



The

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See our Catholic Schools Week Supplement, pages 1B-16B.

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At Mass for unborn, priest notes that 'real love always seeks to serve'

By Natalie Hoefler

The line of approximately 200 marchers stretched more than a city block, signs bobbing up and down as they walked 1.5 miles along Meridian Street in downtown Indianapolis, their Hail Mary's echoing between the walls of the buildings.

This was a march for life, a solemn, prayerful witness calling for an end to abortion that was legalized 44 years ago through the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions.

"It was beautiful to see the reaction of the people as we turned corners and walked down busy roads," said march leader Scott Seibert, archdiocesan

marriage and family enrichment coordinator, who helped to lead the march.

"There were semi-trucks driving on the overpass that honked in support of us. There were several cars that honked in support as they drove past. It was amazing for me to see people in some of the larger buildings we were walking past who flocked to their windows to look out and see what was taking place."

There were some negative responses to the march as well, but Seibert said that's to be expected.

"I kept thinking about the beatitudes, [the Gospel of] Matthew 5:11," he said. "When we do the Lord's work, we should expect both moments of affirmation, and moments of negativity. In both, we need to offer it to the Lord. It's never about us—it's always about him!"

Before the march, the archdiocesan observance for the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children began with Mass on Jan. 23



Scott Seibert, marriage and family enrichment coordinator for the archdiocese's Office of Pro-Life and Family Life, prepares to lead a prayerful march in witness to the call for legal protection of the unborn along Meridian Street in Indianapolis on Jan. 23. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Father Patrick Beidelman, executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Worship and Evangelization and rector of the cathedral, served as the principal celebrant.

In his homily, he recalled the story from the day's Gospel reading in which Christ asked the disciples what they were discussing along the road (Mk 9:30-37).

"When confronted directly by Jesus, the disciples are ashamed to confess

their conversation, but he knows anyway," Father Beidelman said. "They had been arguing about who was the greatest.

"He tells them, 'So you want first place? You want to be on top? Then take the last place. Be the servant of all.'

"Jesus is constantly turning things upside down and inside out for us. He sets a standard that is contrary to the

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'We must wait and see,' the pope says of President Trump

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—As President Donald Trump was being sworn in, Pope Francis told an interviewer it would be "reckless" to pass judgment on the new president before he had a chance to do anything.



Pope Francis

"We must wait and see," the pope told two reporters from the Spanish newspaper *El Pais* during a 75-minute interview on Jan. 20.

The interview was published late on Jan. 21 in its original Spanish with an English translation.

Asked if he wasn't worried at least about some of the things Trump said before his election, the pope responded, "I'm waiting. God waited so long for me, with all my sins.

"Being afraid or rejoicing beforehand because of something that might happen is, in my view, quite reckless," the pope said. "We will see. We will see what he does, and then we will judge—always on the concrete. Christianity either is concrete, or it is not Christianity."

Before the newspaper interview, Pope Francis sent best wishes and prayers to the incoming president shortly after he took the oath of office on Jan. 20.

"I offer you my cordial good wishes and the assurance of my prayers that almighty God will grant you wisdom and strength in the exercise of your high office," the pope's message said.

Saying that the human family faces "grave humanitarian crises" that demand "far-sighted and united political responses," the pope said he would pray that Trump's decisions "will be guided by the rich spiritual and ethical values that have shaped the history of the American people, and your nation's commitment to the advancement of human dignity and freedom worldwide."

The pope also said he hoped that America's "stature" continued to be

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Though snubbed by Women's March, pro-life groups still participate

WASHINGTON (CNS)—After being removed from a list of partner organizations for the Women's March on Washington, pro-life groups still took to the streets on Jan. 21 to participate in the massive event—with some members reporting support "by so many women" while other pro-lifers were taunted and cursed, and had their signs ripped apart.

"Overall, it was an amazing experience," said Destiny Herndon-De La Rosa, of New Wave Feminists, one of the groups removed as a march sponsor.

"We were prepared for confrontation, and instead were supported by so many women," said Herndon-De La Rosa told Catholic News Service (CNS).

The group posted photos on their Facebook and Instagram accounts of their participation, holding signs that read, "I'm a pro-life feminist."

"They kept coming up and telling us how glad they were that we were there and how, even though they didn't necessarily agree on the abortion issue, they thought it wrong that we were removed as partners," said Herndon-De La Rosa. "It was very cool."

That reception wasn't the one experienced by members of the Virginia-based Students for Life of America. A video posted later in the day of Jan. 21 to the organization's Facebook page showed marchers taunting some of the pro-lifers and ripping up their



Mary Solitario, 21, center, a Catholic from Virginia, joins a pro-life demonstration outside the U.S. Supreme Court prior to the Women's March in Washington on Jan. 21. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

signs, which read: "Abortion Betrays Women."

Students for Life of America officials said what was billed as an inclusive march ended up having a "radical abortion agenda"

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'The Pope's Astronomer' will speak on Feb. 7 at Brebeuf in Indianapolis

Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno, the director of the Vatican Observatory and president of the Vatican Observatory



Br. Guy Consolmagno, S.J.

Foundation, will deliver a presentation titled "The Heavens Proclaim, Astronomy and the Vatican" at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, 2801 W. 86th St. in Indianapolis, at 7 p.m. on Feb. 7. The program will be held in the school's Efroymsen Auditorium.

The roots of the Vatican Observatory date back to the Gregorian Reform of the calendar in 1582, and the observatory

has been part of the extensive history of Church support for astronomy. Its mission for the last 100 years has been to show there is no inherent conflict between science and religion.

Known as "The Pope's Astronomer," Brother Guy's presentation will look into this history, including a summary of what is being done at the Vatican Observatory today. Brother Guy has earned a doctoral degree in planetary science from the University of Arizona, and has done postdoctoral research at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

If you plan to attend his presentation, please RSVP by Feb. 1. For more information, e-mail Kim DeWaal at kdewaal@brebeuf.org or call 317-524-7128. †

MARCH

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once Planned Parenthood signed on as a key partner in late December, and "bulldozed" over pro-life groups that wanted to be partners.

"We were ignored. Our application [to be a partner] was ignored completely. Other pro-life groups were kicked out as partners," said Michele Hendrickson, Eastern regional director of the Virginia-based Students for Life of America. "Pro-life is pro-woman. ... What was originally portrayed as inclusive is excluding pro-life."

Organizers of the huge march, which drew an estimated 500,000 participants to Washington, said the purpose of the event was "to promote women's equality and defend other marginalized groups."

Among many issues highlighted were immigration, education, equal pay, women's health care and "reproductive rights."

Marches were held simultaneously in New York, Boston, Atlanta, Denver, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Phoenix, St. Paul, Minn., and Key West, Fla., and in several cities around the world.

Women like Herndon-De La Rosa marched for a cause. In her group's case, they are concerned about President

Donald J. Trump's changing position on abortion, and say they wanted him to know they'd be watching what he does on pro-life issues such as abortion, the death penalty and violence.

Many marched to voice disapproval of the new president.

Margie Legowski, a member of Washington's Holy Trinity Parish, marched to support equality for women, and also caring about immigrants who need help.

"I want to take a stand. I don't want to be passive about it," she said. "In our faith, we're called to solidarity."

Like a lot of women attending the march, she hosted other female friends, nieces and a sister-in-law who lives in Germany, all of whom felt enough conviction about the march's purpose to travel to Washington.

Jean Johnson, another Holy Trinity parishioner, attended the march with 11 nieces and four grandnieces. They arrived in Washington from around the country, some driving long distances and picking up other family members along the way. She said she felt pride in her large group, particularly because they adopted the values of her Irish Catholic immigrant parents and are concerned about the common good, for women and for others.

She wasn't marching against a cause or person, but rather marching for women's

POPE

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measured by "above all, its concern for the poor, the outcast and those in need who, like Lazarus, stand before our door."

The message concluded with the pope saying he would ask God to grant the new president, his family and all Americans "peace, concord and every material and spiritual prosperity."

During the newspaper interview, *El Pais* reporters asked another question about Trump and populists in the United States and Europe who, the interviewer said, "capitalize on fear in the face of an uncertain future in order to form a message full of xenophobia and hatred toward the foreigner."

"Crises provoke fear, alarm," the pope said.

In times of crisis, the pope said, large segments of the population think, "Let's look for a savior who gives us back our identity, and let's defend ourselves with walls, barbed-wire, whatever, from other peoples who may rob us of our identity. And that is a very serious thing."

Obviously, Pope Francis said,

nations have a right and duty to control their borders, especially under the threat of terrorism, but "no country has the right to deprive its citizens of the possibility of talking with their neighbors."

The *El Pais* reporters also asked Pope Francis about his hopes for improved diplomatic relations with China. As he has done in the past, the pope reported that a Vatican-Chinese committee has been meeting regularly for years and the dialogue continues.

"Are you ready to go to China?" he was asked.

"When they invite me," he replied. "In China, the churches are full. One can practice one's religion in China," he added, without mentioning the fact that religious practice is tightly controlled by the government.

El Pais also asked the 80-year-old pope if he expects to resign like Pope Benedict XVI did.

"That I don't know. That is for God to decide," he said. "When I feel that I cannot go on, my great teacher Benedict taught me what to do. And, if God takes me before that, I will see it from the other side—hopefully not from hell." †

dignity, she said.

"I went to a Catholic school where the nuns told me I'm a temple," she told CNS. "The march is for that dignity."

Many women who attended said they didn't feel President Trump valued that dignity, particularly after a leaked recording was aired during the campaign in which he was heard making lewd comments about women to an entertainment reporter.

Others in the march support President Trump, but want to make sure he upholds his campaign promises.

College senior Colleen McCrum stood with fellow pro-lifers in front of the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court holding a sign that said, "PROLIFE, PROWOMAN, PROTRUMP."

McCrums, 21, who attends Christendom College, a Catholic school in Front Royal, Va., joined a group organized by Students for Life of America.

President Trump "has made a lot of promises to the pro-life movement, and I want to hold him to his promises," McCrum said. She also felt it was

important to have the pro-life presence at the march because she feels the media makes it look like there are more "pro-choice people" out there than there are.

While organizers said the event was to "promote women's equality and defend other marginalized groups," some pro-life groups that wanted to be partners in the march were either removed as official sponsors days before the march—or their application to be a sponsor was ignored.

In an interview before the march, Herndon-De La Rosa said no one contacted her group to give them the news they were taken off a roster of sponsors, but they found out after a flurry of stories about it.

Other groups denied or taken off the Women's March roster included Students for Life of America and And Then There Were None, a nonprofit organization that helps abortion clinic workers leave the abortion industry.

Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life, told CNS she reached out to the march organizers about applying to be a march sponsor and they never responded. Hawkins said the abortion industry has "taken over any discussion of women's rights."

"Pre-born women's rights are human rights," Hawkins said. "Their voice counts, our voice counts." †

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The Office of Catholic Schools Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Correction

In the Indiana Catholic Conference story in the Jan. 20 issue of *The Criterion*, we misspelled the name of Matthew Ellis, program director for the Hoosier Alliance for Serious Mental Illness Exemption. †

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Vicar judicial continues ministry in absence of archbishop

By Sean Gallagher

When Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin was appointed the new archbishop of Newark, N.J., on Nov. 7, 2016, changes immediately occurred in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Cardinal Tobin ceased being archbishop and served as administrator with limited authority until he was installed in Newark on Jan. 6. Msgr. William F. Stumpf and Father Joseph Feltz respectively were no longer archdiocesan vicar general and vicar for clergy.

In the midst of all this change, Father Joseph Newton continued as vicar judicial, overseeing the archdiocese's metropolitan tribunal, which primarily shepherds petitions of Catholics seeking a declaration of nullity (commonly known as an annulment) of a previous marriage.

And as the faithful in central and southern Indiana await the appointment of their next shepherd, he continues in this role, to which Cardinal Tobin appointed him last summer.

The Church's *Code of Canon Law* requires that a diocese's vicar judicial remain in place even if during a time of transition there is no bishop to lead it.

"The judicial vicar remains to see that the administration of justice still happens in the Church," Father Newton said. "It would be unjust for the position of the judicial vicar to go away, and therefore every marriage case that's in the works come to a complete stop.

"So, the Church, in its wisdom, maintains the position so that justice may continue so that people's marriage cases can keep going."

A few weeks before he was installed in Newark, Cardinal Tobin expressed his confidence in Father Newton's continued ministry in the tribunal during the archdiocese's time without an archbishop.

"One of the functions of law is to provide stability to the community," Cardinal Tobin said. "Father Joe will provide the archdiocesan administrator with clear guidance that will allow him to shepherd the Catholic community in central and southern Indiana until a new archbishop is named. I am confident that my successor will be as satisfied with Father Joe's service as I have been."

Msgr. Stumpf was elected archdiocesan administrator on Jan. 9 by the seven priests who serve on the archdiocesan college of consultors.

Father Newton said he was attracted to ministry related to canon law before he was ordained a priest in 2008. He learned the various tasks of people ministering in the tribunal while still a seminarian, and in his first three years of priestly life and ministry.

From 2011-13, he studied canon law at The Catholic University of America in Washington. Since completing graduate studies, he has ministered full time in the

tribunal, becoming vicar judicial on June 29, 2016.

Although the study and practice of canon law has its intellectual side, Father Newton traces his interest in it to his personal hobby of restoring old cars.

"I'm very mechanical by nature," he said. "I like functional sorts of things. Canon law has a lot of function. It takes divine law, natural law and the teachings of the Church and sort of distills them into principles which govern the Church.

"In some ways, it's very practical. It always appealed to me because, in many ways, I'm a sort of practical kind of person."

He experienced the practical application of canon law when he served as associate pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis from 2008-11, discovering that ministry in a parish and in canon law came together to help him be a better priest.

"Being in a parish helps me understand that everything we do here in the tribunal is about people, is about supporting their rights," Father Newton said. "It is a pastoral ministry. Each and every person that works [in the tribunal] has a vocation to this particular ministry. We couldn't do it otherwise."

He was also attracted to ministering in canon law because of the two priests who preceded him as archdiocesan vicar judicial: Msgr. Frederick Easton, who served in the role from 1980 until his retirement in 2011; and Father Stanley Pondo, who was vicar judicial from 2011-16, and now serves as pastor of St. Louis Parish in Batesville.

Reflecting on those two priests, Father Newton looked at his desk, at which vicars judicial have worked for several decades.

"Whoever sits at that desk ... stands on the shoulders of giants, of great canon lawyers," he said. "It's quite a legacy to live up to. I don't think that I can live up to the legacy, but that doesn't stop me from trying."

For his part, Msgr. Easton appreciates Father Newton's pastoral approach to ministry in the tribunal.

"He definitely has captured a good understanding of the maxim found in the last canon of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*," Msgr. Easton said, "namely this: 'the salvation of souls, which must always be the supreme law in the Church, is to be kept before one's eyes.'"

Ann Tully, coordinator of the tribunal and a judge instructor/assessor, was on its staff when Father Newton first ministered there as a seminarian. She has enjoyed watching him grow in ministry in canon law and appreciates his current leadership of the tribunal.

"Father Joe became part of our team from the beginning," she said. "Now that he is the judicial vicar, he leads a team that he is completely committed to serving, and we are very proud of him."



Father Joseph Newton, left, archdiocesan vicar judicial, poses on Nov. 29, 2016, with fellow staff members in the archdiocesan metropolitan tribunal. They are, from left, Swiden Torres-Torrijos, Ann Tully, Msgr. Frederick Easton (retired vicar judicial and now adjunct vicar judicial), Nancy Thompson, Joseph Gehret, Kay Summers, Peggy Crawford and Benedictine Father Patrick Cooney. The staff posed in the St. Alphonsus Liguori Chapel in the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis. Not pictured is Daniel Ross, a recent addition to the tribunal staff. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

That team has been working harder than ever since Pope Francis promulgated changes to canonical procedures in marriage cases in 2015.

The changes included allowing tribunals to handle cases when a former spouse lives in another country, forgoing the previous requirement that a second tribunal had to review cases, and establishing a brief process for cases that met specific requirements.

That same year saw Cardinal Tobin eliminate all fees for marriage cases in the archdiocese's tribunal, although Father Newton noted that these were frequently waived in the past for people in need.

Father Newton said these changes and the pastoral example of Pope Francis and Cardinal Tobin resulted in the archdiocesan tribunal starting a record

275 new cases in 2016—about 110 more than the previous record.

"The increase in cases is not something that we go around bemoaning," Father Newton said. "It's joyful. It means that the example of our Holy Father and Cardinal Tobin, the outreach of the tribunal and the working of the Holy Spirit is alive and at work in people who really want to do what the Church asks them to do. This is cause for great joy on our part."

And even though the Church in central and southern Indiana is currently without an archbishop, this pastoral ministry of justice in the tribunal will continue under the leadership of Father Newton.

(For more information on the ministry of the archdiocesan metropolitan tribunal, visit www.archindy.org/tribunal.) †

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Editorial

Study, poll and president: Good news for pro-life advocates

On the heels of local March for Life gatherings on Jan. 23 in Indiana and the national March for Life on Jan. 27 in Washington, there was promising news to report to pro-life advocates.

The U.S. abortion rate is down to its lowest level since the U.S. Supreme Court made abortion legal virtually on demand in its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions, and the rate is half of its early-1980s peak.

According to a study issued on Jan. 17 by the Guttmacher Institute, the abortion rate for U.S. women ages 15-44 was 14.6 per 1,000 in 2014, the last year for which statistics are available. The figure represents a 14 percent decline from the 2011 numbers, and less than half of the 1981 rate of 29.4 abortions per 1,000 women of child-bearing age.

The percentage of pregnancies ending in abortion was down to 18.8 percent, a decline of nearly two-fifths below its 1983 peak of 30.3 percent.

Beyond the prayers and witness of so many, we also believe access to state-of-the-art technology like sonograms and ultrasounds have served as excellent resources to show life in its earlier stages in a mother's womb.

As a result, minds and hearts are continually being changed to support pre-born children, said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life.

"When they see the child moving in the womb on an ultrasound, when they hear the heartbeat of the unborn child, when they know there are people and programs available to help them with a new baby and new circumstances, when they see what dismemberment abortion does to these precious children, the pain and agony that is involved in every chemical abortion, they look for life preserving solutions that are better for everyone involved," Tobias said in a Jan. 17 statement.

We also believe it was providential that on the same day—Jan. 23—a Marist poll was released showing significant majorities of Americans oppose the use of tax dollars to fund abortions and want the U.S. Supreme Court to rule in favor of abortion restrictions, President Donald Trump issued an executive order reinstating the "Mexico City Policy." It bans all foreign nongovernmental organizations receiving U.S. funds from performing or promoting abortion as a method of family planning in other countries.

The policy is named for the city that hosted the U.N. International Conference on Population in 1984, where Ronald Reagan, then in his first term as president, instituted it. The policy was rescinded when Democrats sat in the White House, only to be restored when Republicans claimed the presidency.

"This is a welcome step toward restoring and enforcing important federal policies that respect the most fundamental human right—the right to life—as well as the long-standing, bipartisan consensus against forcing Americans to participate in the violent act of abortion," said Cardinal Timothy Dolan, chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.



Approximately 200 pro-life advocates hold signs and pray the rosary on Jan. 23 while marching 1.5 miles in Indianapolis. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

The new Marist poll results suggest strong support for the executive order. Of those polled, 83 percent oppose the use of tax money for abortion in other countries, and 62 percent oppose the use of tax money for abortion generally.

The poll, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, surveyed approximately 2,700 adults in December. It contains breakdowns by political affiliation and ethnicity but not religious beliefs, so there was no information on how many respondents were Catholics.

According to a Catholic News Service story, 52 percent of the respondents indicated that they thought of themselves as "pro-choice," while 42 percent self-identified as pro-life. But when the questions became more detailed on abortion policies, the numbers shifted.

Across political and ethnic lines, overwhelming majorities of respondents indicated they would like "significant restrictions" on abortion. That included 91 percent of those who called themselves supporters of President Donald J. Trump, and 55 percent of those who identified themselves as Hillary Clinton supporters. The poll further showed that 79 percent of both African-American and Latino respondents favored significant restrictions.

