Dispensation for Sunday Mass extended until further notice

**Criterion staff report**

The five Catholic bishops of Indiana have extended the dispensation for the obligation to attend the public celebration of Mass on Sundays to all the faithful until further notice.

While commending our pastors and pastoral life coordinators who have gone to great lengths to assure safe worship spaces in our churches, given the continued increase of COVID-19 cases in our state, the Indiana bishops hereby extend the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation beyond Nov. 1, 2020, until further notice.

“While commending our pastors and pastoral life coordinators who have gone to great lengths to assure safe worship spaces in our churches, given the continued increase of COVID-19 cases in our state, the Indiana bishops hereby extend the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation beyond Nov. 1, 2020, until further notice. The Indiana bishops will continue to monitor the situation to determine when it might be advisable to modify or lift the dispensation,” said an Oct. 19 statement of the bishops from the Province of Indianapolis, which includes the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Dioceses of Gary, Evansville, Fort Wayne-South Bend and Lafayette.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson said, “Both clergy and laity must make every effort to maintain the availability of open churches and public liturgies by following public health guidelines and employing various safety protocols,” including:

• The wearing of face coverings;
• Social distancing;
• Enhanced cleaning measures.

“Further guidelines, due to local situations, may be necessary in a particular parish,” Archbishop Thompson added.

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis and other parishes across central and southern Indiana will continue livestreaming Masses.

Weekday Masses at the Cathedral are celebrated Monday through Friday at 5:15 p.m. Weekend Masses include the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5 p.m. and the Sunday liturgy at 10:30 a.m. Links to these Masses are available at www.archindy.org/streaming.

Daily Mass is also offered on EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network), and Catholic Radio Indy 89.1 FM and 90.9 FM broadcasts a daily Mass at 8 a.m. each day from the EWTN chapel in Irondale, Ala.

**‘Where I needed to go was home’**

The gift of a mother’s love and faith continues on in the life of a daughter

**Second in an occasional series**

(With special emphasis from The Criterion)

By John Shaughnessy

At 34, Brie Anne Varick adds a touching twist to the story of the prodigal son.

The story she shares is of a mother who gave her children a strong foundation of faith and values, and a daughter who desired most of all to be accepted by friends, romantic partners and a world focused on “fleeting moments of contentment, pleasure and excitement.”

“Ignoring who I was made to be and not fully believing in my identity as a daughter of God led me to look for my identity in the world, and it was unsatisfying and unfulfilling,” Varick says about her earlier life.

“After a lot of heartbreak and being let down by the secular culture time and again,” Varick says, “I needed to go home.”

“Where I needed to go was home”

By Natalie Hoefer

Ryan Bomberger came into the world with the appearance of a life unwanted. His conception was unwanted, the result of a rape. His mother didn’t want him and gave him up for adoption.

The key word, though, is “appearance.”

“There is no such thing as an unwanted child,” he said. “We’re all wanted by someone.”

Bomberger, co-founder of The Radiance Foundation along with his wife, shared his story during Right to Life of Indianapolis’ (RTLI) annual Celebrate Life fundraiser, held virtually this year on Oct. 6.

RTLI, Bomberger and The Radiance Foundation share a common cause:

Speaker conceived in rape says ‘no child is unwanted’ at annual Right to Life dinner

By Natalie Hoefer

Ryan Bomberger came into the world with the appearance of a life unwanted. His conception was unwanted, the result of a rape. His mother didn’t want him and gave him up for adoption.

The key word, though, is “appearance.”

“There is no such thing as an unwanted child,” he said. “We’re all wanted by someone.”

Bomberger, co-founder of The Radiance Foundation along with his wife, shared his story during Right to Life of Indianapolis’ (RTLI) annual Celebrate Life fundraiser, held virtually this year on Oct. 6.
The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is again encouraging people of faith to take part in an election novena beginning on Oct. 26 and ending on Nov. 3. A closing prayer for elected leaders will be offered on Day 10, which is Nov. 4, the day after the election.

“The bearing in mind our nation’s challenges and difficulties, we are called upon to help Catholics prepare for the 2016 election,” the USCCB said. “Shared through social media and various lists, the prayer effort was widely popular with the laity and very much appreciated by clergy, who are often asked to promote more partisan or issue-specific prayer campaigns.”

Participants will be encouraged to pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be for the day’s intention.

The daily intentions are as follows:

• Day One: Monday, Oct. 26 — As we prepare for the national, state and local elections, in the midst of a global pandemic, may our political engagement be guided by our Catholic faith.

• Day Two: Tuesday, Oct. 27 — In this month of the Holy Rosary, may Our Blessed Mother guide us in confronting racial inequalities and restoring peace in society.

• Day Three: Wednesday, Oct. 28 — May all Americans recall the necessity of dialogue, civility and humility in this election season.

• Day Four: Thursday, Oct. 29 — May all understand the moral and ethical dimensions of political decisions and decide accordingly.

• Day Five: Friday, Oct. 30 — May voters and elected leaders uphold the dignity of every human life in their political engagement.

• Day Six: Saturday, Oct. 31 — May Catholics recall all aspects of Catholic social teaching as they consider their votes.

• Day Seven: Sunday, Nov. 1 — May there be a transformation of politics to focus on the dignity of the human person and the common good.

• Day Eight: Monday, Nov. 2 — May we keep in mind the gift of religious freedom and our duty to defend and exercise it as faithful citizens.

• Day Nine: Tuesday, Nov. 3 — Today, as we approach the polls, may we understand and embrace the principles of our faith that should guide our political engagement.

• Closing Day: Day 10, Wednesday, Nov. 4 — May the leaders elected this week be guided by the Holy Spirit as they fulfill their positions.

(FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP) “For Faithful Citiz”

The USCCB’s election document, “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” provides guidance for all who seek to exercise their rights and duties as citizens.

To access “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” in English and Spanish, go to cutt.ly/FaithCitDoc.

As we approach Nov. 3, USCCB again offers election novena.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The mission of the Church and of all Christians is to proclaim and live the Gospel in daily life, Pope Francis said.

“Each one of us, by virtue of baptism, is called to be an active presence in society, inspired it with the Gospel and with the lifeblood of the Holy Spirit,” he said.

Before reciting the Angelus prayer on Oct. 18, the pope reflected on the day’s Gospel reading (Mt 22:15-21) in which the Pharisees sought to trap Jesus with the question about whether it was lawful to pay a tax to Caesar.

“Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God” (Mt 22:21).

Pope Francis said this shows how Jesus not only avoided their trap, but also describes “the criteria for the distinction between the political sphere and the religious sphere, and gives clear guidelines for the mission of all believers for all times, also for us today. “Paying taxes is a duty for all citizens, just as is complying with the just laws of a nation,” he said.

But at the same time, “it is necessary to affirm God’s primacy in human life and in history, respecting God’s right over that which belongs to him,” the pope said.

Christians are asked to be engaged in society “with humility and, at the same time, with courage, making their contribution to building the civilization of love, where justice and fraternity reign.”

The pope prayed Mary would help “all of us to flee from all hypocrisies and to be honest and constructive citizens. And may she sustain us, disciples of Christ, in the mission to bear witness that God is the center and the meaning of life.”

After the formal prayer, Pope Francis reminded everyone that the Church was celebrating World Mission Sunday, a day on which Catholics are asked to show their support of missionaries around the world through prayer, reflection and material contributions.

