Staff, families of residents at Hermitage show faith, dedication in response to virus

By Sean Gallagher

BEECH GROVE—It’s a daily pilgrimage for Therese Brandon. Working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic herself as a nurse practitioner at St. Francis Hospital in Indianapolis, she drives after work to the St. Paul Hermitage retirement community in Beech Grove to visit her father, Patrick Moriarty, who has lived there for 14 years. For more than two months, visitors have not been allowed except for end-of-life situations to help protect the residents and staff members from the coronavirus. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Therese Brandon, left, and Father Joseph Moriarty visit their father, Patrick Moriarty, on April 30 through the window of their father’s room at the St. Paul Hermitage retirement community in Beech Grove. For more than two months, visitors have not been allowed except for end-of-life situations to help protect the residents and staff members from the coronavirus. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Brandon’s visits have been limited to end-of-life situations to help protect the residents and staff members from the coronavirus. The love that leads Brandon to the Hermitage daily also inspires family members of other residents to make similar pilgrimages. It’s also love that empowers the staff of the Hermitage to go far above and beyond the call of duty for the resident and the families whenever and wherever they need help. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

St. John Paul II was a good shepherd, pope says on saint’s birthday

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—St. John Paul II was a good shepherd, who loved being close to people and loved God’s justice and mercy, Pope Francis said.

“Let us pray to him today that he may give all of us—especially shepherds of the Church—but all of us, the grace of prayer, the grace of closeness and the grace of justice-mercy, mercy-justice,” the pope said on May 18, the 100th anniversary of the Polish pope’s birth.

Before releasing a written decree later that day, Pope Francis also announced during the Mass that the Oct. 5 liturgical memorial of St. Faustina Kowalska would no longer be optional, but would be an obligatory feast day for the whole Church. St. John Paul canonized St. Faustina and promoted her devotion to Divine Mercy.

Pope Francis marked his predecessor’s birthday by celebrating morning Mass at the saint’s tomb in St. Peter’s Basilica.

With just a few dozen people—most of whom were wearing face masks—spread out in the pews, it was the first day after almost two months that Masses were open to the public throughout Italy as part of an easing of restrictions to control the spread of the coronavirus. The pope, concelebrants and lectors did not wear face protection, but they did abide by social distancing rules.

In his homily, Pope Francis said that just as the Lord visited his people because he loved them, “today we can say that 100 years ago the Lord visited his people—he sent a man, he prepared him to be a bishop and to guide the Church” as a shepherd.

There were three things that made St. John Paul such a good shepherd: his intense dedication to prayer, his closeness to the people; and his love for God’s merciful justice, Pope Francis said.

St. John Paul prayer a lot, even with all he had to do as leader of the universal Church—but all of us, the grace of prayer, the grace of closeness and the grace of justice-mercy, mercy-justice,” the pope said on May 18, the 100th anniversary of the Polish pope’s birth. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)

A few years later, teaching at St. Louis School in nearby Batesville, he got an unexpected phone call from the pastor of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg, offering him the role of the school’s principal. In an era when most diocesan schools were managed by religious orders, Glenn Tebbe knew there were few schools in Indiana offering the job he craved, but he had been thinking of his goals for a long time.

Called to serve: Retiring ICC director exemplifies a life of witness for the Church

By Victoria Arthur

Called to serve: Retiring ICC director exemplifies a life of witness for the Church

Special to The Criterion

Glenn Tebbe has always viewed his life as a calling. And most of the time, according to his wife of nearly 49 years, the calls have been quite literal.

Laura Jo Tebbe recounts how shortly after earning a master’s degree in history from Xavier University in Cincinnati in 1972, her husband received an offer for a job he never sought—teaching seventh-grade social studies at St. Lawrence School in Lawrenceburg, Ind.—and launching a career he never anticipated.
Pope joins interreligious prayer, begging God to end pandemic

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—At a time of global “tragedy and suffering” because of the coronavirus and in view of the long-term impact it will have, believers of every religion should beg mercy from the one God and father of all, Pope Francis said.

During his early morning Mass, Pope Francis joined leaders of every religion marking May 14 as a day of prayer, fasting and acts of charity to ask God to stop the coronavirus pandemic.

Some people might think, “It hasn’t affected me; thank God I’m safe.” But think about others! Think about the tragedy and also about the economic consequences, the consequences on education,” the pope said in his homily.

“The day of prayer was called for by the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity, an international group of religious leaders formed after Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, grand imam of al-Azhar, signed a document in 2019 on promoting dialogue and human fraternity.”

During the pope’s Mass, livestreamed from the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, he said he could imagine some people would say that gathering believers of all religions to pray for a common cause “is religious relativism, and you can’t do it.”

“How can you not pray to the Father of all?” he asked.

“We are all united as human beings, as brothers and sisters praying to God each according to our own culture, traditions and beliefs, but brothers and sisters praying to God,” the pope said. “This is important: brothers and sisters fasting, asking God to pardon our sins so that the Lord would have mercy on us, that the Lord would forgive us, that the Lord would stop this pandemic.”

But Pope Francis also asked people to look beyond the coronavirus pandemic and recognize that there are other serious situations bringing death to millions of people.

“In the first four months of this year, 3.7 million people died of hunger. There is a pandemic of hunger,” he said, “so when asking God to stop the COVID-19 pandemic, believers should not forget the ‘pandemic of war, of hate’ and so many other evils spreading death.”

Pope Francis gives the homily at Mass at the tomb of St. John Paul II in St. Peter’s Basilica on May 14, the 100th anniversary of the late pope’s birth. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

Pope Benedict XVI

Pope Benedict said in a letter to Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, the retired archbishop of Krakow and longtime secretary to St. John Paul II. "John Paul II is not the moral rigorist" some people have portrayed him as being, the retired pope wrote. Instead, “with the centrality of divine mercy, he gave us the opportunity to accept the moral requirement for man, even if we can never fully meet it.”

The retired pope’s letter, including an English translation, was released by the Polish bishops' conference. In it, in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the birth of St. John Paul on May 18. Written in German, Pope Benedict’s letter recalled his predecessor’s humble beginnings and youth, the death of his mother, brother and father and the difficulties Poland lived through after World War I and, especially, during World War II.

The young Karol Wojtyła, the retired pope said, “not only studied theology in books, but also through his experience of the difficult situation that he and his country found themselves in. This is somewhat characteristic of his whole life and work.”

After his election as pope in 1978, Pope Benedict continued, St. John Paul found himself leading a Church that was “in a dramatic situation” in which the deliberations of the Second Vatican Council spilled over “to the public as a force in history.”

Furthermore, Pope Benedict said that the dispute led to a “feeling that nothing was any longer certain,” particularly in the implementation of liturgical reforms, which made it seem “that the liturgy could be created of itself.”

“At that time, sociologists compared the Church’s situation to the situation of the Soviet Union under the rule of [Mikhail] Gorbachev, during which the powerful structure of the Soviet state collapsed under the process of its reform,” he recalled.

Nevertheless, from the start of his papacy, St. John Paul “aroused new enthusiasm for Christ and his Church,” especially in his words to Catholics during his inaugural Mass: “Do not be afraid! Open, open wide the doors for Christ.”

“This call and tone would characterize his entire pontificate and made him a liberating restorer of the Church,” Pope Benedict wrote. “This was conditioned by the fact that the new pope came from a country where the council’s reception had been positive: one of a joyful renewal of everything rather than an attitude of doubt and uncertainty in all.”

Through his foreign trips and encyclicals, he continued, St. John Paul sought to present the Church’s teaching “in a human way,” and always centered on the theme of divine mercy inspired by the message of St. Faustina Kowalska.

The retired pontiff, who served as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith from 1981 until 2005, recalled St. John Paul’s desire to honor St. Faustina’s wish to establish the Second Sunday of Easter as a feast day dedicated to divine mercy.

Pope Benedict said he was “impressed” by the humility of this great pope when the congregation “responded negatively” because the feast would overshadow the “ancient, traditional and meaningful date” that concluded the Octave of Easter.

“It was certainly not easy for the Holy Father to accept our reply,” Pope Benedict said. “Yet, he did so with great humanity and accepted our negative response a second time. Finally, he formulated a proposal that left the Second Sunday of Easter in its historical form, but included divine mercy in its original message.”

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, Cardinal Parish rector Father Patrick Benjamin and other priests will continue to celebrate the liturgy. It can be viewed on the archdiocesan website at www.archindy.org.
Vatican announces Laudato Si’ anniversary year with initiatives

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Vatican announced that it will commemorate the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis’ encyclical on the environment—“Laudato Si’ on Care for Our Common Home”—with a yearlong series of initiatives dedicated to the safeguarding and care for the Earth.