The poll also indicated that 74 percent wanted the Supreme Court to rule on these restrictions, indicating support for overturning the court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling, which legalized abortion virtually on demand.

As pro-life advocates, we see our prayers and witness bearing fruit. But our work and mission to protect all life from conception to natural death must continue.

That message was shared by Father Patrick Beidelman during a Jan. 23 Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis to mark the U.S.'s Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. The rector of the cathedral and executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Worship and Evangelization, Father Beidelman also noted that all our efforts to protect life must start with a reliance on God, the source of all life:

"As we respond to his call to pray for and give witness to the dignity of every human life in our world, may [God] give us his mercy, may he give us his strength, and may he use us as instruments of his peace."

—Mike Krokos

Reflection/Sean Gallagher

Fourth-grade basketball teaches lessons of faith and the ultimate goal

All of the practice and game experience my 9-year-old son Victor had in his first season in Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball led up to a shining moment during a recent game.

His team of fellow fourth-grade boys from Lumen Christi Catholic School in Indianapolis were down four points with less than 30 seconds left in the game.

A missed shot from a squad from Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood fell to the floor. Victor dove after it, and successfully took it away from one of his opponents. Lying on his back, he made a great pass to a teammate, who then made a layup while being fouled. The teammate made the free throw, and their team was only down one point.

In the waning seconds of the game, another teammate put up a potential game-winning shot at the buzzer, but it fell off the rim with Lumen Christi losing by one.

My sadness at the loss was far surpassed at my elation in seeing Victor make such a key play. It didn't count as much on the stat sheet. But it made a victory possible. More importantly for his wonderful coach and this proud father, it showed how much he developed in his first season playing basketball.

At its start, Victor didn't have a sense of the game and didn't know how to try to make plays. But the patient teaching of his coaches and the regular practices with his classmates helped him get a grasp of what to do on the floor. A few of his teammates knew much more about the game, and naturally took charge during games. But they were patient in helping him and their other teammates become better players.

And the fact that the team had only six players meant that everyone got

experience. Though fewer in number and usually smaller in stature than other teams, they were giants in heart and team spirit. These boys who prayed together at Mass every school day, studied together in class, ate lunch with each other and played together at recess clearly supported each other and had fun together as a team.

As we prepare to celebrate Catholic Schools Week, it's good to honor the Church's long track record of sponsoring sports leagues, often involving school-affiliated teams through CYO. Because sports, when approached appropriately by parents, coaches and players and kept in its proper context, can give those involved a lively perspective on the life of faith.

To live out the Gospel well requires us to study it regularly, like a new basketball player learning the rules and finer points of the game and an experienced one going ever deeper into his knowledge of it. It also involves putting it into practice in everyday life, like basketball players going over the fundamentals again and again in practice and applying them in game situations.

And every faithful Christian has a part to play in carrying out Christ's mission, just as Victor and his small band of teammates had essential roles to carry out on their team, even if they were newcomers to the game.

At this point, I don't expect Victor to be the next Larry Bird. (But who knows?) What I do hope he learns, though, is that this experience and any he may have in the years to come will help him become a better friend to his teammates, and give him discipline that he can use in life, including living the Gospel.

If that happens by God's grace, then he will experience the best victory imaginable, wearing a crown of glory in heaven.

(Sean Gallagher is a reporter for The Criterion.) †

The Human Side/Fr. Eugene Hemrick

Too much light can overshadow the power of closeness in our lives

The children's Christmas Mass was packed. In past years, it exuded busyness: children putting on a pageant, proud parents and grandparents watching and music abounding.

Not so this year! What changed was a power outage that left the church in darkness, the organ without power and everyone without heat.

Candles, usually used for eucharistic adoration, were placed on the altar and pulpit, creating a delightful aura of stillness.

After Mass, parishioners remarked, "I really liked this year's Christmas celebration; it possessed a warm intimacy." Ironically, a chilling crisis turned into a warm, enjoyable moment despite no heat.

What is it about a candlelit moment that touches the heart?

There have been times when candlelight has been pressed into service due to a thunderstorm and subsequent neighborhood power outage. Suddenly, we find ourselves reverting to methods of survival our grandparents experienced, casting us into their pioneering days and its adventuresome mood.

In many homes, candlelit crises can dramatically change them for the better. Why? In normal times, family members tend to have their special corner to which they retreat; having only

candlelight causes them to come out of their corners, thus heightening their sociability.

And too, sitting at a table with only candlelight invites us to concentrate more fully on another. Less powerful, glaring lights have the uncanny effect of increasing the power of intimacy.

Our parish power outage contained a valuable lesson: Too much light, at times, can overshadow our power of closeness.

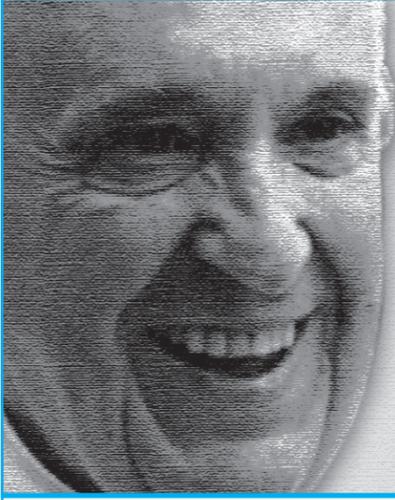
More often than not, we live in a rushed existence, filled with bright lights, noise and myriad distractions. This can lead us to being less connected with our inner life.

Being constantly on the go leaves no time to connect with self and enjoy peace and tranquility. To ensure that connection, every so often we need to be stopped and cast into an atmosphere that encourages stillness.

I have to wonder if this year's Christmas celebration was exceptional because it stopped us from the usual commotion with which we are immersed and cast us into a more intimate mood.

Was the lack of light, music and heat ultimately responsible for changing a hustle and bustle atmosphere into welcomed stillness in which children and parents gazed upon a candlelit altar, and focused more than usual on its meaning at Christmas?

(Father Eugene Hemrick writes for Catholic News Service.) †



The Face of Mercy

(from Pope Francis' papal bull "Misericordiae Vultus")

By Daniel Conway

Pope Francis and a new style of politics built on peace

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on [your] right cheek, turn the other one to him as well" (Mt 5:38-39).

In his 2017 World Day of Peace message, Pope Francis called for "a new style of politics built on peace and nonviolence." His message comes none too soon as the world continues the vicious cycle of violence, and political discourse becomes increasingly intolerable.

Pope Francis offers a solution to the problem of violence that is not new but is very difficult to achieve. He calls it "active nonviolence."

There is a tendency to view peace—and peacemakers—as passive. Peacemaking is too often seen simply as "turning the other cheek," accepting the blows of misfortune with a faint hope that things will turn out OK in the end. This is not the kind of peacemaking that Pope Francis urges us to adopt. His way of making peace is active, not passive. It is the way of St. Teresa of Calcutta, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King

Jr., and, according to Pope Francis, "the thousands of women in Liberia who helped end their nation's civil war."

"Active nonviolence is a way of showing that unity is truly more powerful than conflict," Pope Francis says. The differences between us are real. So are the wounds and the bitter disagreements. But we need to be willing "to face conflict head on, to resolve it" and to make active nonviolence our preferred method of dealing with whatever difficulties exist among individuals, families, communities, nations and peoples.

Having spent an entire year concentrating on mercy as the source of healing and hope, it's not surprising that the Holy Father calls attention to our need to "banish violence from our hearts, words and deeds" so that we can become peacemakers—nonviolent people who are committed to building nonviolent communities that promote the common good and care for our common home.

Pope Francis proclaims the conviction affirmed by all true religions: *Violence is never good, never holy and never God's will.* "I emphatically affirm that no religion is terrorist and the name of God can never

be used to justify violence. Peace alone is holy. Peace alone is holy, not war."

Sadly, religious people do not always adhere to this truth. Too often, we seek vengeance rather than forgiveness, and we sow seeds of discord instead of solidarity. That's why mercy is so necessary to nonviolence and why forgiveness is the key to setting aside wrongs and embracing the future together.

Nonviolence is needed to end global hostilities, but Pope Francis clearly reminds us of the old saying that "all politics is local." Peacemaking must begin at home—in the hearts of individuals, families and communities. In the words of the popular hymn, "Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me." If I am angry with my brother or sister, I must make peace with them—for my own good and the good of the family.

The new style of politics that Pope Francis calls for is a far cry from the divisive politics recently witnessed in Europe, the United States and elsewhere. It is not ugly name-calling or suspicious accusations leveled against politicians and their supporters. "In the most local and ordinary situations and in the

international order," Pope Francis prays, "may nonviolence become the hallmark of our decisions, our relationships and our actions, and indeed of political life in all its forms." Active nonviolence is the genuine search for common ground and an earnest commitment to work together for the common good of all.

Yes, we will have differences among us—in our homes, our communities and among nations. But "let us face them constructively and nonviolently," the pope writes, "so that tension and opposition can turn into diversified and life-giving unity."

Jesus' command to turn the other cheek is not an invitation to passivity. It is an admonition to be bold and courageous in the face of evil and to respond nonviolently, not with anger or vengeance.

Let's listen carefully to the message of Pope Francis, and the words and example of Jesus, and commit ourselves to active nonviolence as the new "style of politics" here at home and throughout the world!

(Daniel Conway is a member of The Criterion's editorial committee.) †

El rostro de la misericordia/Daniel Conway

El papa Francisco y el nuevo estilo de política sustentado en la paz

"Habéis oído que se dijo: 'Ojo por ojo y diente por diente.' Pero yo os digo: no resistáis al que es malo; antes bien, a cualquiera que te abofetea en la mejilla derecha, vuélvele también la otra" (Mt 5:38-39).

En su mensaje en ocasión de la Jornada Mundial de la Paz 2017, el papa Francisco propone "un nuevo estilo de política para la paz y la no violencia." Su mensaje resulta muy oportuno ya que el mundo continúa enfrascado en el círculo vicioso de la violencia y el discurso político se hace cada vez más intolerable.

El papa Francisco ofrece una solución al problema de la violencia que no es nada nuevo pero sí muy difícil de lograr. La llama la "no violencia activa."

Existe la tendencia a percibir la paz (y a los pacificadores) como algo pasivo. Muy a menudo se cree que pacificar es simplemente "poner la otra mejilla," aceptar los reveses de la vida con una vaga esperanza de que al final todo saldrá bien. Ese no es el estilo de pacificación que el papa Francisco nos exhorta a que adoptemos. Su método de pacificación es activo, no pasivo. Es la manera de santa Teresa de Calcuta, Mahatma Gandhi, Martín Luther King Jr., y, de acuerdo con el papa Francisco, de las "miles

de mujeres liberianas" que contribuyeron a poner fin a la guerra civil del país.

El Sumo Pontífice nos dice que "la no violencia activa es una manera de mostrar verdaderamente cómo, de verdad, la unidad es más importante y fecunda que el conflicto." Las diferencias entre nosotros son reales, al igual que las heridas y los amargos desacuerdos. Pero debemos estar dispuestos a "aceptar sufrir el conflicto, resolverlo" y hacer de la no violencia activa nuestro método predilecto para lidiar con cualquier dificultad que surja entre personas, familias, comunidades, países y pueblos.

Después de haber pasado todo un año concentrados en la misericordia como la fuente de la curación y la esperanza, no es de sorprender que el Santo Padre destaque ahora la importancia de "ser personas que aparten de su corazón, de sus palabras y de sus gestos la violencia" para poder convertirnos en pacificadores, personas no violentas que tienen el compromiso de construir comunidades no violentas que promuevan el bien común y cuiden el hogar común.

El papa Francisco proclama la máxima que afirman todas las religiones verdaderas: *La violencia nunca es buena, nunca es santa y jamás es la voluntad de Dios.* "Lo reafirmo con fuerza: Ninguna religión es terrorista y

nunca se puede usar el nombre de Dios para justificar la violencia. Sólo la paz es santa. Sólo la paz es santa, no la guerra."

Tristemente, la gente religiosa no siempre se adhiere a esta verdad. Muy a menudo procuramos la venganza, en vez del perdón, y sembramos semillas de discordia, en vez de solidaridad. Es por ello que la misericordia es tan necesaria para la no violencia y por lo que el perdón es la clave para hacer a un lado las faltas y acoger juntos el futuro.

La no violencia es necesaria para poner fin a las hostilidades del mundo, pero el papa Francisco nos recuerda claramente el viejo dicho de que "toda política es local." La pacificación debe comenzar por casa, en el corazón de cada uno, en las familias y en las comunidades. Para citar la letra de un cántico popular: "Que haya paz en la Tierra y que comience por mí." Si estoy enojado con mi hermano, debo hacer las paces con él, por mi propio bien y por el de mi familia.

El nuevo estilo de política que propone el papa Francisco dista mucho de la política divisoria que hemos presenciado recientemente en Europa y en Estados Unidos. No consiste en insultar ni en levantar acusaciones y sospechas contra los políticos y sus seguidores. "Que la no violencia se transforme, desde el nivel local

y cotidiano hasta el orden mundial, en el estilo característico de nuestras decisiones, de nuestras relaciones, de nuestras acciones y de la política en todas sus formas," nos dice el papa Francisco. La no violencia activa es la búsqueda genuina de terreno común y un compromiso sincero para trabajar juntos por el bien común para todos.

Sí, en efecto habrá diferencias entre nosotros, en nuestros hogares, nuestras comunidades y nuestros países. Pero "afrontémoslos de forma constructiva y no violenta—expresa el papa—de manera que "las tensiones y los opuestos [puedan] alcanzar una unidad pluriforme que engendra nueva vida."

El mandato de Jesús de poner la otra mejilla no es una invitación a la pasividad sino la exhortación a que seamos audaces y valientes ante el mal, y a que respondamos de una forma no violenta, no con odio y venganza.

Escuchemos atentamente el mensaje del papa Francisco, así como las palabras y el ejemplo de Jesús, y comprometámonos a la no violencia activa como el nuevo "estilo de política" aquí en nuestro hogar y en todo el mundo.

(Daniel Conway es integrante del comité editorial de The Criterion.) †

Lead people to certainty of Gospel, Pope Francis asks Dominicans

ROME (CNS)—In an age that often seems to be a "carnival of worldly curiosity," Christians are called to lead people to the solid ground of the Gospel like St. Dominic did, Pope Francis said.

"We are moving in a so-called 'liquid society,' which is without fixed points, scattered, deprived of solid and stable reference points, a culture of the ephemeral, of the use-and-dispose," the pope told members of the Dominican order.

At Rome's Basilica of St. John Lateran, the pope celebrated Mass on Jan. 21 with the Order of Preachers, founded 800 years ago, and with women religious and lay people who trace their spirituality to St. Dominic.

In his homily, Pope Francis reflected on St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy and its description of proclaiming the Gospel at a time when people were "always seeking new teachers, myths, different doctrines and ideologies."

The situation today is even more exaggerated, the pope said, because of "the seduction of subjective relativism."

The response must be to attract people to the unchanging truth of faith in God and in the Gospel, he told the Dominicans.

When a Christian gives glory to God through his or her actions and words, Pope Francis said, people will notice and ask, "Why does that person act that way?"

The Gospel calls Christians to be salt of the Earth and light for the world, he said.

"Woe to a Church that loses its flavor. Woe to a priest, a consecrated person, a congregation that loses its flavor."

St. Dominic, he said, was "full of the light and salt of Christ," and preached the Gospel with "the word and his life," helping many men and women "not become lost in the carnival of worldly curiosity," but experience "the taste of sound doctrine, the taste of the Gospel and become, in turn, light and salt, artisans of good works." †

Events Calendar

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

February 1

Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced. New members welcome. 6 p.m. Information: 317-243-0777.

February 1-March 15

St. Patrick Parish, 1807 Poplar St., Terre Haute. **Catholics Returning Home**, 7-week program to welcome inactive Catholics back into the community led by returning Catholics, Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning Feb. 1, free. Information, registration: Donna Wenstrup, 815-232-8518 or Donna.wenstrup@saintpat.org.

February 3

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral chapel, 1347 N. Meridian, Indianapolis. **Lumen Dei Catholic Business Group**, 6:30 a.m. Mass, 7:15-8:30 a.m. breakfast at Lincoln Square Pancake House, 2330 N. Meridian, Indianapolis. Information: 317-435-3447 or

lumen.dei@comcast.net. Most Holy Name of Jesus Church, 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. **First Friday devotion**, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 5:30 p.m.; reconciliation, 5:45-6:45 p.m.; Mass, 7 p.m.; Litany of the Sacred Heart and prayers for the Holy Father, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-784-5454.

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **First Friday** celebration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mass, 5:45 p.m., exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, following Mass until 9:30 p.m., sacrament of Reconciliation available. Information: 317-888-2861 or info@olgreenwood.org.

St. Monica Church, 6161 N. Michigan Rd., Indianapolis. **Serra Club, Mass for Vocations**, 8 a.m., with St. Monica students, coffee and donuts to follow. Information: 317-748-1478 or smclaughlin@holyspirit.cc.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Movie Night**, 6:30-9 p.m., \$5 includes

movie, popcorn and refreshments. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima.

February 4

St. Michael Church, 145 St. Michael Blvd., Brookville. **First Saturday Marian Devotional Prayer Group**, Mass, prayers, rosary, confession, meditation, 8 a.m. Information: 765-647-5462.

Terre Haute Helpers of God's Precious Infants, 7:30 a.m. Mass at the Carmelite Monastery, 59 Allendale, Terre Haute; 8:45 a.m. car pool from St. Patrick Parish, 1807 Poplar St., Terre Haute, to Bloomington Planned Parenthood, 421 S. College Ave., arriving 10:15 a.m.; return to St. Patrick Parish around noon. Information: Tom McBroom, 812-841-0060, mcbroom.tom@gmail.com.

White Violet Center for Eco-Justice, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Chickens 101: Cluck-A-Palooza!**, learn the basics of keeping a flock

of chickens, 1-4 p.m., \$25, registration deadline Jan. 30. Information: 812-535-2931, wvc@spsmw.org, or events.sistersofprovidence.org.

February 7

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

February 11

Intercultural Pastoral Institute, 4838 Fletcher Ave., Indianapolis. **National Black Catholic Congress Day of Reflection**, sponsored by the Archdiocesan Office of Intercultural Ministry, 9 a.m., a day of prayer for the Church, especially the African and African-American community, free-will offering. Register and information: 317-236-1474 or pspringer@archindy.org.

February 11-18

Our Lady of Lourdes

Church, 5333 E. Washington St., Indianapolis. **Eight-Day Festival of Prayer**, spiritual events and activities celebrating the feast days of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette. Information: 317-356-7291 or parishsecretary@ollindy.org.

February 12

St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. **Mass in French**, 1 p.m. Information: acfadi2014@gmail.com.

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church, 4720 E. 13th St., Indianapolis. **Class of '63 monthly gathering**, 6 p.m. Mass, optional dinner afterward. Information: 317-408-6396.

February 13-April 6

St. Lawrence Parish, 6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis. **"The Blood of the Lamb" Bible Study**, offered 8 weeks on Mon. 7 p.m., Wed. 12:45 p.m. and Thurs. 7 p.m., \$15 for book. Information: Sandra Hartlieb, 317-372-5925 or shartlieb@saintlawrence.net.

February 14

Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. **Monthly Taizé Prayer Service**, theme "Praying for Peace in the World and in Our Hearts," 7-8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence. Information: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org.

February 16

St. Joseph Church, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. **Third Thursday Adoration**, interceding for women experiencing crisis pregnancy, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., with Mass at 5:45 p.m.

Calvary Mausoleum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. **Monthly Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-784-4439 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

February 18

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. **Monthly Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-574-8898 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc. †

Retreats and Programs

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

February 10-12

Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, "Almost Paradise," for married couples, Benedictine Father Noël Mueller presenting, \$425 double. Information: 812-357-6585 or mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mt. St. Francis. **Worldwide Marriage**

Encounter Weekend. Information and registration: contact Mark and Jill Levine at 317-888-1892, jbradleylevine@msn.com or visit www.wvme.org.

Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mt. St. Francis. **A Weekend of Peace for Women**, Judy Ribar, facilitator, 7 p.m. Fri.-2 p.m. Sun., \$150 includes dinner and lunches, register by

Feb. 3 at mountsaintfrancis.org/registration. Information: 812-923-8817 or retreats@mountsaintfrancis.org.

February 12

St. Nicholas Church, 6461 E. St. Nicholas Drive, Sunman. **St. Nicholas Valentine's Breakfast**, pancakes, sausage and gravy, scrambled eggs, pastries and fruit, 7:30 a.m.-noon, free-will offering. Information: 812-623-2964. †

St. Jude School alumni celebration set for Feb. 4 in Indianapolis

Graduates of St. Jude School in Indianapolis are invited to an alumni celebration in the school gym, 5353 McFarland Rd., in Indianapolis, following the 5 p.m. Mass on Feb. 4. Alumni honorees include the Golden Brigade of the classes from 1959-66,

and anniversaries for the members of the classes of 1967, 1977 and 1992. The Sisters of Providence will be honored, Spinrut will play live music, and beer and wine will be provided. The event is free and does not require reservations. †



Inauguration day

Members of the eighth-grade class of St. Luke the Evangelist School in Indianapolis and their chaperones pose for a photo in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 20. The students chose to attend the presidential inauguration as their class trip, and raised \$40,000 to cover the costs. (Submitted photo by Cathy Flood)

Sisters of Providence gift store to have used book sale on Feb. 18-20

Linden Leaf Gifts will have a used book sale in Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, 1 Sisters of Providence, at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Feb. 18-20.

Categories include hardbacks, paperbacks, gardening, spirituality, Bibles, novels, history, children's books, health and wellness books,

crafting and more.

Items are not pre-priced, but free-will donations will be accepted. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Sisters of Providence mission and ministries.

For more information, call 812-535-2947 or e-mail lindenleafgifts@spsmw.org. †

St. Paul Street Evangelization to offer training on Feb. 11 at Holy Rosary Parish

St. Paul Street Evangelization will offer a training workshop in Priori Hall of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., in Indianapolis, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Feb. 11.

The training is for any Catholic who desires to fulfill their calling as a disciple of Jesus Christ by learning to feel more comfortable sharing their love of Christ with others. It is also intended for any Catholic who wants to help fallen-away Catholics return to the faith, or any Catholic who wants to learn how to respond when asked, "Why are you Catholic?"

The leader of the training is Adam Janke, St. Paul Street Evangelization vice-president and program director. After converting to Catholicism from

biblical fundamentalism in 2005, Janke obtained his bachelor of arts degree in theology and catechetics and his masters in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville. He has been featured on EWTN television and radio, Catholic Answers Live, the Radio Maria Network, The Son Rise Morning Show, and in *The National Catholic Register*.

The cost for the event is \$20, which includes lunch and a binder with training materials.

To register or for more information, log on to goo.gl/kbQrYf. Participants must be 18 to register.

For questions, contact Lynne at 317-224-6820 or e-mail SPindyevents@gmail.com. †

Member of St. John the Evangelist Parish professes vows as Carmelite nun

Morgan Siefker, daughter of Dale and Monica Siefker of St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington, made her final solemn profession as a Carmelite nun at the Carmel of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in Valparaiso, Neb., on Dec. 10, 2016. During the veiling ceremony of the Carmelite habit in 2012, Morgan received the religious name Sister Teresa

Margaret of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Maternal grandparents are Wayne and Susan Schutte of St. Maurice Parish in Napoleon, and paternal grandparents are Don and Alice Siefker of St. John the Baptist Parish in Glandorf, Ohio.

Prayers in thanksgiving to God for this grace and for Sister Teresa Margaret are greatly appreciated. †

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SUPPLEMENT

ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS



The gift of a Catholic education opens a child's heart

By Gina Fleming

Superintendent of Catholic Schools

A week prior to the final class of my administrative program several years ago, I stayed up until 3 in the morning putting



Gina Fleming

the final touches on the documentation I was to present to a group of 50 mentors, colleagues, family members and friends as my culminating project. Everything was compiled in one location on my computer, backed up on a jump drive that

remained in the bag with the computer, and tossed gently in the car before a productive day as principal. Running late to my son's game that evening, I did not have time to stop by home and drop off the computer. Instead, it remained in the car while we watched our then second-grader play basketball. As we approached the car later that

evening, we immediately noticed the shattered glass surrounding our vehicle. I blocked my son from getting closer. It then dawned on me—it was glass from my car window, and the computer bag was gone!

Spontaneously, I squatted down, held my face in my hands, and simply cried. Two years of work flashed before my eyes, as did the anguish of having to start all over. And then I felt two little arms wrap around my neck from behind. My 7-year-old gently said, "Mommy, we need to pray for those men because they have damaged their relationship with Christ."

Regrettably, I wanted to respond, "I pray they find God before I find them!" But I knew my son was right. I knew this little child of God understood the presence of and need for our Lord and Savior, for he benefitted from the tremendous sacramental preparation he had received and the amazing role models he shared his days with at his Catholic school.

In central and southern Indiana, we are blessed to have 69 Catholic school

communities sharing their faith through knowledge and service. The articles throughout this Catholic Schools Week Supplement are intended to give you a small snapshot of the learning, teaching, leading and proclaiming that takes place on our campuses in concert halls, on athletic fields, and throughout our communities every day.

If you really want to be uplifted and reminded of God's shining light in our world, visit one of our Catholic schools! Allow the principal to share a story or two about the phenomenal students, committed parents and dedicated teachers and staff members they serve daily. And while you are there, please pat him or her on the back for me with a "thank you" for the expertise, wisdom and passion for our faith that is demonstrated consistently.

Thank you to our pastors, who recognize our Catholic schools as beacons of hope for the world, and who support the ministry so readily.

Thank you to our school leaders, who know no boundaries when the education, formation and salvation of

students are at stake.

Thank you to our teachers and staff members, who relentlessly serve with zeal so that young people can flourish in college, life and heaven.

Thank you to our lay volunteers, parents, parishioners, business partners and donors, who support Catholic education in ways that benefit students today and for generations to come.

And thank you to our students, who not only see that all are made in the image and likeness of Christ, but who recognize their privilege in responding to God's love through service to others.

That 7-year-old boy of ours grew up, as they all do. As a product of one of our archdiocesan Catholic high schools, he can now look to the future with great anticipation, along with the other nearly 24,000 students we currently serve across more than 13,000 square miles of Indiana.

As a mother, I find tremendous comfort and joy in knowing that he and our other graduates will lead and serve our Church and world for years to come. †

'Road map' for life leads family to Catholic education

By John Shaughnessy

GREENWOOD—Kathy Ducote believes that God has a road map for each of our lives.

And considering what happened at her father's funeral, Kathy figured that God was using that moment to lead her in a new direction.

By the time her dad died in the early summer of 2015, Kathy had already spent 20 years as an educator in a public school system, so she was disappointed by the number of people from her work life who showed up to support her in her time of grief.

"I could count on my hands the number of people who came [from work]," says Kathy, a member of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood. "In contrast, I lost count of the people from my faith community who came. It was an outpouring of support."

It was also the final sign that led her to make a change she had already been considering. Two months after her dad's death, Kathy started life as a Catholic school teacher, teaching third-grade students at her parish's school.

"I knew that this was where God was calling me," she says. "I thought, 'This is a God thing.'"

She had the same thought during a time earlier in her life when she had walked away from her faith, a time when she met a man who asked her to go on a first date with him—to church.

Taking the leap

"I wasn't going to church because I didn't feel connected," Kathy recalls about that initial date with her now-husband, Harold Ducote. "I wanted someone who could connect the Gospel to my everyday life."

"He took me to his church at SS. Francis and Clare. Father Vince Lampert was the pastor when we began dating in 2007. He shared the Gospels in a way that applied to my life. For

that, I was extremely grateful. Going to Mass was a huge part of our relationship."

Her Catholic faith became a central part of her life. So did Harold. They were married at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Church in 2009.

Now, there is the latest change of direction in their lives.

After seeing the joyful, faith-filled experience that Kathy had in her first year of teaching at a Catholic school, Harold decided that he wanted to have that experience, too. So the veteran public-school educator also made the switch to teaching at SS. Francis and Clare School this year.

"When she switched to Catholic education last year, she was so joyful after coming home from work," recalls Harold, who teaches math at the middle-school level. "She was like a new person. She said, 'They listen, they try.' I wanted that, too, so I took a leap."

That leap has led him to a life where he can live his faith at school, not hide it. He is involved in preparing eighth-grade students for confirmation, including serving as a sponsor for one.

"This was the best choice I have ever made," he says. "There are some days I feel like I am so filled with the Holy Spirit, it is hard to contain."

"One of the biggest things that has drawn me to Catholic education is to be able to illuminate, illustrate and just show



Harold, Gus and Kathy Ducote have found a home—and a place to live their faith—at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School in Greenwood. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

that Christ can change your life, that he'll take you to successes and places you'll never dream of. The whole experience has deepened my faith any my connection to Christ. I want to impart this to my students and share with them the truth that they can find redemption and peace in Jesus."

Harold has felt Christ's influence in his life, especially in the early days of their marriage when the couple faced a health crisis that tested their wedding vows.

'It changed our love for the better'

"I had a stroke in 2009. It was 37 days after we got married," he says. "I had the anointing of the sick by the priest. I was instantly healed. It was miraculous."

"That was the biggest challenge of 'for better or worse.' It changed our love for the better. It made me slow down long enough to hear God."

That deep relationship with God hadn't always been a part of Harold's life.

"In my twenties and early thirties, I wasn't interested in going to Mass much. I was lost back then. I was looking for something I couldn't find in the world. It was Christ and his love and compassion."

Harold experienced Christ's love and compassion when his father died just five months after the death of Kathy's dad.

"We always had God to comfort us," he says. "There's so much positive in the world, but sometimes you have to seek it out. Every time I've turned my back on Christ, when I turn around, he's right there for me."

"One of my prized possessions is our family Bible. It's from my grandmother. She was a teacher, too. She wrote in the Bible, 'Just remember there is no problem in life too large for Jesus Christ.' She is absolutely right about that."

'God has road maps for us to follow'

That gift of faith is exactly what Harold and Kathy want for their son Gus, who is in kindergarten at SS. Francis and Clare School.

They also want Gus to experience the sense of family that they believe is at the heart of Catholic education.

"After taking care of my dad before he died, I've learned even more that family is important and life is precious," Kathy says. "Now I can take my son to school with me. Our paths cross. I can get that smile or hug from him during the day. That's another gift from God. At SS. Francis and Clare, my family is around me. Even my students, they truly are my kids."

She sees the special impact her students have on her.

"In my first year here, I'd get emotional every month on the 26th—the day my dad died—and they'd know it. They wrapped their arms around me during those times. I was so touched. That's what Catholic education does. That's what we want for our son."

It's also what she wants to do for her students.

"My faith class lasts from 8 in the morning to three in the afternoon," she says. "I can talk about faith, morality and values at any time, and incorporate them in any subject."

"In teachable moments with my kids, I can jump into those moments with the Catholic faith. The more you can put a child in a real-life situation and have them use their minds to experience it, it's going to stay with them. That's how I feel I need to teach my kids."

It's all part of the new direction in life for their family. Kathy and Harold are enjoying the ride.

"God has road maps for us to follow," Kathy says. "He knows what's happening in our lives ahead of us." †



Kathy Ducote uses signs throughout her third-grade classroom at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School in Greenwood to lead her students closer to God. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

Student shares three favorite things about her Catholic school

Special to The Criterion

Gracie Ripperger's enthusiasm overflowed when she and the other members of the fifth-grade class at St. Michael School in Brookville were asked to write an essay about their school.

"Have you ever loved a place so much that you want to be there for the rest of your life? That's the way I feel about St. Michael School," she began.

She then shared her three favorite parts about her Catholic school.

"My number one favorite thing at St. Michael's is Mass because I get to spend time with God. I get to be in God's

house four times a week. And I get to learn how to praise and follow God.

"My second reason is you have smaller classes, and I like that, because I get to be with one class. I get to make close friends, and I get more individual learning with teachers. The teachers are amazing inside and outside of school."

"My last reason is I get to play sports. I love this because you get a chance to have a team. I get a chance to have more physical activity, and I get to do something good for my school."

"I love these things because they make up my life. St. Michael's is not just a school. It is my school." †



Gracie Ripperger's brilliant smile reflects her love for her school—St. Michael School in Brookville. (Submitted photo)

20 Reasons to Celebrate Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese



By John Shaughnessy

The success stories in Catholic schools in the archdiocese are countless. They range from a young child in grade school learning to read *and* learning the fundamentals of the Catholic faith to a high school student preparing for college and becoming involved in service that helps change the life of another person.

There are also the success stories that come when students give everything they have to their academics, their athletics, their artistic pursuits and their faith.

The 2016-17 school year in the archdiocese has already led to numerous successes, ones that happened quietly and others that gained headlines. Here is a sampling of those successes, captured in a recap we call, "20 Reasons to Celebrate Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese." †

- | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| <p>1 St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis is one of four Catholic schools in the country to earn the 2016 "Let's Move! Active Schools National Award." The award is the nation's top physical education distinction for schools, and celebrates a school's commitment to providing students with at least 60 minutes a day of physical activity.</p> | <p>2 Brent Adams, a math teacher at St. Lawrence School in Indianapolis, was selected as a 2016 International STEM Fellow, recognizing his excellence in teaching his seventh- and eighth-grade students in science, technology, engineering and math. As part of the honor, he traveled to China to participate in a program with Chinese educators.</p> | <p>3 Cathedral High School in Indianapolis was named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Cathedral was one of only 50 private schools across the country to receive the honor in 2016, and the only high school—public or private—to be so recognized in Indiana.</p> | <p>4 Catholic schools in the archdiocese have earned 31 National Blue Ribbon awards.</p> | <p>5 Roncalli High School in Indianapolis received the Urban League's "Educational Excellence" Award for its pioneering efforts to welcome students with special needs.</p> |
| <p>6 Curt Eckstein, a senior at Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg, won the 2016 boys' Indiana high school cross country championship. He was also named the winner of the Charles F. Maas Mental Attitude Award for the state cross-country tournament.</p> | <p>7 A team of teachers at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis is in the midst of a special three-year program at the University of Notre Dame that focuses on helping teachers inspire student learning in science, technology, engineering and math. St. Barnabas is one of just 10 schools from across the country chosen for this program.</p> | <p>8 Nancy Buening, principal of St. Mary School in Greensburg, is a recipient of the "Lead. Learn. Proclaim. Award" from the National Catholic Educational Association. The award honors "the outstanding work of Catholic school educators in communities across the country."</p> | <p>9 Five center-city Catholic schools in Indianapolis became part of the Notre Dame ACE Academies network. The five schools—Central Catholic, Holy Angels, Holy Cross Central, St. Anthony and St. Philip Neri—joined a network that strives to help children from low-income areas receive a Catholic education and grow up in a community of faith.</p> | <p>10 Carl and Mary Kay Wolford of Holy Family Parish in New Albany were honored with the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award from the National Catholic Educational Association. The national honor recognized the couple for the way their lives have impacted Catholic education "and the well-being of our nation's youths."</p> |
| <p>11 Father Thomas Scecina was inducted into the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame in November. The namesake of Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis served the United States as a military chaplain during World War II before dying at sea with other prisoners of war in 1944.</p> | <p>12 The 2016 football team of Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis captured the Indiana class 2A state championship with a 28-6 win over Eastbrook High School on Nov. 25.</p> | <p>13 The overall high school graduation rate in the archdiocese is 97 percent.</p> | <p>14 The 2016 girls' volleyball team of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis won its second straight class 4A state championship by defeating top-ranked Crown Point High School in the finals on Nov. 5.</p> | <p>15 St. Joan of Arc School in Indianapolis received the Urban League's "Educational Excellence" Award for their ongoing commitment to excellence in serving students of diverse races and ethnicities.</p> |
| <p>16 The Junior Spell Bowl team of St. Roch School in Indianapolis won their fourth state championship in five years during the annual spelling competition at Purdue University.</p> | <p>17 The football team of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis culminated an undefeated season with a dramatic 34-22 win over Northwood High school in the Indiana class 4A state championship.</p> | <p>18 St. Mary School in Greensburg added a seventh- and eighth-grade to its school.</p> | <p>19 27 aspiring Catholic school leaders joined the archdiocese's new Catholic School Leadership Academy, which helps to prepare great leaders in Catholic schools.</p> | <p>20 Catholic school enrollment in the archdiocese is nearly 24,000 students, an increase of about 2,000 students since 2010. All schools focus on the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical growth of every child, with the main goal of preparing them for heaven.</p> |

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High schools in archdiocese host groups of international students

By Sean Gallagher

The Church is by its nature universal. But it's not unusual for students in Catholic schools in the archdiocese and elsewhere to have a limited exposure to other cultures and languages.

Two Catholic high schools in central and southern Indiana are participating in programs to expand their students' perspective on the world and helping to spread the Gospel in the process.

This was especially true since the international students came from largely secular cultures where faith-based schools are rare or non-existent.

Roncalli High School in Indianapolis had about a dozen students and two teachers from Leipzig, Germany's Rudolph-Hildebrand School in their community for a month at the start of the 2016-17 academic year.

At the same time, a similar size group of students from China were welcomed to Seton Catholic High School in Richmond through the Foreign Links Around the Globe initiative.

Roncalli's experience was part of the German American Partnership Program, co-sponsored by the U.S. and German governments. About a dozen students from Roncalli will spend three weeks in Leipzig in June.

"For our young people to experience different cultures is just part of a life prep experience that is getting close to essential," said Roncalli principal Chuck Weisenbach. "... Understanding cultures, experiencing them and certainly the opportunity to live in the midst of that culture are going to be very life-giving for them."

Rick Ruhl, Seton's principal, said having a group of students from another country for a limited time is easier for families of Seton students to host

than having to be responsible for an international exchange student for an entire academic year.

Even though their time together was relatively short, it had an effect on both groups of students.

A student who went by the name of "Pony" lived with Seton junior Emily Schmidt and her family, including worshipping at Mass with them on Sundays.

Although Pony wasn't Catholic and knew little about the faith before coming to Richmond, he has kept in regular contact with the Schmidts since returning home and has attended Mass in China with his family.

"It was really cool for me to learn that," said Emily. "It really showed that we were making a difference in his life."

Pony living with her family made a difference in Emily's life, too.

"It was just a really different experience opening your home to somebody who can barely speak English," said Emily. "It was tough at first. But we got used to it after a while. It taught us a lot of patience."

The experience also helped her understand her Catholic faith in a deeper way.

"In theology class, we talk about how the Church is universal," Emily said. "I think this really put it into perspective for us. We were able to see how much our faith can be spread, and how it affects the whole world and everybody around us."

Ruhl said Seton's welcoming of the Chinese students flowed from its Catholic identity.

"It ties in seamlessly with what we're called to do as Christians and Catholics to share the Gospel," he said. "The whole program fits nicely into that. When you're



Yiwen Cao, left, and Sara Matthews, a seventh-grader at Seton Catholic High School in Richmond, decorate cupcakes in Sara's home at the start of the 2016-17 academic year. Yiwen was part of a group of Chinese students who visited Seton for about a month. (Submitted photo)

opening your home to a stranger, you're sharing the Good News."

Another aspect of Catholic schools that was shared with the international students is its focus on community. This made a strong impression on Jacqueline Redlich, a teacher at Rudolph-Hildebrand who was part of the group that spent time at Roncalli.

"We all felt that Roncalli is an amazing and special place," she said. "It seemed like a big family, and we soon felt part of this community. The teachers at Roncalli put a lot of effort and care into seeing their students succeed, and at the same time they emphasize the faith, which was new for us."

"In my opinion, the Catholic identity and faith-based education create a strong feeling of togetherness, and it was great for us to experience firsthand this school spirit."

Weisenbach was similarly pleased to see how the faith of the Roncalli community was passed on to their German visitors in a way that also

showed they were committed to academic excellence.

