Supreme Court confirmation hearings highlight health care, religion

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The Oct. 12 start of the Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Judge Amy Coney Barrett had two distinct focuses.

Democratic senators homed in on concern that Barrett’s confirmation would lead to a vote to potentially overturn the Affordable Care Act (ACA) when the legislation comes before the nation’s high court in November.

Republican senators emphasized the nominee’s qualifications for the role and stressed that her Catholic faith, which was raised in her 2017 questioning before the same Senate committee for her federal judiciary nomination, shouldn’t be an issue in the current proceedings.

Indiana senators, who introduced Barrett remotely to the committee near the end of the five hours of discussion about her, highlighted Barrett’s judicial talents and emphasized that her Catholic faith should not come into question, with Sen. Todd Young, R-Indiana, pointing out that in his state, “Faith is seen as an asset in public service.”

In her remarks, Barrett said she was “honored and humbled” to be nominated to the Supreme Court. She spoke of her husband, their seven children, her siblings and her parents. She mentioned “the devoted teachers at St. Mary’s Dominican,” the girls high school she attended in New Orleans.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School in norther Indiana and currently a member of the school’s faculty, she also mentioned that if she were confirmed, she would be the only justice on the bench not from Harvard or Yale.

Other than the school references, Barrett’s only remark about her faith came after thanking people for their support in recent weeks. She added: “I believe in the power of prayer, and it has been uplifting to hear that so many people are praying for me.”

In her search for a home and a purpose, college student finds both in her Catholic faith

First in an occasional series

(Editor’s note: In this series, The Criterion will feature young adults who have found a home in the Church and strive to live their faith in their everyday life.)

By John Shaughnessy

Like many first-year students in college, Cheyenne Johnson was searching. Searching for friends. Searching for a purpose in life. Searching for a community where she would be welcomed, where she would feel she belonged.

She explored different options during her freshman year at Butler University in Indianapolis, including joining a sorority. But none of them provided what she hoped for—until she decided to follow a longing that had intrigued her earlier in her teenage years.

When Johnson was 13, her family had already moved several times, from Florida to California to Arizona to Indiana. Raised as a Southern Baptist, she found that in every place her family moved, there was something different and confusing about the faith experience she had in church. It left her longing to belong.

In her search for a home and a purpose, college student finds both in her Catholic faith

See COLLEGE, page 8

Center for Faith and Vocational Life

Cheyenne Johnson poses for a photo at Butler University in Indianapolis where the senior has embraced her desire to become a Catholic and the faith-filled community that has welcomed her. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

Holy Angels breaks ground after eight years without church

By Natalie Hoefer

Nelli Simpson and Claudia Nicholas stood side by side looking at the site where Holy Angels Church once stood.

“I was here the day they tore it down,” said Nicholas of the date eight years ago when the 109-year-old structure was razed. “I cried and cried. That was a sad, sad day.

“But this is a great day,” she quickly added, her mask-covered smile sparkling through her eyes.

The “great day” was Sept. 26, the day Holy Angels Parish held a groundbreaking and blessing ceremony for its new church on the same site as the former one on the near-west side of Indianapolis. Completion is expected by March or April 2021, depending on weather.

The event was more than a decade in the making.

See HOLY ANGELS, page 8

Nelli Simpson and Claudia Nicholas stood side by side looking at the site where Holy Angels Church once stood. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)
‘Gospel is not reserved for a few,’ Pope Francis says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—God loves and has prepared a banquet for everyone—“the just and sinners, the loves and has prepared a banquet for everyone, because the Gospel is not reserved for the doors of our hearts and our communities,” the pope said, but rather “opening the evangelization and witnessing to charity,” “comfort and the customary ways of the people around the world to join a rosary prayer on Oct. 18 a “beautiful event” with children and volunteers and firefighters who risk their lives to extinguish the fires. I am thinking of the West Coast of the United States, particularly California, and I am also thinking of the central regions of South America, from the Pantanal zone of Paraguay to the banks of the Amazon River in Brazil.

“Many fires are caused by persistent drought, but there are also those caused by man,” he said, “the Lord sustains those who are suffering the consequences of these catastrophes and make us careful to preserve creation.”

Pope Francis also praised Armenia and Azerbaijan for agreeing to a cease-fire “for humanitarian reasons, in view of reaching a substantial peace accord,” after renewed fighting over the Nagorno-Karabakh region left hundreds of people dead in late September and early October.

“The pope also used his post-Angels remarks to draw attention to his prayer request for October, a request distributed globally by the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, formerly known as the Apostleship of Prayer.

“The intention, he said, “goes like this: ‘We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the especially, young women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church’”

“Today there is a need to broaden the spaces for a more incisive female presence in the Church,” he said, “because in general women are set aside. We must promote the integration of women into the places where important decisions are made.”

He added, however, that women leaders in the Church must maintain their vocation as laity and not fall into “clericalism.”

Finally, the pope encouraged young people around the world to join a rosary campaign being promoted by the Aid to the Church in Need Foundation.

Pope Francis called the foundation’s “One Million Children Praying the Rosary” on Oct. 18 a “beautiful event” with children praying for peace and especially “for critical situations caused by the pandemic.”

Share the blessings and moments from your life this year for which you are especially grateful

When President Abraham Lincoln formally declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863, the United States was a nation divided, struggling with the issues of race and in the midst of a tragedy that was killing hundreds of thousands of Americans.

As we live in a similar time, it’s often hard to focus on the blessings in our lives. Still, there are many for most of us. And while acknowledging how challenging and terrifying many adventures this year has been, The Criterion is inviting our readers to share what they are thankful for as another Thanksgiving approaches. We hope to publish a list of our readers’ blessings in the Nov. 20 issue of the paper leading up to Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 26 this year.

Please consider sharing a blessing, a gift, an encounter, a story, a moment of hope, joy, compassion or love from your life this year for which you are especially grateful. Whether it’s a simple reason to be thankful or a life-changing one, we will appreciate all the positive responses we receive.

Send your submissions to John Shanahan by e-mail at ishaunahan@archindy.org or by mail in care of The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202. Please include your parish and a daytime phone number where you can be reached.

October 17 – 10 a.m. Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Joseph Parish in Corydon, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany, St. Mary Parish in Laplace and St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, New Albany

October 17 – 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Mary Parish in Naviolet, St. Mary Parish in New Albany and St. John the Baptist Parish in Starlight, at St. Mary Church, New Albany

October 18 – 2 p.m. Confirmation Mass for youths of American Martyrs Parish in Sciotoville, at American Martyrs Church

October 20 – 1 p.m. Council of Priests meeting at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, Greenwood

Pope Francis meets Cardinal Pell, thanks him for his ‘witness’

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—“Thank you for your witness,” Pope Francis told Cardinal George Pell in Rome on Sept. 30, more than three years after he had left Rome to face charges in Australia.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, had told reporters on Oct. 1 that it was Cardinal Pell’s decision to come to Rome, where he still has an apartment, and that Pope Francis was not thinking about giving the Australian a new position.

Cardinal Parolin also denied that Cardinal Pell’s return had anything to do with the forced resignation of Cardinal Angelo Becciu, who had served from 2011 to 2018 as “sostituto”—a position like chief of staff—in the Vatican Secretariat of State, where he had control and oversight over certain Vatican funds.

The day after Becciu’s ouster, Cardinal Pell released a statement saying, “The Holy Father was elected to clean up Vatican finances. He plays a long game and 2018 as "sostituto"—a position like chief of staff—in the Vatican Secretariat of State, where he had control and oversight over certain Vatican funds. The day after Becciu’s ouster, Cardinal Pell released a statement saying, “The Holy Father was elected to clean up Vatican finances. He plays a long game and

Effective Immediately

Rev. John J. Hollowell, pastor of Annunciation Parish in Brazil, St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greenwich, and Catholic chaplain at DePauw University, was elected to clean up Vatican finances. He plays a long game and 2018 as "sostituto"—a position like chief of staff—in the Vatican Secretariat of State, where he had control and oversight over certain Vatican funds. The day after Becciu’s ouster, Cardinal Pell released a statement saying, “The Holy Father was elected to clean up Vatican finances. He plays a long game and 2018 as "sostituto"—a position like chief of staff—in the Vatican Secretariat of State, where he had control and oversight over certain Vatican funds. The day after Becciu’s ouster, Cardinal Pell released a statement saying, “The Holy Father was elected to clean up Vatican finances. He plays a long game and 2018 as "sostituto"—a position like chief of staff—in the Vatican Secretariat of State, where he had control and oversight over certain Vatican funds. The day after Becciu’s ouster, Cardinal Pell released a statement saying, “The Holy Father was elected to clean up Vatican finances. He plays a long game and
Father Joseph Villa led parishes in western and southern Indiana

By Sean Gallagher

Father Joseph Villa, pastor of American Martyrs Parish in Scougburg and St. Patrick Parish in Salem, died on Oct. 7 in Scottsburg. He was 61.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Oct. 13 at St. Benedict Church in Terre Haute. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson was the principal celebrant. Benedictine Father Julian Peters was the homilist.

