Continuing the mission

Proclaim Christ the king of mercy, pope says at end of Holy Year, page 10.

An unbelievable moment

By John Shaughnessy

VATICAN CITY—In an extraordinary moment like this one, the temptation is to focus just on the honor.

Sometimes, it’s especially tempting for the person receiving the honor.

Within minutes—at 11 a.m. Rome time on Nov. 19—Cardinal-designate Joseph W. Tobin will stand near the central altar at St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican. There, in a ceremony called a consistory, he will soon be installed by Pope Francis as one of 17 new cardinals in the Church.

At 64, he will become the youngest of the 18 American-born cardinals.

He will also become one of the 120 cardinals from around the world who are eligible to vote, when the time comes in the future, to elect a new pope—or even become a new pope.

Let all of that sink in for a moment—the rareness, the possibility, the honor. Then listen to the answer that Cardinal-designate Tobin gave to a question he was asked on Oct. 10, the day after Pope Francis announced him as one of the new cardinals. Responding to the question, “In terms of your life, is this the most memorable moment?”, Cardinal-designate Tobin said:

“I would tend to say no. … Becoming a cardinal, as much as I understand it, is an additional invitation to serve. I think there have been other moments in my life as a priest, as a Redemptorist, as a human being, that would supersede it. Perhaps this is a doorway to other great moments of service.”

See CARDINAL, page 8

Cardinal-designate Joseph W. Tobin arrives for the consistory in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican on Nov. 19. Also shown is Msgr. William F. Stumpf, archdiocesan moderator of the curia. Cardinal Tobin was among 17 new cardinals created by Pope Francis at the consistory. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

No boundaries for love
Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin’s mother says she would go anywhere in the world to be with her children. page 3.

Bittersweet consistory

Back home
Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin shares his first homily as a cardinal at the Church of St. Alphonsus Liguori in Rome, page 9.
Joseph Tobin: A great American success story—with a twist

By John Shaughnessy

ROME—This latest journey of Cardinal-designate Joseph W. Tobin to Italy can be viewed as a great American success story—with a twist.

After all, the focus of this story isn’t on power, wealth or fame. Rather, it’s on the foundation of faith, family and humility.

Start with the fact that he was a boy from Detroit who knew the challenges of the streets.

Add in the detail that he is the oldest of 13 children who grew up in a family that lived in one half of a duplex for all of his childhood and his youth.

Include the heartwarming element that he lost his father—his role model—at a young age.

Yet instead of derailing his future, those realities and challenges helped to form the strong foundation of his life, leading now to a special moment when he will be elevated to one of the most honored positions in the Church.

That’s the Twitter account version of the life of Cardinal-designate Tobin who will be installed as a cardinal by Pope Francis on Nov. 19 at St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican.

During the ceremony which is called a consistory, Cardinal-designate Tobin will be one of 17 new cardinals to receive his cardinal’s ring and the four-cornered red hat—from Pope Francis.

The pope will also give each new cardinal a scroll with the “title” to a church or parish in Rome, making him an honorary member of the clergy in Rome.

For Cardinal-designate Tobin, his selection initially led him to be shocked and humbled when Pope Francis announced this third class of new cardinals on Oct. 9. At 64, Cardinal-designate Tobin will become the youngest of the 18 American-born cardinals.

His selection as a cardinal has also led more than 200 people—including his 93-year-old mother, a large group of family and friends, and a strong delegation of priests, colleagues and faithful from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis—to travel to Rome to be there for him at this special time.

It’s also likely there for the first Mass he celebrates as a cardinal. With Pope Francis and other cardinals, he will concelebrate the 10 a.m. Mass on Nov. 20 in St. Peter’s Square, a liturgy that will close the Holy Year of Mercy that began on Dec. 8, 2015.

As he prays during the Mass, Cardinal Tobin will likely think again of his father Joseph who died during a blizzard in 1977 when he suffered a heart attack after helping people stranded in the snowstorm. “It’s the moment when once sent me to church. He took me with him. When I was kneeling next to him, I wanted to be like him.”

During the weekend, he will also undoubtedly dote on his mother, Marie Tobin, who still had children as young as 5 and 6 when her husband died. Her oldest child knows she has always believed that his husband has been with her through the years, helping her raise their children.

As Cardinal-designate Tobin has noted, “And when people say, ‘Mrs. Tobin, how wonderful!—13 children and they all went to college,’ her response is, ‘How wonderful!—13 children and they all practice their faith.’ ”

Cardinal-designate Tobin has also often humorously mentioned another bonus of growing up in his close-knit Irish family: “We learned to live with diversity because it’s hard to be selfish if you have one bathroom in the house and eight sisters.”

Diversity has been a defining element in his ministry since he was ordained as a Redemptorist priest in 1976. He is fluent in five languages—English, French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish—and he has traveled to more than 70 countries.

The former leader of the Redemptorist order also has a heart for immigrants and refugees. And when he is installed as the new archbishop of the Archdiocese of Newark on Jan. 6, he will begin to oversee a 1.5 million-member diocese of about 1.5 million Catholics where Mass is celebrated in 20 churches in a four-county area of about 1.5 million people.

In his heart he will make us proud, no matter where we are.”

Carolyn Noone became emotional when she talked about this special weekend that marks the latest chapter in this Catholic-American success story.

“He has become like a family member to all of us, and he’s done so well, we can send him on to become a cardinal,” said Noone, the director of special events for the archdiocese. “We’re so proud of him because he’s one of us. He can leave Indianapolis and go to Newark, but he’ll always be in our hearts.”

It’s the deep emotion that pours out for a cardinal who has built his life on the foundation of faith, family and humility.

(To see Pope Francis’ monthly intentions, go to www.va.gov/en/papalPrayer.htm)

**NEWS FROM YOU!**

Do you have something exciting or newsworthy you want to be printed in The Criterion? E-mail us: criterion@archindy.org

**Staff:**

Editor: Mike Krohe
Assistant Editor: John Shaughnessy
Reporter: Joan Gallagher
Reporters: Tom Henze, Andrew Giglio
Online Editor/Graphic Designer: Brandon A. Evans
Business Manager: Ron Masse
Graphic Designer: Jane Lee
Print Service Assistant: Annette Danielson

Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January. Mailing address: 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2016 Criterion Press Inc. ISSN 0574-4350.

**Universal: End to Child Soldiers**—That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

**Evangelization: Europe**—That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

---

**Pope Francis’ prayer intentions for December**

**New Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin and Pope Francis enjoy a conversation inside St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican on Nov. 19. (Photo courtesy L’Osservatore Romano)**

**The Criterion** • 1400 N. Meridian St. • Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

**The Criterion’s phone numbers:**

Main office: 317-236-1570
Advertising: 317-236-1454
Circulation: 317-236-1454
Toll free: 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1570
E-mail us: criterion@archindy.org

**Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January. Mailing address: 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2016 Criterion Press Inc. ISSN 0574-4350.**
Marie Tobin: ‘I would go anywhere in the world to be where my children are’

By John Shaughnessy

ROME—On the morning when the oldest of her 13 children became a cardinal of the Church, Marie Tobin started her day with a simple prayer.

“I woke up this morning saying, ‘This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad’” (Ps 118:24).

At 93, Mrs. Tobin had two main reasons to rejoice as she waited for the start of a memorable ceremony on Nov. 19 in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican.

Within an hour, her son “Joe” would be installed as one of 17 new cardinals by Pope Francis. And just as meaningful to her, she was surrounded by so many members of her family who had traveled to Rome to do what she says the Tobin clan does best—be there for each other.

“I would go anywhere in the world to be where my children are,” she said. “And if they think it’s going to be fun, we’re all there.”

On this day, all but one of her children—he had a scheduled surgery—was there to witness the installation of Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin. Their mother never imagined that scene or that it would be her son “Joe” who would be installed as one of 17 new cardinals on Oct. 9.

In St. Peter’s before the ceremony—as Cardinal-to-be Tobin waited anxiously for his mother to arrive, followed by how he give him his cardinal’s ring and place his red biretta on his head.

“One of you had to be in heaven because your kids will be all over the world someday.” That’s what four years has done for me is that it’s totally true. Their work has taken them all over.

On this day, her oldest son’s life has led her to Rome and St. Peter’s—“a trip she wasn’t going to miss.”

“He’s been with his oldest son all the time. An old Redemptorist priest told me when he died, ‘One of you had to be in heaven because your kids will be all over the world someday,’” said the old woman.

“Mom always appreciates the times when the whole family is together. And it can be anywhere. I think this is a big deal because she’s a woman of faith. She sees this in the larger picture of her own engagement with God and the Church.

“She’s really kind of dazzled by the whole thing because she loves the people I serve in Indiana, and she loves the Redemptorists who are my brothers.’

Perhaps the most touching displays of love on this morning started inside St. Peter’s before the ceremony—as Cardinal-to-be Tobin waited anxiously for his mother to arrive, followed by how he embraced and kissed her when he found she was there.

Then came the moment when she watched her son walk up the steps to the central altar where Pope Francis waited to give him his cardinal’s ring and place his red biretta on his head.

“Oh, my heaven!” she said later, in recalling that moment. “It’s totally unbelievable.”

