Genocide survivor who learned to forgive inspires teen to plan special day for youths

By John Shaughnessy

The game has stopped for a moment, but the smiles continue as everyone pauses for a group photo on this sun-splashed summer morning.

Standing side by side, from different backgrounds and different worlds, the 21 individuals combine to provide another intriguing snapshot of the promise and the possibility that is the United States. There are the 14 children and youths who were born in the refugee camps of that African country. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

Inspired by the life and commitment to forgiveness of Kizito Kalima, right, a survivor of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, 16-year-old Olivia Julian held a soccer clinic at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis on June 29 for youths and children who were born in the refugee camps of that African country. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

Catholic Relief Service student ambassadors stress need for human dignity to members of Congress

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Denise Ssettimba had just begun her brief presentation to an aide to Sen. John Kennedy, R-La., about funding for international poverty-reducing programs during the Student Ambassador Leadership Summit of Catholic Relief Services on July 18 on Capitol Hill in Washington. (CNS photo/Dennis Sadowski)

Pope Francis announced his intention to canonize two Italian religious figureheads—Blessed Nunzio Sulprizio and Blessed Oscar Romero—in a ceremony at the Vatican on July 19. Both are expected to be elevated to sainthood during an ordinary public consistory on July 21. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano, handout)

Pope Francis added a teen to list of saints to be declared during world synod on youth

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis added an Italian teenager to the list of people he will formally recognize as saints on Oct. 14 during the monthlong meeting of the world Synod of Bishops on young people.

During an ordinary public consistory on July 19, Pope Francis announced he would declare Blessed Nunzio Sulprizio a saint the same day he will canonize Blessed Oscar Romero, Paul VI and four others. An ordinary public consistory is a meeting of the pope, cardinals and promoters of sainthood causes that formally ends the sainthood process.

Sulprizio was born on April 13, 1817, in the Abruzzo region of Italy. Both of his parents died when he was an infant, and his maternal grandmother, who raised him, died when he was 9.

An uncle took him under his guardianship and had the young boy work for him in his blacksmith shop. However, the work was too strenuous for a boy his age and he developed a problem in his leg, which became gangrenous.

A military colonel took care of Sulprizio, who was eventually hospitalized in Naples. The young teen faced tremendous pain with patience and serenity and offered up his sufferings to God.

He died in Naples in 1836 at the age of 19. He was declared blessed in 1963 by Blessed Paul VI, who will be canonized together with the teen.

During the ceremony, Blessed Paul had said, “Nunzio Sulprizio will tell you that the period of youth should not be considered the age of free passions, of inevitable falls, of invincible crises, of decadent pessimism, of harmful selfishness. Rather, he will rather tell you how being young is a grace.”

Blesseds Paul and Romero and Sulprizio will be canonized along with four others.
Act now to get tax benefit and help children attend a Catholic school

The opportunity has begun again for people who want to get the double bonus of helping children attend Catholic schools and maximizing the tax benefits of making a contribution to that effort.

Starting on July 1, the Indiana Tax Credit Scholarship program opened with an available $14 million in funds to support the effort of helping students attend a private school—an option that may not have been possible for their families without the program.

A Tax Credit Scholarship of at least $500 per child, given for one year, allows the fraction of their original gift.”

Pohovey says that donors could also provide more tax benefits than just the tax credits themselves, thus providing a significant benefit even more this year because of the changes in the new law, which effectively doubled the standard deduction for both single and married joint filers,” she says.

If the donation doesn’t put the donor’s total itemized deductions above the new standard deduction threshold, the donor will still receive a credit equal to 50 percent of the amount donated.”

The Indiana Tax Credit Scholarship Program offers a unique opportunity for those who believe in Catholic education to provide a hope-filled, Christ-centered future for our young people while lifting our entire community.

Few donors need an incentive to do so, but are rewarded with a 50 percent state tax credit on the amount of their donation in addition to federal tax savings, thus making their after-tax cost a fraction of their original gift.”

Pohovey says that donors could also benefit even more this year because of the new Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that took effect on Jan. 1, 2018.

“Giving to the Indiana Tax Credit Scholarship Program is an even more attractive option for charitable giving because the new law effectively doubled the standard deduction for both single and married joint filers,” she says. “If the donation doesn’t put the donor’s total itemized deductions above the new standard deduction threshold, the donor will still receive a credit against their Indiana income tax equal to 50 percent of the amount donated.”

The Indiana Tax Credit Scholarship Program is a win-win for students and Hoosier taxpayers,” says Betsy Wiley, president and chief executive officer of the Institute for Quality Education, Indiana’s largest scholarship granting organization.

“We’re grateful the legislature has continued to support the growth of this program, which supports educational opportunities for students while providing tax relief to generous donors,” Wiley says.

She also notes that interested donors should act quickly as tax credits have proven to be popular and are likely to be exhausted before the end of the calendar year.

In the 2017-18 school year, contributions to the program raised $6 million in tax scholarships that supported students in the 68 Catholic schools in the archdiocese.

(To learn more about giving to a scholarship granting organization or to donate online, visit www.i4qed.org/scholarship. If you have any questions concerning Tax Credit Scholarships or giving to archdiocesan Catholic schools, contact Kimberly Pohovey at kpohovey@archindy.org at 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1560 or 7/27/18

Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

July 30-August 15, 2018

July 10 — 5:30 p.m. Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulcher annual Bishops’ Mass and dinner, St. Luke the Evangelist Church, Indianapolis

August 2 — 10 a.m. Leadership Team Meeting, Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

August 2 — 2 p.m. Visit to Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center, Bloomington

August 4 — 5 p.m. Mass at St. Bartholomew Church, Columbus

August 5 — 2 p.m. Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis, and reception

August 6 — 4 p.m. Seminarian Convocation Mass, Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, Indianapolis

August 8 — 6 p.m. Annual Archbishop’s Cookout for Priests and Seminarians at Archbishop’s residence, Indianapolis

August 9 — 9 a.m. Leadership Team Meeting, Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

August 11 — 10 a.m. (Central Time) Priesthood ordinations, Saint Meinrad Archabbey, Saint Meinrad

August 12 — 11:30 a.m. Mass and Reception at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish, Greenwood, in celebration of its 25th anniversary

August 12 — 5 p.m. Annual Archdiocesan St. Lawrence Day Prayer Service and Dinner for Permanent Deacons and their wives, Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, Indianapolis

August 14 — 1 p.m. Convocation and Leadership Team Meeting, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral rectory, Indianapolis

August 14 — 7 p.m. Annual Mass for Substance Addiction Ministry, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

August 15 — noon Mass for the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

August 15 — 4 p.m. Mass for the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Marquette Manor, Indianapolis, followed by dinner (Schedule subject to change.)

