking positive steps, no matter how small, toward the desired outcome. As people of faith, we trust that God will use our individual actions to further his plan.

June 18 marked the first anniversary of the release of “Laudato Si’”, on Care for Our Common Home.” In this encyclical letter, Pope Francis states: “[Climate change] represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day” (#25). He calls for an “integral ecology,” and asks people to enter into dialogue about how our relationship with nature is integrated with our economic choices, our political systems, and all the decisions we make on a daily basis.

The release of “Laudato Si’” and the voices of the faith community have had an impact on policy makers. That influence was represented as representatives from almost 200 countries met in Paris last December, and committed to phasing out the use of fossil fuels while increasing renewable energy.

Locally, voices from the faith community have been part of the success of the campaign to stop burning coal at the Indianapolis Power and Light’s Harding Street plant. Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light (http://www.hoosieripl.org) helps Indiana faith communities respond to the challenges of climate change with resources that help congregations and individuals use energy more efficiently.

Reflection/Sharon Horvath
Climate change is an urgent problem, but our faith calls us to act in hope

Global temperatures soar for the 12th straight year, reported the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in May. It recorded its hottest day ever at 123.8 degrees amidst a deadly heat wave and drought. Climate scientists said sea levels could rise to devastating levels sooner than previously predicted. Climate-related disasters such as droughts and floods can potentially displace millions of people, according to the UN.

Fathers Daniel Atkins (partially obscured), left, Guy Roberts, Scott Woods of the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio, John Hollowell, Paul Shikany, and Jesuit Father Brian Daley, uniformed priests for the Church in central and southern Indiana since 2002 when eight men were ordained. As people of faith, we understand the ministry of our new priests—and our call to support them and our Church in evangelization—is part of an ongoing mission to continue to form disciples.

Archbishop Tobin cited both the ministry of our new priests and our newly ordained men, we must be not afraid to encourage religious vocations.

In its report “The Class of 2016: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood,” the University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate found that 51 percent of the respondents indicated that they were discouraged from considering the priesthood. The Church can be an invaluable resource in increasing vocations simply by encouraging their sons to consider the priesthood.

A VATICAN city is a place. Choose hope. Take actions rooted in love; be not afraid to encourage religious vocations. Our newly ordained men, we must be not afraid to encourage religious vocations.

The Holy Father’s words remind us how consistent he has been as a universal shepherd in encouraging priests, and all the faithful, to get outside our comfort zones to assist our brothers and sisters in need wherever they are in life.

It means that making ourselves uncomfortable while living the Gospel message in unchartered territory can be part of God’s plan for each of us—clergy, religious and laity alike.

As we rejoice with the news of six new priests eager to serve the Church in central and southern Indiana, we must also realize that our prayers for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life are still needed. "The Church now has about the same number of priests that it had in 1970," said Father Paul Sullivan, associate professor of sociology at The Catholic University of America in Washington, in a recent Catholic News Service story. "The bad news, though it is not really bad news, is that the global population of Catholics has grown dramatically since then, so today we have far fewer priests per Catholic.”

Like the parents and families of our newly ordained men, we must be not afraid to encourage religious vocations. "Many priests, including Pope Francis, relate that they first felt a call to priesthood from the example, devotion and encouragement of their mother and father," he said. "A mother can consecrate her son to God’s service, which doesn’t necessarily connect him, but has a powerful influence on his choice of vocation and state of life." Regardless of the numbers, it’s still important to increase vocations, Father Sullivan said.

"We need more priests, not because we are in some numeric crisis, but because God is always renewing his Church through calling faithful young men to serve as priests,” he said. “To pray and work to [strengthen] new priestly vocations is the work of evangelization, in which all of us can contribute to the renewal and proclamation of the faith.”

As we offer our daily petitions for more vocations, may we reflect on the words of St. Vincent Ferrer: “Whatever you do, think not of yourself, but of God.”

—Mike Krokos

The Human Side/Fr. Eugene Hemrick
Happy are they who stand up for truth with their life and find value in the beatitudes

An e-mail with the subject line “Philosophy 101” sent by my classmate contained wise sayings with a philosophical twist. For example, one was: “We should realize that when we have mates, buddies and old friends, brothers and sisters, with whom we can chat, laugh, talk, sing, talk about north-south-east-west or how great are that is true happiness?”

Another read: “Don’t educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy, so when they grow up they will know the value of things, not the price.”

And another said, “The richest thing to be in is someone’s thoughts.”

Looking through each quote, a common denominator becomes apparent. True happiness comes from living wisely.

The day I read them, St. Matthew’s beatitudes were the Gospel reading for the Mass. “Ah, a more perfect connection between wise living and loving the beatitudes cannot be found,” I thought.

“Beatitude” means “happy,” as in happy are the peacemakers, the meek and those persecuted.

Regarding this last beatitude about those who are persecuted, we might ask: What is happy about being persecuted, or for that matter being meek or a peacemaker in today’s violent world?

In speaking of persecution, Christ is teaching us we are happy when living the truth, but we also must realize that not everyone wants to hear Christ’s message, and at times Christ’s messenger is killed.

As bloody as the arrival of truth may be, could it be that many of our heart wrenching anxieties are the result of its absence? Truth helps us live an ordered life by creating trust, confidence and commitment: the principal ingredients of happiness.

When truth is missing, the works of evil are given space to raise hand, feet, are happy are they who stand up for truth with their life!

The same happiness comes from meekness and humility. It is the perfect antithesis to self-centeredness, haughtiness and tyranny; negative ingredients that create unhappiness and divisiveness.

To be a peacemaker is to desire a world of civility where people feel at home with one another. How true is the happiness of having friends with whom you can laugh and chat?

Throughout the psalms, the prosperity of Israel is pictured as the Israelites at home with God and one another, which presents us with a beautiful model for countering today’s divisiveness.

When moments of unhappiness occur, try meditating on the beatitudes. Taken to heart and looked at philosophically, they contain the perfect ingredients for true happiness.

(Father Eugene Hemrick writes for Catholic News Service.)
Love in marriage requires patience, generosity and self-sacrifice

"Love is patient, love is kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Cor 13:4-7).

