



The

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Catholic Schools Week

See our annual Catholic Schools Week Supplement, pages 1B-20B.

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Caravan for life



While stopped at a light near the Indiana Statehouse, a woman in a mini-van sporting pro-life messages takes a photo of the vehicles behind her during the Indiana March-turned-caravan for Life in Indianapolis on Jan. 22. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

Love is clearest sign of faith, pope says in homily for Christian unity

ROME (CNS)—Abiding in God's love means nurturing one's relationship with him and with all those whom God loves, Pope Francis wrote in his homily for the conclusion of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



Pope Francis

"If our worship is genuine, we will grow in love for all those who follow Jesus, regardless of the Christian communion to which they may belong, for even though they may not be 'one of ours,' they are his," the pope wrote

for the prayer service on Jan. 25 at Rome's Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

While a flare-up of sciatica, a painful nerve condition, prevented the pope from presiding over the ecumenical vespers, his homily for the service was read by Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The theme for the 2021 celebration, chosen by the World Council of Churches and the Vatican, was "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit."

Because of COVID-19 precautions, only invited guests—Catholic, Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, Waldensian, Salvation Army and other Christian representatives—were able to gather for the prayer at the basilica built over the tomb of St. Paul.

In his homily, Pope Francis noted that Jesus' admonition to his disciples, "abide in my love" (Jn 15:9), is part of Jesus' discourse on "the vine and the branches."

"The Lord himself is the vine, the 'true' vine, who does not betray our expectations, but remains ever faithful in love, despite our sins and our divisions," the pope said. And all people who are baptized are grafted on to that vine.

Each Christian, he said, is called to maintain and strengthen his or her adherence

See UNITY, page 10A

Honoring lives aborted since 1973 still 'crucial' despite COVID-19 challenges

By Natalie Hoefler

CARMEL, Ind.—As often seems to be the case, Jan. 22 was the coldest day of the week this year.

And as always is the case, weather did not prevent advocates from standing up for life in solemn observance of the Jan. 22, 1973, U.S. Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion throughout the nation.

"If standing in this cold is just one thing we can do to save a baby today, let's do it all day long," said recently sworn-in Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita.

He spoke at a rally that concluded several events sponsored by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, the Diocese of Lafayette and Right to Life of Indianapolis (RTL) to mark the solemn occasion, including an archdiocesan-sponsored Mass celebrated by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson on Jan. 22.

'We must begin with ourselves'

In the pro-life battle, "Our opponent is not a particular person or group of persons," the archbishop said in his homily during the Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis.

"Our opponent is with the evil that underlies what Pope Francis has referred to as a 'throwaway society' ... [that] readily discards anything that is deemed useless or undesirable, including ... human life."

Discarding persons can take many forms, the archbishop explained. Among such forms are abortion, racism, human trafficking, capital punishment, disregard for creation, greed and more, including gossip.

"All these, with abortion at the forefront, contribute to a culture of death," he said.

To change society to a culture of life, "The first person we must begin with is ourselves," Archbishop Thompson noted.

"When confronted with differences of opinions or opposition to our values, do we respond in a Christian manner or react in a defensive or threatened mode? Are we able to recognize those that oppose or disagree with us as created in the image of God?"

Each person is a child of God and a sinner in need of salvation, the archbishop said.

Therefore, pro-life efforts "must be rooted in a holistic commitment to defending the dignity of all persons—

See LIFE, page 11A

U.S. bishops' pro-life chairman calls plan to codify *Roe v. Wade* in federal law 'tragic'

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee called it "deeply disturbing and tragic" that any U.S. president would mark the Jan. 22 anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion by praising it and committing to codifying it in law.

The U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 ruling "denies unborn children their most basic human and civil right, the right to life, under the euphemistic disguise of a health service," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann



Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann

of Kansas City, Kan., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"I take this opportunity to remind all Catholics that the catechism states, 'Since the first century, the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2271), the archbishop said in a statement released late on Jan. 22 in response to a statement on *Roe* by President Joe Biden, a Catholic, and Vice President Kamala Harris.

Biden and Harris said their administration "is committed to codifying *Roe v. Wade* and appointing judges

that respect foundational precedents like *Roe*." They did not use the word "abortion," but talked about "reproductive health" and protecting women's access to "health care."

"In the past four years, reproductive health, including the right to choose, has been under relentless and extreme attack," they said on Jan. 22. "We are deeply committed to making sure everyone has access to care—including reproductive health care—regardless of income, race, ZIP code, health insurance status or immigration status."

They added: "Now is the time to rededicate ourselves to ensuring that all individuals have access to the health care they need."

See BISHOPS, page 10A

Pregnancy accommodations under consideration again

By Victoria Arthur

From the governor's office to a growing grassroots effort around the state, momentum is building for Indiana to join more than half the nation in providing



reasonable accommodations for pregnant women in the workplace.

Companion bills introduced in the Indiana House of Representatives and the Indiana Senate would require employers with at least 15 full-time employees to provide reasonable adjustments for the safety and well-being of workers who are pregnant. These types of accommodations would include longer and more frequent breaks, modified work schedules, access to appropriate seating and temporary transfers to less strenuous or hazardous environments.

House Bill 1358, authored by Rep. Sharon Negele (R-Attica), and Senate Bill 246, authored by Sen. Ron Alting (R-Lafayette), are currently awaiting committee hearings. Gov. Eric Holcomb highlighted the legislation in his 2021 State of the State address.

"Women make up over half of Indiana's workforce and should expect reasonable accommodations [during pregnancy] at their workplace, which often come at little or no cost to the employer," Holcomb said in the Jan. 19 speech. "This is why I've come back to the legislature again ... to make Indiana the 31st state to pass a pregnancy accommodations bill. Most employers already do this on their own. So let's get this done for the well-being and security of Indiana's current and future working mothers."

As it has with similar efforts in recent years, the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) stands in strong support of the proposed legislation, which it considers pro-life.

"We want to do everything we can to ensure that a woman doesn't have to choose between a healthy pregnancy and her job," said Angela Espada, executive director of the ICC, the public policy

voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana.

"Among the pillars of Catholic social teaching are respect for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, as well as the dignity of workers. These bills will protect mothers and their unborn babies as well as provide workplace stability for employers."

For Espada, this issue is personal. During a hearing on similar pregnancy accommodation legislation last year, Espada shared her own story of being born two months prematurely to a mother who worked long hours in an industrial laundry facility. The ICC and its advocates were dismayed when companion bills ultimately stalled in the 2020 General Assembly in the face of opposition from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the Indiana Manufacturers Association and others who raised questions about the impact of the legislation, particularly on small businesses.

This year, the ICC and its allies are hopeful that updates to that legislation will result in passage of the current bills.

"This year's bills draw from legislation that passed unanimously in Tennessee last year," said Erin Macey, senior policy analyst for the Indiana Institute for Working Families. "While in substance they are still very similar in their aim to last year's bills, we are hopeful that some of the modest changes will help ease objections. Now there is further clarity around what is considered 'reasonable,' especially for small businesses, and it moves administration of the process to the Indiana Department of Labor."

Pregnancy accommodation efforts are perhaps more critical than ever now, Macey said, as women have been disproportionately affected by job losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As they seek to retain their jobs or re-enter the workplace, there may be an increased fear of reporting a pregnancy or requesting accommodation due to high unemployment and a need to recover financially," Macey said.

Her organization is among those partnering with the Grassroots Maternal and



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

January 30 – February 10, 2021

<p>January 30 – 11 a.m. Dedication of St. Michael Church, Greenfield</p> <p>February 2 – 9 a.m. Visit at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School, Indianapolis</p> <p>February 2 – 11 a.m. College of Deans meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis</p> <p>February 3 – 10 a.m. Catholic Schools Week Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis</p> <p>February 4 – 8:15 a.m. Mass for students of St. Michael-St. Gabriel School at St. Michael the Archangel Church, Indianapolis</p>	<p>February 4 – 10 a.m. Leadership Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center</p> <p>February 4 – 2 p.m. Virtual Archdiocesan Pastoral Council meeting</p> <p>February 7 – 2 p.m. Annual Scout Awards Ceremony at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral</p> <p>February 9 – 10:30 a.m. Priest Personnel Board meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center</p> <p>February 10 – 10:30 a.m. Virtual Wellbeing in Ministry summit</p>
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Child Health Leadership Training Project, concentrating efforts in areas of Indiana with persistently high maternal and infant mortality rates. This coalition, associated with the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, is mentoring women to become community leaders and policy advocates on these matters.

"Many of these women had difficult experiences working low-wage jobs while pregnant, so this issue means a lot to them," Macey said.

Among these advocates is Destiny Faceson, who has been working with other grassroots leaders to support HB 1358 and SB 246. Several years ago, as a first-time mother during her third trimester of pregnancy, she lost her retail job because she was penalized for too many prenatal medical appointments.

"The closer it came to my due date, the more stress and uncertainty I experienced," Faceson said. "The pregnancy accommodation legislation is

important because it would relieve the stress factors that cause preterm births, miscarriages and other health factors that not only affect the child but the mother's health, including mental health."

Espada expressed hope that the legislation would be enacted as the Church nationwide moves toward the conclusion in late March of its yearlong effort to draw attention to the challenges of mothers, especially the poor. "Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service" began in March 2020 to coincide with the 25th anniversary of St. John Paul II's groundbreaking encyclical "*Evangelium Vitae*."

"It would be wonderful if we could pass this legislation this year," Espada said.

To follow this and other priority legislation of the ICC, visit www.indianacc.org.

(Victoria Arthur, a member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, is a correspondent for The Criterion.) †

Pope prays Biden works to heal divisions, promote human dignity

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis prayed that President Joe Biden would work to heal the divisions in U.S. society and promote human dignity and peace around the globe.

"Under your leadership, may the American people continue to draw strength from the lofty political, ethical and religious values that have inspired the nation since its founding," the pope wrote in a congratulatory message on Jan. 20 as Biden was inaugurated as the 46th president of the United States.

Popes traditionally have sent such messages and assurances of prayer to a new U.S. president upon his inauguration, and have included mention of issues of concern, particularly about the dignity of every human life.

"At a time when the grave crises facing

our human family call for farsighted and united responses," Pope Francis wrote to Biden, "I pray that your decisions will be guided by a concern for building a society marked by authentic justice and freedom, together with unflinching respect for the rights and dignity of every person, especially the poor, the vulnerable and those who have no voice.

"I likewise ask God, the source of all wisdom and truth, to guide your efforts to foster understanding, reconciliation and peace within the United States and among the nations of the world in order to advance the universal common good," he said.

Pope Francis also prayed that Biden, his family and "the beloved American people" would receive "an abundance of blessings."

Biden, the nation's second Catholic president after John F. Kennedy, has often

publicly opposed legislation in line with all the Church's teachings, particularly when it comes to abortion. But his faith has been reflected in a range of other issues, especially concern for the poor, care for the environment, immigration policy and international peace.

Pope Francis already had a phone conversation with Biden on Nov. 12 to congratulate him on winning the election.

"The president-elect thanked His Holiness for extending blessings and congratulations and noted his appreciation for His Holiness' leadership in promoting peace, reconciliation and the common bonds of humanity around the world," said a readout on the call released by Biden's transition team in Wilmington.

Biden, it said, "expressed his desire to work together on the basis of a shared belief in the dignity and equality of all humankind on issues such as caring for the marginalized and the poor, addressing the crisis of climate change, and welcoming and integrating immigrants and refugees into our communities."

The pope and Biden have met on several occasions: as vice president, Biden attended Pope Francis' inaugural Mass in 2013 and the two met briefly afterward; when Pope Francis visited the United States in 2015, Biden was present for several events, but he and his wife also had a private meeting with the pope; and in 2016 the two met when Biden spoke at a Vatican meeting on regenerative medicine. †



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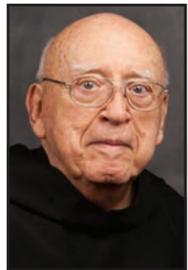
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Benedictine Father Bonaventure Knaebel was former Saint Meinrad archabbot

By Sean Gallagher

Benedictine Father Bonaventure Knaebel, who served as archabbot of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad



Fr. Bonaventure Knaebel, O.S.B.

from 1955-66, died in the monastery's infirmary on Jan. 22. He was 102.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Jan. 27 at the Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln. Burial followed in the Archabbey Cemetery.

Father Bonaventure was a jubilarian of monastic profession of vows and ordination. He lived 82 years as a monk and 77 years as a priest.

Benedictine Archabbot Kurt Stasiak spoke with *The Criterion* about one of his predecessors who, at the time of his death, was the oldest member of the monastic community.

"It's amazing to realize that everyone at Saint Meinrad—monks, staff, co-workers—doesn't know a Saint Meinrad Archabbey without Father Bonaventure," Archabbot Kurt said. "While he is no longer with us, we have not lost him. We have memories and stories we will continue to share and enjoy. He is an anchor in our history, having been a monk for 82 of the 150 years we've been an abbey."

The stories that filled the 102-year life of Father Bonaventure are wide and varied. Born in New Albany while World War I was still being fought and the Spanish flu pandemic was sweeping the world, he went on to become a monk, priest, math teacher, archabbot, missionary, chaplain and parish priest.

Father Bonaventure's acceptance of his vocation and the many ministries to which he was called were acts of obedience, which was part of the vows he professed as a monk of Saint Meinrad in 1938.

"When you make the vow of obedience, you don't know what's going to happen," Father Bonaventure told *The Criterion* in 2013 at the time of the 75th anniversary of his profession of vows and the 70th anniversary of his ordination as a priest.

His long life of obedient service touched the lives of many people beyond the monastery. One of them was Deacon John Jacobi, who serves as director of religious education at St. Michael Parish in Bradford. Father Bonaventure ministered as administrator of the New Albany Deanery faith community from 1997-2003. Deacon Jacobi was director of religious education there at that time, long before he was ordained to the permanent diaconate.

"One of the greatest things Father Bonaventure taught me was when to listen and when to speak," Deacon Jacobi recalled. "He had the great ability to hear people out and then share his thoughts. Father Bonaventure also taught me how to think with the Church and the importance of that."

Years later, Deacon Jacobi shared with Father Bonaventure that he had discerned a call to the diaconate.

"He said to me, 'Now you know what God has been calling you to all along,'" Deacon Jacobi said. "It was almost as if he knew of my calling before I did."

That came from a man who had dedicated himself to following God's will wherever it took him.

"I am not sure I am able to carry on Father Bonaventure's legacy or

not, but, in some sense, I think we all do when we listen for God's call," Deacon Jacobi said. "That is truly what Father Bonaventure's legacy is. He desired so much to do God's will.

"He shared so many stories about when he was a young man discerning God's call, his ministry as archabbot, his work in Peru as a missionary, and his second life as a chaplain and pastor. In all those stories, he was doing what God called him to do as faithfully as he could."

Merton James Knaebel was born on Sept. 6, 1918, in New Albany and grew up as a member of the former Holy Trinity Parish there. After graduating from the eighth grade of the parish's school, Father Bonaventure enrolled in the former minor seminary at Saint Meinrad.

He entered the monastery's novitiate in 1937, professed temporary vows on Aug. 6, 1938, and solemn vows on Aug. 6, 1941. Father Bonaventure was ordained a priest on June 5, 1943.

He later earned a master's degree in 1946 in mathematics at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Father Bonaventure then returned to Saint Meinrad where, from 1946-55, he taught in the minor seminary and served as assistant spiritual director in the major seminary (now Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology).

On June 3, 1955, the monastic community elected Father Bonaventure as coadjutor archabbot to succeed Benedictine Archabbot Ignatius Esser. Father Bonaventure was installed and blessed as the fifth abbot and second archabbot of Saint Meinrad on Aug. 31, 1955. He was the first Hoosier native elected to lead the monastery.

Under his leadership, Saint Meinrad constructed its first guest house and St. Bede Hall. It also founded two new monastic communities: Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, Calif., and St. Benedict Priory in Huaraz, Peru.

After stepping down as archabbot in 1966, Father Bonaventure soon began ministry as a missionary at the Peruvian priory. He survived a 1970 earthquake in the region that claimed 70,000 lives, including the monk that was serving as the prior of the monastery there.

In 1974, Father Bonaventure returned to the U.S. to help raise funds for Saint Meinrad's missionary efforts.

He then served as pastor of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Jeffersonville from 1979-81 and as pastor of St. Michael Parish in Charlestown from 1981-86.

Father Bonaventure's international ministry resumed in 1986 when he served for two years as administrator of Monasterio Benedictino in Morelia, Mexico.

Returning to the U.S. again, Father Bonaventure served as chaplain at the St. Paul Hermitage in Beech Grove for six years, as administrator of Corpus Christi Abbey in Sandia, Texas, for two years and as administrator of St. Michael Parish in Bradford for six years, stepping down from leadership of the faith community when he was 85.

Returning to live at Saint Meinrad, Father Bonaventure assisted in the monastery's development office and provided occasional sacramental assistance in nearby parishes.

Memorial gifts may be sent to Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN, 47577. †

Pope Francis' prayer intention for February



- **Violence Against Women**—We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

(To see Pope Francis' monthly intentions, go to www.archindy.org/popessintentions.) †

Television Masses

The following channels and times show when Sunday Masses may be viewed over-the-air in different areas of the archdiocese:

Indianapolis: WHMB, 40.1, 9:30 a.m.	Cincinnati: EKRC, 12.2, 8:30 a.m.
Indianapolis: WNDY, 23, 6:30 a.m.	Evansville: WEVV, 44.2, 7 a.m.
Terre Haute: WTHI, 10.3, 10 a.m.	Louisville: WBNA, 21, 7 a.m.



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SUE
Converted to Catholicism at 89

"I want to help others to hear about the Catholic faith. Maybe it will help them like it helped me."

MARIE
Teenage girl
"A lot of good things come out of giving to the Church. This is a great thing to do. I like to help the seminarians. I know some of them can't afford their education and I think we need more good priests in our Church."

PETE AND MELANIE
Adopted their young daughter through Catholic Charities

"When we saw all the good Catholic Charities does we just knew we wanted to help them. Jesus talks about us helping other people more than anything else."

GREG
Husband and father
"To me Church is family. We give to our family so why wouldn't we give to our Church."

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The Criterion

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Editorial



A lantern containing the Peace Light burns in the sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Indianapolis on Dec. 4, 2018, after a distribution ceremony. (CNS photo/Katie Rutter)

The path to unity, one step at a time

In spite of the fact that 2021 was heralded as “a new beginning” after the horrors of 2020, the new year got off to a bad start.

