Clergy abuse survivors are grateful after private meetings with pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—After private meetings with Pope Francis, three survivors of clergy sexual abuse from Chile said they felt they had been heard and were hopeful for changes in the way the Catholic Church handles accusations of abuse.

“I spoke for more than two and a half hours alone with Pope Francis,” Juan Carlos Cruz tweeted on April 29 after meeting with the pope. Pope Francis had invited Cruz, James Hamilton and Jose Andres Murillo to stay at the Domus Sanctae Marthae, the Vatican residence where he lives, and to meet with him individually on April 27-29. The three were to meet with the pope again as a group on April 30.

Although the three survivors tweeted after their private meetings, Greg Burke, director of the Vatican press office, said Pope Francis “expressly wished” that no official statements would be released by the Vatican regarding his discussions with the survivors.

“His priority is to listen to the victims, ask their forgiveness and respect the confidentiality of these talks,” Burke said in a statement on April 27. “In this climate of trust and preparation for suffering, the desire of Pope Francis is to allow his guests to speak as long as necessary, in a way that there is no set timetable or pre-established content.”

In a tweet sent after his April 27 meeting, Murillo said he spoke with Pope Francis for two hours and that “in a respectful and frank way, I expressed the importance of understanding abuse as an abuse of power.”

Former Colts player shares three principles that guide his life, his faith and his family

By John Shaughnessy

In a moment, Joe Reitz would tell the story of his memorable first meeting with Peyton Manning.

But first, the former Indianapolis Colts offensive lineman shared the story of one of the most difficult times of his life. It happened in early September of 2010. For two years, Reitz had been living the unlikely dream of being a former college basketball player who had made the transition to playing in the National Football League (NFL). Yet after being a member of the Baltimore Ravens, Reitz was cut from the team, leaving him feeling devastated that his career in the NFL was coming to an unexpected end.

Hope arrived the next morning when Reitz received a phone call from the Miami Dolphins, telling him the team wanted him. Then 24 hours later, the Dolphins cut him.

“That day was Sept. 5,” Reitz told the audience at the archdiocese’s Spirit of Service Awards Dinner in Indianapolis where he served as the keynote speaker on April 24. “I’m in my rental car, leaving the palm trees, wondering what am I going to do. Is my career over? I just got married. How am I going to support my wife and our family?"

“It was one of those moments when you’re looking up like, ‘God, what is going on? I’ve been praying diligently day after day, for months and years. I just want a shot in the NFL.’”

Just then, on the way to the airport, Reitz received another phone call—from the Indianapolis Colts, the team he had rooted for as a child growing up in central Indiana.

“We’re all part of this together”

“I flew to Indianapolis, didn’t sleep a wink that night,” Reitz told the audience at the Catholic Charities fundraising event. “I’m so excited and fired up. I go out to practice the next day, lace up my cleats, put on my football pants. I’m putting on a blue jersey and putting on that helmet with the horseshoe on it, which for me is a childhood dream. I grew up a Colts fan.”

Then came a moment he never expected, a moment that came at the end of his first practice with the Colts.

“Everyone is walking back to the stadium, and I’m holding up my helmet with the horseshoe on it, which is the USA Act, and our continued support of the Dream Act, will encourage Congress to act now and find a humane legislative solution for Dreamers,” said Bishop Vasquez, referring to the group of young adults who would be affected by the legislation. As a group, they are referred to as “Dreamers,” a reference to the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, or DREAM Act, a proposed bill in Congress aimed at granting legal status to many of the young adults as long as they meet certain criteria. Over the years, the bill has had support but never enough votes to pass.

Instead, many of the so-called “Dreamers” benefited from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program enacted by the executive action in 2012 by then-President Barack Obama. President Donald J. Trump rescinded the program in September while urging Congress to find a legislative solution, but lawmakers have been unable to find one. On April 24, a federal judge for the District of Columbia dealt a blow to the Trump administration’s attempt to end the program, saying its attempt to terminate the DACA program on the grounds that it was “unlawful” was “virtually unexplained.”

The statement from Bishop Vasquez said “the USA Act would have been the American Dream come true for young people who grew up in the United States, especially those who have been treated with the same respect and dignity given to all God’s children.”

U.S. bishops throw support behind another bipartisan bill to protect undocumented youths

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The head of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Migration announced support on April 25 for a bipartisan bill that provides a pathway to citizenship for young adults brought into the country as minors without legal documentation. The proposed bill also calls for an increase in security at the border between Mexico and the U.S., an increase in immigration judges, and ties U.S. aid to steps to address smuggling and combat corruption, as well as strengthening the rule of law at home.

In a statement, Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, voiced his support for what is called the USA Act, or “Uniting and Securing America” Act of 2018. The proposed legislation was introduced earlier this year by Representatives David Aguilar, a Democrat from California, and Paul Hird, a Republican from Texas.

“We are hopeful our support of the current version of the USA Act, and our continued support of the Dream Act, will encourage Congress to act now and find a humane legislative solution for Dreamers,” said Bishop Vasquez, referring to the
would provide qualifying Dreamers with protection from deportation, as well as a path to citizenship. While DACA protects the young adults from deportation and provides work permits and other documents, it does not allow beneficiaries to apply for citizenship or any sort of permanent legal status.

The USA Act proposal also seeks to protect more than the 800,000 young adults who benefited from DACA, and may also include those who have benefited from the Temporary Protected Status program.

Bishop Vasquez said action to protect the young immigrants is urgent.

“Every day, my brother bishops and I witness directly the constant anxiety of Dreamer youth and their families, and that experience of urgency moves us to press Congress for an immediate and durable solution to this problem,” he said in the statement.

Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, vice president of the U.S. bishops’ conference, also weighed in, saying that “the time has come for our leaders in Congress to do what is right and pass legislation that will provide a permanent solution for the nearly 2 million young people who were brought to this country as small children by undocumented parents or family members.

In an April 25 column, Archbishop Gomez said more than a quarter of the Dreamers live in California, the state where his archdiocese is located, “and by most estimates there are about 125,000 living within the borders of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles—more than anywhere else in the country.”

“The USA Act is compromise legislation that has bipartisan support,” he said. “For several years now, immigration reform has been blocked in the House of Representatives by a small group of lawmakers who are using their leverage to prevent any legislation from being brought up for a vote on the House floor. This situation is not fair, and in fact it frustrates the will of the American people.”

In the column, Archbishop Gomez urges Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and Majority Leader of the House Kevin McCarthy, both Republicans, “to allow debate on this critical issue.”

“There is no reason for the House of Representatives to close our people’s chamber, to continue to deny a vote on this issue,” he said. “This is not about Republicans or Democrats. It is about right and wrong.”

He continued: “As I have been saying for years now, both parties are using this issue for their own political gain. Even now, we can see there are still some who seem content to sacrifice the Dreamers’ futures, for the chance to mobilize voters in the next election. This is heartless and cruel. It is time to stop. People’s lives are in the balance.”

Kevin Appleby, senior director of public policy for the Center for Migration Studies and the Scalabrini International Migration Network, said that “while not perfect,” the USA Act gives Dreamers a chance to obtain citizenship “without giving up a border wall in return, reduces immigration court backlogs, and attempts to address the push factors in Central America that are often ignored in Washington.”

It also may have one of the best chances of passing in Congress.

“I could see it gaining political traction, especially after the mid-terms, but the wild card, of course, would be whether President Trump would accept anything that does not at least fund his ill-advised border wall,” Appleby said.

Kevin Appleby, senior director of public policy for the Center for Migration Studies and the Scalabrini International Migration Network, said that “while not perfect,” the USA Act gives Dreamers a chance to obtain citizenship “without giving up a border wall in return, reduces immigration court backlogs, and attempts to address the push factors in Central America that are often ignored in Washington.”

It also may have one of the best chances of passing in Congress.

“arid for years now, both parties are using this issue for their own political gain. Even now, we can see there are still some who seem content to sacrifice the Dreamers’ futures, for the chance to mobilize voters in the next election. This is heartless and cruel. It is time to stop. People’s lives are in the balance.”

Kevin Appleby, senior director of public policy for the Center for Migration Studies and the Scalabrini International Migration Network, said that “while not perfect,” the USA Act gives Dreamers a chance to obtain citizenship “without giving up a border wall in return, reduces immigration court backlogs, and attempts to address the push factors in Central America that are often ignored in Washington.”

It also may have one of the best chances of passing in Congress.

“I could see it gaining political traction, especially after the mid-terms, but the wild card, of course, would be whether President Trump would accept anything that does not at least fund his ill-advised border wall,” Appleby said.

Kevin Appleby, senior director of public policy for the Center for Migration Studies and the Scalabrini International Migration Network, said that “while not perfect,” the USA Act gives Dreamers a chance to obtain citizenship “without giving up a border wall in return, reduces immigration court backlogs, and attempts to address the push factors in Central America that are often ignored in Washington.”

It also may have one of the best chances of passing in Congress.

“I could see it gaining political traction, especially after the mid-terms, but the wild card, of course, would be whether President Trump would accept anything that does not at least fund his ill-advised border wall,” Appleby said.
Pope asks Catholics to pray rosary for peace each day in May

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis prayed that the hopes for peace strengthened by the meeting of the leaders of North and South Korea will not be dashed, and he urged Catholics during the month of May to pray the rosary for peace.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in made a “courageous commitment” on April 27 to ongoing dialogue to achieve “a Korean peninsula free of nuclear weapons.” Pope Francis said on April 29 after leading some 30,000 people in praying the “Regina Coeli”:

“I pray to the Lord that the hopes for a future of peace and more brotherly friendship will not be disappointed and that the collaboration may continue bringing good fruits for the beloved Korean people and the whole world,” the pope said.