That feeling of joy led her to think of her husband again.

“I married the most wonderful man. All I can say is, ‘Thank you, thank you.’ God is very good to me.”

Cardinal Tobin will say ‘thank you’ and ‘farewell’ with Dec. 3 Mass, reception

By John Shaughnessy

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin will share his gratitude with the people of the archdiocese on Dec. 3, beginning with a Mass at 11 a.m. in SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis.

The Mass—and the reception that follows it—will also serve as an opportunity for him to say farewell to the Church in central and southern Indiana he has served and grown to love since his installation as its shepherd on Dec. 3, 2012.

The date is also the feast day of St. Francis Xavier, principal patron of the archdiocese of Indianapolis.

What four years has done for me is that this wonderful Catholic community spread across 39 counties has gone from ‘the archdiocese’ to ‘my people.’”

Cardinal Tobin said on Oct. 10, the day after Pope Francis announced him as a new cardinal, “They have a claim on me, and I have a claim on them.”

Cardinal Tobin plans to celebrate that mutual bond and deep connection on Dec. 3. After the Mass, a reception and a receiving line with the cardinal will follow in the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center across the street from the cathedral. The Mass and the reception are both open to the public.

No tickets or reservations are required for people to attend the Mass and/or the reception, which is being sponsored by Franciscan Health.

Are you a busy Catholic mom?

Retreat for Busy Catholic Moms

Friday, Feb. 17 - Sunday Feb. 19, 2017

A great gift for Christmas!

Reserve your space now.

For more information or to register go to: Events.SistersofProvidence.org or call 812-335-2952
The virus of polarization

Perhaps we should nominate Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the late Justice Antonin Scalia as models for people who disagree with one another, but who remain friends. While Scalia was still living, the two justices were usually on opposite sides when it came to interpreting the Constitution, but they and their spouses traveled together, attended operas together, and enjoyed one another’s company.

With the antagonism and discord that characterize today’s society, such people seem to be few and far between. Pope Francis took note of that in his homily during the Nov. 19 ceremony at which he gave red birettas to 17 new cardinals, including Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin. He told them that they must be ministers of reconciliation in this world of hostility and division, which he called “the virus of polarization and animosity.”

Cardinal Tobin was quick to pick up on the pope’s message. He told Catholic News Service that the pope’s homily was “very timely,” and that all Catholics should “examine ourselves and the Church to see whether we have unconsciously appropriated this ‘virus of polarization and animosity.’ It may hide unconsciously. It may be invisible, and it might have been even stronger if Donald Trump had not won. We must somehow get back to understanding, as the pope said, that we should not be enemies. All people are embraced by God’s love, he said. “We are the ones who raise walls, build barriers and label people.” It’s hard not to think that he was referring to Trump’s campaign promise to build a wall along the United States-Mexico border.

The incoming Trump administration is thought by many to be divisive. That’s why the cast of the Broadway play Hamilton made a plea to Vice President-elect and Indiana Gov. Mike Pence to remember that the country is composed of a wide diversity of people. It was encouraging that Trump has promised to be president of all the American people.

To his credit, Pence was very gracious in his response to the mixed reaction he received when he and his family walked into the theater, and to the cast’s message for him after their performance. The Catholic Church, too, is composed of a wide diversity of people, as the pope emphasized when he created new cardinals from 14 nations. He stressed that “the Church must be a sign for the world that differences of nationality, skin color, language and social class do not make people enemies, but brothers and sisters with different gifts to offer.”

We think differently, he said, but that doesn’t make us enemies. “Instead, it is one of our greatest riches.”

It would appear that many Catholics in America think differently when it comes to politics. According to exit polls, 52 percent of Catholics who voted selected Trump, 45 percent voted for Clinton and 3 percent voted for others. But there was a wide division between white Catholics and Hispanic Catholics. Sixty percent of white Catholics voted for Trump, while 67 percent of Hispanic Catholics voted for Clinton.

There is plenty of evidence that the Hispanic vote went to Clinton because of Trump’s remarks about Mexicans and his immigration policies he espouses. He would like to expel illegal immigrants and prevent Muslims from entering our country.

It’s hard to know how many white Catholics voted for him because they support his immigration policies. It seems more likely that they voted against Clinton rather than for Trump, or that they voted for Trump because of the Republican position on abortion and other important moral issues.

Nevertheless, the pope may have had Trump’s immigration policies in mind when he said, “We see how quickly those among us with the status of a stranger, an immigrant or a refugee” are seen as threats. But he also realizes fear of immigrants and refugees can be found all over the world. The Holy Father said they are presumed to be an enemy “because of the color of their skin, their language or their social class. An enemy because they think differently or even have a different faith.”

If only we could all get along, or at least agree on how to get along, and not disagree on the important moral issues, as the pope said.

--John F. Fink

Reflection/Daniel Conway

The bittersweet consistory

It was a short walk, but the beginning of a long journey. Cardinal-designate Joseph W. Tobin walked from Rome’s Hotel Columbus to St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican. He was wearing his brand-new bright red cassock. He called it his “frock.” Every few feet, he was stopped by well-wishers and autograph-seekers.

His companions wondered if he would make it to the basilica on time, but the soon-to-be cardinal was not in a hurry. He was serene and at peace. The walk to the Vatican was a short one, but the journey it symbolized will last the rest of his life.

A priest and missionary, former superior general for the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists) and former Vatican official, in his fourth year as Archbishop of Indianapolis, Joseph William Tobin was “totally shocked” when he learned via social media that Pope Francis had named him as one of 17 new cardinals.

There was no advanced warning, no preparation for what nearly everyone agreed was an unprecedented choice of a bishop from a relatively small Midwestern diocese as a member of the College of Cardinals.

Why did Pope Francis choose this particular American archbishop to become one of his advisors and, when necessary, to elect his successor? The Holy Father has made it clear that he wants the College of Cardinals to more accurately reflect the diverse peoples, cultures, languages and traditions of the universal Church. How would @JoeTobin—as he is identified on Twitter—contribute to the College of Cardinals?

No one can read the pope’s mind, of course, but from the things he says and the choices he makes, a pattern begins to emerge.

This “pattern” is nothing like a “profile.” There is no fixed set of characteristics, background, style of ministry or even personal experience that automatically makes someone “cardinal material.”

The Holy Father’s appointment is the product of uniformity. Its whole purpose is to reflect, as through a prism, the multi-faceted reality of the Body of Christ.

Not unlike the severe earthquake that struck central Italy in October, only two months after previous earthquakes had caused so much destruction in the region, Cardinal-designate Tobin received a second seismic shock when he learned that he was to leave Indianapolis and become Archbishop of Newark, N.J. He was still struggling to accept the fact that he was to become a cardinal.

With the new announcement, he had to face the opportunities and challenges of a different, much larger archdiocese. Now, the celebrations that had been planned in Rome and in Indianapolis to congratulate the new cardinal suddenly became bittersweet occasions of both congratulations and farewell.

Sadness in Indiana was, of course, matched by joy in New Jersey—reminding all who know and love the new cardinal that he is “first and foremost, a missionary disciple who must move beyond his comfort zone and go where he is sent, including to the “peripheries”—which, from a Midwestern perspective, might easily include the four northern New Jersey counties that make up the Archdiocese of Newark.

In fact, Cardinal Tobin’s appointment as Archbishop of Newark sheds some light on his appointment to the College of Cardinals. In his homily for the consistory on Nov. 19 that elevated Joseph W. Tobin, two fellow Americans and 14 others from various parts of the world, Pope Francis emphasized that cardinals must be one with their people. They are not to be “raised up, above the crowd,” but should be humble, accessible servants who work with the pope to share the most profound hopes and dreams of the People of God.

This is the “pattern.” Cardinals must be down-to-earth, easy to connect with and able to share both the pleasures and pain of ordinary people. Simply said, they must be humble men of God.

@JoeTobin fits this description perfectly. He is a humble man with a great sense of humor. He is a holy man who can laugh, sing and dance at family gatherings.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin will walk with his people. By his words and actions, he will proclaim Gospel joy, and he will share generously God’s mercy and forgiveness which, he freely admits, he has experienced personally because he is a sinner.

The clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Newark are blessed to have @JoeTobin as their new archbishop—just as the Church in central and southern Indiana has been blessed for the past four years.

The Newark archdiocese is a very diverse faith community with large celebration in 20 languages each weekend. Cardinal Tobin’s missionary journeys to more than 50 countries around the world mean that on behalf of the Redemptorists make him uniquely qualified to serve as shepherd to this highly-flourishing flock. His pastoral experience has gained while serving as the Church in Indiana as archbishop of a sinner.

The long journey that Cardinal Tobin has now begun will involve letting go of what is familiar and comfortable in order to walk with those to whom he has been sent.

Let’s pray that Cardinal Tobin continues on the journey he has now begun with Gospel joy, hope-filled enthusiasm and no small amount of courage.

May he always remain a humble missionary priest who serves God’s people faithfully.

(Daniel Conway is a member of The Criterion’s editorial board.)