Rioting and violence broke out in our nation’s capital, our former president was impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives for a second time, and our new president marked the 48th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* by calling for codification of abortion rights.

Less than one month into the new year, it is clear that the Church in the United States, like the nation itself, is deeply divided on how to best approach many critical issues.

Disunity is a fact of life. It was true in Jesus’ time, and it has plagued the Church for 2,000 years. The question is: “How do we bring together people who are deeply divided along religious, economic and political lines?” What are the necessary steps to find, and follow, the path to unity?

If the answers were easy, we would not be in this current mess, but one thing is certain: *Talking* about unity is not the same thing as *achieving* unity—among individuals, families, communities or nations. Unity can only come from *actions*, from finding common ground and building bridges.

Where can we find the common ground that Catholics, and all Americans, can build on in these troubled times?

The search for common ground should have been easier after all of us experienced the pandemic last year. One would think that the good health of all people and economic recovery would be issues that all of us can agree on, but these too have been battlegrounds for opposing ideologies.

Similarly, the search for peace, for nonviolence in our interactions with others, would seem to be an intensely desired outcome of the culture wars of 2020, but violence continues to erupt on both the left and the right.

In addition, as Archbishop Charles C. Thompson has reminded us, a fundamental commitment to civility is essential if we are ever going to come together as a nation and as a community of Christians.

Unity is impossible when public discourse resorts to shouting and name-calling. Unless we show each other the basic reverence and respect due to women and men made in the

image and likeness of God, there is no path to unity or peace.

As Pope Francis said in his message for the 54th World Day of Communications, which will be celebrated in most countries on May 16:

“We think of how much empty rhetoric abounds, even in our time, in all areas of public life, in business as well as politics. This or that one ‘speaks an infinite deal of nothing. ... His reasons are as two grains of wheat hid in two bushels of chaff: you shall seek all day ere you find them, and when you have them, they are not worth the search.’ The blistering words of the English playwright [William Shakespeare] also apply to us as Christian communicators,” the pope wrote. “The good news of the Gospel spread throughout the world as a result of person-to-person, heart-to-heart encounters with men and women who accepted the invitation to ‘come and see’ and were struck by the ‘surplus’ of humanity that shone through the gaze, the speech and the gestures of those who bore witness to Jesus Christ.”

To achieve unity, we must engage in genuine dialogue with those who disagree with us. We must be able to listen and learn and not simply to argue and accuse each other. Above all, we must give witness to the truth by our words and actions, by the light of Christ that shines in us, and by the authenticity of our efforts to find, and follow, the path to unity.

Pope Francis says that in the effort to achieve unity, “Every tool has its value, and that great communicator who was Paul of Tarsus would certainly have made use of e-mail and social messaging.” But more is needed. St. Paul’s faith, hope and charity are what impressed “those who heard him preach or had the good fortune to spend time with him, to see him during an assembly or in individual conversation.”

Watching St. Paul in action wherever he was, people saw for themselves “how true and fruitful for their lives was the message of salvation that, by God’s grace, he had come to preach,” the pope wrote.

During the 11 months that are left in this new year of grace, may we embrace the path to unity, one step at a time.

—Daniel Conway

Reflection/Sean Gallagher

Retiring quarterback shared Gospel values on large stage

I have to admit that I was decidedly not a fan of recently retired Indianapolis Colts quarterback Philip Rivers in the early part of his 17-year career.



He and his then-San Diego Chargers made a habit of beating my beloved Colts, including twice in the playoffs. In one such postseason game played in Indianapolis in 2007, Rivers was injured during the

contest. As he walked back to his team’s locker room, Colts fans jawed at him. Rivers, then just 26, didn’t hesitate to talk trash right back to them.

It was then that I thought, “This kid is a punk. I don’t like him.” Time and knowledge can heal all wounds, though. Through the years, I saw how gifted an athlete he was. I could respect that. I also learned about his dedication to his Catholic faith and his vocation as a husband and father of nine children. That was something I could get behind. (It didn’t hurt that the short-lived rivalry between the Colts and Chargers had faded with time.)

Last year, at the tail end of his career, Rivers signed as a free agent with the Colts and led them to an 11-win season and a berth in the playoffs.

Although his athletic skills had not diminished that much and he could easily have played another season with Indianapolis, Rivers announced on Jan. 20 that he was retiring as a professional football player.

The next chapter in his life will be as head football coach of St. Michael Catholic High School in Fairhope, Ala., the state in which he grew up.

In a statement announcing his retirement, he thanked God “for allowing me to live out my childhood dream of playing quarterback in the NFL.”

Rivers didn’t live out that dream merely for himself. He used the worldwide attention that the NFL receives to share Gospel values with millions around the world.

One way he did that was through his frequent talking about a Latin motto that guides his life: “*Nunc coepi*.” It means in English, “Now, I begin.”

It’s a statement of humility. No matter what triumphs we have had in the past, we must always start again and give our best in each moment, for past results do not guarantee future success.

It’s also a statement of determination. No matter how many failures we have had in the past, we must always start again, trusting that God can help us to follow his will more completely, despite our past difficulties.

It’s finally a statement about living fully in the present, not being a prisoner of our past nor fearful of the future. When we live in the present, our hearts are open to the many blessings God offers to us here and now, which we might miss if we are focused instead on the past or future.

Such an attitude surely helped a gunslinger like Rivers, who threw more than his fair share of interceptions throughout his career. That never kept him from throwing amazing touchdown passes afterward.

The attitude behind “*Nunc coepi*” can keep spouses and parents renewed in the daily living out of their vocations.

God’s will for husbands and wives, fathers and mothers is often crystal clear in daily family life. But I know from experience that it’s still easy to choose our own preferences instead of what God is asking of us in any one moment.

But even when we fail in those moments, we can say “*Nunc coepi*” in our hearts and, with the help of God’s ever-present grace, start anew.

At the same time, some veteran parents might think they’ve got parenting down pat. Having a “*Nunc coepi*” attitude can help them give of themselves as if they were the parents of their first newborn. Such an attitude for longtime moms and dads can also keep their hearts open to the joys of parenting that they might have taken for granted.

Philip Rivers might not be suiting up to throw passes on Sunday afternoons anymore, but hopefully his example of faith and dedicated family life guided by his “*Nunc coepi*” attitude will continue to shape lives well into the future.

(Sean Gallagher is a reporter and columnist for The Criterion.) †

Letter to the Editor

Reader lauds USCCB president for statement challenging administration

I want to recognize the statement from Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), on the inauguration of President Joe Biden.

Expecting the same kind of feeble announcement of congratulations common of our Church leaders since the November election, I was astonished as Archbishop Gomez wrote at length about the incoming administration’s radical support of abortion.

It’s about time our Church leaders speak such truth to political power,

particularly in cases of self-identified Catholic politicians promoting “certain policies that would advance moral evils and threaten human life and dignity,” to use Archbishop Gomez’s language.

I pray that more of our Church leaders will display this kind of courage and integrity in publicly defending our faith against what I fear will be an administration hostile to religious liberty and the pro-life movement.

Dr. Patrick Knerr
Plainfield

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are welcome and should be informed, relevant, well-expressed, concise, temperate in tone, courteous and respectful.

The editors reserve the right to select and edit the letters based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content.

Letters must be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld.

Send letters to “Letters to the Editor,” *The Criterion*, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367.

Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.



Christ the Cornerstone

Listen to God's Word with an open mind and heart

"A prophet like me will the Lord, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen" (Dt 18:15).

Christians believe that the Eternal Word of God became flesh and lived among us as a man. Jesus Christ, who is God incarnate, was a preacher and teacher whose powerful words have transformed the lives of countless women and men throughout the past 2,000 years.

Listening to Jesus, we find hope in times of despair, comfort in the midst of sorrow, and the courage to overcome our own sins and the sin of the world.

Listening to God's word is not like ordinary listening. It takes more than just good hearing, an open mind or even an attentive, understanding heart.

To really hear what God is saying to us—in sacred Scripture, in prayer, in the sacraments and in loving service to others—we must be spiritually attuned to the most profound truths about ourselves and the world we live in.

To be "spiritually attuned" means to be pure of heart, to surrender our own will, and to let go of our preconceived

ideas and our self-centeredness. Truly listening to God's word means letting ourselves be open (and vulnerable) so that we can hear things we don't necessarily want to hear.

In the first reading for the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Dt 18:15-20), Moses tells the people of Israel: "A prophet like me will the Lord, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the Lord, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let us not again hear the voice of the Lord, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die'" (Dt 18:15-16).

The voice of the Lord can be an awesome, fearful thing. That's why, initially, God spoke through prophets and teachers like Moses and John the Baptist. But since the incarnation of God's Word in Jesus of Nazareth, he speaks to us directly—using ordinary language that anyone who is spiritually attuned can understand and accept.

In the second reading for this Sunday (1 Cor 7:32-35), St. Paul expresses his desire that we be "free of anxieties" (1 Cor 7:32). The context is his

concern for married couples who are distracted by "the things of the world" (1 Cor 7:33, 34), making it difficult for them to be spiritually attuned to God's will for them and for their family, the domestic Church. But every Christian, regardless of his or her state in life, must overcome those things that draw our attention away from what St. Paul calls "adherence to the Lord without distraction" (1 Cor 7:35). In fact, one of the greatest challenges all of us face is finding the right times and places to tune out all the chatter and chaos in our lives so that we can tune in to the voice of God whenever and wherever he speaks to us.

The responsorial psalm for the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Ps 95) sings of the joy that we feel when we come into the Lord's presence with thanksgiving and "bow down in worship" (Ps 95:6) before him. It cautions us not to "harden our hearts" (Ps 95:8) lest we be unable to hear God's voice as happened to the people of Israel "at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my

works" (Ps 95:8-9). Joy comes through openness to the will of God, but as St. Paul would say, if our hearts are closed, or our attention is elsewhere, we are full of anxiety, not freed from it.

The Gospel reading for this Sunday (Mk 1:21-28) tells us that when Jesus speaks, he commands our attention. As a result, St. Mark says, "The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes" (Mk 1:22). The force of Jesus' words is extraordinarily powerful because there is no distinction between who he is and what he says. Jesus *is* the Word of God. He lives what he preaches, and he does what he teaches us to do without any qualification or fear. Jesus is spiritually attuned to the will of his Father, and even when God's will is difficult (as in the Garden of Gethsemane), Jesus always says "yes."

Our challenge as disciples of Jesus is to seek God's will and to be obedient to the voice of the Lord even when it makes us uncomfortable. May God's grace help us to listen with open hearts and to respond generously whenever the Lord speaks to us. †



Cristo, la piedra angular

Escuchemos la Palabra de Dios con la mente y el corazón abiertos

"El Señor tu Dios te levantará un profeta como yo de en medio de ti, de entre tus hermanos. A él escucharán" (Dt 18:15).

Los cristianos creemos en que el Verbo Eterno de Dios se hizo carne y habitó entre nosotros como hombre. Jesucristo, que es Dios encarnado, fue un predicador y maestro cuyas poderosas palabras han transformado las vidas de innumerables hombres y mujeres a lo largo de los últimos 2,000 años.

Al escuchar a Jesús encontramos esperanza en tiempos de desesperación, consuelo en medio del dolor y el valor para superar nuestros propios pecados y el pecado del mundo.

Escuchar la Palabra de Dios no es lo mismo que escuchar otras cosas en la vida cotidiana ya que implica algo más que tener buen oído: hay que tener una mente abierta, además de un corazón atento y comprensivo.

Para escuchar realmente lo que Dios nos dice a través de las Sagradas Escrituras, en la oración, en los sacramentos y en el servicio amoroso a los demás, debemos estar espiritualmente en sintonía con las verdades más profundas sobre nosotros mismos y el mundo en que vivimos.

Estar "espiritualmente sintonizados" significa ser puro de corazón, entregar nuestra propia voluntad y abandonar las ideas preconcebidas y el egocentrismo. Escuchar verdaderamente la Palabra de Dios implica abrirnos (y estar vulnerables) para poder escuchar aquello que no necesariamente queremos escuchar.

En la primera lectura del cuarto domingo del tiempo ordinario (Dt 18:15-20), Moisés le dice al pueblo de Israel: "El Señor tu Dios te levantará un profeta como yo de en medio de ti, de entre tus hermanos. A él escucharán. Conforme a todo lo que pediste al Señor tu Dios en Horeb el día de la asamblea, diciendo: 'No vuelva yo a oír la voz del Señor mi Dios, ni vuelva yo a ver este gran fuego; no sea que yo muera'" (Dt 18:15-16).

La voz del Señor puede ser algo impresionante y temible; es por ello que, al principio, Dios habló a través de profetas y maestros como Moisés y Juan el Bautista, pero desde la encarnación de la Palabra de Dios en Jesús de Nazaret, nos habla directamente, usando un lenguaje ordinario que cualquiera que esté en sintonía espiritual podrá entender y aceptar.

En la segunda lectura de este domingo (1 Cor 7:32-35), san Pablo

expresa su deseo de que estemos "libres de ansiedad" (1 Cor 7:32). El contexto es su preocupación por los matrimonios que se distraen con "las cosas de la vida" (1 Cor 7:33, 34), lo que les dificulta estar espiritualmente en sintonía con la voluntad de Dios para ellos y para su familia, la Iglesia doméstica. Pero todo cristiano, independientemente de su situación en la vida, debe superar aquellas cosas que desvían nuestra atención de lo que san Pablo llama "[atender] al Señor sin impedimento" (1 Cor 7:35). De hecho, uno de los mayores retos a los que nos enfrentamos es encontrar los momentos y los lugares adecuados para desconectarnos de toda la cháchara y el caos de nuestras vidas para poder sintonizarnos con la voz de Dios cuando y dondequiera que nos hable.

El salmo responsorial del cuarto domingo del tiempo ordinario (Sal 95) es un cántico a la alegría que sentimos cuando llegamos a la presencia del Señor agradecidos, para postrarnos ante Él y adorarlo (Sal 95:6). Nos advierte que "no endurezcan sus corazones" (Sal 95:8), al punto de no poder oír la voz de Dios, como le pasó al pueblo de Israel "en Meriba, como el día de Masá en el desierto, donde sus padres me

pusieron a prueba; me probaron y vieron mis obras" (Sal 95:8-9). La alegría viene a través de estar abiertos a la voluntad de Dios, pero como diría san Pablo, si nuestros corazones están cerrados, o nuestra atención está en otra parte, estamos llenos de ansiedad, no exentos de ella.

La lectura del Evangelio de este domingo (Mk 1:21-28) nos dice que cuando Jesús habla, exige nuestra atención. Como resultado, san Marcos dice que "se asombraban de su enseñanza, porque les enseñaba como quien tiene autoridad y no como los escribas" (Mk 1:22). La fuerza de las palabras de Jesús es extraordinariamente poderosa porque no hay distinción entre quién es y qué dice. Jesús *es* la Palabra de Dios; vive lo que predica, y hace lo que nos enseña a hacer sin ninguna reserva o temor. Jesús está espiritualmente en sintonía con la voluntad de su Padre, e incluso cuando la voluntad de Dios es difícil (como en el huerto de Getsemaní), Jesús siempre dice "sí."

Nuestro desafío como discípulos de Jesús es buscar la voluntad de Dios y ser obedientes a la voz del Señor, incluso cuando nos hace sentir incómodos. Que la gracia de Dios nos ayude a escuchar con el corazón abierto y a responder generosamente cuando el Señor nos hable. †

Events Calendar

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

February 3

MCL Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, 5 p.m., Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles—separated, 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.

February 4

The Third Option virtual marriage crisis/enrichment class, “Building a Climate of Respect,” 7-8 p.m., Thursdays bi-weekly through May 20, viewing all sessions recommended but not required, no registration needed, free. Log on: carmelthirddoption.org/web then click on link at top of page. Information: carmlthirddoption@aicinvest.com or Keith Ingram, kingram@aicinvest.com or 317-324-8446.

Facing Challenges with St. Mother Theodore Guérin, virtual presentation and panel discussion, offered by the Sisters of Providence, 7-8:30 p.m., free. Information, registration: FacingChallenges.SistersofProvidence.org.

February 5

Women’s Care Center, 4901 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. **First Friday Mass**, 5 p.m., optional tour of center to follow.

Information: 317-829-6800, www.womenscarecenter.org.

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 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 Sacrament, following Mass until 9 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation available. Information: 317-750-7309, msross1@hotmail.com.

February 6

St. John Paul II Parish, St. Paul Chapel, 216 Schellers Ave., Sellersburg. **First Saturday Marian Devotion**, 8 a.m. rosary, meditation, prayer; 8:30 a.m. Mass with confessions prior. Information: 812-246-3522.

St. Michael Church, 145 St. Michael Blvd., Brookville. **First Saturday Marian Devotional Prayer Group**, Mass, devotional prayers, rosary, 8 a.m. Information: 765-647-5462.

February 9

Monthly Virtual Taizé Prayer Service, 7-8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence. Link: Taize.SistersofProvidence.org. Information: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org

February 11

White Violet Center for Eco-Justice Virtual Workshop: Baking Sourdough Bread, via Zoom, 6:30-8 p.m., \$45 includes instruction materials and sourdough bread starter, register by Feb. 4. Registration and information: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org or www.spsmw.org/event.

The Third Option virtual marriage crisis/enrichment class, “Responsibility and Blame Game,” 7-8 p.m., Thursdays bi-weekly through May 20, viewing all sessions recommended but not required, no registration needed, free. Log on: carmelthirddoption.org/web then click on link at top of page. Information: carmelthirddoption.org/web, or Keith Ingram, kingram@aicinvest.com or 317-324-8446.

February 17

Calvary Mausoleum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. **Monthly Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-784-4439 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

February 18

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

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. **Monthly Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-574-8898 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

The Third Option virtual marriage crisis/enrichment class, “Understanding Expectations,” 7-8 p.m., Thursdays bi-weekly through May 20, viewing all sessions recommended but not required, no registration needed, free. Log on: carmelthirddoption.org/web then click on link at top of page. Information: carmelthirddoption.org/web, or Keith Ingram, kingram@aicinvest.com or 317-324-8446.

February 27

White Violet Center “Virtual Alpaca Encounter,” via Zoom, 10-11 a.m., \$15 plus optional \$10 per alpaca ornament felting kit, register by Feb. 19. Registration and

information: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org or www.spsmw.org/event.