He also expressed his joy and gratitude for the liberation of Father Pierluigi Maccalli, a member of the Society of African Missions, who had been kidnapped in Niger in 2018. He and three other hostages were released in Mali after being held captive for more than two years.

Pope Francis said, “Let us keep praying for missionaries and catechists, and also for those who are persecuted or abducted in different parts of the world.”

Inspired by Gospel, Christians need to be active in society, pope says.
Catholics lead efforts in Mooresville, New Castle to install baby boxes

By Sean Gallagher

On Oct. 9, a newborn baby was safely and legally surrendered in a Safe Haven baby box at a fire station on the southwest side of Indianapolis.

Such saving of life could soon take place in Mooresville and New Castle. Thanks to the help of the Knights of Columbus and others, Safe Haven baby boxes were recently installed in fire stations in those towns, in Mooresville on Sept. 1 and in New Castle on Oct. 1.

Father John Hall, pastor of St. Anne Parish in New Castle, praised the Knights for helping to “provide a means for a mother who feels overwhelmed in caring for her newborn baby to preserve the life of the child.”

“She can continue to have a fulfilling life,” she said.

The Safe Haven Baby Boxes organization has designed the lifesaving devices and has them made for locations that raise the approximately $15,000 for their construction and installation. It also provides first responders with instruction on Safe Haven baby box laws and how to best handle the surrendering of a baby.

“Leaders in communities are seeing this as a pro-active measure to avoid any situation that might lead to an abandonment,” said Chanel Cunningham, director of programs and administration of the Woodburn, Ind.-based Safe Haven Baby Boxes. “Instead of having their first baby box to their city or town.

This anonymous and legal way of surrendering babies was made possible in Indiana through a law passed by the General Assembly in 2015, with some adjustments made in subsequent years.

The baby box in New Castle is the 41st such Safe Have baby box installed in Indiana, with 23 being installed since the start of 2020. There are now 13 in the archdiocese as this newspaper went to press, three more were scheduled to become operational in the state, including one in Clarksville.

The Oct. 9 baby surrendering was the fifth in Indiana in 2020 and the ninth since Safe Haven baby boxes began to be installed in state fire stations and hospitals in 2016.

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 7431 in Mooresville worked hard in 2019 to raise funds in the broader community for a baby box in their town.

“It’s been one of the most rewarding experiences I’ve had as a member of the Knights of Columbus,” said Larry Janacek, a member of the council and of St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville.

“It’s one of the most pro-life things that you could do.”

The Knights worked with other organizations in Mooresville and with Dustin Stanley, member of Mooresville’s town council, who was pleased to see such collaboration between local government and faith-based and civic organizations.

“Those bridges should already be there,” said Stanley. “A lot of times they’re not. We’re all working for a much larger picture.”

Satisfaction in seeing a community come together to promote the common good through the installation of a baby box was also experienced by William Huber, grand knight of Knights of Columbus Council 1755 in New Castle.

“It demonstrates that we have a community that cares about each other,” said Huber, a member of St. Anne Parish in New Castle. “It’s not us versus them. We work with the government in partnership. It was an opportunity to bring the community together. It brought everybody together.”

Mayor Greg York of New Castle mentioned at the dedication that the city of New Castle cares,” said Father Hall. “And the Knights of Columbus is paving a path to help New Castle to care for all people, especially the little ones and families that are going through tough times.”

Father Francis Kalapurackal, pastor of St. Thomas More Parish, was similarly proud of his parishioners who put their pro-life principles into action in making a baby box available for their community.

“I pray that a Safe Haven baby box comes in every town in the country,” he said, “because every life is precious and therefore to be respected, nurtured and protected from conception to natural death.”

Cunningham expects many more boxes to be installed in the coming months, and has seen interest in states across the country beyond Arkansas and Ohio, where four Safe Haven baby boxes have been installed.

“We’re looking forward,” she said. “We’re looking at this and hoping we can be nationwide in the short term.”

Cunningham reflected on the satisfaction of seeing the boxes achieve the pro-life goal for which they were made.

“It’s mind-blowing,” she said. “Having nine babies placed in baby boxes allows us to see the fruits of our labor. There’s a lot of work involved in getting a baby box installed in a community. We do so much more work in raising awareness, educating and training our first responders. And it continues to grow.”

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 7431 in Mooresville join Father Francis Kalapurackal and Monica Kelsey on Sept. 1 outside a fire station in Mooresville for the dedication of a new Safe Haven baby box. Father Kalapurackal is pastor of St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville. Kelsey is the founder of Safe Haven Baby Boxes. (Submitted photo)

DO YOUR CHILDREN KNOW WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Being a steward of faith means making an impact in your community and touching lives through Christ. Through planned giving, you can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others that will endure long after you’re gone.

Having a conversation with your family about your planned giving, including personal stories of how an organization has affected you, will help build a shared vision and create opportunities for shared giving.

A donor advised fund is an example of a planned giving vehicle that can be funded by the older generation and can live on and be managed by the surviving children going forward.

For more information about giving through the Catholic Community Foundation, call 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1482.

WWW.ARCHINDY.ORG/CCF/
**Blessed Michael McGivney**

We congratulate the members of the Knights of Columbus in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis because its founder, Father Michael McGivney, will be beatified on Oct. 31. This is the final step before canonization. He will join four other Americans who are now called “Blessed”: Redemptorist Father Francis Xavier Seelos, Sister of Charity Miriam Teresa, Father Stanley Rother and Capuchin Father Solanus Casey.

Father McGivney was ordained only four years in 1882 when he founded the Knights of Columbus. He did it out of pastoral concern for the welfare of his parishioners, most of whom were poor Irish immigrants like his parents. They fled Ireland because of the potato famine in the 1840s and lived in Waterbury, Conn. Michael was the eldest of their 13 children, six of whom died in infancy. He was a bright child, so much so that he graduated from high school when he was 13. Michael was studying for the priesthood when his father died. He returned to Waterbury, certain that he would have to find a job to help support his family. He told his father, then Bishop Francis McFarland that one of the most promising men in the diocese needed financial help. He gave Michael the equivalent of a full scholarship and sent him to St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore, where he finished his studies. Archdiocese (later Cardinal) James Gibbons ordained him on Dec. 22, 1877, in Baltimore’s Cathedral of the Assumption.

His first assignment was St. Mary Parish in New Haven, Conn., where he quickly got to know his parishioners through visits to the sick and other personal responsibilities. One of the things he learned was how quickly families could become destitute if the husband and father died in those days. Discrimination against Catholics, especially the Irish, was widespread in the late 1800s. When they were able to find jobs, an injury or death could leave their families penniless and homeless.

Father McGivney envisioned an insurance and benevolent society that would care for such families. After discussing his idea with his bishop and learning about benevolent societies in Boston and Brooklyn, he gathered the men of his parish together. After months of discussion about insurance, minimum and maximum ages for membership, initiation fees and the disbursement of benefits, they founded the Knights of Columbus in May of 1882, with the first council at St. Mary Parish in New Haven. Father McGivney was its first secretary.

It had a slow start. Father McGivney tried to get other parishes to join, but without initial success. But in 1883, five other parishes in Connecticut joined. That number increased to 12 by the end of 1884. The Knights benefited when Pope Leo XIII, in 1884, published an encyclical that condemned Freemasonry and encouraged Church leaders to “place Catholic societies to combat secret societies such as the Masons.” The Connecticut Catholic edited that the Knights of Columbus “is eminently fitted” to “ward off the dangers of those secret societies.”

