



The

Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



Heinous act of terror

Pope, Church leaders offer prayers after Manchester Arena attack, page 10.

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'Give them a chance'



The bond between Anna Brown-Mitchell, left, of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis and Chanita Dawson has grown strong as Anna has helped Chanita make a new life after Chanita served her time for a non-violent crime. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

Prison ministry mentor helps woman, once in prison, make return to society

By John Shaughnessy

Third in an occasional series

The only thing better than the birthday party that Anna Brown-Mitchell threw for Chanita Dawson is the gift she has given her.

Chanita's face glows as she shares her memories of her party on Sept. 18, 2016: how her birthday cake was huge, how a long table overflowed with all kinds of food, and how all the people there laughed, sang and enjoyed each other on a day that marked a life-changing time for her.

After all, this was more than the celebration of her 38th birthday.

It was also the celebration of her first birthday since she completed a nearly four-year sentence for committing a non-violent, drug-related crime.

For Chanita, the birthday party represented what she hoped would be a new beginning to her life.

"It was like a blessing," she recalls on a recent morning in May. "I knew I had to pay for the consequences of what I had done. I knew I had to better myself to not get in that position again."

Then there is the blessing of Anna, the 67-year-old member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis. She not only threw the party for Chanita, she has also committed to being there for her as she continues to

try to make a new life for herself and her two children.

That's the gift that Chanita treasures most.

"Anna shows me there's another part of life," Chanita says. "She has faith in me. She lifts me up. She lets me know I can do things. I still have trials and tribulations every day, but I fight them."

'Having an open heart'

The bond between Chanita and Anna represents one of the main goals of the archdiocese's prison ministry task force—a group that met regularly in 2016 to formulate a plan to help parishes, individuals and the archdiocese as a

See MINISTRY, page 3

Secretary of education intrigued by Providence Cristo Rey education model

By John Shaughnessy

As Precious Mayfield and Froylan Avila awaited the arrival of U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos at their school on May 23, the two students talked about the impact that Providence Cristo Rey High School in Indianapolis has had on them and their families.



Betsy DeVos

The two teenagers will both be the first in their families to go to college.

"It makes me feel very accomplished that I can fulfill the dreams that my family has," said Precious, who is 17.

Standing nearby, 19-year-old Froylan said, "Anything is possible if you put your mind to it, and you work hard."

Moments later, Precious and Froylan were among a group of students who were welcoming and shaking hands with a smiling DeVos as she entered the school that combines a work-study program and a college preparatory education for students from low-income families.

It's a model that has led the 46 students in the school's Class of 2017 to all be accepted into college. It's also a model that intrigued DeVos so much that she made a special visit to Providence Cristo Rey as part of her two-day trip to Indianapolis.

On May 22, the secretary of education arrived in Indiana's capital to address the national policy summit of the American Federation for Children, a national school-choice advocacy organization that she once served as chairperson.

During the summit, DeVos noted that President Donald Trump is "proposing the most ambitious expansion of education choice in our nation's history."

See DEVOS, page 5

Archbishop Lori addresses current misperceptions about religious liberty, encourages faithful to be advocates

By Sean Gallagher

Second of two parts

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will meet from June 14-15 in Indianapolis for its annual spring general assembly.

One of the questions that the bishops will consider will be to make its Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty a permanent committee.



Archbishop William E. Lori

Archbishop William E. Lori has led the committee since it was established in 2011. During that time, he has often been a public advocate on various political issues affecting religious liberty.

But he noted in the first of a two-part interview with *The Criterion* last week that the more foundational work of the committee is "winning people's minds and hearts for their faith," something that he

said will lead to people demanding that the government do a better job of respecting religious liberty.

In part two of the interview, Archbishop Lori, who was raised in New Albany, Ind., reflects on misperceptions in the broader culture and among some Catholics about religious liberty and advocacy for it, and the relationship between the struggle for religious freedom in the U.S. and in other countries around the world.

See related editorial on page 4.

He also gives practical advice to Catholics on how they can learn more about religious liberty and become advocates for it.

The following is an edited version of that interview.

Q. There are many Catholics who think that the Church's attention on religious liberty is either misplaced or overstated. And others among the faithful go so far as to agree with the view of many in the broader culture that the talk of religious liberty is just scant cover for bigotry.

What case would you make for the Church's advocacy for religious liberty in our society to the faithful who hold such views?

A. "First of all, I think that, among church-going Catholics,

See LORI, page 14

Official Appointments

Effective July 5, 2017

Retiring From Active Ministry

Rev. John Beitans, granted retirement while continuing sacramental assistance at Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis.

Rev. Stephen T. Jarrell, pastor of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis.

Rev. Steven C. Schwab, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis, and continuing as chaplain of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

Current Pastors to Administrators

Rev. Michael Hoyt, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis, to administrator of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis, and Catholic chaplain at Butler University, also in Indianapolis.

Rev. William G. Marks, pastor of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, to administrator of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.

Rev. John P. McCaslin, pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis and dean of the Indianapolis West Deanery, to administrator of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.

Rev. Todd Riebe, pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis and administrator of Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis, to administrator of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis.

Administrators

Rev. Robert Robeson, pastor of Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove, to administrator of Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis and continuing as pastor of Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

Rev. Juan José Valdes, associate pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis, to administrator of St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis.

Rev. John Kamwendo, associate pastor of St. Michael Parish in Brookville and St. Peter Parish in Franklin County, to administrator of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis.

Rev. Michael Keucher, associate pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, to administrator of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and sacramental minister of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County.

Rev. Jegan Peter, associate pastor of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, to administrator of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville.

Associates Pastors

Rev. Nicolás A. Ajpacajá Tzoc, associate pastor of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, to associate pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis.

Rev. James M. Brockmeier, associate pastor of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood and chaplain coordinator at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, to associate pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus.

Rev. Anthony P. Hollowell, doctoral studies in sacred theology at Academy Alphonsianum at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, Italy, to associate pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, and continuing to pursue doctoral studies.

Rev. Douglas A. Hunter, associate pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis and chaplain coordinator of Bishop Chatard High School, also in Indianapolis, to associate pastor of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, and continuing as chaplain coordinator at Bishop Chatard High School.

Rev. Darvin E. Winters, Jr., from completion of commitment as chaplain with U. S. Air Force, to associate pastor of St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour.

Rev. Santhosh Yohannan, Diocese of Quinlon, India, to associate pastor of St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis.

Other appointments

Rev. Adam Ahern, associate pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany, chaplain of Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville and chaplain with the Indiana Army National Guard, to Catholic chaplain at Hanover College in Madison, continuing as chaplain at Our Lady of Providence High School and chaplain with the Indiana Army National Guard.

Rev. David Marcotte, administrator of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville, to chaplain at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, Catholic chaplain at the University of Indianapolis, with residence and sacramental assistance at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood.

Rev. Andrew Syberg, associate pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, to the formation staff of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis.

(These appointments are from the office of the Very Rev. Msgr. William F. Stumpf, Administrator of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.) †

Canon law limits appointment authority of archdiocesan administrator

By Sean Gallagher

In this week's publication of appointments of priests to serve in faith communities across central and southern Indiana, archdiocesan administrator Msgr. William F. Stumpf named several priests to lead parishes as administrators, but none to lead as pastors.

That is because the Church's *Code*

of Canon Law does not allow an administrator of an archdiocese or diocese to appoint a pastor of a parish until that local church has been without a bishop to lead it for one year.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, the previous archbishop of Indianapolis, was appointed by Pope Francis on Nov. 7, 2016, to lead the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J. He was installed as archbishop of Newark on Jan. 6.

Following the procedures stipulated by canon law, the seven priests who are members of the College of Consultors of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis elected Msgr. Stumpf to be archdiocesan administrator on Jan. 9.

An administrator of a parish has the same authority that a pastor has, but he is not assigned to lead it for a specific period of time as a pastor is.

A diocesan administrator leads a diocese in the absence of a bishop but is restricted in his authority. For example, he cannot close or establish a parish. Such limits, including not being able to appoint pastors of parishes within a year of a diocese not having a bishop, are included in the *Code of Canon Law* to ensure the next bishop has the full freedom to govern the diocese as he sees fit once he is appointed by the pope. †

Pope announces new cardinals from Mali, Spain, Sweden, Laos, Salvador

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis announced he will create five new cardinals on June 28. The new cardinals-designate come from Mali, Spain, Sweden, Laos and El Salvador.

Unusually, the group of prelates announced by the pope on May 21 includes an auxiliary bishop whose archbishop is not a cardinal. He is Cardinal-designate Gregorio Rosa Chavez, 74, the current auxiliary bishop of San Salvador.

The other Churchmen who will receive red hats are: Archbishop Jean Zerbo of Bamako, Mali, 73; Archbishop Juan Jose Omella of Barcelona, Spain, 71; Bishop Anders Arborelius of Stockholm, Sweden, 67; and Bishop Louis-Marie Ling Mangkhankhoun, apostolic vicar of Pakse, Laos, 73.

The five new cardinals coming from "different parts of the world demonstrates

the catholicity of the Church spread across the globe," Pope Francis said. And the practice of assigning to each of them a Church in Rome "expresses that the cardinals belong to the Diocese of Rome," which, as St. Ignatius of Antioch explained, "presides in charity over all the Churches."

Pope Francis said that on June 29, the day after the consistory and the feast of SS. Peter and Paul, the new cardinals would concelebrate a Mass with him, the entire College of Cardinals and new archbishops from around the world.

"We entrust the new cardinals to the protection of Saints Peter and Paul," Pope Francis said, praying that with St. Peter they would be "authentic servants" of communion in the Church and that with St. Paul they would be "joyful proclaimers of the Gospel."

The pope also prayed that "with their witness and their counsel," the new cardinals would "support me more intensely in my service as bishop of Rome, pastor of the universal Church."

The Vatican released brief biographical notes about the five who will be inducted into the college in June:

- Cardinal-designate Zerbo was born on Dec. 27, 1943, in Segou and was ordained to the priesthood there in 1971. He earned a licentiate in Scripture studies from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, and then returned to Mali as a pastor and professor at the seminary in Bamako.

- Ordained a bishop in 1988, he served first as auxiliary bishop of Bamako and then was named bishop of Mopti. He has led the Archdiocese of Bamako since 1998.

According to the Vatican, "he played an active role in the Mali peace

negotiations" and has worked for solidarity and reconciliation among the nation's citizens.

- Cardinal-designate Omella was born in the small town of Cretas on April 21, 1946, and did his seminary studies in Zaragoza as well as Louvain, Belgium, and Jerusalem. He was ordained in 1970.

See **CARDINALS**, page 14

CORRECTION

An obituary of retired Father Bernard Head published in the May 19 issue of *The Criterion* gave incorrect dates for his service as chaplain for the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in St. Mary-of-the-Woods. He ministered in that role from 1984-98, and continued to assist there in later years. †



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MINISTRY

continued from page 1

whole make an even deeper commitment to prison ministry.

The archdiocese sees the critical value of helping people as they re-enter society after being imprisoned, says Lynne Weisenbach, the chairperson of the task force and a member of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis.

A key element of this goal involves working with companies to provide employment opportunities.

“Without a job, it is nearly impossible to establish a new life and become productive citizens. However, nearly 75 percent of Hoosier employers are reluctant or simply refuse to hire ex-offenders,” the task force’s final report noted. “When such individuals are unemployed, their chances of returning to prison are 60 percent.”

Another emphasis focuses on establishing connections with parishes and the St. Vincent de Paul Society to provide material needs to assist people during this time.

And, perhaps most importantly, there’s the focus of training members of the archdiocese as potential mentors to help people make the transition from prison to re-entering society.

That emphasis has been embraced by Anna.

“I try to make a difference in my sphere of life,” she says. “We just spent a lot of time reading about the [Holy] Year of Mercy. Being a Christian is about having an open heart. It’s about helping—and being needed and wanted.”

Anna’s approach to Chanita stems from two major influences in her own family’s life—one inspirational, and the other incredibly difficult, at least initially.

‘She gives me the love I’ve needed’

“I grew up in a large Catholic family—one of nine kids—on a dairy farm in northern Illinois,” Anna says. “I helped

my dad milk cows every day from the time I was 12 until I left home for college. My father loved us in a very quiet way, and he worked hard for us. My mother helped others in a lot of ways. She was our role model for serving others. When she died, 700 people came to her visitation. Everyone thought she was an angel.

“There was always an extra plate on the table and an extra bed if we wanted to bring somebody home. They could stay overnight, and sometimes they stayed a year. We had 13 foster kids along the way.”

That approach to life fuels Anna’s approach to helping Chanita. So does the imprisonment of one of her brothers.

“He was in prison for five years,” Anna says, preferring to not share the nature of his crime. “We all made trips down to see him, and we became familiar with prison systems and the people. We heard the stories and met the people. It just laid the seeds for what I’m trying to do.”

She pauses for a moment and then she adds, “My brother changed his life for the better. He took care of my dad when he was dying.”

Anna tries to be that extra element of family for Chanita and her 18-year-old daughter and her 8-year-old son.

Anna helped Chanita find the home she is renting. Anna and her husband Ed have helped to provide things for the home. So have their friends. Anna’s son also mows the grass for Chanita, who works long hours as a housekeeper at a downtown Indianapolis hotel—which leads Anna to occasionally stay with Chanita’s son.

“She supports me a lot,” Chanita says. “If I’m going through something, she listens. She’s a positive person. There have been walls all through my life. She helps me knock them down. I don’t have an education, but I’m going to school now to get my GED [high school graduation equivalency].”

As she talks, Chanita moves closer to Anna, putting her left arm around Anna’s shoulders. Soon, the two women are also holding hands.



