Family celebrates having at least one student at same Catholic school for 62 straight years

By John Shaughnessy

Paul Hornberger flashes a proud smile as he talks about his family’s amazing streak in Catholic education. For 62 straight years, a member of the extended Hornberger family has been a student at Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ School in Indianapolis.

The streak began in 1957 when Danny Hornberger—the oldest of Paul and Pat’s 11 children—entered the first grade at the school.

And the streak continues today as one of their 39 great-grandchildren—Eli Aldrich—is a member of the school’s seventh-grade class. In all, 28 Hornberger children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have attended the school.

“I think it’s pretty awesome,” says Paul Hornberger, who is 89. “I’m proud of it. I really feel good about the Catholic faith. I’ve had a great life, and I think a lot of that has to do with Catholic education.”

He also sees the streak as a tribute to his late wife, a former Baptist who was “the best Catholic I ever knew.”

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More importantly, they shared their Catholic faith and an education that fostered it.

“Our parents just instilled that Catholic faith in us,” says Diane Hornberger Anderson. “Our mom prayed the rosary a lot. She would always tell us to pray to God, to ask God for what we need. And when she got sick, she was really strong with her faith.

“Most of us still go to church. I’m so glad I got a Catholic education.”

The streak of having a family member at Nativity for 62 straight years also has a nice touch that leads to a humorous twist that still makes family members laugh.

When the youngest of the 11 Hornberger children—Donny—was an eighth-grade student at Nativity in 1965, the oldest of the Hornberger grandchildren—Julie—was a first-grader.

So Julie’s mother, who is also Donny’s sister, put Donny in charge of Julie as they rode a Franklin Township school bus on the first day of classes that year.

“Back then, the public school buses picked up all the Nativity kids,” says Dori Dodson, a member of the school’s class of 1965.

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See HORNBERGER, page 2A

See our annual Catholic Schools Week Supplement, pages 18-16B.

See CCSV, page 3A

See ICC, page 2A

Special tradition shows foundation of faith, family that guides Career Achievement Award recipients

(EDITOR’S NOTE: On Feb. 7, the archdiocese will present Celebrating Catholic School Values Career Achievement Awards to Pat Musgrave, Virginia Marten and Jerry and Rosie Semler in this issue, The Criterion features the Semlers.)

By John Shaughnessy

It’s a special family tradition—a tradition that Jerry and Rosie Semler use to help their grandchildren understand the difference they can make in the world.

Every morning of Christmas Eve, the Semlers gather at their Indianapolis home with their 28 grandchildren—and their grandchildren’s parents—for a reading of The Sparkle Box, a story about the importance of giving and the true meaning of Christmas.

Once the story is finished, the grandchildren—each of whom has been given $100 by their grandparents—share how they have used the money to help a charitable organization, and why that organization is important to them.

“You have to share and give back to your community,” says Jerry Semler. “I’m proud of them that they want to give back.”

The Semlers have spent a lifetime providing that example for their ever-growing family, says Dori Dodson, one of the couple’s seven children.

“Being a Boy Scout, my father’s motto was ‘You always leave a place better than when you got there,’” she says. “He’s taught all of us to do that. He loves simple acts of kindness.”

That foundation of kindness has also led to tremendous acts of generosity from the Semlers, members of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis who have been married for 58 years and who also have six great-grandchildren.

For decades, the Semlers have been major contributors to Catholic education in the archdiocese, including their...
with the public school kids, and then they rode together to the public school,” recalls Donna Goebes. “Once they got to the public school, all the public school kids got off the bus and the Nativity kids stayed on to go to their school.”

When the bus arrived at the public school, a teacher told all the first-grade students to get off the bus and come with her. So Donna told Julie to get off the bus, which she did.

“She spent her first morning of school at Wanamaker Elementary instead of Nativity,” Donna says. “It all worked out, but I told Donny, ‘I put you in charge of Julie so I wouldn’t worry about her.’ Next time, I’ll put Julie in charge of you.’”

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“I wouldn’t have thought of them going anywhere else,” he says. “They all turned out wonderful.”

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For Paul Hornberger, the streak is wonderful, too. But the impact of a Catholic education on his family is even more lasting.

“...I think it’s cool that my family has been at Nativity for so long. I think it’s education is a formula for success for helping children whose families struggle with poverty. There’s an opportunity gap for a lot of inner-city kids,” Jerry says. “If you want a community that’s thriving and well-educated, it’s important that we take care of this opportunity gap and the educational gap.

Rosie has also been involved in community causes even while caring for her children. She served on the boards of 10 charitable and faith-based organizations, including the Day Nursery, the Family Advocacy Center, the St. Vincent Foundation and the St. Margaret’s Hospital Guild.

“Together, they have forged a foundation of family and faith dating back to when they first met as students at Purdue University in West Lafayette. Their Catholic faith is at the heart of everything they have done together to make a difference, Jerry says.

“...I just feel that when you’re blessed, you need to share your time, talent and treasure with the Church and your community.”

(Pat Monaghan and Virginia Murten were each featured in previous print-edition issues of The Criterion. To read their stories, visit the website, www.criteriononline.com.)

Paul Hornberger holds up a magnetized image of him and his wife of 65 years, Pat, from their younger days. The magnetized image, which he keeps on his refrigerator, is superimposed with the names, ages, birthdays and anniversaries of each of the children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and in-laws. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

support of Bishop Chatard High School, Cathedral High School, Marian University in Indianapolis, Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad and the parish schools of St. Pius X, St. Joseph and the Emmanuel / Emmanuel Heart of Mary in Indianapolis.

But Jerry’s greatest impact may have been on Catholic elementary schools in the inner-city of Indianapolis. The chairman emeritus of American United Life Insurance Company, he has been a chairperson of archdiocesan campaigns to benefit these schools and continues to serve on the boards of many civic and charitable organizations.

“Jerry worked on the inner-city school campaigns to help the children get through money to build a new Holy Angels School and a new Holy Cross School,” notes D. Anthony Watts, one of the people who nominated the Seamlers for the Celebrating Catholic School Values Career Achievement Award.

“He sees all of Indianapolis as inextricably linked and believes education is vital to helping people of all economic levels achieve a better life.”

The Seamlers have always believed that Catholic schools’ combination of discipline, committed teachers and quality teacher, and the parish schools of St. Pius X, Indianapolis, Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, and the Indianapolis, Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad.

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Rev. King called ‘artisan of peace’ and ‘true witness to power of Gospel’

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Societies today need ‘artisans of peace’ like Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., “who can be messengers and authentic witnesses of God the Father, who wills the good and the happiness of the human family,” said the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Rev. King “was a messenger and true witness to the power of the Gospel lived in action through public life,” said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston in a statement issued for the observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 21, the federal holiday marking his birthday.

The civil rights leader was born on Jan. 15, 1929, and was fatally shot on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn.

“This year, as we again mark the anniversary of his life, and reflect upon the 51st anniversary of his death, we are thankful for the path forged by Dr. King and the countless others who worked tirelessly and required great sacrifice for racial equality and justice,” the cardinal said.

He added that the United States, “as a nation and as a society,” faces “great challenges as well as tremendous opportunities ahead.”

Cardinal DiNardo made reference to Pope Francis’ annual message for the World Day of Peace on Jan. 1. The pope said that in today’s world of movement, rejection and nationalism, the world urgently needs peacemakers and politicians who protect and lovingly serve others.

The cardinal also reminded U.S. Catholics that the body of bishops is not illegal in the state of Indiana to remove a living child from the mother’s womb piece by piece,” Smaltz said. Now chairman of the public policy committee of the Indiana House of Representatives, Smaltz said he is hopeful to gain support for the bill on both sides of the aisle.

“Indiana is a pro-life state, but we have to keep this issue in front of people—no longer just in a way that grows their interest, but by presenting reasonable, logical arguments that result in people saying, ‘That just makes sense,’” he said. “I think our chances of moving forward are very good.”

“House Bill 1211 would make performing a dispensable abortion a level 5 felony, which I will tell you a physician ‘reasonably believes’ that performing the procedure is necessary to prevent serious health risks to the mother or to save the mother’s life. The criminal penalty would be for the physician, not the mother. The bill’s lead author, Rep. Peggy Mayfield, says she is reasonably confident that the bill will receive a hearing in this session of the General Assembly. ‘I believe the support is there,’” said Mayfield, assistant majority floor leader in the House. “In Indiana, we are a pro-life legislature. Nationally, the word ‘abortion’ has become so ubiquitous, and we as a society have become so desensitized to what actually is entailed in this type of procedure. This bill is very clear about what is actually involved. Hoosiers don’t want to know that babies are being pulled apart in the womb.”

Mayfield is no stranger to pro-life legislation. In fact, she is co-author of House Bill 1337, which was signed into law by then-Gov. Mike Pence in 2016. The law prohibited women from terminating a pregnancy due to their unborn child’s race, gender or genetic abnormality. It was soon challenged by Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky and the American Civil Liberties Union. Federal courts ordered an injunction against the law, which keeps it from being enforced. The U.S. Supreme Court is currently considering taking up the case.

The District 60 Republican is passionate about pro-life issues not just as a legislator, but as a Catholic.

“There is nothing more sacred than life,” said Mayfield, a member of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville.

St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville.

“You can call it what you want, but it doesn’t change the fact that it is a human life within a mother’s womb.”

—Rep. Peggy Mayfield

“protecting innocent human life is at the very top of the Cathoic Church’s priorities. This bill would outlaw one of the most disturbing abortion methods that has ever been devised.”

—Glenn Teibe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference

“we pledge our commitment to build a culture of life, where all people are valued for their intrinsic dignity as daughters and sons of God. We encourage Catholics and all people of goodwill to study the pastoral letter, and to study and reflect upon Dr. King’s witness against the destructive effects of racism, poverty and continuous war.”

“The U.S. bishops ‘call on everyone to embrace our ongoing need for healing in all areas of our lives where we are wounded, but particularly where our hearts are not truly open to the idea and the truth that we are all made in the image and likeness of God,” Cardinal DiNardo wrote.

In conclusion, he quoted Rev. King: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.”

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The Pennsylvania grand jury report: Is it true?

Three scandals erupted in the summer of 2018 that have occasioned anger, frustration and deep disappointment among Catholics, particularly in the United States. The revelation last June of accusations of sexual abuse by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, which forced him to resign from the College of Cardinals and be placed under sanctions imposed by Pope Francis while the accusations against him are investigated by the Vatican.

The second scandal was the release of a Pennsylvania grand jury report in August. This state-sponsored investigation documents more than 1,000 instances of clergy sexual abuse dating back many decades. It also accuses bishops and diocesan officials in Pennsylvania with the most callous disregard for victims and a consistent pattern of coverup.

A third scandal involved the testimony of a former apostolic nuncio to the United States which accused Pope Francis and high-level Vatican officials of knowing about, and subsequently ignoring, the accusations against former Cardinal McCarrick.

Together, these three scandals created a perfect storm which prompted the American bishops to launch a new round of reforms that would strengthen the zero tolerance and child protection provisions enunciated in 2002 in the Dallas Charter. More significantly, at its November annual meeting in Baltimore, the bishops had hoped to vote on measures that would hold all bishops accountable for their personal conduct and for their handling of cases involving the protection of minors and adults entrusted to their care.

As has been widely reported, Rome requested that the Philadelphia grand jury be delayed until after the February meeting called by Pope Francis for the presidents of all the world’s dioceses. At this gathering, representatives of the universal Church will discuss the global problem of clergy sexual abuse.

As detailed in a major article published by Commonweal magazine in its Jan. 9 issue, in the wake of the three major scandals, the Pennsylvania grand jury report has been misreported broadly and irresponsibly. As a result, many people have uncritically accepted as true allegations that are either plainly untrue or deserving of much greater qualification.

Peter Steinfels, a former religion editor for The New York Times and a writer who has covered stories of clergy sex abuse since the 1990s, writes: “Within months, the Pennsylvania grand jury report was propelled to international status. The Vatican expressed ‘shame and sorrow.’ It does not document what Steinfels demonstrates as false.