"It gave me chills," he said. "It was what I was probably most deeply touched by. For them to see that education and faith could be so co-mingled was fascinating."

Roncalli senior Emily Gant and her family hosted a German student in their home, who also happened to be named Emily. The two students have kept in touch and become good friends.

"I'm always going to remember this. I made a dear and close friend from this opportunity," she said. "I also got deeper into my knowledge of German. It's a great way to connect students from around the world."

Emily thinks other Catholic schools should consider welcoming groups of international students.

"It shows how much we care for others, how it's good to get to know other people through our faith and spread our faith to them," she said. "It's great for us to be messengers for Christ." †

Roncalli Celebrates Catholic Education



◆ The Class of 2016 earned over \$32 million in college scholarships.

◆ Over 60% of the RHS Class of 2016 graduated with an Academic Honors Diploma or higher.

◆ Roncalli awarded more than \$1.9 million in need-based tuition assistance to RHS families for the 2016-2017 school year.

◆ In the past 24 years, Roncalli students have collected more than 1.6 million canned food items for the poor.

◆ The Class of 2016 completed over 64,100 hours of community service during their four years at RHS, with every Roncalli student performing more than 150 hours of community service prior to graduation.



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High school students from Leipzig, Germany, try to look like American football players while visiting the football locker room at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. The German students and two of their teachers visited Roncalli for about two weeks at the start of the 2016-17 academic year. (Submitted photo)

Students live out value of helping others in profound ways

By Natalie Hoefler

Serving others, helping those less fortunate, performing acts of mercy—all are actions and values each Christian is called to emulate. Catholic schools support and nurture these traits.

Some students live out such charity in bold and heartwarming ways. Here are the stories of two such students—Olivia Dudas, a fifth-grade student at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Richmond, whose “Traveling Bags of Kindness” project made national news; and Rachel Kent, a senior at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, whose fundraising efforts for the nonprofit Unbound help those in need in 20 countries around the world.

‘When serving others and passions intersect’

When Rachel Kent heard about Unbound, a lay Catholic-founded nonprofit organization working in 20 countries to overcome poverty, she knew she wanted to participate in their sponsor-a-child program.

But once the then-sophomore at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis was matched with teenage Divya in India, she wanted to do more.

“Helping Divya was great, but there are so many kids in the program who don’t have sponsors,” says Rachel, now 17 and a senior. “I wanted to help them, but wasn’t able to financially.”

So she decided to turn a hobby she’s passionate about into a way to raise money for Unbound.

“I learned to make friendship bracelets at camp, I think it must have been like eight years ago,” says Rachel. “I kept making them, and I got pretty good. People would tell me, ‘You should sell those!’ and I’d say, ‘No, they’re friendship bracelets. You don’t sell friendship!’ But I thought this cause was good enough to sell the bracelets.”

In her junior year, Rachel started an Etsy webpage called Knot Your Average Bracelets (KYABracelets). For \$7, she makes a bracelet for the purchaser and

one for Unbound to give to a child. All proceeds go to the organization.

Each bracelet takes about two hours to make, says Rachel.

“The other day I was making a lot of bracelets and I was like, ‘Oh, man! This is a lot!’” she admits. “But then I thought, it’s a labor of love. ... I hope that these kids, even though they might not fully know or fully understand what went into the bracelets, that they still know that they’re important and loved.

“And the money is cool. It’s awesome that I’m able to create something that is larger than I, or larger than I could do by myself.”

As of early January, Rachel had made 200 bracelets and raised more than \$1,400, including some donations.

“I want all of the money to go to Unbound, so I buy my own supplies,” she says. “Sometimes I’m faced with, ‘Do I buy this new shirt, or do I buy the bracelet string?’ It’s what’s more important. If it makes you a bit uncomfortable, I would say that’s a good thing, because you’re giving more of yourself.”

The member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis says the project was “a leap of faith to start.

“But I think you have to tell yourself, ‘I’m going to do this.’ God calls us to serve other people and to help the less fortunate, especially those most in need.

“And [making friendship bracelets] is something I love to do. It’s one of my passions. I think when serving others and your passions intersect, that’s kind of like you found your niche.”

‘It just matters what’s in your heart’

That 10-year-old Olivia Dudas was voluntarily watching a televised segment on kindness speaks to her tendency toward generosity. Her reaction to the segment says even more.

“The [Indiana] Pacers were at Riley Children’s Hospital,” recalls the fifth-grade student of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Richmond. “They were taking pictures with patients and signing autographs. The kids were smiling. One

of the nurses said that they don’t regularly smile. It just popped into my head—I want to do that in Richmond.”

Olivia’s mother Andrea Dudas says her daughter “went upstairs, and 15-20 minutes later she sent me a text” with a plan she called the “The Traveling Bags of Kindness.”

The idea was to purchase a few large gift bags, pass them on to family and friends to add an item a child would like, then for the bag to be passed on to another person, and so on. The filled bags were then delivered to Genesis Women’s Shelter in Richmond and Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health in Indianapolis.

The project started with three bags one week before Thanksgiving. By Dec. 20 they had traveled to Ohio, Delaware, Georgia and Florida, and multiplied from three bags to 63, plus diapers, two scooters and three boxes of books.

The story of Olivia’s project was picked up by the Associated Press and spread nationally. A member of “The Today Show” staff contacted Andrea to let her know they were discussing the possibility of including Olivia’s story on a segment they were planning on kindness.

Olivia is “very empathetic,” says Dudas. “She has a gigantic heart, always has.”

Olivia, now 11, acknowledges that giving “makes others happy.” But more importantly, she adds, “I feel like I should do it. Christ died on the cross for us. I [can] pay him back and pay it forward.”

While Olivia and her mother are not Catholic—they attend First Baptist Church in Richmond—Andrea says she “knew when Olivia was born that I wanted her to go to Seton.

“Going to Seton has helped nurture that [giving] side of her. It’s not only the curriculum—they teach love and understanding” at Seton, she says.

And now Olivia is seeking her classmates’ help in her next project: delivering 1,000 homemade Valentines to the residents of all the nursing homes in Richmond.

The idea started when Elizabeth Higgins Clark, actress and founder of the #KeepAmericaKind project, contacted Olivia. She encouraged the girl to



Scores of friendship bracelets in the foreground are ready to be shipped to the international nonprofit Unbound while their creator, Cathedral High School senior Rachel Kent of Indianapolis, makes another to add to the stack. For each bracelet she sells, Rachel makes one for Unbound to give to an impoverished child in a foreign country, and gives all proceeds to the lay-Catholic founded organization. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

continue her acts of kindness into 2017, and said to help, she would send Olivia Valentine’s cards to hand out.

“I decided that I want to step it up and go to every nursing home in Richmond,” says Olivia, whose great-grandmother resides in a Richmond nursing home. “That’s 10, and we have to make over 1,000 Valentines.”

She is enlisting the help of her classmates—and numerous other volunteers—to make and personally deliver the Valentines to each resident. She is also making boxes of treats for the staff of each nursing home.

Dudas posted the project on Facebook.

“It’s gone crazy,” she says. As of Jan. 18, she had homemade Valentines coming from California, Wisconsin, Texas and even Canada.

When asked what advice she had for those who want to help others, Olivia was full of encouragement.

“You can do anything, no matter what your age,” she says. “It just matters what’s in your heart.”

Those interested in contributing a handmade Valentine to Olivia’s latest project may send them to RMD-Patti Insurance Agency, Attn: Andrea Dudas, 36 South Ninth St., Richmond, IN 47374. Valentines must be received by Feb. 10. If more than 1,000 Valentines are received, the additional ones will be delivered to patients at Riley Hospital for Children. †



Olivia Dudas, a fifth-grade student at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Richmond, poses in her home on Dec. 21 with gifts collected by the “Traveling Bags of Kindness” project she initiated to benefit children. (Submitted photo by Andrea Dudas)

Teacher’s creative class helps students overcome challenges in life

By John Shaughnessy

Emily Denton views Catholic education as having a simple purpose: “To pursue academic excellence and to follow the model of Christ in all that we do.”

What has always amazed Denton during her 11 years of Catholic teaching are “the incredible things that can be accomplished when guided by this simple purpose.”

In that spirit, Denton created “Challenge Box” for her junior high students at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis.

“Challenge Box is a 30-minute period, during Friday’s religion class, when students can anonymously submit questions, thoughts or challenges to a shoebox to be discussed,” Denton explains. “During this time, we move all the desks to the edges of the

classroom and sit in a circle. After reading aloud a ‘challenge’ submitted by a student, I give my own advice and then open it up to the other students to offer their advice or thoughts on the situation.”

It’s become an experience, Denton says, when she’s seen her students, “who can seem so tough and independent at times, open up about their biggest insecurities and offer sincere advice to others who are struggling.”

Challenge Box has also led to one of the most rewarding teaching moments for Denton, a finalist for the 2016 Saint Theodora Guérin Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the archdiocese.

“A student had submitted the following question: ‘What is the nicest thing that anyone has ever said to you?’

“The students took a while to think about this, and gradually almost all

of their hands went up. A couple of students mentioned a coach who had said something they never forgot, and others talked about compliments from family members. Then a girl, who had transferred to our school mid-year due to a move, raised her hand.

“She said, ‘I don’t know exactly what the nicest thing anyone has ever said to me is, but I know it’s something that’s been said here in the last few weeks. This is the first time I’ve had people who I know are my real friends.’

“Her classmates’ faces were beaming, and a couple of the girls blurted out that they were so glad she was here. It was one of those moments when I could just step back from the class and watch them take care of each other as a community. I see the effects of Challenge Box. I hope that it gives my students a sense that we’re all on this journey together, and we are here to care for each other.” †



Emily Denton strives to give her students at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis “a sense that we’re all on this journey together, and we are here to care for each other.” Here, she works alongside Owen DeLaney. (Submitted photo)

Catholic schools witness to the Gospel through service

By Sean Gallagher

Catholic schools across central and southern Indiana—and indeed across the nation—are known for their academic excellence.

They're also dedicated to helping their students take what they learn in their classrooms, including their knowledge of the Catholic faith, and applying it in service to the broader community.

Middle school students at Our Lady of Lourdes School and St. Simon the Apostle School, both in Indianapolis, have done this in a variety of ways throughout this academic year.

With their school situated in the heart of Indianapolis' east side, an area affected by poverty and crime, Lourdes students have taken action to promote peace in their Irvington neighborhood. They put a peace banner along the school's fence facing high-traffic Washington Street, gave speeches at a peace rally, and created artistic "peace posts" that share messages of peace that will be placed on the grounds of faith communities on the east side.

Small groups of St. Simon students throughout the year go out from their northeast side school to assist at charitable agencies. But the entire 240 middle school student body fanned out on Oct. 27, 2016, to serve in food pantries, shelter homes and other charities for the school's annual Fall Day of Service.

In sponsoring service events, educators in both schools spoke of a purpose

beyond forming their students to give of themselves. They also see it as a way for their schools to be witnesses to the Gospel in the broader community.

"It's a witness to our faith," said Lourdes middle school teacher Angie Therber. "And I think that's as important as the academics that we're teaching in the building. That was really the impetus for the whole thing, to combine the two."

"It makes you step back and be in awe," said St. Simon assistant principal Laura Mates of how the Fall Day of Service demonstrated the Catholic faith to others. "It was such a wonderful gift for us to be out and be stewards of the Catholic faith. For us to be that example of our religion was pretty powerful."

Mates did a lot of logistical work in arranging some 50 drivers to take the students across the Indianapolis area to serve people in need at agencies such as the Wheeler Mission Thrift Shop, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's food distribution center and Seeds of Hope.

"To hear the casual conversations when [the students] got back with their peer groups about what they did, the impact they had and they joy they had in doing it makes it all worth it," she said.

St. Simon eighth-grader Nicholas Zink has learned a lot about the importance of service in his nearly three years as a middle school student.

"It shows others our faith," he said. "It shows how God is affecting them through the community by knowing how people



Our Lady of Lourdes middle school teacher Angie Therber and Lourdes eighth-grade students Grace Swinefurth, left, and Olivia Wilson show the "peace posts" created by the Indianapolis school's eighth graders to promote peace in the school's east side neighborhood. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

are helping them. They aren't alone. People are there to help."

Nicholas says that God is also affecting him when he leaves his school to help others. It builds in him a habit of service which he described as "something that I just do, like going to sports practices or to school."

Mates said middle school is a key time to nurture this habit in students.

"By doing it in the middle school, we have a lot of molding and shaping that we can do before some of their ideas are cemented in place when they get to high school," she said. "This can be an entry way for them to figure out what they can do to help others."

Leaders at Lourdes are as dedicated to growing hearts for service in their middle school students as well. But the difference in that school's context and focus in service from St. Simon shows the various ways that Catholic schools can approach this aspect of education.

Lourdes has only 18 middle school students and is located in a historic neighborhood. St. Simon, on the other hand, has 240 middle school students and is in a suburban community developed during the past few decades.

Leaders at Lourdes chose to focus on promoting peace, while St. Simon sent their students to a broad array of

charitable agencies.

Yet both schools incorporate service into the learning that goes on in their classrooms in ways that let all students discover and use their gifts.

"This [peace post] project gave everybody a chance to excel at something," Therber said. "We had everything: reading, discussion, writing, presenting, speaking and art. They can all carry it forward in some way. They know that they have a God-given talent that they can use for the betterment of others."

Lourdes eighth-grader Grace Swinefurth appreciates her chance to take part in the peace efforts of her school.

"It has been an incredible experience," she said. "I love sharing everything that I have learned with other people and making the world a better place. My family is super proud. My friends are super proud. Everybody in the community is feeling better because we did this project."

The experience has had a similar impact on Therber.

"It's probably one of the most rewarding things that I've done as a teacher, honestly," she said. "I feel proud that we're doing something that's beneficial to the community, and is reinforcing the Catholic Christian ideals that we try to teach." †



A group of middle school students from St. Simon the Apostle School sort donated clothes at St. Elizabeth Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services, both in Indianapolis, on Oct. 27 during St. Simon's Fall Day of Service when its 240 middle school students helped people in need in several charitable agencies in the Indianapolis area. St. Elizabeth Coleman is a ministry of Catholic Charities Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)

'Most important student' leaves his unforgettable mark on teacher

By John Shaughnessy

In more than 11 years as a Catholic school teacher, Brittany Geswein has always had the approach of valuing "each and every student." Yet, her most rewarding experience in education involved a child who never entered her classroom.

"The year I started my teaching journey as a freshman [in college] was the same year my brother Brandon started kindergarten," recalls Geswein, a sixth-grade teacher at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs School in Floyd County. "From the very beginning, I took him under my wing."

"After observing his difficulty with reading, I suggested we have him formally assessed. In the fourth grade, he was diagnosed with a severe reading comprehensive disability and attention deficit disorder. I helped write his plan to assure he was receiving needed

accommodations in the classroom."

She continued her work with her brother through his time in junior high and high school.

"We read together in the evenings and all summer long for years," notes Geswein, a finalist for the 2016 Saint Theodora Guérin Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the archdiocese.

"We tackled everything from science fair projects and research papers to organizing notes and preparing for tests. We faced every difficult challenge and celebrated every success together."

Through it all, "Brandon was the most important student I ever taught," she says.

"This isn't because he was my brother, but because of what he taught me. He forever changed my daily performance in the classroom and the relationship I have with each of my

students. I had high expectations for Brandon's teachers and wanted the best for him. In the same way, I set high expectations for myself knowing the impact I was having on the lives of my students.

"Working with him taught me the importance of meeting kids where they are and lifting them higher. Learning has to be fun and engaging. Brandon taught me that even those students who don't like schoolwork can love going to school if they have someone who believes in them."

The lessons—and the closeness of their relationship—continued until Brandon suddenly died three years ago when he was a sophomore at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville.

"He died in his sleep from Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy, a disease which had lain dormant in his brain for nearly 10 years," Geswein says.



Brittany Geswein holds a canvas that captures her favorite Beatitude and the photos of her students—past and present—at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs School. (Submitted photo)

"With his passing, he taught me a final lesson. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see the face of God. Being a Catholic school teacher is a ministry in which I get to spend my days preparing those with the purest of hearts for their eternal life in heaven." †

Family gets winning hand through Notre Dame ACE program

By John Shaughnessy

Three years removed from the heartbreak of being homeless with six children, Kevina White shares a story of finding hope and a home for her family.

With a calm joy, White talks about the home she has found for her children at Holy Angels School, one of the



Kevina White

five center-city Catholic schools in Indianapolis that became part of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program at the beginning of this school year.

"It's a family community—and because of that, we're able to grow

together, we look out for each other, and it's made my life a lot easier being able to know and trust the adults here, and know they really care about my children," White says as she stands on the school's playground.

"We're more stable—spiritually, physically, and the children academically. Things that help you to succeed are an education and college and, of course, your faith. That's what helps you get to heaven. Here at the academies, they do instill that in children—to be believers of Christ, to have faith and to press forward. And that, with education, you can't get anywhere else."

White's family is one of many who are benefitting from the start of a new era in the archdiocese in which the Notre Dame ACE Academies are continuing the Mother Theodore Catholic Academies' legacy of providing a Catholic education to children in

Central Catholic, Holy Angels, Holy Cross, St. Anthony and St. Philip Neri schools.

The archdiocese has partnered with the University of Notre Dame to provide a broader pool of resources and support to serve the children who attend those five schools, according to Gina Fleming, superintendent of Catholic schools in the archdiocese.



Fr. Timothy Scully, C.S.C.

Research data confirms the importance of Catholic schools in the lives of its students and alumni, noted Holy Cross Father Timothy Scully, co-founder of the ACE program.

"If you graduated from a Catholic school, you are half again as likely to graduate from a high school, and you're 2 1/2 times more likely to graduate from college," he said.

"You hold political views that are more tolerant of other people, and you're much less likely to go to jail. You're three times more likely to become a priest or religious. Just from a civic, from a community, and from an ecclesiastical perspective, these schools are essential to our American Catholic life."

In becoming part of the Notre Dame ACE Academies, the five center-city Catholic schools in Indianapolis have joined a network that includes schools in Tucson, Ariz., Tampa, Fla., and Orlando, Fla.

Those schools have already begun to close the achievement gap that many inner-city students experience, Notre Dame ACE officials note. From



The goals of the Notre Dame ACE Academies in Indianapolis are two-fold: college and heaven. (Submitted photo)

fall 2011 to spring 2015, on average, students improved in math from the 31st percentile to the 67th percentile, moving from the bottom third to the top third in the nation.

In 2015, the Notre Dame ACE Academies network was recognized by the White House as an outstanding resource of educational excellence for Hispanic students.

The partnership between the archdiocese and Notre Dame follows a similar blueprint for success—drawing from the resources of the university, the archdiocese, the Indiana parental choice program and local community support. ACE faculty and staff also work closely with school and archdiocesan leaders in Indianapolis.

"Our children have the opportunities

they deserve to break the cycle of poverty, and to share the richness of the gifts with which God has blessed them," Fleming said. "As I witness the faith, innovation, service, and grit of our children, it is obvious to me that there is hope for our world."

Kevina White has already seen the difference that partnership has made to her family.

"I'm grateful for programs such as this, so families can get the catapult—just something they need to help them get to where they need to be, so we're able to give back as well," said White, who now has a job. "I just praise God that we're able to do that at this time."

(To learn more about the Notre Dame ACE Academies, visit: ace.nd.edu/academies.) †

Celebrating National Catholic Schools Week

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CREATIVE EXPRESSION. COLLEGE.
COMPETITION. INNOVATION.



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Register online at brebeuf.org

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2801 W. 86th St | Indianapolis, IN 46268
317.524.7050 | brebeuf.org





ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS Catholic Schools

Open Doors



Open Arms



Open Hearts

What Makes a Catholic School Special

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ARE ...

- Centered in the person of Jesus Christ
- Contributing to the evangelizing mission of the Church
- Distinguished by excellence
- Committed to educate the whole child
- Steeped in a Catholic world view
- Sustained by Gospel witness
- Shaped by communion and community
- Accessible to all students
- Established by the expressed authority of the bishop

(“Defining Characteristics of Catholic Schools”; National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools)

RESEARCH SAYS ...