Chanita Dawson and Anna Brown-Mitchell, a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, hold hands as they talk about their friendship, a friendship that has formed as Anna has helped Chanita make a new beginning in life after serving time for a non-violent crime. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

“She explains things to me when I get scared,” Chanita says. “She gives me the love I’ve needed all my life.”

‘Give them a chance’

Their relationship has also led Chanita to become closer to God.

Anna has invited Chanita to Mass at St. Monica Church, and Chanita has attended when her work schedule allows. Chanita says she also reads the Bible every day, and participates in a Bible study every Thursday.

“I describe my relationship with God as being real good, but it can get much better,” she says.

Anna says she has also grown spiritually from their connection, insisting that the Holy Spirit has been present in her efforts to get to know and help Chanita. It’s why she encourages people to become involved in prison ministry, especially as mentors to those making the transition from prison to society.

“Give them a chance and trust your instincts,” Anna says. “There are a lot of people scared of a prison door, but there

are people inside those orange prison uniforms. Many of them have never been shown love and acceptance. They behave differently when you show them that love and acceptance. But it takes time.”

Chanita knows the difference that Anna has made in her life.

“It helps you. It’s a beautiful thing,” Chanita says. “Everybody needs someone when the mind is a little weak. I don’t want my life to be horrible.”

She smiles at Anna and adds, “I know I have somebody right here who loves me hard.”

(The archdiocese will host a Corrections Ministry Retreat & Conference from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 28 at St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus. All volunteers involved with prison and jail ministry are invited, as are any persons interested in learning more about these ministries. The day will begin with a reflection and celebration of Mass. For more information about this day of prayer, support and education from experts in corrections ministry, contact Deacon Michael Braun at mbraun@archindy.org.) †

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 Texas Hold’Em Tournament Friday—sign ups start at 6:30pm
 BINGO on Friday with \$1,000 in cash prizes—(register prior to 7pm start)
 Silent Auction and Raffle with \$5,000.00 grand prize
 Saturday Night is Little Flower School Alumni Night
 Family Day on Sunday with juggling, face painting, clowns, and other family friendly entertainment

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Outdoor Food Court and Beer Garden
 Wines from Buck Creek Winery
 Indoor Dinner provided by Steer In on Saturday 5-7:30pm
 Indoor Sunday Brunch 9:30am-12:00pm

Entertainment

Friday

Arisan Maru—Scecina High School Rock Band at 6:00pm
 Bigger is Better Band at 8:00pm

Saturday

Roy J. Martin at 7:00 pm
 Art Adams Band at 9:00 pm

Sunday

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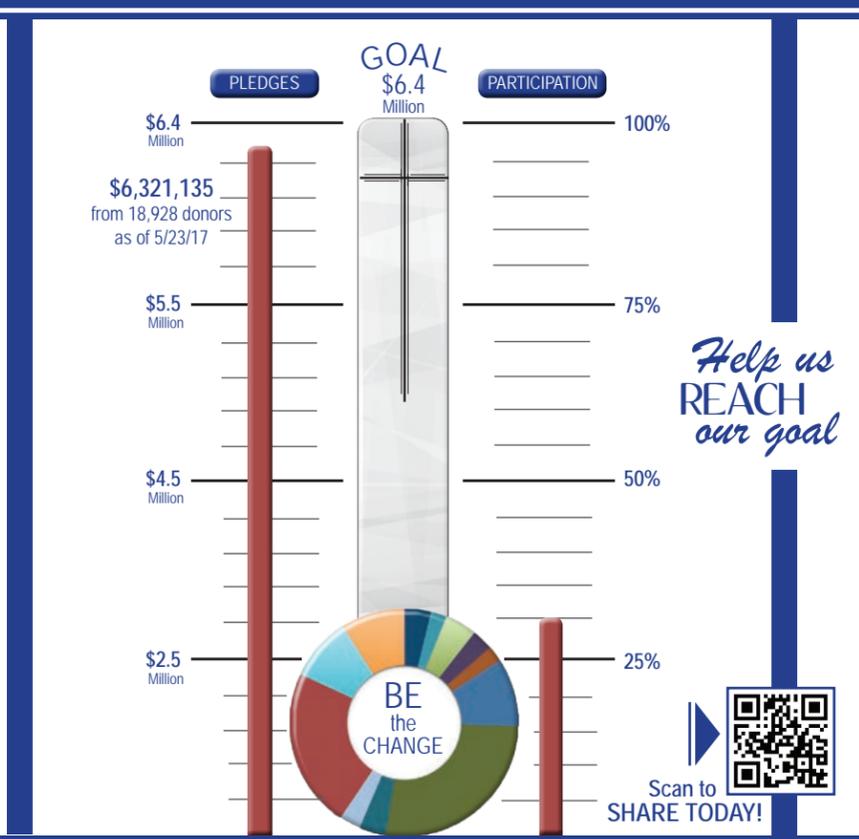
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Editorial



Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori offers a history of the sacrifices made by SS. Thomas More and John Fisher during his June 21, 2016, homily at the Fortnight for Freedom opening Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore. (CNS photo/Kevin J. Parks, *Catholic Review*)

Religious liberty in America and the Fortnight for Freedom

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore isn't the only prominent voice who has religious liberty on his mind these days.

As chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, Archbishop Lori speaks often for the U.S. bishops on religious freedom.

As we read in last week's issue of *The Criterion* and continue reading this week, he has had a high public profile on this topic, testifying before congressional committees and leading the effort of the Church in the U.S. to promote its annual Fortnight for Freedom, a period of education, advocacy and prayer about religious liberty from June 21-July 4.

Bishops will vote in June whether to make the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty a permanent one. (See related story that begins on page 1.)

Other high-profile persons have also shared their thoughts about religious liberty.

On May 17, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. spoke to the graduating class at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa., about the issue, focusing on the freedom of religion as enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution—and the encroachments on that freedom today.

Alito, 67, is Catholic and was nominated to the Supreme Court by President George W. Bush, where he has served since January 2006.

Part of freedom of religion is that “no one is forced to act in violation of his own beliefs,” said Alito, in a story published by Catholic News Service. “Most of my life, Americans were instilled in this,” he added, urging his audience to “keep the flame burning.”

In an interview for the St. Charles Borromeo seminarians' blog, “Seminarian Casual,” the Supreme Court justice also said that “our most foresighted Founders understood that our country could not hold together unless religious freedom was protected.”

Which is why, he said, George Washington, shortly after his election as the nation's first president, “made a point of writing to minority religious groups, to the United Baptist churches in Virginia, the annual meeting of Quakers, the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, and to the nation's tiny Catholic population.”

“Washington and other Founders also saw a vital connection between religion and the character needed for republican

self-government,” Alito added. “What the Founders understood more than 200 years ago is just as true today.”

Regarding threats to religious freedom, the justice said, “There is cause for concern at the present time.”

He wrote the majority opinion in the 2014 *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* case in which the court ruled that the owners of closely-held for-profit businesses cannot be compelled to comply with government regulations to which they have religious objections.

In this case, the Green family of Oklahoma, who owns Hobby Lobby, opposed on conscience grounds the abortifacient, contraceptive and sterilization mandate of the federal Health and Human Services Administration (HHS).

Justice Alito also highlighted religious liberty concerns in a dissent from the majority opinion in the 2015 *Obergefell v. Hodges* case, in which the Supreme Court held that the Constitution guarantees the right to same-sex marriage.

Vice President Mike Pence also mentioned religious liberty in his commencement address at the University of Notre Dame in northern Indiana on May 21.

Though much publicity was given to the approximately 100 students who walked out when Pence began delivering his address, the vice president took time in his speech to recognize the university for its legal challenge against the HHS mandate.

“Just as Notre Dame has stood strong to protect its religious liberty, I'm proud that this President [Donald J. Trump] just took steps to ensure that this university and the Little Sisters of the Poor could not be forced to violate their consciences to fully participate in American civic life,” Pence said, in reference to the executive order promoting religious freedom signed by Trump on May 4.

Catholics and people of all faiths will once again have the opportunity to stand up for religious liberty during this year's Fortnight for Freedom from June 21-July 4. The theme is “Freedom for Mission.”

For more information on the Fortnight, go to goo.gl/RxRYF.

As Archbishop Lori and his fellow members of the USCCB have said in the past: “This is not a Catholic issue. This is not a Jewish issue. This is not an Orthodox, Mormon or Muslim issue. It is an American issue.”

—Mike Krokos

Be Our Guest/Greg Erlandson

Showing respect at life's end

My father-in-law died this past month. He was a good, hardworking man, an immigrant, self-taught and self-reliant.

As is likely both the fear and the fate of many of us, he died in a hospital, tethered to a swarm of IVs. With various doctors weighing in on his various conditions, his family struggled to make the right decisions at a time of conflicting advice and great emotion. No one wanted him to go. No one wanted him to suffer.

All our lives, we've been trained to rely on doctors for advice. At this literally life-and-death moment, however, they often let us down. As Dr. Dhruv Khullar wrote in *The New York Times* recently, “For years, the medical profession has largely fumbled the question of what we should do when there's nothing more we can do.”

In his column, Khullar described a situation where “Medicare spending for patients in the last year of life ... accounts for a quarter of the total Medicare budget.” But all of this spending does not necessarily mean that the patient is living longer or is more comfortable, or that the family is more informed. Indeed, there is some evidence that less aggressive care can lead to more time and less discomfort for the patient.

Proponents of palliative care (when treatment for symptoms can continue) and hospice (when treatments are discontinued but a patient's comfort in his final stage is paramount) are more vocal now, but one's access to such measures often depends on one's class and race as well as one's health care system.

There are many reasons for Catholics and Catholic institutions to support frank conversations about such alternatives. We do not hold that life is to be clung to at all costs, nor do we believe that extraordinary means must be taken in all cases to preserve life. We know that there is more to life than death.

Letter to the Editor

Reader: Let the congregation say ‘Amen’ to our dedicated pastor

Last weekend, at the conclusion of Father Christopher Wadelton's homily at St. Philip Neri Church in Indianapolis, the congregation applauded.

It is not unusual for those present at Mass to acknowledge the musicians or lay people who make presentations but, in the 69 years that I have attended St. Philip Neri, this is the first time that I can remember a priest receiving an ovation.

Father Chris gives excellent homilies, but I suspect that this was a deeper acknowledgement of the awesome job he does of ministering to the diverse collection of people who make up our parish.

As a single-priest parish that covers

Yet because of our belief in the dignity of human life, we are also sensitive to anything that smacks of coercion, that puts the vulnerable at risk or that masks itself as compassionate when it is simply a ruthless calculation.

“Death by doctor” is frequently offered up as an alternative to what many fear will be a long, expensive, painful decline. Often called “assisted suicide,” it is a brilliant bit of marketing, as is the organization that sells it. Once named after a poison (the Hemlock Society), this organization now calls itself Compassion & Choices. Its lobbyists have been relentlessly pursuing assisted suicide laws across the nation.

And they have had success, with some form of assisted suicide legal in six states and the District of Columbia. This year, nine states are considered vulnerable to this kind of legislation. The American Medical Association's Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs is studying the doctor-assisted suicide issue and will submit a report in June.

What drives many voters to be open to death by doctor is the fear that at the end of their lives, they will lose control and suffer great pain. If my family's experience is any guide, this is where sensitive and humane caregivers can play a critical role, helping a family facing difficult decisions.

If doctors don't step in, the marketers of assisted suicide will. And the slope is both slippery and steep.

Belgium and the Netherlands both legalized end-of-life assisted suicide, promising strict safeguards. Now patients suffering from depression, schizophrenia, autism and other nonfatal diseases can opt for what increasingly looks like mercy killing, but is actually devoid of mercy.

The sting of death today is when cost controls and convenience masquerade as choice for those most vulnerable to coercion.

(Greg Erlandson is director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service in Washington. He can be reached at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.) †

Mike Cecil
 Indianapolis

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are published in *The Criterion* as part of the newspaper's commitment to “the responsible exchange of freely-held and expressed opinion among the People of God” (*Communio et Progressio*, 116).

Letters from readers are welcome and every effort will be made to include letters from as many people and representing as many viewpoints as possible. Letters should be informed, relevant, well-expressed and temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect.

The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to edit

letters from readers as necessary based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content (including spelling and grammar). In order to encourage opinions from a variety of readers, frequent writers will ordinarily be limited to one letter every three months. Concise letters (usually less than 300 words) are more likely to be printed.

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. †

DEVOS

continued from page 1

While she didn't offer details of the president's plan, she did add, "If a state doesn't want to participate, that would be a terrible mistake on their part. They will be hurting the children and families who can least afford it."

About 34,000 students in Indiana attend private schools through the state's school choice program. About 8,000 of the 24,000 students who attend the 69 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis are there because of school choice. And 97 percent of the 255 students at Providence Cristo Rey are there through Indiana's voucher program.

DeVos came to Providence Cristo Rey as the high school marks its 10th year of existence. She met with students, staff and stakeholders of the private school.

According to people who were there for her meeting with stakeholders of the school, DeVos said she admired the approach of the school and wanted to learn more about the national network of 32 Cristo Rey Catholic schools that has about 11,000 students across the country.

During that meeting, DeVos heard from Jane Genster, president and chief executive officer of the Cristo Rey national network of schools.

"We are honored that the secretary of education wants to come to our schools and see what we're doing," Genster said after the meeting. "Our schools are deeply connected with their communities through the work-study program. That sense of community is a very Catholic quality."

DeVos also heard from Providence Sister Dawn Tomaszewski. The superior general of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods told the secretary that the Archdiocese of Indianapolis had come to the Providence sisters for help in establishing the school.

"We knew we could make an impact on the lives of children who are economically challenged," Sister Dawn said. "They're learning about God, and they have hope, and they have faith."

DeVos also heard from Montanea Daniels, a member of the first graduating class of Providence Cristo Rey, who is now a member of the school's board of directors and a biologist for Eli Lilly & Co., in Indianapolis.