“This conclusion does not acquit the Church hierarchy of all sins, past or present,” Steinfels writes. “But the Dallas Charter has apparently proved to be an institutional success. It set out, and has regularly fine-tuned, procedures, practices, and standards that can be observed by madling caretaker leaders as well as outstanding, proactive ones.

“The Dallas Charter is decidedly not a recipe that can simply be transferred to any society or culture or legal and governmental situation around the globe,” he continues. “But it would be a shame if the American bishops should go to the Vatican’s February summit meeting on sexual abuse confident that all the measures they’ve already adopted have made an important difference.”

The horrors are real, but solutions will require additional time and serious, ugly or inflammatory accusations. The truth we seek must be accurate, important and worthy of both our Church and the civil society in which we live.

Above all, our commitment to protect the most vulnerable will depend on a culture in which society must be built on the truth which must always inform our attempts to achieve justice and equality for all.

—Daniel Conway
La conversión significa elegir la vida por encima de la muerte

—Saulo, que todavía respiraba amenaza de muerte contra los discípulos del Señor, se presentó al Sumo Sacerdote y le pidió cartas para las sinagogas de Damaсus, a fin de traer encadenados a Jerusalén a los seguidores del Camino del Señor que encontraba, hombres o mujeres (He: 9:1-2).

La fecha de publicación de esta columna es el 25 de enero, la festividad de la Conversión de San Pablo Apóstol. Hacia tan solo tres días, la Iglesia de los Estados Unidos observó el Día de Oración para la Protección Legal de los Estados Unidos observó el Día de Oración para la Protección Legal de los Unborn Children. Otra es testimonio de la profunda generosidad (cita de "Diagnoses Personae: Sobre algunas cuestiones de biología", de la Congregación para la doctrina de la fe, 2008). Es lo que el ministerio en las cárceles es una de las prioridades para nuestra Arquidiócesis. Toda la vida es sagrada. Sin excepción.

Por supuesto, precisamente porque toda la vida es sagrada, debemos defender contra toda forma de violencia, no solo a nosotros mismos sino también a quienes se encuentran en peligro. Pero nuestra necesidad de autoprotección jamás debe sobreponer la línea de la indiferencia o la apatía con respecto a la vida de los demás. Esa es la conversión de mente y corazón que Jesús le pide a cada uno de nosotros. Cuando la reacción natural ante una injusticia sea buscar venganza, el Señor nos exhorta a ser dignos de Dios, quienes nos han injuriado. Saulo se percibe como un judio correcto cuyo deber era encadenar a los seguidores de Jesús y lanzarlos a la cárcel. Pero su encuentro con Jesús le abrió los ojos y le enseñó a escuchar atentamente la Palabra de Dios, a confiar en los demás y a sufrir por el bien del Camino que él mismo condenaba anteriormente. Nuestra Iglesia nos enseña que toda la vida es sagrada. Cada ser humano está hecho a imagen y semejanza de Dios, desde el momento de la concepción hasta su muerte natural. Esta enseñanza es muy seria ya que exige la conversión completa con respecto a las formas de pensamiento egoístas y de los valores que colocan otros bienes por encima del bien supremo de la vida humana. La mayoría de nosotros no ha vivido el tipo de conversión drástica que ocasionó que Saulo cambiara su vida por completo. Esto no significa que sea fácil; incluso la experiencia de pequeñas conversiones que suceden a lo largo de una vida requieren valor, perseverancia y un cierto sufrimiento. El Camino que estamos llamados a elegir es el Camino de la Cruz que exige que abandone nuestras formas de pensar y actuar individualistas para poder convertirnos en fieles discípulos misioneros de Cristo, al igual que san Pablo Apóstol. Recemos para tener el valor y la confianza de cambiar nuestras mentes y corazonas para que tanto en lo pequeño como en lo grande siempre podamos elegir la vida por encima de la muerte. †
For a list of events for the next four weeks as reported to The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/events.

Retreats and Programs

February 8-10 Providence Spirituality & Conference Center, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Retreat for Busy Catholic Moms. Providence Sister Mary Montgomery presenting, quiet reflection and spiritual enrichment for busy moms with time to pray, recharging available, Fri. 6:30 p.m.-Sun. 1:30 p.m., $220 includes lodging and meals, $130 without lodging.

February 9 Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 2214 Main St., Oldenburg. The Wisdom of the Wild: Praying with Nature’s Chorus, April Boyle facilitating, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., $15. Information and registration: 317-687-8260.

February 10 Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Soul Seniors, Catholic Ministry that is Charitable and social singles 50 and over, single, separated, divorced or widowed. New members welcome: 6 p.m. Information: 317-243-0777.

February 11 St. Michael Parish, 140 S. Monroe St., Indianapolis. Early Morning Rosary and Holy Hour, 5:46 a.m. Information: 317-374-5590, st.michaels@主教区.org.


February 14 Meredith College, 1200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Richard G. Lugar Franciscan Center for Global Studies Speaker Series: “Rebuilding Refugees’ Lives in Sri Lanka,” Catholic Relief Services program coordinator for Sri Lanka, represented by Catholic Relief Services and the Center for Interfaith Cooperation, 7 p.m. Information and registration: www.catholicrelief.org (case sensitive).

February 15-17 Saint Michael Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Dr., Grottoes, Kentucky. Benediction Retreat, Benedictine Father Noel Mueller presenting, 5:45-9:30 p.m. Information: 812-357-6858 or missouril@saintmarys.edu.


February 19 Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Benediction Center for Spirituality, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. St. Mary-of-the-Woods, in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. from Feb. 15-18. Book categories include hardbacks, paperbacks, spirituality. Bible, novels, history, children’s books, gardening, health and crafting. Items are not pre-priced. Rather, donations will be accepted. All proceeds from the sale will be provided to the Sisters of Providence’s mission and ministries.

For more information, call 812-535-2942 or≺prox@spsmw.org or www.spsmw.org/events.


February 21 The Wine Market at Irvington, 5453 E. Washington St., Indianapolis. Father Thomas Cecilia Memorial High School Women’s Circle Social Gathering, appetizers, provided, cash bar, 6-8 p.m., Feb. 19. Registration and information: Rose Branson, thomasnocn@seznam.cz, 317-352-3392.


February 22 Catholic Youth Ministries, 11400 Farmers Ln., Indianapolis. Prime Rib Dinner and Dance, 6 p.m. Mass, 7 p.m., free will offering. Information: 317-243-0777.

February 24 Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Preparing for the Indianapolis Choral Festival and Mass on March 9, sponsored by the archdiocesan Vocations Office, 6:30 p.m. Information: Keri Carroll at 317-236-1521 or e-mail kcarroll@archindy.org.

March 24-30 The Criterion, Jan. 25, 2019

Parish, school choirs invited to participate in Choral Festival and Mass on March 9

American Federation Pueri Cantores, a student choral organization from Catholic Church, invites archdiocese (as well as neighboring diocesan) parishes and schools to SSD at Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, on March 9. The deadline to register a choir is Feb. 9. The liturgy will begin at 11 a.m. The festival Mass will start at 5 p.m., with Archbishop Charles C. Thompson celebrating. The choir will be conducted by Paul French, the director of music at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Ch 0 6 8. The deadline to register a choir is on Feb. 9.

For more information, including the festival schedule, repertoire and the registration link, visit www.cathedral.org/choirs, click on“Cathedral Festivals,” or call 714-633-7554.

March 24-30 The Criterion, Jan. 25, 2019

Married couples invited to Mass and reception in Indianapolis on Feb. 10

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson will be the principal celebrant at a Mass in honor of the sainthood of marriage at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, at 2 p.m. on Feb. 10. The archdiocese’s Office of Marriage and Family Life, the Mass in the cathedral and the reception to follow across the street in the Assembly Hall of the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., is for all married couples of the archdiocese. During the reception, special recognition will be given to those couples married 60 years and longer. Bibles, novels, history, children’s books, gardening, health and crafting. Items are not pre-priced. Rather, donations will be accepted. All proceeds from the sale will be provided to the Sisters of Providence’s mission and ministries.

For more information, call 812-535-2942 or e-mail lindenealfs@spsmw.org.

March 24-30 The Criterion, Jan. 25, 2019

Pro-life film and discussion planned at St. John the Evangelist in Indy on Feb. 8

A showing of the pro-life documentary #BigFertility: It’s All About the Money, followed by a panel discussion, will be hosted by St. John the Evangelist Parish, 126 W. Georgia St., in Indianapolis, at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 8. It will be held in the parish’s hall at Am Plaza, located on the south side of Georgia Street across from the church. The event is co-sponsored by St. John the Evangelist and Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary parishes in Indianapolis.

The 45-minute documentary features a young mother who served as a surrogate mother for three different couples. She was threatened with financial ruin after nearly dying during her third surrogacy. But each of her three journeys had a price to pay. Together, the stories of the surrogates illustrate that being involved with the distorted version of fertility medicine that is “Big Fertility” is deceptive and deceptive.

The event is free; however, a free will offering will be accepted.

Sherry Lee at 317-407-6881 or e-mail shemarl@gmail.com.

March 24-30 The Criterion, Jan. 25, 2019

Providence Sisters schedule annual used book sale at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods

A used book sale will be held at the Linden Leaf Books store at Providence Spirituality & Conference Center, 1 Sisters of Providence, 101 S. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. Providence Spirituality & Conference Center of the Woods, in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. from Feb. 15-18. Book categories include hardbacks, paperbacks, spirituality. Bible, novels, history, children’s books, gardening, health and crafting. Items are not pre-priced. Rather, donations will be accepted. All proceeds from the sale will be provided to the Sisters of Providence’s mission and ministries.

For more information, call 812-535-2942 or e-mail lindenealfs@spsmw.org.
WASHINGTON (CNS)—Those who stand up for the dignity of life in all its stages and want to see this respect for all life enshrined in the U.S. Constitution have a friend in the Pence family and the Trump administration, Vice President Mike Pence told the March for Life crowd on the National Mall on Jan. 18.

Pence and second lady Karen Pence were a surprise addition to the roster on the National Mall on Jan. 18.

In his remarks, Pence urged the pro-lifers to stand up for the dignity of life in all its stages and believe as our Founding Fathers did that life born and unborn is endowed with certain inalienable rights, and the first of those is life," Pence said.

In his message, Trump said the pro-life movement is "founded on love and grounded in the nobility and dignity of every human life. I will always defend the first right in our Declaration of Independence: the right to life."

Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, welcomed the crowd and thanked them for coming once again to march to end abortion, what she called "the greatest human rights abuse of our time."

No official crowd counts are available for such events, but ahead of this year’s rally and march, organizers expected more than 100,000 to participate.

“We must keep marching for life every day of the year,” Mancini said, and she asked each marcher to share his or her pro-life story on social media because even one or two stories about why we march can change others’ minds about abortion.

Before she gave her remarks, Mancini introduced Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

He offered the opening prayer for the march and also urged the crowd to "go and change the world!"

The rally was issued later in the day to the mark the upcoming Jan. 22 anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Archbishop Naumann called on the faithful “to pray for an end to the culture of death” and for the "poorest of the poor” and those who cannot march for themselves until “we no longer need to mark and abortion is unthinkable.”

She received a resounding "yes" to each question.

Looking out from the speakers’ platform, she declared the crowd to be bigger than she has ever seen in her seven years as head of March for Life.

Bishop Knestout of Richmond, Va., quoted from a videotaped message by Vice President-elect J. Trump, which also was unexpected.

“We’re the Pences, and we’re pro-life,” the vice president quoted in the moment.

“We gather here because we stand for life and believe as our Founding Fathers did that life born and unborn is endowed with certain inalienable rights, and the first of those is life,” Pence said.

In his remarks, Pence urged the pro-lifers to stand up for God’s creation, spread their message with compassion and hope, and not let their detractors dissuade them.

In 1973 with its Roe-decision, he said, the Supreme Court turned “its back on life,” but the pro-life movement was born, “motivated by love and truth,” and has been "winning hearts and minds ever since,” he added.

“We know in our heart of hearts, life is winning in America once again,” he said, pointing out the many pregnancy centers helping women across the nation, adoptive families “who opened their hearts and homes,” and pro-life leaders who have stepped up to serve in the government.