By the end of 1885, there were 32 councils. By that time, though, Father McGivney had been transferred to St. Thomas Parish in Thomaston, a poor parish in an impoverished factory town. He again threw himself wholeheartedly into serving both the spiritual and physical needs of his parishioners, while continuing his role in the Knights of Columbus. The organization continued to expand, reaching a membership of 5,000 in 51 councils in 1889.

Then, in 1899, Father McGivney contracted pneumonia, which evolved into tuberculosis. This was not surprising. As Douglas Brinkley and Julie M. Fenster wrote in their book Parish Priest: Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism, “In the 1880s, parish priests did not generally live very long, under any circumstances.” ... Going into the priesthood, young men knew that they had little chance of reaching 50 years of age and almost no hope of reaching 70. The priests were overworked, and their short life span led to even more work for those who were left.”

Father McGivney died on Aug. 14, 1890, two days after his 38th birthday. Today, nearly 2 million men are members of the Knights of Columbus. It has become a major charitable organization, supporting Catholic causes worldwide.

---John F. Fink

**Be Our Guest/Phyllis and Bob Burkholder**

Young men and women in southern Indiana, take time to stand up for life

Young men and women in your late teens and those of college age: have you ever wondered what to do with your Saturday mornings? After you get out of bed, do you wonder what you can do on a Saturday morning? What can you do on a Saturday morning? Can you do something better and more meaningful?

Recently on a Saturday morning, at Second and Market streets in Louisville, we saw a group of four young men in their early 20s huddled together—in prayer! It was quite a remarkable sight!

A young man with a microphone began speaking to girls and women entering an abortion mill. He was quoting Bible verses, speaking of God’s love for them and offering help for them at two nearby pregnancy centers. These were faith-filled young men doing God’s bidding.

Every Saturday morning, there are college students from Protestant and Catholic college. As mentors, they speak of God’s love and encourage women in “crisis pregnancies.” They tell them they are not alone, and help is available. These are very impressive young men and women indeed.

Another beautiful Protestant group is “Sisters for Life.” They come often to encourage young women that there are alternatives to abortion. They speak of the atrocities of Margaret Sanger and her followers and why they have done to the Black population. They are a group of prayer warriors who trust in the Lord’s word and follow in his footsteps.

Our Catholic group prays four rosaries, a novena to Our Lady and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. These are mostly mid-age to older people who take part.

Oftentimes, families will come to pray. These prayer warriors are from all walks of life with one goal in mind—to defeat and conquer the evil of abortion.

On May 1, we have Mass at the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville and walk down to pray at an abortion center. There is another group who also come to join. We know with Jesus’ help and his Mother’s intercession, we will eventually win. We trust in God’s mercy!

Additionally, a local Protestant church group of young men and women were across the street preparing to make their way downtown to Jefferson Square. They carried garbage bags—to clean up after protests the previous night in Louisville. The previous day, I asked a young couple from the same group what they had been doing, and they answered, “Serving coffee to everyone.” I was truly amazed at their commitment to help rectify the violence of several nights. I am curious to know what these Protestant young people achieve. What is their congregation that inspires so many of their young people to bravely and prayerfully step forward. These young people mentioned were from different churches and colleges, and they came to pray.

During Earth Day 40 Days for Life campaign, join us any morning at Second and Market streets in Louisville—the closest mainland parliament of people who care for those who are in need. And as St. John Paul II always said, “Be not afraid.”

Young Catholic men and women, you are welcome, any time! We need your youth, support and zeal!

(Phyllis and Bob Burkholder are members of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg.)
Mary nos recuerda que el amor es el mandamiento supremo
October 23-31
23rd Annual Cardinal Classic VIRTUAL Golf Outing, benefits Seton Catholic Athletics Boosters, Richmond, choose day and golf course, $15, sponsorships start at $50, golfer eligible for prizes, registration and payment due by Oct. 30. Registration, information: www.richmondschools.org/cardinal-classic-golf-online. Questions: 765-965-6956, mclowen@ setons.org.

October 27

October 31
Beatitude of Knights of Columbus founded 1892. National Respect Life Month. Livestream Event, 11 a.m., all invited, mask required, sequential devotion of observed, free. Information: Christopher Love, cblood32@gmail.com or 317-546-1646, cardubus.net for 51st Street location.

November 4
MC1, Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis, Solo Seniors, 5 p.m., Catholic, educational, charitable and social services—separately, widowed or divorced—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
Women’s Care Center, 9001 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. First Friday Mass, 5 p.m., Msgr. Joseph Schaudel presiding, optional tea and cake. Information: Mary Ann Evans, soldierspeaceprayer@gmail.com or 317-985-1990.

November 2
Our Lady of the Good Shepherd Retreat Center, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. First Friday bilingual celebration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Mass, 5-45 p.m., exposition of the Blessed Sacramento, following Mass until 9 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation available. Information: 317-750-7398, mrosetal@hotmail.com.

November 7
St. Michael Parish, 145 S. E. Blvd., Brookville. First Saturday Marian Devotional Prayer Group, devotional prayers, Rosary, 8 a.m. Information: 765-647-5462.

November 10

November 18

November 19
St. Joseph Parish, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. Third Thursday Adoration, interceding for women experiencing crisis pregnancy, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., mass at 5:45 p.m. Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Harvestake Road, Indianapolis. Monthly Mass, 2 p.m. Information: 317-574-8898 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

November 21
Annual Corrections Ministry Virtual Conference, “Forgiving with Grace,” sponsored by archdiocesan Corrections Ministry, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Jeanine Bishop, author of Grace from the Rubble and Change of Heart, speaker, time for questions, pre-recorded panel discussion of incarcerated offenders, free, registration required. Registration and information: archindy.org/corrections.

Standing up for life
Participants in Richmond line a street to promote life during the city’s Life Chain event on Oct. 4. Photos submitted by Debra Sams

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

October 30
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Outdoor concert with The Hussey Brothers: “The Dad Life Tour.” Grab-and-go picnic style dinner served 6-7 p.m., show starts 7 p.m., family friendly Halloween costumes welcome, tickets include dinner and concert. Adults $15, children ages 4-11 $5, children ages 0-2 not required. Tickets: cutt.ly/hus-adult-ticket (adult). Information: 317-545-7681.

November 4

November 7
Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Michelangelo: An Exhibition of His Great Grandchildren. †

November 18
Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. Woman to Woman Recovery Retreat for women in AA or Al-Anon. Will include speakers, meetings, panels, yoga, drumming. Information: 312-923-8187.