New Pittsburgh Diocese plan will see number of parishes drop from 188 to 57

Bishop Zubik wrote that the initiative is designed to offer a deeper relationship with Jesus and the Church to practicing faithful—bishops and priests included—to work toward mergers and clergy resources to draw people deeper into the Church needs.

The groupings are expected to merge into new parishes between 2020 and 2023, the diocese said. The process invited Catholics to envision how parishes, schools and ministries can best respond to the changes in their communities. The diocese said nearly 30,000 parishioners participated in meetings and provided feedback that guided the decisions announced by the bishop.

For three years, we have labored to discern how best to position our local Church for the future,” Bishop Zubik said in the letter. “We must respond to the reality that populations have shifted; that many Catholics have drifted away from the Church, and that we will have fewer priests.

We need to share and mobilize our resources to draw people deeper into the faith, seek the lost and serve those in need.”

Endowments make a difference.

Immerse a child in God’s creation for a week.

God calls us to share the gifts we’ve been given. A wonderful way to do that is by creating or contributing to an endowment fund. With a fund held and managed by the Catholic Community Foundation you can support your preferred Catholic ministry.

Last year, for instance, endowments helped children attend CYO Camp Shanko Frasmania in Brown County and experience God’s love and goodness in a natural environment. Without help, many of these kids would not have had the chance. Start giving back today and make an impact in your Catholic Community. We can show you how.

Cardinal Pell ordered to stand trial on abuse charges in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia (CNS)—After a monthlong pre-trial hearing, an Australian judge ordered Cardinal George Pell to stand trial on multiple charges of sexual abuse of minors, charges that the cardinal consistently has denied.

While dropping some of the charges, including what the cardinal’s lawyer described as the most “vile,” Magistrate Belinda Wallington announced on May 1 that she believed there was enough evidence presented in connection with about half the original charges to warrant a full trial.

The diocese reported that since 2000, Mass attendance decreased more than 40 percent and participation in the sacraments fell 40-50 percent. Meanwhile, the number of diocesan priests available for active ministry is expected to decline from about 200 to 112 by 2025.

The announcement detailed the maximum number of weekend Masses per grouping and timelines for each grouping to work toward mergers and clergy assignments.

The move to groupings—part of a diocesan planning initiative called On Mission for The Church Alive!—were to take effect on Oct. 15. No church closings are part of the plan’s first phase.

The groupings are expected to merge into new parishes by 2020 and 2023, however.

“New parishes.

No matter how the Church is structured, it is the responsibility of all the faithful—bishops and priests included—to make faith, hope and love remain alive in the world around us,” Bishop Zubik said in announcing the plan, the result of meetings and discernment that began in 2015.

“Our churches will continue to be places where local Catholics gather to be nourished and nurtured by the God who loves us. Yet, On Mission gives us a new context and new opportunities to make even more alive a faith that embeds itself within and outside of our church walls,” he said.

The decision on the grouping were read in letters sent to each parish at Masses the weekend of April 28-29. Bishop Zubik wrote that the initiative is designed to offer a deeper relationship with Jesus and the Church to participating in the sacraments and a declining number of priests.

The diocese reported that since 2000, Mass attendance decreased more than 40 percent and participation in the sacraments fell 40-50 percent. Meanwhile, the number of diocesan priests available for active ministry is expected to decline from about 200 to 112 by 2025. Launched in April 2015, the planning process invited Catholics to envision how parishes, schools and ministries can best respond to the changes in their communities. The diocese said nearly 30,000 parishioners participated in meetings and provided feedback that guided the decisions announced by the bishop.

For three years, we have labored to discern how best to position our local Church for the future,” Bishop Zubik said in the letter. “We must respond to the reality that populations have shifted; that many Catholics have drifted away from the Church, and that we will have fewer priests.

We need to share and mobilize our resources to draw people deeper into the faith, seek the lost and serve those in need.”

During the process, key consultative groups recommended that Bishop Zubik increase to 57 groupings from 48 groupings endorsed by a commission of clergy and lay leaders that initially studied Church needs.

Under the new setup, a priest who serves as administrator will lead a clergy team for each grouping. An administrator has all the rights and responsibilities of a pastor, but does not have a specified term to serve.

Clergy teams may include priests who are parochial vicars and parish chaplains, as well as permanent deacons. Priests are also being assigned as institutional chaplains to major hospitals, nursing homes, colleges, high schools and correctional institutions.

Cardinal Pell told the press: “There’s been relentless character assassination, a relentless character assassination.”

A statement issued by his attorneys on April 28 during a media conference, “I’m innocent of these charges. They are false. The whole idea of sexual abuse is abhorrent to me. These matters have been under investigation now for two years,” Cardinal Pell told the press.

A date for the jury trial could be announced in the near future.

The Vatican press office released a short statement on May 1, saying, “Last year, the Holy Father granted Cardinal Pell a leave of absence so he could defend himself from the accusations. The leave of absence is still in place.”

Before leaving Rome, Cardinal Pell had told reporters at a Vatican news conference, “I’m innocent of these charges.”

He voluntarily returned to Australia to meet these accusations. He will defend the remaining charges.

The cardinal also thanked “all those who have supported him from both here in Australia and overseas during this exacting time and is grateful for their continuing support and prayers,” the statement said.

Archbishop Denis Hart of Melbourne “has declined to make any comment in relation to the decision of the magistrate Belinda Wallington to commit Cardinal Pell to face trial in the County Court,” said a note on the archdiocesan website.

“Archbishop Hart expressed his confidence in the judicial system in Australia and said that justice must now take its course.”

Clergy teams may include priests who are parochial vicars and parish chaplains, as well as permanent deacons. Priests are also being assigned as institutional chaplains to major hospitals, nursing homes, colleges, high schools and correctional institutions.

Immerse a child in God’s creation for a week.

God calls us to share the gifts we’ve been given. A wonderful way to do that is by creating or contributing to an endowment fund. With a fund held and managed by the Catholic Community Foundation you can support your preferred Catholic ministry. Last year, for instance, endowments helped children attend CYO Camp Shanko Frasmania in Brown County and experience God’s love and goodness in a natural environment. Without help, many of these kids would not have had the chance. Start giving back today and make an impact in your Catholic Community. We can show you how.

Endowments make a difference.

Immerse a child in God’s creation for a week.

God calls us to share the gifts we’ve been given. A wonderful way to do that is by creating or contributing to an endowment fund. With a fund held and managed by the Catholic Community Foundation you can support your preferred Catholic ministry. Last year, for instance, endowments helped children attend CYO Camp Shanko Frasmania in Brown County and experience God’s love and goodness in a natural environment. Without help, many of these kids would not have had the chance. Start giving back today and make an impact in your Catholic Community. We can show you how.

Cardinal Pell ordered to stand trial on abuse charges in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia (CNS)—After a monthlong pre-trial hearing, an Australian judge ordered Cardinal George Pell to stand trial on multiple charges of sexual abuse of minors, charges that the cardinal consistently has denied.

While dropping some of the charges, including what the cardinal’s lawyer described as the most “vile,” Magistrate Belinda Wallington announced on May 1 that she believed there was enough evidence presented in connection with about half the original charges to warrant a full trial.

The diocese reported that since 2000, Mass attendance decreased more than 40 percent and participation in the sacraments fell 40-50 percent. Meanwhile, the number of diocesan priests available for active ministry is expected to decline from about 200 to 112 by 2025. Launched in April 2015, the planning process invited Catholics to envision how parishes, schools and ministries can best respond to the changes in their communities. The diocese said nearly 30,000 parishioners participated in meetings and provided feedback that guided the decisions announced by the bishop.

For three years, we have labored to discern how best to position our local Church for the future,” Bishop Zubik said in the letter. “We must respond to the reality that populations have shifted; that many Catholics have drifted away from the Church, and that we will have fewer priests.

We need to share and mobilize our resources to draw people deeper into the faith, seek the lost and serve those in need.”

During the process, key consultative groups recommended that Bishop Zubik increase to 57 groupings from 48 groupings endorsed by a commission of clergy and lay leaders that initially studied Church needs.

Under the new setup, a priest who serves as administrator will lead a clergy team for each grouping. An administrator has all the rights and responsibilities of a pastor, but does not have a specified term to serve.

Clergy teams may include priests who are parochial vicars and parish chaplains, as well as permanent deacons. Priests are also being assigned as institutional chaplains to major hospitals, nursing homes, colleges, high schools and correctional institutions.

Immerse a child in God’s creation for a week.

God calls us to share the gifts we’ve been given. A wonderful way to do that is by creating or contributing to an endowment fund. With a fund held and managed by the Catholic Community Foundation you can support your preferred Catholic ministry. Last year, for instance, endowments helped children attend CYO Camp Shanko Frasmania in Brown County and experience God’s love and goodness in a natural environment. Without help, many of these kids would not have had the chance. Start giving back today and make an impact in your Catholic Community. We can show you how.

Endowments make a difference.

Immerse a child in God’s creation for a week.

God calls us to share the gifts we’ve been given. A wonderful way to do that is by creating or contributing to an endowment fund. With a fund held and managed by the Catholic Community Foundation you can support your preferred Catholic ministry. Last year, for instance, endowments helped children attend CYO Camp Shanko Frasmania in Brown County and experience God’s love and goodness in a natural environment. Without help, many of these kids would not have had the chance. Start giving back today and make an impact in your Catholic Community. We can show you how.
Reflection/Sean Gallagher

Respect God’s plan for putting care in the hands of parents

My oldest son, Michael, recently celebrated his 16th birthday. Some days, it’s hard for me to believe that he’s grown to become the young man that he is. As a new dad at the time, Michael’s life-threatening illness dramatically taught me just how much the lives of children are in the hands of their parents and those to whom they are entrusted. I have returned recently to the memories of those days because of the case of Alfie Evans in England. Alfie had an undiagnosed degenerative neurological condition and was in a vegetative state since December 2016 until he died on April 28, just days before his second birthday.