"This school changed my life," Daniels said.

That theme echoed through DeVos' visit to Providence Cristo Rey. When school president Joseph Heidt and school principal Brian Dinkins led her on a tour of the school, they stopped in a science class. After observing a lesson, DeVos asked the students if any of them wanted to talk about their experience at the school. Three did, offering such glowing praise that Dinkins joked that he would have to buy them lunch.

While DeVos didn't take questions from the media during her visit, she repeatedly showed her interest and engagement by asking questions of the teachers and the students she met that morning.

"Does working a day a week make a difference in your education?" she asked at one point.

"How many of you have learned through your work experience that you wanted to do something different?"

Her easygoing interaction relaxed the six seniors who were chosen to share brief presentations about the impact that their work-study programs had on their confidence, their career choices and their lives.

Precious Mayfield and Froylan Avila were part of that group. So were Marlene Amador, Brandon Hernandez, Amareca Williams-Bradley and Cheick Diallo.

They are part of a class that will graduate on May 25 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. They are part of a class where about 75 percent of the seniors have earned college scholarships, students who have been accepted to Ball State University, Indiana University, Purdue University, the University of Indianapolis and the University of Notre Dame.

After listening to their presentations, DeVos told the six seniors, "It sounds like this whole experience has given you a whole lot of confidence."



U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos shakes hands with Alexis Stratton, a freshman at Providence Cristo Rey High School in Indianapolis, during her visit to the school on May 23. (Photos by John Shaughnessy)



Providence Cristo Rey High School principal Brian Dinkins and U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos share a lighthearted moment during her visit to the school on May 23.

Before she finished her 90-minute visit to the school, DeVos had one last question for the six students: "If you were to encapsulate your experience at Cristo Rey in one sentence, what would that be?"

The first student to respond was Cheick, who has earned a scholarship to the University of Notre Dame where he

wants to pursue a major in neuroscience.

Cheick smiled at the secretary of education and said, "Take advantage of the opportunity because it really is life-changing."

(For more information about Providence Cristo Rey High School in Indianapolis, go to www.pcrhs.org.) †



"We knew we could make an impact on the lives of children who are economically challenged. They're learning about God, and they have hope, and they have faith."

— Providence Sister Dawn Tomaszewski discussing her order's establishment of Providence Cristo Rey High School in Indianapolis

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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 29

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. **Memorial Day Mass**, 10 a.m. Information: 317-574-8898 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

Calvary Mausoleum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. **Memorial Day Mass**, noon. Information: 317-784-4439 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

May 30

SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Church, 5901 Olive Branch Road, Greenwood. **Annual Memorial Day Service**, 8:45 a.m. patriotic music, 9 a.m. Mass followed by outdoor service, reception to follow. Information: Sue LaRue, 317-859-4673.

June 2

Women's Care Center, 4901 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. **First Friday Mass**, Msgr. William F. Stumpf, archdiocesan administrator, officiating, 5 p.m., optional tour of center to follow. Information: 317-829-6800, www.womenscarecenter.org.

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, 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 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.

Mary, Queen of Peace Church, 1005 W. Main St., Danville. **Serra Club Mass for Vocations**, 8:30 a.m., followed by refreshments and fellowship. Information: smclaughlin@holyspirit.cc.

June 2-4

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus Parish (Little Flower), 4720 E. 13th, Indianapolis. **Summerfest**, Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 3-11 p.m., Sun. 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., midway rides, rummage sale, games for kids and adults, \$5,000 raffle, silent auction, bingo on Friday evening, Monte Carlo, live entertainment, food court, \$10 minimum purchase required for ages 13 and older. Information: www.littleflowerparish.org, 317-357-8352.

June 3

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.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Book Warming Reception: The Liturgy of Marriage**, by marriage therapist and St. Simon the Apostle parishioner Dr. Timothy Heck, 6-8 p.m., no charge. Information: 317-502-7171 or info@liturgyofmarriage.com.



Sharing jubilee proceeds

Father Francis Joseph Kalapurackal, left, administrator of St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville, parish secretary Kathy Phillips, Churches in Mission director Alice Cordes, parish 5K event coordinator Lauri Griffin and parishioner/Churches in Mission board member Angela Majeski pose on April 28 with a check from St. Thomas More Parish to Churches in Mission, a non-profit organization that supports the needy of Mooresville and Morgan County. The \$2,500 gift was made possible by proceeds from the "Hooray! It's a Jubilee 5K Walk/Run" sponsored by the parish and its 50th Jubilee Committee on April 1. (Submitted photo)

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Library, 7575 N. Holiday Dr. E., Indianapolis. **Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Secular Franciscan Fraternity Open House**, introduction into the life of a secular Franciscan, formation and profession, following 8:15 a.m. Mass. Information: 317-364-6206 or machineman@sbcglobal.net.

Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mt. St. Francis. **Mountfest: an Experience of Kentuckiana**, 2-8 p.m., wine, beer, food and live music all unique to Kentuckiana, booths featuring local artists and artisans, Terry's Treasures flea market and garage sale in the gym, drawings for \$5,000 first place, \$1,000 second, \$500 third and \$100 each fourth-eighth places. Rain or shine. Information: 812-923-8817.

June 6 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.

June 7

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.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, 1752 Scheller Lane, New Albany. **"How to be a Christian Consoler"**

Program, sponsored by the Ministry of Consolation, tools for family, friends and caregivers helping those who suffer, 7-8:30 p.m., no charge, register by June 5. Registration and information: 812-945-2374 or tyost@olphna.org. †

Retreats and Programs

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

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

June 8

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Garden Retreat**, Benedictine Sister Cathy Anne Lepore presenting, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$55 includes lunch. Information and registration: 317-788-7581, www.benedictinn.org.

June 11-18

Monastery Immaculate Conception, Kordes Hall, 841 E. 14th St., Ferdinand (Evansville Diocese). **Private and Personal Retreat**, 7 p.m. Sun. through 10 a.m. the following Sunday, \$575 includes meals and private room. Register by June 8 at www.thedome.org/events. Information: 812-367-1411.

June 13

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Spend a Day with God: Personal Retreat Day**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$35 includes room and lunch; spiritual direction \$30 (optional). Information and

registration: 317-788-7581, www.benedictinn.org.

June 16-22

Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, **The Image as a Window to the Spiritual: An Artist's Six-Day Hands-on Workshop and Retreat**, Benedictine Father Martin Erspamer and Passionist Brother Michael Moran presenting, \$650 single, \$950 double. Information: 812-357-6585 or mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

June 18-24

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Setting Out on the Way with the Gospel as Our Guide**, Father Jeffrey Godecker presenting, \$500. Information and registration: 317-788-7581, www.benedictinn.org.

June 23-25

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Tobit Marriage Preparation Weekend**, \$298 includes lodging (two rooms), meals, snacks and materials. Information, registration:

www.archindy.org/fatima/calendar/tobit.html, Marcia Johnson@archindy.org or 317-545-7681, ext. 107.

June 26

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.

June 30-July 1

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Monasticism in the Twenty-First Century: A View from the Trenches**, Cistercian monk Father Michael Casey presenting, 7-9 p.m. Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat., \$195 residential, \$145 commuter. Information and registration: 317-788-7581, www.benedictinn.org. †



Students honored by NJHS

Kayla Stone, left, Olivia Raab and Benjamin Moster, students of St. Louis School in Batesville, smile in response to their selection as recipients of the 2017 National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Award. They will each receive a \$500 award, which will be placed in a college savings account. Each year, the National Junior Honor Society gives out 500 awards nationally with the goal of helping families get a head start on saving for college. The national committee looks at areas including a candidate's academic achievements, study habits, leadership roles, community service, citizenship and character. (Submitted photo)

Deadline to register for youth choir camps in Indianapolis is June 2

Two Archdiocese of Indianapolis youth choir camps for singers of all experience levels will be offered at Roncalli High School, 3300 Prague Road, in Indianapolis, on June 12-23.

These fast-paced, fun and faith-filled choral experiences will focus on improving singing and performance techniques, growing in the faith and having fun with new friends.

An eight-session camp for the Youth Schola for students entering grades 5-9 will be held from 1-2:30 p.m. on June 12-16 and June 19-23.

A four-session camp for the Children's Schola for students entering grades 2-4 will be held from 2:30-4 p.m. on June 19-23.

Both camps culminate in a joint concert at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, at 6 p.m. on June 23.

The cost is \$75 for the Youth Schola and \$50 for the Children's Schola. The deadline to register is June 2.

Further information and registration materials can be requested by e-mailing archindyouthchoir@gmail.com. †



The Face of Mercy

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

By Daniel Conway

The astonishing depth of God's love for us

In his traditional Easter message, "*Urbi et Orbi*" (to the city and the world), Pope Francis said:

"Today, throughout the world, the Church echoes once more the astonishing message of the first disciples: 'Jesus is risen!'—'He is truly risen,' as he said!"

"By his resurrection, Jesus Christ has set us free from the slavery of sin and death, and has opened before us the way to eternal life.

"All of us, when we let ourselves be mastered by sin, lose the right way and end up straying like lost sheep. But God himself, our shepherd, has come in search of us. To save us, he lowered himself even to accepting death on the cross. Today we can proclaim: 'The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep, and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.'"

What is astonishing, of course, is the depth of God's love for us. We certainly did not (and do not) deserve the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. We were lost because of our refusal to follow his way. We were enslaved because we freely chose to "let ourselves be mastered by sin." We were like sheep without

a shepherd, and the Good Shepherd willingly died for us so that we might find our way home to him.

What Jesus did for us happened 2,000 years ago, but the experience is repeated daily. As Pope Francis explains,

"In every age, the Risen Shepherd tirelessly seeks us, his brothers and sisters, wandering in the deserts of this world. With the marks of the passion—the wounds of his merciful love—he draws us to follow him on his way, the way of life. Today too, he places upon his shoulders so many of our brothers and sisters crushed by evil in all its varied forms.

"The Risen Shepherd goes in search of all those lost in the labyrinths of loneliness and marginalization. He comes to meet them through our brothers and sisters who treat them with respect and kindness, and help them to hear his voice, an unforgettable voice, a voice calling them back to friendship with God."

The Risen Shepherd seeks us out here in Indiana or wherever we may be. Whether we are in urban centers, small towns or rural communities, Christ is present. He comes to meet us, as Pope

Francis says, through the people who treat us with respect and kindness and who speak with the voice of God.

Our archdiocese is blessed with parish communities spread throughout our 39 counties. In our celebration of the Easter mystery during the past six weeks, we have recommitted ourselves to being the welcoming and merciful voice of God in our communities. Inspired by Pope Francis's teaching on mercy—and the joy of the Gospel—we have worked hard at treating others with kindness and respect, especially strangers in our midst.

This is the work that our Risen Lord has commanded us to carry out in his name. He challenges all of us "to help all those victimized by old and new forms of slavery, inhuman labor, illegal trafficking, exploitation and discrimination, and grave forms of addiction."

In his endless mercy, the pope says, "[Christ] takes upon himself children and adolescents deprived of their carefree innocence and exploited, and those deeply hurt by acts of violence that take place within the walls of their own home."

And especially in our day, "The Risen

Shepherd walks beside all those forced to leave their homelands as a result of armed conflicts, terrorist attacks, famine and oppressive regimes. Everywhere he helps these forced migrants to encounter brothers and sisters, with whom they can share bread and hope on their journey."

The challenge for us is the same as it was for the first disciples. Where will we find the courage and the stamina to be Christ for others, especially those who are most vulnerable and in need of our help?

Now that the joyful season of Easter is drawing to a close, we naturally turn our attention to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The fact is that we desperately need the empowering gifts that God's Spirit brings. And so, we pray: Come Holy Spirit. Enflame our hearts with your good zeal so that we may boldly and confidently proclaim the astonishing message of the first disciples, "Jesus is risen. He is truly risen as he said! Alleluia!"

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

El rostro de la misericordia/Daniel Conway

La insondable profundidad del amor de Dios por nosotros

En su tradicional mensaje pascual titulado "*Urbi et Orbi*" ("Para la ciudad y el mundo"), el papa Francisco expresó:

"Hoy, en todo el mundo, la Iglesia renueva el anuncio lleno de asombro de los primeros discípulos: 'Jesús ha resucitado—Era verdad, ha resucitado el Señor, como había dicho' [...] Con la resurrección, Jesucristo nos ha liberado de la esclavitud del pecado y de la muerte y nos ha abierto el camino a la vida eterna.

"Todos nosotros, cuando nos dejamos dominar por el pecado, perdemos el buen camino y vamos errantes como ovejas perdidas. Pero Dios mismo, nuestro Pastor, ha venido a buscarnos, y para salvarnos se ha abajado hasta la humillación de la cruz. Y hoy podemos proclamar: 'Ha resucitado el Buen Pastor que dio la vida por sus ovejas y se dignó morir por su grey. Aleluya.'"

Evidentemente, lo que resulta abismal es la profundidad del amor de Dios por nosotros. Ciertamente no merecíamos (ni merecemos) el sacrificio que Jesús hizo por nosotros; estábamos perdidos por habernos negado a seguir su camino. Estábamos esclavizados porque elegimos libremente dejarnos "dominar por el pecado." Éramos como ovejas sin pastor y el Buen Pastor murió voluntariamente por nosotros para que pudiéramos

encontrar el camino de regreso a él.

La hazaña de Jesús ocurrió hace 2,000 años, pero la experiencia se repite a diario. Tal como nos los explica el Santo Padre:

"En toda época de la historia, el Pastor Resucitado no se cansa de buscarnos a nosotros, sus hermanos perdidos en los desiertos del mundo. Y con los signos de la Pasión—las heridas de su amor misericordioso—nos atrae hacia su camino, el camino de la vida. También hoy, él toma sobre sus hombros a tantos hermanos nuestros oprimidos por tantas clases de mal.

