



The

Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



Emmaus Walk

Christ is always present in our world, writes columnist Debra Tomaselli, page 12.

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'Faith and life became one'



Catholic Youth Organization director Ed Tinder poses for a photo with some of the participants in the Indianapolis North Deanery CYO track meet at Bishop Chatard High School on April 23. Tinder will be retiring in mid-June. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

CYO director nears the finish line after 46 years of serving children and families

By John Shaughnessy

Ed Tinder laughs sheepishly when he sums up his commitment to the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) in the archdiocese by sharing two realities involving his family:

He nearly missed the birth of one of his three children because of a CYO activity.

He also told each of his children to check the CYO calendar before scheduling their wedding date.

The longtime executive director of the CYO also makes this confession:

"I've always, in some strange way, enjoyed those situations when I get to deal with a coach, an official or a parent who's gotten a little out of line because of the emotions that athletics bring," says Tinder, a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis, who has been part of the CYO staff since 1980 and its leader since 1984.

"Why is that? Because it becomes a teachable, coachable moment. Not that I want all hell to break loose out there, but it does happen. And it is an opportunity to talk to them about that experience—and how it relates to the overall purpose of what we're all about."

That combination of passion and purpose has marked the 46 years that Tinder has devoted to serving the children, youths and families of the archdiocese—the first nine years as a teacher and coach at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, followed by his 37 years with the CYO.

As the 68-year-old Tinder prepares to retire on June 16, *The Criterion* talked with him recently about his thoughts on the "tug of war" in youth sports, his advice to parents and coaches, his insights into why the CYO is so important to the archdiocese and the Church, and his joy in leading the organization.

Just as revealing, it was also a conversation in which Tinder quickly turned his thoughts to his wife of 43 years, Kathy. Here is an edited version of that conversation.

Q. You've worked for the archdiocese since 1971. What has led you to devote these 46 years to young people, the archdiocese and the Catholic faith?

A. "I knew halfway through my college years that I wanted to get into teaching and coaching. I don't think I've ever thought of anything else. I've been in Catholic schools

See FAREWELL, page 5

Pope Francis to Egyptians: Let papal visit be sign of friendship and peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Praying that God would protect Egypt from all evil, Pope Francis told the nation's people that



Pope Francis

a world torn apart by indiscriminate violence needs courageous builders of peace, dialogue and justice.

"I hope that this visit will be an embrace of consolation and of encouragement to all Christians in the Middle East; a message of friendship and esteem

to all inhabitants of Egypt and the region; a message of fraternity and reconciliation to all children of Abraham, particularly in the Islamic world," the pope said in a video message broadcast on April 25, ahead of his April 28-29 trip to Cairo.

"I hope that it may also offer a valid contribution to interreligious dialogue with the Islamic world and to ecumenical dialogue with the venerated and beloved Coptic Orthodox Church," he said.

The pope thanked all those who invited him to Egypt, those who were working to make the trip possible and those "who make space for me in your hearts."

He said he was "truly happy to come as a friend, as a messenger of peace and as a pilgrim to the country that gave, more than 2,000 years ago, refuge and hospitality to the Holy Family fleeing from the threats of King Herod."

"Our world, torn by blind violence, which has also afflicted the heart of your dear land, needs peace, love and mercy; it needs workers for peace, free and liberating people, courageous people able to learn from the past to build a future without closing themselves up in prejudices; it needs builders of bridges of peace, dialogue, brotherhood, justice, and humanity," he said.

Honored to visit the land visited by the Holy Family, the pope asked everyone for their prayers as he assured every one of his.

See POPE, page 10

'A cloud of witnesses:' More than 600 women gather for Indiana Catholic Women's Conference

By Victoria Arthur and Natalie Hoefler

Ruby Dlugosz was reluctant to attend the March 25 Indiana Catholic Women's Conference.

"I didn't think there would be many people my age," said the 28-year-old member of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis.

In addition, she was dealing with worry and stress over the upcoming surgery her 4-month-old son Daniel would soon undergo. He was born with cranial scaphocephaly, a condition that occurs when the skull bones fuse prematurely.

Dlugosz decided to attend the conference, held at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown hotel.

"I loved it," she said. "I saw people of all ages, and I ran into several friends I hadn't seen in a while. That was my favorite part—the feeling of community."

She brought Daniel with her. He was a ray of joy, cooing, smiling and fascinated by his mother's rosary.

Dlugosz eyed the prayer beads, too.



Ruby Dlugosz of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis holds a rosary over her 4-month old son, Daniel, during the Indiana Catholic Women's Conference in Indianapolis on March 25. (Photo by Victoria Arthur)

See WOMEN, page 8

Meet our future deacons

On June 24, the third class of permanent deacons for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will be ordained at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. There are 21 men from across central and southern Indiana who will be ordained.

This week's issue of *The Criterion* continues a series of profiles of these men that will run in the weeks leading up to that important day.

To see previous profiles, go to www.archindy.org/deacons. †



Permanent Deacons
Archdiocese of Indianapolis



John Hosier

Age: 60
Wife: Ada
Home Parish: Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, Indianapolis
Occupation: Quality Reliability Engineer



Martin Ignacio

Age: 53
Wife: Avigay
Home Parish: St. Mary Parish, New Albany
Occupation: Occupational Safety and Health Manager

Who are the important role models in your life of faith?

My Grandma Josephine showed me by her actions what it was to be Catholic. My wife Ada is one of the most compassionate people I know. She is a social worker, has her own private practice and works with her clients with charity of her faith.

What are your favorite Scripture verses, saints, prayers and devotions?

My favorite Scripture verses are Mt 20:28: "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve," and Mt 28:20: "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." St. Joseph has taught me what it is to be a husband, father and a man of faith. Venerable Solanus Casey has taught me humility in service. My favorite prayers are the rosary, the Liturgy of the Hours and eucharistic adoration.

Deacons often minister, formally or informally, to others in

the workplace. How have you experienced that already and what do you anticipate doing in the future?

In the workplace, I have people stop me and share their journey of faith. People will also ask me to pray for a sick family member or friend.

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a deacon?

When people asked me why God called me to be a deacon in the Church, I always tell them because I am broken and a sinner.

How will being ordained a deacon have an impact on your life and family?

My family had to adjust to my availability for family functions, and adjust to a husband and dad whose time is not always his to manage. I am very proud of the way my wife and children have adjusted to my role in ministry. †

Who are the important role models in your life of faith?

St. John Paul II and St. Teresa of Calcutta.

What are your favorite Scripture verses, saints, prayers and devotions?

My favorite Scripture verses are John 15:15 and Psalm 86:11. My favorite prayers are the Our Father and the rosary.

Deacons often minister, formally or informally, to others in the workplace. How have you experienced that already and what do you anticipate doing in the future?

I would like to keep encouraging people to go to the Eucharist. I work with a lot of Hispanics who don't frequently go to Mass. I would also love to have an interfaith Bible study. I have talked to a couple of people, and they seemed interested in participating.

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a deacon?

I think God is calling me to serve his

people in the Hispanic community. There is so much to do in this growing community. I think God sees the need to take his people to the sacraments more than anything. There are many couples who live together and aren't married. This is not a good example for their kids.

How will being ordained a deacon have an impact on your life and family?

It has already impacted my life and family by bringing us together. We have more patience and understanding with each other. We spend more time together and enjoy the things our family members like.

How do you hope to serve through your life and ministry as a deacon?

I hope I can help the poor. The poor in spirit can get lost so easily in this world where people have become so materialistic. I hope I can serve in this area and in social justice. †

360-degree images of church interiors being added to archdiocesan website

By Natalie Hoefler

To increase the sense of community among the parishes of the Church in central and southern Indiana, *The Criterion* is beginning to add 360-degree images of the interior of archdiocesan churches to the archdiocesan website.

The images can be viewed from either a computer or a smart phone.

On a computer, viewers can use their mouse to scroll up, down, right and left for a 360-degree look around a church's sanctuary.

When accessed via mobile phone, viewers can use their finger to swipe from side-to-side, tilt their phone up or down, or hold the phone steady and pivot slowly in place to view a church's interior. No special application (app) is required to view the images.

To access the available images by computer or smart phone, log on to www.archindy.org/360, or go to a particular parish under the Parish Listing at www.archindy.org/parishes and look for a link to the 360-degree view.

Images are currently available for the following churches:

- American Martyrs, Scottsburg
- Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
- St. Agnes, Nashville
- St. Ambrose, Seymour
- St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville
- St. Augustine, Jeffersonville

- St. Bartholomew, Columbus
- St. John the Evangelist, Indianapolis
- St. Joseph and St. Paul churches of St. John Paul II Parish, Clark County
- St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis
- SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis
- St. Rita, Indianapolis
- St. Thomas Aquinas, Indianapolis
- St. Mary, New Albany

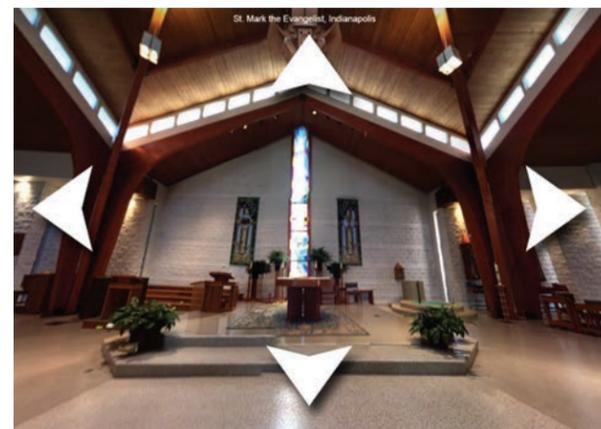
The images, taken by iPhone or iPad, are being added gradually as reporters are on-site at a church covering an event.

With 39 counties and 133 parishes, some with multiple churches, the archdiocese is a broad area to cover. To make sure that all archdiocesan churches in central and southern Indiana are represented, we invite parishioners and parish staff to take their own 360-degree image of their church's interior and send them in.

While we welcome images made from any 360-degree photo application, *The Criterion* staff has been using the iPhone-compatible Bubbli app, which can be downloaded for free from the iPhone App Store (note: as of yet, we have not been able to find such an app for Android phones). Information on size and compatibility requirements can be found when downloading the app.

Once downloaded, a help guide is available with instructions on how to take 360-degree images and tips for excellent outcomes.

Our experience has led us to develop some tips of our own. For instance, make sure that no people are in



the shot, and change to variable exposure for churches with numerous or large windows. Also, be sure that the microphone setting is set to "off."

We also welcome better exposed and aligned retakes of existing images.

Send images to online editor Brandon A. Evans at webmaster@archindy.org.

Keep visiting the archdiocesan website to see if any new images of Catholic church sanctuaries in central and southern Indiana are available for taking a virtual tour.

(Please note that neither *The Criterion* nor the Archdiocese of Indianapolis endorse or provide support for phone applications or the viewing of these images.) †



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Pope to canonize Fatima seers May 13; October date for other saints

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis will declare the sainthood of Blessed Jacinta Marto and Blessed Francisco Marto, two of the shepherd children who saw Mary in Fatima, Portugal, during his visit to the site of the apparitions on May 13.

The date was announced on April 20 during an “ordinary public consistory,” a meeting of the pope, cardinals and promoters of sainthood causes that formally ends the sainthood process.

Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, addressing the assembly noted that of the future saints considered at the consistory, five were children or young teenagers.

“In our time, where young people often become objects of exploitation and commerce, these young people excel as witnesses of truth and freedom, messengers of peace [and] of a new humanity reconciled in love,” the cardinal said.

At the same consistory, the pope set Oct. 15 as the date for the canonizations of two priests and two groups of martyrs, including Blessed Cristobal, Blessed Antonio and Blessed Juan—also known as the “Child Martyrs of Tlaxcala”—who were among the first native converts in Mexico. They were killed between 1527 and 1529 for refusing to renounce the faith and return to their people’s ancient traditions.

Pope Francis will preside over the canonization ceremony of the Fatima

visionaries during his visit to Fatima on May 12-13.

The pilgrimage will mark the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions, which began on May 13, 1917, when 9-year-old Francisco and 7-year-old Jacinta, along with their cousin Lucia dos Santos, reported seeing the Virgin Mary. The apparitions continued once a month until Oct. 13, 1917, and later were declared worthy of belief by the Church.

A year after the apparitions, both of the Marto children became ill during an influenza epidemic that plagued Europe. Francisco died on April 4, 1919, at the age of 10, while Jacinta succumbed to her illness on Feb. 20, 1920, at the age of 9.

Francisco and Jacinta’s cause for canonization was stalled for decades due to a debate on whether non-martyred children have the capacity to understand heroic virtues at a young age. However, in 1979, St. John Paul II allowed their cause to proceed. He declared them venerable in 1989 and beatified them in 2000.

The children’s cousin entered the Carmelites. Sister Lucia died in 2005 at the age of 97. The diocesan phase of her sainthood cause concluded in February and now is under study at the Vatican.

The other canonizations set to take place on Oct. 15 include:

- The “Martyrs of Natal,” Brazil, including: Blessed Andre de Soveral, a Jesuit priest; Blessed Ambrosio Francisco Ferro, a diocesan priest; Blessed Mateus Moreira, a layman; and 27 others. They were killed in 1645 in a wave of anti-Catholic persecution carried out by Dutch Calvinists.



Portuguese shepherd children Lucia dos Santos, center, and her cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, are seen in a file photo taken around the time of the 1917 apparitions of Mary at Fatima. (CNS photo/EPA)

- Blessed Faustino Miguez, a Spanish priest and a member of the Piarist Fathers born in 1831. He started an advanced school for girls at a time when such education was limited almost exclusively to boys.

While he taught a variety of subjects and wrote numerous textbooks, he also honed an interest in botany, which led him to find a cure for a professor so ill

that he was thought to be beyond hope. People then came to him from all parts of the country seeking relief from their sicknesses.

- Blessed Angelo da Aciri, an Italian Capuchin priest who was born Luca Antonio Falcone. A famed preacher, he was known for his defense of the poor. He died in 1739, and was beatified by Pope Leo XII in 1825. †

More than 1,000 students to graduate from Catholic colleges in archdiocese

Criterion staff report

Students, families, friends and educators will join in the celebration as the three Catholic colleges in the archdiocese hold their graduation ceremonies in May.

This year’s ceremonies will also include the commencement of the first class of the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Here is a glimpse of each ceremony.

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology

Fifty-nine students are expected to receive master’s degrees when Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad holds its commencement on May 13.

The ceremony will be at 2 p.m. Central Time in St. Bede Theater on the Saint Meinrad campus. The commencement address will be delivered by Benedictine Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, the 10th abbot of Saint Meinrad and the chair of the school’s board of trustees.

Mass for the graduates and their guests will be at 10:30 a.m. Central Time in the Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in St. Mary-of-the-Woods will celebrate its 181st commencement on May 6 when 100 graduates in its Class of 2017 will receive their associate’s, bachelor’s or master’s degree.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. in the college’s Church of the Immaculate Conception. The commencement ceremony will begin at 1:15 p.m. in the

college’s Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center.