In a statement released by the Vatican press office on May 16, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development announced a “Special Laudato Si’ Anniversary Year” from May 24, 2020, to May 24, 2021, which will emphasize “ecological conversion in action.”

As the world continues to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, the dicastery said, the encyclical’s message is “just as pertinent today as it was in 2015.”

“Truly, COVID-19 has made clear how deeply we are all interconnected and interdependent. As we begin to envision a post-COVID world, we need above all an integral approach as everything is closely interrelated and today’s problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis,” the statement said.

Among the events set to take place throughout the year are prayer services and webinars dedicated to environmental care, education and the economy. The dicastery also detailed the rollout of a “seven-year journey toward integral ecology” for families, dioceses, schools, universities, hospitals, businesses, farms and religious orders.

The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development said that amid the current pandemic, “Laudato Si’ can indeed provide the moral and spiritual compass for the journey to create a more caring, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world.”

“We have, in fact, a unique opportunity to transform the present groaning and travail into the birth pangs of a new way of living together, bonded together in love, compassion and solidarity and a more harmonious relationship with the natural world, our common home,” the dicastery’s statement said.

“As Pope Francis reminds us,” it said, “all of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.”

Recalling the fifth anniversary of his encyclical after reciting the “Regina Coeli” prayer on May 17, Pope Francis expressed his hope that the message of Laudato Si’ will encourage people to take upon themselves the shared responsibility of caring for the Earth.

“In these times of pandemic, in which we are more aware of the importance of caring for our common home, I hope that all our common reflection and commitment will help to create and strengthen constructive behaviors for the care of creation,” the pope said.

Vatican listens to ‘cry of poor, cry of the Earth’ during pandemic

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis’ vision of “integral human development” and “integral ecology” involves identifying the connections between the condition of human beings and the condition of the environment, said Cardinal Peter Turkson.

While Christians are right to be increasingly focused on “the cry of the Earth” and how environmental destruction impacts human life, with the COVID-19 pandemic “we must listen to the cry of the poor,” especially those risking starvation, the unemployed and migrants and refugees, said Cardinal Turkson, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Cardinal Turkson is coordinating the work of the Vatican COVID-19 Commission and led an online news conference on May 15 to discuss the commission’s progress.

“At one of the last meetings we had with Pope Francis, he asked us to ‘prepare the future’—not ‘prepare for the future,’ but prepare it, anticipate it,” the cardinal said.

“Hardly any aspect of human life and culture is left untouched” by the virus and efforts to stop its spread, the cardinal said. “COVID-19 started as a health care issue, but it has affected drastically the economy, jobs and employment, lifestyles, food security, the primary role of artificial intelligence and Internet security, politics and even governance.”

Obviously, providing health care to victims of the virus is an urgent need, said the cardinal and other members of the commission.

Father Augusto Zampini, adjunct secretary of the dicastery, said that is one reason why Pope Francis called for international debt relief—it would help the world’s poorest countries redirect money from interest payments to ramping up their health services.

But another major issue the commission is looking at is the threat of a “hunger pandemic.”

At the beginning of 2020, before the coronavirus became a global pandemic, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) said 135 million people in 55 countries were facing “acute hunger” as a result chiefly of conflict, the effects of climate change and economic crises.

Now, with people out of work and supply chains interrupted, the WFP is warning that “the lives and livelihoods of 265 million people in low- and middle-income countries will be under severe threat.”

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Despite challenges, pandemic reminds us Eucharist is greatest gift

“The Second Vatican Council rightly proclaimed that the Eucharistic sacrifice is ‘the source and summit of the Christian life.’ For the most holy Eucharist contains the Church’s entire spiritual wealth: Christ himself, our passport and living bread. Through his own flesh, now made living and life-giving by the Holy Spirit, he offers life to men. Consequently the gaze of the Church is constantly turned to her Lord, present in the Sacrament of the Altar, in which she discerns the full manifestation of his boundless love” (St. John Paul II, “Ecclesia de Eucharistia,” #1).

Hopefully, you are among the fortunate ones. We sincerely pray that is the case. And as we move forward, let us continue to place our trust in God. While so many around the world are still facing uncertainty because of the challenges presented by the coronavirus, we pray that you:

• Are all healthy in body, while we watch the death toll inch toward 100,000 in the U.S. and see it surpass 300,000 globally as a result of COVID-19. Here in Indiana, as of May 18, more than 1,600 deaths have been reported. We offer heartfelt prayers for families who have lost loved ones. May they be at rest in their eternal home.

• Are taking local and national health care mandates seriously. Although stay-at-home orders have been eased in many parts of the U.S.—including here in Indiana—vigilance must still be at the center of all we do. Wearing masks in public, staying 6 feet apart while in line at supermarkets and retail stores, visiting parks and other venues that are reopening, and maintaining all social distancing norms will help us as we try to continue working through this pandemic. Respecting the public safety of others is a guiding principle we must adhere to as we move forward.

• Are keeping faith at the center of your life. One blessing of the virus for many has been having to spend more time at home with family—time that, God willing, has been used to pray together and nurture seeds of faith, especially for our children. Parents continue to be the first teachers of faith for their children, and it is never too late to impart life lessons to those under our care.

• We cannot thank our priests in central and southern Indiana enough who have offered and will continue to offer Masses online for those unable to attend liturgies in person. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson and other Indiana bishops have extended the dispensation for the obligation to participate in Mass on Sundays to all the faithful until Aug. 15. There is sound reasoning behind this: the elderly and those who have underlying health conditions are more susceptible to illness during this challenging time. And as Father Patrick Beidelman, executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Worship and Evangelization, recently reminded us, they must continue to be part of our daily prayers.

We, like so many of you, are overjoyed that the public celebration of Sunday Mass, with proper social distancing, may resume beginning this weekend, on May 23-24, in many archdiocesan parishes. Some will be able to resume some activities before others. Please visit your parish website or call your parish office to learn more about the Mass schedule. We’ve been asked to attend only our home parishes for the next month to help our communities manage the complexities of keeping people safe.

While archdiocesan officials admit there will probably be adjustments as they learn more during the resumption of public worship in the coming weeks and even months, we thank God that people of faith can partake of the Eucharist in person again. As St. John Paul II said in his encyclical “Ecclesia de Eucharistia”—and as we have been able to better understand during the last two-plus months—there is no greater gift for us as Catholics. It is the source and summit of our faith.

That tenet leads to an important lesson for us from this challenging time: We are indeed the fortunate ones—able to again receive the precious body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

—Mike Krokos

Reflection/John Shaughnessy

COVID-19 pandemic can help Catholics enter into their common priestly mission

This weekend, many Catholics across central and southern Indiana will worship at Sunday Mass for the first time in two months. Public celebration of the Mass and the other sacraments was suspended on March 17 across the state as part of a broader social effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

But the liturgies that will be celebrated this weekend will be different in many ways than those we experienced before March 17.

Because the coronavirus remains a significant threat, seating capacity in parish churches will be reduced.

And people 65 or older or who have complicating medical conditions are advised to remain at home.

Because of these and other factors, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson has extended the dispensation from the obligation to participate in Sunday Mass until Aug. 15.

So, although Catholic churches are reopening and the sacraments are starting to be celebrated again, many of our brothers in sisters in faith will not be able to gather for worship near their local altar.

Perhaps the challenges in our lives of faith that all Catholics in central and southern Indiana have faced over the past two months and those still being borne by many can lead us to enter more fully into what I feel is an undervalued aspect of our faith: the Church’s teaching on the Eucharistic priesthood of all the faithful.

What is the deep longing of your life? When the Son of God came among us as a human being, his mission involved a threefold ministry as priest, prophet and king.

Each person who is baptized into Christ receives a share in each of those ministries. Yes, there is a priesthood that is distinct from the ordained priesthood that we know and appreciate so well. St. Peter described all the faithful, though, as a “holy priesthood” who offers “spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Pt 2:4).

St. John, in the Book of Revelation, said that Christ has made his followers “into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father” (Rev 1:6). These New Testament references to God’s people as priests echoes similar thoughts expressed in the Old Testament in Exodus, Isaiah and Ezekiel.

We believe that ordained priests in the Church have been given the one perfect sacrifice that Christ made in his death on the cross.