Annual Shawe and Pope John Virtual Auction Dinner, benefitting Prince of Peace schools in Madison, two raffles, prizes up to \$10,000, 200 raffle tickets at \$200 each. To buy tickets, donate items or sponsor event: 812-273-5835, ext. 246, or 812-801-1660. Online auction link goes live on Feb. 1: qtego.net/qlink/popauction21.

March 3

MCL Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, 5 p.m., Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles—separated, 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.

March 4

The Third Option virtual marriage crisis/enrichment class, “Re-Defining Power Struggle,” 7-8 p.m., Thursdays bi-weekly through May 20, viewing all sessions recommended but not required, no registration needed, free. Log on: carmelthirddoption.org/web then click on link at top of page. Information: carmelthirddoption.org/web, or Keith Ingram, kingram@aicinvest.com or 317-324-8446.†

Events and retreats can be submitted to The Criterion by logging on to www.archindy.org/events/submission, or by mailing us at 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202, ATTN: Cindy Clark, or by fax at 317-236-1593.

Marriage ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be a part of our Spring Marriage Edition

February 26 issue of *The Criterion*

Couples who are planning to be married between Feb. 26 and July 9 in a marriage that is recognized as a valid sacramental or valid natural marriage, or couples who were wed between July 1, 2020, and Feb. 12, 2021, in such a recognized marriage and did not have their engagement announcement in *The Criterion* are invited to submit the information for the upcoming Feb. 26 Spring Marriage Edition.

Announcements can be submitted using the form below, or electronically at www.archindy.org/engagements.

E-mailed photos

Photos should be saved in jpg format and be at least 500 kb. Color photos are preferred. We recommend sending a photo where the couple’s faces are close to each other. Please send the photo as an attachment to the e-mail: alewis@archindy.org. Subject line: Spring Marriage (Last name). In the e-mail, please include the information in the form located below.

If it is not possible to e-mail a photo, a photo can be mailed with the bottom form. Please no photocopy photos. To have the photo returned, please include a return addressed envelope with a postage stamp on it.

Deadline

All announcements and photos must be received by 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 12. (No announcements or photos will be accepted after this date.)

— Use this form to furnish information —

Clip and mail to: BRIDES, *The Criterion*, ATTN: Ann Lewis, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367
Deadline with photos: Friday, Feb. 12 at 10 a.m.

Please print or type:

Name of Bride (first, middle, last)	Daytime Phone		
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code
Name of Bride’s Parents (first, last)	City		
	State		
Name of Bridegroom (first, middle, last)	City		
	State		
Name of Bridegroom’s Parents (first, last)	City		
	State		
Wedding Date	Church	City	State
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo Enclosed			
<input type="checkbox"/> Return photo			
<input type="checkbox"/> No Picture	Signature of person furnishing information	Relationship	Daytime Phone

Wedding

ANNIVERSARIES

60 Years



RICHARD AND DARLENE (HEIDELBERGER) LIME, members of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Jan. 28.

The couple was married in the former Holy Cross Church in Indianapolis on Jan. 28, 1961.

They have three children: Donna Caldwell, Susan Howle and Michael Lime.

The couple also has nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. †

55 Years



STEPHEN AND MARGARET (SCHOETTNER) GREIWE, members of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on Jan. 22.

The couple was married in Immaculate Conception Church in Millhousen on Jan. 22, 1966.

They have six children: Barb Bohman, Gail Guzek, Deb, Greg, Paul and Tony Greiwe.

The couple also has 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. †

50 Years



MIKE AND LINDA (DOYLE) WYCISKALLA, members of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Jan. 30.

The couple was married at Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis on Jan. 30, 1971.

They have four children: Carrie Cassiero, Kim Schaefer, Doug and Father Tim Wyciskalla.

The couple also has nine grandchildren. †

Announcements for couples celebrating 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 or more years of marriage are accepted. Go to bit.ly/2M4MQms or call 317-236-1585.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SUPPLEMENT



Catholic schools prepare students as citizens of Earth, heaven

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

Catholic Schools Week is a wonderful means of highlighting the incredible impact of our Catholic schools on the lives, families and communities throughout the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, encompassing 39 counties in central and southern Indiana. In addition to two Catholic seminaries and two Catholic universities, we are blessed in the archdiocese with 68 Catholic grade and high schools.



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

Catholic schools have a specific mission. The holistic focus of our Catholic schools includes formation and education. Amid all the curricular and extracurricular activities, our schools seek to form character as well as educate the mind. The intent is to prepare each student for the two-fold citizenship of Earth and heaven.

We want our students to grow in their moral and faith development as both contributing members of society and saints in heaven. Thus, at the heart of the mission of any Catholic school is the transmission of Catholic teaching in transforming individuals and communities. The ultimate task of any Catholic ministry or service is salvation of souls.

I invite you to join me in acknowledging and thanking all those whose dedication and sacrifice make our schools so successful in enabling the Church to carry out its mandate to proclaim the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. Special thanks go to our school administrators (presidents and principals), faculty members (teachers, counselors, librarians), coaches and staffs.

Of course, we are also grateful for the wonderful team in our archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools. It is ultimately about the witness of living rather than mere words that has the greatest influence on those entrusted to one's care.

Finally, I want to express my deepest gratitude and admiration for our students and their families. Both on and off campus, you serve as the most effective ambassadors of our Catholic schools.

Indeed, there is much to celebrate in Catholic Schools Week. All for the glory of God!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Charles C. Thompson

**MOST REVEREND CHARLES C. THOMPSON
ARCHBISHOP OF INDIANAPOLIS**





Catholic Schools
Faith. Excellence. Service.

Schools in archdiocese find ‘grace to tackle, move forward’ from pandemic challenges

By Natalie Hoefler

Steve Beyl wasn’t feeling well as the school year ended in May 2020.

He went to the doctor and was told he had a viral infection.

“When the doctor asked me if I was stressed, I just laughed,” said Beyl, principal of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in New Albany.

At that point, he—and school staff throughout the archdiocese—had been dealing since mid-March with the challenges of a sudden school shutdown to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

And the stress didn’t end in May.

“There’ve been a lot of sleepless nights, a lot of stress” since the shutdown began, said Beyl. Even now, he said, his cell phone “blows up from 6 a.m. to 10 or 11 [o’clock] at night.”

For nearly 11 months, principals, teachers, students and parents have faced many challenges to continue the vital role of Catholic education in the midst of a global pandemic.

Four principals spoke with *The Criterion* about those struggles—and the blessings and benefits that have risen from them.

‘We were not in this alone’

The challenges began with Archbishop Charles C. Thompson’s March 12 letter announcing the closure of schools “until at least April 5” to slow the continuing spread of COVID-19.

State mandates extended the closures through the end of the 2019-20 academic year.

“From March to May, we had to essentially design a whole new school,” said Beyl.

The same was true for St. Susanna School in Plainfield.

“Our biggest challenge was remote learning,” said Janet Abdoulaye, the school’s principal. “We hadn’t made moves to be an e-learning school.”

But within a week of the March 12 announcement, “our teachers were using [e-learning technology] and they were ready to go,” she said proudly. “That was enormous.”

Whether their schools had a remote-learning plan in place or not, all administrators faced the challenge of the unknown.

“It was beneficial that the archdiocese had weekly Zoom meetings with all the principals,” said Sherri Kirschner, principal of St. Nicholas School in Ripley County. “We were able to get information, clarifications and affirmation we were not in this alone.”

One after the other, the challenges were met, and the school year came to an end.

The stress faced by principals, however, did not.

‘A little bit of everything’

During the summer, several plans had to be made for the start of the next academic year. Each plan offered a different learning format to provide the safest environment for students based on the status of the pandemic.

“We had hybrid and virtual plans, but in-person was our preference,” said Kirschner.

That preference meant more than students and teachers simply returning to school. There were myriad tasks to complete and new procedures to implement, most involving ways to meet state and local COVID-19 social-distancing and safety requirements.

“We had to move the cafeteria to the gym, rethink recess, move furniture out of classrooms to make more room for social distancing, create a new

dismissal procedure,” said Kirschner.

“Everything you do during the day, you had to go back and think, ‘Is this safe?’”

Ultimately, most of the 68 Catholic schools in the archdiocese began the new school year operating in-person, with a virtual option for sick or quarantined students.

“With virtual learning, it’s almost like the kids not in the building are here,” said Beyl. “They’re on the screen, they can hear the teacher, they can interact with kids in the room. We’ve got kids at home and kids in class working on the same group document.”

Some schools, like Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis, implemented a hybrid approach: a rotation of in-person and offsite days varying by grade level, plus an all-online option for those who request it.

“We’re doing a little of everything” to maximize social distancing and safety, said school principal Kari Jost.

‘What we’re asking them to do is kind of crazy’

The option of virtual learning has allowed schools to continue teaching and forming students “without skipping a beat,” said Kirschner.

In fact, at St. Anthony School in Indianapolis, virtual learning and the quick reaction of a teacher even led to a 911 call to save a student, his family and their home from a fire on Jan. 20 (WTHR.com).

While it hasn’t led to a 911 save in New Albany, “Having all this technology is nice,” said Beyl. But it also provided different challenges as well.

“Those unfamiliar with it needed training,” he said, like learning how to connect to and use social meeting platforms. Or getting a white board to display virtually as well as in the room. Or making and posting videos and other material to a learning management system.

“Teachers are now doing two to three jobs at once,” said Abdoulye. “They’re making sure in-person kids are learning, coordinating home learners, and then becoming tech wizards.”

Add the task of finding and learning to use tools “to see what our students are comprehending,” said Jost, and teachers are left with “quite a balancing act.”

“The flexibility I’ve asked of my staff is not fair,” Beyl admitted. “In reality, what we’re asking them to do is kind of crazy.”

More than one principal noted the challenges have brought their staff closer.

“I watched teachers step up and help other teachers learn how to use technology,” said Jost. “For me, it was like this organic professional development.”

The profound gratitude for and pride in their teachers’ response to the challenges rang through from each principal.

And each principal identified the same driving factor behind their educators’ efforts: the students.

“One of the blessings of teaching in a Catholic school is that teachers will work so tirelessly for our kids,” said Jost. “Our educators put a child’s well-being before anything.”

‘Seeking out that community feeling’

Part of that well-being includes staying connected. Continuing a sense of school community was especially important in the first months of the shutdown.

But it required some creativity.

“One thing we did was photo challenges,” said Abdoulye.

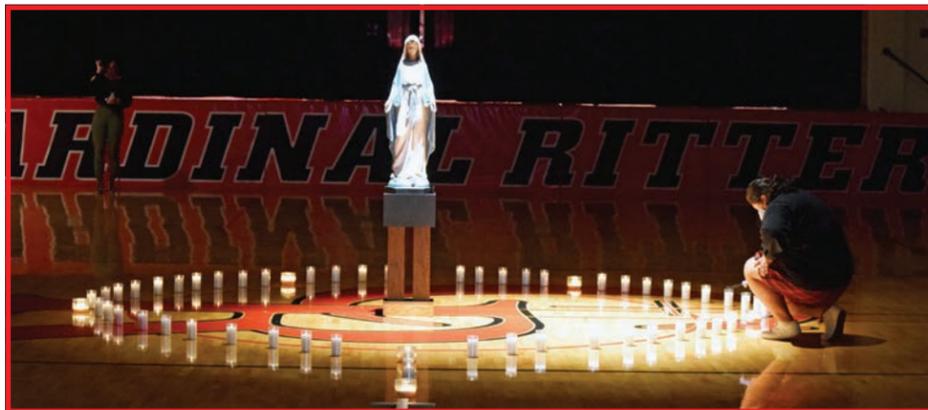
For example, St. Susanna students were asked to hold a May crowning service in their home, then submit a picture of the event. Parish pastor Father Robert Hausladen placed the pictures in the church pews to create room for social distancing.

“So people know where to sit, and they can see the photos of the kids,” said Abdoulye.

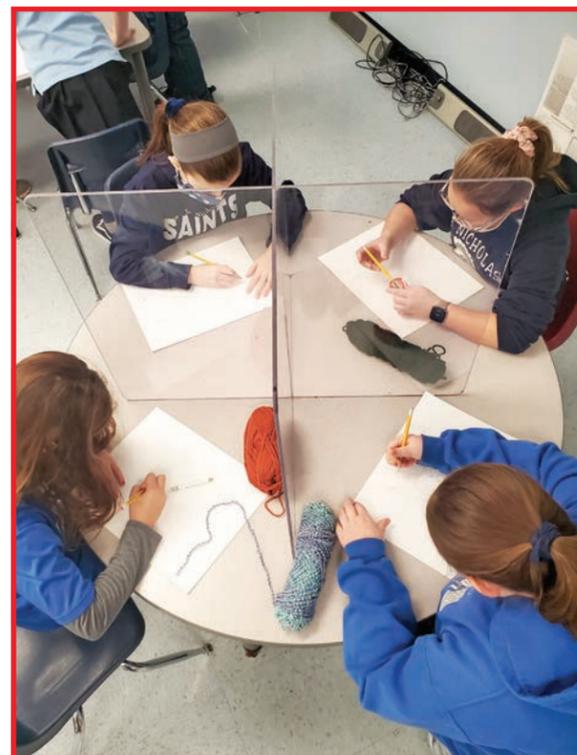
Soon after the shutdown began, Beyl used the “live” feature of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School’s Facebook page each evening “just to chat with families,” he said.

The virtual evening gathering “caught on,” he said. Soon, the chats turned into time for playing games, trivia quizzes and other types of fun. Eventually, faculty members adopted certain nights to lead virtual activities.

“I couldn’t believe so many people were tuning in,” said Beyl. “We realized our families were seeking



A student prays during a socially distanced “living rosary” at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis during the 2020-2021 academic year. (Submitted photo)



Plexiglass is used on a table during sixth grade art class at St. Nicholas School in Ripley County during the 2020-2021 academic year to help slow the spread of the coronavirus. Clockwise from upper left, the students are Maria Drieling, Anne Kraus, Mazzy Stockman and Lily Eckstein. (Submitted photo)

out that community feeling that had been so quickly removed from our lives.”

When the academic year ended, the connections continued. A caravan of school staff stopped outside the home of each graduate to deliver a package and wish them well. In July, the kindergarten teachers visited their new students to present them a school pride T-shirt.

Staying connected became easier as most students returned to school for the 2020-21 academic year.

And each of the principals interviewed agreed: If there’s one thing students wanted, it was to return to school.

From ‘shock and scramble’ to ‘seamless’

At Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, “Kids were so eager and excited to be back,” said Beyl. “That’s been a huge motivation to our staff to continue to give their best effort, because the kids made clear from day one they want to be here.”

Jost recalled the change in response of Ritter’s students to the school’s closing.

“When we first shut down and thought it would be two weeks, kids were like ‘Yay!’” she said. “Now kids say, ‘I want to be in the building every day.’”

The feeling is mutual.

When Jost sees students in the building, “it’s wonderful!” she said. “It’s this ‘Yay!’ feeling. Students and teachers have a new appreciation for each other.”

Beyl agreed. Before the pandemic, he said, “Having the ability to come together as a school community, having the ability to go to Mass together—it had become routine. We realize how important they are now.”

Kirschner sums up St. Nicholas School’s journey since March 2020 in one word: “Wow!”

“We have come so far,” she said. The change from the Ripley County school’s “initial shock and scramble [in March] to what is now a pretty seamless academic day is amazing. ... All the changes and new guidelines now seem like we have always done them.”

Kirschner’s final assessment could be said of each of the 68 Catholic schools in the archdiocese:

“Whatever we do, we do our best and let God take care of rest,” she said. “I truly feel the Holy Spirit filled all of us with grace to tackle any challenge and move forward.” †



To help create a school community connection at the end of the school year on May 20, 2020, prior to the state mask mandate, teachers Brandy Baiser, left, Abby Haynes and Carrie Beth Andres of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in New Albany help form a socially-distanced, spirited line of educators for parents and students to drive by while retrieving school supplies after the school closed in March to help slow the spread of the coronavirus. (Submitted photo)



Students share how Catholic education has changed their lives for the better

(Editor's note: The Criterion asked four high school seniors from across the archdiocese to share how their Catholic education has had an impact on their lives. Here are their stories.)

By John Shaughnessy

She had the same fear and hope that nearly all students have when they attend a new school.

Fear that she wouldn't fit in with the other students. Hope that she would find a home, friends and a community that would help her grow as a person—all the things Deysi Garcia-Vazquez wanted when she left her public high school to attend Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis as a sophomore.

"Not only were the teachers and staff welcoming, but the students as well," notes Deysi, now a senior. "This is when I knew that the education here would be life-changing. The thing I noticed was how dedicated both the students and teachers are toward each other and the education."

Now in her third year at the school, she has also learned more about herself and what she sees as her place in the world.

"Being part of a Catholic school not only taught me to be closer to God, but it truly helped me find who I really was," Deysi says. "Now I realize how many people truly need help, and that it is our job and duty to continue God's work in helping others."

She views her decision to come to a Catholic school as "a sign from God"—a decision that will continue to have an impact on her life after she graduates.

"God wanted me to get closer to him and wants me to continue in spreading his love and care for others. I will continue to volunteer at local food pantries, and I will continue to donate to those in need.

"I hope others see that Catholic education isn't all about praying, but rather it's finding your true self like me."

A special place in the heart

As he prepares to graduate from high school, Trey Suggett talks affectionately about how his 12 years of Catholic education make a difference in his life.



Trey Suggett

"Catholic education holds a special place in my heart," Trey says. "Being part of Catholic education has allowed me to push myself to the limits and enjoy learning. I am able to understand how to form connections as well as implement God in my everyday life."

One particular influence stands out to Trey from his education at both Pope John XXIII School and Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School, both in Madison.

"I learned of a saying my teacher told me, and I've kept it in mind, 'To love is to serve, and to serve is to love.' If I love everyone around me, I am serving

God and serving others. Seeing the community around me form and work together so that I may be blessed with a wonderful education is such a heartwarming experience."

Trey believes the experiences he's had and the foundation he's been given will serve him well in his future beyond high school.

"I am always excited to face my future, and with a superb education with me, I feel as if I can take on new challenges and obstacles with ease," says Trey, a member of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison.

"Everything I have learned will help me get along with others in college and even as I continue past college. I will be able to make connections with others, which in turn will benefit all of us. My Catholic education has benefited me greatly, and I hope to use it to help others to the best of my ability."

'The greatest gift'

As a senior at Seton Catholic High School in Richmond, Olivia Howard finds herself focusing on the people who have touched her life during her 12 years of Catholic education.