The commencement speaker will be Kristin Fleschner. A Terre Haute native and a graduate of Harvard Law School, she has worked on a broad range of national security and human rights issues for the U.S. government since 2008. She will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

The college will also present its Distinguished Alumnae Award to Carmen Hansen Rivera.

The college will also posthumously honor Morna Shackelford Patrick with the Distinguished Alumnae Award.

Marian University

Marian University in Indianapolis will award 904 degrees at its two commencement ceremonies on May 6 and 7.

On May 6, 770 undergraduate and graduate students will receive bachelor’s and master’s degrees during the university’s 80th commencement ceremony at 10 a.m. at St. Vincent Health Field on the Marian campus.

The commencement speaker will be Dr. Lisa Harris, the chief executive officer of Eskenazi Health. She will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

During the ceremony, William and Jane Drew will receive honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees, and Paul Norman will receive an honorary Doctor of Business degree.

On May 7, the first class—134 students—of the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine will receive doctorate degrees during a 2 p.m. ceremony at the Hilbert Circle Theatre in Indianapolis.

The commencement speaker for the medical school graduation will be John Lechleiter, chairman of the board of directors of



Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, O.S.B.



Dr. Lisa Harris



John Lechleiter

Eli Lilly and Company.

During the ceremony, Jonathan Nalli and Bryan Mills will receive honorary

Doctor of Business degrees, and William and Teresa Eckman will receive honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees. †

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The Criterion

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Editorial



A statue of Mary is carried through the crowd in 2013 at the Marian shrine of Fatima in central Portugal. (CNS photo/Paulo Cunha, EPA)

Centenary of Our Lady of Fatima

On this 100th anniversary of the first appearance of the Blessed Mother to three children at Fatima, Portugal, isn't it time for you to renew your devotion to Our Lady of Fatima or start it for the first time?

Most Catholics believe that Mary has appeared to people at various times in history, and probably continues to do so.

But the "big three," if you will, that have special feast days, commemorate her appearances

at Tepeyac in Mexico as Our Lady of Guadalupe, Lourdes in France and Fatima in Portugal.

The apparitions at Fatima occurred for the first time on May 13, 1917. Lucia dos Santos, 10, her cousin Francisco Marto, 9, and his sister Jacinta, 7, were watching over sheep in the *Cova da Iria* (Cove of Peace) when a beautiful young woman appeared over an oak tree. She told them that she was from heaven and asked them to pray the rosary daily. She also asked them to return to that place on the 13th day of each month for six months.

The children did return on June 13 and July 13, but were unable to do so on Aug. 13 because civil authorities jailed the children when they spoke about the apparitions. No matter. Mary appeared to them on Aug. 19 instead, and then on Sept. 13 and Oct. 13.

The most dramatic of the appearances occurred on Oct. 13, witnessed by an estimated 55,000 people at Fatima—plus 20,000 others as far away as 25 miles. The people were gathered at the cove on a rainy day, but then the sun came out and appeared to be spinning as it grew larger. It appeared to be about to fall on the Earth. Then it stopped, but the people discovered that, though they had been standing in the rain, their clothes were completely dry.

While the people were experiencing the miracle of the sun, the children saw a series of apparitions. First, St. Joseph appeared with the Christ Child. Then Mary appeared dressed in white with a blue mantle. Then she reappeared as Our Lady of Sorrows and then as Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. She told the children that she was "Our Lady of the

Rosary," and asked them to pray the rosary daily.

We don't have to believe in such apparitions, but why not? The children were told things that they wouldn't have known in a small village in Portugal. This was 1917 when World War I was raging, but before the Communist Revolution in Russia during that year. They were told the war would end, but that a worse war would occur while Pope Pius XI was pope. (He was elected in 1922.) They were told that Russia would "spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecution of the Church."

During the apparition on June 13, Mary told Lucia to learn to read and write, but that Francisco and Jacinta would die soon. They did, from influenza, Francisco on April 4, 1919, and Jacinta on Feb. 20, 1920. Both suffered considerably before their deaths, but offered their sufferings for the conversion of sinners. Mary appeared to Jacinta three more times during her illness.

Lucia became a Carmelite nun, known as Sister Maria Lucia of the Immaculate Heart. She died on Feb. 13, 2005, at age 97.

In 1929, Sister Lucia had a vision of the Holy Trinity with Jesus on the cross and Mary at his side. Mary told her that the time had come for the pope, in union with all the bishops, to consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This was finally done on March 25, 1984. Some people insisted that St. John Paul II didn't do it properly, but Sister Lucia twice affirmed that it had been done as Mary requested.

Today there is a magnificent shrine at Fatima. More than 4 million pilgrims visit it every year, especially on May 13 and Oct. 13. Since this is the centenary year of the apparitions, more people are expected.

Pope Francis will be there on May 13, at which time he will canonize Francisco and Jacinta. Popes Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI have all visited the shrine. John Paul visited it three times.

With Pope Francis, let us renew our devotion to God's Mother under the title of Our Lady of Fatima.

—John F. Fink

Reflection/Melinda Fish

Grandkids' insight offers unique perspective of Easter triduum

It was 9:00 Saturday evening, April 15, the time for the Easter Vigil. We weren't at Mass, but rather cruising along a dark and winding country road.



The sky was black, except for the twinkling of the bright stars. My daughter was driving, and I was riding shotgun. Tucked in the back were my husband, my son-in-law and three of my grandchildren.

We had taken a pitch-in supper to the Hickory Creek Horsemen Camp down by Norman, Indiana, to share with my niece and her husband, who were visiting from Michigan. It was the only time we could all get together. One of my sisters and her family were also there.

The adults had hiked in the mild spring weather along a wooded path, trimmed in redbuds and dogwoods. The children had taken turns riding the compliant horses round and round a small trail by the camp. All partook of food made from tried and true family recipes, and there were lots of conversations, catching up and sharing family stories new and old. Now, cocooned in the van, we were all tired and content.

I was feeling a little Catholic guilt about missing the Easter Vigil, but I cherished being with my niece whom I only saw once yearly at the camp. This year, it happened to fall on Easter weekend. I chose to be with her.

Anyway, my husband and I were singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" with the St. Charles Borromeo choir for Easter Sunday Mass, so that had to count for something.

Also, being with Mary, my niece, reminded me of her mother, my dear sister who had passed away. And it also reminded me of those family reunions of long ago—the chatter and laughter of numerous aunts and uncles, cousins and grandparents. I could sense the presence of those long gone relatives. A communion of saints. I was in one of those sentimental and spiritual moods.

All three of the grandchildren attend St. Charles Borromeo School in Bloomington. Public school would be more convenient and lots less expensive,

but we are all committed to a Catholic education for the children.

The silence was broken.

Cora, a first-grader: I'll tell you how it really happened. This is the truth, guys. Jesus came to town with his friends and had a nice supper for everyone. But one friend wanted money. So he told the priests where Jesus was.

Christian, a third-grader: Cora, his friends are disciples and Judas betrayed Jesus.

Cora: Yes, Judas wanted money. How much money did he get?

Christian: Thirty pieces of silver.

Cora: So he took the police to the garden, and they arrested Jesus and took him to jail.

Christian: Wait, Cora, you forgot a really important part. The disciple took out a knife and sliced the man's ear off. He wasn't a policeman. What was he, Grandma?

Grandma: A guard or soldier or maybe a centurion.

Christian: Yes. Anyway, Jesus said don't do that and he picked up the ear and stuck it back on his head and it stayed there, all healed.

Cora: Wow, I didn't know that. Anyway, they pushed thorns in Jesus' head and made him carry the cross and nailed him to it, and he said "I forgive everybody everything," and he died. It was so sad. Did you know that Judas killed himself? He was so sad. But then Jesus rose up again.

Christian: First, the curtain in the holy place ripped from top to bottom. Then he was gone for three days.

Grandma: Where did he go?

Christian: He went to hell and saw all the dead people, and he told them he would open heaven.

Ruby, a preschooler: Listen, this is how it really is, guys. Jesus was dead. Say it. Say it! Jesus was dead.

All: Jesus was dead.

Ruby: Jesus was dead: Say it.

All: Jesus was dead.

Ruby: Jesus is alive, hurrah! Jesus is alive. Hurrah! Say it!

All: Jesus is alive. Hurray!

I didn't think my understanding and appreciation for the triduum could grow any deeper. But it did that night.

(Melinda K. Fish is a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington.) †

Letter to the Editor

Readers offer special 'thank you' to all who assisted with confirmation process

We are writing this letter to thank all those involved with the April 22 confirmation at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in downtown Indianapolis.

The evening involved the Indianapolis parishes of St. Christopher, St. Mark the Evangelist and St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg. The principal celebrant for the Mass was Msgr. William F. Stumpf, archdiocesan administrator, who shared a very moving and reflective homily on the gifts which we receive as a result of confirmation.

He spoke about the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, understanding and of reverence, the importance of all the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lifetime, and how they will help to lay a basis for a sound foundation for making wise decisions on our life's journey.

Our daughter Lillian had prepared with a number of other candidates from St. Christopher with service projects, a retreat, faith formation sessions and guidance from her sponsor.

There was also special music. All in all, the evening was a most special one,

which will be cherished by many for years to come.

Thank you to everyone involved, and also to the folks with the St. Christopher Parish's youth ministry, Father Paul Shikany, our pastor, and to Father Matthew Tucci, our associate pastor.

**Mark and Siming Hummer
Indianapolis**

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are welcome and should be informed, relevant, well-expressed, concise, temperate in tone, courteous and respectful.

The editors reserve the right to select and edit the letters based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content.

Letters must be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld.

Send letters to "Letters to the Editor," The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367.

Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.

FAREWELL

continued from page 1

virtually all my life, with the exception of my four years at Butler. It was a community I was familiar with, the people I've known all my life, and it was just a comfortable environment to be in and work in.

"I've always loved the mission beyond the logistics of teaching a subject and coaching a team. I've just always liked the human connectedness of it all. It was always about the relationships. And working in the Catholic Church, those relationships can be at a much deeper level than a secular environment. So it's been natural for me.

"And I met Kathy while teaching at Roncalli. It's not just been my job. Our whole existence as a married couple has been in the Catholic Church. Faith and life became one. If you added up her years teaching and my years in the archdiocese, it's 89. It's all we've ever known."

Q. What are some of the best parts of leading the CYO for you?

A. "I've probably gotten more joy out of music contests and science fairs. I just love those events. And our camp is one of the most important ministries that we do here. That's not to downgrade any of the others. There is just such a special relationship, again of touching people and having an impact on their lives.

"A lot of people think camp is all fun—horseback riding, archery, canoeing and the high-ropes challenge course. And it is a lot of fun. You meet a lot of new friends there. But everything we do down there is tied to a mission and a purpose. We view camp as a platform to reach kids in a more meaningful way. I'm probably more proud of our camp program than anything we've ever done—because I know the challenge that it has been."

Q. As you look back on the 46 years, what are a few of the specific moments that stand out for you?

A. "I've enjoyed helping people and coaching people. I still think that what I do is teach and coach. You deal with all sorts of circumstances that take place in an athletic, competitive environment. Circumstances where emotions are brought to a level that only athletics can bring them. And sometimes people act in a way that is not normal for them.

"I always say regardless of most circumstances, tremendous good can come of it, depending upon how you handle it, especially in front of young kids. You know, for a coach to say in front of his team, 'I was wrong. I tell you guys to never lose control of your emotions, to stay focused on what you have control over. And I lost control of my emotions. I deeply regret that. I apologize to you. We're all human, but I will do my best that this never happens again.'

"That message in front of those kids sticks with them more than anything that coach can ever imagine."

Q. You have mentioned that there's a "tug of war" in youth sports. Talk about that, and CYO's place in that tug of war.

A. "On one end of that rope is society and what they're taught through the media. It's what we as Americans are brought up to view what athletics are about—college scholarships, professional athletics, individualization, stand out from

the crowd, make a name for yourself. It's about who can do the best at those things.

"We're on the other end of the rope. We're pulling youth athletics to be a developmental opportunity for kids that's so much broader than how much you score, how fast you run, how high you jump. We're pulling it to be a platform of teaching Gospel messages. I know that's kind of scary sometimes to coaches. Our job is to teach that it's not as scary as it sounds—because Gospel messages are very simple. It's how we should lead our lives.

"We're pulling very hard this way. We don't have all-star teams. We don't have most valuable players. Our trophies are very, very modest. I saw—and this is the honest-to-gosh truth—a bunch of third-graders who played in another basketball league, and they won a tournament and they got rings! Third-graders!

"My point being we downplay athletics for athletic development reasons. Don't get me wrong, I firmly believe in keeping score. I believe there's a lot to be learned, regardless of the outcome of the game, when kids know there's something meaningful at stake. So we're pulling on that end of the rope. We never ever are going to pull everybody on our side of the line. But you better never let go of that rope. Because when you do, it plays havoc trying to get it back."

Q. What advice would you give to parents about their relationship with their children when it comes to sports?

A. "Love them. And be concerned and interested in what they're doing. And show passion for what they're doing. There's nothing wrong with that. But be there for them—to guide them through the experiences that athletics naturally bring to the table.

"As a young kid, you're perhaps going to grow up in an environment where you're given everything. And as you go through life, that expectation continues with you. Athletics is going to put you in situations where every one of those experiences is going to be challenged. Maybe you're not going to be the quarterback. You're not going to be the best player. You're going to be a role player. You're going to win some games. You're going to lose some big games.

"Maybe you're not going to like the coach. Maybe you won't like some of the kids on your team. There is going to be an unbelievable number of life experiences. And the coach, for whatever reason, is not always going to be able to shepherd them through those experiences. Every experience—good, bad and in between—they'll need somebody who cares and loves them, and works with them through those experiences to ultimately be better people."

Q. What advice would you give to coaches when it comes to working with the children and the youths they coach?

A. "Coaches worry about what parents think about them, worry about what kids think about them, worry about what they say in certain situations, worry about what play they call. They worry all the time.

"I tell the coaches that we have this huge program, with a tremendous number of teams in all these sports. We have 450 boys' basketball teams. That's a whole lot of coaches. Some of those coaches are going to win games. Some of them are going to lose games. But if your ultimate purpose is to just love those kids and care for those kids, you're going to be a successful coach.



In this file photo, Kathy and Ed Tinder stand by the back door of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis where Ed first showed his romantic interest in her when they both taught at the school. In their 43 years of marriage, the Tinders have dedicated their lives to young people through Ed's leadership of the Catholic Youth Organization and Kathy's longtime career as a teacher.

(File photo by John Shaughnessy)

"I ask coaches, 'Why are you involved in coaching? Go back to your days of playing in CYO. What coaches stand out most in your mind?' Invariably, I can move them to the point where they say, 'That guy was just a neat, enjoyable guy. He'd come up and put his arm around me and say, 'You're all right.' He'd just be an affirming coach who wanted to be there and cared about the kids.'

"Well, if that's the thing that brought you into coaching, don't you want to use those kinds of criteria to measure whether you are a success or not?"

Q. You've been blessed to lead a CYO staff that has made a remarkable commitment to the organization—Bernie Price has worked there for 43 years, Jerry Ross for 34 years, and Kevin and Angi Sullivan, the co-directors of Camp Rancho Framasa, have worked about a combined 60-plus years there. What's it mean to you to lead this team?