Information about the Indiana Tax Credit Scholarship Program and its impact on Catholic schools in the archdiocese

• The Indiana Tax Credit Scholarship Program began in 2009.

• In the 2017-18 school year, 2,222 students received Indiana Tax Credit Scholarships made possible through donations to the Institute for Quality Education, Indiana’s largest scholarship granting organization.

• “We’re grateful the legislature has continued to support the growth of this program, which supports educational opportunities for thousands of Indiana students while providing tax relief to generous donors,” Wiley says.

She also notes that interested donors should act quickly as tax credits have proven to be popular and are likely to be exhausted before the end of the calendar year.

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Father Joseph Pesola, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, died on July 22 at Community North Hospital in Indianapolis. He was 52.

Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. on July 29 at Seals Funeral Home, 22 W. State St., in Fortville. A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. prior to the visitation.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on July 30 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 523 S. Merrill St., in Fortville.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson will be the principal celebrant of the Mass. Father John Pesola, Fortville, will serve as the deacon and Father Steve Leslie, Greenwood, as the sub-deacon.

"He had a great passion for those who could not hear," said Gary R. Pesola, who became choir director when Father Pesola became the administrator of the Fortville parish. "And he had a real passion for the youth when there had a tough time. He spent time [ministering] out at the juvenile center in Pendleton, and also went to the detention centers, open."

"He loved kids. He liked hanging out with them, and spearheaded our parish sending youths to N CYC (National Catholic Youth Conference)."

"He himself was fostered and adopted. I think he gained all that compassion for others through his family."

Garst noted two of Father Pesola’s favorite pastimes: reading and spending time with his family.

"He loved reading and was very knowledgeable," she said. "He would buy books on every religious subject he could find.

"And he loved spending time with his family. His grandmother would stay with him for one to three months every year, and he always enjoyed having his parents [from Elkhart] spend the weekend at the parish. A lot of times, his vacation was to spend time visiting his nieces and nephews.

"Due to health issues, Father Pesola was reassigned in 2012 to live in residence at St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis, where he assisted with sacramental duties. He was granted early retirement in 2014 for medical reasons.

"The lives of our youth are being wasted and families destroyed, and all because of chemicals called shabu, cocaine, cannabis and heroin," Duterte said in a 48-minute address.

"Let us be bread, broken, shared for others so that we are all moved with the bread of life for all."

Cardinal Tagle urged conference participants to become "bread" for others and to "be the life in the world.

"We let us be bread, broken, shared, for others so that we are all moved with compassion and can feed others," he said in his parting message at the Pontifical University of Santo Tomas in Manila.

"All that we have, all that are we, if taken, blessed and shared can become the bread of life for all," Cardinal Tagle said.

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Background/John F. Fink

The United States has not been as welcoming as we think

Immigration into the United States has become one of the biggest issues facing our country. It is also a deeply divisive issue.

Throughout our history, we have welcomed ourselves on welcoming immigrants. The history of France recognized our willingness to welcome the stranger when it gave us the Statue of Liberty in 1866. It’s famous saying, “The New Colossus,” written by Emma Lazarus in 1883. The statue contains the words, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore.”

The unfortunate truth, though, is that the United States has not always been as welcoming as we think in fact. At times it has been undeniably racist in deciding who is permitted in.

The first anti-immigration law, passed in 1875, was definitely discriminatory and racist. It prohibited Asian women from entering the country. Then the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed in 1882. The Immigration Act of 1917 prohibited immigration from Asia, except for the Philippines and Japan.

The Immigration Act of 1924 was certainly discriminatory, trying to keep our population as Caucasian as possible. It used a system of limiting immigration to 2 percent of the number of foreign-born people of each nationality present at the time of the 1890 census. It was favored by many western Europeans and unfavorable toward the southern and eastern Europeans, most of whom were Catholics, who comprised most of those who wanted to come.

By 1965, during the civil rights era, the quota system was seen as racist, and it was abolished. That changed the racial and ethnic makeup of the U.S. as more people from Asia and Latin America began to immigrate. The country went from 9.7 million immigrants in 1960 to 43.7 million in 2016, and 89 percent of them were non-Europeans.

The 1965 law did cap the number of people who could enter, though. There are five family-based categories capped at 480,000, and five employment-based categories capped at 140,000. There’s also an annual cap of 170,000 for those from the Eastern Hemisphere, and 120,000 for those from the Western Hemisphere.

Since 1976, there’s been a limit of 200,000 for immigrants from a single country. That quota for Latin American countries was capped at 140,000. We have an annual cap of 170,000 for those from the Eastern Hemisphere, and 120,000 for those from the Western Hemisphere.

Illegal immigration was also fueled by the termination of the Bracero program in 1964, a year before the 1965 law was passed. Since 1942, the Bracero Program had brought in 4 million workers every year. And after the 1965 law was passed, there were millions of Central Americans flooding across the border, including about 3 million Salvadorans. It is also a deeply divisive issue.