Olivia Howard

"I am filled with gratitude remembering the teachers, friendships and experiences which have helped to mold me into the person I am today," says Olivia, who plans to major in elementary education in college.

"The love, support and example of my teachers through the years have matured me, challenged me and supported me as I learned to think critically, to dedicate myself to achieving my best, and to developing the talents God has given me."

She places a special emphasis on how her faith has grown.

"The greatest gift of these years has been the nurturing of my spiritual journey, and my relationship with Jesus, and the nurturing in my Catholic faith," says Olivia, a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond.

"It is that faith which will be my strength, my comfort and my joy going forward through all the seasons of my life. I will be forever grateful for the role that Catholic education has played in the development of that greatest gift."

'Christ at the center of all that we do'

As he tries to decide which college to attend, Sam Bowles knows that school will have to have one quality that is essential to him.

"It is very important to me that the colleges I am looking to attend have a Catholic basis on campus,



Sam Bowles

even if that means a small church where Mass is held every Sunday," says Bowles, a senior at Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville.

"I want to be able to continue to attend Mass into college, which is something that is extremely important to me and has been important to me since a young age."

Bowles has made that connection a requirement because of the education he has received at Providence and earlier in his grade school at what is now St. John Paul II School in Sellersburg.

"Having a Catholic education throughout my life has significantly changed my life, and it has created a basis by which I can follow God," says Bowles, who is 17.

He envisions his Catholic faith and his relationship with God being a significant part of his long-term future, too.

"The values and beliefs I follow now are largely centered around what the Catholic Church believes. I will do my best to continue to hold these values close to my heart in my future endeavors. This is true even down to the relationship I am currently in, in which we have both chosen to hold Christ at the center of all that we do.

"I hope to continue this journey of life through the Catholic lens by which I have been taught." †



Bishop Chatard High School student Deysi Garcia-Vazquez, center, enjoys checking out the Indianapolis North Deanery high school's new yearbook at the beginning of the 2019-20 academic year with fellow Trojans Emma Shea, left, and Gracie Dillon. (Submitted photo)

Catholic Schools: Growing together in faith, academic excellence and service

By Mary McCoy

Interim superintendent of Catholic schools for the archdiocese

National Catholic Schools Week has been the annual celebration of Catholic education across the country since 1974. It always begins on the last



Mary McCoy

Sunday in January and runs all week. In a typical year, our Catholic schools celebrate this week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. It is safe to say this is not a typical year as we continue to navigate through a pandemic that none of us has ever experienced in our Catholic schools.

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis are truly special places of academic excellence and faith-filled mission. Catholic schools across central and southern Indiana serve nearly 21,000 students with open doors, open arms and open hearts. It is through this ministry of education that our outstanding pastors, school leaders, teachers and staff members form our young people in the Catholic faith.

As we celebrate our Catholic schools across the archdiocese, we also take this opportunity to

recognize the true heroes during this pandemic—our teachers. It has been amazing and energizing to witness more than 2,000 teachers continue to provide a Catholic education to young people throughout the archdiocese. Sometimes in-person, sometimes remotely, sometimes a hybrid, and sometimes all three at the same time!

Our teachers have creatively met the needs of students spiritually, academically, emotionally and physically, while at the same time keeping the safety of all students a priority. To quote St. Theodora Guérin, "Show kindness to them [children] and be attentive to their spiritual and physical needs." Our teachers have done just this during these challenging times, and for this we commend them.

Please take time to visit the center pages of this year's Catholic Schools Week Supplement, where 185 Catholic school teachers are recognized for 25 years or more of service in Catholic education. These amazing teachers are navigating through one of the most challenging years of their careers and have taught in ways they never would have imagined. They are true heroes who have dedicated their careers to such an important ministry in the Catholic Church, and for that we say, "thank you!"

As we pray and have hope for brighter days, thank you for your continued prayers and support of our Catholic schools across the archdiocese,

especially during this special week. They are true beacons in our communities and, for some, the brightest spots during these challenging times.

Happy Catholic Schools Week—#CSW21.

Safety: the priority of every Catholic school during the pandemic

Masks are one of the many safety precautions that Catholic schools have taken during this school year to protect students and educators from COVID-19 while they are in the classroom.

Readers of this Catholic Schools Week Supplement will notice that some photos featured in this special section are displayed showing teachers and students not wearing masks. Most of these such photos were taken in a previous school year and are featured here to show the interactions of a Catholic school community in a "normal" year. A few of these such photos were taken this year while other safety precautions were in place, such as safety dividers between students' desks.

The safety of everyone involved in a school community is the priority of every Catholic school in the archdiocese, according to Mary McCoy, interim superintendent of Catholic schools in the archdiocese. †



Catholic Schools
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Schools reap blessings from growth in diversity

By Sean Gallagher

Beginning in the mid-19th century, classrooms in Catholic schools across the U.S. began to be filled with the children of immigrants

who sought freedom and economic opportunity in America.

During the past decade, this has begun to happen again in parish schools across central and southern Indiana, including St. Mark the Evangelist School in Indianapolis and St. Bartholomew School in Columbus.

In 2009, St. Mark had about 165 students. Today, it has an enrollment of 455, with more than 250 of those students being the children of Burmese refugees who fled religious persecution and conflict in their native Myanmar in southeast Asia.

“We had a lot of extra room in 2009,” said Rusty Albertson, St. Mark’s principal, with a laugh. “Now we have no extra room.”

St. Bartholomew’s enrollment has also increased and become more ethnically diverse. In the 2011-12 school year, about 11% of St. Bartholomew’s students were Hispanic. Today, that number stands at 45%. There are also children enrolled whose parents came from many Asian and African countries to work in Columbus for employers there.

“We’ve always been a welcoming community,” said Helen Hickman, St. Bartholomew’s principal. “But even more so now, because we are so diverse. People can see that we’re welcoming.”

‘Here, we are treated equally’

Angela Dim is grateful for the welcome that she and so many other Burmese have experienced at St. Mark. Resettled in Indianapolis in 2009, Dim now has two children enrolled at St. Mark and hopes to have her youngest child enter its pre-kindergarten class next year. She also works in the school’s office and as an education assistant.

“Here, we are treated equally with American citizens and we can get a good education,” said Dim. “We thank God for that.”

That’s important for Dim because in Myanmar, she and her fellow Catholics and other Christians in the Chin state

have strict limits placed on their educational and employment opportunities because of their faith.

About a decade ago, many Burmese refugees fleeing such persecution began to be re-settled on Indianapolis’ southside where St. Mark is located. About 20,000 Burmese now live on the southside.

Father Timothy Wyciskalla, St. Mark’s pastor, grew up in the area at a time when it did not nearly have the ethnic diversity it has gained in recent years.

“The southside went from having a very small number of Burmese residents to having one of the largest Burmese communities in the United States in a relatively short time,” he said. “To see this added level of diversity and vibrancy on the southside has really been remarkable.”

It also called for a response by St. Mark Parish, one that Father Wyciskalla is proud to have witnessed and helped lead during the past two years.

“Though our cultures are very different, the faith unites us all,” he said. “Along with the universal nature of the Church, we have also always had a preferential option for the refugee, the immigrant and those in need. When the Burmese community first arrived here on the southside, they fit that description and found a community at St. Mark willing to welcome them. This is fundamental to who we are, and this beautiful aspect of the Church has been on full display at St. Mark.”

Albertson has led St. Mark School since 2009. He began to see the large influx of Burmese students into



Ruth San, second from right, kneels in prayer during a Feb. 2, 2020, Mass at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. She is one of more than 250 Burmese students enrolled in the school of the Indianapolis South Deanery faith community. (Submitted photo by Steve Raymer)

the school a few years later when Indiana launched its Indiana Choice Scholarships, more commonly known as the voucher program.

The quick change in demographics at St. Mark presented challenges to its staff. Albertson recalled veteran teachers coming to him about them.

“‘What are we going to do? They don’t speak English,’” Albertson recalled them saying. “I said, ‘We’re going to teach them.’”

St. Mark soon hired a part-time English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher. It now has a full-time ESL teacher and three other teachers called interventionists who work full time with ESL students to help them with particular subjects.

Overall, St. Mark went from having 15 staff members in 2009 to 45 now. It had one classroom per grade in 2009. Now it has two.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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That led to the challenge of finding space for all the students.

St. Mark Parish is now in the midst of a capital campaign that, among other things, will fund the addition of two classrooms to its school.

“The growth that this parish has seen over the last 10 years or so is incredible, both in parish families and in the school,” Father Wyciskalla said. “The introduction of the Burmese community to St. Mark was like a shot in the arm for the parish.”

Although Indiana’s voucher program has played a key role in the growth of St. Mark School, Albertson said that a number of parents of Burmese students who came to Indiana as refugees have now secured such well-earning jobs that they don’t qualify economically for a voucher.

In any case, he said, the high value that Burmese place on a Catholic education for their children is what is driving the enrollment changes at St. Mark.

“Even if the vouchers went away, I don’t think the Burmese students would go away,” Albertson said. “I think they would find a way to keep them here.”

Having moved to the southside when the Burmese community there was small, Dim is now glad to see her children and so many others from Myanmar enrolled as students at St. Mark.

“I’m hoping that the future for my children will be very good,” she said. “They have the opportunity to go to a Catholic school. They can learn good from bad and become smart. When they grow up, they’ll be someone.”

‘We feel safe in a Catholic school’

Like St. Mark, the demographic changes at St. Bartholomew have in part been affected by the state’s voucher program.

But Heckman noted that the Columbus school had a strong scholarship program before the voucher program was launched.

“Parishioners have stepped up, because they know [the school] is important,” she said. “They want to give anyone who values a Catholic education a chance to come to St. Bartholomew.”

Paula Lamadrid placed a high value on Catholic education when she and her husband enrolled their eldest child at St. Bartholomew in 2007.

She had attended a Catholic school in her native Mexico. Her husband, an employee of the Columbus-based Cummins, was transferred from Mexico to Columbus 20 years ago. Their two sons were born here, and the spouses became naturalized

U.S. citizens three years ago.

Lamadrid’s oldest child became a student at St. Bartholomew long before there was a large presence of Hispanic students there. She arranged for speakers to come to the school to help the students and teachers appreciate the particular cultural and religious traditions of the Hispanic community.

“I wanted to show them more diversity and to help them learn more from other countries,” Lamadrid said. “Anytime we had the chance, we’d show them our traditions and also embrace the traditions of this country that we love so much.”

Among the Hispanic traditions now observed at St. Bartholomew are *Dia de los Muertos* (which happens on All Souls Day), *Las Posadas* (a novena in the days leading up to Christmas) and a special emphasis on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Many Hispanic families felt drawn to enroll their children at a Catholic school, Lamadrid said, because of their high reputation in their home countries.

“If you can make the effort to send your kids to a Catholic school, it means they’re going to get the best learning experience and be prepared the best to go to college,” she said.

The fact that the schools are rooted in the Catholic faith is also key for Hispanic families, Lamadrid said.

“It’s a comfort for so many of our international families and perhaps especially for our Hispanic families,” she said. “We feel safe in a Catholic school because it’s the faith that we know and share.”

The introduction of so many students from countries around the world during the past decade to St. Bartholomew has been a challenge to the school’s staff. But it’s one that Heckman has embraced with enthusiasm.

“It’s amazing to see teachers welcome a family and not give a second

thought to who they might be or whether or not they speak English,” Heckman said. “They just accept whoever is in front of them and make them feel welcome.”

Retired Father Clement Davis was pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish when the faith community’s school began experiencing a significant growth in the diversity of its student body, and saw it on display in a special way at school Masses.

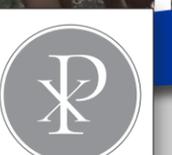
“You’d have children coming up to do the readings and the prayers of the faithful, and you can have three or four different racial or ethnic backgrounds represented in the half dozen kids that come up,” Father Davis recalled. “You could see at a school Mass the diversity of the universal Church and the diversity of the world’s population represented right there in the church.” †



Hispanic students at St. Bartholomew School in Columbus dress in festive costumes on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12, 2019. The Seymour Deanery faith community has seen a large growth in Hispanic students during the past decade. (Submitted photo)

BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL
EDUCATING STUDENTS OF THE NORTH DEANERY IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH



- 
Christ the King
- 
Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 
St. Joan of Arc
- 
St. Lawrence
- 
St. Luke
- 
St. Matthew
- 
St. Pius X
- 
St. Simon
- 
St. Thomas Aquinas

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25 or more years to Catholic education. This is the first of several stories in the supplement that will feature such educators.)

By John Shaughnessy

After she says a prayer with her students, Angela Toner sometimes shares one of her “CODES TO LIVE BY” with them.

“Some of them are simple,” says Toner, a math teacher at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. “Open the door for others. Call your grandparents. Never look down on another unless you are giving them a hand up.

“And some are fun quips. If God is your co-pilot, swap seats. Do not let your worries get the best of you, remember Moses started out as a basket case. Forbidden fruits create many jams.”

Toner’s inspiration for sharing such codes each Monday started a few years ago when she decided, “If I want students to make solid decisions, then I should tell them exactly what I mean.”

“Students become excited about the code each week, and I’ve often had college students e-mail me and tell me that they have their CODES posted in their dorm rooms,” she says. “Knowing one can make a difference in kids’ lives through prayer fulfills Roncalli’s mission to ‘make God’s love complete among us.’”

That’s also been Toner’s mission in her 35 years of teaching in a Catholic school. She’s even been known to make “house calls” as a teacher, bringing students their homework and tutoring them when they’ve had to stay at home because of an injury or an illness. She’s also come to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis to tutor a student who has been hospitalized there for cancer.

Downplaying such efforts, she says, “When I see how appreciative the parents and kids are, that is a gift to me.”

Teacher’s ‘codes to live by’ inspire her students

(Editor’s note: Part of the emphasis of this year’s Catholic Schools Week supplement is to honor Catholic school educators, especially those who have dedicated



In her 35 years of teaching in Catholic schools, Angela Toner of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis has made it her mission to connect with her students inside and outside the classroom. (Submitted photo)

Even after 35 years, her passion for teaching and trying to influence young people’s lives still burns.

“Having the opportunity to impact kids is paramount,” says Toner, a member of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. “I pray that every teacher gets to hear from a student at least once in their lives, ‘You were my favorite teacher.’ This is extremely powerful and makes one want to continue to excel and thrive in the classroom in order to allow children to do the same.

“Honestly, however, I receive equivalent satisfaction from students who say, ‘Your class was so fun,’ and even, ‘Mrs. Toner, you made math tolerable.’ This is

because I truly believe Maya Angelou’s adage that people may not remember what I said, but they will never forget how I made them feel.”

That focus complements her educational goals to help students “understand the material, become a good problem solver, and be prepared for the next level of math.”

Tying all those components together, Toner says she tries to model the wisdom that St. Theodora Guérin offered about the education of young people: “Love the children first, and then teach them.”

Toner considers that approach as her own personal code to live by. †

NEW ALBANY DEANERY SCHOOLS

New Albany Deanery Catholic School System

PK-12



PROVIDENCE



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Celebrating Catholic Schools Week



Moments. Milestones. Memories.





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Priest is driven to build bonds of faith with students

By John Shaugnessy

Ten-year-old Eli Connolly laughs as he talks about Father Michael Keucher driving a school bus full of

students on a field trip, honking the horn and waving hello to people along the way.

Eleven-year-old Macey Robbins enjoys how energetic Father Keucher gets during his homilies at Mass, including when “he jumps up and down” to make a point.

And both fifth-grade students at St. Joseph School in Shelbyville love the way their parish priest makes learning about the Catholic faith fun when he teaches religion to their class and the fourth-grade class.

As for Father Keucher—who has a bus driver’s license—he’s driven to making a lasting impact on the students, especially when it comes to their faith.

“I believe our students are not just the future of our Church, but the present,” he says. “It’s important to teach them the traditions that have been handed down to us from our ancestors, from the Apostles. I want to help children get excited about Jesus, the Blessed Mother and the Church.”

To help create that connection, he works on building bonds with the students.

“It’s important that the kids have a good relationship with the priest and know him,” he says. “I love doing things with the kids in religion class, activities and trips. I find it very rewarding and fun.”

So do the children.

“Every time we see him, he asks us a question about something holy,” Eli says. “I’ve learned a lot of stuff that way this year. When we were learning about the books of the Bible, he made up songs about them.”

Marcy chimes in, “When we started learning the Ten Commandments, he made hand signs to help us remember. He makes learning about our faith a lot more fun.”

He brings that same approach to the school’s rosary club, meeting once a month with members from the third, fourth and fifth grades. The students get to use their creativity in making rosaries that they then share with loved ones and other people who are homebound, in hospitals and in nursing homes.

The children also enjoy it when he brings his dog, Sister Glory, to club meetings.

“They get to pick the colors and make the rosary the way they want,” Father Keucher says. “I love it. These kids love the rosary, and they love to pray the rosary with their families. There’s a relationship going between these kids and the Blessed Mother that is very beautiful.”

The students at St. Joseph School have a similar



Father Michael Keucher led the fourth- and fifth-grade students of St. Joseph School in Shelbyville on an All Souls Day visit to St. Vincent Cemetery in Shelby County and St. Joseph Cemetery in Shelbyville. Father Keucher led a prayer service at each cemetery where students performed the spiritual work of mercy of praying for the dead. Many students knew where some of their relatives are buried so their pastor blessed those graves. (Submitted photo)

bond with him, according to Eli, Macey and the school’s principal, Beth Borland.

“Relationships are a two-way street,” Borland says.

“As much as the kids adore Father Mike, he adores them. He’s so full of joy and enthusiasm in all that he does. And he weaves the lessons of our

faith into everything he does.

“He’s so fun loving that they want to be around him. He plays dodge ball with them, eats lunch in the cafeteria with them, rides scooters through the school. That builds that connection. He’s open with his joy and his love. He’s open with his mistakes. The kids can identify with that. And they all know his love of donuts, chicken wings and pizza. I don’t know who gets more out of the relationship—him or the kids.” †

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As the pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville, Father Michael Keucher leads the rosary club at the parish’s school, guiding students to a closer relationship with the Blessed Mother. (Submitted photo)



Valuable lessons from her students touch a teacher's life

By John Shaughnessy

The story is profound in its innocence and its faithfulness, and it speaks volumes about what Lillian Kelley has always valued in her 34 years of teaching her students.