A. "If someone can have two families, I have two families. I've just been very fortunate in finding people who recognized the reasons for doing what they're doing. You have to be driven, driven, driven to help people. The activities we have are on evenings and weekends, and you have to be dedicated to this more than a usual job.

"One of the great joys of my life is being surrounded not just by staff, but by the number of board members who to me are some of the best Catholics this community has ever seen. The support of archdiocesan administrators has just been tremendous, too. I've just been so grateful and blessed."

Q. Former Roncalli head football coach Bruce Scifres will be succeeding you as the executive director of the CYO in mid-June. What advice have you given him during this transition time?

A. "I tell him, 'Be yourself.' He has the exact attributes that will help make him be successful in this job. He genuinely likes people. And he has a tremendous, deep passion for helping kids. And that's beyond the football field. That's going to drive him to be successful.

"I told him to have a few goals the first year: Meet as many people as you can. Have conversations with them—because they need to know what you stand for. Also, listen and learn from the staff. And he's very passionate about training coaches in coaching for Christ. I told him to use that passion."

Q. When we began this conversation, the first person you mentioned was

your wife, Kathy. Talk about what her support has meant as you've led the CYO?

A. "This is really kind of a lonely job. You're on an island. That's kind of odd to say when it's such a people program. The decisions you make and having to deal with situations, you need somebody to be on that island with you. You need somebody to be with you through the tough times, and talk you down from the ledge—all the things a spouse is good at.

"I almost missed the birth of one of our children because of CYO. We have three married children, and I told each one of them to make sure you check the CYO calendar before you schedule the wedding. I hate that, but I was always supported at home. And I know she felt the same about her job. She's a person who cares deeply about the kids and her job. And I'm the same way."

Q. How do you view the CYO's role in the archdiocese and the Church—and your role in leading the CYO?

A. "There is no ministry in the Catholic Church where more Catholic families are involved than in CYO. That is a responsibility that is huge. The archbishop and the archdiocesan administration count on us to lead this organization in a way that is a ministry of the Catholic Church.

"I always felt like I was given the keys to an archdiocesan treasure that was so very important. It's been a blessing beyond what I ever imagined. I hope families know I tried to lead it in a way that was meaningful to their kids and to them. I just tried to do the best I could."

Q. What are your retirement plans?

A. "I probably have as many apprehensions going into retirement as I am excited. I'm probably more nervous about it because I'm still driven by relationships and people. These things excite me because I have great joy and passion in what I do. And fulfilling that in retirement, I'm not sure how I'm going to be able to do that.

"And this is maybe a little bit on the egotistical side, but I fear irrelevancy. From the time I graduated college, I was in front of a class, I was in front of a team, I've been in administration. I like the opportunity to share my passion with the audience I'm talking to. That's what I mean by relevancy. I'm a coach. I'm not going to have a team.

"I'm going to have to remain involved with the Catholic community somehow, because it's really been my life. I want to give back in some way, and be involved in some way." †



"We're pulling it to be a platform of teaching Gospel messages. I know that's kind of scary sometimes to coaches. Our job is to teach that it's not as scary as it sounds—because Gospel messages are very simple. It's how we should lead our lives."

—Ed Tinder, longtime director of the archdiocese's Catholic Youth Organization

Events Calendar

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

May 2

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.

Archbishop Edward T. 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.

Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mt. St. Francis. **"Calling Youth to Mission: Equipping Young Disciples" Workshop**, presented by The Center for Ministry Development and New Albany Catholic Youth Ministries, for all parish leaders ministering to adolescents, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., \$54 includes lunch and handouts. Register: goo.gl/jhHvG6. Information: Nancy Flint, 253-853-5422 or nancy@cmdnet.org.

May 3

Ritz Charles, 12156 N. Meridian, Carmel. **St. Augustine Guild 50th Anniversary "Hats Off to Spring" Luncheon and Style Show**, proceeds benefit St. Augustine Home for the Aged and the Little Sisters

of the Poor, 10:30 a.m. silent auction, noon lunch and style show by Siro's Chic Boutique, \$50 per person. Information and reservations: Joanne Dyer, 317-294-1955 or joannedyer@aol.com.

May 5

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral chapel, 1347 N. Meridian St., 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 St., 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. Lawrence Church, 6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis. **First Friday Charismatic Renewal Praise and Mass**, praise and worship 7 p.m., Mass 7:30 p.m. Information:

317-546-7328, mkeyes@indy.rr.com.

May 6

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.

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Shop Inn-spired**, gift shop sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 317-788-7581.

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Church, 7225 Southeastern Ave., Indianapolis. **The Mystery of Marriage**, enrichment day for married and engaged couples sponsored by Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ and St. Jude parishes, Indianapolis, Dr. Tim O'Mally presenting, 12-5 p.m., \$40 per couple, includes lunch. Information: 317-357-1200 or mross@nativity.org. Registration:

www.nativityindy.org/mysteryofmarriage.

May 9

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.

St. Paul Hermitage, 501 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. **Ave Maria Guild**, 12:30 p.m. Information: 317-223-3687, vlgmimi@aol.com.

May 11

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **100th Anniversary of Fatima**, reflection by Father Jeffrey Godecker and Mary Schaffner on "Your Life: Like a Rosary," 3 p.m.; Mass 5 p.m. followed by snack and beverage reception; come to the reflection, Mass or both; events are free, but RSVP is requested in order to provide adequate materials and food. RSVP: 317-545-7681.

May 12

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, school gym, 7575 Holliday Drive E., Indianapolis. **Showing of The Miracle**

at Fatima film, 7 p.m., bring your own seating and refreshments, adults must accompany children junior high age and younger. Information: 317-259-4373.

May 12-14

CYO Camp Rancho Framasa, 2230 Clay Lick Road, Nashville. **Spring Family 3-Day Camp**, Fri. 7 p.m.-Sun. 2 p.m., climbing, canoeing, crafts, archery, evening activities, games, prayer, Mass, campfires, corral horse rides and more, \$50 per child (under 18), \$75 per adult. Information and registration: www.campranchoframasa.org/family-camps, 888-988-2839 ext. 122. †

Sisters to host discussion on Mary, Our Lady of Providence on May 4

The Sisters of Providence will offer a talk on "Woman of So Many Names: Mary, Our Lady of Providence, Queen of the Home" at the Providence Spirituality & Conference Center, 1 Providence Way, at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, from 9:30-11 a.m. and again from 6:30-8 p.m. on May 4.

During the discussion, Providence Sister Jan Craven will facilitate conversations focused on the scriptural references of Mary in the New Testament, the history of Our Lady of Providence and the many names of Mary throughout the centuries to the present. The discussion will lead to the meaning Mary has in participants' lives today.

Sister Jan said scholars do not really know how many names Mary has been given. However, lists have been composed, one of which she is working with for the discussion, which includes more than 350 names.

The title of Mary as Our Lady of Providence will be discussed at length, including its significance to the Sisters of Providence, showing Saint Mother Theodore Guérin's own devotion to Mary. The National Shrine of Our Lady of Providence resides at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

The cost is \$10, and the registration deadline is on May 1.

Registration is available online at Events.SistersofProvidence.org or by calling 812-535-2952 or e-mailing jfrost@spsmw.org. †

Retreats and Programs

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

May 19-21

Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, **Fruits of the Catholic Faith**, Benedictine Brother Simon Herrmann presenting, \$255 single, \$425 double. Information: 812-357-6585 or mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St.,

Indianapolis. **Tobit Marriage Preparation Weekend**, \$298 includes separate room accommodations for couple, meals, snacks and materials. Information, registration: www.archindy.org/fatima/calendar/tobit.html, Marcia Johnson@archindy.org or 317-545-7681, ext. 107.

May 22

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat

House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Silent Self-Guided Day of Reflection**, \$32 includes room for the day, continental breakfast, lunch and use of common areas, additional \$37 extends stay to include the night before or night after day of silence and includes light dinner. Information and registration: 317-545-7681, ext. 107 or www.archindy.org/fatima. †

Stephen Ministry caregiver companion workshop set for May 7 in Carmel

A Stephen Ministry workshop will take place at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 14596 Oak Ridge Road, in Carmel, Ind. (Lafayette Diocese), from 2-6 p.m. on May 7.

Stephen Ministry creates well-trained lay caregivers who provide thoughtful, one-on-one Christian care to people experiencing difficulties in their life.

The workshop consists of three sessions designed to enhance a participant's caregiving skills and to help congregations explore ways to further expand their caring ministry. Attendees will experience a sample of the training Stephen Ministers (lay caregivers) receive, and they will take home practical knowledge

and skills on "Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief" and "How to Care in a Distinctly Christian Way."

The cost of the workshop is \$15 per person or \$50 for a group of four or more people from the same parish.

Participants are asked to register by May 4 so that the appropriate amount of material can be prepared. However, registration is not required, and walk-ins are welcome.

For more information about the workshop or to register, visit www.stephenministry.org/workshop. For questions or to register by phone, contact Stephen Ministries in St. Louis at 314-428-2600 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Central Time. †



St. Patrick's Day with St. John Paul II

Pilgrims from St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford and St. Mary Parish in Mitchell pose with their pastor, Father Richard Eldred, after he celebrated Mass at the altar of the tomb of St. John Paul II at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on March 17. (Submitted photo)

Cenacle of the Marian Movement of Priests set for May 7 at Holy Rosary

The Indiana Regional Cenacle of the Marian Movement of Priests will be held at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., in Indianapolis, starting at 2 p.m. on May 7.

"Cenacle" is a word for the upper room where Jesus' Apostles gathered together in prayer with Mother Mary, and the Holy Spirit powerfully descended upon them. It was during this original Pentecost that the Catholic Church was born. Two thousand years later, Our Lady renews the call to gather together with her in a cenacle of prayer in anticipation of the Holy Spirit.

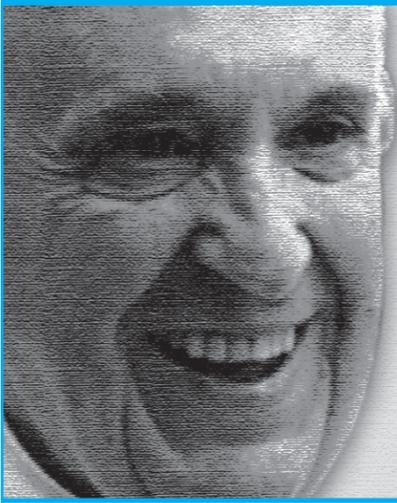
A cenacle of the Marian Movement of Priests consists basically of an invocation to the Holy Spirit, recitation

of the holy rosary, prayers for the Holy Father, reading and meditation on one or more of the messages given in the book *To the Priests, Our Lady's Beloved Sons* by Father Robert Gobbi, Marian Movement of Priests founder, and an act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The cenacle will be led by Father Charles Becker, national representative ("National Responsible") for the Marian Movement of Priests.

All are invited to participate. Bring an appetizer or sweet to share, and bring articles to be blessed.

For more information, contact Marigrace Bailey 317-709-6095 or teambailey@talktotucker.com. †



The Face of Mercy

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

By Daniel Conway

The wonder of our Lord's resurrection, sources of faith, hope

During the Easter season, Christians stand before the empty tomb and wonder at the miracle that occurred here 2,000 years ago. We are amazed by the wondrous love of Jesus who gave himself completely, selflessly, as a ransom for our sins.

"Life has conquered death. Mercy and love have conquered sin! There is need of faith and hope to open this new and wonderful horizon," Pope Francis says. Faith and hope are needed to perceive, even dimly, the depth, breadth and magnificence of what God has done through the man, Jesus of Nazareth, whose words and actions are life itself.

"We know that faith and hope are a gift from God," Pope Francis tells us, "and we have to ask: 'Lord, give me faith, give me hope!' We have so much need!"

We need faith today because we live in an age that is blanketed by skepticism, by doubts about even the most basic truths—the dignity of all persons; the meaning of marriage and family; the most basic rights of all human persons to food, lodging, health care, employment,

freedom of religion and political liberty. We need something (someone) to believe in.

We need to see integrity, justice, compassion and humility in our leaders and institutions. We need to know with the absolute certainty of faith that a good God created us and our world, and that this loving God sustains us, cares for us and calls us to be happy and at peace—now and in the life to come.

We need hope, too, to counteract the darkness and despair all around us. Like the disciples of Jesus before Pentecost, we are a fearful people filled with anxiety. We wonder at the empty tomb, but we certainly don't understand what happened there. We are tempted to hide behind closed doors in the comfort and security of our homes, our parishes and the Church itself. Christ our hope has risen from the dead, but we do not yet see how that fact gives us hope or frees us from the gloom and doom all around us.

Pope Francis urges us to let go of our security blankets, to move out of our comfort zones. "Let us be pervaded by the emotions that resonate in the Easter

sequence," the Holy Father says. "Yes, we are certain: Christ is truly risen. The Lord has risen among us! This truth marked in an indelible way the lives of the Apostles who, after the resurrection, again felt the need to follow their Master and, receiving the Holy Spirit, went without fear to proclaim to all what they had seen with their own eyes and personally experienced." The risen Christ empowers us to break free from the chains of fear, apathy and indifference.

"Christ, my hope, is risen!" Pope Francis exclaims, adding that "if Christ is risen, we can look with new eyes and hearts at every event of our lives, even the most negative." If we are open to the grace of the Holy Spirit and recommit ourselves to following Jesus, we will be set free. Our worst fears and darkest doubts will be overcome by the power of God made manifest in Christ's resurrection from the dead.

"The moments of darkness, of failure, and also of sin can be transformed and announce a new path. When we have reached the base of our misery and our weakness, the risen

Christ gives us the strength to lift ourselves up. If we have faith in him, his grace saves us!" Pope Francis continues, "The crucified and risen Lord is the full revelation of mercy, present and active in history. This is the Easter message that still resonates today, and that will resonate throughout the time of Easter until Pentecost."

If we still have doubts or are still uncertain about what the empty tomb, as a sign of Jesus' resurrection, means for our daily lives, Pope Francis urges us to look to Mary, "the silent witness to the events of the passion and resurrection of Jesus."

"In the broken heart of a mother, there was always the flame of hope. We ask her to also help us to accept in fullness the Easter proclamation of resurrection, to embody it concretely in our daily lives.

"May the Virgin Mary give us the certainty of faith; that it will become a blessing and joy for us and for others, especially for those who suffer because of selfishness and indifference."

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

El rostro de la misericordia/Daniel Conway

La maravilla de la resurrección de Nuestro Señor es fuente de fe y de esperanza

Durante la época de la Pascua, los cristianos contemplamos el sepulcro vacío y nos maravillamos del milagro que ocurrió allí hace 2,000 años. Nos sentimos sobrecogidos ante el asombroso amor de Jesús quien se entregó completa y desinteresadamente a cambio de nuestros pecados.

"La vida ha vencido la muerte. ¡La misericordia y el amor han vencido sobre el pecado! Existe la necesidad de la fe y la esperanza de abrir este nuevo horizonte maravilloso," nos dice el Papa Francisco. Necesitamos fe y esperanza para percibir, aunque sea escasamente, la profundidad, la magnitud y la magnificencia de lo que Dios hizo a través del hombre, Jesús de Nazaret, de cuyas palabras y obras emana vida.