As Pope Francis tells us, "All that has been said so far would be insufficient to express the Gospel of marriage and the family, were we not also to speak of love. For we cannot encourage a path of fidelity and mutual self-giving without encouraging the growth, strengthening and deepening of conjugal and family love." (89).

Love is all the things that St. Paul celebrates—patience, kindness, joy, fidelity, hope and endurance. Equally important, love is not jealous, boastful, arrogance, rudeness, irritability, resentment or insistence on its own way.

Love is good, but it's also hard. "Love always has an aspect of deep compassion that leads to accepting the other person as part of this world, even when he or she acts differently than I would like," Pope Francis tells us (#92). To be loving means to look beyond our own wants and needs to the good of another—especially when this kind of self-giving is difficult for us.

"Love inspires a sincere esteem for every human being and the recognition of his or her own right to happiness," the Holy Father writes (#96). Love abhors the suffering of others. It responds with gentleness and compassion to all forms of injustice. "Those who love are capable of speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement," Pope Francis teaches (#100).

Love endures injustice, insults and ill-treatment for the sake of the other, the beloved, but this does not mean that love is passive or indifferent. Genuine love is capable of fighting back in response to a grave injustice in order to care for and defend someone who has been abused. But love also reminds us that we should not cling to anger or resentment. Love is merciful—forgetting even those who persecute us. "When we have been offended or let down, forgiveness is possible and desirable, but no one can say that it is easy" (#106).

Families are called to be schools of love. "There is no family that does not know how selfishness, discord, tension and conflict violently attack and at times mortally wound its own communion: hence there arise many and varied forms of division in family life" (#106). Unless families work at practicing the art of love and learn to pass it on to future generations, there can be no hope for society as a whole. It certainly is true that "charity [love in action] begins at home." "When a loving person can do good for others, or sees others that are happy, they themselves live happily and in this way give glory to God, for ‘God loves a cheerful giver’ (2 Cor 9:7). Our Lord especially appreciates those who find joy in the happiness of others" (#110).

Love requires self-sacrifice, but it is never bitter or resentful. Why? Because "love does not despise of the future," but is filled with hope and with the confidence that "though things may not always turn out as we wish, God may well make the crooked lines straight and draw some good from the evil we endure in this world" (#116). Love never gives up. It endures all things—relying on the grace of God to give us strength when our human weakness causes us to fail. May we learn to love patiently and generously as Christ loves us. And may we forgive others—and ourselves—for our failures to live up to the marvelous vision of love that Pope Francis shares (cortesía de St. Paul) with us in Chapter 4 of "The Joy of Love."
Retrouvaille retreat set for Aug. 5-7 at Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis

A Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) marriage renewal retreat will be offered at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5335 E. 56th St., Indianapolis, on Aug. 5-7. Retrouvaille has helped many couples at all stages of disengagement or misfit in their marriage. For confidential information about Retrouvaille, or to register for the program, call 317-489-6811, e-mail register@RetroIndy.com, or log on to www.retrouvaille.org.†

For more information on Retrouvaille, log on to www.HelpOurMarriage.com.†

Retreats and Programs

July 15-17
Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad.


July 17-22

Coming Home Retreat, presented by Sr. Anna Sullivan, presenter, $425 per person, registration deadline July 11. Information: 812-535-2932 or smwretreats@gmail.com.

July 20
Benedictus Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Avenue, Beech Grove.


July 21
Benedictus Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Avenue, Beech Grove.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods Community Lobby for Life/Peace & Nature Garden Walk, led by Benedictine Sisters Cathy Anne Lepore and Angelic Jarboe, free will donations accepted.

July 22-23
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5335 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation Conference, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.ourfatima.org/titus.

July 24-25
Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. Bringing to Life the Word of God in Song, Benedictine Father Kelley Columbus, presenter, $255 single, $425 double. Information: 812-379-6585 or mzeroeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

July 27-29
Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. Bringing to Life the Word of God in Song, Benedictine Father Kelley Columbus, presenter, $255 single, $425 double. Information: 812-379-6585 or mzeroeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

VIPS

William and Elaine (Lumsden) Amberger, members of the former St. Mary-of-the-Rock Parish in Franklin County who now worship at Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on July 2.

The couple was married on July 2, 1956, at St. Mary-of-the-Rock Church in Franklin County.

They have three children, Karen Sakihama, and Sharon and Kyle Brochin.

They also have two grandchildren.

A special Mass of celebration will take place on May 14 at St. Mary-of-the-Rock Church with Father Stanley Pondo presiding.†

Joe and Nancy (Ratz) Brochin, members of St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 2.

The couple was married on July 2, 1966, at St. Gabriel Church in Connersville.

They have three children, Karen Sakihama, and Sharon and Kyle Brochin.

They also have two grandchildren.

They will celebrate their anniversary with family and friends.†

Life and Death Matters retreat set for July 15-17 in Bloomington

Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center, 8220 W. State Road 48, Bloomington, will host a three-day retreat titled Life and Death Matters on July 15-17.

The speakers include retired Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz of Lincoln, Neb.; Drs. Christine Zainer and Paul Byrne; and Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate Father Elias Mills.

Registration deadline is July 4. Cost is $220 for a single room, $280 for a double room, and includes meals.

For more information, call 812-845-4642, ext. 200, or e-mail marianiasis@bluesmerite.net.

Women’s Care Center in Indianapolis needs of items for ‘Crib Club’ store

The Women’s Care Center, 4901 W. 86th St., in Indianapolis, is currently in urgent need of donations of baby items.

The Women’s Care Center women offer free ultrasounds and many other services to women as an alternative to abortion. They currently serve 25-30 women each day, creating a constant need to restock their “Crib Club” store.

Items most needed include baby diapers, baby towels/blankets and diaper bags. Other items acceptable for donation include baby clothes from size newborn to 2T, crib, car seats, baby gates, potty training seats, bounce chairs, baby toiletries, high chairs, baby wipes, sippy cups, strollers, breastfeeding pumps and other breastfeeding accessories.

Monetary donations to purchase these items are also greatly appreciated.

To make an online monetary donation, log on to www.catholicradioindy.org and choose to designate your donation to the Indianapolis Center.

Donated items may be brought to the Women’s Care Center at 4901 W. 86th St. (corner of 86th and Georgetown Road). The hours of operation are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday.†

Julie 7
Saint Mary Parish, 311 N. Morse St., St. Louis, Missouri.