November 21

December
77 Years
Maurice and Norma Lee (Traub) Stigler celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary on Oct. 22. The couple was married in St. Mary Church in New Albany on Oct. 22, 1949, where Maurice is a member. They have five children: Susan Adoba, Mary Ann Delaney, Kathy Drake, Janet Staley and Maurice Stigler. The couple also has 14 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Eve Eileen (Nobbe) Moorman, members of Immaculate Conception Parish in Millburn, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Oct. 26. The couple was married in the former St. Mary Church in Decatur County on Oct. 26, 1960. They have seven children: Linda Eckel, Carol Koester, Donna Johannigman, Gene, Joseph, Thomas and John. The couple also has 14 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

60 Years
Carl and Eileen (Nobbe) Moorman, members of Immaculate Conception Parish in Millburn, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Oct. 26. The couple was married in the former St. Mary Church in Decatur County on Oct. 26, 1960. They have seven children: Linda Eckel, Carol Koester, Donna Johannigman, Gene, Joseph, Thomas and John. The couple also has 14 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

‘Ava’s grace’ ministry offers virtual support and resources for those grieving pre-born or infant loss
‘Ava’s grace,’ a ministry of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in Indiana, seeks to bring Catholic resources to those suffering the heartbreaking loss of a child, whether born or pre-born. The ministry offers a monthly support group meeting via Zoom Monday nights at 6 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. It is open to anyone—parents or family and friends of parents—who has lost a baby before or after birth, whether recently or long ago. For burial, liturgical, grief and simple music, silence. Link: cutsit/Trine. Information: 812-535-2952, iverson@usp.org.
“Jesús de Nazaret, por sus palabras, sus acciones, y su persona revela la misericordia de Dios.”
-Papa Francisco, “Misericordiae Vultus” (“El rostro de la misericordia”)
Connecticut priests take pride ‘one of our own’ about to be beatified

WATERBURY, Conn. (CNS)—Msgr. John Bevins has been praying a long time that a miracle would be attributed to the intercession of Father Michael McGivney and move him one step closer to sainthood.

I know I received a gift. I had lived the passion and the resurrection of Jesus Christ through the experience of suffering, death and hope with my mother. This is a mystery, but it gave me confidence, a hope in the resurrection like I have never had before.

―Brie Anne Varick

The Vatican made its announcement about the beatification was approved by the Vatican last May. The founder of the Knights of Columbus will be beatified on Oct. 31 during a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, the archbishop of Newark, N.J., at the cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, Conn.

He will be the first Connecticut priest to be beatified and will be given the title “Blessed.”

Msgr. Bevins, who served as pastor of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury from 1977 to 2014, said he holds “great pride” that a man considered one of our own was raised.

Waterbury was once a city of parishes where hundreds of thousands of Catholics attended church and were educated in the teachings of the Church—and where many vocations are said to have originated.

One of those vocations was for Father McGivney, the son of Irish immigrants, who was born in Waterbury.

He attended local schools and developed his faith at Immaculate Conception, where he was baptized, received the sacraments and celebrated his First Mass as a priest.

At the same time, Linehan—Varick’s mother—personally—personally—personally attended church and eventually led to heart failure and her death on Nov. 7, 2015.

“It was almost like God waited until I was strong enough and ready to surrender to his will that my mother should be with him in heaven,” says Varick, the oldest of her mother’s five children. “She had suffered a lot and would have suffered a lot more if she was to suffer here on Earth, but for whatever reason he wanted her back with him.”

She acknowledges that the loss of her mom is still hard to understand at times, “especially after years of praying for healing and miracles and wanting to believe that God could do all things.” In those times of struggle, she focuses on the foundation of faith that her mother gave her.

“She died early Saturday morning, a happy death and an eternal salvation in heaven. This is our Christian faith, the truth we profess.”

She also reflects on the graces she experienced in the last days of her mother’s life, graces that continue to sustain her.

A special promise

When she received a call from Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis that her mother didn’t have much time left, Varick rushed there praying that God would eventually receive the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist before she died.

Arriving at the hospital, Varick found her mom was still conscious. Moments later, a priest—was in the hospital to see another patient’s funeral service, came to the room and heard her mother’s confession.

That evening, as aunts and uncles spent time with Varick father and Varick, Varick ministers “to the most vulnerable,” working in the intensive care unit as a nurse. She was also expecting their second child in early November. That will be five years, to the month, since she died of breast cancer, a woman whose influence lives strongly in her daughter.

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Archbishop Sample leads rosary, exorcism to bring peace to Portland

PORTLAND, Ore. ( CNS) — Dakota Husley was diligently setting up tables in a downtown Portland restaurant on Oct. 17.

Out of the corner of his eye, he saw a crowd of people walking in procession behind the Eucharist on busy Northwest Everett Street. Husley paused for a moment, went to the window and gazed with folded hands, purple surgical gloves and all.

“I am not Catholic,” he said. “I just recently found God.”

What Husley had witnessed was a morning procession from St. Mary’s Catholic Church, the Immaculate Conception to a city park where Portland Archbishop Alexander K. Sample offered a rosary for peace and conducted an exorcism for a city that has witnessed peaceful racial justice protests peppered with riots for more than four months.

Two demonstrators have been killed over election-related division and many police injured. In early October, groups promoting indigenous rights toppled popular statues of Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

“There is no better time than in the wake of civil unrest and the eye of the elections to come together in prayer, especially here in Portland,” Archbishop Sample said before the procession.

“Catholic Church takes the promotion of unity, and accordingly peace, as belonging to the innermost nature of the Church,” he said. “For this reason, the Church fosters solidarity, and calls on its own members to be advocates of peace and justice.”

Archbishop Sample conducted a Latin exorcism rite meant to cleanse a community of evil.

The voice of a fitness coach at a nearby gym mingled with solemn prayers, as did the waft of incense and the general hum of Saturday morning traffic. The 225 worshippers at the park were not distracted: on the contrary, they seemed to revel in the mix, hoping the sacred would infuse the secular.

“What we did contrasts with what has been going on in our city and this country,” said Carolina Ruth Valdez, a member of St. Stephen Parish in southeast Portland. “Jesus is the Prince of Peace. No Jesus, no peace.”

Valdez said she came because she wanted to give witness to a world that does not want to know what is happening. As the final prayers ended behind the cathedral steps, Valdez started a chant: “Viva Cristo Rey!” (“Long live Christ the King!”

The crowd responded enthusiastically as the cathedral bells tolled the noon hour.

Sandra Kvalheim, who lives in nearby Vancouver, Wash., said it’s one of the reasons she attends Mass. “I continue to see in public promoting belief and peace,” she said. “They are your run-of-the-mill Catholic on the street and see that their religion is something that can be seen.”

Mary Miller, a member of St. Pius X Parish in Portland, said the anti-racism undertones of Portland protests worries her. She hopes the president’s long message Catholic promotes human rights and dignity.

“We know we need a lot more prayer, a lot more conversation about a lot of issues,” Miller said in the Catholic Sentinel, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Portland. “What is happening is not the right way to go about it. The Church has an answer to a lot of things. What are first principles and what is our foundation in faith? I think that will address a lot of the confusion today.”

Miller’s son, Justin, a student at Holy Trinity School in Beaverton, Ore., hopes for an end to violence and destruction.

“I don’t want any more people to get hurt,” he said.

Onlookers wore masks. As part of the Catholic procession met with violent foes. Nine burling Knights of Columbus from St. Anthony Parish in Tigard, Ore., posed themselves around the event and kept an open eye. Everything went smoothly, said Scott Young, who led the guard. In fact, onlookers seemed fascinated and asked Young what was happening.
Oldenburg Franciscan sisters celebrate their jubilees

Ten members of the Congregation of the Third Order Franciscan. (Two) of the motherhouse were honored for significant anniversaries of their entrance into religious life in a celebration on July 26 at the community’s motherhouse in Oldenburg.

70-year jubilarians

Sister Madonna Bishop grew up in St. Philip Neri Parish in Indianapolis. In the archdiocese, she ministered as a teacher at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany and in Indianapolis at Cathedral Preparatory Sr./Sr. High School, Father Thomas Secicina Memorial High School, Martin University and at the former St. Bernadette School and the former St. Mary Academy.

She also taught in Catholic schools in Ohio and the Diocese of Evansville, Ind., and served as a nurse at the motherhouse and in home health care. Sister Madonna now lives at the motherhouse and has dedicated herself to prayer and presence.

