Tragedy inspires a community to join forces to take care of ‘the least of them’

By John Shaughnessy

A tragedy can haunt us, making us wonder how someone can die like that in today’s world. A tragedy can also motivate us, driving us to do everything we can so that it never happens again.

Father Richard Eldred had both those reactions when a homeless man was found dead in an alley in the southern Indiana community of Bedford after a frigid night.

“My initial reaction was we have to do something,” recalls Father Eldred, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford. “With faith in God, we started to put things together as a community to make sure this didn’t happen again.”

It’s the beginning of a story of how the local churches and the city administration of Bedford have joined together to create a warm and welcoming center for homeless men to escape the cold and the elements from November through April — a natural complement to Becky’s Place, the homeless shelter for women and children that was already established in Bedford by Catholic Charities in the archdiocese.

“It’s also the story of how that ecumenical effort connects the different faith communities in an inspiring way, seven years after the death of the homeless man in an alley.

‘We’re going to treat each other as Christians should’

Shortly after learning of the man’s death, Father Eldred was determined to make sure this didn’t happen again, according to Espada.

A life of being present to others

Celebrating the life and ministry of Father Gerald Kirkhoff, page 3.
No end in sight to the horror: Australian bishops respond to fires

CANNBERIA, Australia (CNS)—Saying that “there is no end in sight to the horror which continues,” Archbishop Mark B. Coleridge, president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, said the bishops have implemented a national response to months of wildfires. “The bishops have set up a national network, connecting people affected by the fires with ‘people who can help with tasks such as preparing meals, clearing properties, rebuilding communities, as well as providing pastoral and counseling support,’” they said. Archbishop Coleridge said people who do not want to wait to donate to their parish collections can donate to the St. Vincent de Paul, known in Australia as Vinnies. “We have all seen the apocalyptic images, even if we are not in the areas most affected,” the archbishop said. “Lives have been lost, homes and towns have been destroyed, smoke has shrouded large swathes of our country.”

“A garments evacuation order was mandatory in all the areas most affected,” the archbishop said. “All non-essential personnel were advised to leave the area immediately.”

The efforts of firefighters have been heroic. The resilience of the communities affected has been extraordinary.”

At least 24 people have died in the fires, which began in August and now are in four states. CNN reported on Jan. 7 that more than 2,000 homes in the state of New South Wales alone have been destroyed. Archbishop Coleridge said the bishops were aware of “the huge amount being done” by governments and first responders and noted that local faith communities also were responding. This has been Australia at its best, and we all stand with those who have been most stricken and with those who are putting their lives on the line to fight the fires,” he said.

He also renewed his call for “persistent prayer for those stricken by drought and fire, for those who have lost their lives in the fires and their families, for rain to quench the parched land and extinguish the fires, and for urgent action to care for our common home in order to prevent such calamities in the future.”

“A genuinely Catholic response to a crisis of this magnitude must draw strength from prayer, which inspires concrete and compassionate action,” he said.

He said experts recognized that it would be a long-term process to help people and whole towns rebuild.

No end in sight to the horror: Australian bishops respond to fires

Vigil for Life, March for Life set for Jan. 21-22 in Indianapolis

The annual Vigil for Life and Indiana March for Life will take place on Jan. 21 and 22 in Indianapolis. The events are held in solemn observance of the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion in the United States. Both events draw attention to the inherent dignity and respect for the lives of all unborn children. The Vigil for Life will take place from 7-9 p.m. on Jan. 21 at St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., in Indianapolis.

This year’s evening of prayer, worship and reflection will feature Christian singer and songwriter Sarah Kroger. There will be post-abortive healing testimonies from local Project Rachel Ministry volunteers as well.

The vigil will also include eucharistic adoration, a eucharistic procession and the opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation.

The event, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, the Diocese of Lafayette and Right to Life of Indianapolis, is free, although financial donations will be accepted and split between the archdiocesan Office of Human Life and Dignity and the Lafayette Diocese’s Office for Family Life.

Parking will be available at two adjacent garages—Plaza Park Garage on Capitol Avenue, or the World Wonder's Garage (mall parking) on Illinois Street. Registration is not required, although for planning purposes it is requested. To register, go to bit.ly/indymarch.

The third annual Indiana March for Life will take place the next day, on Jan. 22.

Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson of Indianapolis is scheduled to be the principal celebrant, with Lafayette Bishop Timothy L. Doherty concelebrating. At the same time, a memorial for the unborn, sponsored by Right to Life of Indianapolis, will take place in the 500 Ballroom at the Indiana Convention Center, 100 S. Capitol Ave., across from St. John Church.

After the liturgy, the annual March for Life will begin on Georgia Street between the church and convention center. It will proceed from there to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument—the downtown Circle—then on to the Indiana Statehouse at 200 W. Washington St. A rally with speakers will take place on the south steps of the Statehouse at 12:45 p.m.

All are invited to show their support for the dignity of the unborn by taking part in both the vigil and the march.

Vigil for Life, March for Life set for Jan. 21-22 in Indianapolis

Catholic Center

January 16 – 10 a.m.
Leadership Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center

January 18 – 5 p.m.
Mass and blessing of St. Theodora Guérin Shrine at American Martyrs Church, Stoughton

January 19 – 9:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer and Mass at Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary, Indianapolis

January 19 – 12:45 p.m.
Ribbon-cutting ceremony for official opening of new spaces connecting church and gym and blessing crucifixes that will be hung in new rooms, St. Jude Church, Indianapolis.

Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

January 15 – 10 a.m.
Department heads meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center

January 16 – 10 a.m.
Leadership Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center

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January 19 – 6 p.m.
Christian Unity Prayer Service at Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ, Indianapolis

January 21 – 10:30 a.m.
Priest Personnel Board meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center

January 21 – 10:30 a.m.
Respect Life Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church, Indianapolis

January 22 – 12:15 p.m.
March for Life, Indianapolis

January 23 – 10 a.m.
Leadership Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center

January 23 – 3 p.m.
Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Commission meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center (Schedule subject to change.)

No end in sight to the horror: Australian bishops respond to fires

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PRAY FOR AUSTRALIA: Prayer for Australia in the closing lines of the letter written by Archbishop Mark B. Coleridge, president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, after the country experienced devastating bushfires in 2019.
Father Gerald Kirkhoff loved being present to parishioners, brother priests

By Sean Gallagher

Father Gerald Kirkhoff, archdiocesan director of advocacy for priests and of the archdiocesan mission office, died on Dec. 30 at the St. Paul Hermitage in Beech Grove, Ind. He was 76.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Jan. 6 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

Archbishop Charles J. Thompson was the principal celebrant of the Mass. Father Paul Shikany, pastor of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis, was the homilist.

Buried followed in the priests’ circle at Calvary Cemetery in Indianapolis.

About seven months before he died, Father Kirkhoff celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination. In aCriterion article about the anniversary, he spoke about his approach to priestly life and ministry.

“My vision of the priesthood is walking with people,” Father Kirkhoff said.

“A priest walks with people and tries to aid their faith. I try to accompany people. I try to make the Church a little more human.”

Some of the people he walked with are now trying to follow in the footsteps of the beloved “Father Jerry,” as he was known in ministering to archdiocesan Catholics.

A lifelong member of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis, Deacon Richard Wagner was impressed by Father Kirkhoff’s personal approach to ministry. It led in part to his discernment of a vocation.

“He was very much a hands-on, with-the-people kind of a pastor,” said Deacon Wagner, who proclaimed the Gospel at Father Kirkhoff’s funeral. That was really the type of deacon I wanted to be.”

Father Kirkhoff was Father Eric Augenstein’s parish pastor from the time he was in second grade at St. Jude School in Indianapolis until his second year in seminary.

Being present with the people of God is what we are called to be as pastors,” said Father Augenstein, pastor of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis and archdiocesan director of seminarians.

“So, certainly I think of the way Father Jerry was present to people in my own ministry today in the way I try to be present to them in all the different moments of their lives.”

Father Eric Johnson’s first pastoral assignment in 2002 as a newly ordained priest was as associate pastor of St. Pius X Parish, where Father Kirkhoff served as pastor.

“Jerry had a particular concern for those who were mourning,” said Father Johnson, archdiocesan vicar for clergy. “He was very present to people at the time of death and loss. He always seemed to be going to funerals—for a variety of people. He was sensitive to those who were suffering with mourning and loss.”

During his five years of serving as an associate pastor of St. Pius X, Father Robert Haussladen learned from Father Kirkhoff’s attitude toward the pressures of parish ministry.