Alfie’s parents, Tom Evans and Kate James, believed that there were treatment options for their son that could have reversed the symptoms of his disorder. But officials of the hospital in which Alfie received care believed that no further treatment and assistance could have benefitted him, and took legal action that resulted in the termination of Tom and Kate’s parental rights.

Last week, Alfie’s ventilator was removed. This action was taken despite opposition from officials in the case to take Alfie to a hospital in Rome to receive treatment there. Alfie died a few days later.

Letter to the Editor

Tragic case of British toddler shows without a ‘right,’ things go very wrong, reader says

Alfie Evans, a 23-month-old British toddler, died on April 28. He was taken off life support against the wishes of his parents, who had wanted to take him to Italy at no expense to the British National Health Service. Pope Francis had offered to have him transferred to the Vatican children’s hospital. The Italian government agreed to fly him there, and even granted him citizenship.

The hospital authorities and a judge in Britain had other ideas. They decided that it was “better” for Alfie if he were allowed to die because he had a serious illness that they deemed incurable. They thought it was in his “best interest.”

Alfie’s case is a chilling wake-up call to the world regarding the dignity of each human, the danger of state tyranny over individual rights, and the rights of parents to determine what is best for their children.

Secularization is eroding the sanctity of individual human lives. The unborn are the most defenseless and vulnerable. The disabled and elderly are targets of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. Children, especially the case for children when they are in the hands of their parents, not the hospital. It and all governments should indeed do all they can to facilitate that care and do nothing to impede it.

All parents need the prayers of all God’s people to carry out the tremendous duty to care for him and to experience the wondrous blessings that come with it. Let us pray for parents every day.

(Sean Gallagher is a reporter for The Criterion.)

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” (Communion et Progressio, 116).

Letters from readers are welcome and every effort will be made to include letters from as many people as possible in 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 community interest. 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.

Submitted in good faith, 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. Writers with questions may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.
Cincuenta años después de publicada, ‘Humanae Vitae’ sigue siendo profética

El 25 de julio de 2018 cumplió 50 años la encíclica papal titulada “Humanae Vitae” (“Sobre la vida humana”). El año 1968 fue una época de profusas transformaciones culturales y eclesiásticas. “Humanae Vitae” se presentó como una voz profética en ese período tumultuoso, y todavía medio siglo después, continúa siendo un mensaje importante aunque controvertido.

La controversia de “Humanae Vitae” se centra en la reafirmación de la oposición de la Iglesia al aborto, la esterilización y el uso de métodos anticonceptivos artificiales. En 1968, los avances en la tecnología moderna facilitaron el acceso a diversos métodos para prevenir o poner fin a un embarazo, y todavía medio siglo después, continúa siendo un mensaje importante aunque controvertido.

En su encíclica titulada “Caritas in Veritate” (Caridad en la verdad), el papa Benedicto XVI confirma los principios esenciales de las enseñanzas de “Humanae Vitae.” En ella señala el “vínculo entre la ética de la vida y la ética social” y afirma que “una sociedad que no se preocupe por la vida, no se preocupe por el ser humano.”

En “Humanae Vitae,” el papa Francisco demuestra la importancia del Mensajes de “Humanae Vitae” incluso cinco décadas después de su publicación. En “Laudato si,” sobre el cuidado del hogar común,” las enseñanzas proféticas del actual pontífice respecto al medio ambiente dejan en claro que la protección de la vida y la dignidad humanas están íntimamente relacionadas con la protección y cuidado del mundo en que vivimos.

En “Humanae Vitae” se pone de manifiesto la importancia de la vida humana, especialmente en aquellos casos en los que la vida humana es marginalizada o marginada. Los últimos 50 años han hecho evidente que la llamada revolución sexual no es la solución a los problemas que enfrentan las parejas de casados, las familias o la sociedad en general.

En “Humanae Vitae” ofrece enseñanzas hermosas y claras con respecto al plan de Dios para el amor conyugal y la transmisión de la vida. Durante el tiempo de la encíclica, la familia ha sido el lugar en el que se desarrolla el amor, y en la encíclica se contrives a lo que nos dicta el amor de Dios para los demás. Incluso en la familia y su vida en la sociedad.

En “Humanae Vitae” se pone de manifiesto la importancia de la vida humana, especialmente en aquellos casos en los que la vida humana es marginalizada o marginada. Los últimos 50 años han hecho evidente que la llamada revolución sexual no es la solución a los problemas que enfrentan las parejas de casados, las familias o la sociedad en general.

En “Humanae Vitae” se pone de manifiesto la importancia de la vida humana, especialmente en aquellos casos en los que la vida humana es marginalizada o marginada. Los últimos 50 años han hecho evidente que la llamada revolución sexual no es la solución a los problemas que enfrentan las parejas de casados, las familias o la sociedad en general.

En “Humanae Vitae” se pone de manifiesto la importancia de la vida humana, especialmente en aquellos casos en los que la vida humana es marginalizada o marginada. Los últimos 50 años han hecho evidente que la llamada revolución sexual no es la solución a los problemas que enfrentan las parejas de casados, las familias o la sociedad en general.
Catechumens, candidates design, decorate parish's pascal candle

For the past three Easters, the candidates and catechumens of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults at St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis have designed and decorated the parish’s pascal candle, with the help of catechist Michael Marks. Interested candidates and catechumens submit designs, and the group chooses the design and decorate the candle together. Pictured here on either side of this year’s candle are winning designers Joanna Anaya Cuaya, left, holding the prototype of the design, and Eric Sanchez, with catechist Michael Marks on the right. (Submitted photo)

Katie’s 5K Walk for Hope planned on Roncalli High School on May 19

The annual Katie’s 5K Run/Walk for Hope benefiting the Katie Lynch Foundation will be held at Roncalli High School, 3300 Prague Road, in Indianapolis, on May 19. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with a 10 a.m. start time. The entry fee is $25 per adult, $15 per student or $100 per family.

Walk-ins are welcome. Registrations received by May 10 include a T-shirt. To download a registration form and learn more about Katie’s story visit www.katieshope.org. For more information or group pricing, contact Kathleen Lynch at 317-502-1979 or mkv822@gmail.com.

May 8

Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. May 10 for Vocations, Holy Hour of Prayer St. Ambrose Church, May 8 amiller@archindy.org. vlgmimi@aol.com. Information: 317-223-3687, Ave Maria Guild St. Paul Hermitage, 501 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. Ave Maria Guild. 12:30 p.m. Information: 317-223-3687, vlgmimi@aol.com.

May 9

St. Ambrose Church, 325 S. Chestnut St., Seymour. Holy Hour of Prayer for Vocations, 7-8 p.m. Information: 317-236-1490, smiller@archindy.org.

May 10


May 11

St. John the Evangelist Parish, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. Simple Supper and Pro-Life Film Series: “At the Death House Door,” followed by panel discussion, hosted by St. John the Evangelist and Sacred Heart of Jesus parishes, 6:30-8:30 p.m. freewill offering. Registration requested: 317-407-6881, smdal1@gmail.com.

May 12

Bedford North Lawrence High School Performing Arts Center, 595 N. St. Stars Blvd., Bedford. Clifford Anderson Benefit Concert, benefiting Becky’s Place, lobby opens 5:30 p.m., doors open 6 p.m., performance 6:30 p.m., $10 general admission, $50 includes meet and greet with preferred seating. $100 VIP package includes backstage access, food and stage-side seating. Information: anchorindy.org/edit orangemarriagelodge.com, 812-275-5773.

St. Bartholomew Church, 1306 27th St., Columbus. Holy Hour of Prayer for Vocations: All That Jazz, featuring Hot Homa, 7 p.m., freewill offering Information www. saintjohnbaptistlafayette.org under, “Music Ministry,” or timmin at ubparkish.net

Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. 5K Friar Ranell-Mile Family Fun Run Walk, sponsored by New Albany Deaconary Catholic Youth Ministries. 7:30 a.m. check-in, 8:30 a.m. start, kids area open before and during race, child care available, individual and group awards, $50 per person in advance, $25 per person in advance, 25 day of event. Registration: www.nadyouth.org (scroll down to middle of page). Information: Sandy Westread, sandy@nadyouth.org. 812-473-4355. Race registration information: Liz Eisenberger, celjessr@gmail.com.

May 13

Monte Cassino Shrine, 13312 Monte Cassino Shrine Road, St. Meinrad. Blessed Mother Pilgrimage, hosted by Saint Meinrad Archabbey, prayers, hymns, rosary procession, Litany of the Blessed Virgin, Beneficent Father Meinrad Brune presenting, 2 p.m. CT. Information: 812.357-6501 weekdays, or 812-357-6611 day of the event.

Providence Spirituality & Conference Center, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Mother’s Day Brunch, O’Shaugnessy Dining Room, 10 a.m., and 12:15 p.m. seating times, shrimp cocktail, prime rib, raspberry pork loin, sides, desserts, and non- alcoholic drink, adults $24, seniors (55 and older), military and stage-side seating. Additional cost for Advance. Tickets and information: www.spsmw.org/conference/mothersdaybreakfast.html 852-535-4285.

St. Aquinas Church, 4625 N. Kenwood Ave., Indianapolis. Mass in French, 12:30 p.m. Information: 317-727-7729 or acfad2014@gmail.com.