Sister Lorraine Geis grew up in St. Gabriel Parish in Crawfordsville. In addition to teaching in Catholic schools in Ohio and Missouri, she served as a missionary to Papua New Guinea from 1961-2001, teaching in elementary and high schools.

Since returning to the motherhouse, Sister Lorraine has served as sacristan and archivist for the community’s mission in Papua New Guinea.

Sister Sharonu Sheridan (formerly Sister Mary Kathleen), grew up in St. Therese of the Infant Jesus Parish in Indianapolis. In the archdiocese, she taught at St. Monica School in Indianapolis and at St. Louis School in Batesville. Sister Sharonu also served as archdiocesan elementary school consultant from 1972-76 and archdiocesan elementary school teacher for Ohio parents of gifted children in 1984.

She also ministered in schools and diocesan offices in Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. In January 2006, Sister Sharonu now lives in retirement at the motherhouse, dedicating herself to prayer and presence.

60-year jubilarians

Sister Julia Biehle (formerly Sister Anna), served in the archdiocese at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Aurora, the former Sacred Heart School in Clinton, St. Andrew School in Schererville, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Richmond and the former St. Rita School in Indianapolis. She also ministered in Catholic schools in Missouri and Ohio, and the Diocese of Evansville.

Sister Julia also served as a missionary in Papua New Guinea from 1983-96. Upon her return to the U.S., Sister Julia was named as a pastoral minister at St. John the Baptist Parish in Osgood and the former St. Magdalene Parish in New Marion and in senior care in Ohio. She now lives in retirement at the motherhouse.

Sister Sharon Blank (formerly Sister Tamara), taught in the archdiocese at Holy Family School (now St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School) in Richmond. She also served in Catholic schools in Illinois, Ohio and the Diocese of Evansville.

Sister Marilyn Doerner (formerly Sister Christine), taught in the archdiocese at St. Gabriel’s Archangel School (now St. Michael-Sgt. St. Gabriel Archangels School) in Indianapolis. She also ministered in the Office of Religious Education for the Cincinnati Archdiocese and in retirement centers. In 2014, Sister Marilyn returned to the motherhouse where she volunteered in the advancement office of the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception. She now lives in retirement at the motherhouse.

Sister Donna Eggering taught in the archdiocese in Indianapolis at St. Lawrence School and St. Mark the Evangelist School. She also ministered in Catholic schools in Missouri and Ohio. In 1991, she served in parish ministry in the St. Louis Archdiocese and as a Pastoral Administrator in the Diocese of Jefferson City, Mo.

In 2018, Sister Donna returned to Oldenburg where she remains involved in ministry in the motherhouse.

Sister Susanna Helmès served in the archdiocese at Holy Family School in Beech Grove. She also served in Ohio and in St. Vincent’s Home in Vincennes, Ind., in the Diocese of Evansville.

In 1973, Sister Susanna began ministry as a missionary in Papua New Guinea, serving in schools and a diocesan office there. She returned to the motherhouse in 1998 to serve as payroll manager. She continues to be involved in ministry at the motherhouse.

Sister Damien Hinderer served in the archdiocese at the former Holy Family School in Oldenburg, the former Holy Family School in Richmond, Holy Name of Jesus School in Beech Grove and Our Lady of Lourdes School in Indianapolis. She also taught in Catholic schools in Missouri and Ohio.

Sister Damien now lives at the motherhouse where she serves in finance and as mailroom manager. She previously ministered at the motherhouse in health care, computer and payroll services.

Sister Olga Wittkeid served as a philosophy professor at Marian University in Indianapolis from 1977-2000. She also taught in Catholic schools in Missouri. Since 2000, Sister Olga has served at the motherhouse in formation ministry and as a member of the community’s leadership team from 2006-2018. She continues to minister in counseling, spiritual direction and, since 2008, as director of the Oldenburg Franciscan Center at the motherhouse.

(For more information on the Sisters of the Congregation of the Third Order of St. Francis in Oldenburg, go to oldenburgfranciscan.org.)

Supreme Court to hear cases emerging from Trump’s immigration policies

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear cases stemming from President Donald J. Trump’s immigration policies related to financing border wall construction, and the requirement that asylum-seekers remain in Mexico until their cases are processed.

The court said it would take up the cases after the Justice Department appealed lower court rulings against the policies.

The justices earlier had allowed the Trump administration to move forward with its plans as the cases wound their way through the federal courts. The justices gutted the legal precedents even when they are wrongly applied, some legal experts argue, in the name of the national interest.

The decision came after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit ruled in June that the administration’s transfer in 2019 of $2.5 billion in military funds to border wall construction was an illegal violation of Congress’s legislative authority.

In the second case, the Supreme Court in an order on March 11 had granted the administration’s request to continue enforcing its “Remain in Mexico” policy while a lower court’s ruling that blocked the policy was being appealed to the high court.

The 2019 Migrant Protection Protocols, as the policy is formally known, require asylum-seekers to stay in Mexico while their cases make their way through U.S. immigration courts.

The Trump administration pursued the rule in 2018 as part of its push in Congress and the federal courts to fund construction of Trump’s long-promised wall along America’s southern border. Trump administration disputed with Congress how much the barrier would cost and it initially was limited to asylum-seekers from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. The policy was considered by the U.S. government and its agencies and it initially was limited to asylum-seekers from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. The policy was considered by the Department of Homeland Security to be a violation of the Migrant Protection Protocols in 2019.

The Supreme Court in July, in another 5-4 vote, declined to lift a stay imposed in 2018 that allowed the federal government to continue to build the barrier while the legal challenge to using military funds for construction continued.

Challengers to the funding plan, the Sierra Club and the Border Communities of California had asked the court to intervene, saying if the stay was not lifted the administration could finish the wall before the court ever had the chance to rule on the transfer of funding.

In 2018, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops opposed the president’s declaration of a national emergency to free up additional funding to construct the barrier along parts of the U.S.-Mexico border.

The southern border wall has been a major part of Trump’s platform since the start of his 2016 election campaign when he promised Mexico would pay for it.

“Remain in Mexico” allows the Department of Homeland Security to deport asylum seekers from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. The policy was considered by the Department of Homeland Security to be a violation of the Migrant Protection Protocols in 2019.

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Faith

Accompaniment can help people with ‘collective trauma’ of pandemic

By Colleen Campbell

By definition, trauma is a painful experience that disturbs and distresses the one who experiences it. It causes us to believe that we are fundamentally unsafe and constantly at risk, even in environments that may have felt safe before.

Trauma is also isolating. It can often convince us that we are not only alone in our suffering, but also that there is no one who could possibly help or heal us.

Trauma is part of what the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-17) were reckoning with when they encountered, unbeknownst to them, the risen Lord Jesus. Anxious, depressed and shocked, the disciples were discussing with one another the death of their close friend and master.

As they walked and talked, they might have felt terrorized, experienced viscerally the grief in their bodies and perhaps struggled accepting a “new normal.” When Jesus, whose identity was hidden from their eyes, encountered them, he inquired, “What are you discussing as you walk along?” (Lk 24:17).

The disciples spoke of the events of his passion, and uttered one of the most painful, authentically human versions in all of Scripture: “But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place” (Lk 24:21).

With this answer, the two disciples voice the trauma of being separated from life as they knew it before.

Although it may seem strange to describe it as such, the pandemic we are currently living through can also be described as a collective trauma. The events of the past few months have upended many of our lives, caused many of us great distress, separated us from our loved ones and left all of us pondering the meaning of it for the rest of our lives.