Well-wishers ask Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin for a blessing outside the Hotel Columbus in Rome on Nov. 20. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)
Waiting in hope with grateful hearts, we begin a new Church Year

“Mientras aguardamos la bendita esperanza, es decir, la gloriosa venida de nuestro gran Dios y Salvador Jesucristo” (Ti 2:13-14).

Justo ayer celebramos la popular festividad del Día de Acción de Gratias. Tal como comenté en otro momento, pase 20 años viviendo en Roma y viajando por todo el mundo en nombre de mi comunidad religiosa, la Congregación del Santísimo Redentor (la Congregación Redentorista).

Durante esa época en el extranjero descubrí que nada unía más a los estadounidenses que viven fuera de su tierra natal que el Día de Acción de Gratias, los estadounidenses buscaban la forma de celebrarlo. Al reunirse en torno a la mesa en el Día de Acción de Gratias, muchas familias dedican tiempo a compartir todo aquello por lo que se sienten agradecidas. Esta es una costumbre muy poderosa porque constituye una expresión verbal y concreta de aquello que sentimos en el corazón pero que no llegamos a reconocer con la debida frecuencia.

Mi “lista de agradecimiento” es muy larga: comienza con mi familia, en especial con mi madre de 93 años, y se prolonga a amigos, compañeros redentoristas, compañeros de trabajo en el Archdiocese of Newark, N.J. desde que el séquito de Redemptoristas en el mundo en nombre de mi comunidad, la Congregación Redentorista, concluirá en el día final.

y su Pasión, muerte y resurrección, será de que Dios escuchará y responderá a nuestras oraciones. Y veremos realizadas todas nuestras esperanzas.

Creemos en esto ya que es un componente integral de la esperanza cristiana. Un día, el Señor vendrá otra vez y la obra de redención del mundo (y nuestra propia redención personal) se completará.

Como redentorista, me encuentro plenamente consciente de esta verdad fundamental de nuestra fe. El proceso que comenzó con la promesa que realizó Dios al pueblo elegido, a los judíos, y que llegó a su plenitud mediante la encarnación de Cristo y su Pasión, muerte y resurrección, concluirá en el día final. Esta verdad ha sido transmitida de una forma muy poderosa a los redentoristas a través de nuestro fundador, san Alfonso Liguori.

Esperamos la segunda venida de nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo con un profundo sentido de agradecimiento por todo lo que ha hecho por nosotros. Y le damos gracias a Dios por tener esperanza—la capacidad para superar las dificultades y la desesperación—y con ello confeccionar fe de alegría.

Comenzamos cada año litúrgico con una temporada de espera, un momento en que nuestras mentes y corazones buscan nueva y nos dice que su venida será una época de gran alegría, un momento en que verdaderamente deseamos y necesitamos, y que verdaderamente podremos alcanzar. Conocemos que el Señor nos concedería todo aquello que verdaderamente deseamos y necesitamos, y que su venida, tanto en esta Navidad como en el día final, sea nuestra máxima fuente de alegría. 

Hace un par de semanas planteé la relación que existe entre el agradecimiento y la santidad. Las personas santas agradecen a Dios por todas las bendiciones que reciben, pero también aguardan con esperanza, sin importar las tragedias y el dolor que deban enfrentar en sus vidas. 

Agradecernos a Dios por todos los dones que derrama sobre nosotros y avancemos con jubilosa esperanza mientras esperamos a nuestro Señor!
Holy Year of Mercy art

Members of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis enjoy works of art depicting mercy created by fellow parishioners at their Holy Year of Mercy Art Show on Oct. 16. The parish held the event on Oct. 15 and 16 to celebrate the Holy Year of Mercy, which ended on Nov. 20. (Handout photo by Jenny Bowles)

Sacred Heart Church, 3031 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, will host their fifth annual Christmas sing-a-long Dec. 4, 7-8:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 317-687-8260. †

VIPS

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

For questions on the New Albany event, call 502-523-3524. †

Sisters of Providence to host Christmas Fun at the Woods on Dec. 10

The Sisters of Providence will host their annual Christmas Fun at the Woods gathering at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, 1 Sisters of Providence, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, 1 p.m. on Dec. 10. The event will feature rides by carriage, bus, wagon and trolley; a display of Nativity sets, a Christmas doll house and Christmas village; plus cookie decorating, face painting.

Christmas sing-a-longs, story time with Mrs. Claus, Christmas bingo, tours of the Saint Mother Theodore Guerin Shrine, a bake sale, and crafts and a chance to visit with Santa at the White Violet Center for Eco-Justice.

The cost is $5 per person, and free for children ages 3 and younger.

For more information, call 812-535-2952 or email jfrost@spsmw.org. †

Catholics who participate in the Friday Mass are invited to attend the annual Christmas Bazaar and Chili Luncheon, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., with crafts, exhibitors, baked goods, and raffles, free admission. Chili, snacks & beverages for adults; adults $6, kindergarten to eighth grade $4, preschoolers free. Information: 317-784-8660, all@ccmcesteve.org.

December 4

All Saints Catholic Academy, 5798 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. K.C. 8:00 Open House and St. Nicholas Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.-noon, sausage, eggs and pancakes, hash browns, baked apples, pastries, 9-11: a.m. pictures with St. Nicholas, adults $9, children ages 5-10 $4, ages 4 and younger free. Information: 317-622-2631 or sandywil@spandao.org.

Maryknoll University, Evans Center Health Science Building, Lecture Hall 1, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. “America and the World,” retired Sen. Richard G. Lugar, part of the Richard G. Lugar Franciscan Center for Global Studies Speaker Series, free, 7 p.m., reception to follow.

Mission 27 Resale, 132 Leota St., Indianapolis. Senior Discount Day, every Tuesday, 30 percent off clothing, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., ministry supports the Holy Name Mission of St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry and Changing Lives Forever program. Information: 317-687-8260. †

December 3

Dear friends,

Surely the Christmas season is in full swing around the world with the Christmas ladies selling their wares! In the United States, we have seen it in different locations, but never in St. Joseph’s Church! I want to say a special “thank you” to the church. I have been so impressed by St. Joseph’s Church, which is the only church I have been at that has a Christmas market! I was so impressed, I wanted to share my impressions with you.

I was there on Dec. 3, 2016, and I was struck by the warmth and friendliness of the people. The decorations were beautiful, and the atmosphere was festive. I was also impressed by the variety of items for sale, including handmade crafts, baked goods, and decorations. The vendors were very friendly, and some of them were even accompanied by their children.

I was very impressed by the generosity of the people of the church. They have a Christmas bazaar every year, and I have attended it several times. The proceeds from the bazaar are used to support the poor and needy, and it is a way for them to give back to their community.

I would like to commend the church for their hard work and dedication in organizing and running this event. They have done an excellent job, and I look forward to attending the bazaar again next year.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Cardinal will leave lasting impressions, memories in Indiana

By John Shaughnessy

ROME—The stories have flowed easily.

Some melt your heart. Others bring a smile or a laugh. All share an insight into the qualities that make Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin respected and loved by many people.

As friends and family members have traveled to Rome this weekend to witness him be installed as a cardinal by Pope Francis on Nov. 19, here are some of the memorable stories that were shared about Cardinal Tobin.

An unexpected song of joy

The smile keeps growing across Carolyn Noone’s face as she recalls the remarkable moment from the evening of Dec. 3, 2012—when Cardinal Tobin was installed as thearchbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

As director of special events for the archdiocese, Noone had arranged a dinner for the archbishop, his family and some of his friends at a downtown Indianapolis hotel. So Noone and Annette “Mickey” Lentz, chancellor of the archdiocese, went to the hotel to make sure the dinner was enjoyed by everyone.

“After dinner, most of the family went into the foyer,” Noone recalls. “There was a grand piano there. His sister, Ann, went back into the banquet hall and said, ‘Joe, you have to come out to the foyer right now!’ He said, ‘I always do what my sisters tell me to do.’ Then he sat down at the piano and began to play.

“They were spiritual songs. Mickey and I were looking at each other and said how beautiful it was. Then he stopped, he got a twinkle in his eyes, and he started playing ‘Great Balls of Fire.’ He sang every word. Mickey and I said, ‘We have a winner.’ ”

Noone paused as her smile gave way to her emotions. “He put a lifetime into four years with us.”

A position of service

Holy Cross Father Joseph Corpora became friends with Cardinal Tobin “a few summers ago” at the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Ind., for an event involving the college’s Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program.

“I had the good fortune of being his host,” Father Corpora notes. “One evening, we sat and talked for about two hours. Since then, we’ve had several lengthy conversations. On two occasions, he and I went out to eat at a Mexican restaurant in Indianapolis. He made a point of talking personally with the waiters and the staff. In everything that he says and does, he is very human. His very person invites confidence and trust.

“He comes to me! I grabbed his hand, kissed him on the cheek, hugged him and we started speaking in Spanish. I said, ‘Thanks for sending me out as a missionary of mercy meet Pope Francis.’ ”

“I’m ecstatic!” said Father Corpora, a close friend of Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin who lives and works at the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Ind. “It’s an incredible thing to meet the pope. He validates my love. Maybe because I think I need it more.”

“Sure enough, the pope comes our way, one by one. I had a rosary in my hand, he picked it up, and he said, “I’ll put a lifetime into four years with us.””