Burial followed at Roselawn Memorial Park in Terre Haute.

Shortly before he was ordained a priest in 1997, Father Villa told The Criterion that those who helped form him for ordained ministry at the former Saint Meinrad College taught him to “believe and know your faith, but that the priesthood is more.”

“The priest of today,” he said, “needs to know the people and should be able to share their pain and joy.”

Magr. William F. Stumpf, archdeacon vicar general, recalled how Father Villa embodied this vision of priestly life and ministry shortly after his ordination when he was asked to help for a brief time in a parish that was awaiting the appointment of a new pastor.

“While serving at the parish, he quickly became aware that this was a very difficult time not only for the parish but especially for the parish staff,” said Magr. Stumpf. “He organized and cooked a special luncheon for all the staff, which greatly helped lift their spirits in a painful time of transition.”

Father Julian, who came to know Father Villa at Saint Meinrad College, noted that Father Villa’s “sincerity, dedication, and enthusiasm” touched the people to whom he ministered over the years.

“He didn’t just say Mass,” Father Julian said, “he prayed Mass.”

Joseph L. Villa was born on July 28, 1959, in Clinton County to the late James and Helen Villa. He was a 1979 graduate of the former Archbishop Paul C. Schulte High School in Terre Haute.

After attending Indiana State University in Terre Haute for a year, Father Villa worked as a hair stylist for many years before becoming an archdiocesan seminarian and receiving priestly formation at the former Saint Meinrad College in St. Meinrad. He graduated from the college in 1993, earning a bachelor’s degree in English.

Father Villa continued his priestly formation at the Pontifical North American College and earned a bachelor’s degree in sacred theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, both in Rome.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein ordained Father Villa to the priesthood on June 7, 1997, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. He celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving the following day at St. Patrick Church in Terre Haute.

Ohio university students, faith leaders, priests and religious pray for nation

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio (CNS)—The president of Franciscan University of Steubenville called for an increase in humility, repentance and prayer as the path to bring healing and peace to the nation.

“Each one of us is an individual, as a town, as a country must reconcile with this reality—that if things are going to change and if things are going to be different, it’s up to us,” Franciscan Father Dave Pivonka said in his homily at a mass on Oct. 3 at Franciscan University’s Finnegan Fieldhouse. “It has to be a personal decision that each one of us makes.”

The Mass, celebrated by Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton of Steubenville and followed by a eucharistic procession, was part of a “Unite Our Nation” event that drew together priests, religious sisters, students, other faith leaders and members of the community to pray for the country.

In his homily, Father Dave encouraged people to recognize both the beauty and brokenness present in the Church, the nation and their own lives.

“We need to be humble enough to look at the person down the street and recognize that he or she may have a different story or may look different than us, but they are no different in the sight of God,” Father Dave said.

After Mass, Bishop Monforton, carrying the monstrance, led about 175 people in a eucharistic procession. They prayed the rosary as they walked more than 2 miles from the university to Holy Name Cathedral in downtown Steubenville.

The bishop closed the procession with Benediction, and Father Dave introduced local faith leaders for an ecumenical prayer service.

“If there is going to be unity anywhere, it has to start with the body of Christ,” said the Rev. Vaughn Foster, Sr., executive director of Relationship Builders, during the service.

He said Christians need to see the world as it is so they can identify with one another’s pain and hear what others have to say because “too often we’re not very good at telling, but we’re not very good at listening.”

“There can be no unity without empathy,” he said. “Not until we can really empathize with each other, see each other where we are, and hear with our hearts, that we can begin to take those steps toward unity.”

The Rev. Tom Hubbard of Urban Mission Ministries likewise reminded the crowd that the “character of a real Christian will show through our unity.”

“God is smiling down on us today. It’s not about who you are and who I am. It’s about who God is in our life,” she said. “Christian will show through our unity.”

Ohio university students, faith leaders, priests and religious pray for nation

“Your parish is there for you in good times and in bad. During this time continue to do what they do—which is bring the light of Christ to others. For parishes, this is a particularly difficult time because with less people attending Mass than usual, offertory collections have dropped significantly.

Your faithful and ongoing contributions will help enable parishes to continue to do what they do—which is bring the light of Christ to others. Your parish is there for you in good times and in bad. During this time of pandemic, show them that you are there for them as well.”

We are many weeks in to the new realities brought about by COVID-19. For parishes, this is a particularly difficult time because with less people attending Mass than usual, offertory collections have dropped significantly.

Your faithful and ongoing contributions will help enable parishes to continue to do what they do—which is bring the light of Christ to others. Your parish is there for you in good times and in bad. During this time of pandemic, show them that you are there for them as well. IT’S TIME FOR US TO SHARE OUR LIGHT.

PLEASE don’t forget how much your parish needs your support... now more than ever!

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Please consider giving to your parish online, which you can do securely at www.archindy.org/giving.

PLEASE don’t forget how much your parish needs your support... now more than ever!
**Blessed Carlo Acutis offers a witness of Christ for all**

We know of the challenges young people face today. School, extracurricular activities, family commitments and an always-evolving social calendar—plus the effects of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic—lead to a tremendous amount of stress these days for many teenagers. Add Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and other social media platforms to the equation, and we can understand why many young people feel there aren’t enough hours in the day to accomplish what they believe needs to be done.

It may be tempting for many of those who follow a similar pattern—that their lives have become so chaotic that many forget the gifts the Catholic faith offers them, including saints to inspire them as they journey on a potential path to eternal life in heaven.

 Providentially, the recent news of a teenager on the path to sainthood serves as a reminder for people of faith to seek a real-life example from today’s world.

Italian teenager Carlo Acutis was beatified on Oct. 10 at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. He is the first millennial to be declared “blessed.”

He used his computer programming skills to spread devotion to the Eucharist, which he called his “highway to heaven.”

On the website he created, Carlo told his followers what they believe needs to be done.

The website is a true inspiration to many others who follow a similar path. Carlo died at age 15 in 2006, after battling leukemia. Before he died, he requested to be buried in Assisi, because it was the place where he attended daily Mass, prayed the Rosary and offered up his life for the pope.

Carlo was well-aware that the whole apparatus of communications, advertising and social networking can be used to pull us, to make us addicted to consumerism and buying the latest thing on the market, obsessed with our free time, caught up in negativity,” the pope wrote.

“Yet he knew how to use the new communications technology to transmit the Gospel, to communicate values and beauty,” the pope added (#105).

Carlo’s tomb was open for veneration in Assisi, Italy. It is the first millennial to be declared “blessed.”

Blessed Carlo Acutis, an Italian teenager who used his computer programming skills to spread devotion to the Eucharist, was beatified in Assisi, Italy, on Oct. 10, 2022. (AP Photo/Andrew Medichini) (Sainthood Cause of Blessed Carlo Acutis)

Carlo’s life centered around his faith: “The only thing we have to ask God for in prayer, is the desire to be holy,” he said.

Blessed Carlo Acutis, pray for us.

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**Sight Unseen**

Brandon A. Evans

The light from Iota Orionis

About 140 years ago, a little girl in France looked up at the night sky, and upon seeing a cluster of stars—likely those of Orion’s belt and sword—recognized the Shape of the first letter of her name. This was a child, raised in childlike wonder and awe, to imagine that God himself had written her name in the heavens.

Tens of thousands of years before that event—before even the dawn of hydrogen—two hydrogen atoms fused in the center of the Sun, distilling a blue giant in the cluster we call Iota Orionis. That bonding created helium and energy—an energy which crawled and bounced around inside the great furnace, eventually winding its way more than 1 million miles from the core to the surface, bursting out into the cold of space as a single photon.

By the year 422 B.C., Darius II of Persia was Pharaoh of Egypt, the fourth of the plays of Aristophanes debuted in Athens and the Jewish people were again living in their homeland after the Babylonian exile.

The world turned, and history moved on. Empires rose and fell, artistry and languages flourished, and in the fullness of time the Son of God became flesh and saved all mankind.

And so his story began, and those who loved him spread the word, which was the way to etch it into its very foundations the history of salvation.

It was not alone, while that spark of light from the bottom of Orion’s sword flew on its way. It was not alone in the same second that it was born into the cosmos, sending 68 quincuncciall other photons, that is, 68 trillion trillion trillion others, all from the same star.