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church, 4729 E. 136th St., Indianapolis. Class of ‘63 monthly gathering, 6 p.m. Mass, optional dinner aafre $15, personal and group awards, Information: 317-408-6936.

May 15

St. Nicholas Church, 6641 E. St. Nicholas Dr., Sunnyside. Eucharistic Healing service, The Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Father James Blood presenting, 6:30 p.m. and worship, 7 p.m. service, confessions available. Information: 812-623-2964.

May 16


May 17

St. Joseph Parish, 1401 S. Mckley Ave., Indianapolis. Third Thursday Adoration, 6:30 p.m., with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and a 12:15 p.m. tea time. Mass will be offered at 11 a.m. Indianapolis Colts general manager Chris Ballard will be the featured speaker at the dinner and award presentation held after golfers leave the course. The cost is $125 per person or $450 per foursome. Register or donate online at www. catholicradioindy.org/news-events/golfouting.

For additional information, including sponsorship opportunities, contact Barb Brinkman at 317- 870-8400 or e-mail barbr barbro@ catholicradioindy.org.

5K family and pet walk to benefit Catholic Charities Indianapolis on May 20

To register, visit walkingfordreams.org After agreeing to the waiver, select “Join a Team,” fill out the form then select “CCI- Celebrating 100 Years” as the team. All participants will receive a T-shirt. Those wishing to donate may do so at the same website listed above. For more, contact Valerie Bendel at 317- 592-4072 or vbndel@archindy.org.

VIPS

Leo and Kathleen (Brown) Queisser, members of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis, celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 4. The couple was married at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church, in Indianapolis, on May 4, 1968.

They have two children, Schnette Queisser and the late Shawn Queisser.

Colts’ GM Chris Ballard to speak at Catholic Radio Indy golf outing on May 22

The annual Catholic Radio Indy Golf Outing will be held at Plum Creek Golf Club, 12401 Lynnwood Blvd., in Carmel, (Lafayette Diocese) on May 22. Registration will begin at 10 a.m., with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and a 12:15 p.m. tea time. Mass will be offered at 11 a.m. Indianapolis Colts general manager Chris Ballard will be the featured speaker at the dinner and award ceremony.

The cost is $125 per person or $450 per foursome. Register or donate online at www. catholicradioindy.org/news-events/golfouting.

For additional information, including sponsorship opportunities, contact Barb Brinkman at 317- 870-8400 or e-mail barbro@ catholicradioindy.org.

Free dental care being offered in Indianapolis. Terre Haute on May 20

Kool Smiles is hosting its annual “Sharing Smiles Day” at two locations in the archdiocese from 10 a.m. -1 p.m. on May 20.

Free dental care for children will be available at the following Kool Smiles locations:

• 3658 East St., in Indianapolis.
• 1800 Fort Harrison Road, in Terre Haute.

Children up to 18 years of age who are uninsured or underinsured are eligible. Available treatments include dental exams, limited emergency care, extractions, fillings and sealants. A limited number of appointments are available. Treatment will be given on a first-come, first-served basis, so pre-registration is strongly encouraged at www.mykoolsmiles.com/sharingsmiles. Based on the volume of people who sign up, pre-registration may not guarantee treatment. The dentist will make the final determination of treatment offerings. To learn more about Kool Smiles and the free-care day, go to www. koolsmiles.com or call 844-482-5800.
Youth-designed retreat reminds teens they are ‘priceless’ to God

By Natalie Hoefer

BROWNSBURG—Sometimes, simple ideas develop into grand projects. And sometimes, the result of such projects have a tremendous impact on others.

Take Anna Scott, a 17-year-old member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg. A simple “lock-in” idea she had for high school girls of the parish turned into a 24-hour eucumenical retreat reminding 27 young women of their infinite worth—not based on boyfriends or social status, but on their value in God’s eyes. She named the retreat “Priceless.”

“A struggle with finding our worth in God”

It all started late last summer after a youth lock-in held at the parish.

“It was [for] boys and girls,” says Anna, a senior at Brownsburg High School (BHS). “I went to Corinne [DeLucenay, parish youth and campus ministries director] afterward and said, ‘Wouldn’t it be cool to have a girls’ lock-in?’ That was the original plan.” But as the two talked, she says, “We realized we wanted to make it a retreat.”

When it came to choosing a theme, Anna says she “looked around at what my friends were struggling with—finding our worth in God and what God calls us to be.”

In naming the retreat, Anna says she and DeLucenay “were going through different adjectives to describe our worth in God’s eyes. ‘Priceless’ just came to me because it encompasses everything we are to him.”

Anna and two of her St. Malachy friends and youth group peers, Brooke Dixon and Olivia Brown, designed the retreat. DeLucenay guided and advised them.

“Teology of the Body [a series of talks by St. John Paul II] was our foundational retreat,” she says. “It’s about our identity [being] in God, and our dignity [being] in God. From there, we don’t need outside influences. Our worth comes from above.”

‘To live… as daughters of God’

To set the tone for the retreat, one of the first activities was charismatic adoration.

“That was the favorite part of the retreat for many of them, having that time to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament,” says DeLucenay.

It was also a means of evangelization. With several of the participants being from other Christian churches, the prayer time was preceded by a talk explaining Catholic teaching on the Eucharist and the practice of adoration, followed by time for adult leaders to answer questions on the faith.

Even the discussions, by focusing on a godly woman who exemplifies the topic, offered evangelization to them.

“We brought in women from the Bible so all the girls could relate,” says DeLucenay. “But we still introduced [the non-Catholic girls] to the saints in our faith.”

Appropriate to the theme of the retreat, the first talk focused on self-worth and dignity, with St. Perpetua serving as the example. The second talk discussed living love after rejection, looking at “what it means to live as a broken woman.” DeLucenay explains, “We’re all broken—but not dwelling on it, learning from it and moving forward. We focused on the Bible story of the woman at the well, and how we can learn about how Christ redeems us and our relationship with him.”

The third talk dealt with authentic friendships, which DeLucenay describes as “wanting what is best for the other, encouraging, more than being a friendship of utility.” The relationship between the biblical women Ruth and Naomi was used to illustrate authentic friendship.

“Our going forth session was [about] what it means to live out our womanhood as daughters of God,” DeLucenay says. “We looked to [St.] John Paul II’s ‘Letter to Women’ on the feminine genius, embracing our own gifts. We focused on Mary, the best example of living out one’s womanhood.”

‘Quite literally a love tank’

In addition to saints and women in the Bible, activities helped reinforce the message of each talk. An “affirmation activity” after the second talk proved particularly meaningful to many of the girls. One at a time, each girl sat in a chair with her back to a chalk-paint wall, where the other participants and even adult leaders wrote affirming messages about the one seated.

“To turn around after everyone had written all their words and to see what others wrote and see how others felt about [you], it was just like your time to accept all this love,” says Audrey Harrison, a member of St. Malachy and a sophomore at BHS.

 Fellow parishioner Julia Diagostino, an eighth-grader at Tri-West Middle School in Lizton, agreed.

“It was really inspiring to see how everyone can build each other up just with a few words,” she says.

For Olivia Brown, St. Malachy parishioner and a freshman at BHS, the highlight of the retreat was when “we went outside and took pieces of paper and wrote down any of our struggles or insecurities, and we burned them. I think it showed us that our struggles are still there, but we can send them up and let God take them.”

Carter Davis, a senior at BHS and a member of Eagle Church in Zionsville, Ind., appreciates something she physically walked away with—each girl had a bag into which participants dropped notes with encouraging messages.

“It was quite literally a love tank, because it filled [the bags] up with love,” she describes. “And maybe when they need [encouragement] in a week, or a month, or tomorrow, they can go back to it and it will fill them up with love.”

Of all the talks and activities, Audrey Braugh’s favorite part of the retreat was adoration.

“Even though we were all having our personal time with Jesus, we were still able to feel that sense of community,” says the junior at BHS and member of Brownsburg Church of Christ. “It was a really good time to quiet our minds. It was really needed.”

‘An opportunity to build friendship and faith’

The retreat was needed as well—something all of the girls agreed on.

“It was a great way to escape all of our struggles and realize that God is the center of our lives, and that he will take all of our struggles for us,” says Rachel Barnes, a senior at BHS who worships with her family at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis.

“It was also a great way to connect with all the other girls in high school and realize we all have similar struggles, and that we all can help each other in times of need.”

Brooke Dixon, a BHS sophomore and St. Malachy parishioner, says it “went way over my expectations. We didn’t think we’d have as many girls as we did,” she says of the 30 who responded and 27 who attended. “This was a great opportunity to build friendship and faith between girls… It’s something other churches should try to do.”

DeLucenay says the “Priceless” retreat was such a success that she hopes to work with teens to offer another retreat for girls next year, and one for boys as well.

“It’s so powerful to see that the youth want to be engaged in their faith and have that personal relationship, and hopefully become more active,” she says.

Olivia looks forward to helping develop the next retreat. Meanwhile, she reflects on the value of the “Priceless” experience.

“I think that in today’s society girls—especially girls—don’t see themselves as worthy… As you go through life, you’ll lose people and friends, but you’ll always have the Holy Spirit and God, and knowing you’re worth something in his eyes.”

(Youth group leaders or others interested in offering the “Priceless” retreat may contact Corinne DeLucenay at cdlucenay@smalachy.org or 317-852-3195, ext. 7007; for more information.)
SPIRIT
continued from page 1

locker room, and I’m standing there in awe, soaking up the moment. And all of a sudden, Peyton Manning is walking right toward me. Surely he’s not coming to get me. He’s walking right toward me. He sticks out his hand and says, ‘Hey, I’m Peyton Manning. How are you doing?’