- Catholic schools tend to operate as communities rather than bureaucracies, which links to higher levels of teacher commitment, student engagement and student achievement (Marks, 2009).
- In Catholic schools, the student achievement gap is smaller than in public schools (Jeynes, 2007; Marks & Lee, 1989).
- Latino and African American students in Catholic schools are more likely to graduate from high school and college (Grogger & Neal, 2000).
- Graduates of Catholic high schools are more likely to earn higher wages (Neal, 1997).
- Catholic schools tend to produce graduates who are more civically engaged, more tolerant of diverse views, and more committed to service as adults (Campbell, 2001; Wolf, Greene, Kleitz, & Thalhammer, 2001).
- When a Catholic school closes, neighborhood disorder increases (Brinig & Garnett, 2009).

(University of Notre Dame. For more information, log onto ace.nd.edu/resources/catholic-school-research/researched-case-for-catholic-schools)



Champré Kemp and Sam Kennedy lead the procession of 2016 Bishop Chatard High School graduates on May 20, 2016. (Photo courtesy of Tiffany Photography Studio)

LEARN MORE

Open Doors + Open Arms + Open Hearts

The students in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Catholic schools are doing great things! Please take the time to review a special publication from the Office of Catholic Schools at www.archindy.org/OCS-Special-Publication-2016-2017/index.html highlighting our Catholics schools and those who help make us what we are today!



My child is enrolled at a Catholic school.

I meet these eligibility requirements:

- Indiana resident
- My family is between 100% and 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP

CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INCOME LIMITS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR			
	100% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility	150% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility	200% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility
Persons in Household	Annual household income limit for a "90%" Choice Scholarship*	Annual household income limit for a "50%" Choice Scholarship*	Annual household income limit for a "50%" Choice Scholarship*
1	\$21,978	\$32,967	\$43,959
2	\$29,637	\$44,456	\$59,274
3	\$37,296	\$55,944	\$74,592
4	\$44,955	\$67,433	\$89,910
5	\$52,614	\$78,921	\$105,228
6	\$60,273	\$90,410	\$120,546
7	\$67,932	\$101,898	\$135,864
8	\$75,591	\$113,387	\$151,182

Note: Income levels are determined in accordance with the *Income Verification Rules* Document available at www.doe.in.gov/choice.

- * For a household size of nine (9) or more, add \$7,696 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "100%" of Reduced Lunch Eligibility "90%" Choice Scholarship.
- ** Add \$11,544 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "150%" Reduced Lunch Eligibility "50%" Choice Scholarship.
- *** Add \$15,392 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "200%" of Reduced Lunch Eligibility "50%" Choice Scholarship.

What are Tax Credit Scholarships?

The Indiana Tax Credit Scholarship Program provides scholarship support to families who want to enroll their children in the Catholic school of their choice. Qualifying students in grades K-12 can receive a minimum of a \$500 Tax Credit Scholarship.

Who qualifies for a Tax Credit Scholarship?

- A student whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (see chart), AND
- A student who is coming to a Catholic school after attending at least one year (two semesters) in an Indiana public school, AND/OR
- A student who is enrolled in an eligible Catholic school.

Why should I apply now?

If your family qualifies for assistance, but you do not apply when your child first enters school, you may lose the opportunity for a Voucher or Tax Credit Scholarship for the next 12-13 years. Current Catholic school students CAN receive a Tax Credit Scholarship, making them eligible for a Voucher the following year.

How do I apply for a Tax Credit Scholarship?

1. To see how much tuition assistance you are eligible for, first register at your Catholic school of choice.
2. To apply for funding, visit www.i4qed.org/sgo.

Additional local scholarships may also be available. Contact your local Catholic school.

I'm moving my child in grades K-12 to a Catholic school from a public school.

I meet these eligibility requirements:

- Indiana resident
- Apply before September 1, 2017
- My child attended public school the previous year (two semesters) OR received a Tax Credit Scholarship or Voucher the previous school year.

AND one of the following:

My family is at or below 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

My family is at or below 150% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

My family is at or below 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level and my child qualifies for an IEP.

K-12 SCHOOL VOUCHERS

What is an Indiana School Voucher?

A Voucher is a state-funded scholarship that helps cover the cost of tuition at a private school. Qualifying students in grades K-12 can receive up to 90% of the local per-student state funding amount.

Who qualifies for a Voucher?

- A student whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (see chart), AND
- A student in grades K-12 who is coming to a Catholic school after attending at least one year (two semesters) in an Indiana public school, AND/OR
- A sibling received a Tax Credit Scholarship or Voucher, AND/OR
- A sibling living in an "F" school area, AND/OR
- A current Catholic school student in grades K-12 who has received a Tax Credit Scholarship in a prior year, AND/OR
- A student with learning exceptionalities qualified through an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Why should I apply now?

If your family qualifies for assistance, but you do not apply when your child first enters school, you may lose the opportunity for a Voucher or Tax Credit Scholarship for the next 12-13 years. Students enrolled in a Catholic school CAN receive a Tax Credit Scholarship, making them eligible for a Voucher the following year.

How do I apply for a Voucher?

1. To see how much tuition assistance you are eligible for, first register at your Catholic school of choice.
2. To apply for funding, visit www.doe.in.gov/choice.

Pre-K vouchers are available in Marion and Jackson counties. For more information, log onto www.in.gov/fssa/4944.htm.



Catholic Schools

Open Doors

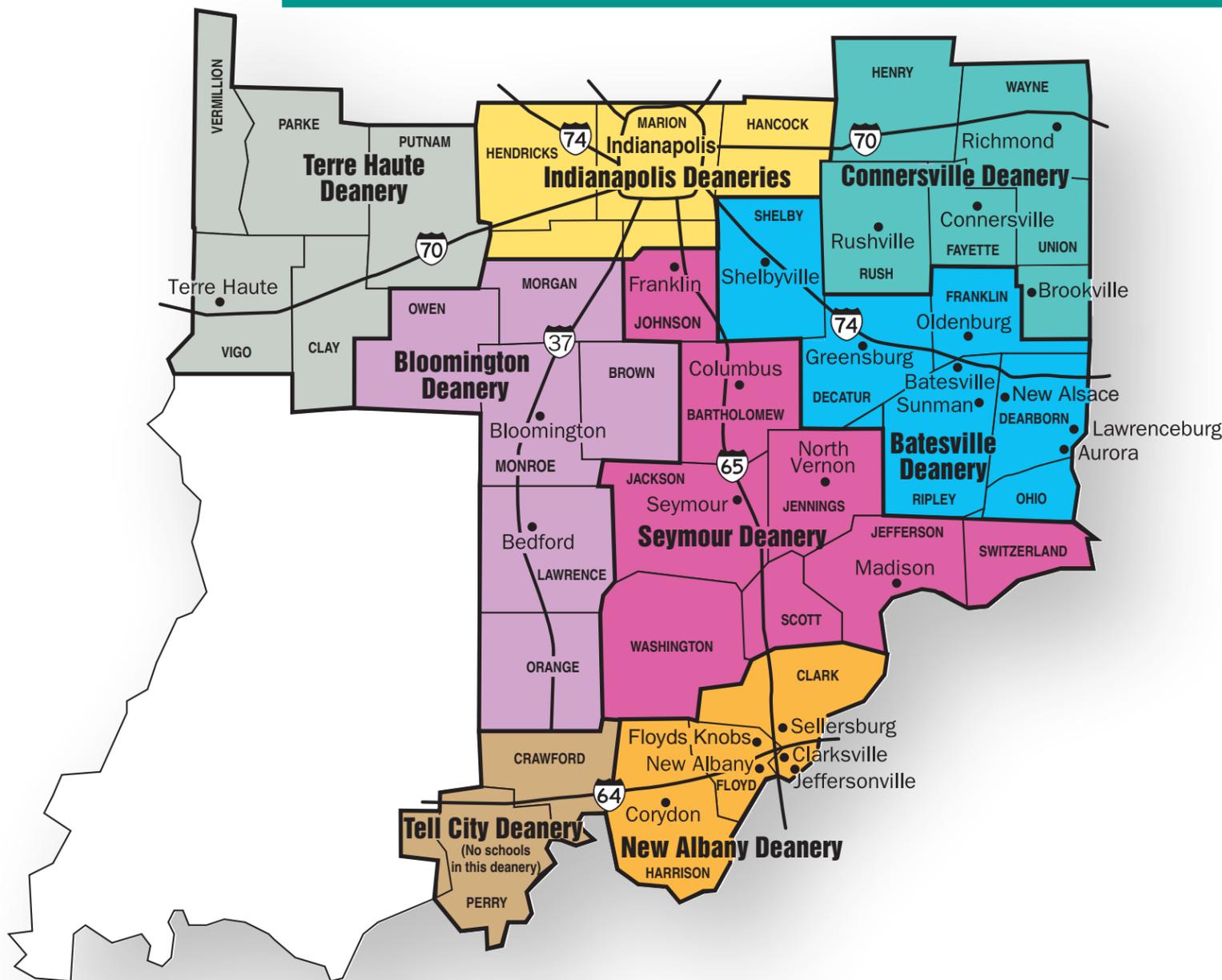


Open Arms



Open Hearts

ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS



DEANERY SCHOOLS

Batesville Deanery

Aurora
St. Mary of the Immaculate
Conception School (K-8)
211 Fourth St.
Aurora, IN 47001
812-926-1558

Batesville
St. Louis School (PK-8)
17 St. Louis Place
Batesville, IN 47006
812-934-3310

Greensburg
St. Mary School (PK-8)
1331 E. Hunter Robbins Way
Greensburg, IN 47240
812-663-2804

Lawrenceburg
St. Lawrence School (K-8)
524 Walnut St.
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
812-537-3690

New Alsace
All Saints Catholic Academy
(PK-8)
9788 N. Dearborn Road
Guilford, IN 47022
812-623-2631

Shelbyville
St. Joseph School (PK-5)
127 E. Broadway
Shelbyville, IN 46176
317-398-4202

Sunman
St. Nicholas School (K-8)
6459 E. St. Nicholas Drive
Sunman, IN 47041
812-623-2348

Bloomington Deanery

Bedford
St. Vincent de Paul School (PK-8)
923 18th St.
Bedford, IN 47421
812-279-2540

Bloomington
St. Charles Borromeo School (PK-8)
2224 E. Third St.
Bloomington, IN 47401
812-336-5853

Connersville Deanery

Brookville
St. Michael School (PK-8)
275 High St.
Brookville, IN 47012
765-647-4961

Connersville
St. Gabriel School (PK-6)
224 W. Ninth St.
Connersville, IN 47331
765-825-7951

Richmond
Seton Catholic High
School (7-12)
233 S. 5th St.
Richmond, IN 47374
765-965-6956

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
School (PK-6)**
801 W. Main St.
Richmond, IN 47374
765-962-4877

Rushville
St. Mary School (PK-6)
226 E. Fifth St.
Rushville, IN 46173
765-932-3639

New Albany Deanery

Clarksville
Our Lady of Providence
Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
707 Providence Way
Clarksville, IN 47129
812-945-2538

**St. Anthony of Padua
School (PK-8)**
320 N. Sherwood Ave.
Clarksville, IN 47129
812-282-2144

Corydon
St. Joseph School (PK-6)
512 N. Mulberry St.
Corydon, IN 47112
812-738-4549

Floyds Knobs
St. Mary-of-the-Knobs
School (PK-6)
3033 Martin Road
Floyds Knobs, IN 47119
812-923-1630

Jeffersonville
Sacred Heart School (PK-8)
1842 E. Eighth St.
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
812-283-3123

New Albany
Holy Family School (PK-8)
217 W. Daisy Lane
New Albany, IN 47150
812-944-6090

**Our Lady of Perpetual
Help School (PK-8)**
1752 Scheller Lane
New Albany, IN 47150
812-944-7676

Sellersburg
St. John Paul II Catholic
School (PK-6)
105 St. Paul St.
Sellersburg, IN 47172
812-246-3266

Seymour Deanery
Columbus
St. Bartholomew School (K-8)
1306 27th St.
Columbus, IN 47201
812-372-6830

Franklin
St. Rose of Lima School (PK-8)
114 Lancelot Drive
Franklin, IN 46131
317-738-3451

Madison
Father Michael Shawe
Memorial Jr./Sr. High School
(7-12)
201 W. State St.
Madison, IN 47250
812-273-2150

Pope John XXIII School (PK-6)
221 W. State St.
Madison, IN 47250
812-273-3957

North Vernon
St. Mary School (PK-8)
209 Washington St.
North Vernon, IN 47265
812-346-3445

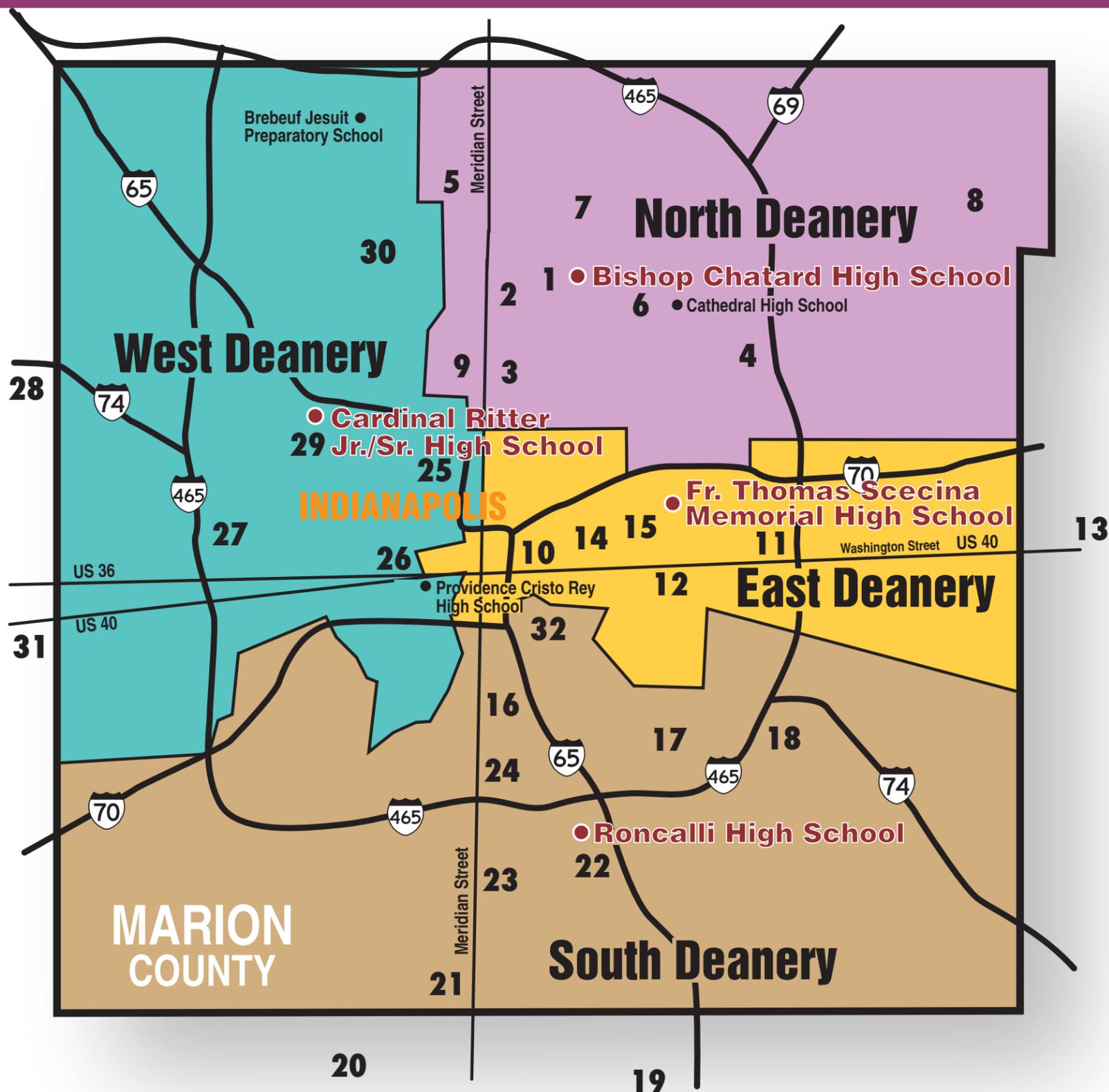
Seymour
St. Ambrose School (PK-8)
301 S. Chestnut St.
Seymour, IN 47274
812-522-3522

Terre Haute Deanery

Terre Haute
St. Patrick School (PK-8)
449 S. 19th St.
Terre Haute, IN 47803
812-232-2157

Private High School
Oldenburg
Oldenburg Academy of
the Immaculate
Conception (9-12)
1 Twister Circle
P.O. Box 200
Oldenburg, IN 47036
812-934-4440

GREATER INDIANAPOLIS



GREATER INDIANAPOLIS DEANERY SCHOOLS

Indianapolis North Deanery

- **Bishop Chatard High School (9-12)**
5885 N. Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-251-1451
- 1. Christ the King School (K-8)**
5858 N. Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-257-9366
- 2. Immaculate Heart of Mary School (K-8)**
317 E. 57th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-255-5468
- 3. St. Joan of Arc School (PK-8)**
500 E. 42nd St.
Indianapolis, IN 46205
317-283-1518
- 4. St. Lawrence School (PK-8)**
6950 E. 46th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46226
317-543-4923
- 5. St. Luke the Evangelist School (K-8)**
7650 N. Illinois St.
Indianapolis, IN 46260
317-255-3912
- 6. St. Matthew the Apostle School (PK-8)**
4100 E. 56th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-251-3997

- 7. St. Pius X School (K-8)**
7200 Sarto Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46240
317-466-3361
- 8. St. Simon the Apostle School (PK-8)**
8155 Oaklondon Road
Indianapolis, IN 46236
317-826-6000
- 9. St. Thomas Aquinas School (K-8)**
4600 N. Illinois St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-255-6244

Indianapolis East Deanery

- **Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School (9-12)**
5000 Nowland Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-356-6377
- 10. Holy Cross Central School (PK-8) ***
125 N. Oriental St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317-638-9068
- 11. Holy Spirit School (PK-8)**
7241 E. 10th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-352-1243

- 12. Our Lady of Lourdes School (PK-8)**
30 S. Downey St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-357-3316

- 13. St. Michael School (PK-8)**
515 Jefferson Blvd.
Greenfield, IN 46140
317-462-6380
- 14. St. Philip Neri School (PK-8) ***
545 N. Eastern Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-636-0134
- 15. St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) School (PK-8)**
1401 N. Bosart Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-353-2282

Indianapolis South Deanery

- **Roncalli High School (9-12)**
3300 Prague Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-787-8277
- 16. Central Catholic School (PK-8) ***
1155 E. Cameron St.
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-783-7759
- 17. Holy Name School (PK-8)**
21 N. 17th Ave.
Beech Grove, IN 46107
317-784-9078

- 18. Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ School (PK-8)**
3310 S. Meadow Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46239
317-357-1459
- 19. Our Lady of the Greenwood School (PK-8)**
399 S. Meridian St.
Greenwood, IN 46143
317-881-1300
- 20. SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School (PK-8)**
5901 Olive Branch Road
Greenwood, IN 46143
317-215-2826
- 21. St. Barnabas School (PK-8)**
8300 Rahke Road
Indianapolis, IN 46217
317-881-7422
- 22. St. Jude School (K-8)**
5375 McFarland Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-784-6828
- 23. St. Mark the Evangelist School (PK-8)**
541 E. Edgewood Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-786-4013
- 24. St. Roch School (PK-8)**
3603 S. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-784-9144

Indianapolis West Deanery

- **Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)**
3360 W. 30th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-924-4333
- 25. Holy Angels School (PK-6) ***
2822 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-926-5211
- 26. St. Anthony School (PK-8) ***
349 N. Warman
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-636-3739
- 27. St. Christopher School (PK-6)**
5335 W. 16th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46224
317-241-6314
- 28. St. Malachy School (PK-8)**
330 N. Green St.
Brownsburg, IN 46112
317-852-2242
- 29. St. Michael-St. Gabriel Archangels School (PK-8)**
3352 W. 30th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-926-0516
- 30. St. Monica School (PK-8)**
6131 N. Michigan Road
Indianapolis, IN 46228
317-255-7153

- 31. St. Susanna School (PK-8)**
1212 E. Main St.
Plainfield, IN 46168
317-839-3713

Private Schools

- 32. Lumen Christi Catholic School (PK-12)**
580 E. Stevens St.
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-632-3174
- **Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School (9-12)**
2801 W. 86th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46268
317-524-7128
- **Cathedral High School (9-12)**
5225 E. 56th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46226
317-542-1481
- **Providence Cristo Rey High School (9-12)**
75 N. Bellevue Place
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-860-1000

* Notre Dame ACE Academies

Teacher finds the right chemistry at Catholic high school

By John Shaughnessy

After teaching for six years in a public school, Dan McNally experienced a refreshing change on his first parents' night at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis.