"I have enjoyed many visits and comments from former students, but I recall a time that one of my preschool students caused diners at Red Lobster to quiet themselves as she prayed over her meal," Kelley recalls.

She also shares another story of a small child, a story that helps explain why she has dedicated so much of her adult life to Catholic education by teaching pre-school and kindergarten students at such places as the former St. Andrew Academy and Holy Cross Central School in Indianapolis.

"As a young child growing up in rural Mississippi, I was made aware of the fact that Catholic schools were the 'good schools,'" she notes. "I liked the idea that the schools taught religion, required discipline and they expected students to excel academically."

Influenced by her own Catholic education, Kelley says she has been "blessed" to live her dream to "teach in this wonderful faith community."

At the same time, she has never stopped being a student. She initially gives credit to the knowledge she has gained from administrators, priests and parishioners through the years. Still, she says, her

most valuable lessons have come from her students.

"They are the ones who taught me the following approaches: First, get to know the child. Second, help the child to feel that you care. Third, develop a relationship with parents. Finally, but most importantly, teach the child the Good News about Jesus Christ. Children will learn academically, grow spiritually and develop a way to see God in all things."

Keeping that focus on the children, Kelley has one more story to share about a former student, one more

story about the joy she's experienced from teaching in Catholic schools.

"I was at Indiana University in Bloomington when a former student gave me a hug and thanked me for being her preschool teacher," Kelly recalls. "She is a college professor." †



In her 34 years of dedication to Catholic education, Lillian Kelley has always felt blessed to live her dream of teaching "In this wonderful faith community." Here, she teaches in her current school, Holy Cross Central School in Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service

EAST DEANERY SCHOOLS

Holy Cross Central

125 N Oriental St
317.638.9068
holycrossschoolindy.org

A NOTRE DAME ACE ACADEMY

Holy Spirit

7241 E 10th St
317.352.1243
school.holyspirit-indy.org

Little Flower

1401 N Bosart Ave
317.353.2282
littleflowerparishschool.org



Our Lady of Lourdes

30 S Downey Ave
317.357.3316
ollindy.org

Seccina Memorial High School

5000 Nowland Ave
317.356.6377
seccina.org

St. Michael

515 Jefferson Blvd, Greenfield
317.462.6380
school-stmichaelsgrfld.org

St. Philip Neri

545 N Eastern Ave
317.636.0134
stphilipindy.org

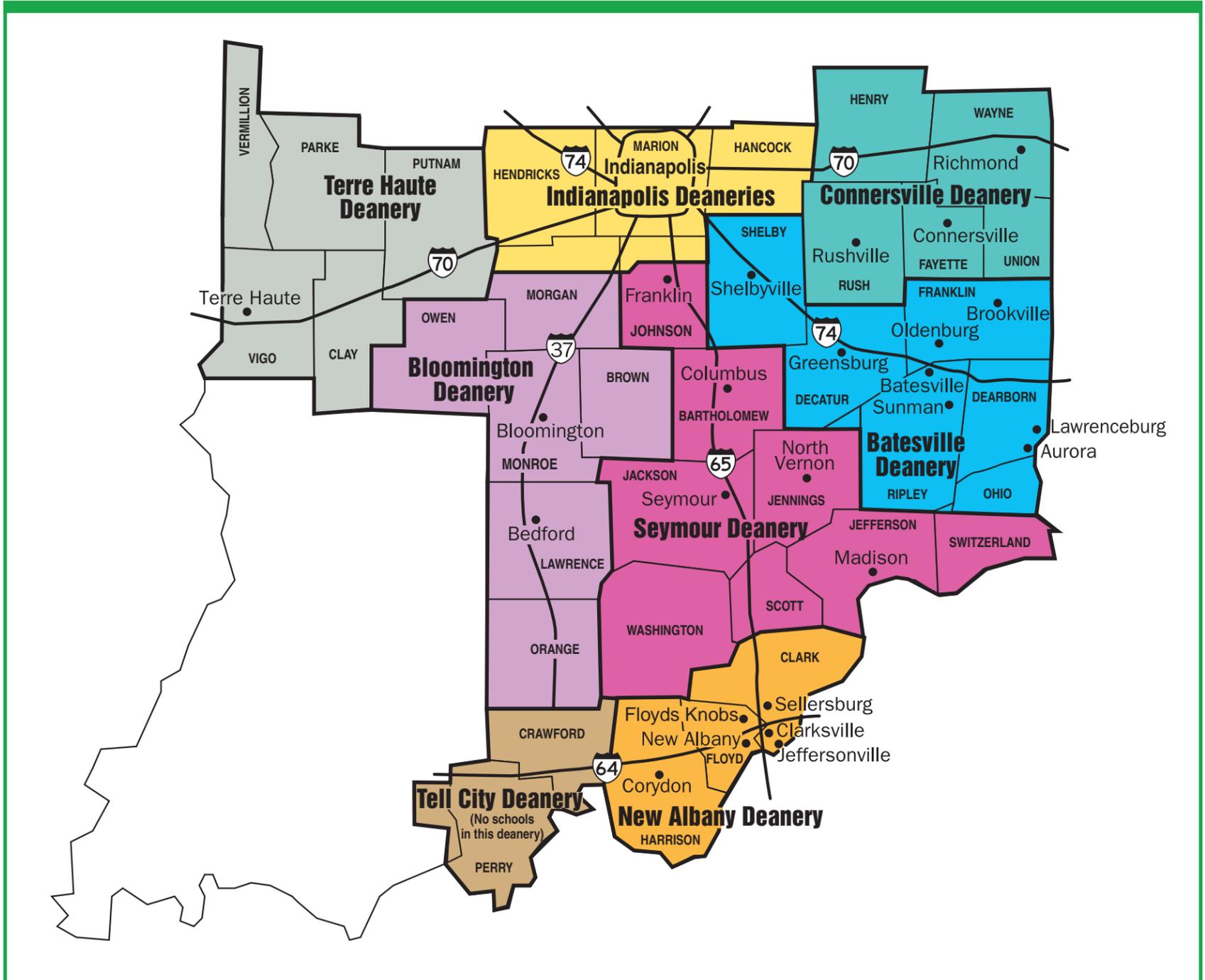
A NOTRE DAME ACE ACADEMY

CHECK OUT OUR SCHOOLS DURING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 5.



Catholic Schools

ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS



DEANERY SCHOOLS

Batesville Deanery

Aurora
St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School (K-8)
 211 Fourth St.
 Aurora, IN 47001
 812-926-1558

Batesville
St. Louis School (PK-8)
 17 St. Louis Place
 Batesville, IN 47006
 812-934-3310

Brookville
St. Michael School (PK-8)
 275 High St.
 Brookville, IN 47012
 765-647-4961

Greensburg
St. Mary School (PK-8)
 1331 E. Hunter Robbins Way
 Greensburg, IN 47240
 812-663-2804

Lawrenceburg
St. Lawrence School (K-8)
 524 Walnut St.
 Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
 812-537-3690

Ripley County
St. Nicholas School (K-8)
 6459 E. St. Nicholas Drive
 Sunman, IN 47041
 812-623-2348

Shelbyville
St. Joseph School (PK-5)
 127 E. Broadway
 Shelbyville, IN 46176
 317-398-4202

Bloomington Deanery

Bedford
St. Vincent de Paul School (PK-8)
 923 18th St.
 Bedford, IN 47421
 812-279-2540

Bloomington
St. Charles Borromeo School (PK-8)
 2224 E. Third St.
 Bloomington, IN 47401
 812-336-5853

Connersville Deanery

Connersville
St. Gabriel School (PK-6)
 224 W. Ninth St.
 Connersville, IN 47331
 765-825-7951

Richmond
Seton Catholic High School (7-12)
 233 S. 5th St.
 Richmond, IN 47374
 765-965-6956

Seton Catholic Elementary School (PK-6)
 801 W. Main St.
 Richmond, IN 47374
 765-962-4877

Rushville
St. Mary School (PK-6)
 226 E. Fifth St.
 Rushville, IN 46173
 765-932-3639

New Albany Deanery

Clarksville
Our Lady of Providence High School (9-12)
 707 Providence Way
 Clarksville, IN 47129
 812-945-2538

St. Anthony of Padua School (PK-8)
 320 N. Sherwood Ave.
 Clarksville, IN 47129
 812-282-2144

Corydon
St. Joseph School (PK-6)
 512 N. Mulberry St.
 Corydon, IN 47112
 812-738-4549

Floyd County
St. Mary-of-the-Knobs School (PK-8)
 3033 Martin Road
 Floyds Knobs, IN 47119
 812-923-1630

Jeffersonville
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus School (PK-8)
 1842 E. Eighth St.
 Jeffersonville, IN 47130
 812-283-3123

New Albany
Holy Family School (PK-8)
 217 W. Daisy Lane
 New Albany, IN 47150
 812-944-6090

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School (PK-8)
 1752 Scheller Lane
 New Albany, IN 47150
 812-944-7676

Sellersburg
St. John Paul II School (PK-8)
 105 St. Paul St.
 Sellersburg, IN 47172
 812-246-3266

Seymour Deanery

Columbus
St. Bartholomew School (K-8)
 1306 27th St.
 Columbus, IN 47201
 812-372-6830

Franklin
St. Rose of Lima School (PK-8)
 114 Lancelot Drive
 Franklin, IN 46131
 317-738-3451

Madison
Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
 201 W. State St.
 Madison, IN 47250
 812-273-2150

Pope John XXIII School (PK-6)
 221 W. State St.
 Madison, IN 47250
 812-273-3957

North Vernon
St. Mary School (PK-8)
 209 Washington St.
 North Vernon, IN 47265
 812-346-3445

Seymour
St. Ambrose School (PK-8)
 301 S. Chestnut St.
 Seymour, IN 47274
 812-522-3522

Terre Haute Deanery

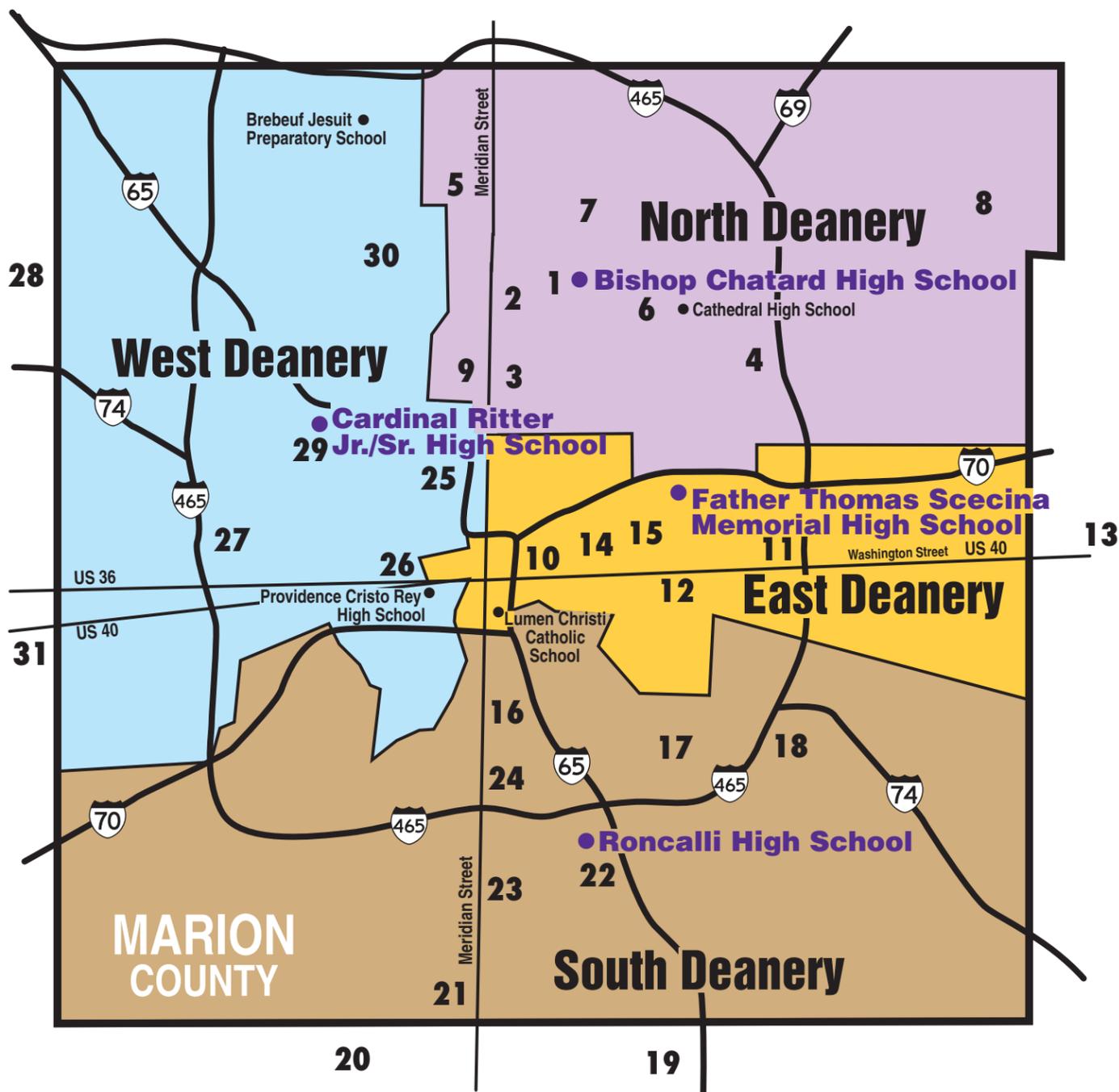
Terre Haute
St. Patrick School (PK-8)
 449 S. 19th St.
 Terre Haute, IN 47803
 812-232-2157

Private High School

Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception (9-12)
 1 Twister Circle
 P.O. Box 200
 Oldenburg, IN 47036
 812-934-4440



GREATER INDIANAPOLIS



GREATER INDIANAPOLIS DEANERY SCHOOLS

Indianapolis North Deanery

- **Bishop Chatard High School (9-12)**
5885 N. Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-251-1451
- 1. Christ the King School (K-8)**
5858 N. Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-257-9366
- 2. Immaculate Heart of Mary School (K-8)**
317 E. 57th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-255-5468
- 3. St. Joan of Arc School (PK-8)**
500 E. 42nd St.
Indianapolis, IN 46205
317-283-1518
- 4. St. Lawrence School (PK-8)**
6950 E. 46th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46226
317-543-4923
- 5. St. Luke the Evangelist School (K-8)**
7575 Holliday Dr. East
Indianapolis, IN 46260
317-255-3912
- 6. St. Matthew the Apostle School (PK-8)**
4100 E. 56th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-251-3997

- 7. St. Pius X School (K-8)**
7200 Sarto Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46240
317-466-3361
- 8. St. Simon the Apostle School (PK-8)**
8155 Oaklandon Road
Indianapolis, IN 46236
317-826-6000
- 9. St. Thomas Aquinas School (PK-8)**
4600 N. Illinois St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-255-6244

Indianapolis East Deanery

- **Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School (9-12)**
5000 Nowland Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-356-6377
- 10. Holy Cross Central School (PK-8) ***
125 N. Oriental St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317-638-9068
- 11. Holy Spirit School (PK-8)**
7241 E. 10th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-352-1243

- 12. Our Lady of Lourdes School (PK-8)**
30 S. Downey St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-357-3316
- 13. St. Michael School (PK-8)**
515 Jefferson Blvd.
Greenfield, IN 46140
317-462-6380
- 14. St. Philip Neri School (PK-8) ***
545 N. Eastern Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-636-0134
- 15. St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) School (PK-8)**
1401 N. Bosart Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-353-2282

Indianapolis South Deanery

- **Roncalli High School (9-12)**
3300 Prague Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-787-8277
- 16. Central Catholic School (PK-8) ***
1155 E. Cameron St.
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-783-7759
- 17. Holy Name of Jesus School (PK-8)**
21 N. 17th Ave.
Beech Grove, IN 46107
317-784-9078

- 18. Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ School (PK-8)**
3310 S. Meadow Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46239
317-357-1459
- 19. Our Lady of the Greenwood School (PK-8)**
399 S. Meridian St.
Greenwood, IN 46143
317-881-1300
- 20. SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School (PK-8)**
5901 Olive Branch Road
Greenwood, IN 46143
317-215-2826
- 21. St. Barnabas School (PK-8)**
8300 Rahke Road
Indianapolis, IN 46217
317-881-7422
- 22. St. Jude School (PK-8)**
5375 McFarland Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-784-6828
- 23. St. Mark the Evangelist School (PK-8)**
541 E. Edgewood Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-786-4013
- 24. St. Roch School (PK-8)**
3603 S. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-784-9144

Indianapolis West Deanery

- **Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)**
3360 W. 30th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-924-4333
- 25. Holy Angels School (PK-6) ***
2822 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-926-5211
- 26. St. Anthony School (PK-8)**
349 N. Warman Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-636-3739
- 27. St. Christopher School (PK-6)**
5335 W. 16th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46224
317-241-6314
- 28. St. Malachy School (PK-8)**
330 N. Green St.
Brownsburg, IN 46112
317-852-2242
- 29. St. Michael-St. Gabriel Archangels School (PK-8)**
3352 W. 30th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-926-0516
- 30. St. Monica School (PK-8)**
6131 N. Michigan Road
Indianapolis, IN 46228
317-255-7153

- 31. St. Susanna School (PK-8)**
1212 E. Main St.
Plainfield, IN 46168
317-839-3713

Private Schools

- **Lumen Christi Catholic School (PK-12)**
580 E. Stevens St.
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-632-3174
- **Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School (9-12)**
2801 W. 86th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46268
317-524-7128
- **Cathedral High School (9-12)**
5225 E. 56th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46226
317-542-1481
- **Providence Cristo Rey High School (9-12)**
75 N. Belleview Place
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-860-1000

* Notre Dame ACE Academies



Catholic Schools
Faith. Excellence. Service.

Not even an out-of-control car can stop teacher from going the extra mile for her students

By John Shaughnessy

Sandi Kirchner has always approached her teaching career with the attitude, “Anything God wants me to do”—an approach that was tested to its limits one day when she saw a car veering out of control as she helped monitor an after-school pick-up line of cars.



Sandi Kirchner

The car was headed right toward the spot where a boy in the first grade was talking to her about his grandparents’ dog. Seeing the car’s driver slumped over the wheel and a little girl inside the car, Kirchner pushed the boy to safety.