"The ring! Is it not a strange fate that we have come to pass, Bishop Knestout said. "We know in our heart of hearts, life is winning in America once again," he said, pointing out the many pregnancy centers helping women across the nation, adoptive families “who opened their hearts and homes,” and pro-life leaders who have stepped up to serve in the government.

Among the “small things” he mentioned were the splitting of the atom and the development of the birth control pill.

With the first, "unbelievable destructive power is unleashed when that stability and union of the atom is broken," Bishop Knestout said. "When these are in their right relationship, stability and peace are the result." When they are not, he added, the result is destruction "almost beyond our imagination."

With the pill, Bishop Knestout said, "life and love, husband and wife are divided. Union and communion with one another and with God is broken. From this is unleashed the destruction of the family’s right relationships between human beings. What results are broken families, societies and cultures."

Bishop Knestout remarked on how Washington, site of the March for Life, has also been the site of division.

But it’s OK to be "out of line," Shapiro said, because "righteousness doesn’t have to be popular, just righteous."

Smith told the crowd that the new Democratic majority in the House "has made it clear that they want to eviscerate all pro-life protections, including the Hyde taxpayer abortion funding ban which alone has saved over 2 million people from death by abortion."

After the rally, the massive crowd began heading up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court. Marchers carried signs big and small—and some had huge banners proclaiming respect for life.

It was a multicolored sea of people, old and young, with some sporting bright blue knitted hats, others wearing neon yellow hooded sweatshirts. Mined in were Franciscans and Dominicans and other men and women religious in their habits.

Some predicted the partial government shutdown would alter the plans for the March for Life, or at least keep crowds from coming. Some worried bad weather predicted for parts of the Midwest and the Washington region would impede travelers heading East and reduce the numbers.

But there was no weather event to speak of, and the sun even shined for a time midday. The worst obstacle was a muddy Mall and some mounds of icy snow here and there—the result of a snowstorm early in the week, and as Mancini told the crowd, pro-lifers come whether it is raining, sleeting or blizzardizing.

As the March for Life rally was about to get underway, Caitlyn Dixon of Des Moines, Iowa, stood not too far from the main stage. It was her first March for Life.

She told Catholic News Service how five years ago she came close to getting an abortion but changed her mind while she was at a Planned Parenthood clinic.

Today her baby, Caden, is 4 years old, and Dixon recently became executive director of Iowa Right to Life, so, she noted, it was time for her to make the march.

"Now I spend every day of my life to help young girls like me to make it possible for them to save their babies like I did mine," she said.

Among the “small things” he mentioned were the splitting of the atom and the development of the birth control pill.

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Bishop Knestout remarked on how Washington, site of the March for Life, has also been the site of division.

We celebrate this Mass for Life just a few months after the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of Humanae Vitae,” which proscribed the use of artificial contraception, he said.

“We celebrate this Mass for Life in the city of Washington, the nation’s capital, where the pill was approved by the FDA in 1960, where the American ‘Humanae Vitae’ crisis was centered in 1968, where the Supreme Court decided that abortion was a constitutionally protected right in 1973, and where the sexual abuse and Clergy leadership crisis has been centered in 2018,” Bishop Knestout added.

“It is a strange fate that these have all occurred here, but it has a lesson for us. These secular and ecclesial crises can be linked together through a small but challenging teaching.”

Many of the things St. Paul VI predicted “if society came to accept the idea that the univeive and procreative ends of marriage could be separated” have come to pass, Bishop Knestout said.

The bishop included among them “the general lowering of morals in society, the objectification and attacks on the dignity of women, widespread pornography, and addiction to it,” and “corruption in the state in matters of reproduction and family life.”

Promiscuity, abortion, in vitro fertilization, surrogacy, homosexual activity, same-sex marriage, partial-birth abortion, sex-selection abortions, genetic abnormality-abortion—all flow from this division,” he said.

The “remedy” Bishop Knestout suggested. “We must return to the Gospel, and the teachings of Christ. The remedy is embracing the face of God in each person and embracing what the church teaches about human life. When we do that, we need not fear the dark of night, or the discord of nations.”

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen, wave to the crowd from the rostrum during the annual March for Life rally in Washington. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)
Msgr. William F. Stumpf, archdiocesan vicar general, elevates the Eucharist during the opening Mass of SEEK2019 on Jan. 3 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. More than 17,000 young adults from around the world attended the five-day conference designed to draw participants into a deeper encounter with Christ. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

A young man raises his hands in prayer during eucharistic adoration on Jan. 5 during the SEEK2019 conference in Indianapolis. The conference was sponsored by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. (Photo by Fellowship of Catholic University Students)

Msgr. William F. Stumpf, archdiocesan vicar general, elevates the Eucharist during the opening Mass of SEEK2019 on Jan. 3 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. More than 17,000 young adults from around the world attended the five-day conference designed to draw participants into a deeper encounter with Christ. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Jason Evert, co-founder of the Chastity Project, makes a point during a talk he gave on Jan. 5 at the SEEK2019 conference. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)

SEEK2019 participants enjoy music on Jan. 5 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. (Photo by Fellowship of Catholic University Students)

A priest offers absolution to a SEEK2019 participant after hearing her confession on Jan. 6. (Photo by Fellowship of Catholic University Students)

Leah Darrow gives a keynote address on the opening night of SEEK2019 on Jan. 3 in the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

See related stories, page 10A.

Little Sisters of the Poor Sister Mary Alexandra Moffit counsels a young woman in an area the order set up for participants to submit prayer requests at the SEEK2019 conference in Indianapolis on Jan. 5. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)
Catholic schools: promoting the love of Jesus every day

Gina Kuntz Fleming
Archdiocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is honored to serve more than 23,000 students in 68 Catholic schools throughout central and southern Indiana. With 57 elementary schools and 11 high schools, we certainly have the privilege of seeing the love of Jesus Christ in action every single day!

Though each school serves its unique community in its own special ways, there are several commonalities that all of our Catholic schools share, which include:

• Shared Mission and Catholic Identity—We recognize that each person is made in the image and likeness of God. Through programming and practices, we integrate our faith, culture and life in ways that help young people attain academic and career pursuits as well as everlasting life with God.

Our doors are open to all who desire a quality Catholic education regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender and socio-economic status.

• Academic Excellence—Our focus remains on the growth and achievement of every young person we serve. Recognizing parents as the first educators, we partner to help youth grow spiritually, socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically.

With ISTEP+ scores higher than state averages at every grade level and continued excellence illustrated by other measures of performance (such as SAT and ACT college entrance exams), our students are challenged and supported as we maximize their capacity in preparation for college, careers and heaven.

Our school leaders, teachers and other staff members truly set our Catholic schools apart from the rest for their dedication, professionalism and example as ministers of the faith which cannot be matched! We thank God daily for these amazing individuals and their service to our Church.

• Quality Leadership/Governance—We value local autonomy while having the broader support of our archdiocesan offices and network of Catholic schools. We are grateful for our pastors and religious who give so generously so that we may all come to know, love and serve God more fully. With lay leaders from each community serving on school boards and commissions in an advisory capacity, our school leaders are provided supports intended to directly impact youths and families in positive ways. We are thankful for each of our board/commission members and other volunteers who readily assist in this great ministry.

• Operational Vitality—Committed to excellence and rigor, our Catholic schools responsibly approach personnel, financial and operational decisions in ways that put children first and fortify long-term viability for generations to come.

Our cost per student, on average, is significantly lower than that of public and charter sectors, and our youths are the direct beneficiaries of the resources secured.

Our Catholic schools exist to develop missionary disciples in Christ, and we do that through effective stewardship, strategic planning and prayerful discernment when making decisions.

Please join me in celebrating the ministry of Catholic schools and all those who aid in their success! May God continue to bless our Church abundantly and all those we serve! †
Capital campaigns build community support for Catholic schools

By Sean Gallagher

Faith is the foundation of any effort to ensure the future of Catholic education in central and southern Indiana.

The students at St. Nicholas School in Ripley County may know that better than most. When construction on a new education center began at St. Nicholas Parish last year, students placed medals of saints in gravel where the foundation of the new school would be poured.

“I believe that the dedication to prayer for this project by the school children is what has made the rough places smooth during our construction phase,” said Father Shaun Whittington, St. Nicholas’ principal.

The faith of today’s students at St. Nicholas Parish was founded generations ago.

Moore and other archdiocesan leaders partnered with parents and parishes in the archdiocese to build up the body of Christ. “There’s a real sense of common ownership that builds the body of Christ,” said Moore.

The faith will live on in their children and excites them as their deep-rooted more youths of our parish and community everything. I think the opportunity to bury the blessed medals was one of my favorite parts of the project so far.”

“At that time, parishioners across the central and southern Indiana often came together as a community to put brick and mortar together with their own hands to start a Catholic school.

Community is no less a part of construction projects today than it was generations ago.

It usually happens now through capital campaigns in which parishioners and other school supporters contribute funds for needed improvements, renovations or additions to a school’s campus.

The capital campaign at St. Nicholas that has made its new $3.2 million school building possible is its Heritage Project. The first phase of the project is the construction of the school building, which should be ready for use at the start of the next academic year. Future phases will include constructing a gymnasium and parish life center.

“Capital campaigns always build community,” said Jolinda Moore, executive director of the archdiocese’s Secretariat for Stewardship and Development. “In addition to raising money, they also raise excitement and commitment to [the school]. Engagement goes through the roof.”

Moore and other archdiocesan leaders help parish schools in the process of making a case for a capital campaign, determining what projects are possible through feasibility studies and then launching a campaign and seeing it through to completion.

Joseph Hollowell, president of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, knows well how capital campaigns build engagement among a school’s supporters.

Hollowell has overseen several building projects and capital campaigns, including the current construction of a $6.5 million gymnasium that will seat 2,000 people and is expected to be open for use at the start of the next academic year.

“Joining a community that supports the school, especially its principal and has seen how previous building projects and capital campaigns build up the community of people who support the school, especially its alumni.”

“It gives them a sense of pride and continues to renew a sense of ownership,” she said. “They remember the reason that their parents sacrificed to send them to Catholic schools. It’s an incredible experience for all of us.”

Teacher offers tips to help students develop their talents

By John Shaughnessy

In 26 years of teaching at Catholic schools in the archdiocese, Lynne Locke has developed a definitive approach to help students make the most of their talents.

It’s an approach that led to her selection in 2018 as the recipient of the Saint Theodora Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for a Catholic educator in the archdiocese.

Here are some thoughts about being a Catholic educator from Locke, a junior high school theology and social studies teacher at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis.

Lead by example: “I live what I teach. In teaching the value of each human being, as a child of God, students know they are respected, even when there is a difficult situation. I do make mistakes, and I model reconciliation by readily apologizing to students and/or parents when necessary.”

Set standards. “Keeping standards high for all students is integral to the Catholic notion of justice. All students deserve to be challenged and supported according to their individual needs. I do not accept substandard work from any student. Of course, the standard is different for each student. Everyone—including me—can work to improve.”

Provide support. “Just because a student has a higher ability level does not mean that they never need support. Many students—both high and lower ability—come to school bearing burdens, and these burdens affect their ability to grow and learn.”

Act fairly. “Even when disciplinary measures need to be taken, I believe that I act in a just and fair way to students—and that each situation is a learning experience, helping students to understand their actions and the effect this may have on others.”

Serve. “By using my own gifts and talents to help others, I model responsible stewardship and help the students understand that using their God-given talents to serve others is a way of life.”

Work with parents. “Developing a working relationship with parents is crucial to supporting and challenging students. Helping parents to understand their student’s gifts and talents—and how to grow those gifts and talents—is a focus for me.”

Notre Dame ACE Academies wish to thank our teachers, volunteers, and supporters who help us put students on the path to college and heaven! Thank you for showing us how to seek, persist, excel, love, and serve every day!
Driven to lead and connect: Bishop Chatard student-athlete represents Catholic high schools in Indiana sports

By John Shaughnessy

The smile of Edreece Redmond is quick and full of light, and it flashes often during a conversation about the defining ways he represents high school student-athletes in Indiana.

The junior from Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis is one of the 18 members of the student advisory committee of the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA)—a committee that represents more than 160,000 student-athletes from 410 high schools across the state.

One of the captains on Bishop Chatard’s basketball team, Edreece is the only member on the committee who is from a non-public school.