We, the lay people who worship at Mass are not just mere spectators at this wondrous event. We are invited to join the sacrifice of the bread and wine on the altar that become the body and blood of Christ through the many sacrifices we make in our daily lives.

While the celebration of a Sunday Mass in a formal way may last about an hour, as Catholic priests, as part of the common priesthood of the Church, are empowered by God’s grace to extend its effects throughout the week. And we also prepare for the next Mass by, in St. Paul’s words, offering our “bodies as

Reflection/Sean Gallagher

What is the deep longing of your life?

At 24, Matthew Krach shared the one joy he has missed the most in the past two months.

“It’s a longing shared by Catholics of all ages since mid-March when the coronavirus crisis forced the closing of all churches in the archdiocese—again across the country—as a precaution against the spread of the deadly disease.

“Without question, what I have missed most has been my inability to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, Krach said, a member of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis. “Only once before have I gone a month without reception of the Eucharist.”

To describe his desire to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, Krach used a word that isn’t often heard—“craved.”

“I craved reception of Communion through Jan.,” he said. “There is a reason Christ gave us his body and blood to be broken and shared until his second coming. We are body and soul, and we encounter others most fully when we can do so in person.

“God took on flesh so that we could more fully relate to him and grow in our union with him. When I can’t receive or be physically in his presence in adoration, I become aware that there is something missing.”

So Krach is thankful that many churches in the archdiocese have been re-opened, on a limited basis at this point, they learn more during the resumption of public worship in the coming weeks. We’ve also been asked to, in parish churches will be reduced.

Please visit your parish website or call your parish office to learn more about the Mass schedule. We’ve been asked to attend only our home parishes for the next month to help our communities manage the complexities of keeping people safe.

That tenet leads to an important lesson for us from this challenging time: We are indeed the fortunate ones—able to better understand during the last two-plus months that too often have I gone a month without reception of the Eucharist.”

I become aware that there is something missing.”

I need to do more to reflect his love and the joy he has missed the most in the past two months and those still being borne by many can lead us to enter more fully into what I feel is an undervalued aspect of our faith: the Church’s teaching on the Eucharistic priesthood of all the faithful.
La Soledad de la Ascensión del Señor, que se celebra este domingo, es una festividad especialmente poderosa dadas nuestras experiencias en los últimos meses.

Los católicos a los que se les ha negado el acceso a los sacramentos, especialmente la sagrada eucaristía, a consecuencia del coronavirus, se sentirán identificados con los discípulos de Jesús que sintieron una terrible sensación de estar separados del Señor, perdidos, solos y asustados, y a liberar a los enfermos y a los moribundos, a consolar a los que se encuentran solos y asustados, y a liberar a los prisioneros.

Al subir al cielo Jesús no nos abandonó sino que hizo posible que nos acercáramos todavía más a Él y nos seamos miembros de su Cuerpo Místico y que todos nuestros hermanos del mundo se enteraran de su presencia.

A muchos les han negado el acceso a la gracia de los sacramentos y la posibilidad de estar en la presencia verdadera de nuestro Señor en la eucaristía durante la pandemia del coronavirus. Si no prestamos atención, quizá podremos caer en la tentación de pensar que la Iglesia nos ha abandonado en nuestra hora de mayor necesidad y nos ha separado de la eucaristía y del Sacramento de la penitencia. Pero ninguna decisión de los líderes de la Iglesia o del gobierno “podrá apartarnos del amor que Dios nos ha manifestado en Cristo Jesús nuestro Señor” (Rom 8:39).

Jesús subió al cielo para que sus seguidores (todos nosotros) pudieranmos asumir el papel que nos corresponde como discípulos misioneros. Es por ello que nos hemos convertido en miembros de su Cuerpo Místico y que todos nuestros hermanos del mundo se enteraran de su presencia.

En agradecimiento a la presencia del Señor, recemos junto con san Pablo en la segunda lectura de la Solemnidad de la Ascensión del Señor.

“Pido que el Dios de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, el Padre glorioso, les dé el Espíritu de sabiduría y de revelación, para que lo conocan mejor. Pido también que les sean iluminados los ojos del corazón para que sepan a qué esperanza él los ha llamado, cuál es la riqueza de su gloriosa herencia entre los santos, y cuán incomparable es la grandeza de su poder para nosotros que creemos. Ese poder es la fuerza grandiosa y eficaz que Dios ejerció en Cristo y lo resucitó de entre los muertos y lo sentó a su derecha en las regiones celestiales” (Ef 1:17-20).

Jesús permanece cerca de nosotros. ¡Alleluia!
Food pantries in Perry and Brown counties offer, receive blessings

“Food and turns to Martin’s Cloak food woman finally admits she needs help with Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP), a Catholic-affiliated food pantries for help. struggling to feed themselves and their “You are the reason we will eat today.”

By Natalie Hoefer

(Editor’s note: Below is the final installment in a series looking at how parishes and organizations with Catholic ties are meeting the increased need for food since the outbreak of the coronavirus and its impact on the economy.)

After three weeks of unemployment, a woman finally admits she needs help with Martin’s Cloak food pantry in Perry County. Grateful for food they received from St. Vincent de Paul’s food pantry in Brown County, a family leaves a note saying, “You are the reason we will eat today.” Across central and southern Indiana, people are going hungry from job loss as a result of the coronavirus crisis are struggling to feel themselves and their families. Many of them have turned to Catholic-affiliated food pantries for help.

This article highlights how Martin’s Cloak of St. Isidore the Farmer Parish in Perry County and the Brown County Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP), a ministry of St. Agnes Parish in Nashville, are feeding the hungry in their respective areas during this time of increased need.

“That’s what we’re here for”

A satellite view of Siberia shows a spreck surrounded by the green hills of the Hoosier National Forest. Zoom out to a radius of 30 miles around the town, and the view changes little, save for farmland to the west.

For 27 years, Martin’s Cloak has been providing food and clothing to those living within this circumference. The ministry is run by St. Isidore the Farmer Parish in Perry County out of the social hall of St. Martin Church. The volunteers serve those from Crawford, Dubois, Perry and Spencer counties.

“Martin’s Cloak is a client-choice pantry. Typically, visitors enter the pantry in the social hall of St. Martin Church, sign a form, then indicate on a list what items they need. To maintain safety guidelines, visitors now drive to the entrance of the pantry and remain in their cars. Gehlhausen hands them the form to sign, then volunteers load into their trunk a box of pre-selected items to “supplement what they already have for two weeks,” she adds.

While this process temporarily removes the freedom of choice, “Clients are surprised by the amount (of food) they’re getting,” Gehlhausen notes. “They’re surprised they get a box rather than a few bags.” She recalls one woman who visited the pantry after three weeks without employment. She told Gehlhausen, “I just can’t do it anymore.”

“I told her she didn’t need to do it alone,” says the Martin’s Cloak founder. “That’s what we’re here for.”

She says those who come are “happy because we’re still distributing food.”

“It’s wonderful to know you can make that much difference in someone’s life,” she says. “For maybe a week or two, they don’t have to add food to their worries.”

“Transformative for our community”

Nestled among the hills of Brown County, about five miles northeast of Nashville is Catholic Youth Organization’s (CYO) Camp Rancho Frama, where youths and adults alike go for faith filled fun. And across the road from the camp is the Brown County St. Vincent de Paul Society’s (SVdP) warehouse and food pantry, where those in need go for food.

The organization is run by St. Agnes Parish, the only parish in the county. According to the Brown County SVdP website, their client choice food pantry distributes food to approximately 195 families—an average of 600 individuals—per month. During a typical month, more than 7,000 pounds of food is distributed. Since the impact of the coronavirus on the economy, the ministry is now reaching an additional 100 families—but not necessarily at the food pantry.

“Rather than activity at the pantry increasing, we’ve had to go into a mode of trying to come up with ways to reach out to people, because people are somewhat traumatized [by the pandemic] and trying to maintain social distance,” says Shirley Boardman. She serves as secretary of the Brown County SVdP, board, and is also responsible for development and grant writing for the organization.

For example, the pantry now provides food to families with children participating in the Head Start program. Rather than requiring them to come to the pantry, the food is distributed to the families by the Head Start bus as it makes its route.

The food pantry is also providing bags of food for distribution at Sprunica Elementary School in Nineveh, where free breakfast and lunch is offered to children under the age of 18 on weekdays.

Another new form of outreach is delivering food to those living in Brown County’s three senior apartment units.

“The senior folks are trying to be careful, so they’re not coming out to the pantry,” says Boardman. “So we are really making sure they have what they need by taking deliveries to them.”