Fourth of July O’Lei

Festival, 3-11 p.m., music, entertainment, children’s games, Texas poker, American and Latino food, view downtown fireworks. Information: 317-673-3983.

July 8
Saint Matthew the Apostle Church, 4100 E. 56th St., Indianapolis.

July 8 Parish Mass and breakfast: 9 a.m., continental breakfast after Mass, celebration for St. Matthew the Apostle Church, Lawrence and St. Andrew parishes. Information: 317-257-4297, livemass@saintmatt.org.

July 6
Holiday Day World & Splashin’ Safari, 452 E. Christmas Blvd., Santa Claus (Diocese of Evansville).

New Albany Deacon Catholic Youth Ministries Day at the Theme Park, 336, deadline to register is June 20. Information and registration: www.namicy.org, sancy@nadyouth.org. 812-923-8355.

For a complete list of retreats as reported to The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/retreats.

July 9
Holy Spirit Parish, 7243 E. 10th St., Indianapolis.

60th Annual Festival and Monte Carlo Thurs. 6-11 p.m., Fri. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 1 p.m.-midnight, minimum $10 purchase of ride/food/drink vouchers per person or individual, youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Information: 317-243-0777.

July 9-7
Church of God, 317 S. 9th St., Terre Haute. St. Benedict Community Festival, live music, family games, casino games, food booths, beer garden, handmade quilt raffle, 50/50 raffle, silent auction, tickets for $25, $100, $5,000, $2,000, $1,000 and $750, 5 p.m.-midnight each day. Information: 812-332-5421.

July 9
St. Bartholomew Church, 1306 27th St., Columbus.

Postcards from Around the World, concert, grandly award-winning all-male British sextet, songs from around the world, the Great American Songbook, doves open 6:45 p.m., concert starts 7:30 p.m., tickets $25, group discounts available. Tickets: music office at St. Bartholomew, Viewpoint Books and Columbus Visitors Center, and ticketcenterlive/event/16850. Information: 812-739-5935, ext. 257.

July 9

July 10
St. Lawrence Parish, 542 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg.

Chicken Fest 2016, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., chicken dinners, $12 adults, $10 ages 10 and younger, raffle. Information: 812-537-3992, ext. 2.

Deadline for RSVP to Father Thomas Secenia Memorial High School Class of 1976 40-year Reunion. The reunion will be on Sept. 10, 6-10 p.m. at Milano Inn, 231 S. College Ave., Indianapolis, 355 N. Kilbourn, or $100 per couple, write a check payable to Secenia Memorial Class of 1976 and mail it to Secenia Class of 1976, 7625 Cape Cod Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46260-1944, all payments must be received by Aug. 10. E-mail RSVP to boybyrs@smhs1976reunion@gmail.com.

St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Mass in French, 1 p.m. Information: 317-923-4193 or afadl204@gmail.com.

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church, 4720 E. 136th St., Indianapolis. Class of ‘65 monthly gathering, 6-11 a.m. optional dinner afterward. Information: 317-408-6396.

July 11
Holy Name of Jesus (Little Flower) Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis.

Holy Name of Jesus 66th St., Indianapolis. Family & Friend Mass, 8:30 a.m. Mass for Vocations, 3:15 p.m. Information: 317-748-1478.

July 12
Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center, 8220 W. State Road 48, Bloomington.

For a list of events for the next four weeks as reported to The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/events.
ORDINATION

continued from page 1

himself, but is instead turned toward God and his brothers and sisters.”

In describing the joy of a priest, Archbishop Tobin said, referring to the preaching of Pope Francis, that “a priest is changed by the mercy that he gives.”

“In prayer, he discovers God’s consolation and realizes that nothing is more powerful than God’s love,” Archbishop Tobin said. “In this way, he experiences inner peace and is happy to be a channel of mercy, to bring men and women closer to the heart of God.”

Archbishop Tobin finally reflected on the identity of a priest. He noted that it is found in the celebration of the Eucharist.

“In every Mass, we strive to make Christ’s words our words, “This is my body, which is given for you” (Lk 22:19; 1 Cor 11:24),” Archbishop Tobin said. “This is the meaning of our life. With these words, in a real way you and I can renew each day the promises we made on the day of our priestly ordination.”

After the Mass, the newly ordained priests reflected on these questions about the priesthood and being ordained in the Year of Mercy.

“It’s something that will remain in my mind,” Father Hollowell said, especially in hearing confessions and in approaching people,” said Father Brockmeier. “My priesthood is definitely in the context of God’s mercy to me in my own life. I hope I can hand on God’s mercy to others. It’s a two-way street.”

Father Hollowell described after the Mass how he gained a new appreciation of God’s mercy while in prayer the night before the ordination.

“God gave me the grace to understand that there was no one at this ordination today that needs God’s mercy more than me,” he said. “To know that he’s given that so freely, abundantly and continuously is a priceless gift.”

Father Tucci recalled being given a clear reminder of the tie between his priestly identity and the Eucharist when processing into the cathedral at the start of the Mass and seeing the altar before him.

“That is my ministry now, to be at the altar and from the altar to sanctify the people in the best way that I can,” he said. “Jesus works through us as priests and me as a priest.”

Later in the ordination Mass, the newly ordained priests were ritually handed a chalice and paten, symbolic of the vessels they will use at every Eucharist.

It was an emotional moment for Father Tucci.

“They’re the tools of the trade,” he said. “Christ works through me and for the Church to sanctify it. It was special, very, very special.”

Experiencing the communion of saints

One of the most dramatic moments of the ordination Mass was when the six transitional deacons lay prostrate on the floor of the cathedral while they and the congregation of nearly 1,000, including more than 100 priests, prayed the Litany of the Saints.

It was an expression of the Church’s timeless belief in the communion of the saints, which holds that all believers stretched across space and time are one in Christ.

Father AjAYaaja experienced this connection in a poignant way, since none of his relatives from Guatemala were able to attend his ordination.

“I think, somehow, we were connected in prayer,” he said. “God has been in our journey through difficult times and through this special time.”

A few feet away, Father Hunter shared similar emotions since both of his parents are deceased. They were in his heart and mind “through the whole Mass,” he said.

Two of his aunts were present at the Mass, including Nona Dottery, a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis.