"El Pastor Resucitado va a buscar a quien está perdido en los laberintos de la soledad y de la marginación; va a su encuentro mediante hermanos y hermanas que saben acercarse a esas personas con respeto y ternura y les hacer sentir su voz, una voz que no se olvida, que los convoca de nuevo a la amistad con Dios."

El Pastor Resucitado nos busca en Indiana o dondequiera que nos encontremos: ya sea que estemos en centros urbanos, en pequeños poblados o en comunidades rurales, Cristo está presente. Viene a nuestro encuentro—como lo dice el papa Francisco—a través de las personas que nos tratan con respeto y bondad, y que hablan con la voz de Dios.

Nuestra Arquidiócesis tiene la bendición de contar con comunidades parroquiales en los 39 condados que la conforman. En el transcurso de las seis semanas anteriores, durante la celebración del misterio Pascual, nos hemos comprometido a ser la voz acogedora y misericordiosa de Dios en nuestras comunidades. Inspirados por la enseñanza del papa Francisco sobre la misericordia y la alegría del Evangelio, nos hemos esforzado arduamente para tratar a los demás con amabilidad y respeto, especialmente a los extranjeros que habitan entre nosotros.

Esta es la obra que el Señor Resucitado nos ha encomendado que llevemos a cabo en su nombre. Nos exhorta a ayudar "a cuantos son víctimas de antiguas y nuevas esclavitudes: trabajos inhumanos, tráfico ilícito, explotación y discriminación, graves dependencias."

En su infinita misericordia—nos dice el papa—: "Se hace cargo de los niños y de los adolescentes que son privados de su serenidad para ser explotados, y de quien tiene el corazón herido por las violencias que padece dentro de los muros de su propia casa."

Y especialmente en nuestros días, "el Pastor Resucitado se hace compañero de camino de quienes se ven obligados

a dejar la propia tierra a causa de los conflictos armados, de los ataques terroristas, de las carestías, de los regímenes opresivos. A estos emigrantes forzosos, les ayuda a que encuentren en todas partes hermanos, que compartan con ellos el pan y la esperanza en el camino común."

El desafío para nosotros es el mismo que enfrentaron los primeros discípulos: ¿dónde hallaremos el valor y la resistencia para representar a Cristo para los demás, especialmente para los más vulnerables y que necesitan nuestra ayuda?

Ahora que la alegría de la temporada de la Pascua se acerca a su final, naturalmente dirigimos nuestra atención a la venida del Espíritu Santo en Pentecostés. El hecho es que necesitamos desesperadamente los dones fortalecedores que nos brinda el Espíritu de Dios. Y así, rezamos: Ven Espíritu Santo, y llena nuestros corazones del buen celo para que podamos proclamar con valentía y confianza el maravilloso mensaje de los primeros discípulos: "Jesús ha resucitado. ¡Cristo resucitó como dijo que haría! ¡Aleluya!"

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

Pope Francis offers prayers for Central African Republic, Catholics in China

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis prayed for an end to armed conflicts between predominantly Christian and predominantly Muslim militias in the Central African Republic that have led to the deaths of innocent civilians and forced thousands to flee.

"I am close to the population as well as the bishops and all those who work for the good of the people and for

peaceful coexistence," the pope said after reciting the "*Regina Coeli*" prayer at noon on May 21 with visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Clashes between the mostly Muslim Seleka rebels and the mostly Christian anti-Balaka militia took a turn for the worse in the eastern town of Bria on May 20. According to the Reuters news agency, 22 people, including 17 civilians,

were killed, and 10,000 people were forced to flee their homes.

U.N. peacekeeping forces have reinforced the town as well as Bangassou and Alindao, two cities recently struck by violent skirmishes.

The pope urged both sides to end the violent clashes that "threaten the peace process."

"I pray for the dead and wounded

and renew my appeal that the weapons be silenced, and that the goodwill of dialogue would prevail to give the country peace and development," he said.

The pope also prayed for Chinese Catholics embarking on May 24 on their annual pilgrimage to the Marian shrine in Shanghai for the feast of Mary, Help of Christians. †



May 27

St. John the Baptist Parish, Starlight, 8310 St. John Road, **Floyds Knobs**. Strawberry Festival, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., buffet-style chicken dinner featuring homemade dumplings served 11 a.m.-6 p.m., 5K run/walk, build your own strawberry shortcake, soap box derby, kids inflatables, bingo, craft booths, games of chance, Little Miss and Mister Shortcake contest, live music and entertainment, raffle, frozen drinks. Information: 812-923-5785.

June 2-4

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus Parish (Little Flower), 4720 E. 13th, **Indianapolis**. Summerfest, Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 3-11 p.m., Sun. 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., midway rides, rummage sale, games for kids and adults, \$5,000 raffle, silent auction, bingo on Friday evening, Monte Carlo, live entertainment, food court, \$10 minimum purchase required for ages 13 and older. Information: www.littleflowerparish.org, 317-357-8352.

June 3

Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., **Mt. St. Francis**. Mountfest: an Experience of Kentuckiana, 2-8 p.m., wine, beer, food and live music all unique to Kentuckiana, booths featuring local artists and artisans, Terry's Treasures flea market and garage sale in the gym, drawings for \$5,000 first place, \$1,000 second, \$500 third and \$100 each fourth-eighth. Rain or shine. Information: 812-923-8817.

June 8-10

St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, 535 Edgewood Ave., **Indianapolis**. Funfest, Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, dinners in air-conditioned hall, grilled and multi-cultural foods, children's games and inflatables, live entertainment, Monte Carlo, take-a-chance. Information: 317-787-8246.

St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oaklondon Road, **Indianapolis**. Parish Festival, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 3 p.m.-midnight, "Hanover Chase" on Thurs., "The Bishops" on Fri., "My Yellow Rickshaw" on Sat., food, games, \$10 admission. Information: www.saintsimonfestival.com, 317-826-6000.

St. Anthony Parish, 337 N. Warman Ave., **Indianapolis**. Crossroads of the Americas Festival, Thurs. 6-10 p.m., Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 4 p.m.-midnight, food, carnival rides, games of chance, live music and DJ, dancing, \$25 raffle tickets, \$20,000 grand prize, \$500 second. Information: 317-636-4828.

June 8-11

Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., **Greenwood**. Parish Festival, Thur. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, Sun. noon-9 p.m., family dinners, food booths, rides, bingo, cake wheel, Monte Carlo, children's games, spin and win, raffles, silent auction. Information: 317-888-2861.

June 9-10

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., **Indianapolis**. Annual Italian Street Festival, 5-11 p.m., Italian food, wine, beer, live music, children's games and rides, Marian procession, free admission. Information: 317-636-4478.

Holy Angels Parish, 740 W. 28th St., **Indianapolis**. Music Festival, Fri. 5-10 p.m., Sat. 3-11 p.m., live music, children's inflatables, food, vendors, prizes, raffle. Information: 317-926-3324.

June 15-17

St. Susanna Parish, 1210 E. Main St., **Plainfield**. Parish Festival, Thur. 6-10 p.m., Fri. 6-11 p.m., Sat. 4:30 p.m.-midnight, Thurs. international foods, Fri. pulled pork dinners, Sat. ribeye steak dinners, carnival rides, kids games, book sale, raffle \$50 each or 3 for \$125, grand prize 2017 Chevy Trax, 2nd place \$1,500, 3rd \$1,000, 4th and 5th \$500 each, beer, wine and gambling tents, parking at Duke Energy (enter off Carr Road). Information and raffle tickets: 317-839-3333 or www.saintsusannachurch.com/parish-festival.

June 16

St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 2222 E. 3rd St., **Bloomington**. Country Western Hog Roast and Beer Garden, 4:30-8 p.m., food, beer and wine, live music, silent auction, 50/50 raffle, door prizes, \$10 presale/\$12 at the door. Information: 812-336-6846.

June 16-17

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., **Indianapolis**. International Festival, 5 p.m.-midnight, rides, food, games, music. Information: 317-291-7014.

June 17

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 316 N. Sherwood Ave., **Clarksville**. Parish Picnic, noon-11 p.m., chicken dinner in air-conditioning 2-8 p.m., cakes, quilts, bingo, children's play land, midway games and booths noon-9 p.m., beer garden and gambling opens at 4 p.m., prizes and raffles, \$5,000 first, \$1,000 second, \$500 third, DJ noon-8 p.m., live music with "100% Poly" band 8-11 p.m. Information: 317-282-2290.

June 22-24

St. Jude Parish, 5353 McFarland Road, **Indianapolis**. Summer Festival, Thurs. and Fri., 5 p.m., Sat., 6 p.m., food, carnival rides, games tent, Monte Carlo in gym, bingo in cafeteria, silent auction, raffle tickets \$5 or 3 for \$10, \$3,000 grand prize, \$1,000 second, \$500 third and fourth. Information: 317-786-4371.

June 23-24

Christ the King Parish, 5884 N. Crittenden Ave., **Indianapolis**. Summer Social, 6 p.m.-midnight, live music, food booths and trucks, Tiger Town for kids, beer garden, casino. Information: 317-255-3666.

June 25

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Decatur County, St. Maurice Campus, 1963 N. St. John St., **Greensburg**. Parish Festival, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners served inside and outside, mock turtle soup, raffles, live bands, kiddie tractor pull, adult and children's games, silent auction, beer and wine garden. Mass at 10 a.m. Information: 812-663-4754.

July 4

St. Mary Parish, 311 N. New Jersey St., **Indianapolis**. Fourth of July *Ole!* Festival, 3-11 p.m., live music, entertainment, American and Latino food, bingo, games, piñatas. Information: 317-637-3983.

July 7-8

St. Benedict Parish, 111 S. 9th St., **Terre Haute**. Community Festival, Fri. and Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, live music, family games, casino games, food booths, beer garden, handmade quilt raffle, 50/50 raffle, silent auction, raffle tickets sold for drawings of \$10,000, \$5,000, \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$750. Information: 812-232-8421, www.stbenedictth.org.

July 9

Harrison County Fairgrounds, 341 S. Capital Ave., **Corydon**. St. Joseph Tri-Parish Picnic, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., chicken dinner, homemade noodles, desserts, dinner tickets \$10 adults and \$5 children, air-conditioned dining, games, booths, children's area, silent auction, Granny's Attic flea market, quilts, raffle for \$5,000, \$1,000, \$500 and \$300, Kubota raffle. Information: 812-738-2742.

St. Lawrence Parish, 542 Walnut St., **Lawrenceburg**. Chicken Fest, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., chicken dinners, \$12 adults, \$10 ages 10 and under, jumbo split the pot, raffle. Information: 812-537-3992.

July 13-15

St. Christopher Parish, 5301 W. 16th St., **Indianapolis**. Mid-Summer Festival, Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. noon-11 p.m., food, carnival games, rides, bingo, Monte Carlo. Information: 317-241-6314.

Holy Spirit Parish, 7243 E. 10th St., **Indianapolis**. Parish Festival, Thurs. 6-11 p.m., Fri. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 1 p.m.-midnight, food, rides, games, entertainment. Information: 317-353-9404.

July 15-16

All Saints Parish, Dearborn County, St. John the Baptist Campus, 25743 State Rte. 1, **Guilford**. Summer Festival, Sat. 5-9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., chicken dinner, lunch stand, music, kiddie land, big money and grand raffles, country store, beer gardens. Information: 812-576-4302.

July 23-29

St. Ambrose Parish, food booth at Jackson County Fair on S.R. 250, **Brownstown**, 2-10 p.m. Information: 812-522-5304.

July 29

St. Mary Parish, 777 S. 11th St., **Mitchell**. Hog Roast and Indoor Yard Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., pulled pork dinners with sides \$6.50, raffle, door prizes, silent auction, cake walk. Information: 812-849-3570.

July 29-30

All Saints Parish, Dearborn County, St. Martin Campus, 8044 Yorkridge Road, **Guilford**. Festival, Sat. 5-9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., chicken dinner, lunch stand, music, kiddie land, big money and grand raffles, country store, beer gardens. Information: 812-576-4302.

July 30

St. Augustine Parish, 18020 Lafayette St., **Leopold**. Parish Picnic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. CT, fried chicken dinner, big raffle, handmade quilts, silent auction, baked goods and crafts, bingo, cake wheel, children's rides and games. Information: 812-843-5143.

August 4-5

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 523 S. Merrill St., **Fortville**. Summer Festival, Fri. 7-11 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., home-cooked meals, raffle, games, bingo, Monte Carlo on Fri. (\$20 per person). Information: 317-485-5102.

August 6

St. Bernard Parish, 7600 Hwy. 337 N.W., **Depauw**. Picnic and Raffle, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., country fried chicken and ham dinners, homemade noodles and pies served in an air-conditioned dining room until 2 p.m., carry out available, drawing for \$10,000 with only 300 \$100 tickets, silent auction, games for kids and adults, 50/50 raffle, gun raffle, handmade quilts, games of chance, live music 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Information or ticket purchase: 812-347-2326 or SaintBernardCatholicChurch@gmail.com.

St. Boniface Parish, 15519 N. State Road 545, **Fulda**. Parish Picnic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. CT, soup, food, quilts, music, games. Information: 812-357-5533.

August 12

Immaculate Conception Parish, 2081 E. Cty Road 820 S., **Greensburg**. Community Consignment Auction, begins at 9:30 a.m. and will last 5-6 hours (items accepted Aug. 11 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.), pulled pork sandwiches available at lunch, raffles. Information: 812-591-2362.

August 12-13

All Saints Parish, Dearborn County, St. Paul Campus, 9798 N. Dearborn Road, **Guilford**. Parish Festival, Sat. 5-9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., chicken dinner, turtle soup, lunch stand, music, kiddie land, big money and grand raffle, country store and beer garden. Information: 812-576-4302.