They spread in every direction, and to all parts of the sky. Most are still out there and will find one day their territories at the edge of the universe. Others collided with pieces of dust and rock and ice along their journeys in their way to another star, or even a planet.

But this photon was different. All along its way, God watched it, as he watches all things. He saw as it bridged the gap of the outer space of the Milky Way and entered the earth system, dividing both the way through and into the spinning path of the Earth.

Diving through the atmosphere it went, avoiding both cloud and creature, down until, of all places and against all celestial odds, it fell precisely into the open eye of the night sky spread above her.

If God intended St. Thérèse to see the light from Iota Orionis, he certainly most definitely as she recorded the moment in her famous autobiography, The Story of a Soul—did he not also will all those other stars to shine their light on her as well?

As she looked, there came to her the beauties of a thousand distant worlds carried by beams of light from stars seen unseen, little and large, golden and blue; sent from every corner of the sky, from distances of a few years to a million. All the stars were on the same moment and in the same place: the eyes of a little girl. All their wealth, all their stars, all their worlds carried by beams of light from stars seen unseen, spread across the universe and was given freely to her.

Last year, 2,489 children were adopted from the foster care system through Indiana’s Department of Child Services (DCS). This represents more than twice the number of foster care adoptions that took place in Indiana in 2014, a year indicating high child welfare rates of saving life is in our state, as well as the leadership of Holcomb and DCS director Travis Loster.

“There are several reasons for the increase adoption adoptions. In addition, Stigdon has more experience in the foster care system and a state and those of us in central and southern Indiana are seeing the effects of this. We are working with consultants in Indiana from seven to 19 and provided specialized training. The agency also launched an enhanced database for better tracking of adoption inquiries and a digital picture book of Indiana’s Waiting Children.

There is a myth being promulgated by some that children in home placements are unwanted. As we continue to promote the respect for the human life and for the life of human beings, it is important to see that children in the care system are healthy and well-cared for. Each one of them is a reminder that no child is truly unwanted. We as a state and those of us as a nation and southern Indiana are generous enough and loving enough to want and to welcome all children and their circumstances or the circumstances of their parents.

This is the pro-life way.

(Marc Tuttle is president of Right to Life of Indiana.)
Sigamos el ejemplo de María durante estos tiempos difíciles

"Los fieles, unidos a Cristo Cabeza y en comunión con todos sus santos, deben venerar también la memoria en primer lugar de la gloriosa siempre Virgen María, Madre de nuestro Dios y Señor Jesucristo. ... Redimida de modo eminente, en previsión de los méritos de esta mujer sencilla de Nazaret para que vivió. Los fieles, unidos a Cristo cabeza de los tiempos." Los ciudadanos fieles aprenden a "discernir los signos de "amenaza. Los pobres, los enfermos y promueve la creación y la crianza saludables y crecen a pesar de todos los obstáculos que las parejas enfrentan hoy en día. Nuestra sociedad es unicamente tan fuerte o saludable como su unidad más elemental: la familia. No tenemos derecho a redefinir el matrimonio ni a tratar a la familia como si fuera algo arbitrario o una estructura social modificable. El apoyo a la vida familiar autónoma debe ser una prioridad en las normas económicas y sociales. Cada uno de nosotros tiene la responsabilidad de proteger y fomentar familias fuertes. Todos estamos llamados a garantizar que la vida familiar no se debilite, no se ignore ni sufra maltratos. A medida que nos esforzamos por fortalecer a las familias, también resulta prudente buscar la intercesión y la ayuda de María, el corazón de la Sagrada Familia. María conoce la importancia del matrimonio y la vida familiar, así como también los retos que enfrentamos hoy en día. Pidámosle que sea nuestra defensora y guía en nuestras luchas. "Sigamos el ejemplo de María durante estos tiempos difíciles."
October 18-31
23rd Annual Cardinal Classic Golf Tournament
benefiting Seton Catholic Athletic Boosters, Richmond, choose day and golf course, $15, sponsorships at golf course, $50, golfers eligible for prizes, registration and payment due by Oct. 30. Registration, information: wwwschools.org/catholic-classic-golf-Outings. Questions: 765-965-6956, mleeceenton@setonathletics.org.

October 20
Immigration Virtual Roundtable series: “Unaccompanied Minors,” third of four stand-alone sessions (Oct. 27), sponsored by archdiocese’s Catholic Charities-Social Concerns, 7-8 p.m., understanding their journey, information on resource reunifying families, free, registration required. Registration, information: immigration.exchertive.com or 317-236-2345.

October 21

October 23
Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. “Passion and Prayer” Christ-centered marriage enrichment conference: “Spirituality in Marriage,” 7-9 p.m., Father Todd Goodson, presenting, space limited to 20 couples, $20 per couple, option for online participation with donation at facebook.com/OurLadyGreenwood-registration required either way. Information: registration, Tom and Marcy Renken, olgamaria@archindy.org or 317-489-1557.

October 24
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. Faithful Citizens Rosary Walk after 10 a.m. Mass, recitation of rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet through Fletcher Place neighborhood. Information: holyrosary.prof@gmail.com

Mount St. Francis, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. Chik N’Fish To-Go Dinners, fried chicken or fish, mashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, roll, homemade dessert, $13, order by 5 p.m. Thursday for Friday 4-6 p.m. pick-up. Order at montstfrancis.org/dinners or 812-923-8817.

October 27
Immigration Virtual Roundtable series: “Immigrant Resources” (offered in English and Spanish) fourth of four stand-alone sessions, sponsored by archdiocese’s Catholic Charities-Social Concerns, 7-8 p.m., resources available in Indianapolis, ways to vote, free, registration required. Registration, information: immigration.exchertive.com or 317-236-2345.

October 30
Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. “Passion and Prayer” Christ-centered marriage enrichment conference: “Covenant,” 7-9 p.m., Father and Olivia Kitchell presenters, space limited to 20 couples, $20 per couple. Information: Tom and Marcy Renken, olgamaria@archindy.org or 317-489-1557.

Mount St. Francis, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. Chik N’Fish To-Go Dinners, fried chicken or fish, mashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, roll, homemade dessert, $13, order by 5 p.m. Thursday for Friday 4-6 p.m. pick-up. Order at montstfrancis.org/dinners or 812-923-8817.

Events Calendar
For a list of events for the next four weeks as reported to The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/events.

November 4
MCL Cafeteria, 5520 Cadillac Center Lane, Indianapolis.
Women’s Solo Senior’s 5 p.m., Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles—separated, divorced, widowed age 50 and older, new members welcome, also call about regular Friday night dinner events. Information: 317-796-8605 or 317-243-0777.

November 6

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. First Friday Mass, 7 p.m., “Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,” 5:45 p.m., exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, following Mass until 9 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation available, information: 317-770-7309, marx11@hotmail.com.

St. Vincent de Paul ‘Struttin’ Our Stuff’ virtual auction begins Oct. 16
The Indianapolis St. Vincent de Paul Society’s “Struttin’ Our Stuff” virtual auction will take place online beginning at 8 a.m. on Oct. 16 and ending at 10 p.m. on Oct. 23.

The event offers 150 unique items to bid on, as well as an option to make a donation.

All proceeds from the auction will be used to support Indianapolis St. Vincent de Paul Society’s programs, including its food pantry, distribution center and Changing Lives Forever program. The organization serves those in need regardless of religious affiliations, race or national origin.

The Society’s need for support has increased due to an upsurge in demand for its services from individuals and families caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To learn more about the event or to register to bid, go to svdpindy.org/auction, contact St. Vincent de Paul Society at 317-289-3342 or jmmthobey@gmail.com, or Mary Ann Klein at 317-796-6325 or kleinm1@yahoo.com.

For more information about the Indianapolis St. Vincent de Paul Society, its programming, volunteer and material needs or how to receive help, go to www.svdpindy.org.

Robert and Lois (Seaney) Martin, members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond, will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on Oct. 21.

They have four children: Andrea Martin Smith, Mark, R. and Steve Martin.

The couple also has three grandchildren.

Ray and Arleen (Lovick) Krebs, members of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Oct. 22.

The couple was married to Mr. Michael the Archangel Church in Indianapolis on Oct. 22, 1959.

They have four children: Kathleen Baker Todd, Laura Raymer, Lisa Roberts and the Rev. Mark Postle.

The couple also has 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

St. Vincent de Paul and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond, celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 17.

The couple was married in a Christian ceremony on Oct. 19, 1970.

They have four children: David, Karen, Victoria Turner, Bryan, David and Justin Orr.

The couple also has 11 grandchildren.