Brown County YMCA has partnered with SVdP to make this possible. While the YMCA facility is closed due to state orders to help stop the spread of the coronavirus, its CEO, Kim Robinson, “has dedicated her extra time and energy to filling in, often by doing things herself”—such as taking food deliveries to prisoners for those living in the senior apartments, says Boardman.

Robinson, who also helps lead Brown County’s Community Organizations Active in a Disaster group, offered the YMCA facility for the pantry’s “pop-up” food distribution event.

“We prepared in advance 100 bags of food to be staged at the YMCA,” with help from the Nashville United Methodist Church and TRIAD, a local community volunteer group, Boardman says. “Together we distributed 70 of those bags,” then took the remainder to Sprunica Elementary for distribution during their emergency meal program. Our relationships are deepening with all our community partners.”

In addition to enhanced partnerships, another benefit to the food pantry—and thus to those in need in Brown County—is food needs increase is the possibility to purchase a walk-in cooler/freezer unit, thanks to a $32,000 Rapid Response Fund grant awarded by the Brown County Community Foundation. The organization’s executive director, Beth Endowment, Inc., had been floating the idea of purchasing (a cooler/freezer unit) for five years, but never could put their shoulder into the project, became so focused during the coronavirus crisis, she said.

“We are so grateful to the foundation.” The food pantry currently uses 15 residential refrigerators, and Camp Rancho Frama’s freezer for overflow. Having their own freezer/cooler would “allow us to receive bulk donations, which we have difficulty accepting now,” she says. “It’s all of the extra effort paying off in meeting the increased food needs,” Boardman offers a story in response. When three new clients signed up one day in April for help from the food pantry, one family left the following note: “Dear St. Vincent [de Paul Society],”

“We can’t thank you enough—especially now. You are the reason we will eat today. Bless you all!”

“This story is not going to stop soon,” says Boardman. “The way our Catholic community is reaching out and providing leadership and partnerships with others—this work is transformative in our community.”

Active in a Disaster group, offered the YMCA facility for the pantry’s “pop-up” food distribution event. We prepared in advance 100 bags of food to be staged at the YMCA, with help from the Nashville United Methodist Church and TRIAD, a local community volunteer group, Boardman says. “Together we distributed 70 of those bags,” then took the remainder to Sprunica Elementary for distribution during their emergency meal program. Our relationships are deepening with all our community partners.”

In addition to enhanced partnerships, another benefit to the food pantry—and thus to those in need in Brown County—is food needs increase is the possibility to purchase a walk-in cooler/freezer unit, thanks to a $32,000 Rapid Response Fund grant awarded by the Brown County Community Foundation. The organization’s executive director, Beth Endowment, Inc., had been floating the idea of purchasing (a cooler/freezer unit) for five years, but never could put their shoulder into the project, became so focused during the coronavirus crisis, she said.

“We are so grateful to the foundation.” The food pantry currently uses 15 residential refrigerators, and Camp Rancho Frama’s freezer for overflow. Having their own freezer/cooler would “allow us to receive bulk donations, which we have difficulty accepting now,” she says. “It’s all of the extra effort paying off in meeting the increased food needs,” Boardman offers a story in response. When three new clients signed up one day in April for help from the food pantry, one family left the following note: “Dear St. Vincent [de Paul Society],”

“We can’t thank you enough—especially now. You are the reason we will eat today. Bless you all!”

“This story is not going to stop soon,” says Boardman. “The way our Catholic community is reaching out and providing leadership and partnerships with others—this work is transformative in our community.”

Feedback central and southern Indiana

Compiled by Natalie Hoefer

Below is a partial list of parishes and Catholic organizations that shared information with The Criterion on new or continued programs to feed the hungry in this time of increased need during the COVID-19 outbreak. Other listings were included in the May 15 and May 22 issues.

• Charles Gehlhausen in Milan collects a bag of groceries from parishioner each month to donate to the Milan Food pantry. While the church was closed, parishioners brought their bags individually to the food pantry—

one parishioner donated the meat of an entire cow. The parish continues to donate funds monthly to the pantry. • St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis continues its Garden Door Ministry, which parish pastor Father Rick Nagel says has seen an increase in need as other local downtown food ministries temporarily shut down.

• Members of Holy Trinity Parish in Edinburgh went to great lengths to purchase and participate in a local ecumenical food pantry, which parish life coordinator Deacon Russell Woodson says has had the number it serves double between March and April. •
In their words: Church, state leaders reflect on career of Glenn Tebbe

"Deeply rooted in his Catholic identity, Glenn exudes a wonderful ecumenical and interreligious spirit of dialogue and collaboration. I recall the 50th anniversary of the ICC, when Bishop Timothy Doherty of Lafayette and I accompanied Glenn to the state capitol. I was aware that Glenn is greatly admired and respected in both chambers of our state legislature. In addition, he has represented us well with other Catholic churches throughout the country, especially through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Above all, Glenn is a praying man of the Church who has reflected my own family, passion and all aspects of his life. I consider him a friend and inspiration."—Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

"During the past two and a half years that I have been privileged to work with Glenn, I have experienced and admired his devotion to Catholic education, especially concerning his love for the Church for his mother and the mission in the state of Indiana. Glenn has been a great help to me as Bishop of Bloomington (Evansville) in learning about the life, culture and politics of our state."—Evansville Bishop Joseph M. Siegel

"After having worked alongside Glenn for just six months, I dearly miss his knowledge, grace and wit. Glenn has been a great colleague and I have no doubt that future generations will fill the void that he is leaving. However, I am committed to working with these good people to continue the important work that Glenn did."—Angela Espada, executive director, Indiana Catholic Conference

"Glenn has dedicated his life to the life of the Church and our state. Whether it be through education or his advocacy at the Statehouse, every day without exception, he worked thoughtfully to give a voice to those less fortunate and in need. Glenn will be missed in the halls of our state capitol, but his retirement is well earned."—Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb

"Glenn Tebbe has been a leader in his hometown and across the state, fighting for the values of the Indiana Catholic Conference. He will be missed by many, and I am excited to see what Glenn will do in his next chapter."—Sen. Jean Leising, Senate District 42

"Glenn Tebbe is a 'gentle giant' who practices his Catholic faith in everything he does. Over the years, the issues Glenn tackled were often emotional and controversial. However, when he sat down to discuss those issues with you, he presented the facts from all perspectives and would do so very calmly and respectfully. Glenn was extremely well respected not only by the members of the Indiana General Assembly, but his peers as well."—Rep. Dan Ridenour, Senate District 5

"Glenn is a man of unwavering faith and a fierce advocate for providing high-quality education to all children. I have enjoyed working with him over the years and appreciate his passion for driving student success. His leadership will be greatly missed."—Rep. Bob Behning, Indiana House of Representatives District 91

"Glenn is a real champion for unborn children and their moms. Over the years of our friendship, Glenn always brought a level-headed approach to life issues and could be counted on for wise advice based on his exceptional grasp of the legislative process. There is no doubt that many children are alive today because of the dedicated efforts of Glenn at the Statehouse."—Mike Fichter, president and CEO, Indiana Right to Life

"Glenn was a great partner to have at the Statehouse, as we worked together on issues affecting low-income Hoosiers. In addition to having great ideas and a tireless work ethic, you could always count on him to be a calming presence and to put a smile on your face. I always appreciated his kind and thoughtful approach to advocating for Hoosier families."—Jessica Fraser, director, Indiana Institute for Working Families

"Glenn is a joy to know and serve the Church with. When I was assigned here in July of 2011 and realized that Glenn was a parishioner, I realized how blessed I was and how fortunate St. Mary Parish had been in having him! For so many years as principal of St. Mary School and as chair of the school board and councils, Glenn lived out—and continues to live—the Gospel of Jesus: standing up for life and our faith values!"—Father John Meyer, pastor, St. Mary Parish in Greensburg.
Sister Heather Jen said. “To see Christ in our home,” she said. “We pray for a return to normalcy, to house visits and chapel attendance.”