The temptation that flashes before us when we consider suicide is the fantasy of becoming master over our destiny by taking for ourselves direct power over life and death. We begin to accept the falsehood that we are uniquely in charge of our own destiny, and can remake or destroy ourselves as if we were gods. It is a short step, then, for us to take further powers unto ourselves, lording it over the fate and destiny of others through activities like euthanasia, direct abortion, and suicide. We become our own gods.

Although we are creatures intended for life, we may not be entirely clear about how the question of our coming into being and our sense how we have been cast headlong into existence without asking for it, and we may be tempted to think that we have the right to create or not create ourselves or have any role in bringing ourselves into being. We may have come entirely apart from our own will means that our existence has been intentionally chosen by Another. The goodness and beauty of our creaturehood is also a deeply divisive issue.

The United States has not been as welcoming as we think immigration from Asia, except for the Philippines and Japan.

We are tempted toward this same type of Promethean mastery at the other end of life. While we recognize that we cannot avoid death, we may be troubled and vexed by the possibility of a protracted and painful dying process. We may decide that the best answer is to end our lives as quickly as possible and move into the driver’s seat, reluctantly facing the terminal illness of someone else.

We may decide that the best answer is to end our lives as quickly as possible and move into the driver’s seat, reluctantly calling the final shots ourselves. By ending life, we may want to prevent the suffering of those who love us. We may wish to keep others from being necessary or burdensome.

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Reflections on my first year as archbishop of Indianapolis

Tomorrow will be the one-year anniversary of my installation as archbishop of Indianapolis. July 28, 2017, was a special day. I am deeply grateful to God for all the graces given to me during the past 12 months.

As I reflect on the past year, what stands out is the hundreds of people I have met throughout the 39 counties of our archdiocese.

Along with ordinations of priests and deacons, and the final profession of religious women and men, parish visits for confirmations, the installation of pastors and other special occasions have truly been the highlight of this past year.

I enjoy getting to know people, and I’m especially pleased when I have the chance to meet the many holy people who make up our local Church. These truly are the everyday saints that Pope Francis writes about in his apostolic exhortation “Gaudete et Exsultate” (“Rejoice and Be Glad: The Call to Holiness in Today’s World”).

I can’t really describe it as a sad moment, but the death of my friend and mentor Archbishop Emeritus Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., was a profound experience for me—as for so many others.

Archbishop Daniel had been my seminary rector; he was a close friend and advisor during my years as a seminarian. He served as the principal celebrant at his funeral Mass was a great privilege. I had grieved for him over time, and I was relieved when God took Archbishop Daniel to his heavenly home. But I miss him, and I thank God that he was such an important influence in my life and ministry—and in the life of our archdiocese!

During my installation homily a year ago, I made the point that our task is not so much to resolve the world’s problems as to lead others to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. I believe this even more today.

My brother priests and I have been called to be Christ for others in a very particular way. Pope Francis says that we are witnesses to the mercy of God, and that means that we have a sacred duty to make Christ available through the Word of God, the sacraments and our pastoral care. With our deacons, consecrated men and women, as well as the dedicated lay people who serve as parish life coordinators and who minister in so many diverse ways throughout the archdiocese, we are called to be models of holiness and witnesses to the love and mercy of Jesus Christ.

I can’t say that I had no idea what I was getting into a year ago, but it’s definitely true that the size and complexity of this archdiocese were more than I expected. I thank God for all of you who have welcomed me so warmly, and who have made my ministry much less overwhelming than it might have been. I’ve discovered firsthand that the Church in central and southern Indiana is blessed with gifted women and men who serve the needs of our people in many diverse ways.

One of the special moments of my first year was the publication of my pastoral letter, “We Are One in Christ: A Pastoral Letter on Fundamentals of Christian Anthropology.”

I think it’s safe to say that during my first year as archbishop, the world exploded with political and social issues that challenge us to respond as Christians. Racism, gun violence, abortion and the other life issues, our broken immigration system, poverty and the opioid crisis are not new, but over the past year they have grown in visibility and intensity. To remain silent is to become complicit in the forces of evil that work against the church.

As I thought about these issues, I became convinced that not one of them is isolated from our understanding of who we are as members of God’s family and brothers and sisters to each other. The bottom line is that each of us has been made in the image and likeness of God and, as such, we are called to respect, defend and build up one another here and now regardless of differences of race, creed, ethnic origins, sexual orientation or social status. We are one in Christ!

A year ago, I was still dealing with the surprise I felt six weeks earlier when I learned that Pope Francis had chosen me to serve as the seventh archbishop of Indianapolis. Although the initial shock has worn off, I still find myself amazed and overwhelmed at the immensity of the challenge and the enormity of the responsibility.

Please pray for me. I count on God’s grace, your prayers and your support, to help me serve as your archbishop with humility and joy.

Materna se cumplirá el primer aniversario del mi investidura como arzobispo de Indianaolís, celebrada el 28 de julio de 2017. Ha transcurrido un año completo y agradezco a Dios por todas las gracia que me ha dispensado durante estos 12 meses.

A medida que reflexiono acerca del pasado año, lo que más se destaca son los cientos de personas a los que he conocido en los 39 condados que conforman nuestra Arquidiócesis.

Conjuntamente a la ordenación de sacerdotes y diáconos, y la procesión final de hombres y mujeres religiosas, las visitas parroquiales para confirmar, la investidura de pastores y otras ocasiones especiales han sido en verdad la parte más memorable de este último año.

Me encanta conocer a la gente y me siento especialmente complacido cuando tengo la oportunidad de conocer a las personas santas que forman parte de nuestra Iglesia local. Estos son los verdaderos santos cotidianos de los que el papa Francisco habla en su estrictamente titulada “Gaudete et Exsultate” (“Rejoice and Be Glad: The Call to Holiness in Today’s World”).

No puedo describirlo como un momento de tristeza, pero el fallo de mi amigo y mentor, el arzobispo emérito Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., representó una experiencia profundamente para mí, así como para muchos otros.