“It’s big—not only to represent all Catholic schools, but Chatard especially,” says Edreece, who is 17. “I’m the only African-American, too, so that’s big to represent that community.”

As he shares these two realities, he does it with a sense of humility, respect and responsibility—just some of the qualities that define him, according to those who interact with him often. In fact, they say, he represents the best of high school student-athletes, the ones who strive for success in the classroom, save their bonds with their teammates and classmates, want to make a difference in their community, and give their all to their school and their sport.

“You couldn’t ask for a better student-athlete,” says Kerrie Schluender, an assistant commissioner for the IHSAA who works with the student advisory committee. “He works hard, he’s coachable, and his respectfulness and his personality stand out. He’s always smiling.”

“Academically, he’s a high honor roll student, so he gets it done where it’s most important,” says Mike Ford, Bishop Chatard’s athletic director. “He’s also a very humble individual even though he’s a high achiever.”

Brian Shaughnessy has coached Edreece at the varsity level for three years. He also has him as a student in a religion class for juniors. In basketball, Edreece’s coach describes him as “incredibly determined and driven, a gifted athlete but humble.” As an example, he recalls how Edreece reacted when he had a game where he believed he didn’t live up to his personal standards. After the game that night, Edreece spent an hour in the gym working to improve.

As his teacher, Shaughnessy sees a “focused, thoughtful” student who is equally dedicated in the classroom.

For Edreece, his approach to both sports and studies comes down to a basic philosophy.

“Go as hard in the classroom as I do on the court,” he says. “On the court, I want to be the best. If I do that, I have to put my best foot forward in class, too.”

Still, Edreece’s greatest attribute may be the way he relates to other people, Shaughnessy says.

“He is all class—as respectful, supportive, trustworthy and grounded a young man as you’re likely to meet. He is good to everyone I see him interact with, all the way down to my 3-year-old daughter.

“He is an amazing leader. He is a complete advocate for his teammates. They know he cares about them, has their back, and will put himself on the line for the team.”

Known for his natural smile, Edreece’s brightest one comes when he talks about his teammates.

“We’re all really close on and off the court,” he says, noting how they often go to breakfast together after a Saturday morning practice. “I want us to feel like a brotherhood, which it is on our team. I also want them to know that if there’s anything that they’re facing off the court, we’re all here for each other.”

Edreece is working to create that same sense of inclusion in another special way through his involvement with the IHSAA committee. One of the responsibilities of the 18 members is to start a “Champions Together” program at their high school.

“It’s bringing together kids with special needs with students here, and then have them compete in activities together. I think we’ll do bowling,” Edreece says. “Courage up, we’ll have a school assembly to get students interested in working with special needs students and raising money for the events.”

He views his involvement in the “Champions Together” program as another way to develop as a leader, another way to share his gifts to make a difference in the lives of other people. They’re qualities and desires, he says, that have been enhanced through the education he has received at Bishop Chatard.

“It really built me up as far as who I am as a person. Just the community—how close we are. It’s put me in a position of leadership that maybe I wouldn’t have at other schools. The relationships I’ve built with teachers and friends are really close. They’re always there for you. They genuinely care for you.”

A junior at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, Edreece Redmond is one of the 18 members of the student advisory committee of the Indiana High School Athletic Association—a committee that represents more than 160,000 student-athletes from 410 high schools across the state. (Submitted photo)
STEM classes create a bright future for students and society

By Sean Gallagher

Joe Esposito, technology teacher and coordinator at St. Pius X School in Indianapolis, says the future is now when it comes to preparing his students for a more technologically driven workforce. That’s why St. Pius and more Catholic schools across central and southern Indiana are introducing classes that incorporate science, technology, engineering and mathematics, commonly known as STEM.

“It’s very important for Catholic schools to put an emphasis on STEM education because the demand for STEM skills is no longer on the horizon,” Esposito said. “The world in which our students live is employing technical methods of making things faster, smarter and more efficient, and we would be doing them a disservice if we didn’t equip them with the right tools today.”

What sets apart Catholic schools in their approach to STEM classes is that they help their students learn about these fields in light of faith.

“They need to study the natural world, how it works and be able to effect change,” Esposito said. “But they also need Catholic values to give them purpose and direction in their work. I actually was telling third graders today that because God created the natural world, we can find ways to connect with him by understanding how it works.”

St. John Paul II School in Sellersburg began offering STEM classes to its middle schoolers in the 2017-18 academic year. Karen Haas, St. John Paul’s principal, has high hopes for the possible effects these classes can have on her students and the broader society.

“Those in the STEM field have the ability to solve problems,” Haas said. “They gain knowledge while focusing on real world issues and problems. Today’s STEM student may someday create a design to help the disabled, or have an impact on decreasing the impact of a natural disaster through better forecasting.”

“The benefits to society are endless. God gives each student the gift of his or her abilities. What he or she does with those abilities is his or her gift to God.”

The focus in STEM classes is often on applying knowledge to specific projects that groups of students have to complete together.

For example, students at St. John Paul II were given an “egg drop challenge” in which they were given materials to create a package to hold an egg and keep it intact after being dropped to a hard surface.

In the challenge, they applied what they had previously learned about aerodynamics and impact forces.

“They gain knowledge while focusing on STEM concepts we are covering so that they can win the next STEM challenge.”

Some students face challenges in STEM classes. Esposito appreciates helping them overcome obstacles and achieve success.

“To say it has been very rewarding is an understatement,” Esposito said. “So many students think that they ‘just aren’t good at coding’ or ‘STEM doesn’t make sense to me,’ and I have the privilege of popping those bubbles. “My eighth-graders last year were learning about [software] programming, and one student asked me if what we were learning was actually coding, and when I said yes, he exclaimed that he actually understood it. You could see the empowerment on his face.”

With teachers like Esposito across the archdiocese helping students past barriers that they thought were beyond their reach, Haas is anxious to see what the future will hold.

“We envision that our students will be well prepared as critical thinkers for their school career and beyond,” Haas said. “We pride ourselves on the fact that John Paul II students start here and succeed anywhere. We can’t wait to see the world they create—a world we can only imagine.”

Celebrating National Catholic Schools Week

Join us for Brebeuf Jesuit’s “Pre”beuf Day on March 3, 2019

brebeuf.org/admissions
Cindy Greer was on the verge of tears the first time she witnessed what the students had done.

Her appreciation has only grown five months later for the school children’s initiative, talents and faith.

“I almost cried the first week because it was so amazing,” says Greer, the principal of St. Anthony School in Indianapolis.

“Theyir leadership and ownership have been great to see. And they’re really good.”

The special scene began at the start of the school year in early August when the school’s part-time music teacher had a commitment that wouldn’t allow her to be there for the weekly school Mass on Wednesday mornings. So seventh-grader Waldo Tapia took it upon himself to provide the music.

Waldo enlisted five of his female classmates who love to sing, and he set up a practice 45 minutes before school began that day. Then at the Mass, he strapped on his guitar and joined the girls in leading their schoolmates in songs that echoed with joy throughout the church.

The scene was so cool and contagious that fellow seventh-grader Lance Gratner brought his drums the next week, and soon sixth-grader Jennifer Cazares was playing the piano, and then students from kindergarten through the upper grades clamored to join the choir. Waldo, Lance and Jennifer welcomed them all, as long as they were willing to attend the practices.

Now, there are usually about 25 students in the choir at the school Mass, and a trombone player, a bass guitarist and two violinists have been added. The musicians have an extra practice each week.

“I was expecting a couple of kids to do it,” says Lance, who came up with the idea of expanding the choir. “I did not think we’d have this many people! A lot of the kids are little. We used to be little, too, so we understand them. We tell them, ‘OK, you have to practice.’ ”

Waldo nods and adds, “We created this atmosphere of being friendly because we’re all friendly here. I don’t care what grade they’re in. If they’re younger kids, they’ll eventually lead the choir. I want to give them the chance to lead.”

The three leaders of the group especially note the singing of the second-grade students, whom they view as an extra section of the choir because they sing so loud and they’re seated right near the choir at Mass.

“It gets me happy when I hear them sing,” Jennifer says, flashing a smile. Greer is also all smiles when she thinks of the group.

“They took this on themselves,” says the principal of the Notre Dame ACE Academy school. “For them to be so dedicated and committed is amazing.”

Waldo just sees it all as an extension of the faith and the music that adds so much joy to his life.

“Ever since I was a small kid, I’ve loved to go to Mass,” says Waldo, who is 13 and from a musical family, just as Lance and Jennifer are. “The music is one of the most important things at Mass for me. I always like the Mass at school because it sounds like joy. The choir sounds like angels singing for God. That’s what I hear.” 

By John Shaughnessy

A special choir ‘sounds like angels singing for God’

The student-led choir and musicians of St. Anthony School in Indianapolis use their talents to praise God during their weekly school Mass. (Submitted photo)

Jennifer Cazares, Waldo Tapia and Lance Gratner have taken the initiative to lead the student choir and musicians during the weekly school Mass for students at St. Anthony School in Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)
Learning days for principals help students’ lives

By Natalie Hofer

The world is changing, and so are the needs of the children living in it.

That’s part of the reason the archdiocese offers several professional days for principals of its schools. And it is entirely the reason a recent professional day addressed the topics of social-emotional learning and cultural inclusivity.

What are these topics, what do they mean for Catholic school students, and how do principals keep up with other topics essential to their jobs? The Criterion interviewed three principals at archdiocesan schools in central and southern Indiana to learn more.

‘Not in a day, but every day, all day’

“Almost all research now is pointing to social-emotional skills as being the key to learning,” says Kevin Gawrys, principal of St. Therese (Little Flower) School in Indianapolis. “If you don’t have those components, you can’t process other information, you can’t do anything with it.”

According to the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning, social-emotional learning is “the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.”

For perspective in terms of Catholic schools, Gawrys notes that “we see more and more every year how much more trauma and early child trauma kids have been through. Until you’re able to add social-emotional learning, significant, deep learning won’t take place.”

The source of trauma varies. But Janet Abdoulaye, principal of St. Susanna School in Plainfield, sees one pervasive trend.

“I think social media and technology have made [children] a little more isolated than before,” she says. “I think some of those skills they naturally learn in friendships, they don’t learn as easily these days.” Cindy Johnson, principal of St. Michael School in Brookville, agrees.

“[Kids] know and hear so much more than what kids did 20 years ago,” she says. “We have to meet them where they are.”

Addressing students’ need for social-emotional learning “is not done in one week,” notes Gawrys. “It’s done every day, all day.”

He says one way to improve in this area is to “move away from, ‘You did something wrong so you get punished’ to ‘You did something wrong. Why? What made you do that?’”

Another example he offers is teaching children a particular virtue by incorporating lessons on that value in intentional ways.

For instance, he says, “Our kids in third grade build endurance with reading. So we would tell them, ‘Read for five minutes without talking.’

“But we never told the kids, ‘You’re learning how to be persistent.’ Now we’re saying, ‘Here’s the skill you’re learning, instead of hoping they know what skill they’re learning.’ Abdoulaye says with the “Leader in Me” method that her school started a few years ago, they began implementing social-emotional learning practices.

“The speaker showed a slide about how students need help with self-management,” she says. “That’s one of the first steps [of the “Leader in Me”].—You are responsible for yourself.”

Johnson was so taken with the social-emotional learning concept that she personally bought 20 copies of a book related to the method for her staff, even the cooks. She notes with a laugh that she has seen one classroom aide walking for exercise—while reading the book.

Understanding differences

The second topic, cultural inclusivity, “goes hand in hand with social-emotional learning,” says Gawrys. “Part of social-emotional learning is learning how to deal with people who aren’t just like you. You don’t think like you, come from a different background, don’t want the same things as you.”

Abdoulaye notes that cultural inclusivity “is more and more important because we are becoming more and more divided as a society. So understanding differences and different points of view and different perspectives is really important.”

At Little Flower, diversity is not just a catchphrase—it’s a reality.

Whereas the student body was predominantly Caucasian and Catholic when he started there 20 years ago, Gawrys says it is now one-third non-Caucasian and 50 percent Catholic.