The families of the residents know how much the staff of the Hermitage care for them. They have sent a daily rosary, a weekly update of their health and spiritual care, and a daily reflection on the virtue of the day. The staff of the Hermitage are doing their job, and they are doing it well. They are doing it with passion and dedication. They are doing it with love and care. They are doing it with their whole hearts. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the well-being of the residents. They are doing it for the Greater Good. They are doing it for the Kingdom of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of Heaven. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the well-being of the residents. They are doing it with passion and dedication. They are doing it with love and care. They are doing it with their whole hearts. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of Heaven. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the well-being of the residents. They are doing it with passion and dedication. They are doing it with love and care. They are doing it with their whole hearts. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of Heaven. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the well-being of the residents. They are doing it with passion and dedication. They are doing it with love and care. They are doing it with their whole hearts. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of Heaven. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the well-being of the residents. They are doing it with passion and dedication. They are doing it with love and care. They are doing it with their whole hearts. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of Heaven. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the well-being of the residents. They are doing it with passion and dedication. They are doing it with love and care. They are doing it with their whole hearts. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of Heaven. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the well-being of the residents. They are doing it with passion and dedication. They are doing it with love and care. They are doing it with their whole hearts. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of Heaven. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the well-being of the residents. They are doing it with passion and dedication. They are doing it with love and care. They are doing it with their whole hearts. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of Heaven. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the well-being of the residents. They are doing it with passion and dedication. They are doing it with love and care. They are doing it with their whole hearts. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of Heaven. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the well-being of the residents. They are doing it with passion and dedication. They are doing it with love and care. They are doing it with their whole hearts. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of Heaven. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the well-being of the residents. They are doing it with passion and dedication. They are doing it with love and care. They are doing it with their whole hearts. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of Heaven. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the well-being of the residents. They are doing it with passion and dedication. They are doing it with love and care. They are doing it with their whole hearts. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of Heaven. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the well-being of the residents. They are doing it with passion and dedication. They are doing it with love and care. They are doing it with their whole hearts. They are doing it for the glory of God. They are doing it for the Kingdom of God. They are doing it for the King
From our homes to yours: keeping you connected to Catholic news

Compiled by Brandon A. Evans

The staff of The Criterion has worked hard to guarantee that Catholics in central and southern Indiana—and subscribers beyond—continue to receive the newspaper each week without interruption during the coronavirus pandemic.

The stay-at-home orders throughout the state modified our schedules and routines, as they have for all the offices of the archdiocese along with our parishes, schools and ministries.

The reporting staff has conducting interviews remotely and been producing stories from home, while the final proofreading and approval of the layout has been done with the editor and a reporter from the graphic designer’s home in Avon (allowable since newspapers are considered an “essential business” in Indiana).

The last nine issues have been designed and produced there, causing some of the staff to refer to them as the “Avon Edition.” They are believed to be the only issues of The Criterion that have ever been produced outside the city of Indianapolis in its 60-year history.

On this page, we take a moment to share a little bit about how we’ve adapted to the recent challenges to keep from missing a beat.

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At left, Brandon A. Evans, graphic designer and online editor, and Mike Krokos, editor, go over corrections on a news page of The Criterion. (Submitted photo by Laura Evans)

Criterion editor Mike Krokos discusses the plans for future editions of the newspaper with staff members. Each week, the reporters gather information and photographs, then put their news stories in a Dropbox folder. It’s up to the editor to decide which stories are running, as well as organizing Catholic News Service content and opinion columns. (Submitted photo by Laura Evans)

Greg Chiodski, associate publisher of The Criterion and executive director of communications for the archdiocese, works closely from home with Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, publisher, as well as the staff of newspaper. (Submitted photo by Katherine Chiodski)

Brandon A. Evans, graphic designer, gets the newspaper’s layout ready on a Monday with the help of his “special assistant,” daughter Zoe Evans. (Photo by Brandon A. Evans)

Oliver the cat, a silver and black spotted Egyptian Mau, has become the official mascot of The Criterion due to his constant presence, antics and attention-seeking on production days. (Photo by Brandon A. Evans)

Natalie Hoefer, reporter, in her work space at home, helps to share the good work of the Catholic response to the coronavirus in the archdiocese. (Submitted photo)

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John Shaughnessy, assistant editor, writes his news stories and columns from home, conducting interviews by telephone and e-mail. (Submitted photo by Mary Shaughnessy)

Sean Gallagher, reporter, is seen in his “mobile office” on his home’s driveway, typing out a news story where he can find some quiet in his car with his laptop powered by an extension cord roped in through a back window. With his five boys at home because of the shut down of their schools, quiet places in his house have been at a premium. (Submitted photo by Cindy Gallagher)

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Student's art and heart are on display in award-winning painting

By John Shaughnessy

The national award verifies 16-year-old Emily Och’s talent as an artist. The words she uses to capture the essence of her award-winning artwork show the depth of her heart. Emily’s talent and heart are on full display in a painting she titled “Our Greatest Shelter, God”—a painting that earned her second place in a national contest sponsored by the U.S. bishops’ Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD).

“I almost started crying when they told me,” she says about the call on May 12. “I don’t win stuff that often, so it was really cool.”

Reflecting the contest’s theme of “More than a Roof,” the sophomore at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis depicted God’s hands protecting people of different nationalities and religions from the rain while plants bloom in the background.

“Most people view a house as just a physical structure, something that protects you from turbulent weather and keeps you warm at night,” Emily notes. “However, a home can be much more than that. A home can serve as a gathering place. It can serve as a place of good times and memories. But most importantly, it can be a place of God.”

In creating her artwork, Emily chose God’s hands to be the roof under which people of all backgrounds can find shelter. “This represents how God cares for us all equally, no matter the color of our skin or who we worship,” Emily notes. “Underneath these hands and behind the people—past the rain—there are plants growing, showing how God’s love is the only thing that lets us bloom and thrive as individuals.”

The “More than a Roof” theme reflects the focus of this year’s contest on the Church’s teaching that all people have a right to affordable housing.

“The Catholic Church and all of its members have a certain responsibility to take care of those who suffer from lack of housing,” says Emily, a member of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood. “Jesus taught through his entire ministry to take care of the poor and less fortunate. Trying to find housing for those without it is just one step in moving toward the direction of getting all of those who are less fortunate into a better place.”

Emily’s award-winning artwork earned her $375, which she will add to her savings for a car. Her award also let her designate a $375 grant for an organization funded by CCHD. She chose Teen Mother Choices, a faith-based program with a chapter in Brookville “designed to encourage, equip and support teen moms who have already given birth and who have courageously chosen to parent their child,” according to the organization’s website.

“Whenever I hear people talking about teen moms, I feel it’s always in criticism,” Emily says. “But I never hear about anyone getting them the help they need. So I thought it was the best choice. Helping others is a big thing for me. I don’t like to see other people in bad situations. It’s really nice to take something I enjoy—art—and use it to bring goodness to somebody else. I didn’t realize until this contest how much my art affects people.”

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Faith Alive!

Joan of Arc showed great faith, courage in battle and persecution

By Ellie Caldorola

Was she suffering from schizophrenia or a form of epilepsy, as some modern writers have suggested? How did a teenage girl persuade the future King Charles VII of France to let her lead his troops into battle? And how could those to whom she was so loyal leave her so defenseless in the end?

Joan of Arc, whose feast day is on May 30, inspired the French in battle against the English in the 15th century and was subsequently executed as a heretic.

Hundreds of years later, she inspires more questions than nearly any saint in history. Books about her fill shelves, and perhaps more films tell her story than that of any other saint. She continues to fascinate and captivate the popular imagination.

Who was this woman who was burned at the stake before her 20th birthday?

First, some history.

Joan was born in 1412 into the midst of the Hundred Years’ War, a conflict that actually lasted 116 years, from 1337 to 1453. This “war” was not one constant, ongoing battle, but rather an intermittent series of fights, punctuated by years of peace and bouts of plague, over who had the right to rule France.

The dispute involved a long series of claimants, both English and French, making a clear-cut winner a tough pick. This was a fight between two Catholic countries. It wouldn’t be until the 16th century that King Henry VIII severed England’s ties to the Holy See.

Joan was born to a devout peasant family in Domremy, France. She was illiterate and spent her childhood learning domestic duties and helping on her family’s farm. It is said that even within her own village, people disagreed about whom should rule France.

When Joan was around 12 or 13 years old, she began to have visions. She said her messengers were St. Michael the Archangel, St. Catherine of Alexandria and St. Margaret of Antioch. Their assignment to her became clear: She was to help Charles VII be officially proclaimed the rightful king of France.

As a little girl, she did not immediately act on these messages. How could she? But she continued to see visions and hear voices and by the time she was 16, she approached a local garrison commander and told him she wanted to meet the king.

Naturally, he scoffed. But Joan must have been incredibly charismatic. And this being medieval France, her claim of visions appealed to the popular imagination. The locals began to support her, and Joan eventually parlayed this ability to rally opinion into martial victory.