El arzobispo Daniel fue el decano de mi seminario, así como también un amigo cercano y un consejero durante mis años de sacerdocio y, posteriormente, como obispo, por lo que fue un gran privilegio haber sido el celebrante principal durante su misa funeraria. Durante un tiempo estuve afligido por él y me sentí aliviado cuando Dios se llevó al arzobispo Daniel a su hogar celestial.

Pero la extraña y le dey gracias a Dios porque fue una importante influencia en mi vida y en mi ministerio, así como también para nuestra Arquidiócesis.

Durante mi homilía de investidura hace un año, resalté que nuestra tarea no consiste tanto en resolver los problemas del mundo sino en guiar a otros a que tengan un encuentro personal con Jesús Cristo.

Hace un año, todavía no me reponía de la sorpresa que había sentido seis semanas antes cuando me informaron que el papa Francisco me había elegido para servir como el séptimo arzobispo de Indianpolis. Aunque el choque inicial me dejó impotente, todavía me siento maravillado y abrumado por la intensidad del desafío y la enormidad de la responsabilidad.

Les ruego que recen por mí. Cuento con la gracia de Dios y el apoyo piadoso de todos ustedes para poder servirles como su arzobispo con humildad y alegría.
Retreats and Programs

August 16

August 20
St. Agnes Parish in Nashville to hold RCIA workshop on Aug. 6

A Right of Christian Initiation (RCIA) Workshop for coordinators, team members and catechists titled “RCIA Adapted for Children” will be held at St. Agnes Parish, 2615 National Ave., in Nashville, from 9 a.m. to noon on Aug. 4.

This program is sponsored by the archdiocesan RCIA Committee and the Secretariat for Worship and Evangelization, the workshop will explore the catechetical, liturgical and pastoral dimensions of RCIA adapted for children.

The workshop will be presented in English with Spanish translation available. Contact Fr. Alan Poleci of the Augustine Institute in Denver, Colo., and author of Open Wide the Doors to Christ: Discovering Catholicism will facilitate.

Saints Joseph and Mary (Johnson) Bott, members of St. Mary Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 20. The couple was married in St. Mary Church in North Vernon on July 20, 1968. They have five children: Kimberly Brannon and Kevin Walsh. The couple also has four grandchildren.


Joseph and Mary (Johnson) Bott, members of St. Mary Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 20.

Deacon Wayne and Darlene (Welty) Davis, members of St. Michael Parish in Greenfield, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 13.

Next Spiritual Direction Internship program set to begin in September


The Sisters of St. Benedict of Oulata diocese the cistercian monastery, 1402 Southern Ave., in Beech Grove, will begin a new session of the Spiritual Direction (Lafayette diocese). The Sisters of St. Benedict of Oulata diocese the cistercian monastery, 1402 Southern Ave., in Beech Grove, will begin a new session of the Spiritual Direction (Lafayette diocese).
Alliance offers ‘preventative medicine’ to create healthy, successful marriages

By Natalie Hoefer

In Catholic marriage preparation programs, informing engaged couples about the truth and beauty of the Church’s teaching on sexuality and fertility is essential. Since its inception eight years ago, the One in Christ (OIC) marriage preparation program has taken this topic one step further. They not only have a panel of medical experts present on this portion, but devout Catholic medical experts who embrace and promote Church teaching.

“After presenting for an hour, the panelists take questions from the group for another hour, and then a third hour for couples to meet with them one-on-one.”

In January, One in Christ itself joined in a marriage of sorts. The founders of the program signed an agreement forming an alliance with the St. Raphael Catholic Medical Association Guild of Indianapolis (CMAs), an agreement that benefits both the engaged couples participating in the three-day program, and the members of CMA.

A win-win combination

“The majority of couples coming through [the program] are millennials,” says Mark Overholt, who founded OIC with his wife Michelle. “They’re looking for scientific answers to back up what the faith teaches. And they can get all their medical questions answered from experts who are knowledgeable not just on medical aspects, but [on] faith as well.”

Plus, Michelle notes, “This is an introduction to local support for [the couples]. There’s a face and a name to go to with questions. And it also brings them some peace of mind on where do I go to get more knowledge now that I know about NFP [Natural Family Planning].”

If you offer context for them, it’s a start to their process of learning more.

As for benefits for the CMA members, says Mark, “They can use One in Christ as a launch pad to show they can make a difference as a group, and live out the beauty of Church teaching through education and awareness.”

“We do have a lot of engaged couples who are medical students,” Michelle adds. “They say they’re excited because now they don’t have to be a ‘Catholic’ doctor only on the weekends. They’re exposed to a group that can support them going forward.”

Dispelling ‘myths and falsities’

“I am very excited about the alliance,” says Dr. Holly Smith, who is an assistant professor of clinical family medicine at the Indiana University (IU) School of Medicine in Indianapolis, a family physician for IU Health Physicians Primary Care at Anson, a certified NFP medical consultant, and president of the St. Raphael CMA Guild.

“It gives us, as Catholic physicians and health care providers, an opportunity to share our knowledge in a unique setting. It allows an outlet for service, and it’s a great marketing opportunity for the CMA guild to try to attract more members and a general interest in the program.”

Smith says she and the other CMA members appreciate the opportunity to present to the engaged couples on the topic of sexuality and fertility.

“I think it is crucial that women be empowered by understanding how their bodies function, whether they’re healthy or unhealthy,” she says. “This understanding is the foundation of the fertility awareness-based methods of family planning that are promoted by the Catholic Church.”

“And it is vital to their ability to recognize myths and falsities that are frequently stated about these methods of family planning,” such as that the methods are ineffective, that NFP is “Catholic birth control,” and that couples “will never get to have sex.”

‘Holy Spirit bringing us together’

Father C. Ryan McCarthy, chaplain for the St. Raphael CMA Guild, sees the alliance as “pretty natural.”

“Having doctors help support One in Christ in preparing healthy relationships is a great source of preventative medicine,” says Father McCarthy, who also serves as pastor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis, is a moral theologian and is trained in the Creighton Model of natural family planning.