"Y nosotros sabemos que la fe y la esperanza son un don Dios," señala el papa Francisco, "y debemos decirle: 'Señor, dame fe y dame esperanza. ¡Tenemos tanta necesidad!'"

Necesitamos fe hoy en día porque vivimos en una época plagada de escepticismo, en la que se duda incluso de las verdades más elementales, a saber, la dignidad de todas las personas, el significado del matrimonio y la familia, el derecho fundamental de todos los seres humanos de tener acceso a alimento, vivienda, atención médica, empleo,

libertad de culto y política. Necesitamos algo (alguien) en qué creer.

Necesitamos ver integridad, justicia, compasión y humildad en nuestros líderes e instituciones. Necesitamos saber con la plena seguridad de la fe que el mundo y nosotros somos creación de un Dios bueno que nos ama y nos sustenta, nos quiere y nos llama a ser felices y a estar en paz, tanto ahora como en la vida futura.

También necesitamos la fe para contrarrestar la oscuridad y la desesperación que nos rodean. Al igual que los discípulos de Jesús antes de Pentecostés, somos un pueblo temeroso, lleno de ansiedad. Nos maravillamos ante el sepulcro vacío, pero ciertamente no entendemos qué sucedió allí. Nos sentimos tentados a escondernos a puertas cerradas en la comodidad y la seguridad de nuestros hogares, nuestras parroquias y la propia Iglesia. Cristo, nuestra esperanza, ha resucitado de entre los muertos pero todavía no podemos ver cómo ese hecho nos infunde esperanza y nos libera de las tinieblas y el fatalismo de nuestro entorno.

El papa Francisco nos exhorta a que soltemos los salvavidas y abandonemos nuestra comodidad. "Dejémosnos impregnar por las emociones que resuenan en la secuencia de Pascua,"

nos anima el Santo Padre. "Sabemos por tu gracia que estás resucitado, ¡El Señor está resucitado en medio de nosotros! Esta verdad marcó de modo indeleble la vida de los Apóstoles, que después de la resurrección, sintieron una vez más la necesidad de seguir a su Maestro y, recibido el Espíritu Santo, fueron sin miedo a anunciar a cada uno lo que habían visto con sus propios ojos y los que habían experimentado personalmente." Cristo resucitado nos da la fuerza para librarnos de las cadenas del temor, la apatía y la indiferencia.

El papa Francisco exclama: "Resucitó de veras mi amor y mi esperanza" y añade: "Si Cristo ha resucitado, podemos mirar con ojos y con corazón nuevos todo acontecimiento de nuestra vida, también los más negativos." Si estamos abiertos a la gracia del Espíritu Santo y renovamos nuestro compromiso de seguir a Jesús, seremos libres. Superaremos nuestros peores temores y las dudas más oscuras a través del poder de Dios manifestado en la resurrección de Cristo de entre los muertos.

"Los momentos de oscuridad, de fracaso y de pecado pueden transformarse y anunciar un camino nuevo. Cuando hemos tocado el fondo de nuestra miseria y de nuestra debilidad, Cristo resucitado nos da la fuerza para volvernos a levantar.

¡Si tenemos fe en Él, Su gracia nos salvará!" El papa Francisco prosigue: "El Señor crucificado y resucitado es la revelación plena de la misericordia, presente y activa en la historia. He aquí el mensaje pascual que resuena aún hoy y que resonará durante todo el tiempo de Pascua hasta Pentecostés."

Si todavía tenemos dudas en cuanto al significado que tiene en la vida cotidiana el sepulcro vacío, como símbolo de la resurrección de Jesús, el papa Francisco nos exhorta a mirar a María, el "testimonio silencioso de los acontecimientos de la pasión y de la resurrección de Jesús."

"En su corazón roto de madre siempre ha estado la llama de la esperanza. Le pedimos que nos ayude también a nosotros a acoger en plenitud el anuncio pascual de la resurrección, para encarnarlo en lo concreto de nuestra vida cotidiana.

"Que la Virgen María nos otorgue la certeza de fe, para que cada paso sufrido de nuestro camino, iluminado por la luz de la Pascua, sea bendición y alegría para nosotros y para los demás, en especial para los que sufren a causa del egoísmo y de la indiferencia."

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

Faith leads to freedom, not compromise, Pope Francis says at morning Mass

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Christian faith is belief in the concrete work of God and leads to concrete witness and action by believers, Pope Francis said.

The Christian creed details concrete events because "the Word was made flesh, it was not made an idea," the pope said on April 24 during his morning Mass in the chapel of Domus Sanctae Marthae.

"The creed does not say, 'I believe I must do this, that I must do that' or that 'things are made for this reason.' No! They are

concrete things," such as belief in God who made heaven and Earth or believe in Jesus who was born of Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, the pope noted.

Pope Francis reflected on the day's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, which recalled Peter and John's release after they were imprisoned by the Sanhedrin following the miraculous healing of a disabled man.

Noting their courage in the face of persecution, the pope said that their

defiance of the Sanhedrin's order not to preach in the name of Jesus was an example of the concrete nature of faith, "which means speaking the truth openly without compromises."

The "rationalistic mentality" shown by the Sanhedrin, the pope added, did not end with them, and even the Church at times has fallen into the same way of thinking.

"The Church itself, which condemned rationalism, the Enlightenment, many

times fell into a theology of 'you can do this and you can't do that,' " forgetting the freedom that comes from the Holy Spirit and gives believers the gift of frankness and of proclaiming that Jesus is Lord, the pope said.

"May the Lord give us all this Easter spirit of following the path of the Spirit without compromise, without rigidity, with the freedom to proclaim Jesus Christ as he came: in the flesh," Pope Francis said. †

WOMEN

continued from page 1

“I haven’t been praying the rosary as I should,” she admitted. “It occurred to me [during the conference] that I take time to check my phone and my e-mail—why don’t I check in with God?”

So that’s what she did throughout the day as the women prayed the litany of the saints, listened to three speakers whose talks focused on Mary, worshipped at Mass and participated in a eucharistic procession down several blocks in Indianapolis.

Dlugosz realized the opportunity to “draw closer to [God]” through her son’s health issue.

“It was as if God was saying, ‘Come back to me. You can’t cure him; you can’t fix him. You need me.’”

At the end of the conference, Dlugosz’s husband, Michael, joined her in having their son blessed at a healing service by one of the speakers, Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Father James “Jim” Blount, immediately following the conference.

Father Jim was joined by Father Ronan Murphy and author, blogger and Pontifex University professor Dr. Carrie Gress as speakers, while Father Michael Keucher, associate pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, served as the master of ceremonies, concelebrated Mass and led the eucharistic procession.

Reminiscent of the conference’s theme “A Cloud of Witnesses,” more than 600 women gathered for the March 25 conference, which was also the Feast of the Annunciation.

Between that feast and 2017 being the centennial anniversary of the Marian apparitions of Fatima, the topic of the event’s three talks and the homily naturally focused on the Blessed Mother—the foremost of all witnesses.

“The women’s conference helped a lot,” said Dlugosz. “Next year, I am going to get as many people to go [to the conference] as I can. If anyone says, ‘No, I don’t want to,’ I’ll say, ‘That was me last year. You really need to go.’”

Since the surgery, Dlugosz shared some good news—her son’s April 10 surgery was a success.

Each of the talks and the homily are summarized below.

‘Pray the rosary every day.’—Excerpts from the talk of Father Ronan Murphy (Father Murphy, a native of Dublin, Ireland, is chaplain to a Carmelite monastery in the state of New York.)

“On this feast of the Annunciation, we focus on Mary, the new Eve, who gave her *fiat*—her ‘yes’—to almighty God. And in so doing, the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We owe it all to Mary who became his mother. ...

“I remind you that today is a pro-life feast, because this solemnity marked the moment when God himself began

redeeming the unborn child and every single one of us who were once unborn children by becoming one himself. ...

“Remember that this is the centenary of the Fatima apparitions, so a very, very important year. ...

“Do you know how the three children of Fatima described Our Lady when she appeared to them? ‘She was a woman clothed with the sun.’ Just as Mary was the advent for the first coming of Jesus, she is the advent for the second coming of Jesus. That’s why you have an explosion of Marian apparitions all over the Earth, because Mary is preparing for the second coming of her son. ...

“Satan is at war with all of Our Lady’s offspring. And Our Lady has equipped her little ones in order to fight in this great, epic battle. The weapon [she has offered] is none other than the most holy rosary. She has asked for [us to pray the rosary] directly and indirectly time and time again.

“At Fatima, she appeared as Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, and ... in each of her apparitions, she urged us to pray the rosary every day. ...

“The rosary is not just a Marian prayer—it’s a Marian/Christocentric prayer, because anything authentically Marian is authentically Christocentric. It is Mary who leads us to Jesus.

“The rosary is a Bible on a string. It is a catechism on a string. It is so Christocentric. Pope John Paul II said that every time you pray the rosary, you contemplate the face of Jesus Christ in union with Mary. ...

“We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,’ namely, the saints. And do you know what the saints—the holy men and women—held in common? They were prayerful men and women, and many used the rosary to grow to great heights of holiness.

“We have to get back to the family prayer. The rosary has always been a prayer of the family and for the family. ... According to [Fatima seer] Sister Lucia, the final confrontation between God and the devil in these latter times will be over marriage and the family.

“Sometimes I go into schools ... and I ask [the students]: ‘How much time do you spend in prayer with Jesus every day?’ Do you know what the average is? Four minutes. Then I ask, ‘How much time do you spend watching television? On the Internet, especially Facebook? Xbox? Cell phones?’ Average: four hours. Who do you love? Where your heart is, that’s who your god is.

“These things are taking our children away from God, and they can’t distinguish between needs and wants today. ... If you love your children, curtail some of these things in their lives.

“Become a saint. We are called to be saints!”

‘When Marian devotion increases, culture increases.’—Excerpts from the talk of Carrie Gress, Ph.D. (Gress is

Participants rave about Indiana Catholic Women’s Conference

Compiled by Victoria Arthur and Natalie Hoefler

- Ruth Rudoll, St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville: “I came last year, and it was such a great experience I tried to get both of my sisters and my mom to go this year.”
- Betty Young, St. Mary Parish in Greensburg (86, mother of Ruth Rudoll): “I can’t pick one [favorite part] because it’s all been great. I’m so glad I could come.”
- Andrea Rhyant, St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis: “From the first time I came [to the conference], I knew I would come again. It’s just amazing and uplifting. ... [Praying the rosary during the eucharistic procession in Indianapolis] was very powerful, very emotional. It touched me and made me realize that it’s OK to say the rosary by yourself, but as a group it is so much more powerful.”
- Glowingrainbow Woods, St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis: “[The conference] enriches your faith, enriches who we are as Catholics. Every year I come, I learn more about my faith, and it makes me want to go out there and live it. ... It’s almost like a boot camp. ... When you see women from different ethnic backgrounds, different ages, all come together—that is unity. That is the universality of the Church.”
- Monica Thomas, St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus: “It just deepens and strengthens your faith. It makes you fall more in love with Jesus.”
- Claudia Slabaugh, Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood: “Father Ronan Murphy is a dynamic speaker. He really inspired me to say the rosary daily. ... It’s great to have the support of like-minded women and hear dynamic speakers. [The conference] will inspire you if you come.”
- Carol Bruns, St. Nicholas Parish in Ripley County: “Father Ronan made me want to pray the rosary all day long. It was fun watching the people respond [as the rosary was prayed during the eucharistic procession along the streets of Indianapolis]. I was thinking of the blessings that were coming down upon the city of Indianapolis because we were praying for them.”
- Laurell Baker, St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and a senior at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis: “It was beautiful marching out of the [St. John the Evangelist] Church all together as one—that really hit me. I would [recommend this conference to other young women]. I think it’s really good to get involved at a younger age, because then it will make you want to know more and teach it to your kids.”
- Marigrace Bailey, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis: “I love the Catholic Women’s Conference. The procession with the Blessed Sacrament from St. John’s while praying the rosary was so powerful. Taking Jesus to the streets in a world so hungry for real beauty was such a privilege! It was a day of joy, and I am determined to strive to attend daily Mass and pray more rosaries.”
- Stephanie Engelman, St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis: “I spend a lot of time filling the cups of others, and I know that I will suffer burnout if I don’t spend a little time filling my own cup. ... My greatest takeaway was a call to commit more deeply to family prayer. So much depends on it, and it is only by practicing prayer as a family—especially the rosary—that we will raise good, holy children and maintain peace in our homes.” †



Knights of Columbus lead a eucharistic procession in downtown Indianapolis during the Indiana Catholic Women’s Conference on March 25. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)



Father Ronan Murphy talks about the rosary during the Indiana Catholic Women’s Conference in Indianapolis on March 25. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)



Above, Father Ronan Murphy, left; Father Michael Keucher, associate pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood; Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Father James Blount; and Father Patrick Beideman, executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Worship and Evangelization, concelebrate Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis on March 25 during the Indiana Catholic Women’s Conference. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)



Right, Author, blogger and Pontifex University professor Dr. Carrie Gress addresses more than 600 women during the Indiana Catholic Women’s Conference in Indianapolis on March 25. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)



Women hold hands during the Our Father in a packed St. John the Evangelist Church for Mass during the Indiana Catholic Women’s Conference in Indianapolis. (Photo by Victoria Arthur)

the author of numerous books, a blogger at the National Catholic Register and a faculty member at Pontifex University.)

“My second book, *The Marian Option*, has a deadline of May 13—the 100th anniversary of Fatima. I take a look at how Mary has helped us in times of crisis throughout history.

“Vicki Thorn, the founder of Project Rachel, is famous for saying that the definition of women is that we’re practical responders. So it would make sense to say that Mary is the practical responder *par excellence*. She is the one who can respond to any given situation in which we find ourselves.

“I spent a lot of time digging [into the history], and let me tell you, after 2,000 years, there are a lot of books about Mary! ...

“It was one of these graces of the Holy Spirit where I would find one page, and it would lead me to another page, and then this fabric of stories and details about Mary turned into a whole picture of her influence and intercession. I connected some of the apparitions—I used only 15 Church-approved apparitions—and it’s amazing how they all fit together.

“The first thing that I encountered was a fantastic book by Henry Adams, the grandson of President John Quincy Adams and great-grandson of President John Adams. He went to a World’s Fair in Europe, and in his book, *The Education of Henry Adams*, he said he realized that there is nothing more powerful in the world than the Virgin Mary.

“He explains in minute detail just how influential Mary has been in the culture. This is after he has seen cathedrals with incredible stained-glass windows, he has seen cemeteries, and he has the insight to see that Mary has been incredibly influential in Europe. The shocking thing about all this, of course, is that Henry Adams was a Protestant.

“What I was able to see [through Adams’ book] is that when Marian devotion increases, culture increases. There is a direct correlation between them. Marian devotion brings with it culture, because culture is an expression of God’s love for us.

“Of course, Henry Adams isn’t the only one to have noticed Mary’s influence. In 2015, *National Geographic* [published a cover story] calling her ‘The Most Powerful Woman in the World.’ In my book, I talk about philosophy ... I talk about music. ... It’s just amazing how deeply she has influenced these fields and so many thinkers throughout the centuries. ...