August 13

St. Mary Parish, 2500 St. Mary's Dr. NE., **Lanesville**. Annual Picnic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken and ham dinner served country style in air-conditioned dining room, \$6,000 in cash prizes, quilt raffle, linen/craft booths, Granny's Attic, games, silent auction. Mass schedule: 8 and 10:30 a.m. Information: 812-952-2853.

August 18-19

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7225 Southeastern Ave., **Indianapolis**. Augustravaganza, 4 p.m.-midnight, catered suppers (Fri. fried chicken, Sat., prime rib) and bingo in air-conditioned hall, kids games, raffle, Monte Carlo, 5K or 1 mile walk/run Sat. morning, baby crawl, live music, beer garden, alumni booth. Pre-festival activities on Thurs. night, Cookies and Canvas for kids and beer tasting for adults 21 and older. Information: www.nativityindy.org/augustravaganza-1, 317-357-1200.

August 18-19, cont'd

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 4625 N. Kenwood Ave., **Indianapolis**. Sausage Fest, Fri. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 5:30 p.m.-midnight, sausage, food vendors, inflatables, games, cake walk, face painting, teen area, live music, Sun King beer, wine garden. Information: 317-253-1461.

August 19-20

St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish, Floyd County, 5719 Saint Mary's Road, **Floyds Knobs**. Knobfest, Sat. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sun. 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Sat. gambling and beer garden, "100% Poly" band 9 p.m.-midnight; Sun. home-cooked chicken dinners, booths, prizes, quilts, bingo, kids zone. Information: 812-923-3011.

August 20

St. Nicholas Parish, Ripley County, 6461 E. St. Nicholas Dr., **Summan**. Church Picnic, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., buffet style fried chicken, roast beef dinners, mock turtle soup, games, raffles, beer garden. Information: 812-623-2964.

August 24-26

St. Ann Parish, 6350 S. Mooresville Road, **Indianapolis**. Parish Festival, celebrating 100 years, 5-11 p.m. each day, food, games, rides, raffle, casino. Information: 317-821-2909.

August 25-26

Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School, 201 W. State St., **Madison**. Shawe and Pope John XXIII Summertime Festival, 5 p.m.-midnight, food booths, live music, \$16 carnival ride wrist bands, cash raffle, beer tent. Information: 812-265-4166.

August 26

St. Monica Parish, 6131 N. Michigan Road, **Indianapolis**. Many Cultures-One Community Festival, 2-10 p.m., authentic international food, live bands, kids games, bingo, domestic, imported and craft beer and wine. Information: 317-253-2193.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 5692 Central Ave., **Indianapolis**. Eighth Annual IHM Neighborhood 5K Run/Walk, 9 a.m., \$15, ages 6 and younger free. Ninth Annual IHM Neighborhood Fall Kickoff Fest, 4-11 p.m., \$1 per person, music, food, beverages, games. Information: 317-257-2266.

August 26-27

St. Mary Parish, 1331 E. Hunter Robbins Way, **Greensburg**. Festival, Sat. 5-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., fried chicken dinners, live music, raffles, games, silent auction, bingo. Information: 812-663-8427.

September 1-3

St. Joseph Parish, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., **Indianapolis**. Fall Festival, Fri. and Sat. 5-11 p.m., Sun. 3-11 p.m., food, rides, games. Information: 317-244-9002.

September 1-4

Sacred Heart Parish, gymnasium, 558 Nebeker St., **Clinton**. Spaghetti Fest, Fri. 4-9 p.m., Sat. and Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Mon. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., sauce prepared by Knights of Columbus #9441, air-conditioned dining, handicapped accessible, adults \$8, children 12 and under \$5, silent auction, craft booths, free parking. Information: 765-832-8468.

September 3

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Decatur County, St. John the Evangelist Campus, 9995 E. Base Road, **Greensburg**. Enochsburg Church Picnic, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Fireside Inn fried chicken, roast beef dinners, mock turtle soup, games and booths. Information: 812-934-2880.

September 4

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 4773 E. Morris Church St., **Morris**. 100th Labor Day Festival and Chicken Dinner, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners in air-conditioned hall 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., reservations available for handicapped, grand raffle for \$10,000 or ATV, \$100 awarded every 30 minutes from 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., early bird drawing of \$100 on Aug. 20, lunch stand opens at 11 a.m., crafts, basket booth, games, produce booth, music, beer and wine. Information: 812-934-6218.

St. Peter Parish, Franklin County, 1207 East Road, **Brookville**. 97th Annual Labor Day Festival, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., family style chicken dinner, turtle soup, quilt raffle. Information: 765-647-5462.

September 8-10

St. Mary Parish, 629 Clay St., **North Vernon**. Community Festival, Fri. 4 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 3 p.m.-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Fri. all-you-can-eat chicken lunch, kickball tournament Sat. morning in city park, \$10,000 cash raffle (\$50 tickets), carnival rides, live music, silent auction, spin to win, face painting, family area, beer garden. Information: 812-346-3604.

September 9

St. Joan of Arc Parish, 4217 N. Central Ave., **Indianapolis**. French Market, noon-10 p.m., French food, music, artisans, children's activities, historic church tours, Mass in French at 5:30 p.m. Information: 317-283-5508.

September 9-10

St. Michael Parish, 145 St. Michael Blvd., **Brookville**. Fall Festival, Sat. 4-11 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. smoked pork chop dinner, Sun. family style chicken dinner. Information: 765-647-5462.

September 10

St. Augustine Parish, 315 E. Chestnut St., **Jeffersonville**. Parish Festival, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., harvest chicken dinners \$9, cake wheel, food, quilt raffle, bake sale. Information: 812-282-2677.

St. Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish, 512 N. Perkins St., **Rushville**. Fall Festival, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., chicken dinner served 11 am-3 p.m., games live auction, craft booths, home cooking booth. Information: 765-932-2588.

September 15-16

St. Malachy Parish, 9833 E. County Road 750 N., **Brownsburg**. Country Fair, Fri. 4-11 p.m., Sat. 3-11 p.m., hog roast, carnival rides and midway, youth and adult games, food, drinks, live entertainment. Information: 317-852-3195.

St. Rose of Lima Parish, 114 Lancelot Dr., **Franklin**. Parish Festival, Fri. 5-10 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., food, outside Mass (weather permitting), kids' games, entertainment, bingo, raffles. Information: 317-783-3929.

September 15-17

St. Lawrence Parish, 6944 E. 46th St., **Indianapolis**. Fall Festival, Fri. 5-11 p.m. Sat. 1-11 p.m. Sun. 1-6 p.m., food, live music, midway rides, kids' games, bingo, beer garden. Information: 317-546-4065.

September 16

St. Mary Parish, 415 E. Eighth St., **New Albany**. Multi-Cultural Festival, begins at 4 p.m. with bilingual Mass, American and Hispanic foods, music and dancing, raffles, games. Information: 812-944-0417.

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, 7575 Holliday Dr. E., **Indianapolis**. Fall Fest, noon-10 p.m., food, beer garden, Kiddie Carnival area, live bands, midway, adventure zone, bingo, silent auction. Information: 317-259-4373.

September 17

St. Michael Parish, 101 St. Michael Dr., **Charlestown**. Septemberfest, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., fried chicken dinner and traditional Mexican food, silent auction, games of chance, \$500 Jay C/Kroger gift card raffle, money and quilt raffles, music and dancing. Mass schedule: 11 a.m. bilingual. Information: 812-256-3200.

St. Louis Parish, 13 St. Louis Place, **Batesville**. Festival, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners, food, games, raffle, beer garden. Information: 812-934-3204.

Deming Park Lions Shelter One and Two, 500 S. Fruitridge Ave., **Terre Haute**. St. Joseph University Parish picnic after 11:30 a.m. Mass. Information: 812-232-7011.

September 22-23

SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish, 5901 Olive Branch Road, **Greenwood**. Fall Festival, Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. noon-11 p.m., evening sit-down dinners and food tents, dessert and wine bar, \$10,000 grand prize raffle, carnival rides, live music, silent auctions, artist booths, Monte Carlo, children's tent, petting zoo, teen games, cake wheel, dime toss, quilt raffle, beer tent, special festival Mass times. Information: 317-859-4673.

September 23

St. Gabriel Parish, 232 W. Ninth St., **Connersville**. Fall Festival, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., fried chicken dinner, silent auction. Information: 765-825-8578.

September 24

St. Mark Parish, Perry County, 5377 Acorn Road, **Tell City**. Shooting Match and Picnic, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. CT, shoot for ham and beef, homemade chili and pies, quilts, big money and prize raffle. Information: 812-836-2481.

St. Michael, 11400 Farmers Ln., **Bradford**. Ham and Chicken Dinner, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m., homemade dumplings, raffles, quilts, booths, bingo, silent auction. Information: 812-364-6646.

September 27

St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish, Floyd County, 5719 Saint Marys Road, **Floyds Knobs**. Card party, 7-10 p.m., door prizes, \$5 per person. Information: 812-923-3011.

St. Mary Parish "Italian Dinner" at Lawrence County Persimmon Festival, Main St., **Mitchell**, 4-7 p.m. Information: 812-849-3570.

September 28-30

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 5333 E. Washington St., **Indianapolis**. Fall Festival, Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. noon-midnight, rides, games, live entertainment, gambling, raffle, silent auction. Information: 317-356-7291.

September 29-30

Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 89 N. 17th Ave., **Beech Grove**. Oktoberfest, 5 p.m.-midnight, raffle, health and safety fair, kids games and inflatables, authentic German food, Fri. "The Flying Toasters" band, Sat. "Woomblies Rock Orchestra" band. Information: 317-784-5454.

St. Thomas More, 1200 N. Indiana St., **Mooresville**. Applefest, Fri., 5-9 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m., food barn, carnival, kids games, crafters, corn hole, wine and beer garden. Information: 317-831-4142.

October 1

St. John Paul II Parish, St. Joseph Campus, 2605 St. Joe Road W., **Sellersburg**. Turkey Shoot, Fall Festival and Chicken Dinner, 10:30 a.m. until folks leave, chicken dinners with homemade dumplings, booths, raffles for items and money, quilts, firing range. Information: 812-246-3522.

Holy Family Parish, 3027 Pearl St., **Oldenburg**. Fall Festival, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., fried chicken and roast beef dinners with sides, homemade ice cream, money raffle, quilts, pull tabs, basket booth, kids games, silent auction, baked goods, Christmas crafts. Information: 812-934-3013.

October 7

St. Mary Parish, serving American and Mexican food during the Harvest Homecoming Parade, corner of Spring and Eighth streets, **New Albany**. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Information: 812-944-0417.

October 13-22

Pope, Church leaders offer prayers after Manchester Arena attack

MANCHESTER, England (CNS)—Pope Francis decried the “barbaric attack” on concertgoers in Manchester, adding his voice to Catholic leaders dismayed at what British officials said was the deadliest case of terrorism there since 2005.

In a telegram sent to English Church officials on Pope Francis’ behalf, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said the pope “was deeply saddened to learn of the injury and tragic loss of life” after a suicide bomb killed at least 22 people and injured another 59 at Manchester Arena on May 22. Many concertgoers at the Ariana Grande concert were teenagers, young adults and families.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack. Police identified 22-year-old Salman Abedi as the bomber.

The pope “expresses his heartfelt solidarity with all those affected by this senseless act of violence,” the telegram said, as “he commends the generous efforts of the emergency and security personnel and offers the assurance of his prayers for the injured, and for all who have died.

“Mindful in a particular way of those children and young people who have lost their lives, and of their grieving families, Pope Francis invokes God’s blessings of peace, healing and strength upon the nation.”

In Britain, Cardinal Vincent G. Nichols of Westminster, president of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, and other Catholic leaders offered prayers for the victims of the attacks and their families.

“My shock and dismay at the horrendous killing of young and innocent people in the Manchester Arena last

night is, I know, shared by all people of goodwill,” Cardinal Nichols said in a May 23 statement posted on the Westminster archdiocesan website. “I know, too, that Catholics and many others will be praying earnestly for those who have been killed, for the bereaved and for grieving loved ones.

“We pray in support of all those working so hard in response to this tragedy: the police and security forces, hospital staff, neighbors and friends and for all the people of Manchester. May God, in his mercy, strengthen and sustain us and keep us firmly united in the face of all evil.”

The terrorist attack took place within the Diocese of Salford, which incorporates most of Manchester and much of northwest England.

Bishop John Arnold of Salford offered a lunchtime Mass on May 23 at St. Mary’s, a popular city-center church close to Manchester Arena.

In a statement the same day, he said: “The citizens of Manchester and the members of the Catholic community are united in condemning the attack on the crowds at the Manchester Arena.

“Such an attack can have no justification. I thank the emergency services for their prompt and speedy response which saved lives,” he continued. “We join in prayer for all those who have died and for the injured and their families and all affected by this tragedy. We must all commit ourselves to working together, in every way, to help the victims and their families and to build and strengthen our community solidarity.”

Bishop Mark Davies of Shrewsbury, whose diocese covers southern parts of



Two women wrapped in thermal blankets stand near Manchester Arena in England where U.S. singer Ariana Grande had been performing on May 22. At least 22 people, including children, were killed and dozens wounded after an explosion at the concert venue. Authorities said it was Britain’s deadliest case of terrorism since 2005. (CNS photo/Jon Super, Reuters)

Manchester, wrote to his clergy, urging them to pray for the victims and their families.

“Let us also keep in our prayer the police and emergency services, together with all hospital staff and chaplains,” he said in his letter.

The bishop added: “Together with Church and religious leaders in Greater

Manchester, I ask the prayers of your parishioners for peace and solidarity in all our communities, that the hate which inspires such indiscriminate violence may be overcome by that love which faith and prayer inspires in our hearts. I hope the days ahead, overshadowed by this atrocity, will lead us all to such prayer and active charity.” †

On Holy Land trip, President Trump visits Holy Sepulcher and Western Wall

JERUSALEM (CNS)—Following his official welcome to Jerusalem by Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, U.S. President Donald J. Trump began his two-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories with a private visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Western Wall.