Reitz told the audience he recalled thinking, ‘I know who you are, sir. I may have had a paper route at one time in high school in my room.’

As the audience laughed, Reitz paused briefly to reflect on the meaning of letting me know that whether you’re Peyton Manning or whether you’re Joe Ritz, ‘We’re all part of the same brotherhood.

It was the beginning of Reitz’ seven years with the Colts, and the story resonated one of the principles of life that he shared with the 400 people at the Indiana Roof Ballroom.

‘We had God to lean on’

‘Be ready when life calls audibles for you,’ Reitz said, listing a principle that refers to a football term about a quarterback making adjustments to a play that he already has been prepared for.

“Life’s going to throw you audibles, whether it’s a career change, something in your personal life, or something else. Things are going to happen. So be ready when life calls audibles for you.”

The senior has also spent weeks during his senior year with the Colts, and the story stems from another principle that Reitz has used to guide his life, and the one that he considers the most important: ‘Build on rocks, not sand.”

“I believe it’s the Gospel of Matthew that talks about the wise man who builds his house on rocks and the foolish man who builds his house on sand,” Reitz said.

“The wise man listens to the challenges and builds on the principles he’s been given. The foolish man builds on his own ideology, his own thinking, because that’s what he wants. Life is tough, and there are struggles. But don’t ever underestimate the power of prayer. Either the power of prayer for yourself. The power of prayer for your family. The power of prayer for the loved ones. The power of prayer for others.”

Placing your worries in God’s care allows you to focus on God’s call to help others, Reitz said.

“When you serve others, when you put others above yourself, you change the world. You truly do. You change the world one interaction at a time.”

Reitz shared one of his missions in the efforts of everyone involved in Catholic Charities. He also knows the impact that third principle has had on him.

“Letting go and letting God has made such a huge difference in my life.”

A call to the community

During the dinner, Catholic Charities executive director David Bethuram focused on the difference the agency has made in the archdiocese since its founding in 1919.

“Although a lot has changed since our founding in 1919, our mission has remained constant: to provide service to those in need, to advocate compassion and justice in the structures of society, and to call all people of goodwill to do the same,” Bethuram said.

He noted that most of the Catholic Charities Indianapolis’ 12 programs concentrate on three categories: caring for children, strengthening families and welcoming strangers and newcomers.

There is also a major focus on helping those who are able to move out of poverty, and care for those who are not able to do so.”

“We will continue to provide ‘safety net’ services that help with food, utility and emergency housing,” Bethuram said. “But today, Catholic Charities is also committed to identifying and implementing strategies and opportunities which will eventually lead those currently living in poverty to overcome poverty.”

“Do this, Catholic Charities has embarked on a major effort to study and research what best will support individuals to specifically address the root causes of poverty, including lack of training, lack of decent health care and coverage.”

For this effort, Bethuram asked for continued help from the community. Working together, he said, Catholic Charities and the community can help people in need move closer to the goal of self-sufficiency.

We firmly believe, when this is done right—helping them in defining clear objectives and goals of what they will do—there will be the encouragement and hope they need to obtain the skills that will sustain them and generations to come.”

The story of ‘the street priest’

During his remarks at the end of the dinner, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson noted how Catholic Charities served nearly 75,000 people in the past year.

The archbishop also stressed that a key principle that guides Catholic Charities and Catholic social teaching is that everyone has the right to a place to live.

‘That’s important for us to always keep before us,” he told the audience. “It’s not about me. It’s not about us. It’s to be Christ-centered.”

Plach then shared the story of a priest in Detroit who was known as “the street priest” because he ministered to prostitutes, addicts and street people.

“He had been beat up a couple times, and stabbed. And this young reporter interviewed him once and asked him about his job and whether you can keep finding Jesus in everyone you meet, with you being spit upon, you’ve been stabbed, etc.”

“’I said, I can’t say I always, quickly or easily find Jesus. But what I always have is this feeling, this force that’s always quickly or readily find Jesus or not, I have to be like Jesus to others,”

“’That’s the core of what Catholic Charities is about, and what hopefully we’re all about.”

Michael Patchner, Community Service Award

“Michael Patchner’s humanity toward children and families in need flows from the heartbeat and hope he has lived and witnessed in his own family.

There’s the story of his father, an immigrant who worked in a coal mine, a man who gave his son his life savings to go to college so his child wouldn’t ever work in a mine and suffer the black lung disease that eventually killed him.

There’s the story of his stepmother who poured her love on him, a woman who became disabled, leading him to spend a year and a half caring for her.

There’s the story of the son that Patchner and his wife Lisa adopted, a child whose life was marred by debilitating disabilities and a joy of living he died at just weeks shy of his 3rd birthday. ‘I’ve been influenced by all of them,” says Patchner, who has been the dean of the Indiana University School of Social Work in Indianapolis for 18 years. “I just have this desire to help people in need.”

Patchner has served as the chairperson of the Indiana Commission on Abused and Neglected Children and Their Families and the Indiana Commission on Childhood Poverty. Both commissions have led to laws that help people in need.

“In social work, we want to make life better for everyone,” says Patchner, a member of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis. “God gave me some talents, and I’ve tried to use my talents to make my piece of the world a better place.”

Helping others at the heart of Spirit of Service winners’ lives of faith

By John Shaughnessy

Four individuals were honored for their contributions to the community during Catholic Charities Indianapolis’ 20th annual Spirit of Service Awards Dinner in Indianapolis on April 24. Here is capsulated information about the award recipients, who were prominently featured in the March 23 issue of The Criterion.

Michael Isakson, Spirit of Service Youth Award

Isakson was the help of an aunt, Michael Isakson used broken pieces of plates and china to create the mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe that is now on display in the cathedral, the archdiocesan program that provides assistance to mothers in need.

Currently in his senior year at the Eagle Scout project that also included collecting more than 3,000 roses to be shared with the residents at the Archdiocese of Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis for every year he has been a member, there are other pieces that reveal the larger picture of this 18-year-old’s commitment to making a difference to those in need. He’s the president of the Service Learning Club at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis, helping or organizing events to serve others in their community.

The senior has also spent weeks during the past two summers volunteering with other Catholic high school students to build and repair homes for families.

Michael—a member of the soccer, swimming and boys’ volleyball teams at Cardinal Ritter and a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis—also volunteered at Holy Family Shelter in Indianapolis.

‘Service is the way for me to bring Christ’s love into the world,” Michael said. ‘I try my best to show Jesus through my actions.’

Rita Kreich, Spirit of Service Award

At 87, Rita Kreich could just focus on her family that includes 11 children, 28 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

But the concept of family has never ended for the lifelong member of St. Philip Neri Parish in Indianapolis.

For more than 25 years, she has served as a “street priest” because he ministered to prostitutes, addicts and street people.

He has also driven the Missionary of Charity sisters to doctor’s appointments and 20 years, helping the residents play games.

There is also a major focus “on welcoming strangers and newcomers.”

The archbishop also stressed that a key principle that guides Catholic Charities and Catholic social teaching is that everyone has the right to a place to live.

‘That’s important for us to always keep before us,” he told the audience. “It’s not about me. It’s not about us. It’s to be Christ-centered.”

Plach then shared the story of a priest in Detroit who was known as “the street priest” because he ministered to prostitutes, addicts and street people.

“He had been beat up a couple times, and stabbed. And this young reporter interviewed him once and asked him about his job and whether you can keep finding Jesus in everyone you meet, with you being spit upon, you’ve been stabbed, etc.”

“’I said, I can’t say I always, quickly or easily find Jesus. But what I always have is this feeling, this force that’s always quickly or readily find Jesus or not, I have to be like Jesus to others,”

“’That’s the core of what Catholic Charities is about, and what hopefully we’re all about.”

Michael Patchner, Community Service Award

“Michael Patchner’s humanity toward children and families in need flows from the heartbeat and hope he has lived and witnessed in his own family.

There’s the story of his father, an immigrant who worked in a coal mine, a man who gave his son his life savings to go to college so his child wouldn’t ever work in a mine and suffer the black lung disease that eventually killed him.

There’s the story of his stepmother who poured her love on him, a woman who became disabled, leading him to spend a year and a half caring for her.

There’s the story of the son that Patchner and his wife Lisa adopted, a child whose life was marred by debilitating disabilities and a joy of living he died at just weeks shy of his 3rd birthday. ‘I’ve been influenced by all of them,” says Patchner, who has been the dean of the Indiana University School of Social Work in Indianapolis for 18 years. “I just have this desire to help people in need.”

Patchner has served as the chairperson of the Indiana Commission on Abused and Neglected Children and Their Families and the Indiana Commission on Childhood Poverty. Both commissions have led to laws that help people in need.

“In social work, we want to make life better for everyone,” says Patchner, a member of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis. “God gave me some talents, and I’ve tried to use my talents to make my piece of the world a better place.”

Former Indianapolis Colts player Joe Reitz delivered the keynote speech during the archdiocese’s 20th annual Spirit of Service Awards Dinner in Indianapolis on April 24. (Submitted photo by Ryan Bifolck)
Woman maps the worldwide Church, helping it serve its mission

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Molly Burhans never met a map she didn’t like.

For Burhans, 28, a map represents more than a way to identify a geographic locale; each location on a map represents complex layers of data that can be used to respond to human needs and protect fragile ecosystems.

The Buffalo, N.Y., native envisions using her startup, which she named GoodLands, to work with Church officials, hospitals, schools and development agencies to help them nurture life in all its forms.