“The other piece of the pie was figuring out how effective she has been geopolitically. One of the great stories is the Battle of Lepanto, in 1571, when the Holy League was able to hold back Islam from invading Europe. Spain had been under Islamic occupation for 800 years. Finally, someone had the bright idea to fight a battle under the standard of Mary. And guess what happened? They started winning, and winning, and winning. ...

“Mary was also responsible for giving the world this radical notion that women

have dignity equal to men. It’s really through the Catholic faith and through Mary that [everything] was transformed.”

‘Mary said “yes” to five things.’—Excerpts from homily by Father Michael Keucher (Father Keucher is associate pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood.)

“March 25th is a very important day in the course of our calendar year. ...

“What the Holy Church celebrates today ... is the ‘yes’ of our Blessed Mother. We celebrate one word. It is one word that has echoed down through the centuries and will ever through eternity. Our salvation hinged on that ‘yes’ ...

“In saying ‘yes’ to Jesus, Mary said ‘yes’ to five things: A, B, C, D and E. “ ‘Almighty,’ Mary turned [Eve’s no] around and said ‘yes.’ She said ‘yes’ not just to a baby, she said ‘yes’ to her almighty God, who came knocking on the door of her heart, and she opened it with her fiat. ...

“ ‘Breath of life.’ Mary is pro-life. She said ‘yes’ to the presence of God within her. ... If we could respond to God’s presence, to the breath that he breathes into our ears and our hearts, then not only will our lives change, but our families, our Church, the whole world would be different, just as everything changed with Mary’s fiat. ...

“ ‘Church.’ As Scripture teaches us, the Church is the mystical body of Jesus. It is the living body of Jesus. It’s why we have hospitals, because Jesus healed. It’s why we have schools, because Jesus taught.

It’s why we have food pantries, because he fed. ...

“ ‘Divine will.’ God’s divine will for us must be so sacred that we treasure it more than our next breath. Knowing and putting our full and absolute trust in his will, we give it all to him, and Mary teaches us that, and gives us an important example.

“ ‘The eucharistic Lord.’ On this very day, he came into being, and everything changed. That Eucharist will rest in our own bodies and souls in this very Mass, and we shouldn’t be the same. We give our *fiat* when we say ‘Amen’ to holy Communion as it is lifted in front of us and placed in our hands or in our mouth. He takes up residence in our own lowly bodies. Mother Teresa said, ‘I am Jesus after I receive the Holy Eucharist. He lives his life in me, and he changes everything through me.’ ...

“We pray that we can offer our ‘yes’—our fiat—to all of those [five components], and if we can’t, then we’re not saying ‘yes’ to Jesus.”

‘Enter the heart of Mary.’—Excerpts from the talk of Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Father James Blount (Father James is a national speaker, retreat leader and exorcist.)

“The Holy Spirit told me there were more [things Mary said ‘yes’ to than A-E]. Father forgot F, G, H, I and J!

“When Mary said ‘yes’ on March 25th, what ‘F’ did she say yes to? Faith! ...

Mary lived and walked by faith, especially when she saw her son die in front of her and held his lifeless body in her arms. She alone had faith at that moment. If we want faith we have to enter the heart of Mary. ... Here’s what John Paul said to pray. It’s a short consecration, only three lines. It was written by St. Louis de Montfort. It’s a good summary of our faith, it’s a good consecration. John Paul recommended saying it all during the day: “I am all yours, Lord Jesus, and all that I have is yours, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. ...

“On March 25th, she also said ‘yes’ to the letter ‘G’—godliness. You are called to be women of God. In other words, you’re not women of the world. ... Each one of you mirrors God, and St. John Paul opened this up theologically. He told us that yes indeed, while the man, the husband, the father, the priest, while we mirror the Father, you holy women mirror the Holy Spirit. He is called the comforter. Who is the comforter of the family? You are! ... Let every word you speak be full of grace. ... Your speech can heal. Your speech can convert souls. Your speech can elevate people to a higher dignity. ...

“ ‘H’ is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a spirit of joy! St. Teresa of Avila said, ‘God deliver us from sour-faced saints.’ We need to put a sign over the door of every Catholic church: ‘No grumpy Catholics allowed!’

“Mary also said ‘yes’ to happiness. Where is happiness found? ... Food? TV?

Money? ... There’s something wrong [with our country]. ... We’re worshipping sex, and money and drugs and alcohol. We’re worshipping everything but God. ... You know how you’re in love with God? He’s the one you spend the most time with. If you spend the most time with television, that is your God. If you go to Mass for an hour a week, but you go home and watch TV for five hours every day, then you have made TV your God. ... We learned from Our Lady that happiness only comes from Jesus and falling in love with Jesus. ... The Eucharist will bring you joy. But you have to go up to the Lord hungering. If we go up to [receive] the Lord ablaze, we will leave ablaze. ... When we go up to receive the Lord, we have to recognize who we’re receiving, and we have to receive him with hunger—go to Mass hungry. ...

“ [For the letter ‘I,’] Mary said ‘yes’ to intelligence. She became the wisest woman in history that day. ... The women of God are wise, holy and intelligent. ...

“ ‘J’ is Jesus. ... One of the best prayers you can pray is, ‘I love you, Jesus. Help me love you more.’ Don’t wait until night before you pray—you give the devil 12 hours to attack you! Don’t wait until lunch to pray—it’s too late by then! When you get up in the morning, slay the enemy!”

(Victoria Arthur is a freelance writer and member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg.) †



Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Father James Blount makes a point during the Indiana Catholic Women’s Conference in Indianapolis on March 25. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

POPE

continued from page 1

“Dear Egyptian brothers and sisters, young and elderly, women and men, Muslims and Christians, rich and poor ... I embrace you warmly and ask God almighty to bless you and protect your country from every evil.”

He said it was “with a joyful and grateful heart” that he was heading to Egypt—the “cradle of civilization, gift of the Nile, land of sun and hospitality, where patriarchs and prophets lived,” and where God—benevolent, merciful, and the one and almighty—made his voice heard.

The day the video was released, on April 25, was also the feast day of St. Mark, who evangelized the Egyptian port city of Alexandria, Egypt, before being martyred there.

Pope Francis dedicated his morning Mass to “my brother Tawadros II, patriarch of Alexandria” of the Coptic Orthodox Church, asking that God abundantly “bless our two Churches.”

In Egypt, President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi said Egypt would welcome the pope, and “looks forward to this significant visit to strengthen peace, tolerance and interfaith dialogue as well

as to reject the abhorrent acts of terrorism and extremism.”

Christians in Egypt, Syria and Iraq struggle with mounting pressures from extremists challenging their religious identity and the right to practice their faith and continue to exist in their ancestral homelands.

Pope Francis has urged an end to what he called a “genocide” against Christians in the Middle East, but he also has said it was wrong to equate Islam with violence.

Christians are among the oldest religious communities in the Middle East, but their numbers are dwindling in the face of conflict and persecution. Egypt’s Christian community makes up about 10 percent of the country” 92 million people.

A high point in the pope’s schedule is an international peace conference at Cairo’s al-Azhar University, the world’s highest authority on Sunni Islam, hosted by Sheik Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of the educational institution.

Pope Tawadros and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual head of the Eastern Orthodox Churches, are also expected to participate.

The pope will also meet separately with el-Sissi and other officials. Observers will be watching whether the pope will take on thorny issues with his hosts, such as the detention of thousands of



A woman lights a candle during Mass on April 25 at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Cairo ahead of Pope Francis’ April 28-29 visit. (CNS photo/Mohamed Abd El Ghany, Reuters)

Egyptians, without due process, simply held on suspicion of opposing el-Sissi.

Others will watch to see if Pope Francis prods the Sunni Muslim religious establishment to take a more forceful stand on religious extremism perpetrated in the name of God.

Many hope the al-Azhar meeting will sound a moral wake-up call to leaders worldwide to combat religious intolerance while seeking greater cooperation to fight growing threats by Islamic State and other extremist groups. †

Events to celebrate 100th anniversary of the first Marian apparition in Fatima

Criterion staff report

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the



A traveling replica of the Our Lady of Fatima statue at the shrine in Portugal stands on the altar of St. Paul Church of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg on Aug. 25, 2016, during a national tour of the statue. (File photo by Natalie Hoefler)

Blessed Mother to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, on the 13th day of each month from May through October in 1917.

Popes Benedict and Francis have a strong devotion to Our Lady of Fatima, as did St. John Paul II, who believed it was Our Lady of Fatima who saved his life during a close-range assassination attempt on May 13, 1981. In June 2000, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith declared Fatima to be “undoubtedly the most prophetic of modern apparitions.”

Several events in the archdiocese commemorating the first of the Fatima apparitions 100 years ago have been reported to *The Criterion*. They are as follows:

• May 11: Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, will offer two events.

At 3 p.m., retired Father Jeffrey Godecker and Mary Schaffner, Fatima Retreat House associate director of spirituality ministries, will offer a reflection on “Your Life: Like a Rosary.”

At 5 p.m., Mass will be celebrated in the retreat house’s Our Lady Chapel,

followed by a reception with snacks and beverages.

All are invited to come to the reflection, Mass or both. The events are free, but an RSVP is requested in order to provide adequate materials and food. To RSVP, call 317-545-7681.

• May 12: St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, 7575 Holliday Dr. E., in Indianapolis, will show the family film *The Miracle at Fatima* in the school gym at 7 p.m. Bring your own seating and refreshments. Adults must accompany children junior high age and younger. For more information, call the parish office at 317-259-4373.

• May 13: St. Joseph Parish, 312 E. High St., in Corydon, will host Dr. Rick E. Ginter speaking on “The Message of Fatima and the Victory Rosary of a New Evangelization” from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Ginter, a theologian, author and speaker, will discuss why the message of Fatima matters more than ever, and will share the most engaging way to pray the rosary.

A light lunch will be provided. The event is free, but goodwill offerings will be accepted. Registration is required by May 9.

To register, call 812-738-2742 or e-mail parish.office@catholic-community.org.

• May 13: St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, 7575 Holliday Dr. E., Indianapolis, will offer Mass at 8:15 a.m., followed by breakfast around 9 a.m., during which *Criterion* assistant editor and author John Shaughnessy will speak on “Unlikely Encounters and Unexpected Graces.” While the breakfast, which will be in the Father Courtney Room off the narthex, is free, those wishing to attend are asked to call the parish office at 317-259-4373 to RSVP. From 10:15-11 a.m., there will be the recitation of the rosary and other Marian prayers, and a procession of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima. For more information, call the parish office at 317-259-4373.

If your parish is hosting any events from June-October commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions, details can be submitted either online by using the events submission form found at www.archindy.org under “Newspaper” then “Send Us Information,” or by calling 317-236-1585. †

Pope pays tribute to modern martyrs, calls for witnesses of God’s love

ROME (CNS)—The Christian church today needs believers who witness each day to the power of God’s love, but it also needs the heroic witness of those who stand up to hatred even when it means giving up their lives, Pope Francis said.

At Rome’s Basilica of St. Bartholomew, a shrine to modern martyrs, Pope Francis presided over an evening prayer service on April 22, honoring Christians killed under Nazism, communism, dictatorships and terrorism.

“These teach us that with the force of love and with meekness one can fight arrogance, violence and war, and that with patience peace is possible,” the pope said in his homily in the small basilica on

Rome’s Tiber Island.

“So many Christian communities are the object of persecution today! Why? Because of the hatred of the spirit of this world,” the pope said. Jesus has “rescued us from the power of this world, from the power of the devil,” who hates Jesus’ saving power and “creates the persecution, which from the time of Jesus and the early Church continues up to our day.”

“What does the Church need today?” the pope asked. “Martyrs and witnesses, those everyday saints, those saints of an ordinary life lived with coherence. But it also needs those who have the courage to accept the grace of being witnesses to the end, to the point of death.” †

Msgr. Lawrence Moran to celebrate his 90th birthday on May 8

Msgr. Lawrence Moran will be celebrating his 90th birthday on May 8. He graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes School in Indianapolis, and attended Saint Meinrad Seminary.



Msgr. Lawrence Moran

He served at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis, the former St. Ann Parish in Terre Haute, St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, and

the former St. Andrew Parish in Richmond. He then was assigned to Rockville and helped construct the new St. Joseph Church there. He was later administrator at the former Immaculate Conception Parish in Montezuma, then named pastor of St. Patrick Parish for 20 years in Terre Haute. Msgr. Moran also served as administrator of the former Holy Rosary Parish in Seelyville.

He still resides in Terre Haute and well-wishes would be appreciated, and can be sent to: Msgr. Lawrence Moran, P.O. Box 10099, Terre Haute, IN 47801. †

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Report sexual misconduct now

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct by a person ministering on behalf of the Church, or if you know of anyone who has been a victim of such misconduct, please contact the archdiocesan victim assistance coordinator:

Carla Hill, Archdiocese of Indianapolis,
P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-1410
317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548
chill@archindy.org

Recent popes have viewed care for creation as moral issue

By Effie Caldarola

You need look no further than the rising sea waters threatening Miami or the erosion of coastal Alaska, where entire villages must be relocated in a state that's becoming a bellwether for climate change.

Or study our polluted oceans, where our love affair with one-use plastic desecrates the sea, or feel the incrementally hotter temperatures assailing us each decade.

It doesn't take much to conclude that climate change and environmental degradation are here.

If you have any doubts that climate change and care for God's creation are moral concerns for the Church, you need only study what our three most recent popes have said on the issue.

Then, read the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) statements. And see the activism of Catholic Climate Covenant that was formed in 2006—inspired by a 2001 USCCB statement on climate change—and that is supported by 16 national partners, including the USCCB, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities USA, the Catholic Health Association and congregations of religious men and women, among others.

Pope Francis is our first pope to devote an entire encyclical to the environment. "*Laudato Si'*, On Care of Our Common Home," was published in 2015, and in it the pope relies on well-documented scientific studies and Catholic teaching, moral arguments and the statements of his predecessors.

In his 1990 World Day of Peace message, St. John Paul II said the environment must be a moral priority of the Church, warning that a lack of due respect for nature threatened world peace.

Pope Benedict XVI famously installed large solar panels at the Vatican, and the Vatican daily newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, said at the time that "the gradual exhaustion of the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect have reached critical dimensions."

Papal interest in social problems was made clear in the late 19th century by Pope Leo XIII. He took on the volatile issues of his day, defending the rights of workers and labor unions in his 1891 encyclical, "*Rerum Novarum*," the template for Catholic social justice.

As Jesuit Father James Martin reminded us in a 2015 article in *America* magazine, an encyclical carries great authority in the Church—only below the teaching of an ecumenical council or the Gospels themselves.

Pope Francis quotes St. Francis of Assisi's 13th-century poem, "Canticle of the Creatures," in the opening lines of "*Laudato Si'*." Beyond this great saint of nature, care of creation can be traced to Jesus and beyond him to Genesis.

This is a Catholic issue.

In his article, Father Martin helped explain the lengthy encyclical in 10 main takeaways. One thing Pope Francis has done, Father Martin says, is bring faith into the international dialogue on the issue.