“We have kids with nannies in the summer, and kids whose parents have no job,” he says. “We run the gamut economically, racially, culturally. Inclusivity is the training of how we deal with other people, of how we go beyond tolerance to embracing another person and realizing that differences make us stronger.”

“We all have to be lifetime learners”

Abdoulaye, Gawrys and Johnson each expressed gratitude and enthusiasm for the ability to regularly meet with their principal peers.

“If I need help, I have colleagues I can call on—friends I can rely on,” Abdoulaye says. Johnson agrees: “It’s priceless to talk with other principals. No one can help you the way other principals can. I look forward to those days. We all get to talk and brainstorm. It’s awesome.”

Bottom line, says Gawrys, “Kids want to do a good job. And we want to help them do that. The professional days are invaluable.”

First graders’ faith reflects teacher’s plan to ‘put God first’

By John Shaughnessy

One of Lindsey Morris’ favorite moments as a teacher involves non-Catholic first grade boy who always wanted to know more about the Catholic faith.

“I was answering non-stop questions for a whole year,” notes Morris, a first-grade teacher at St. Mary School in North Vernon. “I would see a spark in his eyes for the love of God and Catholicism.

“This young boy received his first Communion, reconciliation and confirmation all by himself. He is the only one in his family. He doesn’t miss a Sunday Mass, and his love for the faith still grows. His testimony for this faith is something that will forever have a place in my heart.”

The joy that Morris has in sharing that story reflects her major goal as a teacher. “I pride myself on making sure I have a relationship with every student,” says Morris, who was a finalist for the 2018 Saint Theodora Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for a Catholic educator in the archdiocese.

“I know my students’ interests, needs and wants. I am constantly engaged with my students even after they leave my classroom. One example is in the way I lead our aftercare program after school. I love this because it allows me to reconnect with former students of mine.”

She also continues that connection by serving as the faculty advisor for the school’s student council and by leading the parish’s high school youth group.

“Witnessing my students grow in their faith from first grade up is astounding.”

That feeling is matched by being able to share her love of God and her faith with her students.

“Putting God first is the first thing that comes to mind when I think of my daily planning. I want my students to walk away from school every day and know that in every action and every conversation, we put God first.”

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In terms of school, "homecoming" is an event when alumni gather from their scattered locations and return to their alma mater. For many teachers in the archdiocese, every day is "homecoming" as they walk through the doors of the elementary, junior high or high school they once attended as students.

Below are the thoughts of a few of those alumni-educators at Catholic schools in central and southern Indiana. Among the aspects they value about teaching at their alma mater, there is one constant—their ability to openly discuss, share and practice their Catholic faith.

The Lord called me to be here

Unlike most who seek jobs after college, Lindsey Scott cast a very small net—more of a laso really.

"I couldn't see myself working anywhere else, so I only applied here," says the 24-year-old special education teacher at St. Monica School in Indianapolis. "I felt God call me to come back here."

The lifetime member of the parish attended Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., to study deaf and hard-of-hearing education. One course required for the degree changed her focus.

"I fell in love with special education," she says. "It's where I felt the most confident in my abilities, and the most joy.

But Scott finds joy in Christ and her Catholic faith as well. She spent her first two years after college as a missionary in Ireland and Scotland sharing the Catholic faith and Gospel message with youths for National Evangelization Teams.

Toward the end of her second missionary year, Scott says she "asked the Lord where he needed me to go next. [St. Monica] is the only place I felt him need me. There were no issues, it was an easy process, and I felt such peace. It was a clear sign that the Lord called me to be here."

Having spent time in a public school as a student-teacher, Scott appreciates now being able to "share with students my relationship with God, and how amazing it is to have one. I love working in an environment where I can pray, and the fact that we go to Mass every week as a school."

For 10 years now, the lifetime member of St. Lawrence Parish in Lawrenceburg has been living that dream as a fourth- and fifth-grade teacher at the faith community's school she herself attended.

"I wanted to be able to reach the kids how to pray, and that you can pray anytime, anywhere," she says, "and to share my love of Jesus no matter what subject I taught.

So she has, not just for the few years she taught religion, but also in her primary subject, language arts.

"Whatever the topic of the story they're reading [for the class], there's always a way to include the faith," she says.

Noel even created "WOW God Wednesdays," where she tells "a story about how God worked a miracle in someone's life," she explains. "They are true stories that leave the kids saying, 'Wow!' Sometimes the junior high kids will even stop in to hear a story.

And Noel has been able to fulfill her desire to "pray at any given moment on any given subject. We pray every day at certain times, or any time. We've seen many prayers answered."

Some of those prayers are "for our abortion-minded women," says Noel, who serves as president of the board of directors for the Southeast Indiana Pregnancy Center in Lawrenceburg.

Getting to practice and share her faith at the school she once attended has been a wish come true for Noel.

"It's all I dreamed it would be," she says.

A 'special, unique school' with 'the feeling of family'

When Stephen Sims, 34, speaks of his alma mater, Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison, his love for the school is obvious.

Other than "calling my former teachers by their first name and getting away with it," Scott says she feels no awkwardness in teaching where she herself had been a student.

"St. Monica is such a family community," she says. "It's my parish, my home. I can't imagine doing anything else or being anywhere else. This is where I'm meant to be."

I always dreamed of going back

Jane Noel, 61, taught for eight years in public schools, and owned and operated a day care and kindergarten with a friend for 17 years. But in the back of her mind, she had a secret desire.

"I always loved my job," she says. "But I always had a dream of going back to St. Lawrence and just giving back."

For 10 years now, the lifetime member of St. Lawrence Parish in Lawrenceburg has been living that dream as a fourth- and fifth-grade teacher at the faith community's school she herself attended.

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The faith that unites the students and staff, combined with the school's small size, creates "a more intimate environment," says Sims.

"The staff knows every kid and what they need," he notes. "They spend time with the kids. They know their strengths and weaknesses and their backgrounds, what's going on in their families, so they can help them out better. Our teachers are supportive of the kids."

French teacher Aline Cambon was working at the school when Sims attended Shawe—her son was one of his classmates.

But Cambon's ties to the school go even further back. She has not only been teaching French at the school for 40 years—she, like Sims, is also a graduate of Shawe and Pope John XXIII School.

We moved here from France when I was 14 years old," says Cambon, 63, who graduated from Shawe in 1973 and began teaching there in 1978.

She says the school has always had "the feeling of family. I like the support and love you feel from the students as well as their families."

But what she most likes about teaching at Shawe is practicing her Catholic faith.

"If you see a student is down or having a difficult time at home, you can pray before class," she says.

She teaches her students to pray the Hail Mary in French, and "they love to pray it," she says. "They ask to pray it before tests. Once in the hall, they were practicing for an oral part of the test, and they asked, 'Can we pray right now?'

And we held hands and prayed. It was so touching."

The support, love and faith of the community shined through in a profound way after Cambon gave birth to her second son.

"I was in the hospital in a coma," she recalls. "You wouldn't believe the support they gave me—it was amazing. ... When I came back, the [Pope John XXIII] elementary kids made cards for me."

Just this year, Cambon's grandson started preschool at Pope John XXIII.

"To me, it's like a dream come true to teach" at Shawe, she says. "I don't feel like I'm going to work. I feel like I'm with my own family."
When a Catholic school closes, neighborhood disorder increases (Brinig & Garnett, 2009).

Catholic schools tend to produce graduates who are more civically engaged, more tolerant of diverse views, and more committed to service as adults (Campbell, 2001; Wolf, Greene, Kleitz, & Thalhammer, 2001).

Graduates of Catholic high schools are more likely to earn higher wages (Neal, 1997).

Latino and African American students in Catholic schools are more likely to graduate from high school and college (Grogger & Neal, 2000).

RESEARCH SAYS …

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

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

What are Tax Credit Scholarships?

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

Why should I apply now?

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

How do I apply?

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

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

What is an Indiana School Voucher?

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

Who qualifies for a Voucher?

- A student whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (see chart), AND
- A student in grades K-12 who has received a Tax Credit Scholarship or Voucher in a prior year, AND/OR
- A student in grades K-12 who is coming to a Catholic school after attending at least one year (two semesters) in an Indiana public school, AND/OR
- A student whose family is between 100% and 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

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What Makes a Catholic School Special

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

(‘Defining Characteristics of Catholic Schools’; National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools)
Students learn to share their greatest gift in honors program

By John Shaughnessy

During Catholic Schools Week, sixth-grade students at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Richmond will collect diapers, baby wipes and formula to help struggling pregnant women. This effort follows their Christmas outreach to bring fruit baskets to senior citizens at a nearby apartment complex—a visit where they talked and sang carols with the residents.

Then there are the after-school sessions where the sixth-graders—the oldest students in their school—regularly help younger children prepare for tests, do their homework or just spend time reading together. It’s all part of the school’s National Elementary Honor Society program, an initiative that uses the faith-based principle of caring for others to build leadership, character and lifelong service.

“We get to learn about being nice to people and helping them,” says 11-year-old Kelsey Brim.

Abby Davis enjoyed participating in a march and a fundraiser to help the pregnant women. “It was kind of cool to be there with teachers and students, to see all the people volunteering,” Abby says.

Their friend and classmate Jackie Clemente adds, “It’s really an honor to be in the society. It means you have this gift and this talent, and you can share it with others. It means a lot to me, and it helps the other students become better students as well.”

“His story always stuck with me. Once I decided in college that I wanted to be a special educator, I knew that I wanted to do so in a Catholic school at some point. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to support children’s needs with the Christian environment that their families have chosen for them.”

Parents long for their child to have a teacher who cares for him or her—and then strives to bring out the best in their child. It’s a longing that may be even stronger for parents whose child struggles with a disability.

So the letter that a parent wrote in support of Jennifer Fisher Kelly says so much about the student service teacher at St. Anthony of Padua School in Clarksville.

“[Our son] is dyslexic. He is far behind the other students become better students and this talent, and you can share it with others,” notes the mom. “Those struggles made him dislike school more and more every year. During our senior year, he was diagnosed with ADHD and learning disabilities. He excelled in college where he took advantage of support services and teachers. ‘I often wondered what my friend’s school experience would have been like had there been more awareness of learning differences and programs in place to meet different needs. “His story always stuck with me. Once I decided in college that I wanted to be a special educator, I knew that I wanted to do so in a Catholic school at some point. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to support children’s needs with the Christian environment that their families have chosen for them.”

It’s a commitment that has its roots in place to meet different needs. “His story always stuck with me. Once I decided in college that I wanted to be a special educator, I knew that I wanted to do so in a Catholic school at some point. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to support children’s needs with the Christian environment that their families have chosen for them.”"}

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton students Gaynie Falzone, left, Jackie Clemente, Addi Guiley and Allison Hamilton deliver fruit baskets to senior citizens at a nearby apartment complex in Richmond before Christmas. (Submitted photo)

Jennifer Fisher Kelly shares a smile with one of her students during a computer exercise at St. Anthony of Padua School in Clarksville. The student service teacher is known for her commitment to her students with special needs. (Submitted photo)
All the right ingredients make Soup Day a special tradition at Providence

By John Shaughnessy

One of the foundations of Catholicism is that many people need to help in the formation of a child’s faith life. A list that starts with parents also includes grandparents, godparents, coaches, pastors, older siblings and nearly everyone who works in the child’s Catholic school.

That foundation is at the heart of an annual tradition at Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville—a special tradition that was started 23 years ago by the leader of the school’s cafeteria staff.

As the story goes, cafeteria manager Mary Ann Reed had a friend who devoted her life to helping the poor and homeless after she made a plea and a promise to God. The friend, who wasn’t able to have a child, asked that she and her husband be blessed with one. In return, she would serve the needy.

The couple had a child. And as her friend upheld her promise, Reed started Soup Day at Providence to help her. As part of Soup Day, she served a simple meal of soup to the students, with all the profits from the day going to her friend’s efforts. Reed also asked Providence students to bring canned goods and staple food items to the cafeteria, to help feed the homeless, too.

“The story goes, cafeteria manager Mary Ann Reed had a friend who devoted her life to helping the poor and homeless after she made a plea and a promise to God. The friend, who wasn’t able to have a child, asked that she and her husband be blessed with one. In return, she would serve the needy.”