“The ‘illness’ being prevented is the disastrous effects of using artificial birth control predicted by Pope Paul VI in his hallmark encyclical, ‘Humanae Vitae’ (‘On Human Life’), also known as ‘On the Regulation of Birth Control’.”

In this 1968 document, the pope forecast that the use of artificial birth control would lead to “marital infidelity and a general lowering of moral standards, … [and] reducing [a woman] to being a mere instrument for the satisfaction of [man’s] own desires” (#17).

Looked at from the opposite point of view, Father McCarthy notes that “this part [of the encyclical] is primarily focused on the positive aspect that marriage, if given the truth of the biology of a man and a woman, can have a strong chance of growing in virtue for the husband and wife.”

“Certain statistics play out that couples who follow Church teaching in regard to marriage really have a stronger, more successful marriage, particularly in terms of the divorce rate.”

Mark sees the CMA and OIC alliance occurring during the 50th anniversary year of the publishing of “Humanae Vitae” as “the Holy Spirit bringing us together. [The encyclical] is a prophetic, providential, clear plan for the transmission of life.

“This alliance is showing how this [program] can be executed in a charitable way that makes a difference for married couples and family life. In ‘Humanae Vitae,’ Pope Paul gave a challenge to scientists, doctors, nurses and priests to look for ways to improve marriages. The meaning of marriage and how God designed marriage, it’s all encompassed in this strategic alliance.”

‘The program transforms’

The creation of the alliance bolsters what was already a “transformative component of the One in Christ marriage preparation program,” says Dr. Casey Delcoco, an OIC panelist for six years and the founder of the local CMA chapter. In 2015, she started Magnificat Family Medicine, a faith-based family medicine practice specializing in obstetrics and holistic health for men, women and children.

“As a medical panel volunteer for One in Christ, it’s humbling and inspiring to witness how the program transforms couples’ outlooks on such important and intimate subjects as marriage, sexuality and family planning,” she says.

She also knows the benefits of the program firsthand experience.

“My husband Thomas and I both feel blessed to have participated in the program,” says Delcoco, who is still adjusting to not being called “Dr. Reising” since her April 14 wedding. “It’s both a blessing and a marvelous asset to Catholic couples preparing for the sacrament of holy matrimony.”

It’s the medical panel—now assured to include CMA members through the alliance—that makes the program such an asset.

“A lot of conversions happen on day three,” says Michelle of the sexuality and fertility portion that takes place on the last day of the program. “Light bulbs go off. Couples see the science behind the options.”

Smith says she has seen evidence of such conversions.

“The Overholts usually share with panelists the ‘before and after’ statements that couples write, and it is very rewarding to see that couples’ attitudes are significantly changed in a positive way,” she says.

Father Rick Nagel, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, requires couples getting married in his parish to attend the One in Christ program. The forming of the alliance reinforced his decision.

“The Catholic Medical Association is an outstanding asset to the NFP portion of One in Christ,” he says. “Many of our couples comment that they were inspired by the knowledge shared, and grateful that Catholic medical professionals have taken their time to volunteer and share from both a faith-based as well as a science perspective.”

“Sometimes, our contemporary culture sells short the Catholic Church as an outdated, irrelevant voice in the conversation of reproductive life. But One in Christ—especially now through this alliance—dispels this lie and proposes the beauty, goodness and truth of science and faith working hand in hand to build healthy families as God’s design in the complimentary union of man and woman in marriage.”
**Marriage Supplement continues on page 10.**
The issues of global hunger and migration are intertwined, and Christians are called to imitate Jesus and blend their personal focus on solving these problems and changing the systems that cause them. There are several ways to get involved as a campus ambassador. Some students explained that although they don’t practice any faith, they were motivated to get involved because of the agency’s work. Susana Sierra, a policy adviser to the Congress of CRS, told the students that the programs they addressed were authorized for the current fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30. Such spending comprises about 0.5 percent of the federal budget. Chen explained that although she doesn’t work with CRS because of the nature of the agency’s work, students said they were willing to step away from jobs, their families, and their studies to help others. Amanda Staff also explained that because of the nature of the agency’s work, students said they were willing to step away from jobs, their families, and their studies to help others.

Three marriage preparation programs offered in the archdiocese—Pre Cana Conference, Tobit Weekend and One in Christ—help prepare engaged couples for the sacrament of marriage as well as the challenges of married life.

Early registration is recommended for all programs, as each fills up quickly.

Pre Cana Conference programs are one-to-one-and-a-half days, and are offered in parishes throughout the archdiocese. The schedule for 2018 is as follows: Aug. 11 in Spanish at St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., in Indianapolis; Aug. 17-18 at All Saints Parish’s St. John the Baptist campus, 25743 State Road 1, in Guildford; Sept. 8 at St. Agnes Parish, 1008 McArdy Lane, in Noblesville; Oct. 12-13 at St. Barnabas Parish, 8300 Rahke Road, in Indianapolis; and Nov. 30-Dec. 1 at St. Mary Parish, 1331 E. Hunter Robbins Way, in Greensburg.

The cost is $125 or less per couple, depending on location. One-day sessions are typically 9 a.m.-7 p.m., although times may vary slightly by location. Two-day sessions are 6:30-9:30 p.m. on the first day, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on the second day.

To register, go to www.archindy.org/precana and click on the desired date. For more information about the program, contact the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life at 800-382-8536, ext. 1521, or 317-236-1521.

Tobit Weekend retreats take place at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis. The only remaining retreat for 2018 is Oct. 19-21.

The registration fee of $298 includes program materials, meals, snacks and overnight accommodations for the weekend.

To register, go to www.archindy.org/tobit/calendar/tobit.html or contact Dustin Nelson at dustin@archindy.org or 317-545-7681. For more information about the program, contact Cheryl McSweeney at cmcsweeney@archindy.org or 317-545-7681, ext. 106.