Pope Francis brings home another message, Father Martin explains, that environmental destruction has a disproportionate effect on the poor. The wealthy exploit resources from the poor, who cannot defend themselves from the ravages of climate change.

Why, Father Martin says the pope asks, are so many of the wealthy turning away from the poor? This is a grave moral question of our time.

The U.S. bishops have been vocal on climate change. In 2001, the bishops wrote "Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good."

"Action to mitigate global climate change must be built upon a foundation of social and economic justice," they wrote.

In their document, the bishops stated, "We especially want to focus on the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests."

Again, we hear the Catholic plea to listen to the poor rather than powerful



Members of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Palo Alto, Calif., pose next to solar panels to draw attention to the launch of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on the environment, "*Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home." Since the release of the encyclical, dioceses, parishes, universities and communities all over the world have been striving to implement Pope Francis' appeal.

(CNS photo/courtesy St. Thomas Aquinas Parish)

interest groups and lobbyists that so often dominate politics today. But, we ask, who is listening to the cry of the poor?

After the March 28, 2017, executive order in which President Donald Trump effectively dismantled the federal Clean Power Plan, the chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development criticized the decision.

"The USCCB, in unity with Pope Francis, strongly supports environmental stewardship and has called consistently for 'our own country to curtail carbon emissions,'" said Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., in response to the order.

"This executive order places a number of environmental protections in jeopardy and moves the U.S. away from a national carbon standard, all without adopting a sufficient plan for ensuring proper care for people and creation."

What can an individual do?

Pope Francis tells us this is a personal, moral issue of connectedness between us and God's creation.

We must examine our own greed, our personal connection and concern for the poor. What is our role in what the pope calls a "throwaway culture"? Do our cars and driving habits consider fuel efficiency? Are we wasteful, recreational shoppers? Do we turn our thermostats down and examine our use of non-renewal items like plastic utensils and packaging?

Can we become activists and write our elected representatives? Join the Catholic Climate Covenant?

Pope Francis has given us a strong mandate: On climate change, "there is therefore a clear, definitive and urgent ethical imperative to act."

(Effie Caldarola is a freelance writer and a columnist for Catholic News Service.) †

The Church's teaching on environmental care is rooted in Scripture

By Nancy de Flon

Concern for the environment now occupies a prominent place in Catholic teaching. Pope Benedict XVI spoke out frequently about our need to care for the Earth, and Pope Francis, in his 2015 encyclical "*Laudato Si'*, On Care for Our Common Home" and elsewhere, emphasizes creation care as an integral part of Catholic teaching along with other social justice and life issues.

But environmental concern is not exclusively a recent issue. Its basis can be found in the Bible.

Psalm 104 is a lengthy hymn of praise to God as Creator: "How varied are your works, Lord! ... The Earth is full of your creatures" (Ps 104:24). Best known for its reference to God's Spirit renewing the face of the Earth, this psalm praises God for holding the world and all its creatures in existence, providing water to drink and "food in due time" (Ps 104:27).

Some of the loveliest references to the beauty of creation are those that depict the natural world worshipping God with human gestures. "Let the rivers clap their hands, the mountains shout with them for joy" (Ps 98:8), and "let all the trees of the forest rejoice before the Lord who comes" (Ps 96:12). Some of these passages, referring to the Lord's coming, appear in our Advent liturgies.

Nature is also used to personify God's attributes. In Psalm 61:5, the psalmist wants to "take refuge in the shelter of your wings," thus emphasizing God's protectiveness. Psalm 144:1 extols God as a reliable source of strength: "Blessed be the Lord, my rock."

Psalm 148 and the great canticle in the Book of Daniel call upon angels and humans as well as the natural world to praise the Lord: "Angels ... mountains and all hills ... animals wild and tame ... all peoples ... let them all praise the Lord's name" (Ps 148:2, 9-11, 13). This has important implications for our stewardship of the Earth's resources.

The creation account in the first chapter of Genesis repeats the refrain, "God saw that it was good." God delights in his work and invites humans to enjoy it and care for it, giving us not "domination" but "dominion" over the rest of creation (Gen 1:26).

The original Hebrew word suggests stewardship, not power. Genesis 2:15, similarly, says that God "took [Adam] and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it."

In Leviticus, God enjoins the people to observe a sabbath for the land, letting it lie fallow every seven years (Lv 25:4). This is not ritual for its own sake: Giving the land a rest will increase its future fertility.



A fish is seen in a light show illuminating the facade and dome of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on Dec. 8, 2015, with the intent to raise awareness about climate change. The Church's approach to environmental concerns flows from biblical teaching. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

In the Old Testament, God frequently says he desires mercy and justice, not burnt offerings of animals. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews echoes this by pointing out how Jesus, as high priest offering himself as victim, did away with animal sacrifices.

Just think: When we admire the beauty of fall foliage or the majesty of a mountain, when we recycle, when

we contact government representatives about environmental legislation, we are participating in something whose roots lie thousands of years back in our Jewish and Christian traditions!

(Nancy De Flon is an editor at Paulist Press and the author of *The Joy of Praying the Psalms*.) †

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Jim Fleming taught me biblical geography at Tantur

Last week, I wrote about the three months I spent studying in Jerusalem in 1997 at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute.



Now I'd like to tell you about some impressive people who were on the staff there.

Jim Fleming taught biblical geography and took our class to places that most tourists or pilgrims never get to visit.

He taught in a room equipped with several large maps, one with lights marking various places in the Holy Land and another showing various elevations.

Fleming was a master at using this equipment. A short, slight man with curly orange hair and an orange beard, he used a green board and a long pointer to show things on maps, slides, lights, etc., to get his points across.

Our "notebook" for his course consisted of a large package that contained maps and site diagrams of all the places we would be going, along with

Bible readings that pertained to those places. There were 24 maps altogether and 40 site diagrams. Two of the maps were touring maps, one for the north and one for the south of Israel, each one three feet long, which made the whole map six feet in depth. It was a tremendously impressive "notebook."

Fleming was an archaeologist who organized a dig in the Holy Land some years before that unearthed a lot of pottery in which they found jewelry and an Old Testament scroll predating the Dead Sea Scrolls. It is now in a special exhibit in the Israeli Museum.

We went to his dig, where we saw 11 tombs from about 500 B.C. Fleming pointed out that they had basically the same floor plan as the homes we had seen when we went to the ruins of the ancient city of Arad, i.e., four areas for storage, animals, cooking and sleeping. The tombs were set up literally as homes for the dead.

Fleming also created the Biblical Resources Scripture Garden on Tantur's property. It consisted of archaeological replicas of objects from daily life in the

time of the Bible. There were 21 of them, running from a threshing floor to a Jewish altar as described in the Bible, goathair tents, tombs, a watchtower, sheepfold, and Roman crosses.

Whenever we went on tours, other guides always deferred to him because he was so much more knowledgeable. In 2013, when I was back in the Holy Land with some members of my family for a quick two days, our tour guide quoted Fleming extensively. When I told her that he had been my teacher at Tantur, she was impressed.

After I was there in 1997, Fleming expanded his scripture garden. Then, in 2006, he moved it to LaGrange, Ga., calling it Explorations in Antiquity. It is now called the Biblical History Center. It's a museum with numerous exhibits showing what life was like in biblical times, complete with artifacts from the Israeli Antiquities Authority.

My name has always been among the 15,000 names in its database, and I receive its biannual newsletter. Fleming seems to look as he did 20 years ago, complete with his orange beard. †

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

Great dignity is found in the work of parents and all who labor

My life changed forever 15 years ago on May 1, 2002. On that day, Michael, our oldest child, was born.



He came into this world on the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, which the Church will again celebrate in a few days. That's the reason that his mother, Cindy, and I gave him Joseph as his middle name.

It's fitting that our first child was born on this feast, because we've been working ever since, especially as Michael's four brothers have come along.

There may be some humor in this, but I say it in all seriousness, too.

The feast of St. Joseph the Worker is a way the Church reminds us that the honest work that we take up as humans is an expression of our inherent dignity as children of God.

St. Joseph served God quite literally in his carpentry work and in the care he gave to Mary and Jesus. Our Lord himself followed in his foster father's footsteps, taking up the tools of the trade and working with his hands much like many of us still do today.

It makes no difference to God what work we do, so long as it's honest. One person might work as a doctor, saving people's lives, or as a business owner, providing jobs that let scores of people support their families.

Others might push a broom in a warehouse or clean hotel rooms.

This world says there is a great difference in these occupations. It gives great prestige to the former, and often ignores the latter.

If that's the case with these breadwinning jobs, how much more is it the truth for parents who do the hidden work, day and night, of caring for children for years on end—changing diapers, making meals, washing clothes, giving hugs in sad times, cheers in happier ones and discipline when it's needed?

Our short-sighted utilitarian culture judges the worth of a person's work primarily on the immediate material value that he or she produces, or the direct impact that he or she can have on individual lives or on the broader society. That's certainly not seen by the world in manual workers, let alone parents.

Even in our own eyes, we might be disappointed with the work we end up doing, both in our career and as parents. It might not match up to the dreams we had for ourselves in our younger years.

But whatever path we've taken in the interim and whatever tasks, however menial, we might be asked to do now, God has allowed them to come about through his providence and is using them to draw us and others to himself.

This is especially the case with the work of parents and the tasks they do with their children. The chores that are daily done in a home are about as humble as you can get.

But they're needed so that each member of the family can flourish as God intended them. And when approached from the perspective of faith and with the help of God's grace, they become daily moments when we can grow in love for each other and for God.

It's clear that we need to turn often to prayer for ourselves and each other to live out this divine vision for work in our families and in the world more generally.

Pray for help often to St. Joseph, the patron saint of workers and a man who knew well the constant demands of parenting. If you haven't turned to him for his intercession in this way, perhaps begin making a habit of it on the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. †

Cornucopia/Cynthia Dewes

Every day brings new stories to help us live our lives

It seems to me that life is a succession of anecdotes. Some are amusing, some instructional and some downright scary.



It's hard to be bored when every new day brings such stories to enlighten us.

They aren't all enormous or important, either. On a recent visit to a doctor, I experienced such an event. When the doctor entered the consultation

room, he was trailed by a big golden retriever, which promptly sat down in the corner and looked sympathetic. Now, what nervous patient wouldn't be soothed by the presence of a non-judgmental doggie? I thought it very clever of the doctor.

Then there are other people's stories. My sister-in-law had bad hips and walked with two canes. Her husband was confined to a wheelchair because of polio, but he was so proud he refused to get a handicapped sticker for their car.

One day during the height of the Christmas shopping season, Betty gave up and parked in a handicapped spot at the store. She was given a ticket and went

to court on the appointed day. When her name was called, she rose and started to hobble down the aisle. The judge looked up and said, "Case dismissed." Now, that's justice, not to mention common sense.

Of course, children furnish us with many of our best anecdotes. Our son Andy gave us lots of good stories. Because he was mentally disabled and acted "funny," some new kids on the school bus one day were tormenting him. Immediately, one of the neighbor children grabbed the culprit and said, "Stop that! Don't you know that's Andy?" To her, it was self-evident that Andy was off limits.

We were lucky enough to live in a time and neighborhood which was safe for kids. Everyone knew their neighbors, so the kids roamed about at will. Somehow, one day Andy escaped the notice of his siblings and wandered into a house on the next block.

The family's kids were watching TV while their mom cooked dinner. Andy sat down with them, but when the mother noticed the intruder she asked her children who he was. "Oh, that's Andy," they said, and soon one of his brothers appeared to take him home.

as I accelerated, that I'd made the wrong choice.

I'm here, Christ seemed to say. I'm in your world. Can you see me now?

Once, when I was at the hospital on a particularly scary and lonely day, I noticed a laundry worker in the hallway, pushing her cart. She paused to ask if I needed anything. Since the room was chilly, I asked for a blanket. As we spoke, I had the feeling that I'd known her all my life. Her presence was such a comfort. This stranger offered understanding and compassion just when I needed it most.

I'm here, Christ seemed to say. I'm in your world. Can you see me now?

During a difficult struggle in my life, I suddenly decided to hurry to a weekday Mass. It was like something was calling me to be there.

During the consecration, even though I was alone in the pew, I felt a presence surrounding me. It was like somebody was standing with me. It was undeniable. It was unmistakable. I left that Mass humming, feeling strengthened and peaceful.

I'm here, Christ seemed to say. I'm in your world. Can you see me now?

Among our friends and neighbors was a German couple who'd been brought to the U.S. by the Quakers after World War II. Fred had been an unwilling member of the German army who served in Italy and later helped the Allies as an interpreter. His wife had been virtually imprisoned by the Russians in northern Germany until she and her little boy ran away to the west.

Another child had already died during this horror, but Ruth and Thomas managed to reunite with Fred, and they spent a year with a farm family in the west. Fred, a real survivor, made apple jack from the farmer's apples and supported the whole household. After they came here, Fred had a good job and later went to law school to become an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board.

If we're paying attention, we can get a lot out of life's anecdotes. Every day, God provides us free of charge with a new insight or idea or suggestion as to what we might do next. It can make every new day a challenge and a delight. Like children, we should ask God, "Please tell us a story."

(Cynthia Dewes, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †

Emmaus Walk/Debra Tomaselli

'Can you see me now?' Christ is always in our world

It always amazes me that the disciples didn't recognize the risen Christ.



Mary thought he was the gardener. Thomas couldn't believe the other Apostles really saw him alive. The disciples walking on the road to Emmaus thought he was some stranger that joined them along the way.

How could they not know? How could they miss it?

And it makes me wonder: How many times have I not recognized the presence of Christ in my world?

I was driving home from the downtown dentist when I saw her. The girl in the yellow shorts was sitting under the overpass, alongside shabby housing projects. She had her knees pulled up under her chin and was staring at the ground.

Something urged me to help her, but I didn't know what to do. At least I could have rolled my window down and offered an encouraging word. But when the light turned green, I drove away. I knew, even

When Mary thought he was the gardener, and she asked where they put the Lord's body, Jesus calls her name. "Mary!" (Jn 20:16) And with that, she recognizes him.

When Thomas tells the disciples that he needs to put his hands into Christ's wounds to believe it is him, Jesus appears at the next gathering and invites Thomas to "see and believe" (Jn 20:27).

The disciples walking to Emmaus realized their "hearts were burning" (Lk 24:32) during their discussion with the stranger, and they recognized him at the end of the journey, in the breaking of the bread.

Like the disciples, whatever is happening in your life, you can believe Christ is there. In the depths of grief, in your everyday responsibilities, in the trials of health . . . he is there.

He is calling your name. He is inviting you to see and believe. He is speaking to you through his holy word.

I'm here, Christ says. I'm in your world. Can you see me now?

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

Third Sunday of Easter/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, April 30, 2017

- Acts 2:14, 22-33
- 1 Peter 1:17-21
- Luke 24:13-35

As is usual for weekends of the Easter season, the Acts of the Apostles provides the first reading for the Liturgy of the Word.



This reading recalls an event similar to several others in Acts. St. Peter preaches in the name of all the Apostles. His remarks, or at least those recorded in this passage, are brief and crisp.