Ric and Cecilia (Worth) Orr, members of St. Mary Parish in Roselawn, celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 10.

The couple was married in St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church in Indianapolis on October 17, 1970.

They have three children: Sonja Orr Russell, Morgan and Michael Crozier.

The couple also has five grandchildren.

50 Years
GERALD AND JOELLE (HILLMOR) CRUTZER, members of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 17. The couple was married in St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church in Indianapolis on October 17, 1970.

They have four children: Victoria Turner, Bryan, David and Justin Orr.

The couple also has five grandchildren.

50 Years
Announcements for couples celebrating 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 or more years of marriage are accepted. Go to bit.ly/2M4OM0s or call 317-236-1585.
In giving an indication of her judicial philosophy, she said: “Courts have a vital responsibility to enforce the rule of law, but courts are not designed to solve every problem or right every wrong in our public life. The policy decisions and value judgments of government must be made by the political branches elected by and accountable to the people.”

She said she tried to follow that view as a judge, “mindful that, while my court decides thousands of cases each year, the most important of the parties involved.”

At the start of the hearings, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, who is chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, pointed out the four-day process prior to sending the nomination onto the full Senate for a vote would be a “long, contentious week.”

He also noted the proceedings were “not about persuading each other unless something really dramatic happens.” He predicted that “all the Republicans will vote yes, all the Democrats will vote no” for President Donald J. Trump’s nominee to fill the Supreme Court seat left vacant by the Sept. 18 death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

“Nothing about this today is normal,” said Sen. Cory Booker, D-New Jersey, in the middle of the first day of introductory remarks by members of the committee, noting the country is in the middle of holding a presidential election and battling the coronavirus pandemic.

Signs of coronavirus precautions were obvious in the room itself where senators were socially distanced and wore masks while bottles of hand sanitizer and plastic containers of bleach wipes were visible on the counters. The hearing room also did not have the usual crowds these events typically draw, and a few senators participated remotely.

Two members of the Senate Judiciary Committee had tested positive for COVID-19 earlier, but those in the Senate hearing room were not required to be tested for the coronavirus before taking part in the hearing in the enclosed room, as some of the Democratic senators mentioned.

Prior to the hearings, protesters and supporters of Barrett’s nomination gathered outside in the rain to express their views with signs such as “Let the people decide!” or “Women for Amy.”

During the hearing, Barrett sat at a table across from the senators, and her husband and six of their children sat behind her.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, the ranking Democrat on the committee, started the discussion with a trend that was followed by her fellow Democrats, voicing an overriding concern that with Barrett’s confirmation “Americans stand to lose the benefits that the ACA provides.”

On Nov. 10, the court will hear oral arguments about the health care law, often called Obamacare, for the third time in a case brought by 18 Republican state attorneys general and supported by the Trump administration.

As a judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, Barrett did not hear any cases dealing with the ACA. But in 2017, she wrote in a paper in the Notre Dame Law School Journal that was critical of Chief Justice John Roberts’ majority opinion in the 2012 ruling, saying he “pushed the Affordable Care Act beyond its plausible meaning to save the statute.”

This quote was mentioned by several Democratic senators, many of whom referred to and showed poster-sized pictures of their constituents suffering from health problems who they said would lose their health insurance if the ACA is dismantled.

A few Democrats brought up the Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion, saying it also stood in the balance with Barrett’s nomination. Several of them described the current hearings as a “sham” or “charade” for being rushed through amid the election and the pandemic.

Republicans highlighted Barrett’s qualifications, and many of them brought up the issue of her Catholic faith, which had come up in her 2017 hearings. Several made reference to a comment made at the time by Feinstein, who told her: “The dogma lives loudly within you, and that’s a concern.”

Feinstein was referring to Barrett’s speeches and a 1998 article she co-wrote about the role of Catholic judges in death penalty cases. The senator also questioned Barrett about upholding Roe v. Wade.

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Nebraska, said the confirmation hearings should be about civics, not politics, and stressed that the senators should not get into religious tests of a court nominee or try to determine “whether ‘the dogma lives too loudly within someone.’”

Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Missouri, similarly recalled the questioning Barrett received in 2017, and said it reflected “the very terminology of anti-Catholic bigotry.”
my relationship is always changing and growing. I have really just come to see Christ as a friend, someone who wants the best for me all the time. That is pursuading my heart and changing me for the better." -Butler University student Cheyenne Johnson

for something more, something deeper, something true she could believe.

I started googling different things, and one of my friends was talking about Ash Wednesday, which confused me," she recalls. "So I started looking into the Catholic Church and found the teaching on the Eucharist in [the Gospel of] John, chapter 6.”

She read further to the passage where Jesus says, “I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live eternal life.” She recalls. “So I started looking into the Catholic faith. “I was drawn to the Eucharist, to the sacraments of the Church. The beauty of the Church’s teachings about the Eucharist is that it links back to the beginning of the church’s history with Jesus.”

“Where any person stands ‘is sacred ground’”

The archbishop shared a few thoughts before blessing the people and the ground where the new church’s cornerstone would soon be placed.

"I chose my episcopal motto, ‘Christ the Cornerstone,’ because it reminds us to keep Christ at the center.” Archbishop Thompson explained. “If we don’t, we become self-centered or agenda-driven, and we lose our way. If we stay Christ-centered, then everything falls into place.”

"And whatever happens here, whether it’s a school event or a picnic or a Mass or whatever it is, as long as it stays Christ-centered, it all ties together.”

He reminded those present that the call to holiness “is not just for a few – it’s not just for Father or for Sister. It’s for each and every one of us, young and old and all in between. “If we are truly to be Church, . . . we must all embrace our call . . . in the mission Jesus Christ has given us to proclaim the good news and transform the world, rather than letting the world transform us. We can only do that if we stay Christ-centered.”

The archbishop noted that the land where the new church will stand “is indeed sacred ground.”

“Your homes are sacred ground, too,” he added.

“Whatever dedication of this church is a great achievement. But I hope you take with you today that each family and each household is a domestic church by continuing the joy of the Gospel, where that rootedness, that vibrancy must also live.”

“Where any human being stands, sits or lays is sacred ground. Let us never take that for granted.”

I got married at Holy Angels, had all my kids at Holy Angels. I’m ideally situated. Looking at the ground where our parish church will once again stand, Simpson smiled.

“I’m excited, I’m elated,” she said. “This is a wonderful day.”

Before beginning the blessing and groundbreaking, Archbishop Thompson encouraged those present to “continue to praise the Lord, raise God, stay Christ-centered and never lose sight of the joy that it means to be claimed by Christ, to be saved by him and to be emblems of the Spirit.”

“This is a wonderful day.”

Several local news outlets recorded the archbishop as he walked among the socially distanced congregation and the land where the new church will stand, blessing all with holy water.

Next, he and the dignitaries and certain committee members donned hardhats. Cheers and applause erupted as they dug their shovels into the earth on the small hill where Holy Angels Church will stand.

Together, Holy Angels parishioners Simpson and Nicholas walked through the area marking the site where the church’s doors will welcome all who enter.

“My parents joined the parish around 1967 or ’68,” said Simpson. She noted that both her family and the Nicholas’s “were the first families to integrate the parish,” which now has a predominantly Black community.

“I got married at Holy Angels, had all my kids there, and I’m ideally situated. I’m still here. Looking at the ground where our parish church will once again stand, Simpson smiled.

“I’m excited; I’m elated,” she said. “This is a wonderful day.”

I don’t feel I have to be different to be accepted, to be loved. I don’t want the best for me all the time. God’s love is unconditional and wants what is the best for you.”

She emphasized that affiliation, especially during the time of the beginning of her junior year.

After I came back from Colorado, I really felt alone. I had lived with a hundred people all the time. And then I didn’t have that community with me 24-7. I was struggling with everything.

“I really didn’t want to go to class. I didn’t want to hang out with people, but I wanted to be around them. I had a couple people from the BCC reach out to me and say, ‘We’re here for you. We love you. You’re still wanted here.’ That was really big for me.”

Uplifted by that support, she has sought to share her faith with others. Last year, she taught a religious education class for second-grade students at nearby St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. This year, she leads a Bible study group at Butler. And while her long-term goal is to be a teacher, she is also considering doing missionary work after graduation.

Similar to many college seniors, her future path is uncertain. Her relationship with Jesus isn’t.

“My relationship is always changing and growing,” she says. “I have really just come to see Christ as a friend, someone who wants the best for me all the time. That is pursuading my heart and changing me for the better.”

During her first year in college. She really out it to the side of the activities of the Butler Catholic Community (BCC). And older Catholic students in that community reach out to her.