Now the cafeteria manager, Hennessey and the other members of the lunchroom staff continue the tradition, partly in Reed’s honor and partly as a way of teaching students about the challenges of homelessness and hunger.

While soup is served during lunch, Hennessey and other members of the cafeteria staff talk to the students about how these challenges even can affect their classmates.

“We want them to know what it is like to wait in line, to maybe not eat everything you like to eat—to know that a bowl of soup might be all a kid gets each day,” Hennessey says. “They may be your neighbor or someone who sits next to you in class.”

In response to the pre-Thanksgiving effort in 2018, Soup Day raised about $1,500 that was donated to two groups that help the needy: Haven House Homeless Shelter in Jeffersonville, and In Heaven’s Eyes in New Albany. Nearly 1,500 canned goods and food staples were also distributed between Haven House and The Center for Lay Ministries in Jeffersonville.

“Every year when we do this, it’s more special,” Hennessey says. “We want the kids to know life is about community and giving back.”

There is also a year-round, under-the-radar quality to the cafeteria staff’s efforts to help people who are hungry—namely some students at Providence.

While some students benefit from a federally subsidized, free-lunch program, there are still students who deal with hunger at times. In response, teachers, staff and members of the cafeteria team at Providence have quietly contributed to the lunch accounts of such students.

“We had a boy who was eating a bologna sandwich for lunch and dinner each day,” she says. “We put money in his account so he could get what he needed to eat. The fact that we have teachers and staff members who are willing to contribute to help kids and keep their names out of it says a lot about our school.”

When money is added to a student’s account, Hennessey sends an e-mail note to the parents of the child, letting them know extra funds have been added “by a guardian angel.”

Hennessey recalls one mother being so thankful because otherwise, she said, she would have had to choose between adding money to her child’s lunch account or paying an electric bill when her electricity was about to be turned off. “Never once have I not received a thank you from the parents,” she says.

Then there are the moments when students become the teachers.

“One student who was on the federal-assisted lunch program brought in 40 to 50 cans in two huge bags for Soup Day. It warmed my heart that she and her mother did that because money is tight for them.”

They’re all ingredients in what makes Soup Day a special tradition at Providence, Hennessey says. “I appreciate the feeling of just knowing you’re making a difference in someone’s life.”

The cafeteria staff at Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville are instrumental in continuing the school’s tradition of Soup Day, an effort to help the poor and the homeless. Staff members include Lindsey Rutherford, left, Karen Hennessey, Penny Schroeder, Maria Aguiuca, Donna Burke, Aggie Kiesler, Elisa Bary and Sarah Gahagen. (Submitted photo)
**Small parish makes big news in starting a school**

By Jennifer Lindberg

BRASIL—A small parish community has shown that hope can outmeasure any label.

While Brazil was named the poorest town in Indiana from the United States Census Bureau, Annunciation Parish in that community took action to make a better distinction: opening a new school.

“There was a lot of people, that knocked on their door and invited them to Mass, wouldn’t come back. But if you say, ‘We’d like to offer a really amazing, safe, holistic, educational environment for your child,’ people are very much interested and ready to listen,” said Christa Dohmen, director of the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education.

Dohmen felt that the cycle of poverty in Brazil and the surrounding area could be broken, and that children at the parish could be an avenue to come closer to Jesus.

Providing a Catholic Montessori experience to children in Brazil, the team members wouldn’t have to knock on doors down there and Father Hollowell would be an advocate to start a school.

At the school, “There’s a real sense of accomplishment because it’s hard, and they’ve worked hard,” said Father Hollowell, pastor of Annunciation Parish in Brazil.

The Montessori approach, developed in the early 20th century by Dr. Maria Montessori, a devout Catholic, means the child’s education uses manipulatives that are hands-on, self-paced, collaborative and joyful, Dohmen said.

Students not only learn reading, writing and math, but also self-care. They learn to prepare snacks, basic sewing and how to care for their small environment that has child-size rugs, lamps and tables.

The school also has a full-time religious education component called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd that was created by Montessori. The program uses miniature items of the altar and Mass that students see at church, as well as other materials to help the child learn about the Bible and prayer.

“Providing a Catholic Montessori education component called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd that was created by Montessori. The program uses miniature items of the altar and Mass that students see at church, as well as other materials to help the child learn about the Bible and prayer.”

The family of poverty in Brazil is a place to help prepare them for full participation in the life of the Church, Dohmen said.

“Just like in sports, they learn the value of putting time and energy into this. They practice at home, too.”

There’s that personal self-discipline that, population, Dohmen said.

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Dr. Kristen Walton, who is not Catholic, said she is grateful that her daughter Lillian, 6, is getting “a spiritual education alongside the Montessori education.”

“We want our daughter to have the best education possible in a healthy environment,” Walton said. “In this part of Indiana, Annunciation is the only preschool we found that respects parents’ health decisions, genuinely cares about the child’s environment and provides research-based education.”

“Lilly loves helping prepare her own snacks and other activities like sewing and playing the bells. Many of the activities she loves are not things we previously thought a 4-year-old capable of.”

Jeff Woolw knew what a Montessori education was and wanted that for his grandson, Ian Schobee, 4, Woolw said a member of Annunciation Parish, said he has seen marked improvement in his grandson during the time he has been at the school. Before, Ian was shy and didn’t speak much.

“Now he has advanced,” he said. “He interacts with other kids a lot better, and it has all been very positive.”

Father Hollowell said opening a school is a lot of hard work, and this one has taken a lot of effort, from a major renovation project to securing funds and volunteers. He insists that the opportunity to share the faith makes all the efforts worthwhile.

“I feel like Catholic schools are such a wonderful way to bring the good news of the Gospel to the world.”

By John Shaughnessy

Considering the success of the Spell Bowl team of St. Roch School in Indianapolis, the team members wouldn’t have any difficulty spelling the word “dynasty.”

For the third straight year, the team of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders from St. Roch have won an Indiana state championship in spelling at the Class 4 level.

In fact, in the past seven years, the team has won six state championships in the Academic Spell Bowl. The one team that didn’t win finished second, losing on a tiebreaker.

The latest state championship came on Nov. 10 at Purdue University in West Lafayette—a championship that produced the same reactions as when a sports team wins a title.

“There were big smiles, loud cheers and pumping of fists,” recalls Mary Ann Chamberlin, the team’s head coach.

“I’ve got to spell this word.”

“They’re “old-school” values from a teacher who considers herself “old school” about the importance of spelling.

“I think spelling is becoming a lost art,” says the mother of four and the grandmother of eight. “And I appreciate that these kids are willing to spend their time learning to spell. I think being accurate in your writing, your spelling and your grammar is very important.”

Chamberlin also savers the impact that the team’s success has on the students and the school where she has taught for 35 of her 37 years as a Catholic educator.

“We want our daughter to have the best education possible in a healthy environment,” Walton said. “In this part of Indiana, Annunciation is the only preschool we found that respects parents’ health decisions, genuinely cares about the child’s environment and provides research-based education.”

“Lilly loves helping prepare her own snacks and other activities like sewing and playing the bells. Many of the activities she loves are not things we previously thought a 4-year-old capable of.”

Jeff Woolw knew what a Montessori education was and wanted that for his grandson, Ian Schobee, 4, Woolw said a member of Annunciation Parish, said he has seen marked improvement in his grandson during the time he has been at the school. Before, Ian was shy and didn’t speak much.

“Now he has advanced,” he said. “He interacts with other kids a lot better, and it has all been very positive.”

Father Hollowell said opening a school is a lot of hard work, and this one has taken a lot of effort, from a major renovation project to securing funds and volunteers. He insists that the opportunity to share the faith makes all the efforts worthwhile.

“I feel like Catholic schools are such a wonderful way to bring the good news of the Gospel to the world.”

By Jennifer Lindberg (a freelance writer and a member of St. Joseph Parish in Sheboy) */

**Hard work spells success at state level for small school**

By John Shaughnessy

Considering the success of the Spell Bowl team of St. Roch School in Indianapolis, the team members wouldn’t have any difficulty spelling the word “dynasty.”

For the third straight year, the team of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders from St. Roch have won an Indiana state championship in spelling at the Class 4 level.

In fact, in the past seven years, the team has won six state championships in the Academic Spell Bowl. The one team that didn’t win finished second, losing on a tiebreaker.

The latest state championship came on Nov. 10 at Purdue University in West Lafayette—a championship that produced the same reactions as when a sports team wins a title.

“There were big smiles, loud cheers and pumping of fists,” recalls Mary Ann Chamberlin, the team’s head coach.

“I’ve got to spell this word.”

“They’re “old-school” values from a teacher who considers herself “old school” about the importance of spelling.

“I think spelling is becoming a lost art,” says the mother of four and the grandmother of eight. “And I appreciate that these kids are willing to spend their time learning to spell. I think being accurate in your writing, your spelling and your grammar is very important.”

Chamberlin also savers the impact that the team’s success has on the students and the school where she has taught for 35 of her 37 years as a Catholic educator.
How to help more students experience benefits of a Catholic education

By John Shaughnessy

Pam Wells isn’t shy about the ambitious goal that she has for each of the girls and boys that she teaches in her middle school classes: “Enabling our students to be leaders and innovators in a global society, while sharing our faith and making a difference in the world through creative and critical thinking and collaboration.”

That combined goal has guided Wells in her 24 years of teaching in a Catholic school, including her current role as a teacher of middle school social studies and eighth-grade religion at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School in Greenwood.

“Integrating the Catholic faith into our daily life at school goes beyond prayer and religion class,” says Wells, a finalist for the 2018 Saint Theodora Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for a Catholic educator in the archdiocese. “It is literally impossible to teach social studies without using our faith as a catalyst or a comparison. When we study other civilizations, we are always drawing parallels with their religion and our own.”

Wells uses that same approach as she leads her students in discussing current events that have included right-to-life issues, the platforms of political candidates and the treatment of women in different areas of the world. “I have implemented 21st century philosophies into Catholic education: creativity, communication, collaboration and critical thinking as a means of educating children to prepare them to be successful adults in our communities in the future,” says Wells, who sometimes dresses in costume to portray historical figures.

Thousands of adolescents have walked through her door, and she believe that when they walked out for the last time, they were critical thinkers ready to make a difference in the world through their faith.”

Pam Wells

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Catholic Youth Organization
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Conference raises enthusiasm of young adult Catholic community

By John Shaughnessy

Matt Foley always loves the moments when he sees “God work in the hearts” of young adults.

He witnessed many of those moments when more than 17,000 people from across the United States and the world gathered in Indianapolis on Jan. 3-7 for SEEK2019, the conference that offered its mostly young adult Catholic participants the opportunity to deepen their encounter with Jesus Christ.

“We had a large [archdiocesan] group of young adults [at the conference], and I was particularly moved to hear what God was doing in their lives,” says Foley, the director of the archdiocese’s Office of College Campus and Young Adult Ministry.

“One person was moved to tears by the beauty of the liturgies, particularly through the witness of so many young priests. One came for just the weekend and told me the talks, time of adoration and confession—and connecting with community—were just what was needed in their life. Another participant started exploring religious life seriously for the first time.

“I’m sure there are more stories still being written, but how awesome to see God work in the hearts of those who were with us.”

Foley was also thrilled by a large group moment that occurred during the conference, which was sponsored by the Denver-based Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS).

“We were blessed to partner with SEEK to host a ‘Theology on Tap’ event at the conference,” he says. “This event not only exposed our community to this huge national event, more importantly it allowed us to witness to the greater Church what a vibrant young adult community we have here in the archdiocese. About 1,500 people were in attendance, and hundreds of those were young adults from many parts of the archdiocese.”

Foley believes hosting the SEEK conference in Indianapolis will have a lasting impact on the young adult Catholic community in the archdiocese. He says the increased enthusiasm that resulted from SEEK can be summed up by a quote from one of the local participants: “I am ready to go.

“Our group left ready to take those graces and turn them into tangible action back in their parish communities,” Foley noted.

“I could not help but think of what happened in Denver after St. John Paul II came for World Youth Day in 1993. While on a smaller scale here in Indy, the spiritual impact that will be left here after such an event will be long-lasting. I can’t wait to see what fruit will come.”