“He didn’t fret over things too much,” said Father Haussladen, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Indianapolis. “Susanna Parroquia in Plainfield. “He … didn’t get overly concerned about the day-to-day tasks or any of the larger things. He was laid back and handled them as they came.”

Throughout his priestly life and ministry, Father Kirkhoff also showed a great love of and concern for his brother priests. From 2006 until the time of his death, he served as vicar for advocacy for priests, showing special concern for retired priests and priests who were struggling with various problems.

“As christians, we are called to introduce others to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

As your gift to the United Catholic Appeal allows us to be there for those in need.

The Criterion Friday, January 10, 2020 Page 3

Pope Francis prays for dialogue as tensions mount between U.S., Iran

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis led pilgrims in prayers for peace as tensions between the United States and Iran escalated following the assassination of a top Iranian general.

Several days after Ayatollah Ali Hosseini Khameini, Iran’s supreme leader, warned of “harsh retaliation” for the Jan. 3 U.S. drone attack that killed General Qassem Soleimani, the pope said that “a terrible air of tension is felt in many parts of the world.”

“War only brings death and destruction. I call on all parties to keep alive the flame of dialogue and self-control and avoid the shadow of enmity,” the pope said after praying the Angelus prayer with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square on Jan. 5.

He then led the pilgrims in a moment of silent prayer so “that the Lord may give us the grace” of peace.

The drone strike, which killed Soleimani and six other people, including an Iraqi militia commander, caused a sharp escalation in already tense relations after President Donald J. Trump pulled out of nuclear deal with Iran last year. t
A Church and a world for all

Each year, for nearly half a century, the U.S. Catholic bishops have designated the first full week in January as National Migration Week. As the bishops state, this “is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking.”

The theme for National Migration Week 2020 is “Promoting a Church and a World for All.” The bishops want us to draw attention to the fact that “each of our families has a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another.”

It’s unfortunate that immigration has become a divisive situation in the United States. Whereas, throughout our history, we were a welcoming country, including immigrants, refugees, and victims and survivors of human trafficking.

Yes, every country has the right to control its borders. In fact, we must take every step necessary to protect our state and local taxes. Undocumented immigrants pay an estimated $11.6 billion every year in state and local taxes.

Immigration laws badly need reforming because now they keep out those whom we badly need. And, yes, our economy badly needs more immigrants. Companies of all types are having trouble getting enough employees. Some immigrants come to work to support their families, and are unable to get a work visa because they believe that immigrants are taking advantage of welfare laws. But are unable to get a work visa because they believe that immigrants are taking advantage of welfare laws.

The bishops tell us to do this: “The Bible never ceases to insist that love you, you don’t do anything to hurt them.”

In a similar way, God calls us to keep our focus on what’s essential and what’s important in life.

Be Our Guest/Sr. Constance Veit, L.S.P.

Rediscovering our first love

When writing, I generally try to reach as broad an audience as possible but, as we begin this new year, I’d like to address myself to those who feel they are growing old. Aren’t we all growing old? You might wonder: Well, yes and no.

Although Pope Francis expresses his esteem and appreciation for the elderly, he also speaks of “growing old” as something to avoid at all costs. He refers to a certain kind of aging: “growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure,” of being “encased in the past,” and letting one’s horizons shrink.

In his book on aging, Sharing the Wisdom of Time, the pope laments older people who have become cynical. “They become unwilling to share their experience,” he writes. “They look down on young people. They are always complaining. They must shut their mouths. They can only look back fruitlessly on earlier times.”

At the same time, Pope Francis affirms the biblical admonition “to accept the authority of those who are older” (1 Peter 5:5). “The Bible never ceases to insist that profound respect be shown to the elderly, since they have a wealth of experience,” he writes. “In the silence of their hearts, they have a store of experiences that can teach us not to make mistakes or be taken in by false promises.”

“Jesus tells us that the wise are able to bring forth from their store things both new and old [cf. Mt. 9:16].” Pope Francis continues. “He has already come to us with faithfulness and to know how to bring forth from one’s store both old and new.

Think this wisdom and flexibility are crucial today if we hope to reverse the vocational crisis and the tide of young people leaving the Church.

Nun Congregate Mary Johnson, a sociologist, writes, “Staying mentally flexible and open to new perspectives across any cultural boundary—whether of ethnicity, class or generation—is hard work. As a result, many young people often return to the sources of our Catholic faith.”

When Pope Francis began his ministry as pope, God broadened his horizons and granted him a renewed youthfulness. “The older we get, the more we tend to choose our friends, our talents, and the hope and abundance of gifts—our life, our family, our friends, our talents, and the hope and abundance of gifts—our life, our family, our friends, and the hope and abundance of gifts—our life, our family, our friends.”

Although Pope Francis continues, “We hope will live in our children’s hearts forever. Along with our love, they are the greatest gifts we can give our children.

Still, I never expected the immensity of that inheritance would get reinforced by a college basketball coach during the most prestigious weekend of the season.

It happened years ago when my two sons were boys just learning the game of basketball. Taking them to a youth clinic during a Final Four weekend of the men’s NCAA basketball tournament, I hoped my sons would get a few tips to improve their skills and their knowledge of the game from college coaches who were chosen to speak to the 1,600 young people.

Instead, one coach, Peter Roby, shared some of the lure about love and life that I wished my sons—and I—would never forget. Here is what Roby said:

“You have what you long to long for. Every day of our life, we wear a uniform. That uniform is the name of your family that you carry with you. It’s written across your chest whether you can see it or not. So every day of my life, I try to represent my family the best way I possibly can. I have two children, and the example I try to set for them is that when you have people that love you, you don’t do anything to hurt them.”

Roby passed away for a moment. Then he added, “Tell your mom and dad and those that love you that you love them. Don’t hate. When I talk to my mom and dad or on the phone, the last thing I say before I hang up is, ‘I love you.’ Nobody is going to tell me that is not cool. Telling people that care about you that you love them is the easiest thing you can do in your life.”

I don’t remember who won the national championship that year—or even any of the teams that played in that Final Four. But the lessons from Roby have endured in my memory, serving as reminders of what is important.

In a similar way, God calls us to keep our focus on what’s essential and what’s important in life. As our Father, he blesses us with an abundance of gifts—our life, our family, our friends, our talents, and the hope and promise of each day. Most of all, he offers us the richest inheritance—eternal life with God.

Has he even given us the two-step guide to receiving this inheritance: Love God, love your neighbor?

What is the inheritance you hope to leave?

Share an inheritance that will last.

This reflection is an excerpt from John Shaughnessy’s latest book, Something Wondrous Happened: Unlikely encounters and unexpected graces in search of a friendship with God. It is available on www.amazon.com or contact Shaughnessy at jshaughnessy@arch媳.org.

Reflection/John Shaughnessy

Coach's advice helps parents to share a lasting gift with their children
“After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and a voice from heaven said: ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased’” (Mt 3:17).

If you listen carefully during this Sunday’s celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, you’ll hear a subtle—but very powerful—interpretation of what happened when Jesus was baptized by John in the River Jordan. What the Gospel reading says is: “And a voice came from the heavens, saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased’” (Mt 3:17).

But this Sunday’s entrance antiphon and the Alleluia verse before the Gospel both say that the voice of the Father thundered: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Mt 3:17). In a booming voice, we are told, as the Holy Spirit descended like a dove, the Father proclaimed his immense pride in Jesus, his only Son.

This remarkable scene, the baptism of the Lord, is a manifestation of the Holy Trinity at work in our world. God appears as the thunderous voice of the Father, as the humble, beloved Son who did not need to be baptized but who freely chose to do so as a sign of his transparency and trust in the Father (but powerful) Spirit who hovered over Jesus in the form of a dove to support and encourage him. What a graced moment! Truly God is with us here in the fullness of his divinity and in his closeness to us, his people.

In the second reading for this Sunday (Acts 10:34-38), St. Peter tells us that “God’s love is intended for everyone. “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts righteously is acceptable to him” (Acts 10:34-35). We dare not impose limits on God’s mercy or act as if we can predict who will be rewarded on the last day. Salvation is not limited to a few elite believers. It is open to all provided that they fear God and act justly.

Jesus was baptized with water by John the Baptist, but St. Peter tells us that “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power” (Acts 10:38). Jesus received his power to heal the sick, comfort the afflicted, forgive sins and redeem us from the finality of death, not from any human power but from his Father and the Holy Spirit. The mystery of the triune God revealed in the Incarnation and baptism of Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan. Following this graced moment, St. Peter says, Jesus “went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him” (Acts 10:38).