“It was fantastic,” she said of the ordination.

“It was tearful and so joyful. I shed some tears, but they were tears of joy.”

Father Hunter has shared much joy over the years with his ordination classmates.

“You share fraternally in the priesthood with many priests,” Father Hunter said. “To do that with five that you’ve gone to school with, you’ve laughed with, talked with, had pizza with, makes that bond a lot stronger.”

Michelle Tucci was grateful for the deep relationships that her son shares with so many priests.

“They’ve all supported him so much,” she said. “I wish that all Catholics would know how the priests have a special bond with each other. It’s awesome. And they need that.”

Father Rodden knows well the importance of his brother priests, especially his classmates.

“Taking this step is so big,” he said. “It’s impossible without the grace of God. I think he’s worked a lot through my brothers throughout the seminary. Just having that much support, to say ‘Yes’ knowing that I’m not entering alone but joining a giant group that God has provided for me to be a part of has been a big part of my discernment.”

The support extends beyond the newly ordained priests to their families.

“We’re all together and happy for each other,” said Diane Hollowell, mother of Father Hollowell. “It’s been beautiful to have these other families included, praying for each other. I’m so happy to share the joy that we’ve been feeling with other families.”

Don Brockmeier, father of Father James Brockmeier, said the prostration was an “emotionally intense” moment and gave him a keen awareness of “the seriousness, thoroughness and completeness of the sacrifice” that his son and his classmates were making.

“That’s when it became real,” Don Brockmeier said.

Father Tucci was brimming with joy after the ordination, looking forward to carrying out the mission God has given him and his five ordination classmates.

“I’m so excited,” he said. “Day by day, I will take this gift of the priesthood, thank God for it and do my best to play my small part in sanctifying the world.”

(To view a video of the ordination, visit www.archindy.org/streaming. More photos from the ordination can be found at www.CriterionOnline.com. To learn more about a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, visit www.HearGodsCall.com.)

Feature story continues on page 8.

Newly ordained Father James Brockmeier

with chrism oil during the June 25 ordination Mass. Seminarian Jeffrey Dufresne, right, assists Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin anoints the hands of newly ordained Father James Brockmeier June 25 Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)
‘AN EXTRAORDINARY CLASS …
AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR’

In Holy Year of Mercy, new priests dedicate their lives to Christ

Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin poses on June 25 in the rectory of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis with the six men he ordained to the priesthood. The newly ordained priests are, from right, Fathers Nicolás Ajpacajá Tzoc, Anthony Hollowell, Douglas Hunter, Kyle Rodden, James Brockmeier and Matthew Tucci. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin receives a blessing from newly ordained Father Kyle Rodden on June 25 in the rectory of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Father John Hollowell, pastor of Annunciation Parish in Brazil and St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, ritually lays hands on then-transitional Deacon Anthony Hollowell, his brother, during the June 25 ordination Mass. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

Elizabeth Escoffery, a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, proclaims the second reading at the ordination Mass. Escoffery previously served as associate director of the archdiocesan Office of Vocations. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Newly ordained Father Kyle Rodden gets a blessing from newly ordained Father Kyle Rodden at the ordination Mass. (Photo by Mike Krokos)

Nearly 1,000 worshipers watch Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, Bishop James F. Checchio of Metuchen, N.J., and more than 100 priests process into the cathedral at the start of the June 25 ordination Mass. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Then-transitional Deacons Anthony Hollowell and Nicolás Ajpacajá Tzoc, front row, James Brockmeier and Douglas Hunter, middle row, and Kyle Rodden and Matthew Tucci, back row, are all smiles moments before the start of the June 25 ordination Mass. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Then-transitional Deacon Douglas Hunter stands beside two of his aunts, Nona Dottery, left, and Minnie Smith at the start of the June 25 ordination Mass. Hunter’s parents are deceased. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Then-transitional Deacon James Brockmeier stands next to his parents, Norma and Don Brockmeier of Crestview Hills, Ky., at the start of the June 25 ordination Mass. (Photo by Mike Krokos)

With more than 100 priests looking on, Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin prays a prayer of consecration over the six transitional deacons he ordained to the priesthood during the June 25 ordination Mass. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Father Daniel Atkins, pastor of Holy Family Parish in New Albany, helps newly ordained Father Matthew Tucci put on priestly vestments during the ordination Mass as Mike Tucci, Father Tucci’s father, looks on. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Six transitional deacons lie prostrate in prayer on the floor of the cathedral during the June 25 ordination Mass, minutes before they were ordained priests. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)
Saints’ relics seen as reminder of threats to religious liberty

Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori linked urgent matters of “immigration, marriage and the Church’s teaching on sexuality” to a pair of 16th-century martyrs during a June 21 Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore that began the fifth annual Fortnight for Freedom.

The theme of this year’s fortnight is “Witnesses to Freedom.” The event features relics of St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, an English layman and bishop, respectively, who were martyred in a 16-day span in 1535, when they refused to accept Parliament’s Act of Supremacy, which had declared that King Henry VIII was head of the Church in England.

On display for veneration were St. John Fisher’s ring and a piece of bone of St. Thomas More. According to Jan Graffius, curator of Stonyhurst College in England, which holds the relics, it came from St. Thomas More’s skull, which was rescued by his daughter, Margaret, from a spike on London Bridge.

During a Mass that was televised nationally by the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), Archbishop Lori’s homily connected Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher to an array of 21st century struggles, among them the Health and Human Services contraceptive, abortifacient and sterilization mandate that the Little Sisters of the Poor and other petitioners continue to challenge in the nation’s highest courts.

“This night, we recognize gratefully the courage of all who are resisting the mandate, especially the Little Sisters of the Poor,” the archbishop said. “They are vigorously defending their freedom and ours—and they are doing so with a beauty and a joy borne from the heart of the Gospel.”