As the car bounced off the curb in front of Kirchner, it ricocheted toward the center of a busy street. Kirchner ran toward the car, opened the front passenger door, jumped inside the car and stretched her left foot toward the brake—stopping the car. No one was hurt, including the driver who later recovered from the seizure that caused the car to veer out of control.

That scene from 2009 was a moment of drama in the 38-year teaching career of Kirchner—a teacher who has made it her mission to have a dramatic impact on the lives of her students, albeit in a much more calm and constant way. She tries to make that impact on her third-grade students at St. Mary School in North Vernon by asking them to do the one thing she demands of herself.

“I’m trying to be the best person I can be every day, and I’m trying to be better every day,” she says. “And that’s what I try to instill in my students. I try to instill in them that we’re not perfect and God knows that, but he wants us to try to be better.

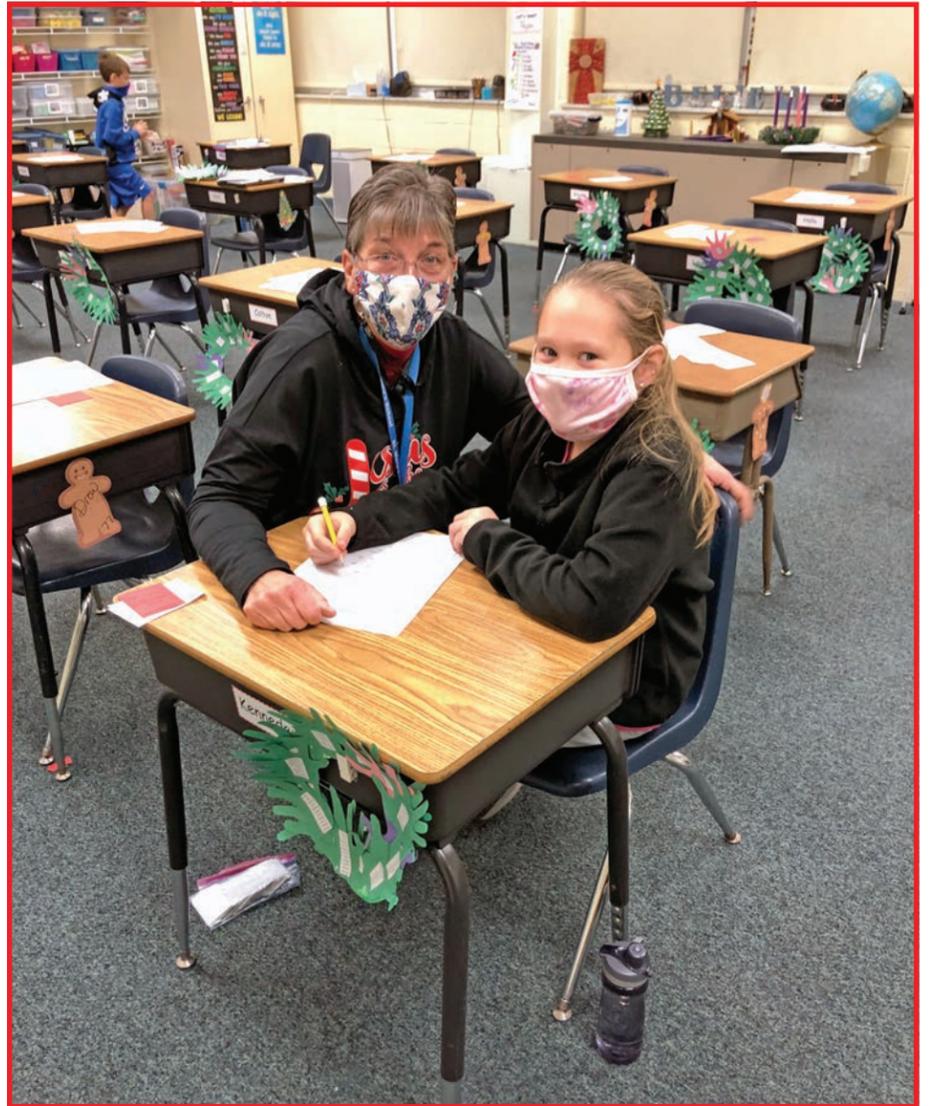
“We talk a lot about bullying and peer pressure. We talk about how God calls us to stand up for a classmate or to help an elderly person when all our classmates rush by. And we talk about doing the right thing because God is there, and he’s sent us the Holy Spirit to

help us do that.”

Kirchner has shared that message with two generations of students in her 38 years of teaching, which have all been done in the third grade at St. Mary School. Even with that longevity and continuity, she strives to add a fresh approach to every school year. She also strives to view every student as a child of God.

“Whether I’m talking about our spirituality or academics, I always try to identify where the students are in their lives. I have students being raised by their grandparents, by single parents, by parents who are at the poverty level and by parents who have more money than you and I will ever have.

“I identify where the students are, help them to become a better person and acknowledge we are all gifts from God and we’re all in God’s family. That’s the foundation where I start from, and we go from there. It’s all driven by my faith. This is the call God has given me, and he’s entrusted me with these children.” †



As she works with her students, Sandi Kirchner of St. Mary School in North Vernon encourages them to follow her lead in “trying to be the best person I can be every day.” Here, she helps one of her students, Kennedei Roll. (Submitted photo)

The West Deanery Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

ST. SUSANNA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



ST. MALACHY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

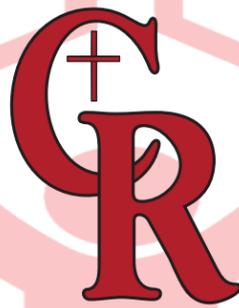


St. Malachy
CATHOLIC CHURCH
& SCHOOL

ST. MICHAEL-ST. GABRIEL
ARCHANGELS CATHOLIC
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Elementary School



CARDINAL RITTER
HIGH SCHOOL

ST. MONICA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



ST. ANTHONY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



ST. ANTHONY

ST. CHRISTOPHER
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



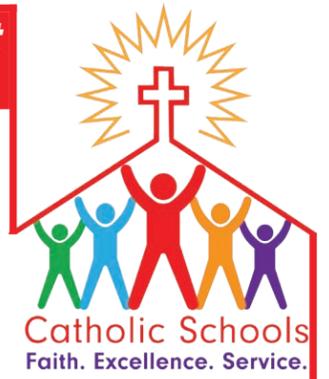
HOLY ANGELS
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Holy Angels

NCEA©

Catholic Schools
Faith. Excellence. Service.



Teacher cherishes the joy and wonder of her students

By John Shaughnessy

When Ruth Brown shares special moments from her nearly 40 years of teaching students in the first grade, it's easy to understand why she considers that grade to be "the Wonder Year!"

"Often, they seem so tiny—gone in a flash—but celebrated in the heart," says Brown, a teacher at Seton Catholic School in Richmond. "Maybe it's hearing a student use a courtesy word unprompted, or seeing a child allow another to go in front for the first time, or having a student say they want to write a letter to someone who's sad."

Then there are the moments when the influence of a teacher on a child goes deeper.

"I remember one time when a first-grader who was usually a motivated and capable student showed signs of slipping and then was late to school and grouchy one day," Brown recalls. "My first questions were rebuffed with 'I'm fine' and 'Nothing's wrong.' Later, I was walking with her back to the classroom and she started to say something. I invited her to sit down right there on the steps with me, to talk or just sit quietly."

"After a few minutes, she poured out a story about her very dysfunctional home life and how she had ended up caring for a younger brother, alone in her

home for several hours not knowing where her mom was. At that moment, I could only offer her my loving presence and understanding, and the promise that, although I couldn't fix things at home, our classroom would stay the same place of safety, respect and caring for her every day. I hope it gave her a secure spot in her life."

Even in such challenging situations, Brown regards teaching at Seton as an "opportunity to practice living in the presence of God in every moment."

"My beliefs about God and God's people inform my approach to students and to teaching," Brown says. "If one starts with the belief that each child brings worth and a unique, special wisdom to the classroom, then the job of the teacher is to affirm and support what's already there and then nurture the child's spiritual, intellectual, social and emotional growth."

She's also a firm believer in teaching her students through her actions *and* her interactions with them.

"I hope they absorb the atmosphere of a classroom where God and God's creation are cherished and where people lift each other up."

Brown cherishes the joy and wonder that her students have brought to her life through the years: "Teaching first grade gloriously suits my mind, heart and soul."

"My hope for all my students is that they will fondly remember a time and place where they were nurtured and celebrated for who they were and who they might become." †



At Seton Catholic Elementary School in Richmond, Ruth Brown strives to create a classroom atmosphere "where God and God's creation are cherished and where people lift each other up." (Submitted photo)

Shared values of Catholic schools shape students

The Office of Catholic Schools strives to educate the nearly 21,000 Catholic school students in the archdiocese with a three-pronged approach of vision, mission and shared values.

Here is a closer look at the approach that guides the Office of Catholic Schools and the 68 Catholic schools in the archdiocese.

Our Vision

Ours will be an archdiocese where every Catholic school community flourishes by having the professional and spiritual leadership it needs to advance the mission of the Church, and where every professional is supported, every family is engaged and every child, regardless of race, culture, socio-economic condition or learning need, is nurtured in mind, body and spirit.

Our Mission

With open doors, open arms and open hearts, the Office of Catholic Schools supports the formation of young people through holistic, engaging and academically excellent programming that integrates faith, culture and life as modeled by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our Shared Values

Open Doors:

- We believe that Catholic schools serve as a vital ministry of the greater Church.
- We believe that Catholic schools should be accessible and affordable.
- We believe that the viability and vitality of Catholic schools are the responsibility of all the faithful.
- We believe in shared leadership with pastors, school leaders and commissions/boards under the direction of the archbishop and guidance of Church teachings.

Open Arms:

- We believe in fostering positive relationships that exemplify the love of God.
- We believe that Catholic school communities are enriched by the unique image and likeness of God that is present in each individual.

- We believe that formation best occurs within faith-filled cultures of learning that are inclusive.
- We believe that parents are the primary educators of each young person and that it is the responsibility of Catholic schools to support the domestic Church.

Open Hearts:

- We believe that Catholic schools are part of the evangelizing mission of the Church, forming disciples through the intentional integration of faith, culture and life.
- We believe that "excellence" is defined by and achieved through the growth and holistic development—spiritual, intellectual/academic, social, emotional and physical—of the individual within the context of community.
- We believe that professional educators in Catholic schools are valued ministers of the faith who strive to live the universal call to holiness. †

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Scecina High School's capital campaign succeeds despite challenges of pandemic and economic crisis

By Sean Gallagher

Bringing a \$6 million capital campaign to a positive conclusion in the middle of a worldwide pandemic with a related economic downturn is usually not a recipe for success.

But Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School not only met the ambitious goal amid the coronavirus pandemic, the school added another \$600,000 to the campaign's goal.

Facing and overcoming challenges is not new to the archdiocesan high school for the Indianapolis East Deanery since it was founded more than 60 years ago.

Scecina president Joseph Therber has seen many of these challenges. He served as a teacher and assistant football coach there from 1986-98 before returning as its president in 2009.



Joseph Therber

He credits the campaign's success to the "base of people that are extremely generous with their time and resources and who believe in the mission of the school."

"We have alumni from all decades of the school's history who believe the same and want to help in ways large and small to make it

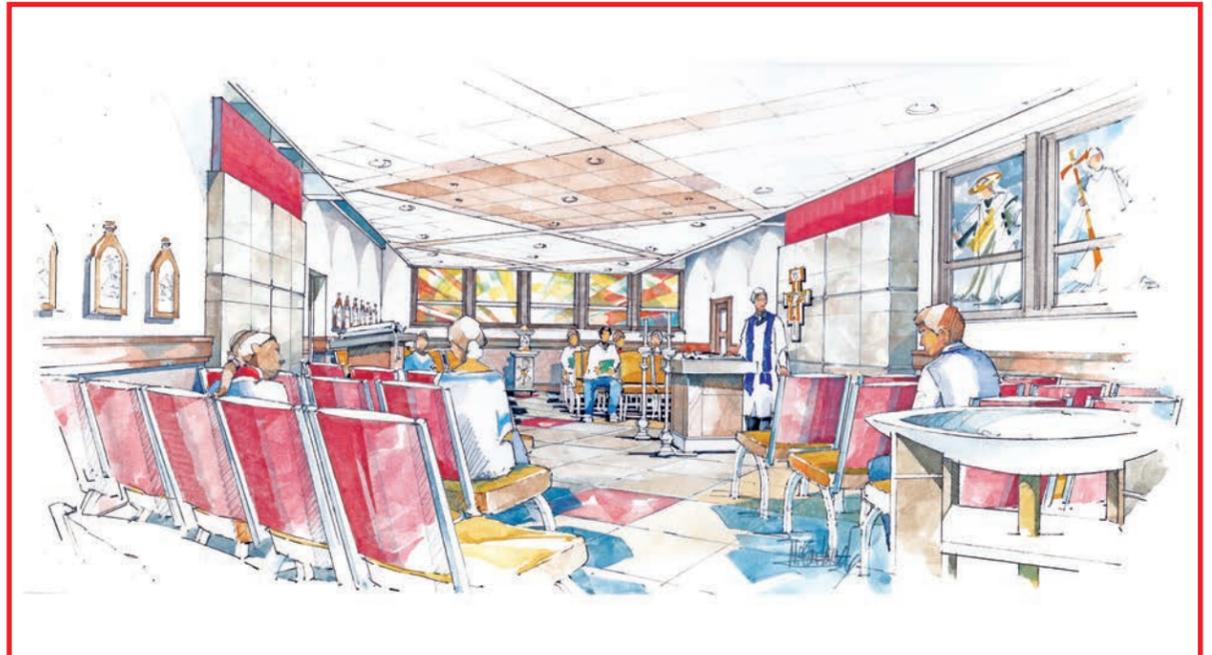
happen," Therber said.

One of those alumni is George Newhart, a 1960 Scecina graduate. When he grew up on Indianapolis' eastside, it was, as he remembered it, "a center of industrial activity for the Midwest." Factories for Chrysler, Ford, Western Electric and RCA dotted the corridors along Shadeland and Sherman avenues and other locations.



George Newhart

"In my day, most of the kids were from blue-collar families," Newhart recalled. "Our parents



An artistic rendering portrays the new chapel to be constructed at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis. The archdiocesan high school for the Indianapolis East Deanery is completing a \$6.6 million capital campaign to fund various projects, including the chapel construction. (Submitted photo)

worked in the factories. My dad worked at Chrysler. A lot of kids had parents who worked in the fire department and police department. It was a much different world."

In the decades that followed, most of the factories on the eastside closed. But while many employers disappeared from the eastside, Scecina remained, serving as an anchor for the community.

"All those companies went away," Newhart said. "But the amazing thing is, Scecina has been able to stay where it's always been and still contribute to the academic and personal development of the eastside kids. And they've expanded [the student body] well beyond the eastside."

An added recent challenge to the eastside is that many who live there now have jobs in the service industry that has been severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Newhart, who serves as the chair of Scecina's board of directors and on the campaign's executive committee, was at first anxious about the pandemic's effect on the school's fundraising efforts.

"In any kind of

economic downturn—and this was more of an economic disaster—you fear for those kinds of things," he said. "Bills can't be paid as quickly or as efficiently as before. But we have done very well. Our families and the Scecina community are so loyal and dedicated."

Therber said that, for many in the Scecina community, getting behind the effort to provide a positive future for the school has been a source of relief during the present time with its many challenges.

"Hope is energizing," Therber said. "It's brought optimism, purpose and a vision for the future at a time when we could have shrunk or turned inside of ourselves."

The campaign, which is the first in Scecina's history to have such an ambitious goal, has already funded the construction of a new weight room in the main building of the school. It is hoped that a new chapel in the main building will be completed in time for the start of the 2021-22 school year.

Other projects to be funded by the campaign include reworking its main entrance, construction of new athletic and activity fields, and endowments to ensure future academic excellence at the school, tuition assistance and the maintenance and improvement of facilities.

"We tried to do something extraordinary, and we have," Therber said. "That should give us confidence for even more in the future."

(To learn more about Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School, visit scecina.org.) †



Scecina is your pathway to achieve college, career, and life success.

Learn more about becoming a Crusader at scecina.org/admissions

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Scecina Memorial High School • 5000 Nowland Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46201

Special moment shows teacher how God is using him

By John Shaughnessy

Jim Waldon sums up one of the great mysteries of life and teaching when he says, "As you live your life, you never know how God is using you."

Waldon then shares a favorite story of how God has used him during his 33 years of teaching at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School in Aurora.

"We had a student come to us from a public school as a seventh grader,"

Waldon recalls. "His parents could see he was slipping through the cracks. At the time, if a student didn't keep up his schoolwork, one of the consequences was they'd lose recess and have to clean up the cafeteria. This student chalked up a remarkable number of clean-up days.

"Rather than resenting me, he came through for his own sake and his parents. He went on to serve in the Navy on a submarine. And to this day, when he

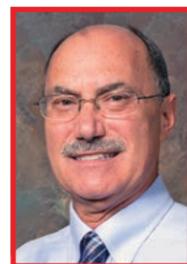
comes home to see his family, he looks me up and invites me to dinner. In an experience like that, you realize God did use you. Those are the moments when you know you've touched them beyond what you hoped. It's very humbling."

Waldon has taught mostly English and religion during his years at St. Mary, the school that he attended from first to eighth grade.

"As I look back, I realize what a blessing it is to me to be in a place where I was so strongly impacted and where I've worked with so many wonderful teachers and students through the years.

"It's been my privilege to dedicate my life to working with so many fine people to keep the mission of our parish school alive. I've experienced the blessing of teaching two generations of many families. The greatest reward is seeing the successes achieved by so many of my past students.

"My goal with the students is simply that I want them to remember that God loves them and hears every prayer they offer. If they don't learn anything else from me, I hope they remember that I encourage them to pray constantly." †



Jim Waldon



Catholic education provides a life-changing foundation for many people in the archdiocese

(Editor's note: The Criterion invited Catholics across the archdiocese to share how their Catholic education has had an impact on their lives. Here are some of their stories.)

By John Shaughnessy

The slogan for his children's Catholic school represents everything that Richard Shagley wants for them:

"Building Saints and Scholars."

That slogan at St. Patrick School in Terre Haute also reminds Shagley of the impact that people at that school tried to have on him when he was a student there.

"I don't know if that was their slogan then, but it's what they were doing when I was there," the 46-year-old father of four says. "It wasn't a big school, but there were good kids, a good education and good people around you who wanted you to succeed. And it wasn't just the teachers and administrators. It was the parents as well.