Just like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, we may have found ourselves tearful and shocked at many points in the past few months for a variety of reasons, saying, “But we were hoping...”

If at the root of any traumatic experience is isolation, insecurity and exclusion, then healing is cultivated through safety, security and inclusion. In other words, one of the ways in which trauma can be healed is through relationship.

Relationships cultivate the healing of those who have experienced trauma because they provide a space of safety and security in which we are known by another.

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus gives us this example of healing through relationship and accompaniment. Instead of admonishing the two disciples for experiencing the real effects of a trauma by coldly instructing them on the theological purpose of his passion and death, he invites them into relationship by meeting them where they are.

Pope Francis has exhorted the Church to take notice of Jesus’ example of meeting others where they are to cultivate their healing. In his apostolic exhortation “Evangelii Gaudium” (“The Joy of the Gospel”), he spoke of the need for the Church to be initiated into the “art of accompaniment” (#169).

An approach to pastoral ministry that involves an intentional relationship formed by a more seasoned mentor in faith and the one they accompany in safety and trust, accompaniment helps us seek and respond to God more readily in our everyday lives.

Imitating Jesus’ example on the road to Emmaus, the point of departure for accompaniment is the real-life experience of the one who is accompanied, from which a mentor creates a space of relationship and acceptance. By its nature, accompaniment is the opposite of trauma and separation. It “heals, liberates and encourages growth in the Christian life,” says Pope Francis (#169).

Through accompaniment, another person helps guide us in our pursuit of holiness by assisting us in recognizing where the Holy Spirit is in the messiness, chaos and defeat in our lives, where it has been and is inviting us to go.

What does accompaniment ask of us in this time of collective trauma?

It asks us not to remain idle, wishing that circumstances were different. It requires us to imitate Jesus and take the first step toward those on the journey who, like the disciples, are suffering from the trauma of the past few months.

Jesus doesn’t wait for the ideal situation to encounter the disciples; he meets them on the way. We are called to go in the same haste with which Jesus accompanied his disciples, whether that is on Zoom, a phone call or social media.

It calls us to recognize that we can offer virtual accompaniment through offering encouragement to a loved one in a Zoom call, checking in on our friends via direct messages on social media or seeing our families miles away.

As Jesus created a space of healing for the disciples by accepting their frame of reference, so too are we called to accompany those in our care in our current frame of reference: through screens and technology.

In his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul asks, “What will separate us from the love of Christ?” (Rom 8:35). Through accompaniment, we can answer that nothing, not even the collective trauma of a pandemic, can separate us from Christ, and therefore, one another.

(Colleen Campbell is coordinator of formation programs at the Catholic Apostolate Center, co-author of The Art of Accompaniment: Theological, Spiritual and Practical Elements of Building a More Relational Church, and a doctoral candidate in catechetics at The Catholic University of America in Washington.)

This is an American 18th-century painting titled “Christ on the Road to Emmaus.” On the first Easter Sunday, two of Jesus’s disciples, disillusioned by the events of the past three days, set out from Jerusalem for Emmaus, several miles away. Just like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, we may have found ourselves tearful and shocked at many points in the past few months for a variety of reasons. (CNS photo/courtesy National Gallery of Art)
Forgiveness is topic at Nov. 21 corrections ministry conference

She left her firm and became a public defender in Cook County. She began to advocate for gun violence prevention and to fight against the death penalty. Twenty-five years later she wrote a book, Change of Heart, which is a story of two women—murderers and her reconciliation with the murderer who is serving a life sentence. She recently published a book, Grace from the Rubble, which tells the story of how the father of a victim of the Oklahoma City bombing helped to free the man convicted of the bombing, Timothy McVeigh, forged a friendship. It is a story of forgiving with grace, and is the subject of her presentation. The book is available on Amazon.

It will also be a panel discussion of inmates in an Indiana correctional facility on their struggle with forgiving others and others forgiving them. Please join us by registering for this free event at www.archindy.org/corrections.

Richard Etienne

Rosary for our nation reminds us to end division, unite as Church

I've found myself praying for my country a lot these days. As a family, we remember to do so when we say grace at dinner. At other times—usually after reading some terrible headlines or the total of fatalities from the coronavirus pandemic—I'll say a silent prayer as well.

So I welcomed the recent announcement by Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles that there would be a national Rosary for our nation. Now is certainly the time to request heavenly intercession amid the pandemics of distrust and division, of inequality and want. As Catholic Christians, we are taught that we are the missionaries today called to bring the good news of the Gospel to the whole world, especially to the countries in need.

The prayer took place on Oct. 7, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. While it was announced only a week before, Catholics were able to join in this time to request heavenly intercession amid our pandemic not just of disease but of polarization.

Archbishop Gomez introduced it, but he did not dwell on our ailments and our conflicts. Instead, he recalled the first Catholic missionaries in the New World, and he reminded us that we are the missionaries today called to bring the good news to our people.

"As a land where all men and women are treated as children of God. With equality, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," he said. It was a simple appeal, and what followed was simple as well. Various bishops from around the country took turns praying the decades of the rosary.

One decade was recited in Spanish. Without exaggeration that was perhaps the most iconic Catholic image of this time of our missions.

Our prayers are a simple appeal, and what followed was simple as well. Various bishops from around the country took turns praying the decades of the rosary.

Archbishop Gomez sheathing his sword on the top of what is now called Castel Sant'Angelo and the plague was stopped. Our pandemics are still with us, but not COVID-19, but also the pandemics of distrust and division, of inequality and want. As Archbishop Gomez declared, now is a time of missionary witness.

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With a decal of a humble woman, the Archangel sheathing his sword on the top of what is now called Castel Sant'Angelo and the plague was stopped. Our pandemics are still with us, but not COVID-19, but also the pandemics of distrust and division, of inequality and want. As Archbishop Gomez declared, now is a time of missionary witness.

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Once a week, I pray by a chilly lake. I’m in a place known for making lists of tasks I want to accomplish. This is done frequently “on the go” until these things are completed. I have even been known to put tasks on the list even after they have been accomplished so I can then mark them off!

But now, I am in the last part of life. In many ways, I’m more focused with time to reflect.

For instance, the goals in the early years of life for some often were focused toward earning a living, taking advantage of better employment opportunities, or finding a spouse and starting a family. I’ve been fortunate and hopeful in raising children to become healthy and productive members of society. In this second part of life, as the chaos has subsided, the goal seems to have shifted to more of a focus on the interior aspects of life. There seems to be additional space in one’s life if she or he is blessed with health or nothing. When was the last time you had the privilege of just listening or seeing rain? Watching clouds meander across the sky? Slowly swinging on a porch swing? Stopping to listen to the wind in the trees? A gentle breeze that cools you in the heat of a summer’s day? Listening to the birds? Watching a flower bloom? How it draws your attention to the beauty and wonder of life?

In every liturgy, we say “heaven and earth are full of your glory,” the last time that you stopped and enjoyed God’s presence on Earth Rituals.

There is a wonderful story in the Gospel of Luke about two sisters, Martha and Mary (Lk 10:38-42). It seems that Mary chose “listening to and being present to” Jesus, while Martha was left with “serving” or the care of the household. Do you remember the role that Jesus says Mary was “better”?

In my own life experience, I have found that the right answer to the question is to balance quiet time—to recharge and complete cooperation that possibly saved his life.