There is one remaining One in Christ three-day marriage preparation program, scheduled for Oct. 6, 7 and 8 at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 333 S. Main St., in Greenwood.

The first day of the program is from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., the second day is from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the third day is from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

The cost is $220 and covers meals and materials.

For more information, the registration fee of $298 includes program materials, meals, snacks and overnight accommodations for the weekend.

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El rostro de la misericordia

Daniel Conway

Los críticos del papa no se equivocan … pero tampoco tienen la razón

El papa Francisco tiene muchos críticos. Algunos creen que se extralimita. Otros consideran que se queda corto. En cierta forma, todos tienen razón. Y, supuesto, también se equivocan.

No cabe duda de que el papa Francisco ha tomado las enseñanzas de sus predecesores y las ha amplificado mediante sus propias actividades pastorales. No sólo ha dado a la Iglesia y a sus miembros nuevas formas de servicio, como la pastoral del territorio, sino que su presencia entre aquellos que son frustrados o que han sido olvidados ha dado un nuevo impulso a las enseñanzas de la Iglesia y ha promovido acciones concretas para los pobres y los marginados.

Pero hay quienes piensan que el papa Francisco ha extralimitado con demasiado entusiasmo la enseñanza de la Iglesia sobre la protección del medio ambiente. Su enfoque hacia la justicia social y la solidaridad con los marginados ha sido acogido con entusiasmo por sus seguidores, pero también ha sido criticado por aquellos que consideran que se queda corto con el enfoque tradicional de la Iglesia hacia la protección del medio ambiente.

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Diversity allows us to celebrate our technicolor glory

Eating provides nourishment for our bodies, minds and souls.

One of my neighbors had been the toast of the neighborhood. He'd been a carpenter all his life, and he'd always been a宏大的 character. We used to call him Mr. T. He'd been a very kind man, and he always took the time to talk to people. After he passed away, I was very sad.

He'd told me once that he loved eating. It was a way for him to connect with other people. He always made sure to invite anyone who came over to have a meal with him. I remember one time, he invited me to have dinner with him and his family. We had a wonderful time. It's a shame he's not here to share his story with us anymore.
By Natalie Hoefer

Several Catholics chatted excitedly about their blessings: extensive travel, a sailboat or ski boat, a second home on a lake, a timeshare by the ocean or a cabin in the mountains. All looked forward to weeks and weekends of enjoyment, and all agreed: “God is good! We are so blessed!”

Jesus approached and smiled, “I’m so glad you appreciate your blessing! I look forward to seeing you at Mass and delighting in your gratitude, and sharing with you there the greatest Blessing of all!” The chatter stopped. Awkward glances were passed, the conversation wavered and spoke for the group. “Actually, we, umm, kind of don’t see why that’s really necessary. I mean, you gave these blessings for us to enjoy, right? And we’re always thanking you, saying, (Natalie Hoefer is a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, and is a reporter for The Criterion.)

God, this is so awesome! Besides, we don’t need a church to see you—we see you in the places we visit, the peace of the lake, the waves of the ocean, the beauty of the mountains.”

Jesus bowed His head. “It’s just like the time I healed the 10 lepers,” He sighed. “They regaled their lives in society, and gushed to all about their blessing. Yet only one returned to Me, knelt down and offered thanks and praise. Ten I blessed, but only to the one I also Life.”

Jesus raised His eyes and looked at the group, with love. “Please.” He urged. “Don’t please don’t forget Mass while you’re enjoying the blessing God gave you. Please be the grateful one who takes time to thank Me in person—and in return, be the one who receives Life.”

The Second Book of Kings is the source for the first reading for Mass on this weekend. Originally, First and Second Kings comprised one volume, but at one point in the revision of the Scriptures, this one volume was divided into two parts. As the title implies, these books have to do with the kings of the united nation of Israel, but the stories in First and Second Kings almost always have a religious significance, since the Hebrew Scriptures always had as their purpose the conveyance to the people of religious truths and values. Religion was the most important aspect of life, so living by religious standards as given by God was crucial. Prophets are prominently mentioned in the books. After all, they spoke for God to the people.

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

By Natalie Hoefer

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The Second Book of Kings is the source for the first reading for Mass on this weekend. Originally, First and Second Kings comprised one volume, but at one point in the revision of the Scriptures, this one volume was divided into two parts. As the title implies, these books have to do with the kings of the united nation of Israel, but the stories in First and Second Kings almost always have a religious significance, since the Hebrew Scriptures always had as their purpose the conveyance to the people of religious truths and values. Religion was the most important aspect of life, so living by religious standards as given by God was crucial. Prophets are prominently mentioned in the books. After all, they spoke for God to the people.

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

By Natalie Hoefer

Several Catholics chatted excitedly about their blessings: extensive travel, a sailboat or ski boat, a second home on a lake, a timeshare by the ocean or a cabin in the mountains. All looked forward to weeks and weekends of enjoyment, and all agreed: “God is good! We are so blessed!”

Jesus approached and smiled, “I’m so glad you appreciate your blessing! I look forward to seeing you at Mass and delighting in your gratitude, and sharing with you there the greatest Blessing of all!” The chatter stopped. Awkward glances were passed, the conversation wavered and spoke for the group. “Actually, we, umm, kind of don’t see why that’s really necessary. I mean, you gave these blessings for us to enjoy, right? And we’re always thanking you, saying, (Natalie Hoefer is a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, and is a reporter for The Criterion.)

God, this is so awesome! Besides, we don’t need a church to see you—we see you in the places we visit, the peace of the lake, the waves of the ocean, the beauty of the mountains.”

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The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Alvaré: Society needs Church’s ‘gorgeous prescriptions for human love’

NAPA, Calif. (CNS)—Americans continue to pursue “this ridiculous path” of “unlinking sex and marriage, and kids, and what’s in people’s hearts” while calling it “love,” said one of America’s foremost Catholic feminist thinkers.