“They went out of their way to talk to me when I was alone and invite me to things,” she says. It all led to her participating in the Ruth of Christian Initiation of Adults (RICA) program and entering into the full communion of the Church on April 8, 2018.

“I was really excited. I couldn’t stop smiling.”

AsJohnson talks, she is seated at a picnic table outside Butler’s Center for Faith and Vocation. She is 21, a flute player who is scheduled to graduate in May with double majors in music and elementary education, with a minor in Chinese.

Still early in her senior year—in another unclear semester because of the pandemic— there is so much she has to do in the present and so much she has to figure out about her future. But as she looks back over the past few years, she knows one part of her life is marked with certainty. "My faith life has just blossomed,” she says. “I came into college knowing I wanted to be Catholic, but I didn’t think it would be such a large part of my life. I thought it would be more of a Sunday kind of thing, and maybe a couple days a week praying. But then I dived into the community here.”

That dive included spending the summer of 2019 in Colorado, in a program created by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), an organization “whose mission is to share the hope and joy of the Gospel with college students.”

"I worked in food service at a YMCA from 5 in the morning to 1 in the afternoon,” she says. “It was hard. But after that, we had adoration and Masses every day, and we had talks about different things. I’d go to sleep at midnight or one. It was amazing. That really changed my faith.

"It made me see how important a relationship with God was. I started to go to Mass daily and praying more. My faith makes me realize the goodness that is there in the world, and it helps me keep focused on what I’m doing and how I can help spread the message of Jesus Christ. My faith life has helped me to find community and to know God is my Father, and I’m here for a reason and he loves me.

"That sense of being accepted and loved is what young adults long for, Johnson says. "We all just want community. We want to belong, to have our people we can go to. Through the BCC, I feel like I belong."

Prior to 2010, “Our beloved pastor, Father Kenneth Taylor, formed the Sacred Space Committee,” said committee co-chair Vincent Harrington as he shared the project’s history during the ceremony.

But more than a century of weather had caused irreparable damage to the wooden-frame church, leading to the decision to raze rather than restore the building. The last Mass was celebrated there on Oct. 11, 2011, and the structure was demolished on Aug. 22, 2012.

Since then, the foundation has been celebrating Mass about three miles away in the Chartrand Chapel of Marian University in Indianapolis, all the while working to raise funds and finalize plans for the church project.

“After eight years we are still a community, because we have faith,” said Harrington. “Now, here we are, we are ready to break ground on our new church building.”

St. Joseph Sister Gail Trippett, parish life coordinator for Holy Angels, echoed Harrington’s sentiments.

“We made it” she said, drawing cheers from the roughly 100 people present.

“A rendering by the architecture firm HCO, Inc., depicts the new Holy Angels Church in Indianapolis, with completion expected in March or April 2021, depending on weather.” (Submitted photo courtesy of HCO, Inc.)
Beatified teen showed that heaven is ‘attainable goal,’ cardinal says

ASSISI, Italy (CNS)—Thousands sang and applauded as Italian teen Carlo Acutis was beatified in a town dear to him and to many Christians around the world. Assisi.

During the Oct. 10 beatification mass, Italian Cardinal Agostino Vallini, the papal legate to the Basilica of St. Francis and St. Mary of the Angels in Assisi, read Pope Francis’ apostolic letter proclaiming Carlo ‘blessed,’ the step before canonization.

“With our apostolic authority, we grant that the venerable servant of God, Carlo Acutis, be Beatified, that is, be recognized as a servant of God whose virtue was proclaimed worthy of public approval,” the letter said.

“Carlo’s life—always united to Jesus, his love for the Eucharist, his devotion to the Holy Virgin, his making friends with the poor, brought him closer to the spirituality of the ‘Poor One,’” St. Francis, Archbishop Domenico Sorrentino of Assisi reflected on the link between the two saintly figures, and proclaimed that the ‘providential design, [St. Francis] and [Blessed] Carlo are inseparable.’

“Carlo’s life—twice a day,” and her devotion throughout his brief life.

“Both invite us to live according to the Gospel.”

The liturgy was held inside the Basilica of St. Francis, but measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 meant that most of those attending sat outside on seats 3 feet apart, watching on big screens.

Many young men and women came to Assisi for the beatification.

For them, the fact that a normal teen could be beatified was a source of hope and inspiration. "In his life, Carlo made me see that despite the small or even great difficulties—like illness—that we could have a full and happy life if we keep our eyes looking upward toward heaven," said 19-year-old Rosanna, who was among those attending the beatification.

In his homily, Cardinal Vallini said that Carlo’s beatification “in the land of Francis of Assisi is good news, a strong proclamation that a young man of our time, one like many, was conquered by Christ and became a beacon of light for those who want to know him and follow his example.”

Reflecting on the teen’s life, Cardinal Vallini said that like most young people his age, Carlo was a “normal, simple, spontaneous, friendly” teenager who used modern forms of communication to transmit the “values and beauty of the Gospel.”

For him, “the internet was not just a means of escape, but a space for dialogue, knowledge, sharing and mutual respect that was to be used responsibly, without becoming slaves to it and rejecting digital bullying,” the cardinal said.

Cardinal Vallini said that Blessed Carlo was a model of virtue for young men and women today, reminding them not to seek “gratification only in ephemeral successes but in the perennial values that Jesus proposes in the Gospel.”

“He gave witness that faith does not distance us from life, but immerses us more deeply in it and showed us the concrete way to live the joy of the Gospel,” the cardinal said. “It is up to us to follow it, attracted by the fascinating experience of Blessed Carlo, so that our lives may also shine with light and hope.”

Week 5: ‘Pray, Learn, Act as Faithful Citizens’

Compiled by the archdiocesan Office of Life, Human Dignity and Catholic Charities-Social Concerns.

The Office of Human Life and Dignity and Catholic Charities-Social Concerns are collaborating to offer the fifth of seven weeks of prayer, study and action as we pursue these important goals.

This week, we will read together “Part III—Goals for Political Life: Civil liberties for citizens, candidates and public officials,” the final section of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ teaching document, “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” which seeks to provide “guidance for all who seek to exercise their rights and duties as citizens.”

Pray

Embracing Father, you grace each of us with equal measure in your love. Let us learn to love our neighbors more deeply, so that we can create peaceful and just communities. Inspire us to use our creative intelligence to address fundamental issues we need to overcome the obstacles of intolerance and indifference. May Jesus present to the world the example of the Spirit to warm our hearts for the journey. Amen.

“A Moral Neighbor: The Catechism and Social Justice”

Learn

“As Catholics, we are led to raise questions for public life other than those that capture the center of our attention and lead us to think only about what we need for material well-being. Our focus is not on party affiliation, ideology, economics, or even competing allegiances and identities, but at duties, as important as such issues are. Rather, we focus on what protects or threatens the dignity of every human life.”

“Catholic teaching challenges voters and candidates, citizens and elected officials, to consider the moral and ethical dimensions of public policy issues. In light of ethical principles, we bishops offer the following policy goals that we hope will guide Catholics as they form their consciences and reflect on the moral dimensions of their public choices. Not all issues are equal; these goals address matters of different moral weight and urgency. Some involve intrinsically evil acts, which can never be approved. Others involve affirmative obligations to seek the common good. These and similar goals can help voters and candidates act on ethical principles rather than particular interests and partisan allegiances. We hope Catholics will ask candidates how they intend to help our nation pursue these important goals:

• Address the pre-eminent requirement to protect the weakest in our midst—innocent unborn children—by restricting and ending the destruction of unborn children through abortion and providing women in crisis pregnancies the supports they need to make a decision for life.

• Keep our nation from turning to violence to address fundamental problems—a million abortions each year, with unwanted pregnancies, euthanasia and assisted suicide to deal with the burdens of illness and disability, the destruction of human embryos in the name of research, and the death penalty to combat crime, and impudent resort to war to address international disputes.

• Protect the fundamental understanding of marriage as the lifelong and faithful union of one man and one woman and as the central institution of society; promote the complementarity of the sexes and reject false ‘gender’ ideologies; and provide better support for family life morally, socially, and economically, so that our nation helps parents raise their children with respect for life, sound moral values, and an ethic of stewardship and responsibility.

• Provide health care while respecting human life, human dignity, and religious freedom in our health care system.

• Continue to oppose policies that reflect prejudice, hostility toward immigrants, religious bigotry, and other forms of unjust discrimination.

• Encourage families, community groups, economic structures, and government to work together to overcome poverty, pursue the common good, and care for creation, with full respect for individuals and groups and their right to address social needs in accord with their basic moral and religious convictions.

• Establish and comply with moral limits on the use of military force—examining for what purposes it may be used, under what authority, and at what human cost—with a special view to seeking a responsible and effective response for ending the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East and other parts of the world.