Fortunately, this suppressed fleeing response caused him to use soothing words and complete cooperation that possibly saved his life.

So I welcomed the recent announcement by Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles that there would be a national Rosary for our nation. Now is certainly the time to request heavenly intercession amid the pandemics of distrust and division, of inequality and want. As Catholic Christians, we are taught that we are the missionaries today called to bring the good news to the whole world, especially to the countries in need.

For the Journey/Effie Caldarola

Just Mercy

From my career as an educator lawyer and the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to representing the poor and the wrongfully convicted. That’s the focus of his engaging book.

But he introduces us to the way race often plays out in our system when he, a Black man, reconnects the night he pulled into a parking space close to his apartment on the Westside in Atlanta. He lingered to listen to a favorite Sly and the Family Stone recording.

Similarly, every day a police car veered down the street and a spotlight blinded him. Not comprehending that they were interested in him, he got out of the car to head inside.

Immediately, one of the policemen, clad in military attire, drew a weapon and pointed it at Stevenson.

"Move and I’ll blow your head off," the officer yelled. The second officer came up behind Stevenson and pushed him against the car. They interrogated him. There had been a report of a burglary.

Bending him over the back of his vehicle, they demanded his license. New to the city, he didn’t know that that didn’t match his apartment. They conducted an illegal search of his vehicle.

Meanwhile, the spotlight remained on him as neighbors gathered. Finally, after a check called in on him showed nothing, the officer said he should be “happy they’d let him go.”

We have so many great police in our city, but too often we’re dealing with people that didn’t match their apartment. They conducted an illegal search of his vehicle.

We are in this together. Good police departments want accountability, better training for new recruits and assistance with the many mental health calls with which they are dealing.

Stevenson mentions that his first inclination was to run. No one ever pointed a gun at him before, and he knew the statistics about Black encounters with police. Fortunately, he suppressed this fleeing response caused him to use soothing words and complete cooperation that possibly saved his life.

This is not us against them situation. We’re in this together. Good police departments want accountability, better training for new recruits and assistance with the many mental health calls with which they are dealing.

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Stevenson says he is a story of forgiving with grace, and is available on Amazon.

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The Sunday Readings

Sunday, October 25, 2020

• Exodus 22:20-26
• 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
• Matthew 22:34-40

The Book of Exodus provides the first reading for Mass this weekend. In ancient Jewish tradition, Exodus came from Moses. Therefore, in a most special way, it is the very word of God, since Moses represented God and was the link between God and the chosen people. Through Moses, God gave to the Hebrews directions for every aspect of their lives. This weekend’s reading from Exodus addresses several specific realities in life, such as the lending of money and treatment of others. Every person has the right to be respected and treated justly. No one can be exploited or mistreated, not even strangers or enemies.

Respecting each person is the basic principle, founded on the notion of God as Creator and final governor of human lives. God, through creating each person, conferred upon each person a dignity that cannot be diminished or denied. For the second reading, the Church presents a reading from St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Thessalonians. In this epistle, Paul reminds the Christians of Thessalonica that their faith has had its impact, for the better. They turned away from idolatry to accept the Gospel. It was a good decision. Obey God, without exception, compromise or qualification. Following Jesus brings joy, the Apostle insists. Bearing witness to Christ, evangelization is a reward and an opportunity for Christians. Paul urged the Christians in Thessalonica to be models of evangelization for all the people of the region. St. Matthew’s Gospel provides the last reading. It is a familiar and beloved text. Often seen as an effort to trick Jesus, the question of the Pharisees in this story may have had a more pragmatic purpose. The Pharisees were teachers who instructed others about the law of Moses and called others to obey this law.

Reducing any teaching to a summary is often seen as an effort to trick Jesus, the question of the Pharisees in this story may have had a more pragmatic purpose. The Pharisees were teachers who instructed others about the law of Moses and called others to obey this law. Reducing any teaching to a summary is always a good educational technique. Even so, good will cannot be assumed without any other possibility. After all, many Pharisees disliked Jesus and would have liked to discredit the Lord’s message, if possible.

The Lord’s reply in this exchange was crisp and profound. Recalling this weekend’s first reading from Exodus, Jesus hardly departed from or repudiated Jewish religious tradition that originated in divine revelation, guidance given the people by God. Christ went directly to the point. God is supreme. The true disciple must reach every decision with the standard of love for God, uncompromised and absolute, first in their minds and love for others. Given human nature, herein lies the struggle, maybe as often as not. True discipleship means active respect for every other person since every human being is God’s treasured creation.

Reflection

These readings were chosen for Catholics worldwide, but coincidentally, they offer sound advice to Americans as in these days they contemplate the forthcoming election. Genuine Christianity is more than an intellectual assent to certain theological propositions. While the creed of the Church is vital, Christianity means a way of life and a state of mind, founded upon a heartfelt, personal recognition of God’s supremacy. Inescapably, it requires loving others as God loves them: truly, concretely and actually caring for them, always resisting any effort to belittle or exploit others, suppressing selfishness.

It is a tall order at any time, but especially important today in this world in which so many are used and abused, indeed even in “advanced” and “free” societies. Even “advanced” human societies can be very guilty in offenses committed against God and against vulnerable people. Citizens must resist unholy alliances which so many are used and abused, indeed even in “advanced” and “free” societies.

The ordinary minister of holy Communion is a bishop, priest or deacon. When circumstances warrant it, laypeople may be delegated to assist. “Redempitv Sacramentum,” issued by the Vatican’s Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in 2004, addresses those circumstances as follows:

“My goddaughter is considering marrying a man who will not get married in the Catholic Church and says that their children will not be raised Catholic. If she does this, can she still attend Mass and participate in the sacraments? (Location withheld.)

A First, I must ask for a clarification. Is the man objecting simply to their wedding taking place in a Catholic church setting, or is he refusing to be married in a ceremony approved by the Catholic Church? The reason for my question is this. Since the man is presumably not married, he could meet with a priest and apply for permission[s] to be married somewhere other than a Catholic church. There is a practice and—in the language of canon 1125—‘make a sincere promise to do all in her power so that all offspring are baptized and brought up in the Catholic Church.’ Of course, this must be interpreted within the context of the marriage covenant, and if her husband simply refuses, she is not compelled to do the impossible.

Your question makes me wonder, though, whether—with such a fundamental disagreement—the marriage itself is such a good idea, and whether the forecast might be for continual struggle and strife. Thereafter, after all, nothing more basic than our understanding of why we are here on this Earth, what God wants for us and how we see our responsibilities to the divine.

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

A man feeds parakeets in London's Hyde Park on Oct. 14. (cia photo/Peter Cziborra, Reuters)

Week 6: Faithful Citizenship Novena

The Office of Human Life and Dignity and Catholic Charities-Social Concerns are collaborating to offer the sixth of seven weeks of prayer, study and action as we prepare for upcoming elections.

Prayer is one of the first steps in acting for justice in our world. The following novena—nine days of prayer—is rooted in the biblical tradition and the Church’s social teaching. It is intended to promote justice and peace in our neighborhoods, our country and our world.

May this novena help to give hope to the poor who suffer from injustices and hope in your life that you may know the peace of Jesus Christ.

Pray

Opening prayer and novena prayer to be said daily)

Opening Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Novena Prayer: Immaculate Heart of Mary, help us to conquer the menace of evil, which so easily takes root in the hearts of the people of today, and whose immeasurable effects already weigh down upon our modern world and seem to block the paths toward the future. From famine and war, deliver us. From nuclear war, from incautious self-destruction, from every kind of war, deliver us. From sins against human life from its very beginning, deliver us. From hatred and from the demeaning of the dignity of the children of God, deliver us. From every kind of injustice in the life of society, both national and international, deliver us.