The term used by biblical scholars is that Peter's message was kerygmatic, drawing from *kerygma*, the Greek word for "message." It means that Peter's words contained the basic information about Jesus and about God's plan of salvation.

Despite the small number of Christians at the time, and in spite of the facts that the Jewish culture and the effects of Roman domination were overwhelming, the Apostles still were determined to speak aloud about Jesus.

Their determination revealed their trust and faith in Jesus as Savior and Son of God. The world desperately needed and still needs Jesus. Only Jesus can fulfill what the world needs. Remembering last weekend's first reading that described both the early Church's love for the Lord and its outreach to the troubled and needy, this reading shows that the first followers of Christ saw informing others about the Redeemer as a loving service.

Note also, here, as elsewhere in Acts, even though the other Apostles were present, Peter—and Peter alone—spoke on their behalf.

The First Epistle of St. Peter supplies the next reading. Scholars debate the authorship of this epistle. Was Peter the author? Or was someone writing in Peter's name the author, or was the author presenting ideas that had come from Peter?

In any case, the reading shows how totally committed to Jesus the Savior the early Christians were, and how aware they were that salvation had come through the Lord's death and resurrection.

The last reading, from St. Luke's Gospel is the powerful and lovely story of the risen Lord's walk to Emmaus with two disciples. The Emmaus narrative appears only in Luke. It is one of the most renowned and beloved passages in the New Testament.

Important in its message is the fact that, regardless of their devotion to Jesus, the disciples still do not understand everything. They are limited human beings, bewildered by the events of the Lord's death and resurrection. They need Jesus to help them understand the deep meaning and purpose of all that they had seen.

Jesus meets this need. He teaches them and is with them. Finally, as they celebrate the meal with its eucharistic overtones, Jesus is the central figure presiding as they "break the bread." After hearing the Lord's explanation of events and encountering Jesus, they join in a holy meal. The connection with the Eucharist is too strong to overlook.

Reflection

Beginning with the Scripture readings for Easter itself, and continuing this weekend, the Church expresses to us forcefully and clearly its unflinching belief that the Lord Jesus rose to new life after his crucifixion and death.

With equal vigor and equally strong faith, it also insists to us that Jesus did not rise and then disappear. Instead, the Lord was with the Apostles, showing to Thomas his wounds and blessing those who believe. He was alive, present, and still teaching during the journey to Emmaus. The Eucharist at Emmaus was the culmination of the two disciples' time with Jesus.

The use of the technique of *kerygma* gives us the basic facts of the Lord's identity and mission. The experience of the Apostles shows us that they encountered the risen Christ. We turn to them to know Jesus ourselves.

Knowing Jesus is more than possessing data. It confronts us with the obligation to follow Jesus if we know him.

We extend Christ to those whom we meet by our discipleship. †

Daily Readings

Monday, May 1

St. Joseph the Worker
Acts 6:8-15
Psalm 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30
John 6:22-29

Tuesday, May 2

St. Athanasius, bishop and doctor of the Church
Acts 7:51-8:1a
Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6-7b, 8a, 17, 21ab
John 6:30-35

Wednesday, May 3

St. Philip, Apostle
St. James, Apostle
1 Corinthians 15:1-8
Psalm 19:2-5
John 14:6-14

Thursday, May 4

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 66:8-9, 16-17, 20
John 6:44-51

Friday, May 5

Acts 9:1-20
Psalm 117:1-2
John 6:52-59

Saturday, May 6

Acts 9:31-42
Psalm 116:12-17
John 6:60-69

Sunday, May 7

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 23:1-6
1 Peter 2:20b-25
John 10:1-10

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

The title for priests of 'monsignor' given by the pope is purely honorary

Could you explain for me the difference (if any) between a priest and monsignor? Under what circumstances is a priest given the title of monsignor? (Virginia)



A "Monsignor" is a title bestowed on a priest who has distinguished himself by exceptional service or, at least in the past, who has been asked to take on an office of particular responsibility in the Church. It is a title

granted by the pope—typically, upon the recommendation of the priest's diocesan bishop. It is a purely honorary title and does not give his priestly life and ministry a dignity above that of an ordinary priest.

In January 2014, Pope Francis instructed the bishops of the world that diocesan priests would no longer be awarded the title before reaching the age of 65. No reasons were published for his decision, but Pope Francis has often cautioned priests against careerism and personal ambition.

He seems to have long felt uncomfortable about ecclesiastical titles; when he was a bishop and later a cardinal in Argentina, Pope Francis always asked people to call him "Father." And notably, while he served as archbishop of Buenos Aires (1998-2013), not once did he petition the Holy See to have one of his priests named a monsignor.

When I was growing up, we celebrated Passion Sunday, and the statues in church were covered with purple cloths. Then, a week later, it was Palm Sunday, and we received the blessed palms.

The following weekend, we celebrated Easter. But for several years now, our parish has marked Passion Sunday, and Palm Sunday on the same day, one week before Easter—and the statues are no longer covered.

So my question is this: When did these two Sundays become one, and why? (Indiana)

You are correct that, up until 1969, the Church celebrated "Passion Sunday" two weeks before Easter. A Passion narrative was read as the Gospel passage for that day, and the Church began to turn its focus to the sufferings of Jesus.

Since 1969, when the Vatican published new liturgical norms and the three-year cycle of Scripture readings for Mass, this particular Sunday has been called "the Fifth Sunday of Lent," and the Gospel readings used in antiquity have been restored. (This year, 2017, the Gospel passage told of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.)

The purpose of the change, as I understand it, was, at least in part, to be able to devote the first five weeks of Lent, as it was in the Church's early history, to the preparation of catechumens for entrance into the Church at Easter.

One vestige of the former calendar remains: Beginning on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the practice of covering crosses and images in a church is permitted. (Note that it is "permitted," not mandated; discretion is given to the local pastor.)

Images (statues of saints, for example) are uncovered after the start of the Easter Vigil; crosses are unveiled on Good Friday, when the faithful are invited to venerate the cross.

The reason most commonly offered for the veiling is that they represent a sort of "fasting" from the sacred depiction of what ultimately led to the glory of our salvation.

(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

Magdalen's Sonnet

By Larisa Tuttle

What blackness sways before my teary eyes?
What madness do I taste in my own grief?
Why was the heav'nly time a day so brief?
How quick I fell from mirth to wailing sighs.
Thou not the one who bid me "Daughter Rise?"
From seven spirit's claws gave me relief?
For once my heart beat love and true belief,
The whip and men and tree made thy demise.

While walking, thinking pain could grow
no more,
I stumble as I gasp and see the tomb.
Its rocky op'ning gapes and mocks my woe.
Who took thy body, stole thy hands so poor?
But from despair the voice that took my
doom
Speaks "Mary," Master with his scars aglow.



(Larisa Tuttle is a 15-year-old member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Diocese of Lafayette. Mary kneels at the feet of Jesus after his resurrection in this life-size bronze statue depiction at the Shrine of Christ's Passion in St. John, Ind., in the Gary Diocese.) (File photo by Natalie Hoefler)

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to faith or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the "My Journey to God" column.

Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions.

Send material for consideration to "My Journey to God," The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org. †

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.

ARCHER, Eileen A., 86, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, April 14. Wife of William Archer. Mother of Jeffrey and Patrick Archer. Sister of Jo Marion. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of one.

BAUERLE, Stella L., 90, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Indianapolis, April 9. Mother of Darlene Brooks, Janet Golder, Joan Keen, Jeanne Maupin, Judy Miller, Janie Monday, James, Jefferey, Jerry, John and Joseph Bauerle. Sister of Mary Cook. Grandmother of 40. Great-grandmother of 60. Great-great-grandmother of five.

BEARD, Christopher B., 30, Holy Angels, Indianapolis, April 17. Son of Cheryl Shields. Brother of Camille and Camaron Beard. Grandson of Amanda Strong.

CROSSLAND, Patricia (Berry), 87, St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis, April 3. Mother of Katy Freitag, Kristine Grosvenor, Karen Jehling, Karol Yambor, Kathleen, Karl, Keith, Kelly, Kenneth, Kerry, Kevin, Kurt, Kyle and Thomas Crossland. Grandmother of 19. Great-grandmother of seven.

DUVELIUS, Charles I., 81, St. Joseph, Shelbyville, April 13. Father of Elaine Polston and Brian Duvelius. Brother of Millie Hutchings and Tom Duvelius. Grandfather of three. Great-grandfather of five.

FULLER, Joseph, 83, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, April 12. Father of Regina Rexrode. Brother

of Paul Fuller. Grandfather of two.

GREENWOOD, Larney E., 77, St. Paul, Tell City, April 7. Husband of Joyce Greenwood. Brother of Rita Hedinger, Everett and Leo Greenwood. Uncle of several.

HARMEYER, Clarence, 97, St. Mary-of-the-Rock, Franklin County, March 14. Uncle of several.

HENSON, Rita C., 97, Holy Family, New Albany, April 10. Mother of Dolorita Bricker, Rose Mary Swartz, Bill and Carl Henson, Jr. Grandmother of 11. Great-grandmother of 21. Great-great-grandmother of 10.

HYATT, Mary K., 75, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, March 2. Mother of Michael Swinson. Sister of Judith Coffert, Nancy McCall and John O'Loughlin. Grandmother of one.

KLEINDORFER, Virginia L., 83, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, April 9. Mother of Beth Smith, Diana Taylor, Andy and Joe Kleindorfer. Sister of Barbara Hostetler, Art, Sam, Steve and Walter Farmer. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of five.

KUSTER, Lauretta M., 84, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, April 10. Mother of Debra Egemo and Cheryl Jenkins. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of 11.

LYND, Rick A., 63, St. Louis, Batesville, April 12. Brother of Connie Brunner, Dave, Randy, Rusty, Steve and Tim Smith. Uncle of several.

PEARSON, Charles W., 92, St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, April 13. Father of Patty Fossey, Michael and Stephen Pearson. Brother of Carl and John Pearson. Grandfather of four. Step-grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of 10.

RENNIER, Alvin C., 63, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, March 31. Son of Clarissa Jansing Rennie. Brother of Susan Castner, Joan Pearson,

Diane Pickett, Joyce Van Treese, Gary, Mark and Ronald Rennie. Uncle of several.

ROSENFELD, Mark, 60, St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County, March 21. Brother of Connie Bergman, Peggy Jacobs, Carol Shaw, Patricia, Dan, Francis, Jr., and Gene Rosenfeld. Uncle of several.

SCHROEDER, Nancy T., 96, St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, April 15. Sister of Rose Crane, Mary Hall and Jim Paledino. Aunt of several.

SIMS, Agnes (Woods), 87, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, April 12. Mother of Patricia Emerson, Mary, Patrick, Raymond, Jr. and Tim Sims. Grandmother of 15. Great-grandmother of 11.

STEFANCIOSA, Milan, 71, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, April 11. Husband of Norma Stefanciosa. Father of Martina Stefanciosa Bruce and Jana Stefanciosa. Brother of Anna Dolgan. Grandfather of two.

TAYLOR, Mary L., 86, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, April 4. Mother of Beth Ann Ford, Sam III and Tom Taylor. Sister of Carol Sue Marshall. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of two.

UNDERWOOD, Sherry J., 85, St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, April 13. Mother of Jane Root, Jo Ann, Jim and John Underwood. Sister of Sally Bullock. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of 10. Great-great-grandmother of one.

WILLOUGHBY, Diana, 65, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville, March 18. Wife of Larry Willoughby. Mother of Lucretia Durbin and Paige Lorey. Sister of Karen, David, Garry, Jeff and Joe Lorey.

WOLFF, Henry J., 90, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, April 3. Father of Katherine Parker, Christine Taylor, John and Joseph Wolff. Brother of Ingebor Hoskins. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of one. †



Birthday beer

Retired Pope Benedict XVI raises a glass of beer with Bavarian Prime Minister Horst Seehofer during the German pontiff's 90th birthday celebration on April 17 at the Vatican. Also pictured is Archbishop Georg Ganswein, prefect of the papal household, in rear. The pope's birthday was the previous day. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

Providence Sister Sheila FitzSimons ministered in Catholic schools for 56 years

Providence Sister Sheila FitzSimons died on April 1 at Mother Theodore Hall at St. Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 90.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 20 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse in St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

Rosemary FitzSimons was born on Dec. 2, 1926, in Indianapolis, although she later grew up in Van Nuys, Calif. She entered the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on Feb. 2, 1943, and professed final vows on Aug. 15, 1950.

Sister Sheila earned a bachelor's degree at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, and a master's degree at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

During her 74 years as a member of the Sisters of Providence, Sister Sheila ministered in education for 56 years in Catholic schools in California, Illinois, Indiana and New Hampshire. In 1998, she began ministry as an adult educator at Providence Self-Sufficiency Ministries in New Albany. She returned to the motherhouse in 2002, and served as a driver and then dedicated herself entirely to prayer in 2010.

In the archdiocese, Sister Sheila served at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis from 1955-56 in addition to ministering in New Albany from 1998-2002.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876. †

Closed hearts unable to be surprised by the Resurrection, Pope Francis says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Christian faith is a grace and can be perceived only in the hearts of those willing to be surprised by the joy of the Resurrection, Pope Francis said.

"A closed heart, a rationalistic heart" is

incapable of understanding the Christian message which has God's love—manifested in Christ's victory over death—at its center, the pope said at his weekly general audience on April 19.

"How beautiful it is to think that

Christianity is essentially this: It is not so much our search for God—a search that is, truthfully, somewhat shaky—but rather God's search for us," the pope said.

The pope, bundled up in a white overcoat due to the unusually chilly and windy weather, entered a packed St. Peter's Square in his popemobile. Immediately, he invited two girls and a boy, dressed in their altar server robes, to board the vehicle and ride with him around the square.

Pope Francis also took a moment to greet an elderly woman who, overcome with emotion, cried and stretched out her arms to embrace the pope. He stooped over, warmly embracing the woman and gently caressing her face before making the sign of the cross over her forehead.

Continuing his series of talks on hope, the pope reflected on St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians in which the Apostle emphasizes the Resurrection as "the heart of the Christian message."

"Christianity is born from here. It is not an ideology nor a philosophic system, but a path of faith that begins from an event, witnessed by Jesus' first disciples," the pope said.

St. Paul's summary of those who witnessed the risen Christ, he noted, ends

by describing himself as the "least worthy of all" given his dramatic history as a one-time adversary of the early Christians.

St. Paul "wasn't a 'choirboy.' He was a persecutor of the Church, proud of his own convictions," the pope said, departing from his prepared remarks. But "one day something completely unpredictable happens: the encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus."

It is the surprise of this encounter, the pope continued, that all Christians are called to experience "even if we are sinners."

Like the first disciples who saw the stone overturned at Jesus' tomb, all men and women can find "happiness, joy and life where everyone thought there was only sadness, defeat and darkness," the pope said.

God, Pope Francis said, is greater than "nothingness, and just one lit candle is able to overcome the darkest night."