At a Mexican restaurant in Indianapolis. He made a point of talking personally with the waiters and the staff. In everything that he says and does, he is very human. His very person invites confidence and trust.

“I’ve always thought I’d rather have God’s mercy than power does not have to go to one’s head, as obviously it has not in his case. He truly sees his position as one of service. He gives me great hope for the life and future of the Church.”

A moving story

Father Don F. Stumpf, archdiocesan moderator of the curia, recalls a conversation he had with Cardinal Tobin shortly after it was announced on Nov. 7 that Pope Francis had reassigned him from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J.

“‘I told myself, ‘I’m going to stay up here near the throne.’ I said, ‘We’ll get you moved out to Newark.’ He said, ‘That’s so kind of you. I was thinking I’d probably just rent a U-Haul and take it out there!’ I said, ‘We’ll get you moved.”

“It just shows his absolute humility. He’s a true servant, just like Pope Francis.”

First impression, lasting memory

First impressions are often not, and Loral Tansy will never forget the first impression that Cardinal Tobin had on him. The moment occurred during the first Mass that Cardinal Tobin celebrated in one of the parishes of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis after he became the archbishop.

In his role as master of ceremonies, Tansy is responsible for making sure the Mass runs smoothly when the archbishop celebrates the liturgy. So he was intent on getting the Mass started right as he and the archbishop processed up the main aisle. Yet halfway up the aisle, something happened that changed Tansy’s plan.

“Sure enough, the pope comes our way, one by one. And he comes to me! I grabbed his hand, kissed him on the cheek, hugged him and we started speaking in Spanish. I said, ‘Thanks for sending me out as a missionary of mercy.’ He said, ‘It’s not over. Keep it up.’ I said, ‘I will.’ And then I said, ‘Thank you for everything. I love you.’

“I had a rosary in my hand, he picked it up, and he blessed it for me.”

Father Corpora beams a smile again and says, “I can’t believe it!”

Father Shaun Whittington, left, Father Jerry Byrd, Msgr. William F. Stumpf, Father Jonathan Mayer and Father Erich Augustein, all priests of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, pose in Rome on Nov. 18, the day before Pope Francis inducted Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin and 15 other new cardinals into the College of Cardinals. (Photos by John Shaughnessy)

Father Joseph Corpora became friends with Cardinal Tobin “a few summers ago” at the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Ind., for an event involving the college’s Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program.

“I had the good fortune of being his host,” Father Corpora notes. “One evening, we sat and talked for about two hours. Since then, we’ve had several lengthy conversations. On two occasions, he and I went out to eat at a Mexican restaurant in Indianapolis. He made a point of talking personally with the waiters and the staff. In everything that he says and does, he is very human. His very person invites confidence and trust.

“I’ve always thought I’d rather have God’s mercy than power does not have to go to one’s head, as obviously it has not in his case. He truly sees his position as one of service. He gives me great hope for the life and future of the Church.”

A moving story

Father Don F. Stumpf, archdiocesan moderator of the curia, recalls a conversation he had with Cardinal Tobin shortly after it was announced on Nov. 7 that Pope Francis had reassigned him from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J.

“‘I told myself, ‘I’m going to stay up here near the throne.’ I said, ‘We’ll get you moved out to Newark.’ He said, ‘That’s so kind of you. I was thinking I’d probably just rent a U-Haul and take it out there!’ I said, ‘We’ll get you moved.”

“It just shows his absolute humility. He’s a true servant, just like Pope Francis.”

First impression, lasting memory

First impressions are often not, and Loral Tansy will never forget the first impression that Cardinal Tobin had on him. The moment occurred during the first Mass that Cardinal Tobin celebrated in one of the parishes of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis after he became the archbishop.

In his role as master of ceremonies, Tansy is responsible for making sure the Mass runs smoothly when the archbishop celebrates the liturgy. So he was intent on getting the Mass started right as he and the archbishop processed up the main aisle. Yet halfway up the aisle, something happened that changed Tansy’s plan.

“Sure enough, the pope comes our way, one by one. And he comes to me! I grabbed his hand, kissed him on the cheek, hugged him and we started speaking in Spanish. I said, ‘Thanks for sending me out as a missionary of mercy.’ He said, ‘It’s not over. Keep it up.’ I said, ‘I will.’ And then I said, ‘Thank you for everything. I love you.’

“I had a rosary in my hand, he picked it up, and he blessed it for me.”

Father Corpora beams a smile again and says, “I can’t believe it!”

“Theresa Brydon, left, Msgr. William F. Stumpf, archdiocesan moderator of the curia; and Loral Tansy, who has assisted Cardinal Tobin as master of ceremonies during liturgies in the archdiocese, are pictured in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican on Nov. 19.
CARDINAL
continued from page 1

He then shared a thought that was as unexpected as his selection as a cardinal was to him: “Perhaps yesterday’s news was an indication that God thinks I don’t love the Church enough. So he’s given me an even more profound way to love it more.”

Now consider this story from Lorah Tanny, who has assisted Cardinal-designate Tobin as master of ceremonies the past four years when the archbishop has celebrated Masses across the Archdiocese of Indianapolis: “I was with him on the Sunday he found out he was a cardinal. He was so shell-shocked. He said, ‘I am so not deserving of this.’ And I said, ‘That’s why you are deserving of this.’

‘I believe he exemplifies the best virtues a cardinal should have—dedication, compassion. From the very soul of his being, he really cares about people.’

He’s easy, sincere connection with people shines through in the moments before the beginning of the prayer service in which he will be installed as a cardinal. He heads into a section filled with family and friends, hugging them, reaching out to them, smiling with them.

When he walks to another section of the basilica, he flashes a smile of surprise when he recognizes a man he met long ago during the 20 years he served the Church in Rome. They embrace and laugh together, remembering the time that Cardinal-designate Tobin’s car had a minor fender-bender with the other man’s car—Cardinal-designate Tobin smiling again as he admitted the accident was his fault, just as he did then.

During this time, he also asks a friend to take a photo of him and the other two Americans who will become cardinals today—Cardinal-designates Blase J. Cupich of Chicago and Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the new Vatican office for laity, family and life.

He heads into a section filled with family and friends, hugging them, reaching out to them, smiling with them.

It’s also telling that 11 of his 12 siblings are here, the exception being a beams for the oldest of her 13 children. It’s also telling that 11 of his 12 siblings are here, the exception being a beams for the oldest of her 13 children. His mother, Marie Tobin, putting his arms around her when he finds her. And she beams when she sees her son, brother, friend and member of the faithful that he has always viewed as contingent also includes colleagues that he regards as friends, and members of the faithfulness he has always viewed as extended family.

“Election night helped me understand,” he said. “I was belly-aching one day to someone back in Indiana,” he said. “He listened and looked at me in great sympathy. And then he said, ‘What did you sign up for?’ I’ve thought about that. On the day of my profession, when I professed my vows, I gave it all. I really didn’t have that much to give as a 21-year-old. Now, it’s a little different. At the end of the day, I want to be true to what I vowed. So I say, ‘OK, it’s all yours, even if it hurts.’

Drew and Wilma Young of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg are part of that extended family. They remember how he shared in the grief and sorrow of their community when four local people were killed in a small plane crash shortly after he was installed as archbishop. They also recall the joy he shared when the parish dedicated its new church last August.

“I have the strongest positive feelings for him,” Drew Young says. “He’s kind. He’s honest. You know he has the love of God straight through him. You can’t help but believe and trust him. He’s a real ambassador for God.”

On an extraordinary day, an extraordinary man became a cardinal.

Pope Francis greets new Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin during a consistory in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican on Nov. 19. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)
In first homily, Cardinal Tobin says mercy always within reach

By John Shaughnessy

ROME—Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin chose a place in his heart to share his first homily as a cardinal—the Church of St. Alphonsus Liguori in Rome.

The church is named for the founder of the Redemptorist order—the order in which Cardinal Tobin was ordained a priest in 1978. It’s also the home church of the general headquarters of the Redemptorists—the place that was his home when he served as the superior general of his order from 1997 to 2009.

The Church of St. Alphonsus Liguori is also meaningful to him because it’s the home of the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and the Blessed Mother has always been a major influence in his life.

In the beautiful, small church packed with family and friends, Cardinal Tobin delivered his homily first in Italian and then in English, accommodating Catholics from the local community, members of the Redemptorist order, and his friends and family from the United States, including a huge contingent from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

For his homily, Cardinal Tobin drew upon the experience of the outdoor morning Mass of Nov. 20 in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican. During that Mass, Pope Francis closed the Holy Doors of Mercy at St. Peter’s Basilica, symbolically closing the Church’s Holy Year of Mercy around the world.

Here is the essence of his first homily as a cardinal:

“I think for most of us perhaps, at least the question crossed our mind. ‘What does it mean to close the Door of Mercy?’ Is it possible that mercy is now beyond our reach? Perhaps that’s why our Holy Father chose to close the Year of Mercy today, on the feast of Christ the King—because the feast reminds us of the story of the King who died from love.

‘People make fun of it. They say, ‘What sort of God would allow his Messiah to die the way Jesus died?’ But we know that the saving work of the Messiah to die the way Jesus died?’ But we know that the saving work of the Messiah to die the way Jesus died is a clear sign that mercy was not ended.