Archbishop Lori, who is chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), which sponsors the Fortnight for Freedom, also asked for prayers for the victims of the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Fla., and Fortnight for Freedom, also asked for prayers for the victims of the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Fla., and Fortnight for Freedom, also asked for prayers for the victims of the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Fla., and Fortnight for Freedom, also asked for prayers for the victims of the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Fla., and Fortnight for Freedom, also asked for prayers for the victims of the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Fla., and Fortnight for Freedom, also asked for prayers for the victims of the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Fla., and Fortnight for Freedom, also asked for prayers for the victims of the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Fla., and Fortnight for Freedom, also asked for prayers for the victims of the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Fla., and Fortnight for Freedom, also asked for prayers for the victims of the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Fla., and Fortnight for Freedom, also asked for prayers for the victims of the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Fla., and Fortnight for Freedom, also asked for prayers for the victims of the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Fla., and Fortnight for Freedom, also asked for prayers for the victims of the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Fla.,

“This night,” he continued, “we draw close to the martyrs of the 21st century in Iraq, Iran, Syria and parts of Africa—those slain for their faith—in plain sight of us all with no one to hold their persecutors accountable. Refugees are streaming from the Middle East just as Jews tried to escape from the horrors of Nazism—only to find that they are held suspect and they are unwanted.

While religious liberty in the U.S. might not seem so dire by comparison, vigilance is required nonetheless.

“We would like to think,” Archbishop Lori continued, “‘such things could never happen here.’ … Yet, there are ominous signs that protections for religious freedom have waned as bad laws, court decisions and policies pile up and as the prevailing culture more readily turns away from religious faith.

“Let us be clear that challenges to religious freedom in our nation pale in comparison to those faced by our brothers and sisters in many parts of the world—yet who is served when we fail to take seriously the new and emerging challenges to religious freedom that are before us?

“We may not be called upon to shed our blood,” he continued, “but we are called upon to defend our freedoms, not merely in the abstract, but as embedded in matters such as immigration, marriage and the Church’s teaching on sexuality.”

Holy Spirit Festival & Monte Carlo

July 7th, 8th & 9th

BIG CASH JACKPOTS – 50/50 DRAWINGS
Every night at 8:00 p.m and 11:00 p.m.
Buy 24 tickets for a second chance to win a 32” flat screen TV
MUSIC NIGHTLY IN THE ROSE GARDEN!
“Silent Auction Booth featuring unique items and memorabilia”

Family Dinners Every Night - 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
Thursday - Pulled Pork • Friday - Fish & Chips or Corn Beef & Cabbage • Saturday - La Fiesta
(Includes sides and drink. See holyspirit-indy.org/ministries/parish-festival for pricing & details)

Advance Ride Tickets available until 4:00 PM, July 7th
Advance Ride or Drawing Tickets Available at Above Address. – Call 353-9404 for Details.

Special: Children’s “One-Price-Ride” Matinee – Saturday 1:00-5:00 PM
★ Games ★ Rides ★ Beer Booth ★ Prizes
★ Monte Carlo ★ MP-Midnight every night
CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT
Saturday 1:00 PM
Pre-registration by noon or call 317-341-0830 • North side of Church.

No minors under 18 admitted unless accompanied by an adult. Minimum $10 family purchase required.

Holy Spirit Festival & Monte Carlo
holyspirit-indy.org/ministries/parish-festival

ADDITIONAL PARKING
at the Crossroads Bible College, 601 N. Shortridge Road. Or, at the south east corner of Gold’s Gym. Shuttle service available from 5:30 p.m. until close every night. Uniformed patrol in parking lot at all festival hours.

LIC. #141407

www.svdpindy.org
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
300 E. 38th Street • Indianapolis, IN 46218

Too often we dismiss the notion of our potential to bring a life around.
Your cash donation could supply a week’s groceries to an unemployed family in desperate need. Your donation of a usable stove could enable children in a needy family to benefit from the nourishment hot meals provide. Your donation of a few hours each week could provide the significant act of caring that converts someone’s despair to hope. You have the power to transform—to change—to make a difference. To schedule pick-up of working-condition household items go to www.svdpindy.org or call 317-487-1086. You can also make a monetary contribution or become a volunteer online.
Coach and his ‘sons’ lead Providence to championship

By John Shaughnessy

Scott Hornung knows the tremendous feeling that comes from watching your children succeed. It’s a feeling he has experienced while cheering for his daughters Jacqueline and Marissa as they helped the volleyball team at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville win state championships the past three seasons. “As a parent, you couldn’t ask for anything more,” says Hornung, who also has a younger daughter, Ali. “To see your children succeed is far more satisfying than having success yourself.”

Hornung had that same feeling on June 18 in his role as the head coach of the Providence baseball team—a team that won the Class 2A Indiana High School Athletic Association championship with a dramatic 7-6 win against the team from Lafayette Central Catholic.

“I can honestly say I felt the same way as I did with my daughters. I don’t have any sons, but I honestly consider these boys to be my sons,” says Hornung, his voice tinged with emotion. “After the game, I took the time to thank them. I was only thankful for them as baseball players to begin with, then doing an exercise. And every week we’ll also remember the brotherhood, the fun we had, the joy we shared.”

That sense of family has long been a point of pride and purpose not just for the baseball program, but for the entire Providence community in southern Indiana. And the baseball championship adds another reason to celebrate—and another distinction—as it marks the first time in the school’s 64-year history that a boys’ team has won a state championship.

“When the winning run crossed the plate, there was definitely a lot of joy and pride,” says Hornung, who has dedicated 30 years of his life to coaching at Providence, including the past 22 years as the head baseball coach. “To see the joy on the faces of the players, the coaches and the crowd—it just really means a lot to represent our school. All the hard work that’s been put into this through the years came to fruition.”

While this year’s team was blessed with talent, it also was marked by a foundation that Hornung has stressed through the years: faith.

The team prayed before and after every practice and game. During pre-season conditioning in Lent, the team did a workout around the Stations of the Cross every Friday, reading about each station, praying about each one and then doing an exercise. And every week of the season, the team focused on a particular virtue—such as valor, love and dependability—and tried to find ways to implement those virtues into their lives.

For Hornung, those foundations of faith and family are what he and his wife Kelly—both Providence grads—have tried to stress to their daughters. It’s what Scappoose has always been a part of his “sons.”

“I had seven seniors this year,” he says. “It was a great combination of personalities. Each brought something different to the team. We had our comedians, our cheerleaders, some serious ones. But the things they had in common were their selflessness and their genuineness. And they all pulled for each other. And that includes the underclassmen, too.”

It’s a bond that connects teammates in ways that extend beyond a state championship.