“All the while [they’re] hurting toward a collision with the ground,” said Helen Alvaré, founder of the activist movement Women Speak for Themselves.

“Kids are hugging their mothers with suicide and opioid use as self-medication and plummeting numbers of marriages signal the disintegration of a relational society, she said in a talk on July 12 at the Napa Institute’s eighth annual conference in northern California’s wine country.

But there are signs of hope in the “huge growth of hashtags, movements … wine country. Annual conference in northern California’s wine country,” she said.

She noted that in reversing the “so-called sexual revolution” of the 50th anniversary of Blessed Paul VI’s document on family and the conservative Heritage Foundation feels, she said.

“Today we are seeing that Americans,” she said. “Nobody thought we would reach the possibility of a fifth justice with as much of the country on our side as we have.”

She was referring to the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, to replace U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, and to a hearing.

To counter the falsehoods of the sexual revolution, “the winning argument is relationship,” Alvaré said. “You think that is the way to get there, but this is not going to get you there.” That is because, she said, “ultimately our desire is for the love of an infinite God.”

**Background**

Helen Alvaré

program had permitted businesses to recruit temporary agricultural workers from Mexico. The workers continued to come, but then illegally. The Congress has been unable to pass further major immigration legislation since 1965, although the Immigration Act of 1990 added a great number of highly skilled and educated immigrants. There have been attempts at immigration legislation in 2006, but those have failed. There are enough Republican members of Congress, mainly the 31 members of the House of Representative who are members of the Freedom Caucus, who are intent on preventing more people from Latin America from entering the country.

**Backstop**

Helen Alvaré's talk was one of the most disturbing and audacious of the conference. She spoke of the “huge growth of hashtags, movements … wine country. Annual conference in northern California’s wine country.”

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**Bioethics**

John F. Pinc is editor emeritus of The Criterion.
Investing with Faith/Elisa Smith

New charitable gift annuity rates offer more benefits

The American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA) announced effective on July 1, 2018, suggested maximum payout rates for charitable gift annuities will increase, and the Catholic Community Foundation will honor these new rates immediately.

A charitable gift annuity is a way for you to make a gift that will benefit your parish, school or other Catholic agency while receiving a fixed stream of income for life. The ACGA has not raised gift annuity rates since 2012. The new rates are higher than the previous rates and are based on the annuitant’s age at the time of the gift.

For example, prior to the new rates, if Maria, age 79, established a charitable gift annuity of $25,000 for the benefit of her parish, her payout rate would be 6.6 percent, and she would receive annual payments of $1,650. With the new payout rate, if she were to establish a charitable gift annuity, her payout rate would be 7.1 percent and her annual payment would be $1,775.

A charitable gift annuity differs from a commercial annuity. While both annuities are based on a contract between the issuer and the purchaser/donor and both provide an annuity payment, a charitable gift annuity provides an income tax deduction for the donor. In addition, at the annuitant’s death, the balance remaining in the annuity is transferred to the donor’s intended ministry whether it is for a parish, school or other Catholic agency.

In addition to increasing your retirement income while making a gift to charity, a portion of each payment is income tax-free throughout the annuitant’s remaining life expectancy.

While retired donors may be better off choosing a gift annuity that starts payments right away, those donors who are still working and not needing the income stream now could consider the deferred or flexible options. If you opt for one of these, you will get a bigger payout the longer you postpone the income stream.

The staff of the Catholic Community Foundation would be happy to send you an illustration showing you the benefits you can receive from a charitable gift annuity. Your personalized illustration will include your potential income tax charitable deduction and the amount of your lifetime annual payments.

Please contact us at 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1482, or ccf@archindy.org to obtain your free illustration. Or visit our website, www.archindy.org/CFP, for more information.

Have a blessed summer!

(Elisa Smith is director of the archdiocesan Catholic Community Foundation. Tax information or legal information provided herein is not intended as tax or legal advice and cannot be relied upon as a substitute for tax or legal advice or penalties. Always check with your legal, tax and financial advisors before implementing any gift plan.)

Chicago Archdiocese hosts training in immigrant-to-immigrant peer ministry

CHICAGO (CNS)—When Raizaa Guevara first heard about a new program called Pastoral Migratoria coming to the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Missouri, she wasn’t sure she wanted to commit the time.

Guevara has been an activist pushing for immigration reform for 14 years, and she was already active in her parish. Sacred Heart-Our Lady of Guadalupe, visiting people in jail and serving as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion.

So when she was invited to the introductory meeting in January, she said, “I was saying, ‘I have everything else to do. Why do I need another thing?’”

She decided to go to the introductory meeting any way, just to see what it was about. When she heard about immigration ministry described in terms of Catholic social teaching, backed up by Scripture, and when she learned about the commitment of immigrants to take the lead in forming their own communities, she was hooked. She didn’t miss a single formation session, despite taking a fall that put her in a wheelchair for several weeks.

When and those she formed with her were commissioned by the Archdiocese of Chicago in March, she said she stood in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City and felt the Holy Spirit speaking to her. “I knew this is where I am supposed to be,” Guevara said.

Guevara was among nearly 30 delegates from 11 dioceses who attended the first Instituto Pastoral Migratoria on July 13 in Chicago. The delegates came to learn about the parish-based, immigrant-to-immigrant peer ministry that began in the archdiocese 10 years ago.

Father J. Alfredo Cruz, who heads the archdiocesan Hispanic Apostolate, said the delegation was a representation of the archdiocese.

“The parish has rallied behind them, helping the wife and four sons. Other peer ministers from her parish are still working with the other one is ill and needs to see a specialist at the children’s hospital every week; the wife, who does not have documents, cannot legally drive in Missouri. The parish has rallied behind them, helping the wife find a part-time job and arranging rides whenever possible.

“I think she’s a little stronger now,” Guevara said. “The first time Guevara left the detention center after visiting Crescencio, she pulled out her rosary and began praying outside the center. As other families arrived, she asked who they were visiting and if she could pray for them, too.