Details of the visits to the holy sites had been a carefully guarded secret until the last moment, but from early on May 22 the alleyways of the Old City were closed to both residents and tourists, and the main thoroughfares leading to the Old City were closed off to all traffic.

Under tight security and led by the

traditional *kawas* honor guard announcing the way with the thumping of their ornamental staffs, the president made his way by foot through the Old City’s alleyways to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. He and first lady Melania Trump were welcomed at the entrance of the church courtyard by Greek Orthodox Patriarch Archbishop Theophilos III; Franciscan Father Francesco Patton, custos of the Holy Land; and Armenian Patriarch Nourhan Manougian. The president spoke briefly to the religious leaders and stopped at the entrance of the church for a group photograph after also speaking to a few other religious.

Trump, who also was accompanied into the church by his daughter, Ivanka Trump, and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, spent about 30 minutes in the church, which encompasses the area where, according to Christian tradition, Jesus was crucified, buried and later rose from the dead. At the entrance of the church is the stone of unction, where tradition holds that Jesus’ body was laid out and washed after his crucifixion. Inside the central rotunda is the newly renovated Edicule, where Jesus was buried.

The delegation then walked the short distance to the Western Wall plaza, where Trump was greeted by Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz, rabbi of the Western Wall. Wearing the traditional Jewish *kippa* or skullcap, Trump walked alone to the wall, where he placed his hands on the stones for several minutes. He then placed a note with a prayer into a crack in the wall, a Jewish tradition. Melania and Ivanka Trump visited the women’s section of the wall separately, and the first lady spent a

few minutes silently in front of the wall, touching it with her hand.

Trump is the first sitting president to visit the Western Wall in the contested Old City of Jerusalem. Both Israelis and Palestinians claim Jerusalem as their capital city.

The Western Wall, considered the holiest site for Judaism today as a remnant of the retaining wall of the biblical Jewish Temple, also surrounds the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif compound, where the Jewish temple once stood, and now the location of Al-Aqsa mosque, Islam’s third-holiest site.

Avoiding any symbolic controversy involving the issue of the city’s sovereignty, the Trump administration insisted the visit to the sites be private, vexing Israel by Trump’s refusal to be accompanied by Israeli political leaders to the Western Wall.

Meanwhile, Palestinians said Israel had not allowed a Greek Orthodox Scout marching band to accompany the delegation to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher as planned because of the Palestinian flags on their uniform. A spokesman from the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied any Israeli involvement in the matter, suggesting that it might have been a U.S. security issue.

In a visit that encompassed both political and religious symbolism, Trump spent two days in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, with King Salman and other Muslim leaders.

On May 23, Trump met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Bethlehem, West Bank, and told him, “If the Israelis and Palestinians can make peace, it will

begin a process of peace throughout the Middle East.”

Abbas told Trump that Palestinians were committed to working with him to reach a Palestinian-Israeli peace deal.

“Our problem is not with Judaism, it is not a problem among religions,” said Abbas. “Our problem is with the occupation, settlements and Israel’s failure to recognize the state of Palestine.”

On many occasions, U.S. and international Catholic bishops have spoken out against the expansion of Israeli settlements and confiscation of Palestinian lands.

Trump did not discuss hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. He did not visit Bethlehem’s Church of the Nativity, and earlier media reports had indicated that was because of an exhibit at the church supporting the hunger-striking prisoners.

In statements upon his arrival in Israel, Trump spoke warmly about the U.S.-Israeli bond and his deep sense of admiration for the country. He also spoke of the need to unite against “the scourge of violence.”

“We have the rare opportunity to bring security and stability and peace to this region and to its people by defeating terrorism,” Trump said at the welcoming ceremony upon his arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, where he was greeted by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara. “But we can only get there by working together. We love Israel. We respect Israel, and I send your people the warmest greeting from your friend and ally, from all people in the U.S.A. We are with you.”

Trump was scheduled to visit Pope Francis at the Vatican on May 24. †



U.S. President Donald Trump places a note in the Western Wall in Jerusalem on May 22. (CNS photo/Jonathan Ernst, Reuters)

Online Lay Ministry Formation

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God uses food to strengthen bodies and nourish souls

By Nancy Wiechec

Probably no one has expressed the place of food in life better than American writer and gastronome Mary Frances Kennedy Fisher.

“First we eat, then we do everything else.”

From a spiritual point of view, Catholics might say, first the Eucharist, then everything else.

Food is sustenance first and foremost. We need it to nourish our body.

But it is also ritual and heritage. Food connects us to our beliefs, our communities and our ancestors.

From the important Jewish Passover to the fad of Taco Tuesday, humans have made food central to human celebration and socialization.

Christians are called to treat food like all of God’s gifts, with respect and gratitude, and to avoid overindulgence and waste. Yet temptations abound!

How many will admit they want to try each and every flavor of Kettle Brand potato chips? Yep, your hand is up. Who can resist the maple-bacon flavored ones?

Americans eat too much, and not enough of the right foods, according to the U.S. government office that tracks our nation’s overall health. We tend to pick processed packaged foods over fresh produce, meats and dairy.

The average daily calorie intake for Americans is around 3,770—much higher than the recommended average of about 2,000 calories per day for women and 2,400 for men. More than half of Americans have preventable, diet-related chronic diseases.

Interestingly, while most of us consume more than enough food, 13 million U.S. children still live in households that don’t get the nutrition they need.

Worldwide, 800 million people are chronically hungry.

Systems of production, distribution and consumption fall short when food is viewed from a global perspective. About one-third of all food produced for humans is lost or wasted, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

“Whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of poor, from the hungry,” Pope Francis has observed.

He called hunger and malnutrition in the world a scandal, and has asked all people to reflect on the problem of wasted food and to identify ways to address it.

To kick start your hunger awareness and ways you can help, check in with Catholic Relief Services (www.crs.org) or your local chapter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. They are experts at what it takes to beat back hunger.

Although we must eat, we also must try to avert our gaze from the constant barrage of food messaging,



A man sits down to a meal at the St. Vincent de Paul Society dining room in Phoenix in this 2016 photo. Food connects us to our beliefs, our communities and our ancestors. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

advertisement and promotions. Try avoiding the food samples on your next trip to the big-box warehouse. Not easy, is it?

It’s good to remember that food is temporal and that satisfaction on Earth means nothing in God’s greater plan for us.

“Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life,” Christ tells us. “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst” (Jn 6:27, 35).

While celebrating Mass in America’s agricultural heartland on a farm in Iowa in 1979, St. John Paul II reminded all that hunger would persist even if everyone had their full.

“Farmers everywhere provide bread for all humanity, but it is Christ alone who is the bread of life. ... Even if all the physical hunger of the world were satisfied, even if everyone who is hungry were fed by his or her own labor or by the generosity of others, the deepest hunger of man would still exist. ... Therefore, I say: Come, all of you, to

Christ. He is the bread of life. Come to Christ, and you will never be hungry again.”

Catholics come to the altar to receive the body and blood of Christ; to be one with him and to be one with each other, his followers, the community of faithful. We are sent to go into the world and share that gift of Christ.

In all that is asked of us, we can squeeze in a few small practices to be more conscious of temporal and spiritual hunger.

We can pause after Communion to pray for all who hunger, asking God that they too might be filled with the grace of God through Christ Jesus.

Likewise, when feeling hunger pangs or simple cravings, let’s sit still for a moment, recall God’s gifts and be thankful for his Son and everlasting life.

That bag of chips can wait.

(Nancy Wiechec served on the Catholic News Service staff for nearly 20 years. Follow her on Twitter: @nancywiechec.) †

For Christians, discussion of food in the Bible culminates in the Eucharist

By Paul Senz

Since the beginning of creation, humanity’s relationship with food has been inseparable from its relationship with God. In the Garden of Eden, God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In disobeying this commandment—and seeking to be like God—Adam and Eve fell from grace and were expelled from the garden.

Adam and his children would forever toil for their food. When the Israelites escaped slavery in Egypt and wandered the desert for 40 years, they became angry with God, worried they would starve. God told their leader Moses that he would let no such thing happen:

“I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them: In the evening twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will have your fill of bread, and then you will know that I, the Lord, am your God” (Ex 16:12). As in the Garden of Eden, God provides food as a sign of his steadfastness and providential love.

We, too, are called to be hospitable. The Letter to the Hebrews states, “Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels” (Heb 13:2).

Abraham welcomed God in the guise of three men, telling them, “Now that you have come to your servant, let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves; and afterward you may go on your way” (Gn 18:5).

In being hospitable and charitable with our food and other blessings, we avoid avarice and gluttony and build up the virtue of selflessness. In giving of ourselves and our gifts, we are hospitable to the Lord.

It seems that any talk of food in Scripture leads up to and culminates in the Eucharist as instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper. The Eucharist is a sacrament, which means it is more than a symbol—it enacts what it signifies.

It is spiritual food, and Jesus alludes to this when he says: “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst” (Jn 6:35).

The sharing of a meal, the eucharistic sacrifice, became so identified with Jesus that his disciples on the road to Emmaus did not recognize him after the resurrection until they shared a meal with him:

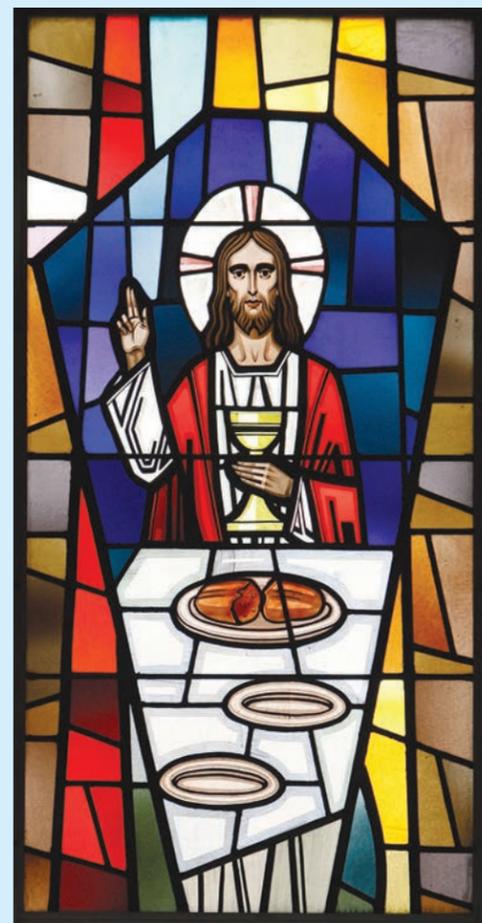
“While he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that, their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he

vanished from their sight. ... Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way, and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread” (Lk 24:30-31, 35).

They finally recognize him—not just in the bread, but in the breaking of the bread, in the communal meal. This is the eucharistic sacrifice, shared in community as it was intended.

Food can be misused just as any earthly good can. It is not misused if we recognize it as a gift from God: an opportunity to be giving, to make sacrifices, to grow in holiness.

(Paul Senz is a freelance writer living in Oregon with his family.) †



Jesus at the Last Supper is depicted in a stained-glass window at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Greenlawn, N.Y. Christians understand the role of food throughout the Bible as leading up to the beginning of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic)

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Meeting some impressive people in Guatemala in 1993

In October of 1993, I went to Guatemala with the organization Christian Foundation for Children and Aging



(CFCA). Founded by Bob Hentzen, it provides an example of how one dedicated person can make a difference in the world. He died in 2013 at age 77.

It still exists today, but now it's called

Unbound. Then as now, it supports missionaries working with the poor and needy in developing countries. It has programs in 20 countries, 15 in this hemisphere and five in Asia and Africa.

We lived among the Mayan Indians at San Andres Itzapa. We stayed at a Carmelite sisters' convent, with eight of us sleeping in one room on steel frame beds without springs. A tiny bathroom had a toilet and a cold water faucet. We got buckets of water from the "pila" (a supply of water for washing laundry) with which to flush the toilet. So we had pretty primitive conditions.

Outside our convent compound, Mayan workers walked to work in the fields, hoes on shoulders, machetes hanging

from their belts. Many were on horses or leading cows or goats. They were all friendly, wishing us "buenos dias" (good day) as they passed the convent.

We learned a lot about the indigenous people of Guatemala during our week with them. Seventy-two percent had no running water, 82 percent no electricity and 90 percent no plumbing.

One of the things Unbound does is to get sponsors for families. In 1993, there were 7,000 sponsored children in Guatemala, 27,000 worldwide. Today there are more than 300,000 sponsored children and aging persons.

I spent time translating letters the children were sending to their foster parents. The children who had foster parents had to write letters to them twice a year, plus thank-you notes for any gifts they received. Of course, the volunteers also have to translate letters that come from the foster parents.

I met an impressive priest called Father Pancho. His full name was Father Adan Francisco Garcia Calderon. A short, round man, he was pastor of San Andres Parish in Itzapa and Holy Innocents Parish in Parramos. He had 50,000 parishioners! He also served 82 small villages in the

mountains for which there were 22 chapels.

On Sundays, he celebrated the 6 and 8 a.m. Masses at San Andres and a 10 o'clock Mass at Holy Innocents. He tried to have confessions between Masses. During the week, he said three Masses every day in some of the 22 chapels.

He had 173 people on his staff—not counting volunteers. He had 62 teachers in his school, and there were 205 catechists. (Since this totals more than 173, obviously some of the catechists were volunteers.) The catechists taught religion, but also conducted religious services in the chapels when Father Pancho wasn't there.