• Join with others around the world to pursue peace, protect human rights and religious liberty, and advance economic justice and care for creation.

Act

Set boundaries for yourself. Decide how much time you will spend a day or week consuming news media. Then, stick to it. Set a timer if you need to. Can you commit to spending the same amount of time reading Scripture or in prayer? While in prayer, can you pray for the candidates you have chosen not to vote for? Can you pray for all those who will vote differently than you will? Each of those people is made in the image and likeness of God, each is our brother or sister.

(To view each of the previous weeks of “Civilize It” articles, go to bit.ly/ CivilizeItResources. The documents for weeks three and beyond contain text in both English and Spanish. The website also offers other resources specific to “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” including English and Spanish versions of the document.)
New Birthline location helps ministry ‘walk with more moms in need’

By Natalie Hoefer

In September, the archdiocese’s Birthline Ministry moved from the lower level of the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis, to the Xavier Building on the Catholic Center’s campus.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson blessed the new space on Oct. 7.

“I appreciated knowing that [the archbishop] supports what Birthline is doing to walk with moms in need,” said Keri Carroll, who coordinates the archdiocesan ministry.

The timing of the blessing during Respect Life Month meshed well with the ministry’s goal: to assist pregnant women and mothers of infants in need.

Carroll is excited about the new space.

“We’re not in the basement anymore!” she said. “Here in the Xavier Building, we have the convenience of having an elevator—no stair-climbing for pregnant mothers!”

Even the clients have expressed appreciation for this new feature, she said.

Addressing that safety issue was one reason for the ministry’s move.

But, Carroll added, “It has been the vision of the archdiocesan leadership the last couple of years to have client-oriented services” in the Xavier Building at 1435 N. Illinois St. on the northwest side of the Catholic Center campus. “When COVID-19 restrictions were put into place, it seemed like perfect timing to consolidate. That consolidation has ‘made us streamline our efforts and will make us more efficient in the service we provide our clients,’” she said. “It’s given us the ability to collaborate with the [Catholic Charities] Crisis Office staff to serve clients better,” since Birthline serves infants size newborn to 2T, and the Crisis Office, also located in the Xavier Building, serves children size 3T and larger.

Birthline’s new location also benefits those donating goods to the ministry, said Carroll.

“It will be easier to drop off donations now because of the garage door and elevator,” she said.

And while the new space “is actually a smaller footprint than what we had in the basement,” she added, “volunteers and social workers say they can’t believe how much space we now have. Because there are no walls separating the space, we have more room.”

The archbishop’s blessing of the new location gave Carroll a sense of peace.

“Having it blessed makes me feel the move was part of God’s plan to help make Birthline Ministry more visible,” she said, “so that we are able to walk with more moms in need.”†

Information about Birthline Ministry

**Clients:**
- Require referral.
- Pre-arranged appointment times available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Numbers for setting up an appointment: 317-635-4808 (English), 317-261-3387 (Spanish).
- Client only, wearing mask, allowed to be present for appointment during COVID-19 restrictions.

**Donors:**
- Donated items received Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-noon and 12:45-2:30 p.m.
- Items currently needed: baby wash, diaper cream, pacifiers, bottles, baby towels and wash cloths, boys and girls socks sizes 6-12 and 18-24, newborn diapers, size 5 and 6 diapers, Gerber Gentle formula, children’s books for newborns through age 2.

**Volunteer needs:**
- On-site volunteers on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- Telephone volunteers.
- Handyman to help with donated equipment.

(For more information, contact Keri Carroll at 317-236-1433 or birthline@archindy.org, or go to www.archindy.org/birthline.)†

All meant just to sparkle in our eyes, and maybe to make us look beyond them in love to the one who holds all things together.

We live in a cold age: a time of definitions and explanations and endless opinions, but even all that noise cannot fully tarnish the luster of the twinkling call of the stars. With grace, we can see the sky as the ancients did: a place of stillness; of light and design, mystery and movement.

We can begin to see the heavens as its Creator does: a place made with great care to be the delight of a fallen race, and with such generosity that words can barely grasp it.

With hushed realization we can dare to say that if all the lights of the sky were hung there simply to earn the smile of even one child, then the ages of unending stellar creation would have been worth the cost.

(Sight Unseen is an occasional column that explores God and the world. Brandon A. Evans is the online editor and graphic designer of The Criterion and a member of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield.)†
Hope gives confidence God can overcome greatest of evils

By Father Richard G. Malloy, S.J.

“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope” (1 Pt 3:15).

Six Jesuits in our province infirmary in Philadelphia died from the coronavirus early on in the pandemic. Several weeks later, the Jesuit community at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia held a beautiful memorial Mass for our deceased brothers. I was able to participate and pray via Zoom. (And shouldn’t Zoom be familiar with the pluses and minuses of having offered multiple Masses for together, but felt a bit adrift in cyberspace. I was able to participate and pray via Zoom. (And shouldn’t Zoom be familiar with the pluses and minuses of having offered multiple Masses for together, but felt a bit adrift in cyberspace. (And shouldn’t Zoom be familiar with the pluses and minuses of having offered multiple Masses for together, but felt a bit adrift in cyberspace.)

Six Jesuits in our province infirmary in Philadelphia died from the coronavirus early on in the pandemic. Several weeks later, the Jesuit community at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia held a beautiful memorial Mass for our deceased brothers. I was able to participate and pray via Zoom. (And shouldn’t Zoom be familiar with the pluses and minuses of having offered multiple Masses for together, but felt a bit adrift in cyberspace. I was able to participate and pray via Zoom. (And shouldn’t Zoom be familiar with the pluses and minuses of having offered multiple Masses for together, but felt a bit adrift in cyberspace.)

The experience was strange and sublime, poignant and powerful. I felt consoled that we were able to pray together, but felt a bit adrift in cyberspace. Having offered multiple Masses for family and friends via Zoom, I was familiar with the pluses and minuses of Zoom praying. (And shouldn’t Zoom be given some major award for everything it’s made possible during this time?)

But I felt a little deprived of the feeling and sense one receives being present at a complete funeral Mass. I particularly missed the full rendition of Jesuits singing together our “Take and Receive” anthem. Still, although at a distance from what I really would have wanted for our Jesuit community, I felt hopeful.

Hope is the grace to live with reality and still find peace and joy. Our faith in Jesus bolsters the truth that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt proclaimed: “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” Jackson Browne sings in “Running on Empty” that “people need some reason to believe.” Jesus is our reason, and the source of our hope.

Hope holds off discouragement and instills in us trust in our eternal happiness with God (see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1818). Thomas Merton wrote, “Christian hope is confident ... in the dynamism of unfailing love.” St. Paul tells us: “We know that all things work for good for those who love God” (Roms 8:28).

Fear and worry keep us from being hopeful. President James A. Garfield quipped, “I remember the old man who said he had had a great many troubles in his life, but the worst of them never happened.”

I once spent an entire 24-hour period worrying about something I thought someone was going to do. And then the person didn’t do it. Hadn’t even thought about doing it. I wasted an entire day of my life churning my thoughts over something that wasn’t even going to happen. You only get 29,200 days if you live 80 years! Don’t waste a day!

People in 12-step programs talk about avoiding “stinkin thinkin.” We need to ask God for the grace to fill our thoughts with musings on good and happy realities, with pleasant memories.

We need to learn to pray about what is painful and terrifying with an awareness that God loves us and is with us. God loves us. That gives us hope. That carries us when we find walking hard.

Hope gives us the power to stare down the difficult and distressful aspects of life, knowing we can handle things with the help of our loved ones, community and, most especially, God. Virtue is strength, and hope gives us the strength to go on. Even the stark reality of evil cannot vanquish hope.

Jesuit Father Bernard Lonergan, maybe the smartest Jesuit who ever lived, radically realized that there is evil. Still, overall, the universe shows God’s total power and goodness. Father Lonergan wrote: “Because God is omnipotent, he knows man’s plight. Because he is good, he wills to do so. The fact of evil is not the whole story.”

Hope is the courageous work of waiting for the solution, for things to get better. We face increasing income inequality, global climate change, the need to improve relations among races.

And COVID-19 has upended everything. It can scare us. By early September, at least 184,800 Americans and 857,920 across the world had died of the virus. Millions have suffered serious illness from this pandemic and all feel the economic repercussions.

Hope is the spirit to hang on and work to ameliorate the situation. Scientists search for a vaccine. Self-sacrificing nurses and doctors, first responders and necessary workers testify to the reality of human goodness confronting the effects of COVID-19. Teachers and schools strive to open safely.