As we listen in Sunday’s first reading, all this was to fulfill what the prophet Isaiah foretold long before this dramatic scene in the Jordan River: “Thus says the Lord. Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I am pleased, upon whom I put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and a smoking coal he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the Earth, the coastlands will wait for his teaching” (Is 42:1-4).

The Father’s voice may have been thunderous, but the Son will not cry out. Shout or make his voice heard in the street. He will quietly do whatever is necessary to serve as “a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the prison those who sit in darkness” (Is 42:6-7).

Anointed by the Holy Spirit and empowered by the Father’s love and blessing, Jesus begins his ministry among us as a man of peace determined to establish justice for all nations and people everywhere.

As we begin a new calendar year and next week begin again what the Church calls “ordinary time,” it’s good to be reminded of Jesus’ mission. His baptism by John was an inaugural event, the beginning of his public ministry, but it wasn’t something he did all by himself. God was with him (in him) in the fullness of the Holy Trinity. Because of this unique manifestation of Jesus’ divinity and his closeness to us (his humanity), we can be confident that by following him patiently we will one day share in his justice and peace.

Let’s pray for the grace to listen attentively to God’s “thunderous voice” this week so we can hear the Holy Spirit to help us follow Jesus as he leads us on the way of life. †

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**Jesus recibe la unción del Espíritu Santo y el empoderamiento del amor de Dios**

“Una vez bautizado, Jesús salió en seguida del agua. En ese momento se abrieron los cielos y Jesús vio que el Espíritu Santo descendía sobre él como una paloma y se posaba sobre él. Y una voz, proveniente del cielo, decía:—Este es mi Hijo amado en el que pongo mi bendición” (Hechos 10:34).

Si presta atención durante la celebración del bautismo del Señor este domingo, escuchará una interpretación muy sutil pero impactante de lo que sucedió cuando Juan bautizó a Jesús en el río Jordán. La lectura del Evangelio dice: “Y una voz, proveniente del cielo, decía:— Este es mi Hijo amado en quien me complazco” (Mt 3:17).

Pero la antífona de la entrada de este domingo y el verso del aleluya del Evangelio dicen que la voz del Padre bramó: “Este es mi Hijo amado en quien me complazco” (Mt 3:17).

La voz del Padre proclamó a Jesús como el Hijo amado con el que Dios se complacía. Esto es lo que tiene que hacer cada bautizado para que la voz del Padre pronunciada al momento del bautismo se convierta en realidad en la vida diaria del discípulo de María.

En la segunda lectura de este domingo (Hechos 10:34-38), san Pedro nos dice que el amor de Dios es para todos. “Ahora comprendo verdaderamente que para Dios no existen favoritismos. Toda persona, sea de la nación que sea, si es fiel a Dios y se pone rectamente, goza de su estima” (Hechos 10:34-35).

No nos atrevemos a imponer límites a la misericordia de Dios ni a comportarnos como si fuéramos capaces de predecir quiénes serán recompensados en el día final. La salvación no se limita a unos pocos creyentes elitistas sino que está abierta a todos, siempre que tengan temor de Dios y obren de manera justa.

Juan el Bautista bautizó a Jesús en el río Jordán, pero Dios nos dice que “Dios ungido a Jesús de Nazaret con el Espíritu Santo y lo llenó de poder” (Hechos 10:38). Jesús recibió el poder de sanar a los enfermos, reanimar a los pájaros, sanar los pecados y redimirnos de la rotundidad de la muerte, pero este no lo fue otorgado mediante ningún poder humano sino a través del Padre y del Espíritu Santo. En el signo sacramental del bautismo de Jesús en el Jordán se revele el misterio trinitario de Dios. La manifestación de la obra de la Trinidad en nuestro mundo. Dios se presenta como la voz de la Trinidad en nuestro mundo. Dios se presenta como la voz de la Trinidad en nuestro mundo.
January 14
Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, “Act justly, Love tenderly, Walk humbly” monthly Taizé prayer service, 7-8 p.m.

January 16
St. Joseph Parish, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. Third Thursday Adoration, interceding for women experiencing crisis pregnancy, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., with Mass at 5:45 p.m.

January 17

January 26
St. Matthew the Apostle, School, 4100 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Open House for 3-5 year olds, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Information to request a packet: 317-253-3997, damock@stmarytellus.org

February 1
Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. “Tea & Talk” In Person, 1-3 p.m., $5 includes refreshments, adoration, and free time for discernment. Information: 812-555-2952, provctr@spsmw.org.

February 7

February 16
St. Mary Parish, 212 Washington St., North Vernon. “Adoption: Let’s Talk It and How to Promote Adoption over Abortion,” sponsored by Jennings-County Pro-Life, viewing of the movie I Lived on Parker Ave., panel discussion, opportunity for questions with adoption agencies, lawyers, mothers who have adopted and mothers who have chosen adoption, 6 p.m. dined served, free. Information: 812-346-3604, jimmycountryprolife@gmail.com

February 20
St. Joseph Parish, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. Third Thursday Adoration, interceding for women experiencing crisis pregnancy, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., with Mass at 5:45 p.m.

February 22
Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Book Sale sponsored by Jennings County Respect Life, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., books not pre-priced, $5 or $10 for walk-ins, clergy and religious free, includes lunch and materials, free parking. Information and registration: www.archindy.org/retreats

February 26

March 4
Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Soli Seniors. Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced. New members welcome. Information: 317-243-0777.

March 7
Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, Foley Room, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. “Arts to Lift your Spirit.” Art and music in the exploring of the arts, 9:30 a.m. first Wednesday of the month or 6:30 p.m. first Thursday of the month. Providence Sister Rosemary Schmitt presenting. $30 membership to group. $55 per session after. Contact Jeanne Frisler, 317-347-9923, to request a brochure. Information and registration: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org or www.spsmw.org/event

March 10
Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, “Act justly, Love tenderly, Walk humbly” monthly Taizé prayer service, 7-8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence. Information: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org

March 22
Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 802 E. 10th St., Ferdinand (Evansville Diocese), Soli Seniors with the Sisters, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Benedict, framing, patio garden, lunch, visit with the sisters, 1-3 p.m. Information: 812-386-4411.

Retreats and Programs

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

January 10
Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 S. Anthony Dr., M. St. Francis. Painting with the Passion. A retreat with Franciscan Father Vince Peterson, 6:30-9 p.m. $40 includes all painting supplies and a Sacred Heart of Jesus, bring your own beverage. Information and registration: www.mountainstfranciscan.org/event-ticket, 812-933-8417.

January 11
Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, Foley Retreat Room, Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Coffee with the Mystics, Providence Sister Jan Craven presenting, 9 a.m.-noon, $10, register by Jan. 10. Registration and information: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org or www.spsmw.org/event

January 16
Providence Hall, Havidick Center, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Memory Café, 2-4 p.m., third Thursday of the month, for those living with dementia, caregivers and friends, Katie Haras presenting, free/prior volunteering. Information: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org or www.spsmw.org/event

January 19
Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center, 8220 W. State Road 48, Bloomington. “The Necessity of Exorcism” Weekend Retreat with the Archbishop of Addis Ababa, Ethiopian Catholic Eparchy of Adigrat, Bishop Vincent Lampert, Fri. 5 p.m. - Sun. 8 a.m. $90 includes lunch and dinner on Saturday, overnight accommodations and transportation for additional cost. Information and registration: www.motheroftheredeemer.org/event. 812-825-4643, ext. 1, motheroftheredeemer@marins.com

February 4, 11, 18 Providence Hall, Larry Parker, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. “Together in Christ” is the theme of a Valentine’s weekend retreat for married couples planned at St. Meinrad on Feb. 14-16

February 5, Feb. 6 Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, Foley Room, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Art to Lift your Spirit, 5:30 p.m. to 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, 2020. Proceeds from the event will be used to enhance it. Registration concludes with lunch on Feb. 14. All net proceeds go to the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., in Indianapolis, at 10 a.m. on Jan. 18. Father Eyasu Debessay from the Ethiopian Catholic Eparchy of Adigrat will be the principal celebrant. A reception with complimentary dinner follows. For additional information, contactSamson Gebray at 317-869-2320 or e-mail akbeeta@yahoo.com.