“Some are saying I’m not doing this alone,” she said. “God is working with me, by my side.”

Guevara said that the thing that has changed most since she was commissioned to do Pastoral Migratoria is the loss through which she sees her efforts to support immigrants.

Before starting formation, she already was accompanying the family of a man named Crescencio, who was detained when he went to a check-in with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. She continued to visit him until he was deported in May, and she and the other peer ministers from her parish are still working with his wife and four sons.

For information about rates for classified advertising, call (317) 236-1454.
Indianapolis who has been inspired by the life and purpose of 39-year-old Kizito Kalima—the towering man who was cut down at age 16 by a machete in a ditch into which he was left for dead when he was a teenager. Their paths first crossed when Kalima was invited to share his life story with a class at Bishop Chatard High School. Olivia listened in awe as Kalima detailed the 1994 genocide in Rwanda in which extremist members of the Hutu ethnic majority killed about 800,000 people, mostly of the Tutsi minority, during a three-month period.

Kalima’s parents were killed in the massacre. He was left for dead in a ditch overflowing with bodies as blood gushed from his head. His family and his home destroyed, he lived in swamps, a refugee camp and an orphanage for a few years. Always finding a way to survive until a basketball coach saw him playing the game in a park. When Kalima’s height and athletic ability made him stand out among the other players, the coach enrolled Kalima in a boarding school in return for playing for his team. And Kalima’s size and talent eventually drew the interest of scouts for colleges in the United States.

Listening to Kalima’s story of devastation and survival, Olivia was overwhelmed. “It was really amazing he went through all that,” she says. “It’s amazing he’s here now.”

Yet those details weren’t the part of the story that stunned her the most.

‘Forgiveness is the only way’

When Kalima came to America, it seemed his story was derailed his playing career. Still, he became another remarkable chapter of the American dream when he eventually graduated with a criminal justice degree from Indiana University in South Bend in 2005. At the same time, the nightmare of the genocide in Rwanda continued to haunt him.

“I was depressed, angry and traumatized,” he recalls. “A lot of my friends were still bitter. I wanted to find a solution for my anger and trauma. I wanted revenge on the people who killed my family.”

Yet Kalima also began to understand that his anger just resulted in the killers “holding me psychologically hostage from Africa.”

He began to talk about the experience of the genocide, and shared his stories with groups. He also focused on the lives of Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr.

“I found those people forgave those who did them wrong,” he says. “I found it worked for me, too.”

He started the Peace Center for Forgiveness and Reconciliation, and opened its office in Indianapolis in 2016. The center hopes to help people and communities who are struggling with injustice and anger by promoting forgiveness, healing and reconciliation.

“It’s to be in charge of your own life,” says Kalima, who is married and a father of three, including two adopted children, now in their 20s, who were also orphans of the genocide. “I want to help people stop surviving and start living.

“Forgiveness is the only way to move forward. No matter how many people you put in prison, they will never bring back my parents or my childhood. Once you forgive, you can reconcile and live in peace.”

That message stunned Olivia.

“It was amazing that he could forgive them,” she said in a conversation two days before the soccer clinic. “I wondered if I would be able to do the same if I was in that situation. It’s had an impact on my life.”

“We have some laughs”

The idea for the soccer clinic grew out of Olivia’s involvement at the Peace Center during the past school year. When she wasn’t playing soccer or lacrosse for Bishop Chatard, she volunteered weekly during the center’s after-school program, helping some of the 300 children and youths who come there every month, many of whom were born in refugee camps in Rwanda and Burundi.

“They’re really good kids,” Olivia says. “I help them with reading comprehension and with their homework. We do spelling lessons. They all get excited when they get a word right. We have some laughs.

“When I mentioned soccer to them, they got excited. The majority of them love soccer. I thought it would be good to do a clinic for them.”

She enlisted the help of her good friend Hannah Chapman, and three of her soccer teammates at Bishop Chatard: Hannah Chapman, Abby Klineman and Elizabeth Jacobson.

The clinic places young people who were born in refugee camps onto the expansive field of Bishop Chatard’s multi-sport stadium, and the morning is filled with drills, games, drinks, snacks, smiles and fun.

“We usually play in a smaller park, and there’s more people here,” says 16-year-old Patrick Ngoga, beaming. “So this is fun.”

Seventeen-year-old Kevine Mumporeze also smiles as she says, “This is my first time to play soccer. This is really fun and interesting.”

“This gives them hope”

Kalima watches it all from the sidelines, savoring the connections being made between two groups of young people from different backgrounds.

“It’s good for the kids, too. They’re Congolese. All of them were born in refugee camps.

“It helps them learn from different cultures and races. It shows them it’s good to come to America. They come from rough neighborhoods. This gives them hope that there is something better than where they live.”

He looks out on the field where the youths are running, kicking, smiling and laughing.

“I’m always trying to encourage them, to let everyone know they’re equal,” he continues. “They still feel they’re outsiders. I try to help them with their confidence. Being young, they have that on their side. I tell them this is the time to learn and make mistakes. I tell them to keep a little bit of their accent. You want them to keep some of their heritage. That’s their identity.

The experience of being involved with the Peace Center has also left its impact on Olivia’s identity.

“Every time I’m there, I think of K’s story and how he forgives,” she says. “It makes me try to be more forgiving. It makes me feel really good to help the kids. My relationship with God has grown helping at the center. I’ve thought about my relationship with God more. Instead of going through the motions at church, I think about what I’m doing. I pray more now.

“I feel I’m living my faith by doing this. Just by helping others, no matter how small it is, it helps.”

It’s all part of a clinic on hope.”

From different backgrounds and different worlds, 21 individuals came together to share a morning of fun, games and hope during a soccer clinic at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis on June 29.

At the Peace Center for Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Indianapolis, youths who participate in the programs show their smiles and their soccer skills during a June 29 clinic led by Olivia Julian, a 16-year-old student at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis. (Photos by John Shaughnessy)