There were other people on Father Pancho's staff who gave a good indication of the things that he did besides caring for the spiritual health of his parishioners. There were two doctors, a dentist, two pharmacists, an ambulance driver and masons. And the Carmelite Sisters were also part of the staff.

More about Father Pancho next week.

(John Fink's recent series of columns on Church history is now available in book form from Amazon. It is titled *How Could This Church Survive?* with the subtitle, *It must be more than a human institution.*) †

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

Christ offers parents peace in the midst of chaotic family life

I don't think it's too much of a stretch to say that living in a home with growing children is far from peaceful.



There are blessings in such a life, to be sure. In fact, the gift of life that God has given to us in our children far outshines any material blessing to be found in this life.

But given the around-the-clock demands of growing children, it's reasonable to conclude that sharing life with them is not peaceful—at least as the world understands peace.

Peace for the individual person in this life is often conceived as having no demands made on one's time, having all of one's material needs met and even having the resources to fulfill our desires. That's the peace that we all desire from a purely human perspective apart from the life of grace poured into our hearts at baptism.

That certainly isn't life with growing children. Believe me, my wife Cindy and I know this from our life with five sons, ages 15 down to 3.

Just take a typical school day for our four boys who are students in grades nine down to second grade. I won't even go into the particular demands of our 3-year-old.

We wake them early in the morning to get them ready for school, prepare their breakfast, get them out the door, do laundry, look after all the various chores to keep the house in which they live in one piece, earn a living to provide for all of their material needs, welcome them home, help them with their homework, prepare and serve supper, get them ready for bed and then, before we go to bed ourselves, make their lunches for the next day.

(Many of these tasks, I must say, are accomplished by my devoted wife.)

Through all of this, we're trying to teach them how to do many of these things on their own. Most importantly, we strive to lead them to become the good and holy young men that God has called them to be as we seek with the help of God's grace to do that in our own lives.

Prayer is needed to do all of this, and we do this as a family every day.

It is in prayer and our relationship with God nurtured through it that we are given a peace that the world does not know, a peace that Jesus promised to his disciples in one of the last lessons he gave to them.

In a recent daily Mass leading up to the feast of the Ascension of the Lord that the Church will celebrate this weekend, we heard these words from Jesus in the Gospel reading: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid" (Jn 14:27).

In this world, we are often troubled and afraid, as well as frustrated, angry, resentful and a host of other difficult feelings, when the conditions for individual peace that I described are lacking in our lives to one degree or another.

We may yearn greatly for the fulfillment of these conditions. But in this life with all its limits, that will never happen. The peace the world offers is an illusion.

The peace of Christ, on the other hand, is solid and cannot be shaken the more we place our trust in him. In his peace, he calms our hearts when demands are made of us and when we struggle to meet our needs and desires.

So parents of growing children, accept the peace offered by Christ and you'll truly find peace even in—perhaps especially in—the chaos of daily life at home. †

Cornucopia/Cynthia Dewes

All of us can be random dispensers of kindness every day

Russia is making menacing noises once again. Congress is in its usual disarray. People are turning to reality TV to escape reality. What's going on?



But just when we think the world has hit rock bottom, we hear another story about a random act of kindness. We've all heard about the "kindness of strangers," but does it

really exist?

As Scripture tells us, it's easy to be kind to those whom we love, those who show kindness to us, those we approve of. But what merit is there in that? Naturally, we're kind to such people, but it's harder to be nice to those we mistrust or disapprove of or otherwise don't want to be good to. That's the behavior which should get credit.

Still, happy surprises occur all the time. Once, our German son-in-law was visiting, and went to the store for groceries one day. He loves to shop and to cook, in that order, and while he's here, he buys food and prepares a great dinner for us now and then.

Emmaus Walk/Debra Tomaselli

To trust or not to trust God: Remember, the choice is yours

"I just don't have religion the way you do," Melinda said. Right over the phone, I frowned. What did she mean?



I know she was facing serious health issues. But I also knew that she'd been raised Catholic. She's attended a Catholic church for decades. She participated in a parish Bible study for years.

And now she's claiming she doesn't have religion? Really, what did she mean?

"I just don't trust God the way you do," she said.

"Oh," I said, fumbling for a response.

"I try, but it's hard," she added.

And then I understood.

Melinda's right. It is hard to trust God. But, trust me, it's harder not to.

It's hard to trust God. It means letting go of what you want. It means trading your will for his. It means letting things happen, not knowing the outcome. It means realizing we are not in control.

When he got to the cash register, he was chagrined to find that he hadn't yet exchanged his German money for ours. Embarrassed, he was going to put back what he'd assembled, when a woman behind him stepped up and offered to pay the bill for him.

It cost well more than \$20, but she refused to take his phone number or his offer of reimbursement. Johannes couldn't get over how generous this kind woman had been. Frankly, neither could we.

Another time, as I was driving down a country road, a big tree toppled over from someone's yard just as I approached. It lay across the road, and I was lucky I'd avoided being hit. Another man had driven up behind me, and when we got out of our cars to survey the situation, I realized that I was hemmed in.

Now, backing up is not one of my major skills. I've managed to rip off two rearview mirrors trying to do it. I told the man my plight, and he immediately offered to back my car up to a driveway behind us and turn the car around for me. After moving his own car, he quickly turned mine so that I was free to leave. How kind of him.

But if we don't trust God, we want things our way. When circumstances spiral out of control, we worry. We're anxious. We're frustrated. We wrestle with the outcome. We're distracted and detached. We bounce from one problem to the next.

When we choose to trust God, however, we are at peace. We do what we can, and confidently leave the outcome in his hands. Things don't have to go our way. Trusting God is a choice. It's recognition of where our responsibilities end and his begin. It provides a sense of assurance and security.

When we choose to trust God, we turn our will over to his—knowing that whatever happens, even if it is not what we want, will be for his greater glory.

When we choose to trust God, we are acknowledging this life isn't what it's all about. There's so much more; we just can't see it yet.

I'm OK with that.

Experience has revealed to me, time and time again, that once I give the problem, the fear, the frustration to God, he gifts me with peace.

Maybe the little-old-lady factor is kicking in here, but I find help like this at every turn. Young men the age of my grandsons are always quick to help me in the grocery store, the gas pump, whatever. Since I am short, they're constantly reaching items on the top shelves for me. And as for opening doors, a young man always materializes and holds the door open for me. More kindness.

Our mentally handicapped son used to love poking grocery price tags around when I wasn't looking, thus making prices a jumble. When the store clerk would notice this and be prepared to scold both of us, he'd notice that Andy was innocent, and just remind me gently to keep an eye on him.

People are moved by others' infirmities or problems over which they have no control. So, they feel sorry for them and sympathize and suddenly their irritation disappears. It's a very Christian reaction. But wouldn't it be nice if we applied random acts of kindness every day just for the heck of it?

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

I trade the worry, the anxiety and annoyance for tranquility, calmness and an ability to be present to others. If I'm not preoccupied in my own problems, I'm available to lend a listening ear. I can make a meal. Or share a story.

God shows me the way.

So we have a choice.

Melinda is right. It's hard to trust God. Surely it is. You have to surrender a lot. In hindsight, however, it's always best. (That's one of the perks to growing older. You can look back and see how God's response was better than your wants.)

But surely, the road is harder when you choose not to trust God.

Do you want to go through life miserable? Anxious? Worried? Never being able to recognize God's splendid works because you're too focused on your own wants and plans?

The choice is yours.

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

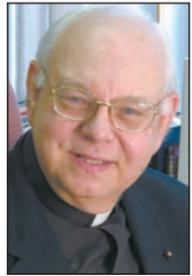
The Ascension of the Lord/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 28, 2017

- Acts 1:1-11
- Ephesians 1:17-23
- Matthew 28:16-20

Many dioceses in the United States, including those in Indiana, liturgically celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord this weekend. Other dioceses observe this weekend as the Seventh Sunday of Easter.



These reflections will refer to the biblical readings for the Ascension of the Lord.

The first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, is from the beginning of Acts. As with the Gospel of St. Luke, the author addresses Theophilus, whose identity is unclear. Was Theophilus his actual name? Perhaps it was. Perhaps it was not. "Theophilus" also is a title, meaning "friend of God."

In any case, this initial form of address recalls that Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles are inseparably linked. Acts simply continues the story begun in the Gospel. At some point, editors divided these books and placed the Gospel of John between them. This arrangement remains today in biblical translations.

This is important. It shows that, in the mind of the holy author, the process of salvation did not end with the Lord's ascension into heaven. After the Lord went to heaven, the work of salvation continued as the Apostles proceeded with the mission accomplished by Jesus, ordained long ago by God.

A lesson to be learned is how important the Apostles were. In Acts, the text clearly reveals that the first Christians greatly revered the 11 surviving Apostles, that Peter led them and spoke for them, that they performed miracles, just as Jesus had performed miracles, and that they exercised the authority of Jesus in calling Matthias to be an Apostle equal to the others.

Still, despite all these assertions as to their dignity, they are only humans. They need the inspiration of God.

As its second reading, the Church presents a selection from

St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians.

This reading is a prayer that all Christians might find true wisdom. True wisdom reposes only in the Lord. Earthly wisdom can be faulty and indeed often is.

For the last reading, the Church gives us a lesson from St. Matthew's Gospel. Again, the status of the Apostles is the point. The Apostles are with Jesus. They see and hear the risen Lord.

Jesus tells them to go into the world. They should exclude or ignore no one. They should bring all humanity into God's family by baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This last instruction from Jesus is a clear and direct revelation of the Holy Trinity.

Reflection

The Church, having proclaimed the resurrection, now calls us to look at ourselves and our times. Christ still is with it, the Church declares emphatically. As the bond between Luke and Acts tells us, the gift of salvation, perfected in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, is open to all, here and now, and throughout all time and space.

Jesus did not just live 20 centuries ago. He still lives. He still gives life, blessing us, forgiving us, and taking us home to heaven. Jesus is with us, even after the Ascension.

He is with us now in the Church, because the Church stands on the foundation laid long ago by the Apostles. It received the message of Jesus from them. It received from them the commission to reach out to everyone with the blessings of salvation.

From them, it has received the power to forgive sin and to bestow the new life of grace. From them, it received the sacraments now offered to us.

The Church brings us to Jesus, and it brings Jesus to us. As St. Paul tells us, the source of truth is in Jesus alone.

We are not dragged, kicking and screaming to Jesus, however. We must turn to Jesus willingly and totally because we humbly realize our need for Jesus. †

Daily Readings

Monday, May 29

Acts 19:1-8
Psalm 68:2-7
John 16:29-33

Tuesday, May 30

Acts 20:17-27
Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21
John 17:1-11a

Wednesday, May 31

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Zephaniah 3:14-18a
or Romans 12:9-16
(Response) Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6
Luke 1:39-56

Thursday, June 1

St. Justin, martyr
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
Psalm 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11
John 17:20-26

Friday, June 2

St. Marcellinus, martyr
St. Peter, martyr
Acts 25:13b-21
Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20b
John 21:15-19

Saturday, June 3

St. Charles Lwanga and companions, martyrs
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
Psalm 11:4-5, 7
John 21:20-25

Vigil Mass of Pentecost

Genesis 11:1-9
or Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20b
or Ezekiel 37:1-14
or Joel 3:1-5
Psalm 104:1-2a, 24, 35c, 27-28, 29bc-30
Romans 8:22-27
John 7:37-39

Sunday, June 5

Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

The Church supports the right of all children to have a mother and a father

QI read recently in the Catholic press that representatives of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) had written a letter in support of the Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act. That legislation would protect social service agencies who refuse, on religious grounds, to provide adoption services for same-sex couples. Does that mean that the Catholic Church is opposed to such adoptions? (New York)



AIn 2003, the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith said that adoption by same-sex couples could not be facilitated by the Church because such an arrangement brings about "the absence of sexual complementarity in these unions creates obstacles in the normal development of children. ... They would be deprived of the experience of either fatherhood or motherhood."

In 2010, when Pope Francis was still Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Argentina, he noted that adoption by same-sex couples would result in "depriving [children] of the human growth that God wanted [for] them given by a father and a mother."

In 2015, following a gay pride march in Rome, Pope Francis repeated his belief that children need a mother and a father. The identity of children, said the pope, "matures [when it is] confronted with the love their father and mother have, confronted with this difference."

The 2017 statement by the USCCB to which your question refers stemmed from the fact that in recent years Catholic Charities agencies in Massachusetts, Illinois, California and the District of Columbia had been forced by the government to shut down their adoption and foster care service because they refused, on religious grounds, to place children with same-sex couples.

The Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act, now before both houses of Congress, would prohibit

discrimination against such agencies, and allow them to continue their work without being compelled to violate their consciences.

QMy question has to do with the role of a deacon. Our own parish deacon had been preaching at our weekend Masses once a month, but lately that has crept up to twice a month. Recently, he preached the homily at Masses on Easter Sunday and also on the following Sunday, which happened to be first Communion in our parish.

Our pastor is young and, as far as I know, healthy. Is it normal for a deacon to play such a large role so frequently, especially on such important occasions? (City of origin withheld)

AThere is no exact guideline as to the frequency of a deacon's preaching. That having been said, I think that your concern stands on good ground. Deacons are authorized to preach by the Church's *Code of Canon Law*; Canon 764 says that "presbyters [priests] and deacons possess the faculty of preaching everywhere."

And while that canon expresses no preference or priority, the "General Instruction of the *Roman Missal*," which provide the Church's norms for celebrating the Eucharist, clearly does. It states that "the homily should ordinarily be given by the priest celebrant himself or be entrusted by him to a concelebrating priest, or from time to time and, if appropriate, to the deacon" (#66).

To your question, for a deacon to preach regularly two Sundays a month, in my mind, runs counter to this provision. I also think that, although there is no rule on this, parishioners expect and deserve to hear from their pastor for such major celebrations as Easter and first Communion.