“We’re a fortunate group because we won a state championship, and we’ll remember that day forever.” Hornung says. “But as they grow older and become young men into adulthood, we’ll also remember the brotherhood, the time together, the laughter and the friendship. That’s what everybody truly remembers.”

Roncalli scores championship ‘run’ with touch of class

By John Shaughnessy

The two scenes unfolded at the same time—one capturing the pure joy of winning a championship, the other capturing the essence of compassion.

Just seconds after the winning run scored to end the thrilling, extra-inning game on June 17, the players on the baseball team of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis rushed onto the field, jumping and hugging before diving on top of each other in a huge pile of arms, legs and “we-did-it!” smiles by first base.

Mere feet away, by the pitcher’s mound of Victory Field in Indianapolis, Roncalli seniors Cody Smith and Michael McAvene took turns consoling the Zionsville High School pitcher who had slumped to the ground in devastation, knowing that his top-ranked team’s dream of winning a state championship was now being lost to Roncalli.

It was a combined moment of celebration and sportsmanship during the Class 4A Indiana State High School Athletic Association baseball championship.

It was also a moment when the difference between heartbreak and jubilation is sometimes as razor-thin as a player touching a base just a split-second before the ball arrives—which was the deciding play in Roncalli’s 3-2 comeback victory.

“It was a great, back-and-forth game,” says Aaron Kroll, Roncalli’s head baseball coach. “When he was called safe at first [and the winning run scored], we pretty much went crazy. It was one of those moments you’ll never forget. It was pretty special.”

So were the actions of Smith, the catcher, and McAvene, the starting pitcher in the championship game.

“To reach out to the opposing pitcher in that moment, I thought it was remarkable for those two guys to do that—to show that kind of sportsmanship in a game like that,” Kroll says.

The championship—and the compassion—reflected the leadership that the 10 seniors on the team showed throughout the season, Kroll notes.

“The seniors did a great job,” the coach says. “Down the stretch, the team became really tough, really resilient. The team chemistry was great. They did a lot of activities together throughout the season. They became close at the right time, and they played well at the right time. That unity was important for the close games we had down the stretch. It’s been a special run for all of us.”

The championship was all the more special for Kroll because he celebrated it with his wife, Brooke, and their two children, 6-year-old Griffin and 5-year-old Kamryn.

“If I meant a lot to share that moment with them because they make a lot of sacrifices for me to coach,” says Kroll, who has led the Roncalli baseball program for two years.

For the season, Roncalli finished with a record of 23 wins and nine losses, overcoming adversity along the way.

“At one point, we were 6 and 5. At another point, we were 9 and 7, and we lost our last regular season game,” Kroll says. “During the season, we had lost eight games by a combined total of 16 runs. We were losing a lot of close games.”

Yet the last close game led to Roncalli’s first-ever state championship in baseball.

“I’m not sure it’s fully sunk in yet,” Kroll says. “Just looking back on the whole thing, what we accomplished is so special. We will all forever be linked because of what we were able to accomplish.”
No matter who you're rooting for, we're all in this together.

It's interesting what you find when you clean out your closet or your attic. Last week, at the end of the school year, Margaret and I were cleaning out the attic of our newly purchased house. We had also to extract some invaluable ruins and marshmallows. (I hope that's what they are.)

One of the papers I found appeared to contain an autograph. I inquired about it, and Margaret immediately looked at me, tentatively. “Whose signature is this?” I asked her again.

She said, “I don’t know to whom it belongs, but she had thought she had lost, but her smile faded when she discovered it was an invitation to a birthday party—from two decades ago—that she had forgotten to give me. We also had to extract some incredible ruins and marshmallows. (I hope that’s what they are.)

It turned out to be an autograph of an Indiana University football player. I was one of the few people who had talked to students about balancing academics and athletics. He was not afraid to approach our household chores for the gold and black. Her dad graduated from Purdue University, and is a good Boilermaker.

Margaret actually thought I would be upset with her because she had grabbed a photographer on a player on “the other team.”

I grabbed two ice cream sandwiches and asked her to pass them to the player for an early dessert and a little chat. I explained that something got lost in translation and that our family does not dislike IU.

“It’s an amazing university where many of your family members received incredible educations and earned impressive degrees,” I said.

“Your dad went to Purdue, and that’s the team he cheers for and follows,” I added.

I thought she understood, until a few weeks later when it was game seven of the 2016 NBA finals. Margaret was cheering for our team, and rather fortunes for the other. They heckled one another shamelessly.

I thought the game was over the IU discussion.

“It’s good to be a loyal fan and support your team, but it’s not OK to be mean-spirited toward the opposing team,” I said.

I explained that, when we’re in competition mode, we forget that athletes on the opposing team have worked hard and have families and friends supporting them, too. God made all of us, and whatever jersey we wear, we are called to use our gifts to give him glory.

Our children travel this country. Especially in this election year, when political competition is fierce, each party is nothing without the other. It is not acceptable to disrespectfully disagree, but candidates and their political parties are not setting a good example when they slander or show hostility to the opposing party. Americans will never agree on everything, but we’re all in it together. I suggest we spotted a wise saying that asked a great question: “What if I told you that the left wing and the right wing belong to the same bird?”

As we celebrate this Fourth of July, I pray that God helps us to remain the United States. Lately, our nation has felt rather divided.

I want to be part of the Church that uses God’s words to the Ephesians, though written long and still apply today. “I urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another tenderly, striving to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace” (Eph 4:1-3).

God, please bless America.

(Patti Lamb, a member of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.)

Solid, practical suggestions that can help marriages last.

In 2003, my wife and I had been married for 29 years when we wrote a column on marriage that offered tips for newlyweds.

Remember, we wrote, that the sacrament is called “marriage” not “wedding.” Also, continue to transform your wedding day into a permanent commitment. Be fiscally prudent. Avoid being a “shopaholic” or a miser. When you’ve spent all your lottery winnings, you cannot go back on your marriage.

Also important are praying for each and praying with each other. Stay friends, we said, and laugh whenever possible but never at the expense of another, especially your spouse. Celebrate each other’s birthday! One year is a big deal. And, finally, don’t eat the top tier of the wedding cake that has been in the freezer for a year. Ick.