The words of Jesus to that dying thief, who simply wanted to be remembered when Jesus entered his kingdom, give all of us hope: ‘Today you will be with me in paradise’ [Lk 23:43]. Today—because love is always in a hurry. Love always wants to go where it should go—to the beloved. To be with him. I want you in paradise.

And so we close a door today, but we recognize a King. And our mother Mary, who is given to us as the mother who is always ready to help us, presents us the reason for our hope. Those elongated figures of hers in the icon point to Jesus, the only Savior in the world, the more simple face of God.”

The reality for Cardinal Tobin is that the understanding of family extends far beyond his 93-year-old mother, his sisters, his brothers, his nieces, nephews and other relatives—a huge contingent that came to Rome to support him as he was installed as a cardinal by Pope Francis on Nov. 19 in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican.

For Cardinal Tobin, his extended family also includes his friends who share with him the charism of the Redemptorist order. And the reality for everyone who has long time friends is that these friends will often add a touch of humor to their serious thoughts of joy and affection for you. So it is with Redemptorist Father John Steinraeber, who has known Cardinal Tobin since 1966, a time that has included the 12 years that Cardinal Tobin served as superior general of their order founded by St. Alphonsus Liguori.

“Joe was a freshman when I was a senior in high school seminary,” Father John says. “As one of his classmates once said about Joe, ‘I’ve thought many things of you over the years, but never as the successor of St. Alphonsus.’”

Turning serious, Father John said, “He’s proven to be a worthy successor. It’s such an honor. And we’re so proud of the attitude he has about being transferred to Newark. It shows the true missionary spirit he has as a Redemptorist.”

Cardinal Tobin’s “extended family” has also grown to include the Catholics of central and southern Indiana. One of those family members who has come to know him well during his four years as the spiritual leader of the archdiocese is Theresa Brydon, his executive assistant for 2 1/2 years.

“There are some people you feel you’ve known all your life, and that’s how this feels with him,” she said. “I have a feeling of joy for him, but I also feel I haven’t been with him enough.”

It’s a feeling shared by many people throughout central and southern Indiana.

List of Advent penance services, resources, are available online

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

The page contains various Advent resources, including links to the daily readings, reflections from Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, penance service schedules, images of past Criterion Christmas issue covers and links of interest to other Advent websites.

‘Extended family’ for cardinal extends beyond Tobins, Redemptorists

By John Shaughnessy

ROME—If there’s one thing a brother in an Irish family learns quickly, it’s that he dies with his arms open, nails in, to remind us that there are some things more important than life. And one of those things, perhaps the only thing more important than life itself, is love. The true grace of God that we see in Jesus crucified is a clear sign that mercy was not ended.

The reality for Cardinal Tobin is that his understanding of family extends far beyond his 93-year-old mother, his sisters, his brothers, his nieces, nephews and other relatives—a huge contingent that came to Rome to support him as he was installed as a cardinal by Pope Francis on Nov. 19 in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican.

For Cardinal Tobin, his extended family also includes his friends who share with him the charism of the Redemptorist order. And the reality for everyone who has long time friends is that these friends will often add a touch of humor to their serious thoughts of joy and affection for you. So it is with Redemptorist Father John Steinraeber, who has known Cardinal Tobin since 1966, a time that has included the 12 years that Cardinal Tobin served as superior general of their order founded by St. Alphonsus Liguori.

“Joe was a freshman when I was a senior in high school seminary,” Father John says. “As one of his classmates once said about Joe, ‘I’ve thought many things of you over the years, but never as the successor of St. Alphonsus.’”

Turning serious, Father John said, “He’s proven to be a worthy successor. It’s such an honor. And we’re so proud of the attitude he has about being transferred to Newark. It shows the true missionary spirit he has as a Redemptorist.”

Cardinal Tobin’s “extended family” has also grown to include the Catholics of central and southern Indiana. One of those family members who has come to know him well during his four years as the spiritual leader of the archdiocese is Theresa Brydon, his executive assistant for 2 1/2 years.

“There are some people you feel you’ve known all your life, and that’s how this feels with him,” she said. “I have a feeling of joy for him, but I also feel I haven’t been with him enough.”

It’s a feeling shared by many people throughout central and southern Indiana.

St. Bartholomew Choir honored, overjoyed to perform at consistory

By John Shaughnessy

VATICAN CITY—The voices of the choir of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus soared inside St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican as they became one with the Sistine Chapel Choir during the consistory of cardinals on Nov. 19.

The St. Bartholomew Choir is so talented that the singing group performed in Carnegie Hall in New York City in 2014. Yet even that opportunity didn’t match singing in St. Peter’s as Pope Francis installed 17 new cardinals, including Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin.

“This is a huge honor for everybody,” said Dr. Bogdan Minut, the director of music ministry at St. Bartholomew Parish. “Everyone is so excited. It’s a great joy for all of us.”

The choir actually received the invitation to sing at St. Peter’s Basilica near the beginning of 2016, when it was invited to join the Sistine Chapel Choir for the closing Mass of the Holy Year of Mercy on Nov. 20. Then they were asked to sing at the consistory of cardinals—an honor that led to even higher notes of joy for the choir when it was announced that Pope Francis had chosen Archbishop Tobin to become a cardinal.

“We were excited already, and to find this out just blew our minds,” Minut said. “He’s an extraordinary man, a wonderful pastor and a model of faith in action. It’s a great accomplishment to be named a cardinal. The fact that we know him personally is so good for our faith and our trust in the Lord. It’s a great opportunity to witness this in person.”

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin elevates the Eucharist during a Nov. 20 liturgy in the Church of St. Alphonsus Liguori in Rome. Standing behind him is Loral Tansy, master of ceremonies.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin is pictured with extended family after celebrating Mass on Nov. 20 for pilgrims in the Church of St. Alphonsus Liguori in Rome. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)
Proclaim Christ the king of mercy, pope says at end of Holy Year

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Following Christ the king, whose regal power is love and mercy, means the whole Church and each Christian must “follow his way of tangible love,” Pope Francis said.

Celebrating the feast of Christ the King on Nov. 20 and closing the extraordinary jubilee celebration of the Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis insisted, “we have received mercy in order to be merciful.”

On a warm, late fall morning, St. Peter’s Square was filled with an estimated 70,000 people for the Mass, which was concelebrated by the new cardinals Pope Francis had created the previous day.

The pope and the new cardinals first went to the atrium of St. Peter’s Basilica and gave thanks for “the gifts of grace received” during the Holy Year. Pope Francis then went to the threshold of the Holy Door and pulled each side shut. The door will be sealed until the next Holy Year, which is likely to be 2025.

In his homily, Pope Francis said that even if the Holy Door is closed, “the true door of mercy, which is the heart of Christ, always remains open wide for us.”

The power of Christ the king, he said, “is not power as defined by this world, but the love of God, a love capable of encountering and healing all things.”

Like the “good thief” who turned to Jesus on the cross and was assured a place in heaven, anyone who turns to God with trust can be forgiven, the pope said. “He is ready to completely and forever cancel our sin, because his memory—unlike our own—does not record evil that has been done or keep score of injustices experienced.”

Loving like Christ loves us, he said, means constantly seeking the grace to forgive others, forget the offenses committed and be instruments of reconciliation in the world.

Following Christ the king also means accepting “the scandal of his humble love,” which can be difficult because it “unsettles and disturbs us.”

Christ’s love, the love Christians are called to imitate, is concrete and tangible and is not concerned with personal comfort, power and superiority.

Even in evangelization “the lure of power and success seem an easy, quick way to spread the Gospel,” he said. The Holy Year of Mercy was a call to “rediscover the youthful, beautiful face of the Church, the face that is radiant when it is welcoming, free, faithful, poor in means but rich in love, on mission.”

Christ the king, “our king, went to the ends of the universe in order to embrace and save every living being,” he said. “He did not condemn us or drive us from his presence, but he paved the way with a humble love that forgives all things, hopes all things, sustains all things.”

Christ’s followers are called to continue his saving mission, the pope said.

At the end of the Mass, Pope Francis signed his new apostolic letter, “Misericordia et Misera” (“Mercy and Misery”), which a papal aide announced was written to affirm that the commitment to sharing the merciful love of God continues because it is “the heart of the Gospel.”

Pope Francis greets new Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis after celebrating the closing Mass of the Holy Year of Mercy in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican on Nov. 20. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Pope Francis closes the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica to mark the closing of the jubilee Year of Mercy at the Vatican on Nov. 20. (CNS photo/Vatican Pool via Reuters)

Proclaim Christ the king of mercy, pope says at end of Holy Year

VATICAN CITY—Father Andrew Syberg’s face glows as he shares how he felt concelebrating the Nov. 20 Mass that ended the Holy Year of Mercy with Pope Francis, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin and hundreds of priests from around the world.

“It was pretty overwhelming,” said Father Syberg, associate pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, about the outdoor Mass in St. Peter’s Square that drew tens of thousands of people. “I’m sitting here in St. Peter’s, and there’s the pope, Cardinal Tobin, my brother priests and all these people celebrating mercy.”