From readiness to trample on the commandments of God, deliver us.

From attempts to stifle in human hearts the very truth of God, deliver us.

From the loss of awareness of good and evil, deliver us. From sins against the Holy Spirit, deliver us. Accept, O Mother of Christ, this cry laden with the sufferings of all individual human beings. Laden with the sufferings of whole societies. Help us with the power of the Holy Spirit to conquer all sin—individual sin, the “sin of the world” and sin in all its manifestations.

Let there be revealed once more in the history of the world the infinite saving power of the redemption: the power of merciful love. May it put a stop to evil. May it transform consciences. May your Immaculate Heart reveal for all the light of hope. Amen.

For the novena’s daily readings, reflections and prayers, go to cutt.ly/FaithfulCitizenshipNovena

Act

Share this novena with a friend or family member to pray with you. Pray for our community and our nation. “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them” (Mt 18:20).


2021 Holy Angels Weekly Calendar Raffle

$20 PER TICKET

Up to four DRAWINGS per week for prizes of $25, $50, $100 or $125.

Total cash payout of prizes - $6,100.

Over 162 chances to win.

Must be 18 years to purchase.

For questions please contact us: 317-926-3324.

Make checks or money order payable to Holy Angels Church. Please include your full name, address and phone number with payment.

Holy Angel Catholic Church
740 W. 28th St., Indianapolis, IN 46208

Winners will be posted on church website: holyangelsindy.org

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REPORT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT NOW

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct by a person ministring on behalf of the Church, or if you know of anyone who has been a victim of such misconduct, please contact the archdiocesan victim assistance coordinator. There are two ways to make a report:

Ethics Point

Confidential, Online Reporting: www.archdioceseofindianapolis.ethicspoint.com or 888-393-6810

Carla Hill, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Victim Assistance Coordinator, 317 Room 1413, Indianapolis, IN 46226-1410

317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548

carlhill@archindy.org

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct, please let someone know so that you can begin the healing process.
**Administrative Assistant**

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.

**Director of Evangelization, Family Life, and Pastoral Ministries**

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, in the Diocese of Lafayette, Ind., is currently accepting applications for the position of Director of Evangelization, Family Life, and Pastoral Ministries. The position will assist the Missionary Pastor with the pastoral care of the Seton Pastorate. This will require, above all, a personal authenticity of Catholic life. Before programs, before numbers, before finances, the focus of evangelization is Jesus Christ. A personal knowledge and relationship with Christ will be essential to the success of this ministry.

This role includes a team approach to creative pastoral planning along with the supervision of directors and/or coordinators of the following ministry areas: Catholic formation, spirituality, prayer, music, pastoral care, and other parish ministries and outreach. The Director will support, accompany, and equip the leaders in these ministerial areas to focus their efforts on both Seton parishioners and the community at large as they strive to facilitate and enable disciples of Jesus Christ. Our objective is to build a vibrant fellowship of inspiring men and women to be witnesses of Christ to the city of Carmel and to the world.

Essential Duties:

- Collaborate closely with the Missionary Pastor and the Director of Operations to discern the needs of the parish to plan accordingly for the future of the community.
- Lead and manage those performing pastoral ministries in the parish to strategically accomplish parish mission, build a culture of teamwork, and provide coherency across varied programs.
- Collaborate with the office of the diocesan Director of Evangelization, Family Life, and Pastoral Ministries and their counterparts in other pastorates.
- Establish, facilitate, and coordinate customary management activities for those engaged in pastoral ministry, including recruitment, retention, formation, and performance management.
- Utilize effective experience in Catholic theology and pastoral practice to inform decision making.
- Develop, in collaboration with the Director of Operations, an annual budget for ministries within the parish.
- Foster an environment of inclusion with multi-cultural and multi-ethnic communities, persons with disabilities, and other groups within the Seton Pastorate and community.

Education/Experience:

Applicants must be practicing Catholics with full personal commitment to the teaching of the Catholic Church. Preferred candidates will have three or more years of experience in parish ministry and/or management of a not-for-profit organization, bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with study in Theology, Divinity, Pastoral Studies, or the equivalent. Additionally, applicants need strong ability to communicate effectively, able to honor and maintain confidentiality, capable to pass, observe, and maintain diocesan child safety protocols for self and others.

Qualified candidate should email a current resume and cover letter to saintanthonybusiness@gmail.com.
Those who accompany the dying inspired by **Samaritanus bonus’**

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Much attention was given to Church teaching on assisted suicide and euthanasia when the Vatican released its Sept. 22 letter —“**Samaritanus bonus**,” on the Care of Persons in the Critical and Terminal Phases of Life,” but Sister Maureen Weiss focused on the document’s guidance on accompanying the dying, a key component to her vocation.

Sister Maureen entered religious life in 1968, professing final vows as a woman religious with the Little Sisters of the Poor in 1978, became a nurse, and in a community that cares for the elderly poor, she has accompanied hundreds of men and women in the end of their earthly lives.

“The Church wants people not to be abandoned during this moment,” she told Catholic News Service (CNS) shortly after the 23-page letter—“**Samaritanus bonus**” was released by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. “We accompany organizations that educate and help young people, including several administered by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. As CPAs, we know that we can usually give more support if we stay current on tax laws governing charitable contributions, reducing our tax bill but contributing that savings to charities. But lately, keeping current on such tax laws has been challenging.

First, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 eliminated the specific deduction for charitable contributions for most donors who could no longer itemize deductions on their income tax returns. In 2019, the SECURE Act made changes to the laws governing retirement plans, including provisions of increased and decreased annual limits. By a specific age at which an IRA owner must take RMDs (required minimum distributions) to 72, the act removed a strong incentive for donors between ages 70½ and 72 to make QCDs (qualified charitable distributions). That said, a QCD made between 70½ and 72 offers non-itemizers the same tax benefits of an itemized deduction. The SECURE Act also eliminated the “stretch” IRA for the donor’s heirs, which may incent donors to designate their IRA assets for charities and other asset vehicles for their heirs.

Finally in 2020, the CARES Act, passed to provide relief from the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, allows donors who don’t itemize to make an “above the line” deduction from taxable income of up to $300 for annual charitable contributions. Further, itemizers may elect to deduct QCDs made up to 100% of their 2020 adjusted gross income, up from the previous 60% limit. Neither of these changes to deductions made to donor-advised funds. The CARES Act also waived RMDs in 2020 for individuals over age 70½. The suspension of the RMD somewhat damps the incentive for a donor to make QCDs in 2020, but donors directing a QCD to a charity this year (up to $100,000 per individual) will still reduce their taxable IRA balance going forward.

As you can see from the preceding summary of recent tax law changes, it is often difficult for us to figure out how best to make charitable contributions and when to make them. But, as believers in the mission of Christ, we all have a responsibility to determine what things belong to Caesar and what things belong to God—and then to take consistent philanthropic actions to help those in need.

(Steve Gaylord, who serves as vice president and chief financial officer of Community Foundation’s Advisory Board of Directors, is a member of Statistical Survey of Charitable Tax information or legal information provided herein is not intended as tax or legal advice and cannot be relied upon to avoid statutory penalties. Always check with your legal, tax and financial advisors before implementing any gift plan.)