But first she needed to sway the commander, who relented and sent her with an escort on the 300-mile journey, some of it through wilderness, to the king’s court.

What happened there is a mystery. Tradition says Joan was able to recognize Charles VII, even though he disguised himself to test her.

Supposedly, she told him things only he would know.

Convinced, he allowed her, dressed for battle as a man, to lead his troops into the crucial fight for Orleans. Fervent hope spread that the young visionary was God’s instrument of French victory.

Although Joan was wounded during the battle, the liberation of Orleans and subsequent victories led to the formal crowning of Charles at Rheims, which had also been foretold in her visions. Her renown spread, as was perhaps the most famous person in Europe.

Unfortunately for Joan, military victory was short-lived. About a year after the victory at Orleans launched her epic successes, she was captured by the Burgundians. Her subsequent imprisonment cast a negative light on Charles VII, who did almost nothing to secure her release. Had he believed she was God’s messenger, or was she a convenient prop whose time had passed?

The English put her on trial, an ecclesiastical trial run by Church leaders. But that did not take politics out of the equation. Since she was in English custody, the clerics involved were put in their positions by the English and the questions surrounding her case and her enormous notoriety were political.

Transcripts of her trial exist, and they portray a courageous young woman who maintained confidence in her visions. The trial itself highlights the animus against her.

Joan was charged with heresy, witchcraft and dressing like a man. Yes, that last charge alleged that Joan’s cross-dressing violated divine law, even though she needed the protection of armor in battle and protested that she feared assault in prison without male garb.

Eventually found guilty, Joan was burned before a crowd of thousands. Her ashes were scattered in the Seine River.

The Hundred Years’ War would drag on, but Joan’s martyrdom helped spur the French to eventually drive the English out of most of France. Charles VII, perhaps feeling some well-deserved guilt, procured a trial review years later that nullified Joan’s guilty verdict.

It would be nearly 500 years later, in 1920, that the 19-year-old visionary and warrior was canonized, increasing her historical profile and offering an example of strength against impossible odds for women everywhere.

Ellie Caldorola is a freelance writer and a columnist for Catholic News Service.

The likeness of St. Joan of Arc is seen at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. Inspired by faith and visions of the saints, Joan led French forces to victories over their English opponents before being captured, tried as a heretic and burned at the stake. (CNS photo/Gene Plaisted, The Crosiers)
Pray for those incarcerated during pandemic

"I can tell you right now, with nearly 100 percent certainty, that I am going to get this virus," wrote Dennis, an inmate in the Plainfield Correctional Facility, to his wife. (Inmate Reporting Edition) on National Public Radio on May 9. (IDOC) to protect them from this virus," wrote Dennis, an inmate in the Plainfield Correctional Facility, to his wife. (Inmate Reporting Edition) on National Public Radio on May 9.

Our faith, in fact, challenges us to rush toward need, not away from it. But it is difficult to do social distancing while surrounded by thousands of people who rush to serve. My sister is one of thousands of people who rush to serve. She is the first of the festival of hope. Our biblical ancestors experienced their first eve of Puach sheltered in their homes, as the plagues raged..." He concluded: "The end of the Seder, let us say: ‘Next Year, TOGETHER.’"

For Muslims, deep in the midst of the Ramadan fast and anticipating the final day of fasting, the communal prayer has ceased, and any post-Ramadan fasting is solely familial. The Fiqh Council of North America urged: “We hope and pray that Allah SWT [glory to him, the Exalted] brings relief sooner than later...Turaweeh prayers [seeking pardon for sins] shall be performed at home within a family setting just like the regular daily prayer...The Council does not encourage virtual Taraweeh on Eid al Fitr prayers...Virtual lectures, reflections...are encouraged.”

The “community of believers” sustains all religions. Individual belief finds support there. What a sadness that believers have suffered these past months from COVID-19. Great feasts—meals, remembrances, rituals. That elderly woman bending a knee before God has been locked up in Indiana’s 21 correctional facilities and its 53 county jails. They have no control over when there is an outbreak.

Non-violent offenders in some county jails have been released early or on bail, though this has been going on in a focused, non-celebrated way. The inmates remain in facilities where their safety is someone else’s. Some are isolated, although no one really knows what survival is like. It is hard to do all at once. IDOC is taking action to protect the inmates with limited resources. It houses 27,880 men in 106 different facilities, down to 80 men. Our inmate, Dennis, who was in fear of dying, reported that in his dormitory men were experiencing fever, but not immediately isolated. The IDOC website notes, “We are testing those with symptoms and exposure risk, based on clinical decision-making and in a targeted manner in accordance with CDC guidelines.”

As of May 9, 975 staff members had been infected, and 57 in a correctional facility, 10 positive, and two had died. Of the 1,112 offenders tested, 572 tested positive and 13 had died. There were 27,000 inmates. Many dormitories hold up to 80 men. Our inmate Dennis, who was in fear of dying, reported that in his dormitory men were experiencing fever, but not immediately isolated. The IDOC website notes, “We are testing those with symptoms and exposure risk, based on clinical decision-making and in a targeted manner in accordance with CDC guidelines.”

This is a time to reflect on the power of hope, compassion and love.” The Muslim Alliance of Indiana affirmed and extended Eid al Fitr prayers. … Virtual...The Council does not encourage virtual Taraweeh on Eid al Fitr prayers...Virtual lectures, reflections...are encouraged.”

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The Sunday Readings
Sunday, May 24, 2020

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

In many dioceses in the United States, including the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, this weekend is the liturgical celebration of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. Other dioceses observe this weekend as the Seventh Sunday of Easter. These reflections will refer to the biblical readings for the Ascension of the Lord.

The first reading is taken from the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles. As with the Gospel of St. Luke, the author addresses Theophilus. The identity of Theophilus is uncertain. Was he Theophilus? Was it a proper name? Perhaps it was. Perhaps it was not. Theophilus may also have been a title. Its meaning in the original Greek is “friend of God.”

In any case, an important fact is that Luke’s Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles are inseparably linked. Acts simply continues the story first given in the Gospel. This is a lesson itself. Salvation in Christ continued through the Church after the Lord ascended to his Father in heaven.

When the New Testament was compiled into one set of Scriptures, and as the Church accepted St. John’s Gospel as part of the authentic word of God, this fourth Gospel was inserted between Luke and Acts so as not to divide the four Gospels. This process blurred the perception of Acts as the continuation of Luke.

Critical in this reading is the identification given the Apostles, 11 in number since the defection and eventual suicide of Judas. Acts clearly states that the Lord chose the Apostles. His selection was not insignificant or coincidental, but done on purpose and with the authority of God.

Jesus ascended to heaven, but the Apostles remained. They still needed the wisdom of Jesus. What should they do? They realized that their commission was to his witnesses “to the ends of the Earth,” but people asked questions. They realized that their commission was their commission. They were prepared, having been with Jesus before the resurrection. Gloriously alive after the crucifixion, the Lord was with the Apostles once more.

Jesus commissioned them to go into the world and to bring all to God by baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This command not only underscored the role of the Apostles’ task to continue to proclaim God’s mercy, but it revealed to humanity the very character of God, the Holy Trinity.

Reflection

For weeks, the Church has proclaimed with great joy and confidence the Lord’s victory over death in the resurrection. It has called us to share its rejoicing in the resurrection, and has recalled for us the unconditional response long ago of the first Christians to the fact that Jesus overcame death.

To repeat, the link between Luke’s Gospel and Acts shows that salvation in Christ continued after the ascension. Jesus did not depart the Earth in any final sense after he returned to his heavenly Father. The unfolding of the divine plan of salvation is shown. Jesus chose the Apostles to preach the Gospel and reconcile all humanity with God. They formed the Church to proclaim the message and presence of the Lord to all times and places. The Lord lives in and through the Church.

We, in 2020, encounter Jesus in the Church, just as the first Christians encountered him. Jesus asks us into communion with him in baptism. If we are faithful to our baptism through the Church’s sacraments and teachings, we are forever alive, forever redeemed, forever healed, forever forgiven, forever nourished, forever guided and forever strengthened.

An angel told the Apostles, staring into the sky, to look around themselves and to carry onward redemption in Christ. For its second reading, the Church presents a passage from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians. The reading is a prayer that all Christians might find true wisdom in Christ. St. Matthew’s Gospel provides the last reading. This passage repeats the mission of the Apostles. They were prepared, having been with Jesus before the resurrection. Gloriously alive after the crucifixion, the Lord was with the Apostles once more.