"The mother of a chemistry student who was having some difficulty in my class pulled me aside and said, 'The last chemistry teacher always gave the kids the easy way out. We're so glad you're here,'" McNally recalls. "It seemed as though providing a challenging curriculum was desired instead of criticized, as was common at my past schools.

"Soon, it was clear that Bishop Chatard provided an environment for both teachers and students where the primary desire was to support one another. Parents were always going to support their kids, but they were also going to support the teacher. It is as though parents have faith that teachers have the best interest of the student in mind, and are confident that we can all pull

together to ensure the best outcome."

Now, after 32 years of teaching at Bishop Chatard, McNally has developed a deeper appreciation of the gift the Catholic school provides.

"One finds that there is a genuine effort on the part of all interested parties to see the face of God in each other," says McNally, a finalist for the 2016 Saint Theodora Guérin Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the archdiocese. "A simple outlook, but one with profound results—the personification that Jesus brought to Earth doesn't have to be limited to Jesus himself."

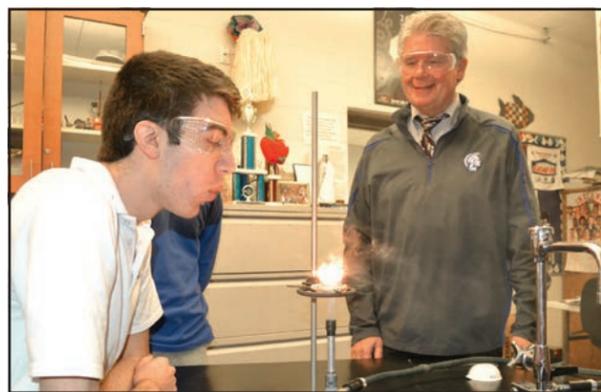
McNally has also tried to keep that perspective in 60 seasons of coaching boys' and girls' tennis at the archdiocesan Indianapolis North Deanery high school. He shares the story of one young man—"let's call him Evan"—a former public high school student who wanted to join the team seemingly because it "might give him a head start at becoming familiar and comfortable in a new setting."

"Evan was not particularly skilled on the tennis court, and he didn't show the athleticism that would predict much improvement. As it turned out, there was exactly the number of guys trying out that we needed, so we kept him on the team.

"Four years later, we had a young man who had obliterated the school record for most career losses. Sure, he got better as he grew up and got stronger. He even got to play a varsity match against a weaker opponent and won!"

Years later, Evan still comes by Bishop Chatard to reconnect with McNally—a reality that leads his former coach to share a reminder with all coaches and teachers.

"As teachers and coaches, we need to remind ourselves every single day of the immense influence we are privileged to exert on our students and athletes. They process every word and every action. It



Bishop Chatard High School chemistry teacher Dan McNally smiles at Daniel Burger's reaction to an experiment. (Submitted photo)

might be just another class or just another practice to us. But it just might be the most important class or practice of their life. The care we take in the preparation and execution of a lesson plan or practice plan can never be discounted.

"If we can do those things while looking for the face of God in each kid, we are bound to be successful educators." †

Jesus' example leads teacher on the best course for her students

By John Shaughnessy

As a first-grade teacher, Jeanine Ritter always looks for ways to make her students smile and have fun as they learn.

One day, her boys and girls will be connecting with students in Japan through video technology.

Another day, they'll be learning about penguins in Antarctica by collaborating with a scientist living among the penguins.

They also make photo stories of a personal "hero" in their lives.

And during each Christmas season, they have a baby shower for Jesus, bringing in gifts for an archdiocesan program that helps parents of infants.

"Through all of these projects and others, my students love learning and take away valuable lessons about our world and their place in it," says Ritter, a teacher at St. Pius X School in Indianapolis and a finalist for the 2016 Saint

Theodora Guérin Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the archdiocese.

For Ritter, it's all part of the most important lesson she wants to share with children.

"We don't just talk about God during our religion class," she says. "God is present everywhere. Every day brings with it a chance to praise God. The kids truly live their faith by helping others and showing acts of kindness each and every day."

Ritter says she tries to set that example for her students by following the example of Jesus.

"Jesus was the greatest teacher and, in a Catholic school, we are called to follow his example every day," she says. "It is our responsibility to be an example worth following. For this reason, I teach with compassion, understanding, patience and love.

"I treat each child as an individual child of God, working hard to understand their distinct needs and



Jeanine Ritter always has a feeling of joy when she is surrounded by her first-grade students at St. Pius X School in Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)

working to make each find success in their specific learning situations, both academically and socially. I teach acceptance of others and help each child find their gifts, strengths, positive qualities and passions." †

The WEST DEANERY Celebrates CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Communities of Faith, Knowledge & Service

CARDINAL RITTER HIGH SCHOOL



HOLY ANGELS CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Holy Angels
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A NOTRE DAME ACE ACADEMY

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC SCHOOL



St. Anthony
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A NOTRE DAME ACE ACADEMY

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL



ST. MICHAEL - ST. GABRIEL ARCHANGELS CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



ST. MALACHY PARISH SCHOOL



ST. MONICA CATHOLIC SCHOOL



ST. SUSANNA CATHOLIC SCHOOL



FOLLOW THE HASHTAG #CSW17 JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 3

CYO SPORTS

CATHOLIC EDUCATION OF THE BODY, HEART AND SPIRIT



CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

School bequest is an ‘investment in the future’

By Natalie Hoefer

As the Ohio River meanders along the southern border of Indiana, its waters reflect the hilly town of Madison. There, in 1837, Father Michael Shawe started the area’s first Catholic school.

Now, 180 years later, Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School and Pope John XXIII School continue the legacy of Catholic education in Madison. It’s a legacy the institutions are proud of.

They are also proud of the fact that together as Prince of Peace Schools—named for Madison’s sole parish—the school system is one of only two in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis that is supported by a single parish.

So Prince of Peace Schools’ president Phillip Kahn says it was a “huge benefit” 30 years ago when a small group—mostly Madison Catholic school alumni—created Friends of Shawe and Pope John Schools, Inc. (Friends), a nonprofit organization that established an endowment to support the long-term needs of the schools.

“The schools were doing no fundraising back then,” says Robert Barlow, Friends co-founder, current president and a graduate of Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School. “The idea was, and still is, to supplement the Catholic school experience and what the teachers could do.

“Friends is unique. With the [school administration] model now with a principal and president, most [schools] are doing their own development. If it was that way 30 years ago when we formed Friends, Friends might never have come into existence.”

Kahn, who helps oversee development efforts for the two schools, is grateful for the assistance.

“Most Catholic schools operate on tuition, which is the staple of everything, and then donations from community

members or alumni throughout the country,” he says.

“More and more Catholic schools try to make a bigger pool of money through donations. That’s why we’re so lucky to have Friends, where people can leave a bequest which impacts the yearly gift Friends gives us.”

The endowment started by the Friends founders in 1986 was \$500,000. Barlow recalls the early days of the organization, when funds were used to fulfill “specific teacher requests, like going on a field trip to the state museum and funding [projects] at \$500 or \$1,000.”

Through their efforts and the generosity of the community and alumni of the schools, the endowment had grown to \$3 million—until recently.

Julie Berry, a Friends board member, describes Joy and Paul Buchanan as a “humble, unassuming couple.” They married in 1981 and had been members of Prince of Peace Parish. The couple had no children together, and Joy, a widow when she married Paul, had sent her son to a public school. She died in February 2012, and Paul died in November 2014.

Despite the lack of connection to the Madison Catholic schools other than through their parish, the Buchanans wanted to support the continuation of Catholic education in the area. So they left a bequest for Friends in their will—for \$1.2 million, believed to be the largest bequest in the organization’s history.

“I was really astounded, knowing what it would mean to our school in the short and long term,” says Kahn.

With the bequest, an annual tuition scholarship of \$2,500 in the Buchanans’ name was created for a student wishing to attend one of the Prince of Peace schools.

The board also set up a teachers’ fund of \$10,000 per year. The fund will help finance teachers’ projects that benefit students and staff that are not covered



The late Joy and Paul Buchanan of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison left a legacy to Catholic education at Prince of Peace Schools through a bequest to Friends of Shawe and Pope John Schools, Inc., a unique nonprofit created to financially benefit the two Madison Catholic schools. (Submitted photo)

by the annual budget, such as field trips, faculty workshops or academic competitions.

“We have challenges in keeping a good school system going” in Madison, Berry says. “Certainly this is not a high-income area. ... But our children are entitled to a good Catholic education. So bequests like this are really great for our cause. It’s incalculable what their gift will give through the years for our endowment.”

Having received eight years of Catholic education in Madison, fellow Friends board member Rick Grote appreciates the benefits of attending a Catholic school.

“I think there’s a set of morals you get from Catholic education,” he says. “It helps you keep God in front of everything you do—he’s here, he’s alive and he’s

around. You have friends with similar morals and principles. That helps create a support system, a Catholic support system.”

Berry says the bequest—and any donation to Catholic schools—is an “investment in the future.”

“I think it’s important to support Catholic education in any way you can, through volunteering or donating,” she says.

“I hope [the Buchanans] will inspire people to think about what they can do. Maybe they can’t give a million, but I hope that somebody reads this and thinks, ‘Hey, I can do something like that.’”

(For more information on Friends of Shawe and Pope John Schools, Inc., log onto friendsofshawepj.org.) †

Service guides educator’s efforts to share Christ’s love

By John Shaughnessy

As a father and a Catholic school teacher, Doug Bauman is always looking for the opportunity to share moments that reveal “the incredible sacrificial love that God has for all of us.”

“We as teachers and parents are definitely fighting an uphill battle trying to convince our students that society has it all wrong, and that the real and authentic truth and beauty in life rests in the words and actions of Jesus Christ,” says Bauman, a math teacher at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis.

Bauman tries to convince his students through the way he treats them with respect and attention, through the example he sets by attending Mass with his family, and through an experience he considers as his most rewarding moment as a teacher—working with his students on the school’s annual canned food drive to help local food pantries.

“All of those cans are able to be donated because of the efforts and sacrifices of our students,” says Bauman, the recipient of the 2016 Saint Theodora Guérin Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the

archdiocese.

“They went out ‘canning’ in their neighborhoods. They gave up some of their money to purchase cans. They did extra chores around the house to earn ‘can money.’

“When I step into the back of that truck and work side by side with my students loading thousands of canned goods, we get to see a very different and special side of each other. I get to see their humanness firsthand. And they get to see their math teacher make an attempt to pack as many cans as possible into a very confined space. It’s during those moments that I’m reminded why we are here on Earth—to love God and to love one another.”

That lesson of “walking in the light of Christ” is the one that Bauman hopes endures for his students.



Doug Bauman tries to influence his students at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis by sharing his faith and emphasizing service. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

“Christ teaches us to love one another as he loved us. Enabling our students to experience that Christ-like love and service firsthand is the one teacher moment that will be forever instilled in my heart.” †

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Moms share Catholic school experience with their children

By Christa Hoyland
Special to The Criterion

CLARKSVILLE—It's not uncommon for parents of Catholic school children to work at their children's school. Many of these parents have careers in education, or they're stay-at-home parents who want to be on the same schedule as their children or earn extra money.

What's unusual about Debbie Miller and Nan Fougousse is that they each left established careers in other fields to work at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville.

Miller, a 1987 Providence graduate, gave up a 20-year career as a nuclear medicine technologist to serve lunch in the school cafeteria. Fougousse, a 1984 alumna, had spent 20-plus years in the insurance claims field, and her role before joining the school's main office staff was as a claims analyst supervisor for an insurance recovery business.

Each took a cut in pay, but the benefits of working in a Catholic school and in the same building with their children are worth much more, they say.



Mia Fougousse, right, talks about her after-school practice schedule with her mother, Nan Fougousse, an administrative assistant in the main office of Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville. (Submitted photo)

"I went from taking an hour to get home at the end of every day to a three-mile trip down Lewis & Clark [Parkway] in my jeans and T-shirt," Miller says. "I'm a happier mom since I've been here. I'm just more available for them."

Miller joined the cafeteria staff nearly three years ago before her son Trey, a sophomore, was even a student at the school. She enjoyed her previous job doing stress testing and heart imaging at a hospital in Louisville, Ky., but when her route to work was impacted by long-term bridge construction projects, she began looking for work in southern Indiana.

When she learned of an opening in the Providence cafeteria, she happily changed careers in order to be on the same schedule as her children, including a second son, Jake, who will be a freshman in 2018.

As much as she loved her previous job, Miller said she enjoys her new job even more, from watching the students hold impromptu cheer sessions during lunch to the camaraderie of her co-workers.

"Being back at my alma mater and being part of the Blue Pride and school spirit, it's been fun," she says.

She also likes the atmosphere of working in a Catholic school, from the values exhibited by the students and staff to taking part in morning prayer.

"I love the prayer that starts the day," Miller says. "It sets the tone for them and us. There's so much here outside the books. There's so much more than just an education. It's the values and the community feeling here."

Fougousse said she decided to apply for the office assistant job in the fall of 2015 because



Trey Miller, center, prepares to swipe his identification badge in the lunch line as his mother, Debbie Miller, accepts the charge at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville. (Submitted photo)

she felt like she was missing out on many of her children's activities. In the 2014-15 school year, her son Luke was a senior on the football team and her daughter Mia was a sophomore on the girls' volleyball, basketball and softball teams. She attended as many games as she could, but sometimes missed important school events.

"I was spending a lot of time in my car," Fougousse says of her previous job. "I just missed a lot of stuff."

Now that she has worked at Providence for 1 1/2 years, son Luke is in college, her daughter is a senior on the girls' volleyball and basketball teams, and son Alec is a freshman on the football and boys' basketball teams.

She works their school schedule and can attend their events at school and games in the evenings. She also is happy to be working in a more relaxed atmosphere and appreciates the opportunity to live her faith.

"I like that we have Mass, and you have people who will openly pray with you—and it's O.K. to say, 'God bless you,'" Fougousse says.

"What drove me crazy in high school—that everybody knew my parents and everybody knew me—is what I love about it now. I just like the community. It's a family."

That extra touch of family at school also works for their children.

"It's nice when I have a question," Mia Fougousse says. "I can just come down here and ask her. People tell me all the time, 'I love your mom.'"

Trey Miller shares that experience. He likes that when he talks about a fellow student, his mother is familiar with the person.

"Everybody knows my mom, and she knows everybody," Trey says. "It's interesting, sometimes a little awkward, but funny." †

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Hospitality, homilies among keys to creating welcoming parishes

By Father Herb Weber

Shortly after receiving the assignment to establish a new parish 12 years ago, I gathered groups of new parishioners for backyard meetings. People spoke freely about what they wanted in their parish: youth ministry, programs for young families, outreach to the needy and more.

But the most common request was that the parish be friendly and welcoming to people.

Over the years since that beginning, our parish has supported and developed a ministry of hospitality. This is not the only quality that makes a parish successful, but it is desperately needed.

A woman who later told me that she had wanted to sneak into church, pray and then sneak out, was met at the door by several friendly people. As she sat down, someone nearby smiled and said hello. The liturgy itself was inviting and authentically warm. Her grandson discovered there were cookies after Mass, which led her to stay a bit longer. By the second week, she knew she belonged there.

Many parishes have greeters at the doors. We do, too, but I have found that they function better when they have a deliberate task. So they give out bulletins as people come in. This flies in the face of the receive-a-bulletin-as-you-depart tradition, but people know they are being treated as adults.

Hospitality goes way beyond the greeters. We remind people that everyone has to welcome and make room for others. It starts in the parking lot, where people warmly greet each other. On rainy mornings, the “umbrella brigade” is in action as people are met with someone handing them an umbrella to use as they walk in.

Inside church, people talk to each other as they enter the gathering space. A warm and clean atmosphere is promoted. Basic needs like being able to see and hear have become significant.

Accessibility is one of our goals. It means that people with disabilities of all kinds are not only welcomed, but joyfully accepted.

Children are treated as full-fledged parishioners, as we do what we can to assist their parents. At all Masses, there is a children’s Liturgy of the Word. We have a Sunday morning preschool for kids 3 to 5 years old as well as a nursery with qualified child care workers.

One more comment about hospitality. A man who had gone through a serious personal struggle commented one day after Mass he finally was feeling whole again, thanking me and the parish. When I asked what we had done, he said, “Father, don’t you understand? Hospitality is healing.” Little did I know how his being accepted by



A priest greets parishioners after Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in the Staten Island borough of New York. Parish life is more than the Sunday Mass experience, but for many, that is precisely where they get to know a faith community. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

the community had helped him.

In addition to hospitality, a parish that wants to be successful has to address two other aspects in the way Mass is celebrated.

The first of those is preaching. As a homilist myself, I know this is an ongoing challenge.

What all homilists need to know is that people want to hear how the message flowing from the Scriptures intersects with their own experience.

I have learned that the best way to help this happen is to employ visual images as part of a homily. Such images as stories, comparisons, analogies and well-thought-out examples can help all listeners regardless of age or educational background. But these images have to be authentic and not simply something found on the Internet.

To make sure my words help create a bridge from the Scripture to modern-day life, I often try out parts of my homily with different groups. Frequently, I check with other staff members to evaluate what I am preparing.

Just as the homilist prepares for Sunday, the people of the parish must do so as well. Our parish has small faith groups that meet regularly and read the Scriptures of the upcoming Sunday. Parents are encouraged to read Sunday Mass readings to their children before coming to church.

Through these efforts, as well as insights promoted through our parish website and app, we encourage people

to become familiar with the readings before coming to Mass.

Homily preparation is work and needs plenty of time. I work on the homily throughout the week, often writing notes and outlines. Only when I feel ready do I actually write the homily, but by that time I truly know it and am at home with it.

The final element to help people have a rich Mass experience is the music. This cannot be overstated. Because music is an art form, what appeals to one person may not be the preference of another. What all people like, however, is when music is well-done, inviting and allows participation of the assembly.

Our parish is blessed with very good music, much of which is rather contemporary. What is necessary for any church, regardless of music choice, is that it become a high priority and that various resources, including financial ones, be made available to enhance the music program.

Parish life is more than the Sunday Mass experience, but for many, that is precisely where they get to know a faith community. Often that experience is where people find what their faith needs to help them in their discipleship of the Lord.

(Father Herb Weber is the founding pastor of St. John XXIII Parish in Perrysburg, Ohio.) †

Early Christians worshipped in homes, began to build churches in third century

By Joseph F. Kelly

When we hear the word “church,” we might think of the universal faith community to which we belong or of a physical structure, which can take many different shapes.

But what were church buildings in the earliest days



Pilgrims gather outside the ancient Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the Old City of Jerusalem. The earliest Christians worshipped in homes, only starting to construct church buildings in the mid-third century. (CNS photo/Jim Hollander, EPA)

of the faith actually like?

Somewhat surprisingly, the New Testament does not say. The Gospels show Jesus in a variety of places, including synagogues, although he was not in some of them. Most accounts of his preaching show him outdoors, in plain areas, on hills, by water. The Gospels make it clear that he wanted his message to reach as many people as possible, so he chose outdoor environments.

The same was true of his disciples. The Acts of the Apostles shows St. Peter preaching on the steps of the Temple in Jerusalem or wherever he could find a crowd.