The SEEK conference also left its mark on Foley personally.

“I have been to so many conferences in my life of ministry, it almost becomes routine if I let it,” he says. “But of course, the Lord had other plans. I left so heartened by the mission God has entrusted me with and a new zeal to bring that mission back to our communities here in the archdiocese.”

Camino walk helps young man find path that leads him, others to Christ

By John Shaughnessy

Shea McMahon’s journey of faith has led him on some incredible adventures, including walking the Camino in France and Spain, and living in England trying to help college students embrace a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Still, the pivotal point of McMahon’s faith journey so far was found in his hometown of Indianapolis five years ago when the then-24-year-old McMahon found himself at a crossroads in his life.

“I walked away from my faith in college,” said McMahon of his time at Indiana University in Bloomington. “When I was 24, I met an old friend who was involved in IndyCatholic [the nickname of the archdiocese’s Office of College Campus and Young Adult Ministry].

“My friend invited me to a men’s group, and I was really interested in the theology of their own personal relationships with him. After that, I just had a lot of friends came together and was feeling so isolated and distressed. I felt God wanted me to walk, so that’s what I did. I walked the Camino.”

“On the Camino, you have so much time to pray and think,” McMahon said. “I developed a prayer life, an internal life that was ongoing. I was in a consistent, constant prayer with our Lord. I realized the grace Jesus had given me, not only to walk but the grace for eternal happiness and eternal joy. I needed to share that with other people.

“I met a lot of Europeans who didn’t know Jesus, and they didn’t have a relationship with him. After that, I had a great desire in my heart to serve people in Europe, and help them with an encounter with Jesus.”

That desire led him to become a missionary with FOCUS—Fellowship of Catholic University Students—the organization that directs the SEEK conferences and that strives to “share the hope and joy of the Gospel” with college students and other young adults.

In his past two years with FOCUS, McMahon has served as a missionary at the University of Southampton in England. He has met with great challenges and its graces.

“You’re walking into a new culture and learning to evangelize in a new culture. Going to a new country where you don’t know anybody other than the three missionaries you were sent with, I had to rely on Christ for my sense of home, for my security. The things I find comfortable were stripped away from me. I had to go to Jesus to find those things.

“...and help them with an encounter with Jesus.”

“I’ve been able to give more of my heart to him. Whenever we give our heart to Jesus, he gives his heart back exponentially more than we could ever give him.”

He viewed coming home to Indianapolis for the Christmas season and for the conference as another one of God’s gifts to him.

“It has been really amazing to see my worlds colliding in this way,” said McMahon, a 2007 graduate of Roncalli High School who grew up in St. Jude Parish, both in Indianapolis.

“I have friends here, family here, people who are supporting me in my mission, and people who have been involved in my conversion. I’m so excited for the city of Indianapolis and for the impact the conference will have on the Church here.”

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God speaks through the Liturgy of the Word at Mass

By Julianne Stanz

Catholics have often been falsely accused of not being regularly exposed to the Scriptures. While it has been true in the past that sprinkling conversation with the Scriptures has typically not been a part of Catholic culture, this has certainly changed over the years.

What many people do not realize, however, is that Catholics are deeply saturated in the word of God. How much Scripture is proclaimed at Mass? Quite a lot in fact. As the liturgy section on the U.S. bishops’ website explains, “at least two readings [three on Sundays and solemnities], one always from the Gospels, make up the Liturgy of the Word. In addition, a psalm or canticle is sung.”

As a result of the Second Vatican Council’s emphasis on increasing greater literacy of the Scriptures, we now have a three-year cycle of readings for Sunday Masses, built around readings from the three synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark and Luke. The start of a new liturgical year begins with the first Sunday of Advent and marks the transition from one lectionary cycle (A, B or C) to the next.

During Mass, it is important to note that the Scriptures are proclaimed, not from the Bible but from a lectionary. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) website goes on to say that “a lectionary is [a book] composed of the readings and the responsorial psalm assigned for each Mass of the year” including Sundays, weekdays and special occasions.

These readings are divided by theme and arranged on a three-year cycle: “Year A is the year of Matthew, Year B is Mark and Year C is Luke.” David Philippart explained in an article for U.S. Catholic on how the Mass readings are arranged.

You might be asking, what of the Gospel of John? The Gospel of John is proclaimed at Christmas, Lent and Easter and to complete the rest of Year B since the Gospel of Mark is shorter than the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Philippart said.

According to the USCCB website, the lectionary also “provides readings for feasts of the saints, for common celebrations such as Marian feasts, for ritual Masses [weddings, funerals, etc.], for votive Masses and for various needs.”

The Liturgy of the Word begins with the first reading, which Philippart explained, is “chosen, usually from one of the books of the Old Testament, or from the Acts of the Apostles in Eastertime.” And on Sundays and solemnities, “the second reading is chosen from a New Testament letter” or, in Eastertime, the Acts of the Apostles.

The first reading relates thematically to the Gospel. For example, “if the Gospel is about Jesus giving sight to the blind, the first reading will tell how the blind will see when the Messiah comes,” Philippart wrote. During the Liturgy of the Word, we have an opportunity to hear the word of God proclaimed and reflect upon it, pray with it and incorporate it into our lives.

Through the Liturgy of the Word, God speaks personally to each one of us. What a gift to us! This gift invites a response, and God invites our response to his word every day.

At each Mass, we hear the phrase, “The word of the Lord,” and pray the response, “Thanks be to God.” And yet, how many times do we say these words automatically, without thinking and without being consciously grateful for the word of God in our lives? Here are three tips to be more receptive to the word of God and to cultivate a joyful heart:

—Prepare in advance. Take time to read and reflect upon the upcoming readings ahead of time. Spend some time alone and with your family reading the Scriptures together and making a note of any important points that come to mind.

One beautiful practice is to pray lectio divina, which is an ancient way of reading Scripture that moves the person from reading and studying the word to meditating upon it and contemplating God in light of it so we may truly embody his word in our daily lives.

—Read the word of God every day. Do you want to know and love Christ better? Open the Scriptures regularly! St. Jerome famously said that “ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.” In sacred Scripture, we constantly find nourishment and strength. The word is welcomed, not as a human’s word but the word of God.

It is in the Scriptures that the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet us, his children, and speaks to us. His word is freely available to us, not just at Mass but every day if we would take the time to open it.

—Live the word by responding with a thankful heart. The Scriptures are the voice of God the Father who loves us deeply and unconditionally. When we hear the phrase, “The word of the Lord,” we should not just think of “words” or text, but the Word, God the Son, Jesus Christ, is the Word of God. The Gospel of John begins with this point, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God, and the Word was God” (Jn 1:1). Intimacy with God’s word is intimate with Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord is intended for each one of us and is God’s gift to us. It is a fountain of joy and nourishment that gives us the strength to arise for each day.

The next time you hear “The word of the Lord” proclaimed, respond with renewed confidence and faith as you say, “Thanks be to God!”

(Julianne Stanz is director of discipleship and leadership development for the Diocese of Green Bay, Wis., and a consultant to the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis. Originally from Ireland, she lives in Wisconsin with her three children.)

A cantor leads the congregation in song. The liturgy section on the U.S. bishops’ website explains that “at least two readings, one always from the Gospels, [three on Sundays and solemnities] make up the Liturgy of the Word. In addition, a psalm or canticle is sung.” (Photo/Henry Phelan Macker)
Spiritual direction: ‘Who are you, Lord and who am I?’

A parish presentation on the facts about another religion

A “Apostles’ Build” by Habitat for Humanity or an “Interfaith Build” by the same.

A “Family Promise” housing week by local churches, or together with a mosque, temple or synagogue.

A local clergy association that not only groups, but also provides counseling, chaplaincy, ministries, peace rallies, Lenten soup and bread gatherings, and prayer services. A community advocacy group that has strong links to a Christian clergy group or interfaith clergy group.

An interchurch center that now houses not only church leaders but also interfaith agencies.

An interreligious group of leaders discerning how to raise in mosque, temple and church congregations a greater awareness and a deeper advocacy and building for the common good. At the same time, having one’s own space is part of the human condition wrought and redeemed by God. But so is the call to welcome others.

Having one’s own space is part of the human condition wrought and redeemed by God.

If these questions of St. Francis excite me, it is possible that I am ready to explore these questions with openness. The question, “Who am I?” is not just for me to ask myself, but also for me to ask God. What are such experiences offered within our archdiocesan boundaries that help to unify the strident divisions of faith and life? A prayer service for Christian and a parish meal for victims of religious hatred and intolerance. A pamphlet describing the facts on another religion.

I thought I was going to have a nervous breakdown. My first year in the major was going to blow a hole in my ministry. But I was so busy learning the ropes and getting to know my fellow students and our archdiocesan boundaries that help to do that. A prayer service for Christian and a parish meal for victims of religious hatred and intolerance. A pamphlet describing the facts on another religion.

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The Sunday Readings

Sunday, January 27, 2019

• Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
• 1 Corinthians 12:12-30
• Luke 1:14-4, 14-21

The Book of Nehemiah furnishes the first reading for Mass this weekend. At one time in the Hebrew editions of the Bible, this book and the Book of Ezra formed one volume. In time, they were separated and so they remain today. Although some Old Testament books tell the history of the people of Israel, all are chiefly concerned with inspiring God’s people to be faithful and eager in their religious practice. In this reading, Ezra, who was a priest, called together men, women, and children old enough to comprehend precisely this message. He admonished the gathering to listen carefully to the Scriptures. After hearing the reading he proclaimed, the people in this audience affirmed their faith. Ezra continued by interpreting what he had read.

Finally, Ezra and Nehemiah called the people to rejoicing. God had spoken to them. God was guiding them. This was something to celebrate.

For the next reading, the liturgy presents St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians. The Christian community in Corinth especially challenged Paul. Corinth was an important commercial center in the Roman Empire. Moreover, it was a very large city. Troubling for Paul was not that Corinth was large and rich, but that its size and wealth produced an atmosphere where vice and greed reigned supreme. Indeed, throughout the Mediterranean world in which license and exploitation were commonplace, Corinthians had the reputation of being exceedingly licentious. The evils in this atmosphere were contagious, enticing many Corinthians.

In addition, Corinthian Christians vied with each other within the Church. They quarreled with each other, fought against each other. They gossiped about each other. They toyed with pagan practices and customs. Paul constantly and energetically called the Corinthian Christians away from the temptations the pagan environment pressed upon them. In particular, he scorned the competitiveness among the Corinthians.

In this reading, Paul insists that all the baptized are in the Body of Christ. However, the Body has many members. Each has a vocation. Finally, St. Luke’s Gospel supplies the last reading. Midway in this reading, Luke directly addresses a person named Theophilus, using the honorific title “most excellent” (Lk 1:3). Luke’s Gospel seemingly was written for one person.

Scholars debate if this person had the name of Theophilus, or was it the Gospel’s title, since “Theophilus” in Greek means “friend of God.” In any case, the person apparently enjoyed some prestige, hence the use of the words “most excellent.”

In this reading, Jesus appears in the synagogue of Nazareth to explain the mission of salvation. Salvation unfolding in Jesus, was the gift of God’s love, the final chapter in the long record of the merciful deeds of God among his people.

Reflection
The Church has celebrated Christmas, the feast of the birth of Jesus, as well as the feasts of the Epiphany of the Lord and of the Baptism of the Lord. In the lessons of these great liturgical events, the Church has introduced us to the historical Jesus. He is the Son of Mary, so Jesus was a human. He is also the Son of God. He is the Redeemer.

Now the Church begins to tell us about salvation and how we personally should respond to this gift of God. First Corinthians sets the stage. If we have accepted Christ into our hearts, we belong to God. Each of us has a personal vocation, although we may consider this term too lofty or too suggestive of a vocation in a particular life. Regardless of occupation or circumstance, our vocation is to follow and to reflect Christ.

God provides for us in this effort. He assists and strengthens us. He never forsakes us, but we are free. We must decide to be loyal.

My Journey to God

Hospice

By Cindy Leppert

I sit here beside your bed as you turn your face toward the last leg of your journey, eyes on the light at the end of the tunnel.

Letting go, now…

We spent most of our lives together, not always “as one,” but mostly. Held hands.