The Church of the first century called the Apostles “beacons of the faith.” The message and presence of the Lord to all times and places is shown. Jesus chose the Apostles to preach the Gospel and reconcile all humanity with God. They formed the Church to proclaim the message and presence of the Lord to all times and places. The Lord lives in and through the Church.

We, in 2020, encounter Jesus in the Church, just as the first Christians encountered him. Jesus asks us into communion with him in baptism. If we are faithful to our baptism through the Church’s sacraments and teachings, we are forever alive, forever redeemed, forever healed, forever forgiven, forever nourished, forever guided and forever strengthened.

The first thing I think you should do is thank God for the “wake-up call.” Then, in quick succession, thank God for your willings, for her willingness to forgive and for the chance to move forward in your marriage. But there is more: You surely could profit by speaking with a counselor. The guilt and sadness you now feel are understandable, but your marriage will be healthier and happier if you can give yourself a second chance. A counselor may well think it wise to include your wife in some parts of that counseling. This leaves your daughter— who is old enough to have been hurt by your selfishness and may herself need some time to recover. A counselor may be able to suggest what you might say to your daughter by way of an apology and a pledge to do better.

And finally, I would recommend prayer—speaking with God in your own words, sharing with the Lord your wishes and your worries. You don’t have to be a “religious person” to know that each of us is weak and needs some help from above.

My Journey to God

I CALL

By M. Lynell Chamberlain

I call to the pillow And it calls to me, Pale leaves fluttering In the young spring breeze.

I call to the sky And the sky calls to me, Beckoning upward To soar fearless and free.

I call to the Lord And God answers me, Surrounds me with love For eternity.

(M. Lynell Chamberlain is a member of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersbug. Photo: Willow branches dangle against the backdrop of a blue sky.) (Photo by ox ls on Unsplash.com)

Daily Readings

Monday, May 25

Tuesday, May 26

Wednesday, May 27

Thursday, May 28

Friday, May 29

Saturday, May 30

Vigil Mass of Pentecost

Sunday, May 31

Question Corner

Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Counseling, prayer can help people overcome burdening feelings of guilt

Q am a Christian, although not much of a religious person at heart, but I could use your advice. I have a wife and a 5-year-old daughter whom I love very much, but I have hurt them a lot—not by any means physically, but instead through my arrogance. I have seldom considered their feelings, and always just pushed ahead with my own selfish wants.

Now, thanks to a wake-up call in my life, I have asked for forgiveness directly, and my wife has offered me the chance to start over again. But the feeling of guilt still haunts me; I have a deep-seated sadness for what I have done to damage the relationships within my family. What should I do, Father? (Nevada)

A Your counsel was married 40 years ago in a civil ceremony when she was only 17. After eight years, that marriage ended in divorce. She has now been remarried for some years—once again, not in the Catholic Church.

All these years later, she still attends Mass regularly, but never receives holy Communion. Is this right? What are the rules of the Church on this? (location withheld)

A Your counsel is correct in not receiving holy Communion when she attends Mass. The Church holds that those who are living in communion with Catholic teaching. For a married person, this would mean having been married in a ceremony with the Church’s approval.

I feel badly for your counsel and admire her honesty in choosing not to receive Communion. The solution, though, might be a fairly easy one. Because her first marriage was in a civil ceremony (and presumably without Church approval), and since your counsel (I’m assuming) was a Catholic at the time, that marriage was not sacramentally valid in the Church and could be dismissed with some simple paperwork. It’s called a “declaration of nullity for absence of canonical form.”

That would leave her present marriage (which seems to be a stable one, since it has lasted 25 years!) and assuming that her present husband had not been married before, this marriage could then be “convalidated” in the Catholic Church by having the couple repeat their vows in the presence of a Catholic priest or deacon. Following that, of course, your counsel, presuming otherwise that she is in a state of grace, would be eligible to receive Communion—and probably thrilled to do so.

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

The Criterion Friday, May 22, 2020
New emergency aid bill would cut most benefits to Catholic schools

CLEVELAND (CNS)—Catholic leaders expressed deep reservations about a new $3 trillion tax cut and spending bill in response to the economic fallout caused by the coronavirus pandemic that would restrict support for Catholic school students.

Unveiled on May 12 by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act, or HEROES Act, includes a provision that would restrict federal emergency relief funds to private schools, including Catholic schools, that had been established in the CARES Act, an earlier $2.2 trillion emergency aid package.

Other provisions in the Democrats’ bill that the Catholic bishops and other private school advocates said would restrict aid for tuition include the elimination of an affected community and allowing assistance for home schooling, a budgetary fund for colleges that can be used for tuition, and measures that cut out nonpublic schools, except in limited cases for children with disabilities, from $90 billion in school aid, and it rescinds a discretionary fund utilized by the secretaries of education established under the bipartisan CARES Act.

Disallowing emergency aid to one part of an affected community and allowing it for another runs contrary to longstanding federal policy, Catholic education advocates said.

Within days of learning of the bill’s content related to nonpublic schools, Bishop David M. O’Connell of Trenton, N.J., urged Catholics in the diocese in a post on the website of The Monitor, the diocesan newspaper, to contact members of Congress to express their concern about the legislation.

Saying the bill has “a lot of good things,” he cautioned that “some real problematic areas exist.

We’re trying to urge Congress to maintain equitable access to federal funding for nonpublic schools and their [students’] families as they have in previous legislation,” Bishop O’Connell told Catholic News Service (CNS) on May 15.

In the first 24 hours after the bill was posted, the bishop said, more than 7,000 messages were sent to Congress, including 5,200 from the Trenton Diocese.

“We just want to make sure that as we face the economic difficulties we’re all facing, that those who have children in nonpublic or Catholic schools have the equal opportunity to provide what the government offers us. We want to make sure we get our fair share.”

Based on a letter by the United Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), state Catholic conferences have endorsed the bill as well to stop what education advocates consider a major step back from long-established federal policies.

“The key thing to this bill is not that it is an education bill, it’s not an emergency relief bill. When in history have we excluded those suffering from an emergency from federal relief?” said Jennifer Daniels, associate director for public policy in the Secretariat for Catholic Education at the USCCB.

“When Congress releases emergency relief funds, it’s available to everyone who is suffering from that emergency. All we are saying is that private schools are suffering from that emergency, and we should have access to emergency relief funds. All we want is our fair share and for our children to be served in an equal manner,” Daniels told CNS.

The private education sector has rallied to oppose the provision specific to school funding.


The USCCB is a member of the council, which is known as CAPE.

“If passed, these provisions would eliminate from eligibility for aid almost all students enrolled by their parents in private schools,” Schuttloffel wrote, adding, “To approve such policies would be to send a message that the House of Representatives is only concerned with the safety of some of America’s students and teachers, not all.”

The letter raised concern that the USCCB Education Act education provisions reopen the CARES Act “to restrict which private school students will be eligible for relief voted on by Congress, and signed by the president, over a month ago.”

Presentation Sister McDonald, director of public policy and educational research at the National Catholic Educational Association, said the bill as written would harm nonpublic schools across the country because it “reinterprets” what emergency aid versus what is traditional education aid.

The bill includes $1 trillion for state, city and tribal governments to avoid layoffs; $200 billion for “hazard pay” for front-line workers; a new round of cash payments for individuals and households; $175 billion in housing assistance for rent and mortgage payments; $75 billion for medical testing; a 15 percent increase in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); subsidies for laid-off workers to pay for health insurance premiums and maintain COBRA; an employee retention tax credit for businesses; and $25 billion for the U.S. Postal Service.

The House of Representatives passed the bill on May 15 largely along party lines. However, the likelihood of the Republican-controlled Senate taking up the measure as written is slim. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, told reporters at the Capitol there was no “urgency” to act and that consideration of any relief measure by the chamber would not happen until after Memorial Day.

The long-standing equitable services policy has existed since 1965 with passage of various civil rights laws under President Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society campaign. It allows federal funding to be sent to states, which then funnels money to local school districts. In turn, the local districts provide equitable services such as English language training or special education based on the needs of the

Catholic Communication Campaign collection set for May 23-24

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The annual collection for the United States Catholic Communication Campaign (CARES Act) is scheduled to take place the weekend of May 23-24, coinciding with World Communications Day, which is on May 24 this year.

The annual national appeal supports efforts in the United States and around the world to use the media, Internet and print publications to help people connect with Christ and “spread the good news.”