Acts mentions that St. Paul rented the hall of Tyrannus in Ephesus so he could preach. There would have been nothing special and certainly nothing Christian about a rented hall, but it met Paul’s immediate needs.

But obviously the Christians needed more permanent places of their own. Here we have more information. When Peter escapes from prison in Jerusalem, he goes to the home of the mother of John Mark, where the local community has met to pray. Since they are praying as a group, this was a liturgical event.

When Peter gets to the door of this woman’s house, the first person he meets is a servant woman—in those days, a slave—which means that this is the house of a wealthy person, suggesting that it could hold a number of people for a liturgy.

A final piece of evidence occurs in the apostle Paul’s Letter to Philemon, in which he greets the church that meets in Philemon’s house.

There is evidence that the person who owned the house often presided at the liturgies and meetings, but that is not conclusive.

So when did the Christians actually get church buildings, built for the purpose of worship?

Not until the middle of the third century—no later than 260. The oldest such building is in what is now Iraq.

If it sounds surprising that it took so long for the first church building to be constructed, we must consider several factors.

First, most of the early Christians, including Paul himself, expected the imminent end of the world. More than that, most expected to be alive when it happened.

Second, the emperor Nero persecuted the Roman Christians in the year 64. Over the next two and half centuries, periods of persecution, while not continuous and empire-wide, happened with regularity. That made Christians wary about putting up any kind of permanent structure and certainly not large or imposing ones.

The real church construction occurred in the fourth century when the Roman emperors began to tolerate Christianity on a permanent basis. They provided not only permission to build, but also donated funds. Several of these imperially-inspired churches are still standing in Rome.

But the generation that knew Jesus never saw a church building.

(Joseph F. Kelly is retired professor at John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio.) †

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Hob-nobbing with Hollywood celebrities and Pope John Paul II

In 1987, when Pope John Paul II visited the United States, he met with members of the media in Los Angeles. Most of



the people present were Hollywood stars or otherwise connected with movies or television, but 10 members of the Catholic press were invited, and I was fortunate to be one of them.

It was great fun to hob-nob with people like Bob Hope, Loretta Young, Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowell and many others both before the audience and even more during the reception after the pope left.

During the pope's speech, I was seated behind Phil Donahue and his wife, Marlo Thomas. When the pope finished and started to leave, they crashed through the crowd to try to shake hands with him, as did many others. It was interesting to see the stars give the kind of attention to the pope that they themselves received from their fans.

Still another audience with Pope John Paul occurred when Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein received a pallium in 1993. The pallium is what archbishops wear around their necks to signify their authority over an archdiocese.

Naturally, we had front-row seats for the ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica. Then, in the evening, the entourages of the archbishops who had received the palliums were given audiences with the pope. This time the pope simply moved down the lines, greeting each of us and giving us a rosary. That was the occasion when I got my second rosary from Pope John Paul.

One of my best trips to Rome was in March 1996. It was organized by the Catholic Press Association with the cooperation of Archbishop John P. Foley, then-president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. We had briefing meetings with members of the Roman Curia as well as a reception at the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See.

At a Mass and dinner at North American College's Casa Santa Maria, my wife Marie and I got to know Ray Flynn,

the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See at the time, and his wife Catherine. She was our hostess at the reception at the embassy later in the week.

The Mass at Casa Santa Maria was a memorial Mass for Cardinal John J. Krol, who died a few days before our arrival in Rome. Cardinal Edmund Szoka, president of the Prefecture of the Economic Affairs of the Holy See, was the principal celebrant of the Mass. Cardinal Szoka, the former Archbishop of Detroit, was credited with turning the Vatican's finances around.

During the reception prior to the dinner that night, I had a chance to talk with Cardinal Szoka. He remembered an interview I had with him when I was in Rome at the time Archbishop Buechlein received his pallium. He told me that he liked the column I wrote about that interview, something he had already told me in a letter. He said furthermore that it was rare for journalists who wrote about Vatican finances to get the facts straight and I had done so.

Cardinal Szoka was one of those who gave us a thorough briefing the next day. †

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

Our Christian identity is tied to our names

My 3-year-old son Colin is continually growing in his vocabulary—and his self-awareness. Lately, he's taken to referring to himself by his name.



For example, if he is competing with his brothers for his mother's attention, he'll say forcefully, "Colin's mommy!" If he wants a toy to himself, he'll "That's Colin's."

Or if someone in the family tries to do something for him that he knows he can do himself, such as taking off or putting on a shirt, he'll say, "Colin do it."

All of this is appropriate for his age and stage of development. He'll grow out of it soon enough. But I hope not too soon. It certainly brings smiles to my wife Cindy and I.

This growing self-awareness strikes at the core of our human condition. Each of us innately knows that we are unique. We may share a human nature with every person on the planet, but that nature is expressed in each of us in a way that is unrepeatable. We experience this reality in part through our names.

Again, many otherwise unrelated people share the same first name and in many cases the same last name—even a person with a name like Gallagher. But as we grow up, we connect our distinct identity more and more to the name given to us by our parents.

That was reinforced in my own life as I grew up with the particular spelling of my first name. "Sean" is a more common name now than when I was a child. Then it was unusual, and I frequently had people pronounce my name "Seen" and spell it "Shawn" or "Shaun." I even received a letter once addressed to "Scan Gallagher."

I learned from an early age to be patient with such mistakes, and to correct them courteously when appropriate. But it didn't take away my frustration when other people made mistakes about my name.

This connection between personal identities and names is natural—and also biblical. When Moses asked the Lord for his name when he encountered him in the burning bush, the Lord told him, "I am who am" (Ex 3:14). This mysterious reply has traditionally been understood to say that the Lord's name reflects his identity, that God's existence is eternal, outside space and time. He has never not existed. He simply is. "I am who am."

At the start of the New Testament, we learn that John the Baptist and Jesus were given their names by an angel before they were conceived in their mothers' wombs. And the Hebrew meaning of Jesus' name—"God saves"—shows how his name and his mission are inseparable. Jesus gave a new name to his Apostle Simon, calling him Peter, which means "rock." This Apostle's name and his God-given mission are bound up together. Jesus named him the "rock" upon which he would build his Church (Mt 16:18).

The naming of a person to be baptized is an important part of the ritual of baptism in the Church. In baptism, God is claiming us as his own, by name. And in being baptized, we take on another name that reflects our wondrous, God-given, life-saving identity: Christian.

Little Colin may be just starting to learn who he is. As he does, he seems to take pride in his identity. Hopefully, he and all of us can take a holy pride in who we are in the eyes of God—his adopted children whom he loves infinitely in our uniqueness. †

That All May Be One/Fr. Rick Ginther

Let's strive to create ecumenical moments in our lives of faith

What is an ecumenical moment?

I believe this to be an important question for all of us to ponder.



An ecumenical moment can be simple or profound, large or small.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated on Jan. 18-25, was a large, extended ecumenical moment,

an octave of days for prayer for the ultimate reunion of all Christians as one.

The prayer service at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Carmel, Ind., on Jan. 18 was a pointed moment in this octave continuum.

A profound ecumenical moment occurred this past October in Malmo, Sweden, when Pope Francis and representatives of the World Lutheran Federation gathered to commemorate the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

But it is the simple and small ecumenical moments which stick in our memories and our hearts, and have more lasting effects.

It is a simple thing to gather with another Christian in prayer—at a wedding, funeral, neighborhood prayer service, or a commemoration of an historical moment.

It is a small thing to introduce oneself to a stranger. That small thing grows larger when we share that we are Catholic, attend a local parish, and ask of the other person's faith community. And it is no small thing when we graciously receive their response, and admire their commitment to their faith.

It is a small thing to view a larger event on a computer screen, such as the ecumenical leaders who met Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin during his installation Mass on Jan. 6 at Sacred Heart Cathedral Basilica in Newark, N.J. And yet the larger event provides impetus to our willingness to engage other faiths through individual relationships.

It is a small thing to encounter a waiter at your hotel in Newark, and find out he is a Coptic Christian from Egypt. I found out by asking, which led to an ecumenical moment. He said with excitement that when he finished his shift he would be going to church to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany—Christmas, for Copts. He smiled with pride and joy!

It is a small thing to give money, food or clothing to a food pantry or clothes closet for the poor operated by other Christian churches, or our own Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We give from our surplus, which is easy. But we also give

to help the larger body of Christ. And those served are often touched by the fact that faith communities, in Christ, work together. Ecumenism finds another moment, a service moment.

I could continue with examples. But if I am asking you to ponder—as I did earlier—I now ask: what was your last ecumenical moment?

Was it simple? Profound?

What is the aftermath for your life of faith due to this moment? Have you grown in trust of other Christians? Do you long to know more of their traditions, and share your own tradition?

Could you make it a point to go visit a neighboring Christian church, and experience its worship and hospitality? Could you let them know you are a neighbor from your own parish, and thank them for being in the neighborhood living the Gospel?

Then what could you promote in your parish, along with your pastor and others, as a follow up to reflect on your experience?

We could create so many more ecumenical moments, if we put our minds and hearts to it!

(Father Rick Ginther is director of the archdiocesan Office of Ecumenism. He is pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis.) †

Emmaus Walk/Debra Tomaselli

Be at peace knowing of God's indescribable love for you

The meeting room was packed. Maybe it was the time of year. Maybe because the topic was art. But for whatever reason, the cancer support group was crowded. I took the last available seat.



The meeting began with short introductions. Then we were given paper, scissors, glue and magazine cutouts to make collages

representing our lives.

Most people chose happy quotes or inspirational images, but Cathy, a newcomer to the group, chose pictures of angry men. She wanted to talk.

"That's what he looks like ever since I've had cancer," Cathy said. I missed whether it was a husband or a longtime live-in boyfriend, but clearly he was significant to her.

Compassion filled the room.

"It'll be OK," someone offered. "Be patient. It may just be the way he's handling it."

"He may not be angry, really," another said. "It may be that he's just sad."

But Cathy shook her head.

"You know how sometimes an added stressor like cancer can magnify underlying problems that have been there all along," she said. Her lips quivered. Her eyes filled with tears.

"If he doesn't love you," another attendee said, "you might be better off without him."

Some agreed, offering strength. Others disagreed, suggesting she wait and see. She hung onto every word, her attention shifting from one suggestion to the next.

When the confusion settled, I spoke.

"No matter what happens," I said, "remember this: God loves you. God loves you more than anyone on this Earth ever could. Whether your guy stays or goes, God will always be there for you. You are never alone."

"That's right," someone said. "God loves you. That's the most important thing."

A barrage of agreement followed.

Cathy smiled, comforted. Then Betty spoke.

Betty, who had recently undergone surgery for cancer, had a sweet smile and curly white hair.

"God's love is the most important thing," she said. "I don't know why, but I just really feel like God loves me. I've always felt that. I feel like I'm special to him."

"Of course, God loves you," someone said. "God loves all of us."

"Yes, God loves everyone," another added.

We all chimed in agreement.

Then, Betty spoke again.

"Yes, I know God loves all of us," she said. "I know he loves everyone." She smiled gently. "But I really feel like he loves *me*. ... I feel like I'm *special*. ... I just feel like God loves *me*."

The humble man next to me nodded in agreement. "You're right," he said quietly. "You are."

Peace reigned as we pondered her words.

She's right. God loves her. She is special to him.

But the good news is that God loves you ... and you ... and me ... in just the same way. Each one of us is special to him.

This New Year, the gift I wish most for you is the realization of God's indescribable love for you.

May it be the beginning of a beautiful love story ... your beautiful love story ... a life lived in return for the most wondrous gift given.

(Debra Tomaselli writes from Altamonte Springs, Florida. She can be reached at dtomaselli@cfl.rr.com.) †

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, January 29, 2017

- Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13
- 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
- Matthew 5:1-12a

The first biblical reading this weekend is from Zephaniah. These details are known about this prophet. He was the son of Cushi and a descendant of Hezekiah, presumably King Hezekiah, who reigned as king of Judah, the southern Hebrew kingdom centered in Jerusalem, from 715 BC to 687 BC.



Royal ancestry is important. If indeed Zephaniah descended from a king, he may more easily have had access to the royal court and consequently more familiarity with the politics of his day.

Whatever the exact time frame in which this prophecy was written, the future of the Hebrews, both those in the kingdom of Judah and those in the northern kingdom of Israel, was uncertain. The two kingdoms were insignificant and weak. They were easy prey for their mightier neighbors, and as history unfolded, powerful neighbors repeatedly overran them.

The prophets, Zephaniah included, saw the peril facing the chosen people not so much as a result of policies for conquest of hostile neighboring powers, but rather as a consequence of the people's sin.

Sin was the root of all problems. If the Hebrews would remain faithful, regardless of whatever might befall them, God's protection would prevail.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians furnishes the next reading this weekend. The reading presents to us a paradox. The weak will be exalted. The mighty will be laid low. This paradox is deep and profound, teaching us a fundamental fact of life, but it runs utterly counter to the human presumption of reality. So we cannot judge our lives, or the world, by earthly, human standards, but only by Jesus.

For its last reading, the Church this weekend offers us a passage from the Gospel of St. Matthew: its presentation of

the Beatitudes.

Among the Synoptic Gospels, St. Luke also has a version of the Beatitudes, only slightly differing from that given in Matthew. St. Mark does not include the Beatitudes.

These verses are very reminiscent of the Psalms. This fact seats them very much in the history of God's people, and in their experiences. It places them in the historical fact of God's revelation.

Always strong in the Old Testament was the hope that one day God would lead his people into life in a wonderful kingdom, where God would reign, and in which peace, love and justice would prevail.

The Beatitudes describe what such a kingdom would be like. They give the same viewpoint as that of First Corinthians. Without being as direct as St. Paul, the Beatitudes offer us a paradox. In God's kingdom, reality, not human hunches, abide.

Reflection

The readings for this weekend, culminating in the Beatitudes, both celebrate the revelation of God to us, bringing us genuine wisdom about life, and challenge us to be strong and active witnesses to Jesus and to the truth of the Gospel.

Zephaniah builds the case that living without regard for God reaps the whirlwind. Paul adds another lesson. The judgments of the world are unsure if not altogether false—inevitably. If we follow the world's assessment of things, we at best dance on the edge of a cliff.

The Beatitudes reveal to us the joy and perfection of life with God, and they summon us to do our part in redemption. This summons applies to us personally and collectively. We must accept the Lord, the Son of God, the Redeemer, born of Mary at Christmas, seen as God at the Epiphany, the Savior manifested at the Baptism of the Lord.

Then, beyond ourselves, we are called upon to live the Gospel in our lives in all that we do.

Now as we look to the coming of Lent not that far away, the Church gently guides us to questioning ourselves. We have learned of Jesus. Now, how do we respond? †

Daily Readings

Monday, January 30

Hebrews 11:32-40
Psalm 31:20-24
Mark 5:1-20

Tuesday, January 31

St. John Bosco, priest
Hebrews 12:1-4
Psalm 22:26-28, 30-32
Mark 5:21-43

Wednesday, February 1

Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15
Psalm 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a
Mark 6:1-6

Thursday, February 2

The Presentation of the Lord
Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 24:7-10
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40
or Luke 2:22-32

Friday, February 3

St. Blaise, bishop and martyr
St. Ansgar, bishop
Hebrews 13:1-8
Psalm 27:1, 3, 5, 8-9
Mark 6:14-29

Saturday, February 4

Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21
Psalm 23:1-6
Mark 6:30-34

Sunday, February 5

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 58:7-10
Psalm 112:4-9
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Church condemns lying, allows for truths to remain unspoken in some situations

QI am a caregiver for my elderly mother and also for another woman, who is 95.



So I resort to making up a price, smaller than the actual one. Is that wrong?

The other woman is selfish, mean and miserable. I know that I can only work part time for her, or I would go out of my mind.

She often asks me to work extra hours, and I find myself making up stories to explain why I can't do it. I had to do this at Christmas time, or else she would have ruined my family's holiday. How badly am I sinning? (City of origin withheld)

AYour question—or the answer, at least—is more complicated than it may first seem. Whether lying, including “white lies,” can ever be justified has engaged Christian moralists in discussion and lively debate since the time of St. Augustine more than 1,500 years ago.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that “to lie is to speak or act against the truth in order to lead someone into error” (#2483).

In situations such as those you describe, the conflict seems to be between the moral principle that being able to trust in the word of another is essential to human discourse and the valid intuition that feelings should not be hurt needlessly.

Even the catechism itself hints at this struggle. Opting for silence or discreet language rather than an outright untruth, it teaches that “the right to the communication of the truth is not unconditional. Everyone must conform his life to the Gospel precept of fraternal love. This requires us in concrete situations to judge whether or not it is appropriate to reveal the truth to someone who asks for it” (#2488).

I would say that there is a way for you to honor both values. Rather than making up a false price, I would tell your mother that the gift you purchased for her was “reasonably priced, not expensive.”

But I would be even more direct with your 95-year-old friend: Rather than fabricating a false excuse, tell her that you can't work the extra hours she wants because you have “other family responsibilities.” One of those responsibilities is surely keeping yourself sane.

QHave the rules changed on the sacrament of baptism? Recently, I attended a Catholic baptism where neither the first nor middle name of the child being baptized was the name of a saint. The man who was the godfather practices no religion at all, and the godmother—although baptized as a Catholic—does not now practice her faith. Can you please explain? (New York)

AThe Church's current *Code of Canon Law*—which has been in effect since 1983—does not require that a child be baptized with the name of a saint. The only stipulation (Canon 855) is that the name chosen should not be “foreign to Christian sensibility.”

Prior to 1983, the Church did require that the child be given a “Christian” name (e.g., “Faith” or “Christian”), or the name of a saint. If not, a saint's name was added to the name chosen by the parents, and that second name was recorded in the parish baptismal registry as well.

In my own view, it is still preferable that parents choose a saint's name because, as the child grows, that particular saint might serve as an inspiration and example.

As to the religion of the godparents, a sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, 16 years of age or older and have already received the sacraments of first Communion and confirmation (Canon 874). Only one sponsor is required (Canon 873), so if one godparent were a practicing Catholic, the other “godparent” at the ceremony could be a baptized non-Catholic, but that person would then be listed in the registry as a “witness” rather than a sponsor.

(Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr. Albany, New York 12203.) †

My Journey to God

The End is the Beginning

By Patrick Harkins

When you have come to turn over the last spade, trimmed the last spirea's faded spindle you know beauty the Creator has made.

When you have washed clean what even gloves could not keep out, when you have felt the ache of fall, you know what the Creator has made is good.

When you see wind blow leaves across the way and acorns disappear though some have stayed, think how the spirit teaches you to pray.

When in the sky you hear flocks on the move, and your garden has turned as hard as Golgotha you know the Creator calls you to love.

When you look and leafless trees all look the same, when you wonder if in spring all will rise again believe the Creator calls you by your name.



(Patrick Harkins is a member of St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute. Sunlight shines through bare trees on a trail in Brown County State Park in Nashville in this Nov. 5, 2016, photo.) (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

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 are listed elsewhere in *The Criterion*. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.

BRUCE, Pamela A., 73, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, Jan. 9. Wife of Lt. Col. Larry Bruce. Mother of Margaret Bowman Coons, Charles and Robert Bowman. Stepmother of Laura Monroe, Lisa Piper and David Bruce. Grandmother of 13. Great-grandmother of four.

CISSELL, Joan, 81, St. John the Apostle, Bloomington, Jan. 13. Mother of Lisa North, Christina Pauley, Grace and Don Cissell. Sister of Grace Tennant, Janice and Pete Rasche. Grandmother of nine.

CURLEY, Doris (Moss), 91, St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville, Jan. 13. Mother of Kathy Buskill. Sister of James Moss. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of four.

DEVORE, John R., 78, St. John Paul II, Clark County, Jan. 2. Husband of Gladys DeVore. Father of JoHanna McKinley, Douglas and John DeVore, Jr. Brother of Mary Ann Hasselback, Helen Henderson, Jeanie McKinley and Joseph DeVore. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of nine.