"As a child, I didn't see that, but that's what my wife Alice and I want for our children—a good education provided by people who care about you. I'm very grateful that our kids are getting that start in life."

Shagley also appreciates the foundation of faith that the school has provided for him and their children: George, Eleanor, William and Harriet.

"You get that early foundation—all the teachings about treating each other like you would want to be treated," he says. "I've noticed my oldest child [16-year-old George] doesn't resist going to church. He still sees the value. I'd like to say it's what he sees in his parents, but I'd be foolish to think it wasn't St. Patrick School, too. I'm thankful that they get that element of faith throughout the day."

He's also thankful for the influence that Father Daniel Bedel, the pastor of St. Patrick Parish, has on the school children.

"We're fortunate that our kids have Father Dan. He's a terrific priest. I've been to the children's Mass and saw his magic. I credit my increased participation in the Church to him. I'm on the parish council because of him."

A lawyer, Shagley also credits his parents for giving him the gift of a Catholic education, a gift he and his wife share with their children, too.

"Growing up Catholic, I learned about giving back. I'm lucky in my job that I'm able to give back to our [parish] Church. I got a lot of that from my father, Rick Shagley, who is also an attorney. I've seen the way he gives back and helps the community. I hope I can instill that in our children."

'We became Catholic as a result of their kindness'

One of the worst times of JoAnn Johnson's life led to one of the best life-changing moments for her and her children.

"I got married when I was almost 16," recalls Johnson, who grew up as a Baptist. "My husband and I weren't in love. We had 12 children in our marriage. My life was hard. My husband had an alcohol problem and didn't provide the needed food or rent for a place to stay.

"I broke my ankle when my 11th child was born. I had to stay in the hospital from January to May. I didn't know what was happening at home. One Sunday, two ladies came to the hospital passing out Communion and I was crying so hard, one lady came to my bedside and asked what was wrong. I told her the whole story."

The two women were members of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.

"They told me not to worry and that someone would be at my house Monday to take care of my children and to clean my house. They did this for over a month.

We became Catholic as a result of their kindness."

Living on the city's south side, Johnson found a faith home at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Indianapolis. Her 12 children found a home at the parish school, which is now closed.

"They were very good people," says Johnson who is 92 now. "My children never wanted for anything when we became Catholic. I can't tell how much their kindness meant to me and my family.

I hope this gives you an idea of what I have been through, and the gratitude I have for the Catholic Church when I needed someone the most."

'I fell in love'

For Benedictine Sister Mary Luke Jones, her first year of Catholic education led to a love that has guided her life ever since.

"When I was 6 years old, I went to the first grade at

St. Ambrose School in Seymour," she says. "Something happened to me there that has made all the difference in my life. I fell in love. The object of my affection was my teacher. Her name was Sister Mary Hubert. She was a Benedictine sister.

"That love affair has lasted to this very day. The sisters who taught me were beautiful, kind and caring. I thought in the hierarchy of things, God was first and then there was them. Obviously since I have been a Benedictine for over 50 years, their impact on me was great. Even at age 6, I knew they possessed something that I wanted."

Her eight years of Catholic education also led to another deep pursuit of her life.

"St. Ambrose prepared me for life, but also for the afterlife," says Sister Mary Luke, a member of the Benedictine community of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove.

"I learned all the basic subjects, but also the importance of caring for others and the importance of honesty and hard work. We loved it when sister rolled up the sleeves of her long habit to wash desks since we got a glimpse of something other than her face and hands.

"I can trace a direct line from my religious vocation to sitting in that first-grade classroom. My eight years at St. Ambrose were the bedrock of my life. The romance endures!"

Mom's victory is a win for her sons, too

When Bert Leffel considers the way he met his wife and his lifelong friends, he's ever thankful that his mother cast the deciding vote in his parents' decision to send him and his two brothers to Catholic schools for their education.

Leffel's dad had attended a Catholic school as a child, but the cost of a Catholic education and the quality

of public schools in the family's Indianapolis neighborhood made him think about sending his sons to the less-costly option. At the same time, Leffel's mother, a product of public schools, saw how a Catholic school's emphasis on faith, family values and education had strongly influenced her husband's life.

"Long story short, Mom won," Leffel recalls. He has no doubt that he and his brothers won, too.

"Catholic education has been a life-changing experience for my children, family and myself," Leffel says, referring to his education at St. Pius X School and Cathedral High School, both in Indianapolis.

"I played baseball, basketball and football in grade school, and my friends were all there with me. I'm 42, and this group of teammates and classmates are still my closest friends. Friendship was at the heart of my school years and my main reason for sending my children to St. Pius to follow in my footsteps."

For Leffel, what makes those friendships so deep is the connection of faith.

See EDUCATION, page 18B



Benedictine Sister Mary Luke Jones, right, poses with her second grade teacher, Benedictine Sister Louise Hoeing, who also served for many years as a guidance counselor at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)



The connection of the Shagley family to St. Patrick School in Terre Haute runs deep, influencing the lives of parents Richard and Alice and their four children. Here, the family members come together for a photo on the school grounds: Pictured are, Richard, left, George, William, Harriet, Eleanor and Alice Shagley. (Submitted photo)



Catholic Schools
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EDUCATION

continued from page 17B

“At the core of our friendships was Jesus and God. We were altar boys, and we attended Mass regularly all of my childhood. St. Pius as a church and an institution became my dear friend as well. Every priest we were fortunate to come into contact with was a blessing and a true friend. Father Jim Farrell has helped my family through our hardest times. We love him.”

Catholic schools also led Leffel to the love of his life. He first met his wife Tiffani, a graduate of St. Matthew the Apostle School in Indianapolis, at a Catholic Youth Organization dance. They continued to date during their time together at Cathedral.

“Friendship and family are the impact the Catholic school system has played in my life,” he says. “It is one of the most important and treasured parts of my life. If anyone is on the ledge, like my dad once was, trust in knowing that once you are a part of this wonderful world it will truly change your life and your loved ones’ lives for the better.”

A prescription for a long, happy life

Joanne McKinley believes she has the prescription for anyone who wants to live a long, happy life.



Joanne McKinley

“I’m 88 years old, and I attribute my good, happy life to my good, sound Catholic education,” says McKinley, a member of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg.

“For eight years, I was taught by the wonderful Franciscan nuns from Oldenburg. They taught me so much about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We were taught how to dress and act appropriately for church, how to be respectful to our elders and how to understand that the Ten Commandments gave us the rules that God wants us to live by. Wouldn’t it be a wonderful world if everyone did live accordingly?”

McKinley learned those lessons while she was a student at the former St. Mary School in New Albany, the school where a classmate of hers, Thomas, later became her husband of nearly 67 years, leading to a family of six children, 19 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Her thoughts of her Catholic education also take her back to another defining moment in her life—her first Communion.

“My first Communion was one of the happiest moments of my life. Sister Mary Omer, my first Communion instructor, had a huge influence on my life. We were taught about loving God, understanding, appreciating and participating in Mass, and having a deep love for the Blessed Sacrament.”

The importance of community

Carol Wethington Divine is grateful for the gift her father gave her as a child.

“I often heard my father boast about the fact that he had been able to send one of his children all of the way through school via Catholic schools. He imparted to me the importance of the community that only Catholic education could provide.”

Divine found that sense of community from the time



Catholic education has been a life-changing experience for the members of the Leffel family of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis. Johnny and Cadence pose for a family photo with their parents, Bert and Tiffani, who met at a Catholic Youth Organization dance when they were in grade school. (Submitted photo)

she started her education in Indianapolis at the former Holy Trinity School in 1956 through her graduation from Marian University in 1973, with four years at Cardinal Ritter High School included.

That focus on community then guided her in her 46 years as a teacher before she retired recently. She had taught at Cardinal Ritter, Bishop Chatard and Providence Cristo Rey high schools in Indianapolis.

“It all started in kindergarten,” she says. “I was beginning my journey learning that I not only had my strong community of family, but also was learning a new and wonderful community of Catholic education. My identity was soon developing: charity toward all, an open heart, service to my community, and acceptance of any person I would meet.”

When she was in the first grade at Holy Trinity School, Divine told her mother that she wanted to be a teacher.

“I never wavered from that goal, which was consistently reinforced each year because of the loving education I received from the Sisters of St. Francis.

“Catholic education teaches one to love others. St. Mother Theodore Guérin said it well, ‘Love the children first, and then teach them.’ Even in the most trying situations I encountered in teaching, I would always stop and reflect on her words.”

As parents, Divine and her husband made sure their daughter Katie received a Catholic education at St. Pius X School and Bishop Chatard High School, both in Indianapolis.

“We never regretted that decision.”

Special memories, a lasting influence

One special memory stands out to Cecelia Kiley from her Catholic education at the former Holy Trinity School, the former St. Mary Academy and Marian University, all in Indianapolis.

“One of the greatest school memories that endeared me to the Catholic faith was the annual May crowning,” she says. “It was a royal occasion which took place outdoors on a shrine erected for Mary. At 7 p.m. sharp, bells began ringing, classes lined up along the street, and eighth-grade servers led the procession around the neighborhood while May hymns were sung accompanied by the school band.

“Neighbors lined the streets to watch the spectacle and the eighth-grade girl slowly marched up to the shrine and placed the crown atop the Virgin’s head. In all my years, I have never witnessed a more beautiful school crowning.”

Kiley also has special memories of her eighth-grade teacher.

“Sister Mary Sharon had the greatest influence on my faith journey. Sister could be seen playing four-square with the kids out on the playground and many times she won. In me, she created a desire to study harder and to enjoy praying. A devotion to Mary that lingers today began in the eighth grade because of her.”

The influence of a Catholic education has continued through the years for Kiley, now a member of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese.

“Going into high school and college, I took with me the moral groundwork put down throughout my grade school years: respect for authority, morality between the sexes, education about our Catholic beginnings, frequent reception of the sacraments, and friends who shared the same faith.

“The love I have today for our Catholic faith can definitely be attributed to having a Catholic education in all three levels.” †



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How can we AFFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

Understanding Tax Credit Scholarships and Indiana School Vouchers

My child is enrolled at a Catholic school.

I meet these eligibility requirements:

- Indiana resident
- My family is between 100% and 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP

CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INCOME LIMITS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR				
# of Persons in Household	69% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility Annual Household Income Limit for a 90% Choice Scholarship*	100% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility Annual Household Income Limit for a 90% Choice Scholarship**	150% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility Annual Household Income Limit for a Tax Credit Scholarship (of 50% Choice Scholarship)***	200% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility Annual Household Income Limit for a Tax Credit Scholarship (of 50% Choice Scholarship)****
1	\$16,288	\$23,606	\$35,409	\$47,212
2	\$22,007	\$31,894	\$47,841	\$63,788
3	\$27,726	\$40,182	\$60,273	\$80,364
4	\$33,444	\$48,470	\$72,705	\$96,940
5	\$39,163	\$56,758	\$85,137	\$113,516
6	\$44,882	\$65,046	\$97,569	\$130,092
7	\$50,600	\$73,334	\$110,001	\$146,668
8	\$56,319	\$81,622	\$122,433	\$163,244
9	\$62,038	\$89,910	\$134,865	\$179,820
10	\$67,757	\$98,198	\$147,297	\$196,396

Number Include All Adults in Household

Note: Income levels are determined in accordance with the *Income Verification Rules* document available at www.doe.in.gov/choice.

For a household size of 11 or more:

*Add \$5,719 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "90%" scholarship.

**Add \$8,288 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "90%" scholarship.

***Add \$12,432 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "50%" scholarship.

****Add \$16,576 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "50%" scholarship.

What are Tax Credit Scholarships?

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

Who qualifies for a Tax Credit Scholarship?

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

Why should I apply now?

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

How do I apply?

1. To see how much tuition assistance you are eligible for, first register at your Catholic school of choice.
2. To apply for funding, visit www.i4qed.org/sgo.

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

I'm moving my child in grades K-12 to a Catholic school from a public school.

I meet these eligibility requirements:

- Indiana resident
- Apply before September 1, 2021
- My child attended public school the previous year (two semesters) OR received a Tax Credit Scholarship or Voucher the previous school year.

AND one of the following:

My family is at or below 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

My family is at or below 150% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

My family is at or below 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level and my child qualifies for an IEP.

K-12 SCHOOL VOUCHERS

What is an Indiana School Voucher?

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

Who qualifies for a Voucher?

- A student whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (see chart), AND
- A student in grades K-12 who is coming to a Catholic school after attending at least one year (two semesters) in an Indiana public school, AND/OR
- A sibling received a Tax Credit Scholarship or Voucher, AND/OR
- A sibling living in an "F" school area, AND/OR
- A current Catholic school student in grades K-12 who has received a Tax Credit Scholarship in a prior year, AND/OR
- A student who qualified for an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Why should I apply now?

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

How do I apply for an Indiana school Voucher?

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

Pre-K vouchers are available in all counties throughout Indiana. For more information, log onto www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/4932.htm.



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Preferential option for the poor promotes the common good

By Father Herbert Weber

A man in our parish Bible study expressed his disinterest in the Church's outreach programs to those in need. He capped off his little speech by reminding everyone, "Even Jesus said 'the poor you will always have with you'" (Mt 26:11). His intent, I suspect, was to say that's just the way it is.

For me, this statement was jarring in that it failed to take into account all the other times Jesus emphasized reaching out to those in need (especially Mt 25:31-46). As the leader of the Bible study, my work was cut out for me.

More significantly, however, the man's words were a reminder that many people have trouble figuring out how to respond to the poor. More than once, I have heard it said that if people are poor in a country of opportunity and resources, then it is their own fault.

Consequently, for some it simply does not make sense that the Church would go so far as to say that there has to be a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. Adding the word "vulnerable" may help some. Yet the preferential option phrase is what stops lots of people in their tracks.

Almost any parish has some program for the poor, even if it is simply collecting food for a local pantry at Thanksgiving time. Not to make light of such efforts, but a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable must go way beyond donating instant potatoes and canned ravioli.

The call is for our Church to consciously and intentionally bring those on the margins into the full membership of society. That means people have to work for justice that fixes broken systems as well as advocating for the voiceless and powerless.

What's more, all of humanity can be renewed by this form of inclusion. In his book, *Let Us Dream*, Pope Francis recently wrote, "You have to make for the margins to find a new future."

After a recent homily in which I used an example of visiting a man in the county jail after he had confessed to a brutal murder, I was surprised to receive a number of supportive e-mails regarding my outreach.

One woman wrote that her nephew works with inmates because he has come to realize they, too, are among God's children. In the same note, she apologized that she was not yet that open, but she wanted to be.

Maybe that is the starting point—wanting to be open to the fact that people on the edges of our society are still worth our time, still humans. Worth is not based on innocence, or lack of it, nor on accomplishments. Worth comes from the love of God for each person.

The bishops in the U.S., in their 1986 "Economic Justice for All" pastoral letter, added the element of the common good as both a reason for and a result of focusing on the poor. It's not simply that the poor and vulnerable need assistance, but working to help them is a way to allow for the good of everyone in society. They, too, can be contributing members of society.

Even when people agree with the Church's option for the poor, the question is where to allow this position



A woman in need picks up food on a July day in 2020 at the Father English Food Pantry in Paterson, N.J., operated by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Paterson. The Church's preferential option for the poor calls the faithful to help those on the margins of society in a variety of ways to promote the common good. (CNS photo/courtesy Catholic Charities Paterson)

to take them. Simply put, people begin with awareness of who is vulnerable and who are the poor. A growing consciousness can lead to action, but people have to get beyond news headlines and political talking points.

For several years, our parish has conducted mission trips to the U.S.-Mexico border. With the help of parishes

in southern Texas, our volunteers have worked with refugees as they were released from detention centers. Most were incredibly traumatized from both the journey to this country and the detention center itself.

Those who went on these trips often were following an unspecified inner desire to reach out to families in crisis. Participants often came back desiring to do more than simply helping for a week.

They were moved in profound ways to support immigration reform and to articulate the need for humane treatment of refugees. They had opportunities to talk about their experiences; some have become active in community groups.

It also became clear that the whole parish community needs to be reminded of the plight of refugees around the world. Consequently, we often have included petitions at Mass for the millions of immigrants fleeing violence and war. We have consistently brought this population to people's attention.

In addition to awareness, there has to be the development of a new attitude toward others. In a world where many people create us-vs.-them divides, this new way of looking at life tries to see others as sisters and brothers. It takes more than clever phrases to help people get beyond biases, but homily examples, parish hospitality plans and ongoing outreach efforts can help.

Whatever a congregation chooses to do, it has to integrate into its very fabric this awareness and response to the poor and vulnerable. It cannot simply settle for an occasional collection or activity.

(Father Herbert Weber is founding pastor of St. John XXIII Parish in Perrysburg, Ohio. His weekly podcast can be found at [23.church](https://www.23.church).) †



A little girl on the Mexican side of a fence on the U.S.-Mexico border peers into Sunland Park, N.M., on the U.S. side in this April 2019 photo. During petitions at Mass, we can pray for the millions of immigrants fleeing violence and war. (CNS photo/Rich Kalonick, courtesy Catholic Extension)

Corrections Corner/Richard Hoying

Inmates' conversions offer hope in our fractured world

At the start of 2020, I became a visitor/volunteer at the Federal Correctional Complex in Terre Haute through the Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS) organization.



Two of the prisoners I have visited, "George and Reggie," have been "inside" for about 10 years. Each has said that unless someone has been incarcerated for at least five years, they really don't know what it's like to be a prisoner. Both have undergone an awakening of their spiritual self-awareness that has led to a conversion in their personal lives.

George is not a well-educated man, but he is the best person I have met at being able to vocalize and write about his personal prayer life and about his relationship with the Almighty. He doesn't proselytize, but he has a strong conviction that each person can make a difference in the world, regardless of their station. Being a prisoner, he has added, with some irony: "Now Richard, is that nobility or is that stupidity?"

Reggie's story is an inspiration. His journey into spiritual self-awareness is summarized by his line, "prison is a university for the wise, and a playground for fools."

About a year ago, Reggie decided that he would always be positive in every situation. He would say that he is not religious, but he has adopted the prayer rituals of his Muslim cell block mates. Prayer gives him the spiritual strength to overcome the daily frustrations of prison life and to help his fellow prisoners through theirs. Reggie has a big personality, and it is impossible not to like "positive" Reggie.