February 8
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 221 Main St., Oldenburg, IN 47038. First Friday Mass, 5 p.m., Patrick Lampert, Fri. 5 p.m. - Sun. 8 a.m. $90 includes lunch and dinner on Saturday, overnight accommodations and transportation for additional cost. Information and registration: www.motheroftheredeemer.org/event. 812-825-4643, ext. 1, motheroftheredeemer@marins.com

February 17
St. Joseph’s Care, 4901 W. 80th St., Indianapolis. First Friday Mass, 5 p.m., Father Robert Hanker presiding, booklet of Mass readings, including Our Father. Information: 317-829-6000, www.womenscenterem.com

February 22
Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. “Act justly, Love tenderly, Walk humbly” monthly Taizé prayer service, 7-8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence. Information: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org

February 26
Faith is about worshipping God, not oneself, pope says on Epiphany

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Worshipping the Lord as the Three Kings did involves making a journey “from the greatest form of human bondage: slavery to oneself,” Pope Francis said on the feast of the Epiphany.

To worship like the Magi did is “to embrace the Lord and to tell him that nothing is more precious than he is. To offer him incense and to tell him that our union with him can our lives rise up to heaven. To present him with myrrh, balm for the bruised and wounded, and to teach him that we will aid our marginalized and suffering neighbors in whom he himself is present,” the pope said.

Pope Francis celebrated the feast day Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica on Jan. 6. In accordance with an ancient tradition, after the announcement of the Gospel on the Epiphany, a deacon chanted the announcement of the date of Easter 2020 (Oct. 4 and April 12) and the dates of other feasts on the Church calendar that are calculated according to the date of Easter.

In his homily at the Mass, the pope focused on the importance of worshipping the Lord, bowing down in adoration of him and putting him before all other concerns, because the Christian life “is a journey toward the Lord, not toward ourselves.”

“Worship is God’s look at us, worshiped only himself and wanted to rid himself of the child Jesus. ‘What do you think I will do with him?’ he asked, ‘so that we not worship God, we end up worshiping ourselves.”

Worship means discovering that, in order to pray, it is enough to say: ‘My Lord and my God,’ and to let ourselves be pervaded by his Paschal love,” the pope said.

“Worship means concentrating on what is essential: riddling ourselves of useless things and adding that anger and the heart and confound the mind,” he said.

“In worship, we learn to reject what should not be worshipped: the god of money, the god of consumerism, the god of pleasure, the god of success, the god of self.”

Worshipping God also means “recognizing that we are all brothers and sisters before the mystery of a love that bridges every distance,” he said.

“Worship means being silent in the presence of the divine Word and learning to use words that do not wound but console,” he said.

Like the Magi, he said, Christians discover the meaning of their life’s journey in worshipping the Lord, and it brings them great joy.

After Mass, with thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the Angelus prayer, Pope Francis noted how the Magi did not stay in Bethlehem, but returned home “by another way.”

The phrase, he said, can be read symbolically as an affirmation that the Wise Men were changed by their encounter with Jesus and sent back to their normal lives to live in a new way and share their experience.

As with the Three Kings, the pope said, “the experience of God does not block us, but frees us; it does not imprison us, but puts us back on our way, returning us to the usual places of our existence.”

“The places are the same but, after the encounter with Christ, we are not the same as before.”

‘A victory for women is a victory for humanity,’ Pope Francis says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The world will not know peace unless there is an end to violence against women, the exploitation of their bodies and the denial of their dignity, Pope Francis said on the feast of Mary, Mother of God.

Celebrating Mass on Jan. 1 for the feast day and the World Day of Peace, the pope said, “If we want a better world that is a house of peace and not a court of war, we must take to heart the dignity of every woman.”

Jesus, the prince of peace, was born of a woman, he said. “The woman is a giver and mediator of peace and must be fully involved in decision-making processes because when women can share their gifts, the world will find itself more united and more at peace.

“A victory for women is a victory for all of humanity,” he said.

The Christmas season and the feast of Mary, Mother of God, he said, are commemorations of the great gift of God sending his Son into the world as a human baby, born of a woman so that he would have the same human flesh of all those he came to save.

Catholics begin the new year honoring Mary, “woman who wove the humanity of God,” the pope said. “If we want to weave humanity into the plot of our days, we must put a woman.”

Every human life is born of a woman, and the rebirth promised in Christ also was born of a woman.

“Women are the source of life, yet they are continually offended, beaten, mixed with coerced prostitution and to terminate the life they carry in their wombs,” the pope said.

“Every form of violence inflicted on a woman is a profanation of God, who was born of a woman,” he said. “Humanity’s salvation was accomplished through the body of a woman; how we treat a woman’s body is an indication of our level of humanity.”

It’s not just violence, the pope said, “The body of the woman is sacrificed on the profane altars of advertising, profit, pornography, exploited like a thing to use.

“Today maternity is humiliated because the only growth that interests people is economic growth,” he said.

Pope Francis also drew attention to migrant women, “mothers who risk arduous journeys desperately seeking a better future only to be judged as excess numbers by people who have a belly full of things and a heart empty of love.”

The newborn Jesus received his first caresses from Mary and exchanged his first smiles with her, the pope said. “With her, he inaugurated the revolution of tenderness. The Church, looking upon baby Jesus, is called to continue it.”

The Church, like Mary, “is woman and mother, and finds its distinctive traits in Our Lady’s,” he said. “It seeks to be like her, the immaculate one, and says ‘no’ to sin and worldliness. It sees her, fruitful, and feels called to proclaim the Lord, to generate lives in him. It sees her, mother, and feels called to welcome every man and woman as a son or daughter.”

By drawing closer to Mary, he said, the Church will become more of what it is meant to be, a more united Church.

“The enemy of human nature, the devil, seeks to divide us,” the pope said.

The devil entices people to put their “differences, ideologies, thoughts of sides and parties” first.

“Structures, programs and tendencies, ideologies and functions” may tell people something about the Church, he said, but those are not “the heart of the Church, because the Church has the heart of a mother.”

“We her children today invoke the Mother of God who unites us as a believing people,” he said, praying: “O Mother, generate in us hope, bring us unity. Woman of salvation, we entrust this year to you, watch over it in our heart.”

For more information about giving to the Catholic Community Foundation, call 1-800-382-9386, ext. 1482.
Chapter of ‘marketplace ambassadors for Christ’ marks 30 years

The couple stood before the sanctuary of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Indianapolis on Dec. 12, 2019. They faced the ambo, where Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel addressed them.

“Victoria and David Temple, I welcome you tonight to Legatus,” he said, noting the word is Latin for “ambassador.”

“In his charge to Legatus in Rome in 1988,” he continued, “Pope John Paul II said: ‘The world needs genuine witnesses to Christian ethics in the field of business, and the Church asks you to fulfill this role publicly and with perseverance.’”

Then looking at the couple, Msgr. Schaedel asked, “Victoria and David, will you seek to fulfill this call with fidelity, integrity and courage?”

“I will, by the grace of God,” they replied, united as husband and wife.

Msgr. Schaedel smiled as he said, “May your faithful participation in Legatus strengthen you to study, live and spread your faith as Christ’s ambassadors.”

Then the Temples faced the congregation to a round of applause.

They had just been inducted into the Indianapolis chapter of Legatus on the evening the group of Catholic business executives and owners celebrated its 30th anniversary.

‘Bring your faith into your business’

Legatus, which describes its members as “ambassadors for Christ in the marketplace,” was established by Tom Monaghan, founder of Domino’s Pizza and Ave Maria University in Florida. It was created for “practicing Catholic laymen and laywomen ... CEOs, presidents, managing partners and business owners, with their spouses, who seek to ‘study, live and spread the Catholic faith in our business, professional and personal lives,’” as stated on its website.

According to the website, this mission is sought “in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ, his Church and his vicar on Earth,” in adherence to the Church’s magisterium. The Indianapolis chapter—the fourth oldest Legatus chapter—was founded on Dec. 8, 1989. With nearly 70 active member couples, it is also “one of, if not the most successful” of Legatus’ 98 existing or forming chapters, Monaghan noted during the Indianapolis group’s 30th anniversary celebration on Dec. 12.

The goal of Legatus is “to bring your Catholic faith into your business by your actions and the way you behave and operate your business,” said current chapter president Gary Hoefle, founder of Maxim Services, LLC. He and his wife Katie are members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.

Members and their spouses are enriched through the organization in multiple ways. Monthly meetings begin with the opportunity for confession, the rosary and Mass, followed by a presentation by local and national Catholic speakers and business executives addressing faith, life and the workplace.

“There have been some fabulous stories of people almost in desperation with what their dealing with, and their faith got them through,” said Hoefle.