Look, I’m a Phillies and Eagles fan. So, if anybody knows about hope it’s me. (The old joke about an “Eagle with a Super Bowl ring must be a thief” is no longer true! Thank you St. Nick Foles!) Also, don’t worry about the world ending today. It’s already tomorrow in Australia. So, for today, pray. Enjoy your coffee. Be grateful. Be positive. If you find yourself worrying about something (or someone) over which you have no control, remember, God is with us and saves us. That is the hope of a funeral Mass and all prayer.

Maybe the poet Emily Dickinson said it best: “Hope is the thing with feathers.—That perches in the soul—And sings the tune without the words—/And never stops—at all.”

Keep singing—in the shower is best.

(Jesuit Father Richard Malloy is director of mission and ministry at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Baltimore. He is author of Being on Fire: The Top Ten Essentials of Catholic Faith.)
When we think about evangelization in our parishes, we often ask the question, “How do we get all of these people to come out and make disciples in the community?”

In other words, how do we lead the people in our churches to an encounter with Jesus, and then equip them to be the primary evangelists in our parishes, to be disciples and make disciples?

As Pope Paul VI said, evangelization is “the essential mission of the Church, above all other things, in order to evangelize.” All baptized Christians have a responsibility to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to participate in evangelization, the essential mission of the Church.

That All May Be One/ Fr. Rick Ginther

Jesus Christ is the only mediator for all mankind.

My last two columns centered on the variety of world religions. Each column began with a quote from the Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (CADERO) Interreligions Institute earlier this year.

Part of what I attempted to share was that we are a world of humans. We have our own religions and arts, our own history. We grasp for meaning based in what was handed on to us, and we seek the transcendent.

There are some common truths and values within various religions. These values come from God’s Spirit, according to Catholic understanding.

But there are two questions for which Christians and Catholics really another question. Do we still hold that “there is no salvation outside the Church”?

To answer the first, all religions, so long as they support the good of humanity and promote the common good, are to be equally respected. They seek to enter into the divine, the transcendent. They seek to connect us daily human purpose to ultimate purpose. But are they not the same (equal)? Hold onto that thought for a moment.

To answer the second question: “salvation outside the Church” has been a topic for debate throughout Christian history. One era gave a resounding response of “no.” Another qualified the “no” with a “no” to “the mystery of God’s mercy,” or “to the rule of Jesus.”

I pondered all those who had never known the Church or Jesus.

Finally, the great schism of 1053 (East/West) and the Church or Jesus.

I wondered about all those who have never heard of God the Father, Jesus the Son, the Holy Spirit. They have never been reached by the Gospel of the Church.

It is this latter statement that takes us back to my earlier column. Jesus Christ is the source of salvation for all human beings. That is what makes Christianity unique. That is what makes the Church the sacrament of salvation. It is Jesus Christ. We proclaim this as our mission message.

For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son into the world, that is the world but the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:16)

His life, death and resurrection—the full paschal mystery—are for all humanity. We do not exclude anyone from that hope. Yes, we embrace with respect the diversity of religions. We acknowledge the elements of truth within them. We share with them common aspirations and values: peace, justice, human dignity.

Together we accept the goodness of creation, that it has a purpose and is ultimately linked to the transcendent.

What makes us unique among many is that we are rooted in the Incarnate One. The Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God with us: Christ Jesus. We trace our roots directly to him through his Apostles.

In this moment, we stand firm: All of us are the Church, in every place, at every time! More relief followed as I saw that Jesus Christ can attain to salvation.

Recently, I considered the impact of abortion on the Church. Since 1973, abortion has been legal in the United States. Yet the number of abortions has remained relatively stable.

Many abortions have been performed in a crisis situation. Many have been performed by women who do not have access to other health care options. Abortion has been a lifeline for many women. It has been a way for them to put their families first and prioritize their own health.

Justices Ginsburg and Barrett offer two kinds of feminism

"Today, our nation mourns the loss of a trailblazer, not only in the field of law, but in the history of our country."

In her 28-year tenure as a Supreme Court Justice, Ginsburg has been recognized as a trailblazer, not only in the field of law, but also in the field of law as a whole.

She had a distinguished career as a law professor at Harvard Law School and Columbia Law School, where she taught constitutional law and women’s studies.

Ginsburg was a devoted wife and mother of two children. She was also a devoted feminist who believed in the importance of reproductive rights for women.

As a Supreme Court Justice, she was known for her strong support of abortion rights. She argued that the right to abortion was a fundamental right protected by the Constitution.

Ginsburg was a strong advocate for women’s rights and gender equality. She was a vocal critic of the Court’s decision in the Roe v. Wade case, which allowed states to regulate abortion. She argued that the decision took the country back to a time when women were not given the right to make decisions about their own bodies.

In retirement, Ginsburg continued to be an active and vocal advocate for women’s rights. She was a strong supporter of the Voting Rights Act, and was a vocal critic of the Court’s decision in the Citizens United case, which allowed corporations and political action committees to spend unlimited amounts of money on political advertisements.

Ginsburg was known for her sharp wit and her ability to combine humor with political commentary. She was a beloved member of the Supreme Court and was admired by many for her dedication to the cause of justice.

Her passing has left a significant void on the Court, and her legacy will continue to be felt for years to come. She will be remembered as a trailblazer and as a fierce advocate for women’s rights and equality.
The Church teaches that Jesus lived, died and rose from the dead only once. Q: I am confused about a statement which is in both the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed. It says that Jesus “rose again” from the dead. When did he rise the first time? A: Some years ago, I answered a similar question in this column. But it comes up repeatedly, so it might be worth another try. No. Jesus did not rise the first time from the dead. The most common meaning of the word “again” is “once more,” which prompts your question. But another valid and oft-used meaning is “anew,” and so we hear things like, “The runner fell rounding first base, but he got up again and made his way to second.” So, Jesus rose from the dead only once, on Easter. He lived once, he died once and now he lives again.

A Catholic can and should vote for any candidate, however problematic. One candidate is pro-choice and the other claims to be pro-life. The pro-life candidate has no problem casting out immigrants who want to enter our country.

Catholic voters seem to have no place to go. If a Catholic votes for a pro-choice candidate because, overall, he thinks that person would be best for our country, is the Catholic wrong and could he be denied holy Communion? (Georgia)

A critical guidance for Catholic voters has been provided in a document called “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” (2005), approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2019, your question is addressed directly. The document says: “A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who favors a policy promoting an intrinsically evil act, such as abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, deliberately subjecting workers or the poor to subhuman living conditions, redefining marriage in ways that violate its essential meaning, or racist behavior, if the voter’s intent is to support that position” (#34).

But it goes on to explain that “there may be times when a Catholic who rejects a candidate’s unacceptable position even on policies promoting an intrinsically evil act may reasonably decide to vote for that candidate for other morally grave reasons” (#35).

The document notes that “when all candidates hold a position that promotes an intrinsically evil act, the conscientious voter faces a dilemma. The voter may decide to take the extraordinary step of not voting for any candidate or, after careful deliberation, may decide to vote for the candidate deemed less likely to advance such a morally flawed position and more likely to pursue other authentic human goods” (#36).

(C.S. Likins is a member of St. Malachi Parish in Brownsburg. Photo: A woman clings to Pope Francis’ hand during his general audience in Paul VI hall at the Vatican on Dec. 18, 2019.) (CNS photo/Paul Haring)
rest_in_peace

please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. thursday before the week of publication; be sure to date state of death. obligations of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in this section. order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included since they may be natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.


Catania, Jill Deak, Jane Young, Mother of Jennifer Carr, Julie O'Neill. Sister of Shirley Judy, Jockish. Grandmother of nine.


Jocik, Kaye, (Peper), 78, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood, Sept. 28. Mother of Jennifer Carr, Julie Catania, Jill Desk, Jane Young, Joanna and Christopher Jocik. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of five.


Supreme Court does not reinstate abortion drug restrictions

WASHINGTON (CNS)–The U.S. Supreme Court is temporarily allowing drugs used to medically induce abortions to be mailed or delivered without requiring the recipient to make a doctor’s visit during the coronavirus pandemic.

In an unsigned order on Oct. 8, the nation’s high court rejected an emergency appeal from the Trump administration to reinstate a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rule requiring in-person visits to a hospital or clinic to pick up these pills. The requirements were suspended by a federal district court judge this summer due to the pandemic.

The high court ordered that the federal judge in Maryland who made the ruling on the drug’s distribution to “promptly consider” within 40 days whether this ruling should be withdrawn or amended. The FDA, in August, had asked the Supreme Court to block the district court’s order while it sought an appeal.