Argued.

Made up.

Made a home.

Made children.

And talked about the best we could without directions.

They’re fine.

When I noticed that you were needy, I gave you everything I could think of; when you noticed I was needy, you said, “Come here and sit beside me.”

(Cindy Leppert is a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis.)

and patted your hand on the sofa. Eventually, words became superfluous. Mostly. We circled each other in our little world but never dreaming of the day when one would leave. We, well, knew that, but it wasn’t reality then. Now, at the end of it, we’ve finished it, the best we could. Without directions. Swoor our love. Apologized. Cried.

We didn’t know the blessing in being so exhausted after months of illness and caregiving that it gets easier to let go and let God.

Daily Readings

Monday, January 28

St. Thomas Aquinas, priest and doctor of the Church

Hebrews 9:11-15, 24-28

Psalm 89:1-6

Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday, January 29

Hebrews 10:1-10

Psalm 40:2-4, 7-8, 10-11

Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday, January 30

Hebrews 10:11-18

Psalm 110:1-4

Mark 4:1-20

Thursday, January 31

St. John Bosco, priest

Hebrews 10:19-25

Psalm 24:1-4b, 5-6

Mark 4:21-25

Friday, February 1

Hebrews 10:32-39

Psalm 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40

Mark 4:26-34

Saturday, February 2

The Presentation of the Lord

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm 24

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40

or Luke 2:22-32

Sunday, February 3

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

Psalm 71:6-15, 17

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 or 1 Corinthians 13:4-13


Question Corner/ Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Bishops’ conferences can set holy days of obligation for their community.

Q

Where I live, the Solenmity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God (Dec. 8) is a holy day of obligation. I have sisters, though, who live in Charlotte, N.C., and in Los Angeles, and Jan. I is not a holy day of obligation in either place. Why would it not be the same everywhere?

A

It seems this is such a serious matter (a mortal sin if missed) that it should not be left up to local bishops to decide. Certainly, I would think, it ought to be the same in all parts of the U.S., if not everywhere in the world. (Ohio)

Relics of the saints should be treated with the same respect that canon 1171 awards to other blessed or sacred objects: They should be treated reverently, and the basic rule for the disposition has been to burn or to bury them. The website of the Diocese of Superior, Wis., clarifies that “it is not a sin to throw away blessed items, but I do think that one should dispose of them in this way.”

I agree with you that an organization should not mail out relics unsolicited, to do so risks casual or irreverent treatment, and it doesn’t seem fair to burden the recipient with the obligation to dispose of them properly.

Questions may be sent to Fr. Kenneth Doyle at ukfdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbus Circle Dr, Albany, New York 12203.

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

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

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

Send material for consideration to “My Journey to God.”

The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367 or e-mail to shierefer@archindy.org.

The Sunday Readings

By Cindy Leppert
Rest in peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in The Criterion. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives associated with his native country, which was fun to wear, and it was something he was proud to represent at 2019 World Youth Day, an experience and the young-at-heart—formed a conga if it unofficially began on Jan. 21 on the buildings where Catholics visiting the canal when the large group of locals wave at buses stopped to shake hands, to sing, to have even though there was no official plan, González said there was much to learn such as Jose González, a Protestant who against the observatory deck, they also against the observatory deck, they also chanted or cheered to honor the Catholic Church. Pope Francis or Mary. “It’s a time to feel good about everything,” said Soto, attending his second World Youth Day, an experience he helps to meet an international cast of thousands of young Catholics and find meaning in life and in his faith. As his native country struggles with secularism, he said, “it’s up to us to come up with solutions and help others not slip away from their lives of faith.”

Part of what World Youth Day provides, he said, is a kinship and strength in spiritual beliefs, even if people come from different parts of the world. For 16-year-old Charlie Martin of Australia, the event presents the opportunity to come together in person with a physical reality of a Catholic Church that was alive in the Americas centuries before his native country became an independent nation in 1901, one told by many historians as the foundation of Catholicism in Vietnamese society.

“Que viva la virgen!” some of the Mexican pilgrims shouted, cheering on the Virgin Mary. “Que viva el papal!” they shouted, cheering on the pope against the observatory deck, they also began shouting into the warm winds near the canal: “Extra ja el jovendat del papal!” or “This is the pope’s youth.” Their joy made seminarian Heny Vu, 30, of Xuan Loc, Vietnam, smile. “I want to experience this enthusiasm,” he said, “and see the hope of the Catholic Church.”

Even those who weren’t Catholic, such as Jose Gonzalez, a Protestant who was visiting the canal with his Catholic wife, Vu Lopez, from Hoi An, Vietnam, were enjoying the moment. Gonzalez said there was much to learn from the experience of faith World Youth Day brings. In fact, it was Gonzalez who encouraged Lopez to attend World Youth Day with him, they just happened to be visiting the canal when the large group of pilgrims arrived.

“We’d heard good things about [World Youth Day],” from one of his brothers, Gonzalez said, adding that he was looking for something he and his wife could benefit from spiritually. People with different beliefs need not be at odds with one another, he said, or be afraid to learn from what the other might be able to teach because the goal is the same: unity and the need to make the world better.

The blessing of St. Anthony

Cardinal Angelo Comastri greets a member of the Carabinieri, the Italian military police, during the traditional blessing of farms and Italian military horses outside St. Peter’s Square on the Vatican on Jan. 17. The blessing takes place every year on the feast of St. Anthony of Egypt, known as a protector of animals. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)
Guy Neil Ramsey had no idea his life was about to change forever that evening in 1949 as he entered the Knights of Columbus hall in Tell City, Indiana.

He was back home again in southern Indiana after serving his country during and following World War II—first as a paratrooper in the Army’s 11th Airborne Division, and later as part of Gen. Douglas MacArthur’s following World War II—first as a paratrooper in the Army’s 11th Airborne Division, and later as part of Gen. Douglas MacArthur’s

Catholic. But he had Catholic buddies, and they convinced him to accompany them to a dance on this particular evening.

And that’s where he met LaVerne Room.

“I knew right away that I wanted to marry her,” recalled the Perry County native. He was taken not only with her beauty, but her character. In the next two years of courtship, he observed LaVerne’s fervent Catholicism and how she and the Church have shaped her character. In the next two years of courtship, he observed LaVerne’s fervent Catholicism and how she and the Church have shaped her character.

“I married a super-Catholic,” Ramsey says with a mixture of humor and ardent admiration. “She is Catholic through and through. The Church has really made my life what it is today.”

LaVerne and Guy Neil Ramsey

By Victoria Arthur

Special to The Criterion

Couples’ generosity results in endowment for Tell City parish

By all accounts, the Ramseys’ life together has been characterized by an abundance of blessings, from the family they raised to the hugely successful real estate development company they built. And in the 67 years of marriage, they have shared their blessings freely and joyfully—especially with the Church, which Guy Neil Ramsey was received into two years after they were wed.

The latest example of their generosity is a $1 million legacy endowment gift to the archdiocesan Catholic Community Foundation (CCF) for St. Paul Parish in Tell City, their spiritual home throughout their married life.

“I’ve been blessed in my business, I’ve been blessed with my kids, I’ve been blessed with my wife—I’ve been blessed with my life,” Ramsey said. “We are very, very happy to give this gift to St. Paul. Meeting my wife and converting to the Catholic Church are the best things that ever happened to me.”

Giving back from God’s blessings

As the Ramseys were embarking on married life in the early 1950s, St. Paul Parish was also undergoing growth and change. The parish community was not far from the banks of the Ohio River being its center. The Church building was dedicated in 1954.

St. Paul School was also expanding, and all six of the Ramseys’ children would graduate from there. Guy Neil Ramsey’s business was growing rapidly as well. What began with the construction of one house as a favor for a friend evolved into Ramsey Development Corporation, a builder of businesses, hospitals and assisted living facilities in nearly all Indiana counties.

Meanwhile, LaVerne Ramsey took an active role in her life of their parish.

She has been a member of the choir for 50 years. She was an [extraordinary minister of holy communion], and she was always there for anything and everything the parish needed. She was also the motivation for everything our family did for the parish.

For his part, the Catholic convert also began serving the Church with great enthusiasm—both at the parish and archdiocesan levels. During his time on the CCF board in the early 1990s, Ramsey developed a friendship with and admiration for their Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein.

“He worked so hard,” Ramsey recalled. “The guy never let up—it was unbelievable.”

The Ramseys have shared their blessings freely and joyfully—especially with the Church, which Guy Neil Ramsey was received into two years after they were wed.

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Executive Director, Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC)

The Executive Director is the chief administrative officer of the ICC and as a registered lobbyist serves as spokesperson for the Roman Catholic Bishops of the state. The Executive Director also serves as the liaison to United States Catholic Conference, members of Federal and State Legislatures, Executive and Administrative offices and statewide organizations. Responsibilities include representing the Bishops and the Diocese of Evansville in development of public policy and the political and democratic processes.

Candidates must be a practicing Roman Catholic with an in-depth knowledge of the faith and Catholic social teachings. Excellent oral and written communications skills along with demonstrated analytical and organizational ability are required. An advanced degree (or equivalent experience) in one or more of the related fields is preferred: theology, political or social sciences, business administration, public relations. Previous employment or volunteer experience in the Catholic Church, ideally involving administration, is preferred. The preferred starting date for the position is July 1, 2019.

Please e-mail cover letter, resume, and list of references by February 1, 2019 to:

Ed Isakson
Director, Human Resources • Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1300 N. Meridian St. • Indianapolis, IN 46202
E-mail: eisakson@archindy.org

The expertise/competencies necessary for this position would include:

- Excellent communication and organization skills
- Curriculum
- Finance & Budget
- Conflict resolution strategies
- Knowledge of Archdiocesan policies and procedures
- A valid Kentucky Teacher’s Certificate (Rank II or I) and Kentucky Principal’s State of Eligibility (Rank II or I).

Please submit your resume electronically to: Father Bill Burks at bburks@stniuparish.com no later than Monday, February 11, 2019.

St. Paul Parish in Tell City has served the southern Indiana community since 1859. Longtime parishioners LaVerne and Guy Neil Ramsey recently established a $1 million endowment fund for the parish through the archdiocese’s Catholic Community Foundation. (Submitted photo)
After initial outrage, claims of racism, clearer details of exchange emerge

WASHINGTON (CNS)—An exchange between Catholic high school students and a Native American tribal leader in Washington on Jan. 18 was vilified on social media the following day, but the immediate accusations that the students showed racist behavior have been stepped back as more details of the entire situation have emerged.

Many say the incident still needs to be investigated or discussed, and others have pointed out that what happened can still provide a teaching moment not just about racism but also about news coverage and social media’s rapid response.

The student most prominent in the footage, junior Nick Sandmann of Covington High School in Covington, Ky., issued a statement on Jan. 20 saying he has “received physical and death threats via social media, as well as hateful insults” based on reaction across social media. He also said he would cooperate in any investigation Church leaders plan to undertake.

The group’s chaperones, also criticized on social media, said later the students “were targeted from the get-go.”

On Jan. 18, tens of thousands gathered in Washington for the annual March for Life, a march along Constitution Avenue in Washington for the March for Life—two hours of adoration, music and confession—in St. John the Evangelist Church and a flag ceremony at the Supreme Court to mark the court’s decision that legalized abortion in the United States. More coverage of local events, including the Jan. 22 Respect Life Mass and March for Life will be included in next week’s issue. (Photo by Natalie Hanker.)

Vigil for Life

With the Blessed Sacrament present in a monstrance on the altar, acclaimed Catholic singer and songwriter Audrey Assad leads more than 500 participants in a song of worship during the Vigil for Life—two hours of adoration, music and confession—in St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis on Jan. 19. The eve of the Indiana March for Life in Indianapolis as a solemn observance of the Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions that legalized abortion in the United States. (Photo by Natalie Hanker.)

Students from Covington Catholic High School in Park Hills, Ky., stand in front of Native American activist Mr. Anthony “Tony” Brown outside the Lincoln Memorial in Washington on Jan. 18 near the Lincoln Memorial, they met up waiting for their buses to pick them up the following day, but the immediate accusations that the students showed racist behavior were stepped back as more details of the entire situation emerged. (AP photo/John Minchillo)

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