“Tours is where faith-sharing comes into play” in Legatus, said Hoefle. “All of the members have common challenges. It’s not often they have someone they can confide with in their business. It really makes a difference when they have a group in common that they can confide in.”

Members are also spiritually enriched through retreats, pilgrimages and conferences.

We gather together to grow

As chaplain of the Indianapolis chapter, Msgr. Schaeidell, who serves as pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, is tasked with vetting potential members to ensure they are practicing Catholics—to not be “going against our message,” Hoefle explained.

There are also requirements for membership involving professional titles—such as CEO, owner, vice-president, publisher and more; number of employees the member is responsible for; and financial volume or value.

“I think the limits are set [by Legatus] to make absolutely certain that the member has the time and financial wherewithal to be an active participant” in terms of dues and other components, said Hoefle.

And while having a philanthropic component might be expected of a group whose members meet such financial requirements, that aspect of the faith is already deeply embedded in the lives and businesses of the members.

“So many of our members and their businesses are solicited for donations and ask to be involved in community and parish leadership,” said Hoefle. “And they do give, and they are involved.”

“They’re nice to go to an event once a month … [where] we’re just gathered and personal concerns from a Catholic perspective.

“With us, they’re very open about Legatus and how it’s a life-changing experience. ‘I think the limits are set [by Legatus] to make absolutely certain that the member has the time and financial wherewithal to be an active participant’ in terms of dues and other components, said Hoefle.

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“They’re nice to go to an event once a month … [where] we’re just gathered together to continue to grow in our faith with each other and make sure we’re going to our businesses in the same fashion.”

“So important to be grounded through faith”

The 30th anniversary event was held during the Indianapolis chapter’s annual Christmas celebration Mass and dinner. Monaghan, 82, was present and spoke at the dinner at the Woodstock Club in Indianapolis.

“I congratulate you on your 30th anniversary,” he said. “I like the number 30. I built my career on 30-minute deliveries.”

Monaghan admitted that “Indianapolis is one of my favorite chapters, if not my favorite chapter. It’s probably the most successful chapter of Legatus over the long run.”

He shared his memory of meeting one of the early members of the chapter years ago—Al Langenskamp, who still is an active member.

“I was so impressed with everything he was doing, a young man involved in so many things,” Monaghan recalled. “He said, ‘All I did before Legatus was just go to Mass on Sunday. After Legatus, I really got charged up!’

Hoefle said he feels much the same about Legatus now.

“Spiritually it’s helped me as a person. I have met some very, very faith-filled people who have inspired me through my relationship with the group,” he said.

The group is good for couples as well, said Msgr. Schaeidell.

“It can strengthen marriages. Since spouses are equal members, [Legatus] also provides at least one night a month for each couple to be together for Mass, a speaker, socializing and dinner,” he said.

Beth Leonard is a member with her husband, Bill. She said she and Bill, members of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis, have “grown in a way of challenging ourselves in our faith to just grow deeper, using everything we learn through Legatus and the people.”

She appreciates the monthly events “starting with Mass, confession and the rosary. The people are wonderful, it’s so much fun, too. But when you leave, you leave with a message.”

Victoria Temple, who is a member with her husband Bill at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis, prays before dinner at the Woodstock Club in Indianapolis during the group’s 30th anniversary celebration on Dec. 12, 2019. (Photos by Natalie Hoefer)

Outgoing Indianapolis Legatus chapter president Jim Huntington, left, shakes hands with newly inducted members Dave and Victoria Temple during Mass at St Michael the Archangel Church in Indianapolis on Dec. 12, 2019. To Huntington’s right is Legatus founder Tom Monaghan. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)

Outgoing Indianapolis Legatus chapter president Jim Huntington of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis, left, places a pin on the chapter’s new president, Gary Hoefle of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis at the Woodstock Club on Dec. 12, 2019.
Sharing the Gospel and making disciples of all nations is the mission of the Church in which all the faithful have a part to play.

The archdiocesan Office of Catechesis has produced a resource to help Catholics across central and southern Indiana to do just that in their daily lives. “10 Things That a Disciple of Jesus Does” is a resource available in English and Spanish that archdiocesan director of catechesis Ken Ogorek describes as a “conversation starter” that can help people grow deeper in a “disciple relationship with Jesus.”

Included among the habits of discipleship in the resource are “A relationship rooted in prayer”; “Embrace the cross”; “Will you let me be your servant?”; and “Be bold—for the glory of God.”

The new resource follows up on one created by the office in 2013, “10 Things We Want You to Know about the Catholic Faith.” It is intended to build on the knowledge of the faith that the first was intended to open people to.

“Lately, I think a lot of Catholics are focused on the fact that without a strong sense of disciple relationship with Jesus, even the good doctrine can just seem like interesting but odd facts about God,” Ogorek said. “So, what we’re seeing now is an effort to retain the doctrinal clarity that we’ve gained in recent years while helping folk cultivate a strong sense of having a real disciple relationship with the living Jesus.”

Both resources are the fruit of parish and department team meetings held across the archdiocese where members of various parishes could share their thoughts about the faith. For each resource, meeting participants were asked to answer questions about how their own disciple relationship with Jesus has made a difference in their lives, and what they see in the lives of others that lets them know that they are disciples of the Lord.

“Really, the result is the resource that we have,” Ogorek said.

Although made available only in November, 4,000 copies have already been sent out to parishes across central and southern Indiana. Two parishes included it in books that they gave out to people attending Mass during Advent. More than 50,000 copies of the first resource have been distributed in the six years that it has been available. Although it can be given out in mass quantities and shared in social media, Sean Hussey sees it being most effective at a personal level. “My hope is that ordinary parishioners have this in their homes and can give it to somebody that they know,” said Hussey, archdiocesan coordinator of evangelization and discipleship. “I think that’s where it can have the most impact. I hope that this resource and the habits described in them can be small steps toward walking with Jesus.”

He also hopes the new resource can spur small changes in people’s lives that grow over time. “Hopefully, they’ll be able to pick up on at least one of these things as a habit in their lives,” Hussey said. “It doesn’t have to be a significant change in our lives right away. But the small habits that are outlined well in this resource will really help any person in his or her ordinary life to follow Jesus.”

In his position, Ogorek has a certain sense of pride in knowing that Catholics across central and southern Indiana know the faith and embrace it enough to produce the new resource and the first one.

“For me, it’s a healthy reminder that Jesus is the teacher,” Ogorek said. “When we focus on the authentic Jesus of sacred Scripture and sacred tradition, not only do good things tend to happen, but there’s a beautiful consistency in what people will say about Jesus and what they witness to about their relationship with him.”

Many commercial Catholic publishers have materials that can be used to help share the faith. But Ogorek emphasized the importance of sharing the Gospel in ways that are fitted to the place where people live.

“There’s always a personal and maybe even a local witness dimension to evangelization,” he said. “That’s why we felt that, in addition to all of the great resources that are commercially available, we wanted to give the people of our own archdiocese a chance to weigh in.”

Ogorek said he hopes the resource will be a way for Catholics across the archdiocese to reach out in positive ways to unchurched people. Catholics alienated from their faith and practicing Catholics as well.

“People can disagree or argue about a teaching you might share,” he said. “But nobody can disagree with your witness. This resource is more of a witness to the difference that having a relationship with Jesus makes in our lives. In that regard, I think it’s a great conversation starter.”

(To view “10 Things a Disciple of Jesus Does,” visit www.archindy.org/habitsofdiscipleship. Readers interested in obtaining copies of the resource should contact their parish leader.)

New director of evangelization and discipleship eager to help others share their faith

By Mike Krook

Sean Hussey admits he was a nominal Catholic. That all changed when he started dating his future wife, who was Protestant.

“I fell in love with apologetics and sharing my faith with people in college. It was sparked really from my wife Paige and college days where I was able to discuss Catholicism with Paige and college friends, including some who were not Catholic and even some non-believers. I had a lot of good opportunities through college, through campus ministry, to do that with my peers,” said Hussey, 24, “through one-on-one discipleship and small group evangelization.”

That mission continued in his position at St. Jude Parish and now in a larger role with the Church in central and southern Indiana.

“I want to be able to share my faith and help others to encounter the person of Jesus Christ, and to equip them to be able to share their faith with others,” said Hussey, who has certification in youth ministry from Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio, and certification in philosophy from the New Saint Thomas Institute.

In his mission, the coordinator of evangelization and discipleship also plans to reach out to the lost, including those who “may be Catholic, but have not met the Lord in a serious way, and then everybody else in between.”