The drug in question, Mifeprex, is the brand name for mifepristone, also known as RU-486, which is used to end pregnancies during the first 10 weeks. FDA regulations have required patients to receive the drug in person after signing a form acknowledging risks associated with it.

Catholic Church leaders have been vocal in their opposition to this approach to drug distribution since it was given FDA approval in 2000 and in 2016 when the FDA relaxed rules for its use, saying it could be administered with fewer visits to a doctor.

Mifepristone blocks the hormone progesterone needed to sustain pregnancy and a second drug, Misoprostol, causes uterine contractions to expel the fetus.

This case about how women can obtain these drugs started with a challenge to their distribution requirements made earlier this year by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. The group argued the in-person visits to obtain these pills during a pandemic violated the Constitution by creating a substantial obstacle to receiving an abortion.

U.S. District Judge Theodore Chuang in Maryland agreed with the appeal and barred the FDA from enforcing these requirements. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit rejected the FDA’s request to put the judge’s order on hold during appeals of the decision.

In the Supreme Court’s one-paragraph order, it said the government found the federal court’s order too broad because it applies across the United States even if COVID-19 rates are better in some states. The justices said they needed more information to make a decision, and therefore put the government’s request on hold.

Judge Dennis G. Keesler of the 6th Circuit in Michigan, noting in an opinion joined by Justice Clarence Thomas that there is “no legally sound reason for this unusual disposition” of the FDA’s request. He also said the federal appeals court judge “saw the pandemic as a ground for expanding the abortion right recognized in Roe v. Wade.”

Alito said the court’s majority had been inconsistent in its rulings on pandemic-related cases.

“In response to the pandemic, state and local officials have imposed unprecedented restrictions on personal liberty, including severe limitations on First Amendment rights,” he wrote. “Officials have drastically limited speech, banning or restricting public speeches, lectures, meetings and rallies. The free exercise of religion also has suffered previously unimaginable restraints, and this court has stood by while that has occurred.”

Online Lay Ministry Formation

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has partnered with the University of Notre Dame and Catholic Distance University (CDU) to offer not-for-credit online theology classes:

• Earn certificate in Lay Ministry
• Complete 12 courses online with ND STEP program
• CDU offers classes on Catechesis of the Catholic Church
• 20% discount for all employees, volunteers, and parishioners

For more information, please log on to www.archindy.org/layministry
HUSSEY

continued from page 12

also” (2 Tm 2:2). In this verse from St. Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy, we see the process of discipleship. This is the model of spiritual multiplication that Jesus gave to us, and this is an extremely effective way for our parishes to become places of great evangelization of discipleship.

The reality is that by ourselves, we can’t invest in every single person. Although we might love to invest in every person that comes to a program, an event or Mass, each of us can only pour our own resources into the few people we choose to do for a few people. This is the mission of Discipleship Groups.

DOERFLINGER

continued from page 12

choice” and her problem.

the confirmation as an appellate judge in

at the top of her class at the University

making her own possible.

who can see her predecessor’s life story as

among those with distinguished careers

Justice Ginsburg, Amy Coney Barrett, is

Discipleship Groups.

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and is said to be pro-life. Which raises a question about feminism. If men and women should have equal rights, which of them must change? Do we teach women that they can abandon their children as readily as irresponsible men? Or as Justice Ginsburg argued in 1975, do we help men to support and protect the children they engender? In other words, do we accept women’s gift of being able to nurture new life, and change male society to accommodate and support that gift? Perhaps public servants like Amy Coney Barrett could help our society understand this second and richer meaning of feminism. (Richard Doerflinger worked for 36 years in the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.)

Classified Directory

Call 317-236-1585 TO ADVERTISE IN The Criterion

St. Anthony Catholic Church on Indy’s westside is seeking an Administrative Assistant to join our parish office team. This position coordinates the daily operation of the parish. The position is part-time, working seven-hour days, Monday through Thursday. No medical benefits are included but the position offers vacation and sick leave.

The successful candidate will be a Catholic in good standing, bilingual, proficient in Microsoft Office and experienced in customer service. This position requires time management and organization skills as well as being detail oriented.

Please send a resume and letter of interest to saintanthonybusiness@gmail.com.

Music Director

St. Anthony Catholic Church on Indy’s westside is seeking a Music Director. We are looking for a bilingual musician to lead our youth and adult choirs and coordinate our mass music. This part-time position requires approximately twenty hours per week including weekday office hours and the weekend masses. The successful candidate will be a Catholic in good standing, organized and detail oriented, skilled as a pianist or organist and experienced in leading musical performances.

Please send a resume and letter of interest to saintanthonybusiness@gmail.com.

Tribunal Advocate

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking an Advocate for the Metropolitan Tribunal office located in the Bishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center. The Advocate is responsible for assisting persons who are seeking to establish their freedom to marry in the Catholic Church or to clarify their marital status in accordance with Canon Law.

The qualified candidate must have at least a bachelor’s degree (a degree in Canon Law is preferred). Two years of legal and/or pastoral experience or other relevant life experience is preferred. The qualified candidate must also be a Catholic in good standing, have a general understanding and acceptance of the Church’s teachings regarding marriage, have excellent verbal and written communication skills, strong organizational skills, computer knowledge, and the ability to present realistically the requirements of Canon Law while remaining sensitive to the feelings of the client. The position is an opportunity to work directly in Church ministry that serves people’s human and spiritual needs.

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

Ed Isakson
Director, Human Resources
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
E-mail: isaksonarchindy.org

Applications will be accepted through October 31, 2020.

Equal Opportunity Employer

Vietnam Youth Day

Pilgrims are pictured in a file photo during the opening ceremony of the Youth Day of the Archdiocese of Hanoi on Oct. 10 in Baz Ninh, Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh City Archbishop Joseph Nguyen Nghiem urged young people to imitate Blessed Carlo by establishing close links with God and other people on social media. (CNS photo/Nguyen Huy Khanh, Reuters)
By Mike Krokos

It was as Robert Newport had envisioned it—only years earlier. And it led to tears of gratitude on Sept. 19 after the seventh annual Indiana “Biking for Babies” event drew its largest participation since its inception in 2013.

“There were four of us, all Knights [of Columbus members] from Mater Dei Council 477 in Indianapolis who rode in 2014, recalled Newport, who served as the captain for this year’s Indiana “Biking for Babies” team. “We didn’t know what or how, but we all wanted to do something for the defense of life to inspire people and foster unity in pro-life circles.”

Six years later, 22 cyclists took part in the three-day, 170-mile ride that started Sept. 18 at the Illinois-Indiana state line east of Richmond. Bikers were able to ride any portion or the entire distance. It was also the first year the Indiana group began the ride in 2014, recalled Newport, who served as the captain for this year’s Indiana “Biking for Babies” team. “We didn’t know what or how, but we all wanted to do something for the defense of life to inspire people and foster unity in pro-life circles.”

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“We won’t be judged on whether or not we ended the scourge of abortion. But we will be judged on whether or not we tried,” said Newport, a member of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis.

To date, more than $10,000 has been raised thanks to this year’s ride to purchase life-saving ultrasound machines for Indiana Women’s Care Centers. Donations are still being accepted.

In recent years, Knights of Columbus councils throughout the U.S. have donated more than 1,000 ultrasound machines to pregnancy care centers (PCCs), including nearly 40 donated by councils to PCCs in Indiana. In 2019, Indiana Knights led the nation by donating six machines. More than $100,000 was raised by Indiana councils of the Knights for ultrasound machines last year. Each machine costs approximately $35,000, and the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council matches every local dollar raised.

During the midpoint rally for “Biking for Babies” at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Jenny Hubbard discussed how ultrasound machines are making a difference.

“We do between 15-20 ultrasounds a day and performed more than 3,200 ultrasounds last year,” noted Hubbard, who is director of the Women’s Care Center (WCC) in Indianapolis.

WCC received a free ultrasound machine from the Knights a few years ago, and it has allowed the center to double the number of women it serves. Hubbard noted.

“Many of these women are looking for unconditional love and support,” Hubbard said. Offering this service, she added, is a “game changer.” Of the women who have an ultrasound performed, 85% of them keep their babies. As an avid cyclist, Chris Rito was eager to ride his bike “as a messenger for Jesus.” Although he has participated in “Biking for Babies” in the past, he had never ridden all three days. This year, he did.

a partnership with a national pro-life cycling group that shares the same name. Newport fought back tears at a “Biking for Babies” midpoint rally on Sept. 19 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis as he talked about the challenges of living in a society where the killing of unborn children is legal.

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“Biking for Babies” cyclists take a break to pose in front of this ProLife Across America billboard on U.S. Highway 40 about 10 miles west of Greenfield. (Submitted photo by Robert Newport)

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