DIXON, Patricia L. (Green), 86, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, Jan. 8. Wife of James Dixon. Mother of Elizabeth Brydon, Mary Lacy, Barbara Saunders and Michael Dixon. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of 16.

FLECK, Melissa A., 65, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, Jan. 7. Wife of Robert Fleck. Mother of Katie Smyk and Sarah Fleck. Daughter of Paul Bogeman. Sister of Vicki Leak and Elizabeth Bogeman. Grandmother of three.

FLODDER, Arlene M., 72, St. Louis, Batesville, Jan. 12. Mother of Lisa Benjamin, Jerri Ann Hixson, Cynthia Wood and Wenda Woolf. Sister of Jackie Fledderman, Judith Tonges and Daniel Flodder. Grandmother of 11. Great-grandmother of four.

GORMAN, Cuthbert P. Jr., 86, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Dec. 23. Father of Chris and Stephen Gorman. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of four.

HIRES, Ellen Jean, 80, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Jan. 17.

HOLZER, Carl W., 92, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Jan. 12. Father of Cindy Newhouse. Brother of Betty McElroy. Grandfather of one.

HUMBLES, Eugene V., Jr., 64, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Oct. 23. Husband of Nelly Humbles. Brother of Donna Fuss, Gail Lester and Wayne Humbles.

KIGHTLINGER, Helen, 89, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, Jan. 8. Mother of Cathy and Drew Kightlinger. Sister of Mary Martin and Glenn Burton. Grandmother of two. Great-grandmother of two.

KRININGER, Jack, 83, Holy Family, New Albany, Dec. 27. Husband of Janet Krininger. Father of Kelly Diedrich, Keith and Kirk Krininger. Brother of Joe Krininger. Grandfather of 13. Great-grandfather of nine.

KRUEER, Robert F., 78, St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville, Dec. 28. Husband of Mary Krueer. Father of Leneita Jackson, Dan, Jeff and Tim Krueer. Brother of



Kiev cathedral

Trees frame St. Alexander Catholic Cathedral on a foggy Jan. 17 day in Kiev, Ukraine. Constructed in 1817, the cathedral is the oldest Catholic church in Kiev. (CNS photo/Sergey Dolzhenko, EPA)

Marilyn Biszmaier, Faye Bobowski, Diane Szerletich, Dennis, Marvin and Tom Kruer. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of four.

MCKINNEY, Thelma H., 81, Good Shepherd, Indianapolis, Jan. 11. Mother of Tina Creech, Janet Feeny, Randol and Thomas McKinney, Jr. Grandmother of 11. Great-grandmother of 20.

MERKEL, Thomas W., Jr., 88, Holy Family, Oldenburg, Jan. 11. Husband of Florence Merkel. Father of Lois Johannigman and Gary Merkel. Stepfather of Alton, Roger and Ronald Evans. Brother of Leo Merkel. Grandfather of 10. Great-grandfather of 12.

MORGAN, Mary Ann, 64, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, Dec. 29. Mother of Teresa and Brian Morgan. Sister of Rita Allen, Bonnie Murr, Donna Robb and Frankie Peyton. Grandmother of four.

NORTHAM, Virginia, 75, St. Mary, Rushville, Jan. 12. Mother of Jennifer McAtee and Janice Hartwell. Sister of Debbie Rains and Jack Land. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of six.

O'BRYAN, William, 88,

Holy Family, New Albany, Jan. 4. Husband of Rosemary O'Bryan. Father of Mary Bradford, Patricia Phillips, Glenn, Lawrence, Stephen, Timothy and William O'Bryan. Grandfather of 23. Great-grandfather of 11.

O'NEAL, Robert, 76, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, Jan. 5. Husband of Myrna O'Neal. Father of Michelle Stohler and Kevin O'Neal. Brother of Mary Ann and John O'Neal. Grandfather of five.

PABERZS, John, 82, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Jan. 4. Husband of Sharon Paberzs. Father of Christopher and John Paberzs. Grandfather of three.

PROCTOR, Gerry L., 74, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, Jan. 8. Wife of Walter Proctor. Mother of Julie Sanders and Jody Proctor. Sister of Holly Williams. Grandmother of two.

RUBUSH, Lucille R., 79, St. Michael, Brookville, Jan. 13. Mother of Kim Roemer, Bruce, Carl and Donald Rubush. Sister of Doris and Phyllis Bischoff, Shirley Lynch and Richard Geiling. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of three.

SCHRODER, Evelyn R., 76, St. John Paul II, Clark County, Jan. 11. Mother of Laura Beyerle, Cindy Kruer and Rick Schroder. Grandmother of six. Great-grandmother of three.

SILVERS, Elizabeth, 84, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Jan. 15. Mother of Connie Blevins, Darryl and Donald Silvers. Grandmother of six.

SMITH, Yondell C., 76, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, Jan. 12. Husband of Mary Regina Smith. Father of Kym Williams. Grandfather of seven. Great-grandfather of six.

STALLARD, Donald B., 85, Holy Family, New Albany, Jan. 15. Husband of Mary Stallard. Father of Donna and Scott Stallard. Grandfather of one. Great-grandfather of one.

TRIMBLE, Janet, 76, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, Jan. 9.

ULRICH, Francis R., 95, St. John Paul II, Clark County, Dec. 11. Uncle of several.

VAN NOTE, Robert T., 74, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, Jan. 8. Husband of Mary Ann Van Note. Father of Penny Hopkins and Daniel Van Note. Brother of Wilma Jenkins and Ester McDaniel. Grandfather of three. Great-grandfather of two.

WILLS, Larry L., 83, St. Simon the Apostle, Indianapolis, Jan. 7. Father of Karen Kinder, Mary Shaler, Patricia and Larry Wills II. Grandfather of two. Great-grandfather of five.

WRIGHT, Lorietha, 57, Holy Angels, Indianapolis, Jan. 10. Mother of Cory Fisher, Andrea, Leona, James and Jeremy Wright. Daughter of Leonard and Raven Marrow and Ramona Williams. Sister of Pamela Guinyard, Diana Mimms, Roberta Williams, Eric and Keith Morrow. Grandmother of nine. †

Benedictine Father Rupert Ostdick held monastic leadership positions

Benedictine Father Rupert Ostdick, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, died on Jan. 14 at the monastery. He was 95.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Jan. 17. Burial followed at the Archabbey Cemetery.

Father Rupert was a jubilarian of monastic profession, having celebrated 72 years of monastic profession. He was also a jubilarian of ordination, having celebrated 68 years of life and ministry as a priest.

Howard Otto Ostdick was born on Nov. 14, 1921, in Elgin, Ill.

Father Rupert entered Saint Meinrad's former Minor Seminary in 1939, where he earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1943. He was invested that same year as a novice at Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

He professed temporary vows on Aug. 10, 1944, and solemn vows three years later. He was ordained a priest on May 18, 1948.

Father Rupert held many leadership positions in the monastery, including for 31 years as its treasurer and seven as business manager. During this same period, he provided spiritual direction at Saint Meinrad College.

He served as general manager of the monastery's Abbey Press from 1979-91.

Father Rupert ministered as the monastery's subprior (third in leadership) from 1986-91 and in other periods as novice master for clerics, pastoral liaison for the monastery's co-workers, an assistant in its human resources department and a member of the monastery's vocations department.

For the past 16 years, he ministered as a confessor for Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology and served on the Abbot's Council and other monastery committees.

Surviving are sisters Marjorie Banker and Mary Burnell of Elgin, Geraldine Mistretta of Carpentersville, Ill., and School Sister of Notre Dame Sister Patricia Ostdick of Chicago and a brother, Bruce Ostdick of Elgin.

Memorial gifts may be sent to Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577. †

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ROE

continued from page 1A

ways of this world. ... Real love always seeks to serve. If we let ourselves be secure in God's love, serving others and 'being last' are easy."

In serving those in need, Father Beidelman said, it is important to remember that "when someone says, 'I am pregnant and don't know where to turn,' or 'My marriage is falling apart,' or 'I can't handle taking care of my elderly father or my sick sister,' that's when you need friends to drop everything and be there."

He noted that Catholic teaching "stands in stark contrast" to modern culture's idolization of power and wealth.

"[Catholic teaching] says that if your ambition blinds you to the needs of others, then you have stepped away from being a disciple of Jesus.

"He offers us another way of living: 'Whoever wants to be first must be last and servant of all,' for in the reign of God, the places of greatness are determined for us by our attitude toward the weakest and most vulnerable members of society.

"Strikingly, Jesus uses an innocent, needy child to illustrate that real greatness comes in developing an attitude and ability to be of service to those who are invisible in society."

Father Beidelman reminded the congregation of the call to respect all life "without discrimination and with unconditional love.

"This starts with how we speak to one another, how we work and play with one another, and especially how we sort out our problems and differences. Let us do

so courageously and compassionately and with deep reverence for the little bit of God that is within each of us."

He asked that, even as people "pray especially for the weak and the 'little' lives among us, whose lives are put in danger by abortion today, let us also pray for the weakness in all of us that sometimes tears down others and brings division to the Body of Christ. Folks, like it or not, we're all in this together, and we would be nothing without the grace and mercy of the Lord."

Father Beidelman closed by requesting that, "As we respond to his call to pray for and give witness to the dignity of every human life in our world, may [God] give us his mercy, may he give us his strength, and may he use us as instruments of his peace."

The Mass ended with time for adoration for those who were unable to join in the march after the Mass.

Taking part in that adoration were Candice Schott and her 10 children, members of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis.

"We want our kids to know to respect life and to be on the front lines to end abortion," said the homeschooling mother as to why she brought her children to the Mass. "We wanted the kids to be here, to be visible, and we want them to be active in their community."

Six students from Christ the King School in Indianapolis also stayed for adoration after the liturgy. The students volunteered to go to the Mass when their literature teacher, Laura Hollowell, asked who would be interested in joining in the archdiocesan observance.

"I really wanted to support this because it's something we should do to save babies' lives," said eighth-grader Emma Kress. "I was praying for the unborn babies, that their parents could make the decision to save their lives."

Her classmate, Meghan Thompson, said she prayed "for people who were going through the decision of whether to terminate their baby or not, that they would choose life, because that's what Jesus would want us to do."

Hollowell, who teaches literature at the middle school level at Christ the King School, said she sought volunteers because, "Logistically speaking, it made a lot more sense to take a small group."

Hollowell dedicated a class



Members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians look on as Father Patrick Beidelman greets the congregation at the archdiocesan Mass for the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on Jan. 23. Celebrating with Father Beidelman in the back row in the sanctuary are Fathers Thomas Schliessmann, left, Father Joseph Feltz, Father Kyle Rodden (partially obscured) and Father Glenn O'Connor. Assisting at the Mass, standing behind Father Beidelman, are Deacons Stephen Hodges, left, and Michael Braun. (Photos by Natalie Hoefler)



Father Patrick Beidelman, executive director of the Secretariat for Worship and Evangelization and rector of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, incenses the Blessed Sacrament at the beginning of time for adoration after the Mass for the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on Jan. 23. Assisting Father Beidelman are, from left, Deacon Stephen Hodges, master of ceremonies Loral Tansy and cantor Ann Lewis.



Three eighth-grade students of Christ the King School in Indianapolis and their literature teacher pray and worship after receiving Communion at the Mass for the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on Jan. 23. They are Emma Kress, left, Meghan Thompson, Gabrielle Croddy and Laura Hollowell.

to reading and discussing a pro-life poem and some short stories in advance of the solemn observance of the anniversary of the Supreme Court's legalization of abortion.

"We prayed about it in class," she said. "I definitely think it's something that we need to continue praying for.

"I thought it was great to be able to bring these students because they're the new generation of pro-life advocates. I thought it was really important for them to be able to come to Mass and concretely pray for it in church, to let them know they're not alone in the pro-life fight." †

Second annual E6 Catholic Men's Conference to be held on March 4

By Sean Gallagher

The second annual E6 Catholic Men's Conference will take place from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. on March 4 at East Central High School in St. Leon.



Patrick Madrid

Organized by members of a chapter of King's Men, a men's prayer and education group at All Saints Parish in Dearborn County, the conference will feature presentations by Catholic apologist, author and speaker

Patrick Madrid, clinical psychologist, author and radio host Dr. Ray Guarendi and Pro Football Hall of Famer Anthony Munoz, formerly an offensive lineman for the Cincinnati Bengals.

The title of the conference is taken from the sixth chapter of St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, which calls on the faithful to

"put on the armor of God" (Eph 6:11) in their spiritual battle against evil.

In addition to the speakers, the conference will include the celebration of the Mass, the opportunity to participate in the sacrament of penance, adoration of the



Anthony Munoz

Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Registration for the conference will begin at 7:30 a.m., and Guarendi has agreed to stay after the conference for a question-and-answer period with fathers and sons. Lunch will be provided for conference participants.

Duane Meyer, a conference organizer, said that "men like myself come back year after year to similar conferences because they help us live out the Catholic faith to the fullest, through great speakers, the sacraments of the Eucharist and confession, singing songs of praise and worship and bonding with a large group of like-minded, faith-filled Catholics."

Last year's conference drew more than 500 participants from across Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky.

Meyer helped organize the first E6 conference, and said it was amazing to see how much the relatively small All Saints Parish could do to encourage the

life of faith of so many people.

"It is a blessing to see the men sharing discussions after talks, gathering information from numerous vendors, breaking bread together for lunch after Mass, opportunities for confession," he said. "It is all a blessing to the planning team to see it all come together so well."

Advance registration for the conference is \$45 per person, \$50 on the day of the

conference, \$35 per person for groups of 10 or more and \$15 per person for high school and college students. Clergy and religious may attend free of charge, but must register online.

For more information or to register online, visit www.e6catholicmensconference.com, send an e-mail to contact@e6catholicmensconference.com or call 812-576-4302. †

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Prekindergarten bill would expand school choice access for families

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

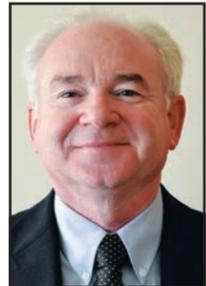
A proposal to enhance state-funded prekindergarten for at-risk children also expands school choice access.

The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) supports the legislation.



The preschool expansion bill, authored by

Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis, builds upon the state's On My Way Pre-K pilot program. The pilot program allows income-eligible 4-year-olds access to high quality preschool education in five counties—Allen, Jackson, Lake, Marion and Vanderburgh.



Glenn Tebbe

Currently, the pilot program serves approximately 2,300 low-income children.

Behning, who chairs the House Education Committee where the bill will be heard on Jan. 31, said House Bill

1004 expands the pilot program from five counties up to 10, and is expected to serve an additional 2,300 students.

"It's important to provide more options for children, and this bill takes the next step in the pilot program," said Behning. "We are going to put more money toward preschool. The governor is calling for double the current level.

"Another critical aspect of the bill is it raises the entry income threshold so that more people have options to participate," Behning continued. The income threshold increases from 127 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$31,500 for a family of four, to 150 percent of the free and reduced lunch program or an annual income of \$67,432 for a family

of four. Behning said these income guidelines sync up with the kindergarten through 12th (K-12) grade scholarship program.

The state representative said another important factor is the bill has a trigger for a K-12 voucher. "If you are a recipient of a pre-K voucher, you would gain access to kindergarten using a voucher," he said.

A family eligible for the K-12 voucher would have a threshold income of about \$44,000, explained Behning. "The cost of a nonpublic school is anywhere from \$4,000-\$8,000," he noted. "If a family has two kids, a family could be paying upward of \$16,000 per year. That's about 30 percent of their gross income.

"I have always been an advocate of school choice beginning in kindergarten," Behning continued. "The K-12 voucher portion of the bill provides a seamless transition for children whose parents may choose a church or religiously affiliated pre-K option. The state won't force them back to the public school setting for kindergarten. It gives parents a choice."

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC who serves as the public policy spokesperson for the bishops in Indiana, said House Bill 1004 improves upon the current preschool program because it increases access to high quality preschool education for more children. It also increases the income eligibility making more families eligible. The bill, he continued, makes those children voucher-eligible to go into a school of their parent's choice beginning in kindergarten, including nonpublic or religiously affiliated schools.

"Typically, a kindergarten student cannot receive a choice scholarship, commonly referred to as a voucher, for a nonpublic school, but must enter a public school first," said Tebbe. "Under this plan, children who qualify for a



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— Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis

pre-K voucher because their family has a financial need would be eligible for the choice scholarship for kindergarten. We support parents' ability to select a school that best suits their children's needs. House Bill 1004 does that."

Tebbe added that the school choice portion of the bill is expected to be a bone of contention in the pre-K debate. Behning said he's going to fight to keep the school choice piece in the proposed legislation.

House Bill 1004 also permits a student, who receives an early education grant in the immediately preceding school year and is a member of a household with an annual income of not more than 200 percent of the amount required to qualify for the federal free or reduced price lunch program, to qualify for a choice scholarship. This entitles the student to receive at least a 50 percent scholarship of the state tuition support amount.

The Early Education Matching Grant program, the funding mechanism of the On My Way preschool pilot program, was established by the Indiana General Assembly in 2013. These grants allow high quality, early child care and education programs to apply for matching

funds to serve 4-year-old children from families whose incomes are below federal poverty guidelines.

According to the state's Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), the group that administers the preschool grants, the program grants are awarded annually through a competitive process to early education programs that meet certain requirements. Participating programs must also secure matching donations, and agree to participate in a study to determine the impact of the program on school readiness. For the 2014-15 school year, 30 early education programs were awarded grants to serve low-income 4-year-olds. FSSA would determine which counties are added to the expansion program.

During his first State of the State address on Jan. 17, Gov. Eric Holcomb called for doubling the state funding for prekindergarten from \$10 million to \$20 million each year. Behning said the funding piece of the pre-K program would be included in the budget bill.

If passed, House Bill 1004 takes effect on July 1, 2017.

(Brigid Curtis Ayer is a correspondent for The Criterion.) †

Marriage ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be a part of our Spring Marriage Edition Feb. 24, 2017, issue of *The Criterion*

If you are planning your wedding between Jan. 30 and July 1, or if you were married between July 1, 2016 and Jan. 30, 2017 and did not have your engagement announced in *The Criterion*, we invite you to submit the information for an announcement using the form below or electronically at www.archindy.org/criterion/local/forms3/wedding-form.html.

E-mailed photos

Photos should be saved in jpg format and be at least 500 kb. Color photos are preferred. We recommend to have a photo where the couple's faces are close to each other. Please send your photo as an attachment to the following e-mail: cclark@archindy.org. Subject line: Spring Marriage (Last name). In the e-mail, please include the information in the form located below.

If you are unable to e-mail a photo, you may mail us a photo to scan with the bottom form. Please, no photocopied photos. If you want the photo returned, please include a return addressed envelope with a postage stamp on it.

Deadline

All announcements and photos must be received by 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 10, 2017. (No announcements or photos will be accepted after this date.)

— Use this form to furnish information —

Clip and mail to: BRIDES, *The Criterion*, ATTN: Cindy Clark, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367
Deadline with photos: Friday, February 10, 2017, at 10 a.m.

Please print or type:

Name of Bride (first, middle, last)				Daytime Phone	
Mailing Address		City	State	Zip Code	
Name of Bride's Parents (first, last)					
City		State			
Name of Bridegroom (first, middle, last)					
Name of Bridegroom's Parents (first, last)					
City		State			
Wedding Date		Church	City	State	
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo Enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> Return photo				
<input type="checkbox"/> No Picture	Signature of person furnishing information		Relationship	Daytime Phone	

People fleeing war, traffickers need greater protection, Holy Father says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Victims of human trafficking and migrants smuggled across borders by criminal networks are the weakest of the weak and need increased protection and care, Pope Francis said.

"All those who flee their own country because of war, violence and persecution have the right to find an appropriate welcome and adequate protection in countries that describe themselves [as] civilized," he said.

The pope made his remarks during an audience on Jan. 23 with about 40 representatives from Italy's national anti-mafia and anti-terrorism office.

He thanked them for their difficult and dangerous work, and encouraged them to continue their "extremely essential" efforts in liberating people from criminal associations that are responsible for violence and an abuse of power "stained with human blood." †

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