“I’ve had this strong desire all through my last two years of ministry and through college ministry, of relational ministry, of leading people into community,” Hussey said. “So that they discover the Lord through the witness of other folks.”

People who are interested in evangelization, Ogorek said, are encouraged to ask their pastor or PLC who their point of contact is with the archdiocesan Office of Evangelization.

“Offer to help that person or, if one has yet been identified for that role—offer to be that person,” and contact Hussey.

The hope, Ogorek continued, is for every parish to have a Disciple Leadership Team. “Sean is here to help pastors and parish life coordinators establish those teams as well as seeing to it that they have access to resources, training and support.”

Prayer, Ogorek added, is the foundation for all evangelizing efforts. “Please pray that each soul in every parish territory is touched by the Gospel and drawn into a disciple relationship with Jesus, lived in full communion with his body, the Church.”

(For more information on the archdiocesan Office of Evangelization and its discipleship resources, e-mail Sean Hussey at dhussey@archindy.org or call 317-236-1542.)

New evangelization resource shares 10 habits of discipleship

By Sean Gallagher

New evangelization resource shares 10 habits of discipleship

By Mike Krook

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Catholics working to shape public policy in favor of peace, collaboration and nonviolent alternatives to war expressed concerns that the drone strike likely will fuel an escalating tit-for-tat series of responses that would engulf the Middle East in war.

They instead called for a new round of diplomacy to resolve the differences between the two nations and protect innocent civilians, particularly religious minorities.

Among those calling for a diplomatic solution were the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, who on Jan. 3 called on the U.S. government to “reject violence and militarism.”

“Our position would still be that international cooperation is the only way to be in the world. Violence begets violence,” said Jean Stokan, coordinator professor of international relations at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Drone attacks can “lead to a very short-term mind frame, that you can try to target a particular person without taking those long-term considerations about how this is going to build a positive, sustainable peace and protect the most vulnerable people,” she said.

Johnny Zokovitch, executive director of Pax Christi USA, said drone attacks often “no accounting, no sense of responsibility” in violation of Church teaching on war and peace. He said the killing of Soleimani was approved by President Donald J. Trump “further contributes to the cycle of revenge and innocent men, women and children will suffer.”

Under the Catholic Church’s long-standing war teaching, Pope Francis said, explained an act of war “has to be the right intention, made by public authority, a positive intention to build a positive peace, that the harms from the action won’t outweigh the harms that come from the action and there must be protections for civilians.”

“All of that is called into question under drone warfare,” she said.

Love added that the immediacy of attacking a target by drones in warfare “takes away from civilians the only means of protection they have, which is running away.”

At the same time, she said, just peace is violated because using drones does not allow for the ability to involve the people most impacted in dialogue, fails to build right relationships and does not lead to sustainable peace.

Stephen Schneck, executive director of the Franciscan Action Network, said he expects that violent retaliation eventually will be carried out by “Iran and its allied groups against Americans and U.S. interests.”

“The danger is that Soleimani is, by all accounts, in essentially a Cabinet-level position in the Iranian government,” Schneck explained. “His assassination would be akin to the Iranian government ordering an assassination on a U.S. Cabinet member. What would we expect the U.S. response to be if in fact a U.S. Cabinet member was assassinated by a foreign government?”

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for more than a decade has raised questions about the morality of drone warfare. In a pair of June 2018 presentations to the Interfaith Conference on Drone Warfare in Chicago, retired Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, cited numerous reasons for concern. Specifically, he pointed to the rapid growth in drone technology without adequate guidelines for their usage, the possibility of collateral damage, the disparity in the risk between the target and the remote operator and the possible lowering of the bar to use armed force.

He said armed drones are “changing the nature of warfare,” requiring the bishops to raise moral concerns in order to protect human life.

“We owe it to ourselves to keep asking the questions on the moral gravity involved in using drones for targeted killings. … The use of attack drones in target killings should be inseparable from the question of whether it promotes peace and security around the world,” he said.

For U.S. relations with Iran.

Worldly spirit blurs lines between good and evil, Pope Francis says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Christians must be on guard against the spirit of worldlyliness that confines and blurs the lines between what is good and what is evil, Pope Francis said.

While the Holy Spirit gives men and women “the strength to remain in the Lord,” the pope said on Jan. 7 in his homily during morning Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

“The Holy Spirit brings you to God and if you sin, the Holy Spirit protects you and helps you get back on the right path,” he said.

“But the spirit of the world brings you to corruption, to the point that you can’t distinguish between what is good and what is bad; it is all the same, everything is the same.”

In his homily, the pope reflected on the reading from 1 John 3:22-4:6, in which the Apostle encourages the early Christian community to “not trust every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they belong to God or the spirit of the world.”

Too many Christians today, he said, “live without knowing what is happening in their own hearts” and “do not know how to examine” what is happening within them.

Pope Francis encouraged the faithful to examine their consciences and to take a moment during the day or before going to bed to reflect on “what has passed in my heart today.”

“What is the spirit that has moved within my heart?” he asked. “The Spirit of God, the gift of God, the Holy Spirit that always leads me forward to the encounter with the Lord or the spirit of the world that distances me softly, slowly from the Lord and is a very, very slow slippery slope?”

“Let us ask for this grace of remaining in the Lord, and let us pray to the Holy Spirit so that we may remain in the Lord and that he may give us the grace of distinguishing the spirits, that is, what is moving within us,” the pope said.

A man participates in a rally on Jan. 4 in San Diego to protest after Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani was killed in a U.S. drone airstrike at Baghdad International Airport the previous day. (CNS photo/David Maung)

Marriage ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be a part of our Fall Marriage Edition

February 28, 2020, issue of The Criterion

Couples who are planning to be married between January 30 and July 31, 2020 in a marriage that is recognized as a valid sacrament or valid natural marriage, or couples who were wed between July 31, 2019, and January 30, 2020, in such a recognized marriage and did not have their engagement announcement in The Criterion are invited to submit the information for the upcoming February 28 Spring Marriage Edition.

Announcements can be submitted using the form below, or electronically at www.archindy.org/criterion/local/forms/wedding-form.html

E-mailed photos

Photos should be saved in jpg format and be at least 500 kb. Color photos are preferred. We recommend sending a photo where the couple’s faces are close to each other. Please send the photo as an attachment to clark@archindy.org. Subject line: Fall Marriage (Last name).

Deadline

All announcements and photos must be received by 10 a.m. on Friday, February 7, 2020. (No announcements or photos will be accepted after this date.)
Faith

Spirit’s gift of wisdom leads to actions based on sound judgment

By David Gibson

The people I know never call themselves “wise.” They may be wise, but they don’t say so. Possibly they fear sounding haughty.

Or possibly they don’t want to sound older than they are. Typical images of wise people depict them as aged beneficiaries of long experience with handling life’s realities.

But certainly young people can act wisely too. Youthful confidence in the future may combine with faith in life’s goodness to motivate both the young and old to offer the best they can to making it even better.

That’s important because, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church suggests, giving the best of ourselves lies at the heart of the virtues (#1803), and wisdom is virtuous. Wisdom is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit that “complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them,” the catechism observes (#1831).

Common notions of wisdom tend to reduce it to a set-in-stone quality “possessed by” those who know what to do and when to do it. The wisdom Christian tradition speaks of seems more multidimensional than that, however.

Wisdom moves people into action, but not the reckless action of those who rush in where angels fear to tread. Wisdom is geared to making decisions that demonstrate awareness of what truly is at stake in situations involving oneself, others and the world, situations that call us all to give the best of ourselves.

Rushing in to solve problems without first hearing the voices of those we’re attempting to aid is rarely wisdom’s method.

“I am always wary of decisions made hastily,” Pope Francis said in a 2013 interview with La Civilta Cattolica, the Jesuit order’s Rome journal. He is wary of “the first thing that comes to my mind if I have to make a decision. This is usually the wrong way.”

Instead, he continued, “the wisdom of discernment redeems the necessary ambiguity of life and helps us find the most appropriate means, which do not always coincide with what looks great and strong.”

All kinds of circumstances deserve wisdom’s benefits. So, no single example of wisdom explains all that this gift encompasses.

As a father and grandfather, I sense that wisdom as of the essence in parenthood. Few parents, if any, feel wise all the time, however.

Parenthood unfolds over decades, traversing a course that is alternately joyful and confounding, replete with moments to celebrate or lament. Moreover, sorrow and grief are not strangers to parenthood.

A parent’s journey cries out for wisdom. Parents do not aim to fail children, but that’s not the same as saying parents get to feel successful at every turn of the road.