“Women maps the worldwide Church, helping it serve its mission” (CNS photo/Dennis Sadowski)

During one of the meetings in the Vatican, two priests, after conferring in Italian, told her what she was planning to do was learn how to help the church steward its property holdings.

“It was as though someone had put my brain into a software program perfectly, and all I had needed to do was learn how to speak to it,” she said.

Also in Massachusetts, Burhans met Jill Ker Conway, former president of Smith College, at a local Catholic parish. The two discussed Burhans’ vision.

“She pulled the idea out of me,” Burhans recalled of Conway.

“She might have seen something in me that I definitely didn’t see. … She gave me the courage.”

Her idea also caught the attention of Jack Dangermond, president of Environmental Systems Research Institute in Redlands, Calif., whose sophisticated GIS software is in widespread use.

Dangermond invited Burhans to work with the company’s developers, and she spent more than four months in California in 2016 mapping the global Catholic Church. Burhans has surrounded herself with a team of advisers, including Dana Tomlin, an early developer of GIS technology and founder of the University of Pennsylvania’s Cartographic Modeling Lab, and Rosanne Haggerty, an affordable housing advocate who is president of Community Solutions in New York City.

Burhans has developed a comprehensive five-year strategic plan for her company, which she envisions operating as a hybrid business with for-profit and nonprofit entities. She is in the process of adding staff to take the load from her full schedule so she can raise investment capital.

Only recently did Burhans take enough of a salary to be able to afford an apartment, albeit with two roommates, in New Haven, Conn. As the interest in GoodLands’ services grows, Burhans wants to keep the momentum going.

“Things we are talking about, such as community health, mental health and well-being, economic development, all of these things are tied together.”

(More information about GoodLands can be found online at www.goodlandsproject.org)
By Katie Rutter

The Criterion  Friday, May 4, 2018

Page 10  The Criterion  Friday, May 4, 2018

Nun who protests ‘immoral' nuclear weapons is focus of film

The story of Sister Megan and her companions struck a chord with many. The filmmaker was already following a similar break-in and protest in 2009 in Tacoma, Wash., by a group that included Sacred Heart Sister Anne Montgomery and Jesuit Fathers Stephen Kelly and Father Bill Richel. Titling the documentary The Nuns, the Peaceful Bombing, Young followed the aftermath of the protest by Sister Megan, her prison sentence and the story of the Tacoma group. Young also interviewed policy, law and scientific experts for insight on the current state of U.S. nuclear weapons.

“I think a lot of people don’t even know we have [nuclear weapons], how powerful they are today,” Young explained.

“Typically, their frame of reference is the Hiroshima bomb, and that was 15 kilotons. One of the warheads aboard the Trident submarine is 455 kilotons, which is 30 times the [power of the] Hiroshima bomb,” she said.

In a statement on Nov. 10, 2017, Pope Francis condemned even the possession of nuclear weapons as immoral. The United States, according to the Federation of American Scientists, has approximately 6,450 nuclear weapons as of 2018.

“The nuclear powers have not taken full advantage of the peace dividend that the end of the Cold War afforded them,” explained Gerard Powers, director of Catholic Peacebuilding Studies at Notre Dame’s Keough School of Global Affairs and coordinator of the Catholic Peacebuilding Network.

“Progress toward nuclear disarmament is stalled, and actually things seem to be moving in the opposite direction,” he said.

“The [documentary] is extremely relevant because the United States is about to embark on the modernization of its nuclear arsenal,” Young said. “U.S. taxpayers will be paying $1.3 trillion over the next 30 years to modernize their nuclear weapons.”

On April 5, activists were arrested for another break-in similar to the ones chronicled by the documentary. Seven protesters, including Jesuit Father Stephen Kelly, who is featured in the documentary, and Martha Hennessy, the granddaughter of Catholic Worker Movement co-founder Dorothy Day, trespassed onto the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in Georgia.

Baltimore Catholic school removes Cosby name from building

BALTIMORE (CNS)—St. Francis Academy in Baltimore has removed the name of its “Drs. Camille and Bill Cosby Community Center” after Activists were arrested on April 26 on three counts of aggravated indecent assault for drugging and sexually assaulting a woman. The letters on the building came down the same day.

“We removed the name immediately,” Deacon B. Curtis Turner, the school’s principal, said. “We felt it was the right thing to do, given the convictions.”

The decision came from conversations with the board of directors and the Oblate Sisters of Providence, who operate the school, Deacon Turner said.

The administrator noted that the Cosbys were originally honored in 2012 in recognition of the strong support of St. Francis Academy from Camille Cosby, who was educated by the Oblates at her parish elementary school in Washington. Her husband’s name was added as a co-founder.

According to a 2005 article in the Catholic Review, Camille Cosby donated $2 million to St. Francis Academy in 2004 of which had made significant prior donations to the school. In making her $2 million gift, she called the school an outstanding institution that deserves the honor.

The money was used to help establish 16 annual full-tuition scholarships.

“If we are looking for solutions to the failure of our school system to educate our youth, this is what it would be well served by studying and replicating what St. Francis Academy is doing,” Turner said.

Following revelations against Bill Cosby in 2015, St. Francis Academy decided to keep the name on the building. At that time, there were no criminal convictions against the much-loved comedian and actor.

Now that the name has been removed, there are no immediate plans to rename the building. Prior to being named in honor of the Cosbys, the structure was known as the St. Frances building in 2012. Four years earlier, he gave an hourlong speech at St. Ambrose in Park Heights during a summer block party, emphasizing self improvement and community pride.
Faith Alive!

Engaged couples should discuss habits to build up virtues

By Amber Lapp

She sat in the passenger seat, pinning up her perm hair, fusing in the mirror. He was in the driver’s seat thumbing through the magazine. The year was 1949 and my grandparents were on a date in small-town Iowa.

After dates they went to a roller-skating rink, they visited each other’s churches and families, they went fishing in the nearby lake August. Eventually, they started to “talk serious” about things like religion and, eventually, marriage.

Their wedding preparations were simple by today’s standards: dress and suit, rings, invitations, some flowers to decorate the church. Wedding planning was less time-intensive than it is today, when couples feel pressure to “personalize” their weddings and throw the perfect party for their guests.

But my grandparents’ simple wedding preparations did not indicate lack of marriage preparation. Almost 68 years after their wedding, my grandma lay in bed in a nursing home. My 92-year-old grandpa clasped her hand, whispering sweet words that brought the memories back to tears. “I need you. You are so pretty and your hair always looks so nice. I love you.”

Many who knew them commented that my grandparents were witnesses to marriage as it was meant to be—marriage as a living sign of Christ’s love for the Church.

How did they prepare for this kind of love? And can engaged couples learn from their experience?

The secret to their success was the habits they formed together—habits that patterned Christ’s love.

It’s not that they had an easy marriage. In the early years, they had to work through personal and denominational differences. (At that time my grandma was Lutheran while my grandpa was Baptist.) They had to make ends meet as farmers living in a small tenant house.

During our engagement, I wish David and I had talked seriously about the habits we hoped to form in our new life together; we dreamt about the future, describing in broad brushstrokes our long-term goals and wondering about the journey God would take us on. That was beautiful and worthwhile.

But I wish we had also thought about the corresponding habits and virtues that could take us closer to those dreams. It’s valuable to begin married life with a set of simple but intentional commitments to ensure that, amid difficulties and busyness, couples can be guided by rhythms and routines that make time and space for the relationships that matter most.

(Shemaiah Gonzalez is a freelance writer. Her website is shemaiahgonzalez.com) †

Married couples are signs of Christ’s mystical union with the Church

By Shemaiah Gonzalez

As engaged couples prepare themselves for marriage, they look for advice for a rich and loving union. Some sage advice for engaged couples comes from Pope Francis in his 2016 apostolic exhortation “Amoris Laetitia” (“The Joy of Love”).

He says a couple should prepare for their wedding by meditating on Scripture together, saying it would not be good “for them to arrive at the wedding without ever having prayed together” (#216). Couples should ask the Lord “what he wants of them” (#216).

For engaged couples unsure where to begin, start with the Scripture readings for your wedding Mass. One of the most popular readings comes from St. Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians 5:25-33:

“Now you are partners in Christ’s sacrifice for the Church, as the Church is in Christ’s sacrifice for you. As the entrant enter Christ’s love: surrendering ourselves to it, we draw—and are drawn—to closer union with him. His love shows us how to be loving partners in marriage.

Prayer for engaged couples:

Lord, as we prepare for the sacrament of marriage, we come to ask what you desire from us.

Guide us to know your will.

May we look to your love for us as our model of how we are to love each other.

Show us how to nourish and cherish each other as we would our own bodies.

Bring your strength to our weakness so that we might help each other grow into the people you created us to be.

Pope Francis says a couple should prepare for their wedding by meditating on Scripture together.

(CNS photo/Michael Swan, The Catholic Register)

(Amber Lapp is a research fellow at the Institute for Family Studies based in Charlottesville, Va.) †

New spousal exchange rings as Pope Francis, pictured in the background, celebrates the marriage rite for 20 couples during a Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican. “Love needs time and space; everything else is secondary,” Pope Francis writes in his 2016 apostolic exhortation “The Joy of Love” (#224).

(CNS photo/Paul Haring)
Immigrants are not the issue, but attitude toward them is

When it comes to our faith and Creator, our children are listening

Patti Lamb

Last Sunday marked our final religious education class for the year. I served as the assistant teacher to my faith-filled friend, Linda. Linda, who took the lead with this ministry of bringing Christ to our growing 4th graders. Each week required a lesson plan explaining the many windows of our faith—Bible stories, prayers, sacraments and the turn of the page. Linda made an effort to help impart to these 10-year-olds.