Even more importantly, Father Syberg said, that celebration of mercy should lead people back to the source of all mercy.

“Even though there was the closing of the Holy Door of Mercy, the one thing we should be sure of is that God’s mercy is sufficient, it endures, and the calling of the Year of Mercy is something the world needed. Hopefully, it can springboard us into the future.”

Sunday’s Mass at St. Peter’s also had an emotional impact on Kimmie Hamilton, who came to Rome with her father and three of her six siblings to witness Cardinal Tobin become one of the 17 new cardinals installed by Pope Francis on Nov. 19.

“Walking through the Holy Door at St. Peter’s on Saturday was such an incredible experience, knowing all the graces you receive, knowing you can help other people,” said Hamilton, a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Latayette Diocese.

“It’s such a gift to come here with my dad and some of my siblings. Coming here as a family, especially knowing how important our Catholic faith is to our mom and dad and our family, is so special. The Catholic faith is based on so many traditions, and that’s one of the foundations of our family.”

Hamilton made this trip to Rome—her first—with her father, Jerry Syberg, and three of her six siblings: Michael Semler of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis, Dori Dodson of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis, and Jeffrey Semler of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

To see the Holy Doors close, it was very moving,” said Jerry Semler, a member of St. Pius X Parish. Semler wished that his wife of 56 years, Rosie, could have also made the trip, but a health issue didn’t make that possible. And their three other children had previous commitments. Still, it’s been a weekend to remember, especially considering that it included seeing his close friend, Cardinal Tobin, become a cardinal.

“We’ve just had a great relationship with Cardinal Tobin,” he said. “And to be here with four of our kids has been quite an experience for me.”

Father Jerry Byrd also seemed emotionally overwhelmed when he talked about the weekend’s events.

“I feel lucky to be here,” said Father Byrd, pastor of the parishes of St. Ann and St. Joseph, both in Jennings County, and St. Mary in North Vernon. “I feel real proud of Cardinal Tobin—and honored to be part of the archdiocese—and to be a priest he inspired.

“To witness his elevation as a cardinal and to concelebrate Mass with Pope Francis, it’s all been very neat.”

Still locally owned & operated
www.callthiele.com

Celtic Spirituality
with John O’Donohue

Saturday, Dec. 3; 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Register at Events.SistersofProvidence.org or Call 812-535-2952

Cost: $45 (includes lunch)
Advent is a season of preparation for Christ’s return in glory

By Mike Nelson

Since its fourth-century origins in Western Europe, the season of Advent has undergone various configurations, purposes and focuses across space and time. In 380, the council of Saragossa in Spain declared that Christians were to be attended to church daily from Dec. 17 to Jan. 6, the feast of the Epiphany. Leading into the following century, fasting on three days of each week from the feast of St. Martin of Tours (on Nov. 11) through Christmas was mandated by Church authorities in Gaul. And early Advent observances had a potential focus, much like Lent, complete with violet liturgical vestments, the exclusion of the Gloria and alleluia from the liturgy and, for catechumens, their preparation for baptism at Epiphany.

Over time, however, Church leadership in Rome—mindful of the liturgy and, for catechumens, of Easter’s pre-eminence in the life of the faithful—restored theallelia to Advent’s Sunday liturgies, and emphasized Jesus’ return as foretold in Scripture (long before Jesus’ birth was connected to the Mass of Moster). Today, Catholics regard Advent as a season of preparation and expectation, of promise and hope. Penance can be an aspect of the season, but not a predominant one. Although penance services are a staple of many parish Advent observances, penitential action isn’t anything Catholics aren’t already doing regularly. The penitential rite of every Mass calls us to conversion—to examine our consciences, to cleanse our souls—so we may truly welcome and receive Christ into our hearts and our lives.

Thus, Advent focuses on directing our hearts and minds to the return of the risen Christ into our world, regardless of how long it takes us to make sure we focus on the sweeter, gentler aspect of welcoming and receiving the Christ Child on Christmas Day.

Our Advent prayer of longing, “Maranatha,” rooted in early Christian liturgy, means “Come, Lord.” The very word “Advent” derives from the Latin “advenire,” meaning “to come to” (other sources cite the Latin “advenitus,” or a “coming,” from the Greek word “parousia,” defined as “presence” or “arrival”).

By any of these definitions, the word addresses “the advent of God’s kingdom,” as St. Leo the Great suggested in a mid-fifth-century homily during his pontificate. Jesus, St. Leo said, regularly taught his Apostles to focus on what we today might call “the big picture”: the second coming, citing the Gospel of St. Luke:

“Beware,” Jesus said, “that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the Earth. Be vigilant at all times” (Lk 21:34-36).

Sixteen centuries later, we receive the same message on the first Sunday of Advent in this new liturgical year’s Gospel reading from the Markan Synaxarion:

“Thus, therefore, stay awake!” Jesus warns his listeners. “For you do not know in which day your Lord will come” (Mt 24:42).

The setting of this reading, combined with those on the following Sundays of Advent, reiterates the important point that this liturgical season, like every other, is a time of spiritual preparation for Christ’s second coming. In the ancient expectation of the Messiah, for example, the Israelites the waiting of the Messiah, the dying and Rising of Our Lord.

The readings themselves are preceded by a collect (another name for the opening prayer of the Mass) that is both prayer and exhortation: “Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.

These readings and prayers suggest that Advent is a season of expectation as well as preparation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church makes this point clearly: “When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor’s birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: ‘He must increase, but I must decrease’” (§524).

The “precursor,” of course, is St. John the Baptist from whom we hear more

God prepared for centuries to send his people his Son as the Savior

By Marcellino D’Ambrosio

Advent is a time of anticipation, for someone even bigger than Santa Claus is coming to town. The human race has been waiting a long time for his next visit. Actually, it waited a long time for his first visit. Things had gone awry early in our history. We went from paradise to misery in the blink of an eye. Only God could turn things around, but he was a long time coming.

First, some groundwork had to be laid—a slow, gradual preparation of humanity to get it ready for the historic encounter with its Savior. There were some ideas about God and his plan that had to be gotten across. Moses was entrusted with the lion’s share of that job. But besides this intellectual preparation, there had to be spiritual and moral preparation as well. Calling the people of God to holiness was the specialty of the prophets and, given the magnitude of their job, there were many of them—Jeremiah, Amos, Hosea and Zechahariah, to name a few.

God spoke both stern and comforting words through these prophets. Isaiah 40, for example, begins with comfort: “Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service has ended, that her guilt is expiated” (Is 40:2). Captivity is over, God is coming to the rescue, to feed his flock like a shepherd.

Yet Isaiah goes on to say that a road in the desert must be prepared for this coming. Valleys must be filled in. Mountains leveled. Crooked ways made straight.

Actually, it would be easier if all we had to do was literally dynamite some mountainsides. But last and greatest of the prophets, St. John the Baptist, helps us understand the true meaning of Isaiah’s words. The prep work needs to be done in us, not in sand and gravel.

If the Messiah is to come, the way must be leveled and straightened. The heights blocking his approach are mountains of pride. Pride exalts itself higher than God, erecting a barrier against him. The tower of Babel is a great example of pride and ultimate loss.

But how about the valleys needing to be filled? Philosophers and theologians define evil as the privation of good, the lack of something that ought to be there. Lack of faith is a sin. Lack of charity is a sin. Such sins of omission are gaping holes needing to be filled to make a highway for our God.

John the Baptist lived his message. The mountains of pride had been leveled in him. He pointed not to himself but to him whose sandal strap, he says, is not fit for a slave: “I have baptized you in water, he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit” (Mt 3:11).

The Messiah was coming to utterly immerse us in the power and reign of God, to make us a new people, able to be like God, to do new and great things.

This is, without a doubt, something worth preparing for. (Marcellino D’Ambrosio is co-founder of Crossroads Productions, an apostolate of Catholic renewal and evangelization.)

Palestinian Manan Abu Abuayash holds her 6-month-old child Manan while lighting candes on Dec. 20, 2015, in the Church of the Nativity where tradition holds that Christ was born in Bethlehem, West Bank. Advent is a time for Catholics to spiritually prepare for Christ’s glorious second coming. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

The actual feast of Thanksgiving is past, but there’s still a little thankfulness left for it. Sure doesn’t seem like it sometimes, but watch what happens.

Personally, I’ve always been grateful for the Constitution of the United States of America. As a woman and a religious practitioner, I felt supported and even respected by our system of government. To me, patriotism meant being vigilant in preserving the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution. It requires the help of God’s grace, which is available to us at every moment of our lives. It is our duty to make sure that everyone in our society shares these creature comforts as well: adequate education and satisfying work and to the many opportunities we have to gain the intimacy we all need, but they are threatened our enjoyment of these things, and that we are set free.

My 3-year-old son Colin often knows what he wants. And when he isn’t yet able to express his wishes clearly through his ever-growing vocabulary, he’ll take my wife, Cindy, or I by the hand and lead us to what he wants us to do for him.

Those incidents are cute and funny. But one incident, which was truly touching and even profound.

We were at Mass when Colin’s time to receive Communion, Colin did something unusual. He mostly likes Cindy to hold him during the communion procession line.