Then later in 2009, a couple of months after we remarried, we wrote: “We’re not saying you don’t already know these things, but, when you’re tired, when you’re gunning for the week’s end, and all those things happen to every husband and wife—it can help to return to some of the basics. Remember that you’re not competitors. If one person ‘wins,’ both lose. Part of your role is graciously help one another become a better person, and part is to accept your spouse’s help graciously, to grow toward becoming the person the other person created you to be: his beautiful son or daughter.

Nothing is not glorious, and exactly who you think your spouse should be may not be who God created him or her to be. Like a fire or a garden, marriage is a “living” thing. It needs to tended regularly and that takes deliberate effort. You both need to work at turning nothing but ashes or weeds, accompanied by the deep regret of what might have been.

Laugh with each other, not at each other. Pray with each other and for each other. Talk to each other daily every day of every week of every month of every year of every decade. Be happy, but don’t be angry. At some point in the distant future, smile, shake your heads and offer a little advice when you’ve learned the hard way, realize the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace” (Eph 4:1-3).

God, please bless America.

(Bill Dodd writes for Catholic News Service.)
The Book of Isaiah is the source of the first reading. In reading any passage of Scripture, it is important to take note of the context in which the work originally was composed. The events, attitudes and personalities within these contexts very significantly influenced what was written. The Bible is inspired by God and is the word of God, a meditation of the Holy Spirit to its various individual authors addressed human concerns and, at times, conditions of their own time.

When this third part of Isaiah was written, God’s Chosen People were not living a life of ease and plenty. Their ancestors addressed human concerns and, at times, conditions of their own time.

Nevertheless, the prophets, such as the author of the third section of Isaiah, reassured them. God would protect them. He had promised to protect them. They would not die. If they were true to God, they would live. God would give them life. For its second reading, the liturgy for this weekend gives us a passage from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Galatians. Galatians is a virtual treasure trove of deep and compelling revelation into the reality of salvation. Salvation is found in and brought about by Jesus. Christians are given salvation by their bond with Jesus, the Savior.

Thus, this reading calls upon Christians to rejoice in the fact that salvation is within their grasp. It tells them to boast of nothing except that they have been redeemed by the cross of Christ. It also reminds them forcefully that they must tie themselves to the cross of Christ. It also reminds them to struggle.

The mindset prevailing in our culture is curious realizing the modern achievements in science. We can control many things, and being in control is an ideal. But our culture broadcasts the notion that we cannot withstand sin, nor should we. Peace is surrendering to our instincts and selfishness.

The culture bids us to overestimate ourselves, suggesting to us that we are much wiser than we are. True, much is known today, but much is unknown, and we still are subject to hurt and to death. These readings tell us that eternal life, and peace and joy in this life, are the products of salvation in God.

The love of God in Jesus is tangible. As gifts to us, and aids for us, Jesus gives us special teachers and leaders in the Church as guides. They have the power, conferred by God, to lead us to true and everlasting life.

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Serra Club vocations essay
Living stations offer a powerful experience of God’s mercy
By Ashley Freiburger

I’ve always been a strong believer in God. I know he sent his only Son to die for me so that my sins may join him at the gates of heaven. But I never really applied this to me. I always thought no matter what horrible thing I did, it wouldn’t matter because, in the end, our heavenly Father would forgive us.

But after I went to a Living Stations of the Cross, it changed everything I once believed in into something more powerful. I thought it was a true meaning of mercy and forgiveness. I am about to share my experience with you.

When my mom told me we were going to the Living Stations of the Cross— I am not going to lie—I didn’t want to go at all. I thought I had better things to do than sit for an hour and watch what Jesus went through, when I thought I already knew what had happened.

As we arrived, I was surprised to see how many people had gathered. Many of them were in the sitting area facing toward the back and just waiting. After waiting another 10 minutes, I was getting annoyed and just wanted this to be over.

But then the music started, and I knew right away that it was going to be a great experience. There was a priest playing Jesus, and he wasawating Ponitius Pilate. They all started acting out the story, and I was kind of disappointed. It wasn’t the “life-changing experience” I thought it would be. But little did I know, it was just getting started.

After waiting and waiting for something to catch my attention, one of the soldiers pulled a whip out and started whipping Jesus. He fell and made a loud scream. It was terrifying. After more and more whips, it was time for the crucifixion. This brought tears to my eyes. It couldn’t have been more realistic. I was looking around to see if other people were as emotional as I was, and I noticed several people crying as well. Some even had to get up and leave the church.

When they brought Jesus up on the cross, it all went silent. I was praying to God at this point, asking him to forgive me for everything I have done, saying how sorry I was for not being more appreciative of what he went through.

Then, Jesus was looking around and made eye contact with me, and I was so nervous because it felt like he was staring straight into my soul, trying to find all of my sins.

This was the point where I knew it wasn’t just a priest playing Jesus looking at me. It was really Jesus in him, trying to get my attention and make me change my ways. I think it was a way for him to let me know he forgave me. It definitely worked. I couldn’t handle it anymore, and I almost got up and left. I realized that this was something about this priest playing Jesus that just made me feel so calm and relaxed. My heart and soul felt cleansed, and I knew the exact reason why. I was looking at the real Jesus.

After the stations ended, I was a completely different person. I then looked at my life in a totally different way. The real actions of Jesus made me realize maybe it was Jesus forgiving me and made me want to forgive others. It was the most powerful life-changing experience I have ever been through.

If I hadn’t witnessed that, I would feel as if God has abandoned me and I would be a sinner. But after staring into the eyes of that priest, I knew I wanted to be a saint and ask for forgiveness.

That was all I needed to completely change my life around. The priest saved my life, and he didn’t know it. I will never forget this experience, and I am so thankful God thought of me and wanted me to see this.

If there’s one thing I can say about this experience, I would tell people Jesus is thinking about you no matter what you think, and I urge you to do the right thing and ask for forgiveness.

(Ashley and her parents, Andi and Freight Freiburger, are members of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish, in Indianapolis. She completed the ninth grade at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis last spring, and was a part of the class that participated in the Indianapolis Serra Club’s 2016 John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest.)