Parents are given little choice but to become people of hope. Their long journey tugs at them to remain confident that the big issues they experience along the way do not spell doom. Yet hope is not naiveté.

Parents also are given little choice but to adopt a posture of patience. Parents learn to wait. At times, they wait to grasp how their child is unique and to see who this child is becoming, not just at the age of 5 or 10, but the ages of 15, 20 and beyond.

Yes, there are times in a child’s growing, expanding life when the knee-jerk decisions Pope Francis cautioned against can run afoul of the young person growing and emerging before a parent’s very eyes.

I still appreciate the way my down-to-earth father accepted my brother’s emerging, plain-to-see artistic talent when he was about 16. I doubt it was what our father expected of his oldest child, who one day would become an art professor.

It is difficult “to give the best of ourselves” in situations involving others if we never attempt to recognize, to discern, our own best strengths, our gifts. Thankfully, for parents this discernment tends to bring to the surface a gift for loving their children. Parents are wise. I believe, not to underestimate that gift’s inherent worth and wisdom.

I would not want to create any impression that people who act wisely must act alone or make decisions in solitary ways. Wisdom is a gift for sharing insights in conversations with others and, whenever possible, learning and acting together.

Like every blessing of God, wisdom also is a mandate, a commission to reach beyond ourselves, bringing something good to others and our world.

In encouraging an audience he addressed to put the gifts of the Holy Spirit to good use, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Washington once said: “May all of us who belong to Christ, in the many different ways we have been incorporated into him, have the wisdom to recognize the special gifts we have been given and the courage to use them for the building up of the body of the Lord.”

(David Gibson served on Catholic News Service’s editorial staff for 37 years.)
“Verisimilitude” is a $10 word that is quite handy these days. It means “giving the appearance of being true or real.”

The same could be said of The Two Popes, now streaming on Netflix. It takes twelve real people as played by Jonathan Pryce as Bergoglio and Anthony Hopkins as Benedict. And—imagines an encounter over a period of days between the two. The title is misleading, stupid and simple-minded; each encounter takes place before Francis is actually pope. Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio flies to Rome to submit his resignation to a rather grumpy and unsympathetic Benedict. Over the course of the film, Bergoglio gives Benedict talks, telling him how he feels about each other’s commitment, and Benedict uses the backdrop of the Sistine Chapel to confide his plan to resign.

While the secular reviews have been fairly enthusiastically commenting on the process of life and the actions, those who know a bit more about the Vatican have trouble with the blurring of a teaspoon of fact with a shovelful of fiction.

Indeed, the sets are striking, as are Jonathan Pryce as Bergoglio and Anthony Hopkins as Benedict. But the script they inhabit paints one pope as pugilistic, sensitive, enlightened and progressive, while the other is reactionary, backward looking, anti-social and out of touch. I’ll let you judge which is which.

We see the two men pontificate (pun intended), debate, suffer and ultimately become unlikely allies, all set against some great backdrops (Castel Gandolfo, the Sistine Chapel, even the courtyard in front of the Apostolic Palace where Bergoglio and Benedict have a primary encounter that takes place before Francis is actually pope.)

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But, as Commonweal’s Rita Ferrone notes in this week’s column, “The Two Popes” is misleading, since the primary encounter takes place before Francis is actually pope. Most disturbing is that the film suggests Benedict somehow bears responsibility for the infamous priest sexual abuse scandal under his tenure. Marcial Maciel, who is exactly “not” the case, while suggesting Bergoglio was a sex-abusing pontiff who “decided to resign” in order to keep the Church out of scandal. A queen, two popes and artistic license and its ‘gospel’

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The Sunday Readings

Sunday, January 12, 2020

- Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
- Matthew 3:13-17

As winter begins each year, the Church presents three great feasts to celebrate and teach us about our salvation in Jesus. The first of these feasts was the Epiphany of the Lord.

This weekend is the Epiphany of the Lord.

Reflection

This Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord reveals the Lord's identity to us. He is the Son of God, with all the force and mystery contained in this transcendent reality.

He is the Savior, rescuing us from eternal death by assuming our sins and by making amends to God for our sinfulness. He is the mediator, uniting us with God. The Church makes the words of Peter to Cornelius in its own, calling us to the Lord as our Savior.

We are sinners, the Church bluntly—told us. We need Jesus to reconcile us with God. He is our hope and our life.

Daily Readings

Monday, January 13

St. Hilary, bishop and doctor of the Church
1 Samuel 1:4-18
Psalm 116:12-19
Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday, January 14

1 Samuel 1:1-20 (Response) 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8
Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 15

1 Samuel 1:10-20
Psalm 40:2, 5, 7-10
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday, January 16

1 Samuel 4:1-11
Psalm 44:10-11, 14-15, 4-25
Mark 1:40-45

Question Corner

Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Crucifixes honor Christ's love for humanity by his death on the cross

Q: Most of my family is Protestant, but became an adult convert four years ago and was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith. Members of my family often ask me questions about Catholic beliefs, and usually I can answer them. But recently my mother asked me one that I need your help with. She said, “Since Jesus is now resurrected and sits at the right hand of God, why do Catholics keep him crucified on the cross in your statues, religious jewelry, pictures, etc.? (Ohio)

A: The image of the tortured body of Jesus on the cross has been used by Christians as a devotional symbol since the early centuries of Christianity. The purpose, of course, is to illustrate immense love that Christ had for us and the sacrifices he endured to redeem us. The crucifix serves, too, to remind us that we are called to join our own sacrifices to the perfect sacrifice of Christ for the benefit of others.

In one of his sermons, St. Augustine (354-430) gave the underlying rationale for the use of the crucifix, writing. “The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon himself the death that he found in us, he has most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves.”

This depiction of Christ on the cross takes inspiration from St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians, where the Apostle writes, “We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles” (1 Cor 1:23). What you might want to say to your mother is that the Catholic Church honors her perception that Jesus now shares in glory—so much so that some Catholic churches today choose to portray the image of Christ on the cross dressed in the white robes of his resurrected glory.

Most crosses that adorn Catholic church steeples and bell towers display only the cross, not the body of Jesus, likewise. Catholics are not averse to using such religious symbols as the Jerusalem cross or the Celtic cross. So Christians of all traditions, though their devotional symbols may sometimes differ, clearly reverence both the passion of Christ as well as his resurrection.

Q: Is treatment for erectile dysfunction against Catholic teaching? (Location of origin withheld)

A: Within the context of marriage, the medical use of such products as Viagra is permitted by Catholic moral teaching.

Father Tad Pacholczyk, director of Education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, has written this: “In the case of erectile dysfunction, a normal biological process may have become impaired due to age or injury, and through the use of Viagra, this impairment can sometimes be remedied. Viagra does not aim to disrupt normal function, but rather to restore it. Within marriage, the medical use of Viagra for such restorative functions does not generally raise moral problems.”

I am assuming, of course, that your question does refer to married men. If not, of course, that would change the moral calculus. The Catholic Church has always taught that sexual intercourse “must take place exclusively within marriage. Outside of marriage it always raises grave sin and excludes one from sacramental Communion,” as stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (#2390).

(Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfkdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.)

Submit prose or poetry for faith column

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

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

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

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My Journey to God

“Wisdom” and “Flight”

By Frances Huff

“Wisdom”

Maggi meeting Herod Sensing aim of evil
On to meet real power With special gifts
Ignoring warning of death Finding their way home.

“Flight”

To Egypt, evil escalating To Egypt, evil escalating No camels, one mule Clearing cliffs, desert, water Returning when lessened
Not to Bethlehem To the questing Of Nazareth

(All dialogue by Maggi unless otherwise noted.)

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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 printed elsewhere in The Criterion. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese, in which case, we have listed them under those to whom they are separate obituaries on this page.


THIBENIEN, Joan A., 80, St. Mary of the Knobs, Floyd County, Dec. 18. Mother of Carla Crosby, Rosetta Vance, Dr. Andrew Thienemann, Jr. and Daniel Thienemann. Grandmother of two. Great-grandmother of two.

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Providence Sister Charles Ellen Turk served in Catholic education for 47 years

Providence Sister Charles Ellen Turk died on Dec 25 at Mother Theodore Hall at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 101.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Jan. 7 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse in St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Burial followed at the sisters’ cemetery. Mary Cleophas Turk was born on Nov. 5, 1918, in Washington, Ind. She entered the Sisters of Providence, Sister Charles Ellen served in Indianapolis at the former St. Ann School from 1950-55, at St. Matthew the Apostle School from 1958-61, at the former Ladywood. St. Agnes School from 1973-76, at Roncalli High School from 1976-85 and as a provincial treasurer from 1985-89. At the motherhouse, she served as an assistant in holistic health care from 1989-97.