(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

Jesus in Prayer

By Stephanie Kilpatrick

Arose in the night
Laid down by His side
His hand gently upon my
soft hair.

Sleep sweetly dear child
I'll take this watch
You have nothing to fear
with me here.

His breath, gentle breeze
Carried me to my dreams
Until I awoke to fresh light.

In His place, warm ground
As He rose in the sky
His glorious light reflected
in my eyes.



(Stephanie Kilpatrick is a member of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis. The stained-glass window depicting the Ascension in this April 21 photo was taken in St. Augustine Church in Jeffersonville. It is one of the many stained-glass windows there depicting the mysteries of the rosary.) (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

Rest in peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in *The Criterion*. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.

BROEKER, John A., 50, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, May 11. Son of John and Carol Broeker. Brother of Ron Broeker.

FLOOD, Mary Ellen, 91, Holy Family, New Albany, April 29. Wife of Kenneth Flood. Mother of Dr. James Dienes. Step-mother of Dolores, Therese, Kenneth and Patrick Flood. Sister of Religious Sister of Mercy Mary Frances Lueke and Margaret Scheurich. Aunt of several.

GREENE, Jerome P., 75, St. Pius X, April 27. Husband of Susanne McAlister. Father of Dawn and Jerome Green, Jr. Grandfather of two.

GREENWALD, Macie (Stowers), 85, St. Monica, Indianapolis, May 9. Wife of Frank Greenwald. Mother of Mary Helen Carter, James and Michael Greenwald. Sister of Virgie Sarver. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of six.

KOBY, Patricia L., 87, St. Joseph, Shelbyville, May 13. Mother of Jim Koby.

LIPPS, Robert L., Sr., 92, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, May 7. Father of Sarah Cicatko, Susan Gallo, James and Robert Lipps, Jr. Grandfather of six. Great-grandfather of six.

NOLAN, David R., 83, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, April 25. Husband of Keiko Nolan. Father of Pamela Thompson. Brother of Sandy Meyer, Carol Miller, Chris Brewer and Larry Nolan.

SAVAGE, Frances, 87, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, May 7. Wife of Robert Savage. Mother of Karol Koelling and Linda Turpin. Sister of Ethel Hazelwood, Virginia and Arthur Gensheimer. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of 11.



Joyeux anniversaire, Montreal

Archbishop Christian Lepine of Montreal smiles as he greets Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, center right, and his wife, Sophie Gregoire Trudeau, before the ceremonial Mass on May 17 at Notre-Dame Basilica in Montreal for the city's 375th birthday celebrations. (CNS photo/Dario Ayala, Reuters)

SCHMALZ, Louis E., 83, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, May 8. Husband of Margaret Schmalz. Father of Christopher, David, Mark and Matthew

Schmalz. Grandfather of one.

WALLACE, Harry R., 81, St. Joseph, Rockville, April 30. Father of Barb Little, Terri

Svenningsen, Shereen, Andy, Ken and Richard Wallace. Brother of Tonia Crider and Phil Wallace. Grandfather and great-grandfather of several.

ZAHN, Mildred C., 92, Good Shepherd, Indianapolis, May 14. Sister of Pauline Williams and Dennis Zahn. Aunt of several. †

LORI

continued from page 1

those who are in the pews with regularity, the Church's defense of religious liberty pretty much makes sense to them.

"Secondly, there is a need to understand more clearly what the Second Vatican Council taught about religious liberty. It's not simply freedom of worship, but it's a freedom to order your whole life and your professional life as well around your faith and your convictions. And it's also the freedom of Church institutions to follow the teaching of the Church.

"If you think that the teachings of the Church are good, life-giving, truthful and beautiful, you will also think that they are very good for society, not just for the Church.



Sister Rita Mary, a Little Sister of the Poor, greets Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, as he arrives for a religious freedom rally on June 27, 2016, at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School in West Islip, N.Y.

(CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic)

"Our point in successive Fortnights for Freedom has been that we are seeking not some privilege for the Church, but rather, we are seeking only the freedom to serve and to serve according to our conviction. It is, after all, our faith, our understanding of the human person, our grasp of human dignity that makes us do works of charity, social services and education.

"And it is precisely those services that have been constrained by government policies, court decisions and laws in the last number of years.

"I'd also make this observation. I can understand why people might think that our struggle for religious freedom has all been overblown because there are no cataclysmic events going on. Nobody's getting arrested. Nothing's getting shut down.

"But what we have been seeing is a kind of steady erosion of religious freedom. And it's a little hard to point this out to people that it's eroding. But if you own beachfront property, over time you can observe the effects of erosion. And, pretty soon, you're going to say to yourself, 'You know what? I think I'd better put up a seawall.'

"That's kind of where we got to a number of years ago. And I think that's where we still are. We want to make sure that we preserve and defend our freedom, not because we want privileges, but because this is part of who

we are as people. And it also unlocks for the Church the ability to serve according to our own lights, recognizing that other people are going to provide similar goods and services very differently.

"We should be able to have that kind of legitimate diversity in a democracy. That's also what freedom is all about."

Q. An added challenge to getting that message across would be the fact that there clearly are places in the world today where people are losing their lives because of their faith. What's happening here isn't like what's happening in Syria or Egypt. So why should we be up in arms about it?

A. "First of all, the Church in the United States is doing a tremendous amount of good in those places. I think of what Catholic Relief Services, Aid to the Church in Need and the Knights of Columbus are doing.

"But we do no favors to the persecuted people in the Middle East, Africa or elsewhere by frittering away our religious freedom. We are more in solidarity with them when we keep that torch burning brightly than if we allow it to grow dim or, God help us, some day to become extinguished.

"We already see in our culture as well major attacks on freedom of speech. They're not necessarily coming from the government. They're coming from various kinds of pressure groups, especially on college campuses. We could easily see the same thing happen to religious freedom.

"That's not going to help people who are dying for their faith in the Middle East if we engage in that kind of behavior.

"So, we have a twofold job. One, to protect and preserve religious freedom in

our country in solidarity with those who are suffering. And then, secondly, provide them aid and assistance as they suffer so dreadfully. Our eye is always on those who are overseas suffering persecution and genocide."

Q. Do you have either any practical or spiritual advice to Catholics to continue advancing the cause of religious liberty at this particular time when people might think that we have an administration that's more friendly toward religious freedom, and they don't feel that they have to do as much?

A. "There is no room for complacency. We have a lot of work to do.

"And we need to continue to pursue that work in a very determined fashion—civilly, politely, but in a very determined way.

"One of the reasons that we always have the Fortnight for Freedom, which takes place from June 21 to July 4, is to give people an opportunity to study about religious freedom in general, to study the issues and be updated, and to pray for religious liberty at home and abroad.

"This year, our theme is 'freedom for mission.' It's the freedom to do the full mission of the Church, which is handing on the faith, celebrating the sacraments and serving those in need. They're all linked together.

"There are many, many resources on the USCCB website [www.usccb.org] for religious freedom, praying about it and understanding it. I would urge people to go there.

(To read part one of this interview with Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, go to www.CriterionOnline.com.) †

CARDINALS

continued from page 2

In addition to parish work in Spain, he spent a year as a missionary in then-Zaire, now Congo.

Ordained a bishop in 1996, he served as auxiliary bishop of Zaragoza, later as bishop of Barbastro-Monzon, then as bishop of Calahorra and La Calzada-Logrorio. Pope Francis named him archbishop of Barcelona in 2015.

He has long been a member of the Spanish bishops' commission for social questions and served two terms as commission president. He is a member of the Vatican Congregation for Bishops.

- Cardinal-designate Arborelius hosted Pope Francis' visit to Sweden in October as part of an ecumenical commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation.

Born in Sweden on Sept. 24, 1949, he joined the Catholic Church at the age of 20. A few years later, he entered the Discalced Carmelites, took vows in 1977 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1979.

Ordained bishop of Stockholm in 1998, he became the first native Swedish bishop in Sweden since the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s, according to the Vatican.

- Cardinal-designate Mangkhanekhoun was born on April 8, 1944, in Laos. The Vatican did not say in what city, but did say he was educated and did seminary

studies in Laos and Canada.

Ordained to the priesthood in 1972 by the apostolic vicar of Vientiane, he was instrumental in training catechists and was known for his pastoral visits to remote mountain villages.

In October 2000, he was named apostolic vicar of Pakse and was ordained a bishop six months later. Since February, he also has served as apostolic administrator of Vientiane, which currently is without an apostolic vicar.

- Cardinal-designate Rosa Chavez was born on Sept. 3, 1942, in Sociedad, El Salvador. He studied at San Jose de la Montana Seminary in San Salvador, earned a degree in social communications and studied at the Catholic University in Louvain, Belgium.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1970 in San Miguel and served overlapping—and sometimes simultaneous—terms as the bishop's secretary, pastor of a parish and director of the diocesan radio station. From 1977 to 1982, he served as rector of San Jose de la Montana Seminary in San Salvador, a position that brought him into regular contact and close collaboration with Blessed Oscar Romero, the archbishop of San Salvador, who was assassinated in 1980.

He was named auxiliary bishop of San Salvador in 1982. Currently, in addition to his duties as auxiliary bishop, he serves as pastor of the Church of St. Francis in the capital, president of Caritas El Salvador and president of Caritas in Latin America and the Caribbean. †

Investing with Faith/Joanna Feltz

'The Circle of Giving—a Mass and Celebration'

Spring is a time of both renewal and thanksgiving for me. The recent celebration of Easter Sunday is a wonderful reminder of the supreme sacrifice made by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ so we might have new life in him. Certainly, there is no greater reason to feel renewed and give thanks. However, I have another.



Joanna Feltz

Springtime is also when the Archdiocese of Indianapolis shows its appreciation for our Legacy Society, a group of individuals who have made a sacrificial commitment to support the future of our archdiocese's parishes, schools and ministries through a will, trust or other planned gift.

This year, there is extra call for celebration because the archdiocese is recognizing the Legacy Society together with the United Catholic Appeal's Miter Society (those who annually give \$1,500 or more to fund current needs and missions). This month, both groups are being honored regionally in an event called "The Circle of Giving—a Mass and Celebration."

The circle represents two types of charitable giving: giving to meet the Church's needs of today (annual gifts to the United Catholic Appeal), and giving to meet the Church's future needs (establishing an endowment with the Catholic Community Foundation through a will, trust, beneficiary designation or other planned gift). Together, these two types of giving create a full circle of generosity and sacrifice.

The first of these Circle of Giving evenings was held on May 4 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis, where

we celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a reception. A second Mass and reception was held on May 25 at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Church in Floyd County.

Whenever I attend events like these, I can't help but be moved by the generous hearts of these donors. They are truly doing God's work by being good stewards with their resources and his Church. This spring, please join me in thanking them for making sure God's work continues to be done today and in the future.

If you're inspired by "The Circle of Giving—a Mass and Celebration," and wish to become involved yourself, you don't have to pick one group over the other. You can pick both. Create your own circle of giving. Make an annual gift to the United Catholic Appeal, and set up an endowment with the Catholic Community Foundation to support the future needs for your archdiocesan parish, school or ministry.

Our team at the Catholic Community Foundation and I are always here to help. Reach out to me by e-mail at jfeltz@archindy.org or by phone at 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1482, or 317-236-1482. Until next month, may God bless and protect you.

(Joanna Feltz, J.D., is director of planned giving for the Catholic Community Foundation in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and consultant to the law firm Woods, Weidenmiller, Michetti, Rudnick & Galbraith PLLC. For more information about planned giving, log on to www.archindy.org/plannedgiving. Tax information or legal information provided herein is not intended as tax or legal advice and cannot be relied on to avoid statutory penalties. Always check with your legal, tax and financial advisors before implementing any gift plan.) †

Trump nominates Callista Gingrich ambassador to Vatican

WASHINGTON (CNS)—As he prepared to meet Pope Francis for the first time, President Donald J. Trump formally nominated Callista Gingrich, wife of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to be the new U.S. ambassador to the Holy See.

The White House announced the nomination late on May 19 as Trump was beginning his first overseas trip, a trip that

would include a meeting with Pope Francis on May 24 at the Vatican.

The nomination of Gingrich, 51, a former congressional aide, had been rumored for months. If confirmed by the Senate, she would succeed Ambassador Ken Hackett, who retired in January. She would be the third woman to serve as U.S. ambassador to the Holy See after Lindy Boggs, who held the post in

1997-2001, and Mary Ann Glendon, who served in 2008-2009.

Gingrich is president of Gingrich Productions, which produces documentaries as well as other materials related to her husband, Republican Newt Gingrich, who served from 1995 until 1999 as the 50th Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 2010, the company released the film

Nine Days That Changed the World about Pope John Paul II's nine-day pilgrimage to Poland in 1979, and how it played a part in the fall of communism in Europe. Callista Gingrich graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, in 1988, majoring in music, a passion that has remained with her throughout life. She is a longtime member of the choir at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. †

Classified Directory

For information about rates for classified advertising, call (317) 236-1454.

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Interested candidates are asked to e-mail a cover letter, resumé, and list of references, in confidence, to:

Ed Isakson, Director, Human Resources
1400 N. Meridian Street • Indianapolis, IN 46202
E-mail: eisakson@archindy.org
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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- Demonstrated skills in program organization and administration
- Practices a deep prayer life rooted in regular participation in the Sacraments of the Catholic Church
- Willingness to work a very flexible schedule (many evenings and weekends required) while also holding regular office hours during the week
- Prefers working in a collaborative, creative process within a team
- Ecclesial Lay Minister Certification and/or Certificate in Youth Ministry (or willingness to pursue)

Applicants are encouraged to show their interest as soon as possible. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resumé to:

Sandy Schrader
St. Louis de Montfort Catholic Church
11441 Hague Road • Fishers, IN 6038
sschrader@sldmfishers.org



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