“In these times, the support of the Catholic Communication Campaign is vital to help keep the faith connected to our faithful and to communicate the Gospel through all available means,” said Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmayer of Atlanta, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Subcommittee on the Catholic Communication Campaign.

The CCC has long recognized the need to reach people and help them connect with Christ,” he said in a May 18 statement.

The novel coronavirus and the disease it causes, COVID-19, “has prompted life to change in dramatic ways for more than two months, with an increased reliance on communication tools to stay connected,” a USCCB news release said in announcing the 2020 collection. “Catholics and non-Catholics alike are using online tools to work and attend school, and stay connected to their families, friends, and their faith.”

In response to COVID-19, the USCCB developed a resource page about COVID-19 with support from the CCC. In a section titled “Teacher in Christ” on the USCCB website, www.usccb.org, there are links for families, parishes and dioceses for prayer resources, including online prayer resources and instruction in Masses and catechetical materials.

“Thanks to the generosity of the faithful in the United States, millions of people throughout the world have been able to connect in new ways with the good news of Jesus Christ, especially in recent months,” Archbishop Hartmayer said.

While many dioceses are beginning to issue reopening protocols for their churches—as states themselves begin to slowly reopen—most Catholics still are unable to gather together in their churches for Mass. Several dioceses offer online eucharistic programs that include the CCC or other ways for parishioners to support scheduled appeals in the absence of collections during Masses.

Fifty percent of the funds collected through the CCC remain in each diocese to support local communication efforts. The other half is used to support national efforts in the United States and in developing countries around the world.

Among other projects supported by major CCC grants are two documentaries now in national broadcast television circulation: Revolution of the Heart: The Dorothy Day Story and Walking the Good Red Road: Nicholas Black Elk’s Journey to Sahntiout. Day was the co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement and is a candidate for sainthood. Revolution of the Heart was released to public television stations in March and has already exceeded 1,000 broadcasts nationwide, according to a USCCB release. The film won the Religion Communicators Council’s 2020 Wilbur Award for best documentary.


Walking the Good Red Road tells the story of Nicholas W. Black Elk, a 19th-century Lakota catechist who is said to have introduced hundreds of Lakota people to the Catholic faith. He also is a candidate for sainthood.

Black Elk was immortalized in author John Neihardt’s classic 1932 book Black Elk Speaks, in which he recalled the lost ways of Native American life. The documentary brings to light Black Elk’s conversion and his ministry to his people, which he carried out in collaboration with the Jesuits who served his Pine Ridge Reservation.

As of May 17, in interfaith Broacasting Commission, Walking the Good Red Road is available on ABC-TV stations nationwide.

The Subcommittee on the Catholic Communication Campaign oversees the collection and an annual grants program under the direction of the USCCB’s Subcommittee on Communications.
Once he retires, Colts quarterback to coach at Catholic high school

FAIRHOPE, Ala. (CNS)—Philip Rivers said he fulfilled one childhood dream by playing quarterback in the NFL. He’ll soon fulfill another by coaching high school football.

The 38-year-old Rivers was named head coach-in-waiting at St. Michael Catholic High School in Fairhope. He’ll follow in the footsteps of his father, Steve, a longtime high school football coach who is in the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame.

Rivers’ coaching career won’t begin immediately. He is set to begin his 17th season in the NFL after signing a one-year, $25 million deal with the Indianapolis Colts in the offseason. Paul Knapstein, athletic director at St. Michael School, will serve as interim coach for at least the 2020 season. Rivers will take over once he retires from the NFL, which could be after a couple more seasons.

“It’s a special day for me and my family. I will probably get a little emotional,” said Rivers. “I [had] two childhood dreams. One was playing in the NFL. I still love that. The other was to be a high school football coach as my dad was.

“Wow, how blessed am I to be able to live both of those out?” Rivers was the No. 4 overall pick in the 2004 NFL draft. He reached eight Pro Bowls during his 16 seasons with the San Diego and Los Angeles Chargers, and his 59,271 passing yards rank sixth on the league’s all-time list.

He and his wife Tiffany are the parents of nine children. Faustin Weber, the principal at St. Michael School, said Rivers’ upbringings, as the son of a long-time high school coach, as well as his Catholic faith are important attributes in the school’s eventual head coach.

“He and Tiffany are devout Catholics,” Weber said. “I believe he’s going to be a tremendous influence on the lives of our young men here and their faith life. He brings an infectious optimism and enthusiasm to whatever he does, and I think he’s going to really advance our culture here and be a tremendous influence for good.

“Our mission is to build scholars, leaders and disciples of Jesus Christ, and I really believe he’s going to help us advance our mission,” he said.

Rivers played high school football at Athens High School in northern Alabama, but the connection to the Gulf Coast of Alabama came a few years ago when Rivers’ family developed a relationship with a family in the area.

Rivers then conducted football camps at St. Michael each of the past two summers.

“It seemed like the perfect fit,” Rivers said. “As the days went by, we felt more and more like God had a hand in this.”

God’s grace allowed us to take part in the sacrifice of the Mass in a real if spiritual way through our common priesthood.

Wherever the Mass is celebrated, we Catholics here in Indiana and around the world are joined together in Christ’s mystical body and take part in his perfect sacrifice on Calvary. And then we extend its power, grace and mercy to the ends of the Earth, all the way to our own little corner of it through living out our common priesthood.

This is a tremendous mission to enter more fully into as we are blessed to take part once again in the Church’s public worship.

(Sean Gallagher is a reporter for The Criterion.)

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a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” (Rom 12:1) in the many small and sometimes large sacrifices we make in our daily lives.

The Church’s ordained priesthood and common priesthood, then, are closely interrelated and are called to support each other.

In the two months that the public celebration of the Mass was suspended, it still continued as priests offered the Eucharist in their parish churches, often livestreamed online.

Even though lay Catholics could not be present physically at those liturgies, and kind of laid it in our lap from the standpoint of location, a school with the same vision and a young football program. As time went, it made sense. It was the right fit.”

St. Michael School opened in the fall 2016, and its football program will enter its third varsity football season this fall. The program has won three games the past two seasons.

“Our program will be faith, family and football,” Rivers said. “It will be built on faith, and family will be very important, and we’ll work like crazy at the football part.”

Our Lady of Providence High School

Our Lady of Providence High School is currently accepting applications for the position of president. Located in Clarksville, Indiana, the school serves a growing student population of 363 and is accredited by the State of Indiana. The institution is blessed with exceptional teaching and administrative staff and a dedicated group of parents, friends, and alumni.

The position of president is an administrative position. Qualified applicants will have spent the majority of their career in the corporate or non-profit world in a leadership role. The president of the school is the chief executive, advancement, and financial officer of the institution and is responsible for all facets of its operation. The president leads and articulates the school’s mission, vision and creates and implements strategic plans, and builds and nurtures relationships. The president reports to and is evaluated by the superintendent of Catholic schools for the archdiocese with inputs from the Board of Trustees. The president works in close partnership with the principal who is the chief operating officer of the school.

Interested, qualified candidates are encouraged to apply by May 29, 2020.

Please include the following items when applying for this position.

1) Letter of Interest, including responses to the following two questions:
   a) How do you express your faith?
   b) What skills will you bring to Catholic school leadership?
2) Resume
3) Three letters of reference or contact information for three professional references

Complete the online application using the following link:

https://archindy.applicantpro.com/jobs/1398455.html

For questions about this position, please e-mail or call:

Rob Rash
Assistant Superintendent
Office of Catholic Schools
rash@archindy.org
(317)236-1544

Careers at Catholic Charities of Indianapolis

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking a part-time CARE Program Coordinator.

Program Description: The CARE Program is committed to connecting Catholic volunteers and parishes with fellow community members who are undocumented immigrants, unaccompanied children, and families in need of accompaniment and emotional, social service, and spiritual support when integrating into their communities or attempting to comply with immigration proceedings, such as reporting to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for check-ins or attending immigration hearings.

Applicants must be practicing Catholics, bilingual in Spanish and English, have some working knowledge of the U.S. immigration system, be comfortable speaking in public, possess strong organizational skills, and be able to diplomatically deal with potentially conflictual situations. Weekend and evening work and travel within the Archdiocese may be required.

The Catholic Charities – CARE Program is a pilot program of the USCCB – Office of Migration and Refugee Services. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is one of three dioceses participating in the USCCB program.

Please e-mail a cover letter, resume, and list of references, in confidence, to:

Ed Isakson
Director, Human Resources
1400 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
E-mail: eisakson@archindy.org

Equal Opportunity Employer