Sister Charles Ellen continued to assist at the motherhouse in a variety of ways, especially in sewing, until 2008 when she dedicated herself entirely to prayer. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876.†

Providence Sister Mary Maxine Teipen ministered in education, administration

Providence Sister Mary Maxine Teipen died on Jan 5 at Mother Theodore Hall at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 91.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Jan. 30 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse in St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Burial was to follow at the sisters’ cemetery. Mary Maxine Teipen was born on Feb. 8, 1920, in Indianapolis where she grew up as a member of St. Roch Parish. She entered the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on Feb. 2, 1946, and professed final vows on Aug. 15, 1955. Sister Mary Maxine earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in St. Mary-of-the-Woods and a master’s degree in mathematics education at Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

During her 84 years as a member of the Sisters of Providence, Sister Charles Ellen ministered for 47 years in Catholic schools in Illinois, Indiana and Missouri. She later served in administrative roles in her religious community.

In the archdiocese, Sister Charles Ellen served in Indianapolis at the former St. Ann School from 1950-55, at St. Matthew the Apostle School from 1958-61, at the former Ladywood-St. Agnes School from 1973-76, at Roncalli High School from 1976-85 and as a provincial treasurer from 1985-89. At the motherhouse, she served as an assistant in holistic health care from 1989-97.

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WASHINGTON (CNS)—The March for Life, the annual gathering in Washington to protest legalized abortion in the United States, is tying itself in 2020 to the women’s suffrage movement for the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

The theme of the march is “Life Empowers: Pro-Life Is Pro-Woman.” Joseph Mancini, head of the March for Life, remarked how two noted suffragists of their day, Alice Paul and Susan B. Anthony, were themselves staunchly against abortion.

A video made to support the upcoming march, to be held on Jan. 24, said the women called abortion “the ultimate exploitation of women.”

An unnamed woman speaking in the video said 30 million female babies had been aborted since the twin 1973 Supreme Court rulings in Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton that legalized abortion virtually on demand.

Mancini said speakers lined up for the pro-march gathering include Louisiana State Sen. Katrina Jackson, a pro-life Democrat who authored a bill in 2014 to require abortion doctors to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals. It was ruled unconstitutional in 2017, but that ruling in June Medical Services v. Gee was reversed by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The U.S. Supreme Court said in October it would take up the case, its first abortion-related case since the death of Antonin Scalia and the retirement of Anthony Kennedy.

Also on the speakers’ list is U.S. Rep. Christopher Smith, R-New Jersey, long a pro-life advocate, who has sponsored the Alinsky Amendment to the Federal Budget Act, which would bar the killing of any baby who

of the lovers of others, we are choosing light over darkness. (Pearlette Springer is the coordinator of Black Catholic Ministry in the archdiocese. She can be reached at @springer@archindy.org)  

A young woman joins other pro-life advocates outside the U.S. Supreme Court Jan. 27, 2017, during the annual March for Life in Washington. The theme for the Jan. 24, 2020, March for Life is “Life Empowers: Pro-Life Is Pro-Woman.” (CNS photo/Leslie E. Kossoff)

He challenges us to “let go off” whatever is holding us back, and to be open to receive new gifts from God. “True youth means having a heart capable of love,” he explains (#113).

In this new year, let’s shake off whatever is weighing us down and limiting our horizons so that we can reach out with open arms and hearts to welcome the younger generations into the Church, and to show them how much God loves them and is waiting for them.

(Pearlette Springer is the coordinator of Black Catholic Ministry in the archdiocese. She can be reached at @springer@archindy.org)  

(Author’s note: Part-time Director of Music Ministry)

Washington, D.C.—The Roman Catholic Diocese of Evansville, Indiana, seeks a part-time (20 hours week) Director of Music Ministry. A successful candidate will be practicing Catholic with a commitment to the principles and tradition of Catholic liturgy. Strong musical proficiency in piano is required. Vocalist preferred but not required. Bachelors degree in music or other equivalent academic background in liturgical music is a plus. Solid organizational skills necessary, as responsibilities include the effective planning, coordination, and execution of music within parish liturgical celebrations.

Requires strong pastoral and interpersonal skills and the ability to work collaboratively with the Pastor, staff and parishioners.

Contact: Susan Williams, Chair of the Search Committee 317-413-0988 or bswilliams442@sbcglobal.net
Franciscan Sisters making a difference to students in Papua New Guinea

The Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg had a long-standing mission in Papua New Guinea, from 1960-2011. They initially taught in grade schools but when the country was declared independent in 1975, local teachers took over the grade school teaching roles, and the Franciscan sisters began teaching in high schools and colleges. In this 1984 photo, Oldenburg Franciscan Sister Brendan Boyle, center, speaks with Franciscan Sisters of Mercy in Papua New Guinea.

(Thanks to you would like to comment or share information about this photo? Contact archdiocesan/architect Julie Moryka at 800-382-9836, ext. 1538, 317-236-1538; or by e-mail at smoryka@archindy.org)

bills. When appropriate, the ICC will also work to help pass or block bills as they relate to the common good, religious freedom, non-public education and dignity of the person.”

The ICC saw a number of successes during the 2019 General Assembly, a long session that culminated in the passage of the state’s one-year budget. That budget included significant provisions for Catholic and other non-public schools.

One important development was the creation of a third tier of funding for the schools. In addition, Catholic and other non-public schools were included in a school safety bill that passed both legislative chambers.

That includes helping them get insurance and identification cards, aiding them in recovery efforts from alcoholism, and assisting them in applying for jobs and finding housing—all in the hope of getting the men “back into society,” she says.

“Though we may differ theologically, we all recognize Jesus’ call to reach out and care for the marginalized in our society. We would much rather join hands in the ministry of hospitality than stand separate. It says as well that Bedford is a warm-hearted, caring place, with the community alike committed to this.”

“I could see the hand of God in everything.”

The great blessing of that inter-church cooperation shined through last September when the churches joined together for the first major fundraiser for the shelter.

“It was called ‘Spaghetti on the Square,’” says Father Eldred, who is also pastor of St. Mary Parish in Mitchell. “We lined up tables right down the middle of the street, right in front of the courthouse downtown. It was from 4 to 9 o’clock on a Saturday. We served about 500 meals, and we had a silent auction, a bake sale and a spaghetti dinner. Church groups performed, and local businesses were sponsors.

“Church did the spaghetti, another the salad and another the breadsticks, but you could not tell who belonged to one congregation. We were just a community taking care of the least of them, like they say in Scripture. All during the preceding weeks, you could see the hand of God in everything. When it was all done, we raised $17,000—100 percent profit. Thank you.”

It also helps that the city bought the old Salvation Army facility and leases it to the ICC for $1 a month, which also pays the utilities for the building.

“There’s also Bertha’s Mission, a soup kitchen where the homeless can get a meal at lunchtime,” Father Eldred says. “It’s sponsored by the people of the church and the businesses. And a lot of people are bringing us socks, underwear, clothing, jackets, gloves, hats and toiletries. It’s really a community effort.”

“I’m contributing to something worthwhile.”

The momentum from that cooperation has continued as many of the local churches are providing volunteers to help at the shelter for the first time. Different churches take a day a week, staffing the shelter with volunteers to cook for the men and interact with them from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. After that, an employee stays there through the night and until nine in the morning.

John Stanley coordinates the volunteers from St. Vincent de Paul Parish for Wednesday evenings—a change from the previous years when they took charge of enlisting volunteers for all seven days. He has witnessed the difference the shelter has made in the lives of the homeless men.

“I’ve gotten to know the men. Some of them have climbed out of their situations and gotten jobs and housing. So that’s been a good feeling,” says Stanley. “We’ve also been able to help with some of their financial needs. Some of them had been homeless for 10 years, and he got into an apartment of his own. He said, ‘I’m not going to let this happen to me ever again.’”

Amid all the stories of togetherness, connection and hope, Father Eldred is still often thinks of the homeless man who died in an alley on a winter night.

“He did not die in vain,” Father Eldred says. “He moved an entire community to join hands and take compassionate care of the least of them. That’s something that has been a true expression of Christ’s love for us.”

In September of 2019, members of different churches across Bedford came together to host a spaghetti dinner fundraiser in the heart of the city, with all the profits benefiting the effort to help homeless men turn around their lives.

(Jeremy Arthur)