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Minimum Requirements:
• Master’s Degree in Theology, Liturgy, or Music
• Strong organizational skills
• Competency in vocal performance
• Deep understanding and love of the Catholic liturgical tradition

Qualifications: The ideal candidate will have:
• Knowledge of and commitment to the mission of Marian University.
• A bachelor’s degree in Theology, Liturgy, Ministry, or Sacred Music.
• Strong understanding and love of the Catholic liturgical tradition
• Deep understanding and love of the Catholic liturgical tradition
• Experience coordinating worship and the liturgical life of a parish or university
• Choral conducting experience
• Expert pianist
• Experience in vocal performance
• Full knowledge and understanding of the following Church documents and their relation to the exercises of the duties assigned to this position:
—The New Roman Missal
—General Instruction of the Roman Missal—Song to the Lord—Music in Divine Worship (USCCB)
• Strong, emotionally motivated work ethic
• Ability to use Microsoft Office Suite
• Masters Degree in Theology, Liturgy, Ministry, or Sacred Music preferred
• Experience in higher education, working with college students or young adults preferred
• Competency in organ and/or guitar preferred

This dynamic person of faith should have a strong sense of Roman Catholic liturgy, and proficiency in keyboard and choir direction. Salary commensurate with education and experience.

Leave: 10 days of vacation, 10 days of sick leave, and 5 days of personal leave.

To apply: Submit a cover letter and résumé to: Marian University, the Office of Human Resources, Employment at 3001 E. 30th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46218 or email them to: rosalyn.watson@marian.edu

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Little Flower Parish, a vibrant faith community of almost 1,000 households on the Eastside of Indianapolis, is seeking a part-time (approx. 20 hrs. per week) Director of Music Ministry to lead a well-developed liturgical ministry.

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This dynamic person of faith should have a Bachelor’s Degree, preferably with a major in music, including knowledge and training in music theory and history, or equivalent experience, a strong sense of Roman Catholic liturgy, and proficiency in keyboard and choir direction. Salary commensurate with education and experience.

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Brotherly embrace: Pope, Armenian leader highlight Christian unity

VAGHARSHAPAT, Armenia (CNS)—Recognizing that the Church of Christ is one and that Christian divisions are a “scandal” to the world, Pope Francis and Armenian Apostolic Catholicos Karekin II offered their faithful the example of praying and working together.

Approaching the end of his three-day trip to Armenia, Pope Francis attended the Divine Liturgy celebrated on June 26 by the patriarch at Etchmiadzin, the seat of the Armenian Apostolic Church. To accommodate the crowd, the liturgy was held outdoors at a towering stone sanctuary dedicated for major celebrations.

Under a gold-trimmed red canopy, the patriarch and pope processed to the sanctuary together before the pope bowed to the patriarch and moved to the side. He used a small booklet to follow the liturgy, which is celebrated in “georgian,” as ancient liturgical Armenian is called.

In his homily, Catholicos Karekin told his faithful and his guests, “During these days together with our spiritual brother, Pope Francis, with joint visits and prayers, we reconfirmed that the holy Church is one and that Christian divisions are a ‘scandal’ to the world.”

The patriarch warned of modern attacks on the faith, including a selfish attitude, a tendency to seek division, and a lack of concern for “those who long for communion with each other, but not with the power of love.”

Christian unity is not and cannot be about “the submission of one to the other or assimilation,” the pope said, rather should be an acceptance of the different gifts God has given to different Christians at different times.

“We let us respond to the appeal of the saints, let us listen to the voices of the humble and poor, of the many victims of hatred who suffered and gave their lives for the faith,” Pope Francis said. “Let us pay heed to the younger generation, who seek a future free of past divisions.”

The Armenian Apostolic Church is one of the six independent Oriental Orthodox Churches that were divided from the rest of Christianity after the Council of Chalcedon in 451. The six, which include the Syrian Orthodox Church, are in full communion with each other, but not with the Eastern Orthodox Churches such as the Russian Orthodox Church.

For centuries, the Oriental Orthodox were regarded by the rest of Christianity as adhering to a heretical teaching on the nature of Christ, but recent scholarship has led theologians and Church authorities on both sides to affirm that the Christological differences were not doctrinal. Rather, both sides profess the same faith, but use different formulas to express it.

Common declarations about Christ’s humanity and divinity were signed between 1971 and 1996 by the heads of each Oriental Orthodox Church and Pope Paul VI or St. John Paul II.

Before vesting for the liturgy at Etchmiadzin, Armenian Bishop Bagrat Galstanyan of Tavush, an Orthodox diocese that shares borders with Georgia and Azerbaijan, stood scanning the crowd. Every few seconds, someone would identify him as a bishop and approach for a blessing, which he gave with a broad smile.

In essence, the court in Casey said a state may enact abortion regulations that do not pose an “undue burden” on pregnant women.

In the March 2 oral arguments in the Texas abortion regulation case, the phrase was used to promote women’s access to available clinics. Opponents of the state regulations said the restrictions were aimed at stopping abortions because they forced clinics to close, which in turn, they said, would put an undue burden on women seeking abortions who would have to travel farther to find an available clinic.

In 1973 since the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion, the court has shown “extreme hostility to regulation of abortion as a medical procedure,” said Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee, which supported friend of the court brief in the Texas case.

She said the court turned a corner in its 1992 Casey decision by rejecting the idea of being “the country’s ex officio medical board,” but it “reversed course” with the Texas decision by deciding it knew “better than representatives duly elected by the people of the United States.”

Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, a co-chairman of the congressional Pro-Life Caucus, similarly said the court’s decision “smothers the abortion industry from accountability and minimal medical standards.”

The Texas law requiring compliance by abortion providers had forced many of the state’s abortion centers to close, leaving open, primarily in major cities. After the June 27 ruling, many of them are expected to reopen.

“The day’s litigation is a great celebration,” Bishop Galstanyan said. The catholicos and pope are “brothers together declaring to the world that Christians must stay together, must be together, must be a voice for the world.”

Orthodox Father Zakaria Baghmyan, who was directing press operations for the catholicos during the visit, said the pope asking for a blessing from the patriarch is “just a sign of brotherly love. It’s a sign of respect for our Church and our nation.”

The crowd at the liturgy was predominantly young. “We are an ancient people, an ancient Church, with a young faith,” the 45-year-old bishop explained.

Mount Ararat, believed to be where Noah’s Ark came to rest, (CNS photo/Philadelphia abortion center.

Gernot Hanak)