"If we are asked the reason for our smile and our patient sharing, we can respond that Jesus is still here, he continues to be alive in our midst," the pope said. "Jesus is here, in this square with us, alive and risen." †



Pope Francis greets a young choir member during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on April 19. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Pope's encyclical calls for ecological conversion, speaker says

By Patricia Happel Cornwell
Special to *The Criterion*

NEW ALBANY—Nearly 50 people braved frigid temperatures to hear Kyle Kramer, executive director of the Passionist Earth and Spirit Center in Louisville, discuss Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment, "*Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*," at the Cardinal Ritter House in New Albany on March 16.

The occasion was the fifth annual Irish coffee lecture sponsored by the Cardinal Ritter Birthplace Foundation.

Joseph E. Ritter (1892-1967) is the only native Hoosier ever to become a cardinal. He was noted for desegregating Catholic schools in the archdioceses of Indianapolis and St. Louis before it became federal law through *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. The home at 1218 E. Oak St. where he was born was saved from demolition in 2001, and purchased by the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana in 2002.

Renovated and expanded to include a community room and a small museum about the cardinal's life, it now serves as a neighborhood center. Its primary tenant is the southern Indiana regional office of Home of the Innocents, a Louisville agency that serves children and families.

Kramer, a member of Holy Family Parish in New Albany, and his family spent 15 years as organic farmers in Spencer County in southwestern Indiana before moving to New Salisbury (near New Albany). He is the author of *A Time to Plant: Life Lessons in Work, Prayer and Dirt* (Ave Maria Press, 2010). He is also a columnist for *St. Anthony Messenger* magazine and a "climate ambassador" for the Catholic Climate Covenant.

"*Laudato Si'* is first and foremost a sociological encyclical, not just an environmental encyclical," Kramer said. "I like to call Pope Francis a 'conservative tree-hugger,' but he also 'hugs' God's Spirit in all of creation, across boundaries, just like Cardinal Ritter. The springboard for his theology is always a pastoral and pragmatic one. There is nothing new here. Pope Francis's themes have been in Catholic social teaching for centuries."

Kramer discussed the key components of the encyclical, which led up to the conclusion that "we are called to ecological conversion."

He said the pope points out that pollution and climate change cause great suffering to the poor, whom Kramer called "the 'bottom billion,' those who are the most affected, but the least responsible for what is being done to the planet. Inasmuch as you heal the planet, you heal people."

"Pope Francis is also concerned about loss of biodiversity," he added. "The tropical rain forest is the lungs of the planet. When you turn that habitat into a monoculture of soybeans or corn to feed cattle in other countries—animals that did not evolve to eat those things—you lose other species. From the tree frogs to the fungi, everything gives glory to God, just by being what they are."

Kramer said many environmentalists think humans are "a scourge upon the Earth," but that the pope does not think so. He cited three social conditions that isolate humans from nature: anthropomorphism, individualism and consumerism, in which a person only values things in relation to human life and oneself.

"This is what I want you to remember: We don't have a social crisis over here and an environmental crisis over there," Kramer said. "We have one crisis. Planetary and social health are inseparable. The question Pope Francis asks is, if these things hold together, what would a flourishing planet look like? We would have an economy that serves and heals human life, a healthy relationship with others, a concern for the common good."

"We need to redefine what we mean by progress," he continued. "Our economy, as it stands, relies on infinite

growth, but that can't be sustained. What went wrong in our stewardship of the Earth? We fell in love with power ever since we fell in love with agriculture 12,000 years ago, and in the 1700s with fossil fuels. The digging stick became the bulldozer. We created a new idol. Anything we're not willing to let go of is our golden calf.

"But maybe," he added, "progress really looks like more time with family, more time to spend in nature or to volunteer in the community."

Kramer noted that the pope's encyclical offers practical steps that can be taken now to live a more "moderate lifestyle, in which less is more." The pope urges recycling, saving water, reducing use of paper and plastic, turning off lights, taking public transportation, only cooking what one can eat so as not to waste food, and other measures.

"In a moderate lifestyle," Kramer said, "it's about freedom from consumption, not freedom to consume. I drove here in an electric car. I bought it to be the 'green hipster,' but now I love it."

He added, "If you forget everything else on this list of steps—plant trees."

Before the lecture, Ritter Birthplace Foundation board member Ray Day gave an update on the group's activities. In mid-March, the center hosted a group of eighth-graders from Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis, who visited the Ritter House as part of a pilgrimage tracing their school's namesake from Indiana to St. Louis.

Board members also recently transported the bonded bronze version of sculptor Guy Tedesco's bust of the cardinal to Indianapolis to show it to other Ritter High School students and to personnel at the Indiana State Museum, where they hope to have a display created about the cardinal's life. A solid bronze version of the bust will eventually be cast and kept at the Ritter House.

Tedesco described the latest artistic project at the center, a sculpture group of the cardinal and several children, which is slated to be installed on the property. A model of the grouping was displayed during the Irish coffee event.



Cardinal Ritter Birthplace Foundation board chairman David Hock, left, New Albany sculptor Guy Tedesco and speaker Kyle Kramer pose with Tedesco's bonded bronze bust of Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter at the organization's fifth annual Irish coffee lecture on March 16 in New Albany. (Photo by Patricia Happel Cornwell)

"The glass blocks create a very real barrier," Tedesco said, "and the cardinal is pushing it over. The blocks all have words on them, negative words on one side and positive words on the other side. The symbolic 'wall' will probably never be completely gone, but the children are turning those blocks into a path. In 100 years, this will be as powerful a statement about us as it is about the work that Cardinal Ritter did in his day."

Day said a long-planned rose garden at the Ritter House will come to fruition this summer. A half-wall has been built to enclose a small courtyard, and stone pavers have been laid, leaving a central area and four corner plots where rose bushes will be planted. The project will be a memorial to the cardinal's hobby of growing roses and a place for prayer and reflection.

The pope's encyclical can be downloaded free online at the USCCB or Vatican's websites or purchased at major book stores.

Information about the Cardinal Ritter House and the Cardinal Ritter Birthplace Foundation is available at cardinalritterhouse.org.

(Patricia Happel Cornwell is a freelance writer and a member of St. Joseph Parish in Corydon.) †

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Mercy opens door to understanding mystery of God, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Mercy is a true form of knowledge that allows men and women to understand the mystery of God's love for humanity, Pope Francis said.

Having experienced forgiveness, Christians have a duty to forgive others, giving a "visible sign" of God's mercy, which "carries within it the peace of heart and the joy of a renewed encounter with the Lord," the pope said on April 23 before praying the "*Regina Coeli*" with visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square.

"Mercy helps us understand that violence, resentment and revenge do not have any meaning and that the first victim is the one who lives with these feelings, because he is deprived of his own dignity," he said.

Commemorating Divine Mercy Sunday, Pope Francis said St. John Paul II's establishment of the feast in 2000 was a "beautiful intuition" inspired by the Holy Spirit.

God's mercy, he said, not only "opens the door of the mind," it also opens the door of the heart and paves the way for compassion toward those who are "alone or marginalized because it makes them feel they are brothers and sisters and children of one father." †

ICC uses session to advance consistent life ethic, common good

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

The 2017 legislative session of the Indiana General Assembly adjourned on April 21. Each session offers



opportunities to promote the consistent life ethic and further the common good, said

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), who serves as the public policy spokesperson for the bishops in Indiana.

Tebbe noted that it has been the work of the ICC to communicate to lawmakers the value and dignity of the human person from conception until natural death, and in 2017, several legislative initiatives to further these goals in the form of pro-life legislation, education policy and support for low-income children and families proved successful.

ICC worked in cooperation with the Indiana State Medical Association to halt a proposal to legalize physician-assisted suicide in Indiana. National groups like Compassion & Choices and Death with Dignity actively work to legalize physician-assisted suicide and continue to lobby state lawmakers. Members of the Indiana House and Senate introduced bills which would have allowed a person with a terminal illness to request a lethal dose of medication from their attending physician to end the individual's life.

"I am grateful that the physician-assisted suicide proposals failed to get a hearing this year," said Tebbe. "We need to stand up for the inherent dignity and respect due each person, especially the most vulnerable. We oppose efforts to legalize physician-assisted suicide."

Sen. James Merritt, R-Indianapolis, authored a death penalty ban for those suffering from serious mental illnesses. The ICC supported the death penalty ban, but Merritt's bill stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee and failed to

advance. Tebbe said he was disappointed the bill failed, but said bipartisan support existed and a general consensus that persons suffering with serious mental illnesses should not be put to death. The ICC executive director said the proposal failed because the bill's language was too broad. The Senate did pass Senate Resolution 64, authored by Sen. Joe Zakas, R-Granger, to have the topic assigned to a study committee after the session, which Tebbe says is a positive sign for the future.

Lawmakers adopted a bill strengthening parental rights for minors seeking an abortion. Senate Bill 404, supported by the ICC and authored by Sen. Erin Houchin, R-Salem, adds verification of parental identity to parental notification for minors seeking an abortion. The provision was added to Indiana's informed consent law. It gives the parents of a minor who obtains an abortion without parental permission the ability to collect damages against a person who either posed as the parent, or aided the parent's minor child in obtaining an abortion. The bill increases the age of reporting child sex abuse from under the age of 14 to under 16 years of age.

The ICC supported legislation, which passed, calling for improvement in abandoned infant protection by placing a "baby box" at hospitals or hospital-affiliated locations. Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Markle, authored the bill, which improves upon Indiana's Safe Haven Law by allowing parents to relinquish their child anonymously to a newborn incubator device, also called a "baby box," at designated locations. The change involved allowing new devices to be placed only at hospitals or hospital-affiliated locations for safety reasons.

In the area of education, two proposals supported by the ICC passed, including an expansion of pre-kindergarten (pre-K) and religious liberty in schools. The pre-K expansion, House Bill 1004, authored by



I am grateful that the physician-assisted suicide proposals failed to get a hearing this year. We need to stand up for the inherent dignity and respect due each person, especially the most vulnerable. We oppose efforts to legalize physician-assisted suicide.'

—Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference

Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis, builds upon the state's On My Way Pre-K pilot program which serves income-eligible 4-year-olds in five counties, but expanded it to up to 20 counties. A key component of the pre-K expansion includes a voucher component which allows pre-K students to enter kindergarten using a voucher to remain in the school where they attended pre-school. Without this provision, income-eligible students who were attending a pre-K program—which also has a nonpublic K-8 school attached to it—would have been forced to leave to attend kindergarten in a public school first if they wanted to use a voucher. Tebbe said the voucher provision provides a seamless transition for children to remain in the same school setting.

A bill to protect students' religious liberty was supported by the ICC and passed. House Bill 1024, authored by Rep. John Bartlett, D-Indianapolis, allows students to express religious beliefs at school or in class assignments. Tebbe said the legislation codifies case law which has developed over the past few decades. Bartlett said, "It is giving Hoosiers the ability to express their faith without fearing discrimination."

Efforts by the ICC to assist low-income families and children paid off this year. Senate Bill 154, authored by Merritt, increases the assets a low-income person may retain while continuing to receive

food assistance under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Tebbe said raising the asset limit helps low-income persons by setting them up for financial success and self-sufficiency while meeting their current need for food. Under the proposal, recipients of SNAP benefits will not be penalized for building up a small savings, but rather helps them have a reserve for emergencies.

A payday lending bill deemed to harm low-income persons failed in part due to efforts made by the ICC and other advocates for low-income persons. The proposal, Senate Bill 245, authored by Holdman, would have expanded short-term loan amounts allowing persons to borrow larger amounts at a rate of 216 percent of the annual percentage rate. Tebbe said the ICC opposed the short-term loans due to concerns that it would trap lower-income persons in debt and a process of recycling high interest loans.

While the Indiana General Assembly completed its legislative business on April 21, the ICC continues to work with public policy officials as laws are implemented. Interim study committees also soon begin examining issues for potential legislation in 2018.

(Brigid Curtis Ayer is a correspondent for The Criterion. To view a more detailed update on bills which passed, go to the ICC Web page at www.indianacc.org.) †

Make persecution 'difficult for others to ignore,' Cardinal Wuerl says

WASHINGTON (CNS)—With religious persecution against Christians on the rise worldwide, it is important for other Christians to stand in solidarity with them, said Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington.

Christians in the United States and elsewhere must raise

their voices on behalf of "the millions who are suffering," he said on April 20 during a symposium held in connection with the release of "In Response to Persecution, Findings of the Under Caesar's Sword Project on Global Christian Communities," a report detailing the nature of persecution against Christians in different nations across the globe.

"Make it difficult for others to ignore," the cardinal said.

Doing so, Cardinal Wuerl noted, may require Christians "to be aware" of the

persecution their fellow believers face on different continents.

He suggested one response should be to "continue to support the flow of material assistance" to persecuted Christians through aid agencies like Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international aid agency; Caritas Internationalis, the Vatican umbrella agency for different nations' Catholic relief organizations; or their counterparts run by other Christian denominations and organizations.

"And we must, of course, continue to pray," said Cardinal Wuerl, who has just had a new book published, *To the Martyrs: A Reflection on the Supreme Christian Witness*.

He lamented the rise of intolerance in the Middle East. In Egypt, the cardinal said, "all found a way, until recently, to live together. Under the rise of ISIS ... things have just continued to get worse." He added he believes that, despite last year's declaration by then-Secretary of State John Kerry that the Islamic State group had been responsible for genocide in the regions it controlled in Iraq and Syria, most Americans are not aware of it.

"This is not a Christian crisis of concern only to Christians," Cardinal Wuerl said. "This is a human crisis."

Daniel Philpott, a professor of political science and peace studies at the University of Notre Dame and the principal author of the report, expressed surprise that few persecuted Christians resort to violence. He said there were limited instances of Christian groups forming militias to protect their people and property and, given the situations they face, that reaction may be "understandable and justifiable."

Philpott outlined five contexts in which persecution exists: Islamic persecution, such as applying Shariah law to Christians; communist persecution

such as that found in China, Vietnam and North Korea; state-supported persecution, such as in Turkey; religious hostility such as that seen in India; and the West's promotion of a secularizing influence. Philpott quoted Pope Francis, who called the secularization "polite persecution."

Archbishop Sebastian Shaw of Lahore, Pakistan, a country where 3 percent of the country's 120 million people are Christians, said working together with the Muslim majority is the best course of action.

While Pakistan's blasphemy law has resulted in the deaths of many Christians, Archbishop Shaw said he does not want to have the law repealed, but he wants it modified so mob justice is eliminated.

He told the story of a poor Christian couple working in indentured servitude at a brick kiln in the country. Somehow, a rumor spread that the couple had blasphemed Allah. Word got to the local imam, and "within 20 minutes there were 4,000 people" ready to exact their own justice against the couple, who had two children. Soon, both were thrown into the kiln furnace, and "within five, seven minutes, they were both burned to death," the archbishop said.

Later, officials discovered that the Christian woman was pregnant, and that both husband and wife were illiterate and could not have committed the blasphemy of which they were accused. "They did not have a Quran in their home," Archbishop Shaw said. "They didn't even have a Bible in their home."

The archbishop said he gives the "two-F" instruction to his Catholics: "Don't fear. Jesus said, 'Do not be afraid'" (Mt 28:10), he told his audience. "The second F is do not fight, do not fight. No fear, no fight." He said he encourages Catholics to "know your purpose. You were born in Pakistan" for a reason, Archbishop Shaw added. "Know your religion and your religious values, and express them in your life." †



Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl

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