Then they were dragged into prison. A violent earthquake shook the prisoners. The actual feast of Thanksgiving is past, but there’s still a little thankfulness left for it. Sure doesn’t seem like it sometimes, but watch what happens.

The actual feast of Thanksgiving is past, but there’s still a little thankfulness left for it. Sure doesn’t seem like it sometimes, but watch what happens.

The actual feast of Thanksgiving is past, but there’s still a little thankfulness left for it. Sure doesn’t seem like it sometimes, but watch what happens.
The Sunday Readings

Sunday, November 27, 2016

- Isaiah 2:1-5
- Romans 13:11-14
- Matthew 24:37-44

The Church organizes the biblical readings at weekend Mass into three cycles, A, B, and C. This weekend, the First Sunday of Advent, begins a new Church liturgical year. Therefore, the readings for this weekend, and until Advent 2018, will be within Cycle A. Most Gospel readings this year will come from the Gospel of St. Matthew. Because of this emphasis, the forthcoming biblical readings will allow us to learn about, and reflect upon, Matthew’s Gospel. This weekend’s first reading is from the first section of the Book of Isaiah. Inevitably, all of Isaiah is eloquent and profound.

Isaiah is also blunt and frank. The prophet often warned the people that doom awaited them if they did not return in fidelity to God. This is a theme of the first section of Isaiah. While somber, the reading is not hopeless. Isaiah also reassured the people that if they reformed, God would protect them. The faithful should never despair.

After all, such was the ancient covenant. God promised to protect and secure the people, although the people themselves could; at least for a while, bring catastrophe upon themselves by their sins.

Almighty God will judge the good and the bad. Such is the right. It is also logical, pure and simple. All behavior is to be measured by the standard that eternal life is the love that are in God. All must conform their sins.

Thus, the reading concludes with the promise of the faithful: “The faithful should never despair.”

The people’s sins.

Where sorrow crushed with the weight of wood, did you ponder your own lasting hope?

As you celebrated the Eucharist over the empty tomb, did you ponder your own past? Your question meant something important to me. It was in that moment, the lady in the grocery store called to reflect more deeply on the context. I couldn’t help but think I am being called to reflect more deeply on the context.

Did you ponder the cup you might carry? Thanking God for all I have been given and acknowledging all the goodness in my life is important and something that is not to be taken lightly.

But I can’t help but think I am being called to reflect more deeply on the context. I couldn’t help but think that this is how Jesus would look at me and speak to me if he were right here with me. It was in that precise moment, when the gentleness of voice, and the look of compassion, made me fully aware of God’s presence.

Questions continued to surface after that encounter. What does it mean for me to be grateful? Am I being grateful? Thanking God for all I have been given and acknowledging all the goodness in my life is important and something that is not to be taken lightly.

And perhaps ponder these things in your heart, and gently asked, “Do you have everything you need?” It was as if she really wanted to know the answer.

Her question touched me. Cashiers don’t normally ask that. Usually the phrase is something like, “Did you find everything?” It didn’t take long for me to answer. I looked directly back at her and said, “Yes, I do have everything I need.”

God finds a way to find me. And that day, he met me through the woman in the checkout line.

What was it that stopped me in my tracks? What was that made me feel like there was an urgency to her question? As I reflect back, it was eye contact. Her question meant something important because she looked at me.

Then there was her voice. There was a calmness and care in it, seeming to reach right out to me—as if I were important. I couldn’t help but think that this is how Jesus would look at me and speak to me if he were right here with me. It was in that

Reflection/Sally Meyer

God meets us in everyday living: The lady in the grocery store

As I watched two people in front of me move through the checkout line, I didn’t notice anything unusual about the cashier. She was elderly with white hair, and had clear, blue eyes. When I got to the front of the line, she looked me square in the eye and gently asked, “Do you have everything you need?” It was as if she really wanted to know the answer.

Her question touched me. Cashiers don’t normally ask that. Usually the phrase is something like, “Did you find everything?” It didn’t take long for me to answer. I looked directly back at her and said, “Yes, I do have everything I need.”

God finds a way to find me. And that day, he met me through the woman in the checkout line.

What was it that stopped me in my tracks? What was it that made me feel like there was an urgency to her question? As I reflect back, it was eye contact. Her question meant something important because she looked at me.

Then there was her voice. There was a calmness and care in it, seeming to reach right out to me—as if I were important. I couldn’t help but think that this is how Jesus would look at me and speak to me if he were right here with me. It was in that precise moment, when the gentleness of voice, and the look of compassion, made me fully aware of God’s presence.

Questions continued to surface after that encounter. What does it mean for me to be grateful? Am I being grateful? Thanking God for all I have been given and acknowledging all the goodness in my life is important and something that is not to be taken lightly.

But I can’t help but think I am being called to reflect more deeply on the cashier’s question. God’s love and care for me were affirmed in her words. How am I being called to use my own thankfulness to love others with more gentleness and compassion?

As I think about the most challenging times in my life, it is sometimes hard to imagine that God was there in all of it. Feeling grateful is difficult in hard situations. It’s easier to become angry, resentful or depressed about what I do or don’t have.

But God reaches out to us and meets us in all of our situations, messy or not. He is in the middle of all of it. We are not alone. The cashier behind the counter reminded me of that.

What are you thankful for? Who are you thankful for? Do you have everything you need?

(Sally Meyer is a member of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.)

My Journey to God

Pilgrimage Pondering

By Natalie Hoefer

In the pilgrimage of your life there was a pause, Cardinal Tobin, in the land where once walked The Word Incarnate.

As you gazed upon the room Where Mary uttered her eternal “Yes,” Did you ponder the extent of your own “Yes?”

To the Word Incarnate?

As you rode upon the sea Where Peter walked upon storm-maddened water, Did you ponder your own faith In the Word Incarnate?

As you walked atop Mount Tabor Where Transcendence was transfigured, Did you ponder and “Listen to Him,” To the Word Incarnate?

As you eyed the Garden of Gethsemane Where love and submission conquered fear,

Did you ponder the cup you might carry one day drink

For the Word Incarnate?

As you walked the Via Dolorosa Where sorrow crushed with the weight of wood, Did you ponder the load you might carry For the Word Incarnate?

As you celebrated the Eucharist over the empty tomb Where Love vanquished death and won eternal life

Did you ponder your own lasting hope In the Word Incarnate?

As you move forward on your pilgrimage journey, And perhaps ponder these things in your heart, Know that a multitude of prayers carry you, as does

The Word Incarnate.
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 our archdiocese or have other brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; these are separate obituaries on this page.

BOHNERT, Dr. J.


HALL, Mary Margaret, 75, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, Nov. 11. Mother of Sylvia Amos, Beverly Haynes, Durla Raque and Rick Hall. Sister of Helen Balmer, Louise Elmer, Ann Foley, Norma Lamb and John Wesecke. Grandmother of eight.

HOGER, Steven E., 54, St. Simon the Apostle, Indianapolis, Nov. 3. Husband of Maria Baker-Hogan. Father of Jason, Sierra and Steven Hogan, Jr. Son of Mason Hogan, Sr. and Doris Miller-Hogan. Brother of Joni Hogan-Curtis, Dedre Guyann and Ronald Hogan.

HUTT, Thomas L., 74, St. Mary, North Vernon, Nov. 5. Husband of Betty Jean Hutt. Brother of Barbara Flispart, Katie LaHue, Carla Schneider, Cecilie Steele, Bob, Bud, Jack, Joe and Phil Hutt. Uncle of several.

JONES, Betty Ann, 86, St. Mary, New Albany, Nov. 5. Wife of Clarence Jones. Mother of Julie Schamel, Janice Smith, Steve and Tom J. Jones. Great-grandmother of six. †


OHOLOBROG, William J., 81, Good Shepherd, Indianapolis, Oct. 29. Uncle of several.


We must invest in our Young Adults today!

Your Gifts do Great Things!

Support for Proclaiming the word of God

$300,000 | Intercultural Ministry
$200,000 | Pro-Life & Family Life Ministry
$150,000 | Youth Ministry
$650,000 | Office of Catholic Education

The United Catholic Appeal is putting extra focus on our young people in our youth ministry, young adult and campus ministry programs. This is important because from high school into college and young adulthood many young people fall away from the Church. We need to keep our young people engaged in their faith and give them the support that will help them remain Catholic.

-Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, CSSR

If we want more vibrant parishes tomorrow, We must invest in our Young Adults today!

Visit www.archindy.org/UCA or use the code to the right to learn more about young adult programs supported by your UCA gifts.

Gobble gobble

Free-range turkeys are seen on Nov. 12 at Miloski’s Poultry Farm in Calverton, N.Y. Thanksgiving was celebrated on Nov. 24 this year.
Faith calls us to embrace saint’s witness of belonging, priest says

By Mike Kroks

The life of St. Martin de Porres offers lessons in simplicity, humility and compassion, and his example is relevant today as Catholics try to better understand their own children and sisters from different backgrounds or ethnic traditions.

That was the message Pearlette Springer took away from the 13th annual archdiocesan St. Martin de Porres Mass celebrated on Nov. 3 at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Indianapolis.