Mandy and I hope those children walked away from our class with a desire to understand their faith and recognizing it as a treasure. But after that last class, we agreed that the group opened our children’s eyes to others and their unique viewpoints. We made a whole list, but we decided to share our top takeaways.

1. Our kids are listening. As much as it may not seem like our kids are listening to us, Mandy and I can affirm that they are. Each Sunday, our students would ausmate us with what they shared. Their little ears hear it all. Here are just a few of the comments the students made:

“My mom says we need to pray for the people who shot students at a school.”

“Two are curious about their faith, their Creator. They have questions—good questions.”

“We are not always there to help them when they are hurt.”

“They all wanted to know why bad things happen to good people. Week after week, they came to us with wonderful questions.”

2. They are curious about their faith, their Creator. They have questions—good questions—and they want to help their friends. Sponsoring. These sweet children are on the edge of growing up in a nonsensical world.

3. God smiles on the parents of these children who bring them to us early each Sunday morning. They pray that the promise you made at your son or daughter’s baptism, and that’s awesome. Not because they make every class, and we always forgive if asked and only wants us to come back to himself. Nothing can separate us from his love.

3. God smiles on the parents of these children who bring them to us early each Sunday morning. They pray that the promise you made at your son or daughter’s baptism, and that’s awesome. Not because they make every class, and we always forgive if asked and only wants us to come back to himself. Nothing can separate us from his love.

When Pope Francis says to go to the marketplace with the good news of the Gospel, he is not really there. We are uploading bits of truth as quickly as possible. What is often forgotten is that speech is best performed in the physical world of social media marketplace built by marketing companies like Amazon. Inside these gates, information factories, the truth can be censored as pitched debates take place in comment feeds and Twitter threads.

Words on the screen are like the seeds thrown among the thorns. They risk being choked out and converting few to the light of faith. Even the pagans knew that Paul’s idea was to send as quickly as possible. What is most forgotten is that speech is best performed in the physical world of social media marketplace built by marketing companies like Amazon. Inside these gates, information factories, the truth can be censored as pitched debates take place in comment feeds and Twitter threads.

The online venue is becoming the center of culture. It is schools, parishes and homes that sit at the periphery, looking in on the culture through the windows of smartphones. Face-to-face encounters are far less common than Facebook conversations.

Changing the culture means getting back to your roots. Simple Christian charity was the means by which Paul communicated. The “cultu” comes from Latin, which means “cultivation.” Cultura means tend and grow. A pagan cult was one that tended to the shrine of a deity. The pagans did a job tending to the shrines of social media—making daily offerings and making friends with others. The pagans did not do that because they would get involved in the online marketplace, but do not be afraid to enter the Aragoopax where your ideas and beliefs can be shared and face. Done in charity, it will bear fruit.

(Brett Robinson is director of communications and Catholic media studies at the University of Notre Dame McGrath Institute for Church Life.)
The Acts of the Apostles once more provides an Easter season weekend liturgy with its first reading. In this reading, St. Peter goes to the house of Cornelius who attempts to pay homage to the Apostle. Peter stops him, protesting that he is only a human. He is not God, but he represents Christ. The Lord had commissioned him to be the Spirit empowered him. Cornelius is a Gentile. His name suggests that he may have been a Roman. In all likelihood, the relatives and guests of Cornelius present in the house were Gentiles. Probably some or many were Romans. For devout, loyal Jews, if anything was worse than being a Gentile and of pagan stock, it was being a Roman. After all, Jews at the time were living under the crushing heel of Rome. They despaired representatives of the Roman occupation. Yet Peter went into the home of Cornelius. The Gentiles present understood what he was saying. They became part of the Church. They became brothers and sisters of Christ, heirs to eternal life. Through Peter, God reached out to Gentiles, despite the fact that their backgrounds were in paganism and quite likely in sin. The First Epistle of St. John is the source of the second reading. John calls upon followers of Jesus to love each other. He states that God is love. God’s love for humanity was revealed in the gift of Jesus, and in the salvation achieved by Jesus for all who turn to God. St. John’s majestic, compelling Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is a reservoir of theology, presented in the most eloquent language. This reading’s message is frank and direct. If anyone truly loves God, then this person will keep the commandments. By doing so, people live in God’s love. They imitate Christ. Living in God’s love produces joy. It creates union with God in Christ. As the reading concludes, Jesus declares that no love exceeds the love that impels a person to surrender life itself so that a friend may live. “You are my friends,” Jesus says (Jn 15:14). In the sequence of John’s Gospel, this passage is not post-resurrection. The crucifixion looms ahead. Jesus awaits Good Friday. For us, on Good Friday, Jesus willingly submitted to death on the cross. He chose to die for us, that we might live and be spiritually loved us with a perfectly unselfish love. Then, as the reading closes, Jesus instructs us “to love one another” (Jn 15:17).

Reflection
The second reading makes clear the theological fact that loving is not simply an activity of God. It says that God is love. What does this mean? It means that God is alive, active and reaching to us, excluding no one. So, God forgives. God empowers. God transforms all products of divine loving.

God is our Father, and therefore humans should resemble God, just as children bear the genetic imprint of natural parents. When Christians are called to love each other, they are asked to be such that if they be sin did not mar and distasteful circumstances. Created by God, redeemed by God, Christians properly should mirror God through the help of his grace.

We are humans. This is our species, but we are God’s children by adoption. We should resemble God, and we humans, as such, can resemble God, in all the goodness implied, because we, with the help of his grace, can love God and love each other. Love is much more than warm-heartedness or kind gestures, more than imprecise, half-hearted good intentions. The Lord explained in the Gospel reading that it is keeping the commandments. How can we learn the commandments? Where is the strength to keep the commandments? How can we truly love? Christ is in the Church, offering us the sacraments and God’s word. Jesus lived through Peter. Jesus still lives.
Pope Francis, others mourn death of British toddler Alfie Evans

LIVERPOOL, England (CNS)—Pope Francis said he was mourning the death of English toddler Alfie Evans, who died four days after doctors withdrew his life support system.

The 23-month-old boy died at about 2:30 a.m. on April 28 after his father, Tom Evans, spent 10 minutes trying to revive him by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, according to reports in the British media.

Tom Evans, a Catholic, announced that he would use Facebook the next day with the words: “My gladiator lay down his shield and gained his wings at 02:30 ... absolutely heartbroken ... I LOVE YOU MY GUY.”

Alfie’s mother, Kate James, wrote: “Our baby boy grew his wings tonight at 2:30 a.m. We are heartbroken.”

Soon afterward, Pope Francis, who had met Tom Evans at the Vatican on April 18, tweeted: “I am deeply moved by the death of little Alfie. Today, I pray especially for his parents, as God the Father receives him in his tender embrace.”

The Vatican-owned Bambino Gesù hospital in Rome offered to care for Alfie, although doctors who examined him said not much could be done but to make him comfortable. On April 23, the Italian government granted citizenship to the boy so he could be evacuated by a waiting air ambulance.

But that same day, Alfie was taken off his ventilator, and he was expected to die imminently. He began breathing unaided, prompting appeals by his parents to the High Court and then the Court of Appeal to allow their son to leave the country.

Judges upheld the original decision that it was in the “best interests” of Alfie, who suffered from a severe degenerative brain condition, to be allowed to die.

Tom Evans, who had been highly critical of Alder Hey Children’s Hospital in Liverpool, ceased to give media interviews on April 26, saying he wanted to cooperate with doctors in the hope Alfie might be taken home.

His inability to remove his child from the hospital led to passionate demands from politicians and media commentators for an “Alfie’s law” to allow parents to seek help elsewhere when doctors believe they can do no more.

The case had also drawn criticism of the British courts and health service from all over the world.

In the U.S., National Right to Life President Carol Tobias said in an April 29 statement that “no parent should ever be forced to the sidelines while the government decides whether their child will receive medical treatment or not.”

Tobias said: “Let’s be clear, Alfie Evans was sentenced to death by Britain’s National Health System [Service] and the High Court. Their intransigent commitment to the country’s faulty single-payer health system led them to conclude it was better for Alfie to die than leave the country and receive potentially life-saving treatment elsewhere.”

The Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, however, has defended the actions of the hospital.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool said he discussed the case personally with the pope, and has assured him that Alder Hey had done everything “humanly possible” to help Alfie, according to an April 25 report in The Tablet magazine.

Following the death of the 23-month-old boy, the archbishop praised the professionalism of the staff of the hospital in a statement posted on April 28 on the website of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.

“I would like to express my deepest sympathy at this moment of loss to Tom and Kate as we hold little Alfie in our prayers,” said Archbishop McMahon.

“We must recognize that all who have played a part in Alfie’s life have wanted to act for his good, as they see it,” he said. “Above all, we must thank Tom and Kate for their unswerving love of their son, and the staff at Alder Hey Hospital for their professional care of Alfie.”

Kenneth Boehm, 59, father of Father Dustin Boehm, died on April 20

Kenneth Boehm, the father of Father Dustin Boehm, pastor of St. Bridget of Ireland Parish in Liberty and St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville, died on April 20. He was 59.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 27 at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Breck Grove. Burial followed at Calvary Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Boehm was a member of Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis and previously was a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood. He was a graduate of Holy Name of Jesus School in Beech Grove and Rosalind High School in Indianapolis.

Boehm was grateful for his many friends and family, and especially loved being a grandfather to his three grandchildren. He also valued seeing his son, Adam, who preceded him in death, become a father, and to see Father Boehm become a spiritual father in his priestly life and ministry.