“I believe that it is important for the archdiocese to celebrate this particular feast day because people have a tendency to place Africans, African-American and Latinos in boxes,” said Springer, who serves as archdiocesan coordinator of Black Catholic Ministry. “St. Martin de Porres had a shared heritage of Spanish, Peruvian and African—probably from the west coast of Africa. His language was probably Spanish, but his physical features were definitely African. I think it is safe to say that a majority of African, African-American and Latinos have a shared ancestry that goes back to the time of the African slave trade. Our society separates and tends to pit one group against the other. This has caused a deep division between Latinos and African-American peoples.”

Springer added that, with St. Martin de Porres as a patron saint of social justice, the celebration of his feast day offers the Church in central and southern Indiana a chance to walk away with an awareness of the commonality of these cultures.

“To understand that we suffer, to a great extent, from the same discrimination, the same racism, the same marginalization,” she continued.

“I would like to see the beginnings of African, African-American and Latino communities embracing each other, standing up for each other and demanding equality, equity and justice for each other.”

During the Mass, readings were proclaimed in English and Spanish. Prayers of the faithful were spoken in English, French, Italian, Spanish and Tagalog—a national language of the Philippines.

An estimated 200 people attended the liturgy.

Martin was abandoned by his father when he was young, and he was rejected by many people in society. After working for a few years as an apprentice to a barber—who also served as a surgeon in those days—he was accepted as a lay helper in the Dominican order. After nine years, the community, impressed with his prayer life, humility and love, invited him to profess vows.

In his various ministries, Martin treated all people equally regardless of their ethnicity, race or social status, which was not the norm in Lima, Peru, where racism abounded at the time.

“What was extraordinary in his life is that he saw Jesus Christ in the ordinary, everyday reality of belonging,” explained Father Michael Hoyt, pastor of St. Michael Parish, in his homily.

The saint’s witness, the priest continued, showed that every person belongs in the house of God.

Through his ministry, St. Martin de Porres demonstrated that “he knew that he belonged to Jesus Christ, and that everyone he came in contact with—whether they were against him or for him, whether they were black or white, whether they were rich or poor, he knew that they belonged,” Father Hoyt said.

As people of faith, we must follow the saint’s example and be witnesses “so that no one we come in contact with experiences a kind of rejection from us,” he continued.

“Our world is desperately in need of a cure, a cure of this illness which is making us forget that we belong to each other … to each other and to God.”

María Manalang, who is coordinator of the archdiocese’s Filipino Ministry, attended the liturgy with her husband, Darwin. She offered prayers of the faithful in Tagalog, and said the gathering offered them another chance to witness the diversity of the local Church.

“We try to support each other, and this gives us the chance to spread our culture,” said María, a member of St. Mary Parish in Indianapolis. “To share it, we have to participate in it as well, to be part of it. It’s an exchange. It’s important to support our other [intercultural] commissions.”

Maria Pimentel-Gannon, a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis who is also a member of the archdiocesan Intercultural Ministry Commission, proclaims the first reading in Spanish.

Father Michael Hoyt, second from left, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis, prays the eucharistic prayer during the archdiocesan St. Martin de Porres Mass celebrated on Nov. 3 at his parish’s church. Also pictured are Father Douglas Hunter, left, Father Kenneth Taylor and Society of the Divine Word Father Charles Smith. [Photo by Mike Kroks]
Pope extends special Year of Mercy provisions on confession

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—

Acknowledging and sharing God’s mercy is a permanent part of the Christian life, so initiatives undertaken during the Holy Year of Mercy must continue, Pope Francis said.

“Mercy cannot become a mere parenthesis in the life of the Church,” the pope wrote in an apostolic letter, “Misericordia et Misera,” (“Mercy and Misery”), which he signed on Nov. 20 at the end of the Year of Mercy. The Vatican released the text the next day.

The Church’s focus on God’s mercy must continue with individual acts of kindness, assistance to the poor and, particularly, with encouraging Catholics to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation and making it easier for them to do so, the pope wrote.

In his letter, Pope Francis said he formally was giving all priests permanent permission to grant absolution to those who confess to having procured an abortion. While many bishops around the world, and almost all bishops in the United States, routinely grant that faculty to all their priests, Pope Francis had made it universal during the Holy Year.

According to canon law, procuring an abortion brings automatic excommunication to those who know of the penalty, but procure the abortion anyway. Without formal permission, priests had been required to refer the case to their bishops before the excommunication could be lifted, and sacramental absolution could be granted to a woman who had an abortion or those directly involved in the procedure.

“I wish to restate as firmly as I can that abortion is a grave sin, since it puts the child to death and is accompanied by failure or sin,” the pope wrote. “Their pastoral activity sought to emphasize that God places no roadblocks in the way of those who want to come back to him and turn to the Church. They have prepared the sacrament of reconciliation. They represent the Church, particularly confession and sacramental absolution, therefore, is not just forgiving the sin of abortion, but also means “the excommunication is removed,” he said.

Now that all priests have been given the faculty to lift the excommunication and grant absolution, the Code of Canon Law will have to be updated, said the archbishop, who is president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, the office that organized events for the Year of Mercy.

The pope also formally extended the provision he made during the Year of Mercy of recognizing as valid the sacramental absolution received by “those faithful who, for various reasons, attend churches officiated by the priests of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Pius X,” the traditionalist society founded by the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre.

Although the Vatican and the society continue talks aimed at formally restoring the society’s full communion with the Church, Pope Francis said he was extending the pastoral provision “lest anyone ever be deprived of the sacramental sign of reconciliation through the Church’s pardon.”

The title of the document is taken from a sermon by St. Augustine about Jesus’ encounter with a woman caught in adultery. After those who wanted to stone her slinked away, only Jesus and the woman—mercy and misery—remained.

In the Gospel story, the pope wrote, and in the sacraments of the Church, particularly confession and the anointing of the sick, “references to mercy, far from being merely exhortative, are highly performative, which is to say that as we invoke mercy with faith, it is granted to us, and as we confess it to be vital and real, it transforms us,” as it did with the woman caught in adultery.

“This is a fundamental element of our faith,” Pope Francis wrote.

“Even before the revelation of sin, there is the revelation of the love by which God created the world and human beings,” he wrote. “His love always precedes us, accompanies us and remains with us, despite our sin.”

In celebrating and welcoming God’s love and mercy, he said, a special place in the Church must be given to families, especially at a time when the very meaning of family is in crisis.

“The beauty of the family endures unchanged, despite so many problems and alternative proposals,” he said. “The grace of the sacrament of marriage not only strengthens the family to be a privileged place for practicing mercy, but also commits the Christian community and all its pastoral activity to uphold the great positive value of the family.”

Still, he wrote, “the experience of mercy enables us to regard all human problems from the standpoint of God’s love, which never tires of welcoming and accompanying,” even in situations marked by failure or sin.

“Our life, with its joys and sorrows, is something unique and unrepeatable that takes place under the merciful gaze of God,” he said. In counseling couples, priests must use “a careful, profound and far-sighted spiritual discernment, so that everyone, none excluded, can feel accepted by God, participate actively in the life of the community and be part of that People of God which journeys tirelessly toward the fullness of his kingdom of justice, love, forgiveness and mercy. Nothing of what a repentant sinner places before God’s mercy can be excluded from the embrace of his forgiveness,” the pope wrote. “For this reason, none of us has the right to make forgiveness conditional.”

In another continuation of a Year of Mercy project, Pope Francis asked the more than 1,100 priests he commissioned as “missionaries of mercy” to continue leading retreats, missions, prayer services and offering confession in dioceses around the world.

“Their pastoral activity sought to emphasize that God places no roadblocks in the way of those who seek him with a contrite heart, because he goes out to meet everyone like a father,” the pope said.

YOU ARE INVITED to join Father Jim Bonke on an 11 day pilgrimage next year to the shrines of Fatima and Lourdes, and Santiago de Compostela in Spain, plus Avila and Madrid.

2017 is the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Mother to the children at Fatima: Santiago is the shrine of St. James the Apostle and a famous pilgrimage spot; and Avila is the home of St. Teresa who founded the Carmelites.

Price is $3379 per person, round trip from Indianapolis, including transportation, tours, hotels and most meals.

Detailed brochures can be obtained by contacting Father Bonke by phone 317-319-6752 or email jbonke@archindy.org

VISITING THE FOLLOWING

FATIMA • COIMBRA • SALAMANCA • SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA • AVILA • MADRID • LOURDES

YOU ARE INVITED to join Father Jim Bonke on an 11 day pilgrimage next year to the shrines of Fatima and Lourdes, and Santiago de Compostela in Spain, plus Avila and Madrid.

2017 is the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Mother to the children at Fatima: Santiago is the shrine of St. James the Apostle and a famous pilgrimage spot; and Avila is the home of St. Teresa who founded the Carmelites.

Price is $3379 per person, round trip from Indianapolis, including transportation, tours, hotels and most meals.

Detailed brochures can be obtained by contacting Father Bonke by phone 317-319-6752 or email jbonke@archindy.org

VISITING THE FOLLOWING

FATIMA • COIMBRA • SALAMANCA • SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA • AVILA • MADRID • LOURDES