Boehm is survived by his son, Father Dustin Boehm, his stepfather, Bud Shere; his sisters, Barbara Hauk, Malinda Hinke, Mary Turner and Rosanna Wagner; his brothers Bob, Paul, and Wil Boehm; and by three grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be sent to Good Shepherd Parish, 2005 S. Carson Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46203-5216, or to Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove, IN 46107-1531.

Kenneth Boehm, 59, father of Father Dustin Boehm, died on April 20

Kenneth Boehm, the father of Father Dustin Boehm, pastor of St. Bridget of Ireland Parish in Liberty and St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville, died on April 20. He was 59.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 27 at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Breck Grove. Burial followed at Calvary Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Boehm was a member of Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis and previously was a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood. He was a graduate of Holy Name of Jesus School in Beech Grove and Rosalind High School in Indianapolis.

Boehm was grateful for his many friends and family, and especially loved being a grandfather to his three grandchildren. He also valued seeing his son, Adam, who preceded him in death, become a father, and to see Father Boehm become a spiritual father in his priestly life and ministry.

Boehm is survived by his son, Father Dustin Boehm, his stepfather, Bud Shere; his sisters, Barbara Hauk, Malinda Hinke, Mary Turner and Rosanna Wagner; his brothers Bob, Paul, and Wil Boehm; and by three grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be sent to Good Shepherd Parish, 2005 S. Carson Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46203-5216, or to Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove, IN 46107-1531.

The Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, however, has defended the actions of the hospital.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool said he discussed the case personally with the pope, and has assured him that Alder Hey had done everything “humanly possible” to help Alfie, according to an April 25 report in The Tablet magazine.

Following the death of the 23-month-old boy, the archbishop praised the professionalism of the staff of the hospital in a statement posted on April 28 on the website of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.

“I would like to express my deepest sympathy at this moment of loss to Tom and Kate as we hold little Alfie in our prayers,” said Archbishop McMahon.

“We must recognize that all who have played a part in Alfie’s life have wanted to act for his good, as they see it,” he said. “Above all, we must thank Tom and Kate for their unswerving love of their son, and the staff at Alder Hey Hospital for their professional care of Alfie.”

Kathleen Carroll, 90, of Indiana, died on April 8. She was the mother of Karen Lebourgeois, Susan and Paul Spencer. Brother of Mary Ann Weltzien. Burial of six. Great-grandfather of seven.


STASHELM, Paul J., Sr., 88. 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove, IN 46107-1531.

Demonizing immigrants hardens American heart, says cardinal

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Newark Catholic Bishop Joseph W. Tobin said he worries that reducing the number of immigrants—particularly refugees—to the U.S., and demonizing them represents a “hardening of the American heart,” and that fact should be of concern to a country that has been historically a welcoming place.

The country’s iconic Statue of Liberty “is welcoming people because of who they are and not seeing them simply as objects of charity, but as potential contributors to this experiment that is the United States of America,” Cardinal Tobin, who served as the shepherd of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis from 2012-16, said in the CMSOnAir podcast aired on April 23 by New York’s Center for Migration Studies. “We should be concerned about the success that some voices in the public square have had in demonizing the other.”

In an interview with Donald Kerwin, the center’s executive director, Cardinal Tobin expressed worries about sentiments popular around the country at the moment, including some that paint certain groups of immigrants as rapists, drug smugglers or as people intent on taking jobs away. “All of which isn’t true,” he said. “And people forget that they’re part of families. They love their children. Many of them are here at great sacrifice leaving behind their families, their wider families, so that they can provide for their children. I think what religious leaders can do is help people understand, because if you can put a face on these families, it’s much more difficult to do really inhumane things to them.”

It is similar to what happened to the Irish and other communities that arrived in the U.S. in the past, he said, when they were painted in extremely unfriendly ways and yet contributed to the country.

“We should ask why we want to become so ethnocentric. I don’t think the word xenophobic is too strong to describe some of the caricatures that are proposed to Americans. I want to believe that Americans are smarter than that and that their hearts are bigger,” he said.

While many Christian immigrants are being helped by depots and other groups, others of the faith shouldn’t exclusively help them but rather try to help everyone who is suffering, even though it’s true that “the people who are being deported include great numbers of Christians,” the cardinal said.

“My hometown of Detroit, Michigan, has a large Chaldean community, which is being exacerbated by ICE,” he said, referring to the Department of Homeland Security’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

When asked whether people of good faith can disagree on immigration and other issues that the Church advocates for as matters of prudential judgment, not doctrinal issues, Cardinal Tobin said that “if prudential judgment simply means or reduces the question of the help to undocumented peoples or immigrants as matters of secondary concern, I think that that’s wrong.”

“I think that there is a misrepresentation of some of the fundamental principles of the Church’s social doctrine,” he further explained. “Certainly, the capricious nature of the laws and the enforcement of laws around immigration is an offense of human dignity. It is a wound to the common good. So, yes, I don’t have a whole lot of time for people who reduce things to prudential judgment. I’ll talk to everybody, but I think that there is more of a self-fulfilling prophecy to justify the present chaos.”

Cardinal Tobin said he is not opposed to borders or thinks they “are necessarily wrong.” But he said that “when they achieve almost an idolatrous force, that they become so sacred that you would close your eyes to the needs of people who come across the border seeking a better life or help, or when they reduce human dignity to a caricature, or when they break the fundamental solidarity that we owe even across national or cultural borders, then I think as believers, we have to question that.”

People should never forget where their family came from, he said, or the challenges they and other immigrants of the past faced—whether they did or did not enter the U.S. legally.

“They were all lumped into the same offensive group,” he said. “I think that remembering that and remembering that out of those immigrant communities came people like Marconi, who gave the radio to the world, and [opera singer] Enrico Caruso, and all of these people who enriched our nation’s lives in so many ways, that’s one thing to remember. Secondly, is to listen to your faith before you listen to a particular ideology. God is pretty clear. He doesn’t favor one nation over another.”

The world’s main religions counsel strongly against persecuting the stranger, he said, and that “because God himself identifies in a very real way with those who are foreigners among you.”

Even if immigrants are facing a particularly difficult time, Cardinal Tobin said he reminds them to always remember and repeat that Christ is risen.

“And his resurrection wasn’t simply a far-off historical fact. It is the judgment of God on death and suffering, that it doesn’t have the final word,” he said. “And so I would say that’s going to be true in the lives of these people as well.”

God is a God of justice, he said, and “will ultimately transform the suffering into a better world, not only for these immigrants, but for the United States of America.”

Pope: Without love and service, Church is just an ‘empty institution’

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The example of selfless love and humble service set forth by Jesus in the Last Supper are the foundations of the Catholic Church’s mission in the world, Pope Francis said.

Jesus’ institution of the Eucharist and washing his disciples’ feet are gestures of love “that make the Church.” If we are faithful,” the pope said in his homily on April 25 during Mass at the Dezeo Sanstue Marthae.

“Without love, [the Church] doesn’t go anywhere,” he said. “It transforms into an empty institution, of appearances, of gestures without fruitfulness,” he said. “Jesus tells how we should love until the end.”

The pope reflected on the day’s Gospel reading from St. John in which Jesus, after washing his disciples’ feet, tells them that “no slave is greater than his master; no messenger greater than the one who sent him” (Jn 13:16).

Jesus “awakens in us the desire to be greater than all of us” is proof of his humility because, despite his lordship, he humbled himself through concrete acts of love, the pope said.

His command to his disciples to love one another, to serve one another and to know that they are never greater than “are blunt words and gestures [that are] the foundation of the Church,” Pope Francis said. “If we go forward with these three things, we will never be mistaken.”

Like the many martyrs and saints who lived “with the awareness of being servants,” Christians today also must walk along the path of humility set forth by Jesus.

Cultural fun

St. Jude School in Indianapolis recently hosted its annual Cultural Day. This year’s theme was “Where in the World is Pope Francis?” The all-day event included storytelling, art projects, service projects, and an international food fair, among other things. Top photo: Natalieh Wilham, left, Anna Povnieti, Claire Schneider and Tori Grant complete a service project. Middle left, Noral Bell colors a picture of Pope Francis. Middle right, students Thalia Guzman, left, and Francischiotti try some pierogies at the International Food Fair. Bottom photo: Michelle Tuttle and Jamison Witty dance while a mariachi band performs at the end of the day. (Submitted photo)

The Criterion  Friday , May 4, 2018
Confirmation at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle

Following a confirmation liturgy, Archbishop Paul C. Schulte posed for a photograph with altar servers at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle on March 2, 1959. From left to right in the photo are Pat Harrold, left, Bobby Tennis, Archibishop Schulte, Fleck Conrad and Paul Harrold. This photo originally appeared in the Putnam County Graphic newspaper.

Prayer is what led to his ouster: "May all members be mindful that here and nothing would have changed." Now, there would be a different person in the position, he said. "But I can't say it. Some people say, 'You're there, why don't you say prophetic things?' If I did, a week from now, there would be a different person here and nothing would have changed." Some speculation that the following prayer is what led to his ouster:

"May all members be mindful that the institutions and structures of our great nation guarantee the opportunities that have allowed some to achieve great success, while others continue to struggle. May their efforts these days guarantee that the establishments of our prayer is what led to his ouster: "May all members be mindful that here and nothing would have changed." Now, there would be a different person in the position, he said. "But I can't say it. Some people say, 'You're there, why don't you say prophetic things?' If I did, a week from now, there would be a different person here and nothing would have changed." Some speculation that the following prayer is what led to his ouster:

"May all members be mindful that the institutions and structures of our great nation guarantee the opportunities that have allowed some to achieve great success, while others continue to struggle. May their efforts these days guarantee that the establishments of our