Reggie's conversion has undergone an ultimate test. Recently, Reggie's co-defendant at trial was transferred to Terre Haute. Though he was probably equally guilty, this man's testimony against Reggie led to unequal prison sentences of 17 years versus 25 years.

In the prison yard, Reggie had the opportunity to severely hurt or even kill his co-defendant. Instead, he mustered all his spiritual strength, walked over and forgave the man. This big, strong man then went back to his cell and cried the rest of the day.

Forgiveness, mercy and personal redemption are central attributes to George's and Reggie's stories, as is the power of the Holy Spirit to strengthen them in their conversion. The men I have come to know are a world removed from the street-educated boys who were found guilty of their crimes.

Terre Haute is the site of the execution of federal prisoners, performed in our names as citizens. Those who have visited prisoners on death row—from PVS volunteers to clergy and spiritual advisors to Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin—all have the same thought: the government is not executing the men (and recently, a woman) who committed their crimes.

Volunteering there has been an extremely rewarding experience. Each interaction teaches me something new. The visits are revelations of our common humanity and our common spirituality, regardless of our past or present circumstances. In our socially, politically and religiously fractured world, one can never get enough of that affirmation.

(Richard Hoying is a member of St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville.) †

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

Pandemic has Highlighted close collaboration of parents, educators

The Church has long taught that parents are the primary educators of their children.



A parents' education and formation of their children happens in an organic way in the entirety of their shared family life.

Some parents take up this sacred responsibility in a

more comprehensive way by teaching their children at home subjects that are ordinarily taught in schools in our society. Though still the minority, there are far more homeschooling families today than when I was growing up in the 1970s and 1980s.

Most parents still enroll their children in conventional schools, either public or private. My family has had experience with both approaches, trying homeschooling for a few years before enrolling our sons at Lumen Christi Catholic School in Indianapolis. My oldest son Michael graduated from Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis last year.

In my work at *The Criterion* since 2004, I've been blessed to see many examples across central and southern Indiana of how the staff of Catholic schools and parents who have enrolled their children work well together to form them into well-educated and faith-filled disciples of Christ.

That collaboration on the sacred, God-given mission of forming the young generation of the Church's faithful rose to a new level when the coronavirus pandemic shuttered schools last spring, and has remained this school year with the resumption of in-person instruction even in the face of continued pandemic-related challenges.

My co-worker Natalie Hoefler reports on this shared work between parents and school staffs in the pandemic in the Catholic Schools Week Supplement in this week's issue of *The Criterion*.

As a parent of four children enrolled at Lumen Christi and in learning in my work about what is happening in other Catholic schools in the archdiocese, I have been overwhelmed at times to see the deep love for the children in these schools in both their parents and their educators.

What else can explain the heroic efforts made on a daily basis for the greater part of a year now to educate and form in the faith thousands of children in schools and homes across central and southern Indiana in the face of such challenges that were unimaginable before 2020?

God is surely present where there is this kind of love expressed in patience, tireless dedication, kindness and flexibility.

Perhaps sometime in the future, daily life at Catholic schools in the archdiocese will resemble more what it was like before the pandemic changed all of our lives.

If that happens, I pray that the experience that both parents and educators have had in the pandemic will, at the very least, keep their mutual love of the children that is at the heart of education in the forefront of their hearts and minds, that they won't take for granted the great good they're doing together with the help of God's grace.

I know I've prayed much more consciously for my boys' school and other Catholic schools in the archdiocese since the start of the pandemic. Many of you were probably doing that before the coronavirus hit. But the more all of us can pray for our schools, students, parents and educators, the better we'll all be in the end. †

That All May Be One/Fr. Rick Ginther

Relation building among faiths creates Christian unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity concluded on Jan. 25. Our annual prayer service—which was recorded this year because of the pandemic—celebrated the theme "Abide in my love."



To abide in love. A challenge in Jesus' time. And our own.

To abide. To fulfill the very truth of Jesus in the Gospel of John: "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1:14).

Dwelt, literally, "pitched his tent" among us, as the tabernacle of the Lord was "tented" (Ex 25:8-9) among God's people.

By Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection, all Christians are called to love as he did. It is to be an "abiding love," a love of and for oneness.

My Christian brothers and sisters of the Center for Interfaith Cooperation (CIC) have taken up this challenge. To be sure, they are committed to interreligious dialogue. But recently, they embraced an invitation to "digital dialogue."

The idea sprang from a conversation during the December meeting of the advisory board of the archdiocesan Office of Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs. Two members of that board also sit on the CIC board.

The advisory board had been discussing how, after COVID-19, we can

help and encourage Catholics to begin a relationship with a person of another Christian denomination. We had each begun such a relationship.

The two CIC members realized that for all the work they do for interfaith cooperation, the Christians on that board did not know each other's faith journeys well. Nor did they know why each was so dedicated to the work of interfaith cooperation.

Members of both boards were invited to begin a digital dialogue. Days before the annual Week of Prayer, we met virtually. One's faith journey was the focus. We shared.

The Disciples of Christ have a bedrock principle of seeking unity, stated a member.

A Catholic with a Lebanese background in the Melkite Catholic Church spoke of his experience with his Arabic-speaking grandfather's journey of faith and traditions.

Another spoke of his upbringing in the Assemblies of God faith. Through a search among other Christian expressions, he finally embraced Presbyterianism.

A member of the United Church of Christ noted that his church is a merger of the Brethren and Evangelical churches in the mid-20th century.

Yet another spoke to his family roots—one parent Lutheran, the other Catholic—and his journey each weekend to both churches for worship, instruction and inspiration. This allowed for an openness

in college to the diversity of religions encountered. His commitment to dialogue and unity expanded.

And another spoke of encountering in his life so many people seeking the divine. He found in that a truth: diversity is a part of unity.

One came from a secular family with no religious ties. But life brought experiences from Coptic to Baptist traditions, and eventually the embracing of the Episcopal church.

I noted my family history: both Christian and Catholic. Generationally, it was made clear that people of faith were to be respected. Prayer together in Christ was acceptable. Virtue was to help overcome bigotry.

We will meet again soon. Each will have prayed the eight days of the Octave for Christian Unity reflection. We promised to do this, that we might "abide in love." We hope to dwell upon what emerged in our personal prayer.

May such relation building make us better ministers of Christ, of Christian unity, and of interfaith dialogue.

And if this example inspires you to abide so in love, then we have done what we are called in Christ to do.

(Father Rick Ginther is director of the archdiocesan Office of Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs. He is also the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis.) †

The Human Side/Fr. Eugene Hemrick

Nightmare at Capitol reminds us to preserve our freedoms

Looking outside from my apartment, my stomach sickened. Additional fencing encircling government buildings at the corner had been added to reinforce uplifted car barriers.



I was disturbed to see National Guard soldiers, whom I had befriended, wearing helmets and carrying gas masks.

Earlier in the day, I drove to Hains Point and walked along the Potomac River to release tension. As I returned home, the streets bordering the National Mall were blockaded. Metropolitan Police squad cars were everywhere. Snow plows and dump trucks blocked crossing streets that ran through the mall.

Feelings of anger, revenge and

incomprehensibility welled up upon seeing the entrance to the U.S. Capitol breached on Jan. 6. I wrote a book on the religious symbolism found in and on the Supreme Court, Library of Congress and the Capitol. I practically lived in the Capitol when photographing its statues, artwork and inspiring mottos. Thinking of its revered inscriptions like "Out of many, one," run over by senseless mob violence was like entering Dante's Inferno.

Presently, Public Broadcasting Service is running the program, "The Great Tours: Washington, D.C." A recent episode toured Arlington National Cemetery. It not only talked about famous gravesites, but it focused mainly on the men and women of various nationalities and religions who gave their lives to preserve democracy.

Much talk has addressed how our democracy held despite recent events.

Here we must ask, "Is more needed than holding onto democracy?" Is not making it improve and grow more paramount during these times?

As a young boy, I took courses in civics. They taught us to be thankful for our freedom, about sacrifices made to preserve it and what is essential to democracy.

To avoid recurring nightmares and to reduce tensions, internalizing the essence of democracy is of the utmost importance. As wonderful as our National Guard and police are, developing wisdom is needed on how to better appreciate our democratic heritage and adopt God's law of love as its core: "Do unto others as you would have them do to you" (Mt 7:12).

(Father Eugene Hemrick writes for Catholic News Service.) †

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, January 31, 2021

- Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
- Mark 1:21-28

The Book of Deuteronomy furnishes the first reading for Mass this weekend. Deuteronomy appears in modern Bibles

as the fifth book in sequence in the Old Testament. It is from the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament, all of them attributed to Moses.

In this reading, Moses addresses the chosen people whom he has led

with God's help from Egypt where they were enslaved. He promises that God will send prophets with whom the people can relate. If anyone presumes to take the role of prophet upon himself or herself, without having been called by God, then this imposter will die.

God takes care of his people.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians is the source of the second reading. From the earliest days of Christianity, virginity has been treasured. Christians have never been forbidden to marry, although all Christians are bound to be chaste according to their state in life. Through the centuries, however, Christians have chosen lifelong virginity for religious reasons.

Corinth in the first century was a city notorious for its outrageous immorality. It was a busy commercial center. Visitors often availed themselves of the pleasures of the flesh provided in Corinth. Indeed, Aphrodite, the goddess of love and carnal desire, was the city's special deity.

Paul saw virginity as a powerful Christian value, and from a more pragmatic point of view he thought that Christians not obligated by marriage and parenthood should devote their time to God's service.

St. Mark's Gospel is the source of the third reading. St. Luke's Gospel contains an almost exact parallel story. Matthew treats this event only glancingly.

Judaism has never required weekly attendance by Jews at synagogue services. However, going to synagogue to pray together and to learn the

teachings of the Torah was definitely a priority for Jews during the time of Jesus, as indeed it is even among Jews today.

That Jesus went to a synagogue, and on the Sabbath at that, reveals how seriously the Lord took the Law of Moses.

As Jesus spoke, the people were spellbound at the knowledge of things relating to God that the Lord presented. In the synagogue that day was a man "with an unclean spirit" who recognized Jesus as the "Holy One of God" (Mk 1:23-24). Furthermore, the man believed that Jesus had the power to do anything.

The Lord's power pierces the darkness even of Satan. Jesus orders the unclean spirit to leave the man, and the unclean spirit obeys.

Again, the people are amazed. The message, however, is not in their amazement, but that Jesus could command this unclean spirit and be obeyed, and that the man, albeit harboring this evil spirit, recognized Jesus as the Son of God. No bondage to sin or evil can overcome the power of God.

Reflection

Few people today say that many people are possessed by the devil, although the Church still teaches that such possessions occur.

All people have, in a sense, unclean spirits within them since everyone sins and sin is the mark of the devil's involvement to some extent in any person's spiritual life.

People may be aware of how and when they turn away from God and harm themselves or others. The allurements of sin overpower them, as it overtook people in wide-open Corinth. For many, this realization produces the cynical hunch that virtue is impossible for them to attain. They are mistaken.

For them, these readings are especially comforting and encouraging. God will never leave us. Such was the promise of Moses and of Paul. The Son of God can conquer any evil and dull any temptation, if asked. No sin can obscure the reality of the Lord. His light shines. His strength is mighty. †

Daily Readings

Monday, February 1

Hebrews 11:32-40
Psalm 31:20-24
Mark 5:1-20

Tuesday, February 2

The Presentation of the Lord
Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 24:7-10
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40
or Luke 2:22-32

Wednesday, February 3

St. Blaise, bishop and martyr
St. Ansgar, bishop
Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15
Psalm 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a
Mark 6:1-6

Thursday, February 4

Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24
Psalm 48:2-4, 9-11
Mark 6:7-13

Friday, February 5

St. Agatha, virgin and martyr
Hebrews 13:1-8
Psalm 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9c
Mark 6:14-29

Saturday, February 6

St. Paul Miki and companions, martyrs
Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21
Psalm 23:1-6
Mark 6:30-34

Sunday, February 7

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Job 7:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 147:1-6
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
Mark 1:29-39

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

In his descent 'into hell,' Jesus freed the just who died before the crucifixion

Q What does it mean when we say in the Apostles' Creed that Jesus



"descended into hell"? That statement is not used in the Nicene Creed, which we often say at Mass. It bothers me so much that when I say the rosary, I substitute "limbo" for "hell." (Virginia)

A Since Advent in 2011, when the third edition of the *Roman Missal* was put into use in the United States, parishes have had the option at Sunday Mass of using the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed. I am not surprised that the words in the Apostles' Creed about Christ's descent into hell bother you, because the common understanding of Catholics has been that the word "hell" denotes the permanent abode of the devil and the damned, a place of eternal punishment from which there is no escape.

I'm not sure, though, that you'd want to substitute "limbo," since limbo has a different meaning, has never been a fixed article of belief in the Church and is, I would say, even more questionable today.

In years past, it was thought by most Catholics that children who died without being baptized went, not to be with God in heaven, but to a state of natural happiness called limbo. But in 2007, with the approval of Pope Benedict XVI, the Church's International Theological Commission

concluded that "there are theological and liturgical reasons to hope that infants who die without baptism may be saved."

As to the phrase "descended into hell," it may help to know that, in early Christian times, the Hebrew word for hell ("Sheol") was ambiguous; it could mean the place of the damned, but it was also used to include the place where the righteous awaited redemption.

Until Jesus had completed his death and resurrection, the just could not yet know the joy of being in God's presence. So, when the Apostles' Creed says that Jesus "descended into hell," it means that he went to rescue the just who had already died, to take them with him to heaven.

Q We have just read several accounts of the birth of Christ during Masses after Christmas. In reading Luke 2:39-40 and Matthew 2:13-15, it appears that there is a difference as to what happened after Jesus was born. My question is this: Did the Holy Family flee to Egypt, or did they return to Nazareth? (Indiana)

A My answer would be that both things happened. Following the birth of the Christ Child and the visit of the Magi, the Holy Family fled to Egypt to avoid Herod's persecution and then they eventually returned to Nazareth, which was their family's home.

Attempts to find a contradiction in Luke's and Matthew's infancy accounts are based on a false understanding of the Gospels. None of the evangelists claimed to have written an exhaustive chronological account of every event in the life of Christ. They wrote for different audiences (Jewish Christians and gentile Christians) and highlighted different things.

My own view of the sequence of events—and this seems to harmonize the Gospel accounts of both Matthew and Luke—is that Jesus was presented in the Temple a few weeks after his birth; then the Holy Family fled to Egypt and, after the death of Herod, returned to Palestine and settled in Nazareth.

Nowhere does Luke say that they returned to Nazareth "immediately" after the birth of Jesus. The Gospel of Luke simply says of Jesus, Mary and Joseph: "When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth" (Lk 2:39).

Each Gospel writer was selective about the details of Jesus' life, according to his purposes. Matthew, for example, doesn't mention the presentation or the finding of Jesus in the Temple.

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

My Journey to God

Light in the Darkness

By Sandy Bierly

We are called to be a light
In this darkened world.

To bring love, joy, peace, and hope,
Through Christ who lives in us.

A little spark that becomes a flame,
That quickly spreads to all we meet,
Bringing Christ into the world,

Through our love, joy, peace, and
hope.



(Sandy Bierly is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany. Photo: Holding candles, young Catholics from around the country encircle the floor of Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on Nov. 21, 2019, during the National Catholic Youth Conference.) (File photo by Natalie Hoefler)

Rest in peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in *The Criterion*. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.

AGUIRRE, Jacqueline Salgado, 80, St. Simon the Apostle, Indianapolis, Dec. 25. Mother of Andrea Wood. Sister of Arturo Salgado Meza. Grandmother of one.

BEDEL, Marjorie A., 86, St. Catherine of Siena, Decatur County, Dec. 10. Wife of Ferdinand Bedel. Mother of Mary Laudick, Jeannie Portis, Benson, Dan, Francis, John, Joseph and Michael Bedel. Sister of Martha and Arthur Blankman. Grandmother of 14. Great-grandmother of nine. (correction)

BEIER, Susan, 67, St. Boniface, Fulda, Sept. 18. Wife of Ronald Beier. Mother of Brent and Craig Beier. Daughter

of Frances Krampe. Sister of Joan Heeke, John, Mark and Steve Krampe. Grandmother of four.

BOONE, Mary Ann, 87, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Dec. 17. Mother of Connie Hathaway, Mary Holtgrave, Cheryl Plunkett, David, John, Mark and Steve Boone. Grandmother of 25. Great-grandmother of 14.

BOVARD, Lewis E., 88, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, Dec. 21. Husband of Gail Bovard. Father of Sue Ellen Bovard-Kentner and Carl Bovard. Grandfather of two.

BROADUS, Linda, 69, St. Mary, New Albany, Dec. 23. Wife of Stephen Broadus. Mother of Dava Austin. Grandmother of two.

CRUZ-ISLAS, Cornelio, 47, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Dec. 10. Husband of Aida Martinez. Father of Patricia, David, Jonathan and Rigoberto Cruz-Martinez.

CUNNINGHAM, Evan, 89, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville, Dec. 14. Husband of Georgia Cunningham. Father of Julie Isaccs, Ava Marin-Fluellen, Kevin, Larry, Mury and Paul Cunningham. Grandfather of 16. Great-grandfather of 19.

DAUBY, Helen W. (Krutz), 87, St. Paul, Tell City, Dec. 23. Mother of Lisa Hohl, Betty Howard, Sherry Scott, Joyce Thiery and Paul Dauby. Sister of Ruth Bolin, Betty Jean Lawalin and Ronnie

Williams. Grandmother of 13. Great-grandmother of 15.

DEWES, II, Edward H., 89, St. Paul the Apostle, Greencastle, Dec. 26. Husband of Cynthia Dewes. Father of Katherine Dewes-Stark, James, John and William Dewes. Grandfather of 14. Great-grandfather of 16. (correction)

ENGLISH, Raymond R., 80, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Indianapolis, Dec. 21. Father of Raymond English. Brother of Sharon Ofsanko.

GENET, Jennifer L. (Altman), 68, St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, Sept. 8. Mother of Michael Genet, Jr. Sister of Kathy Burrows, Jill, Chris, Ed, Mike Paul and Randy Altman. Grandmother of two.

GRIGSBY, Judith, 74, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, Dec. 1. Mother of Karen Grigsby. Sister of Patricia McElyea and Kenneth Elliott. Aunt of several.

HAEFLING, Marilyn C., 76, St. Boniface, Fulda, Dec. 24. Mother of Angie Haake, Ben, Brad and Paul Haefling. Sister of Pat Hohegsang, Donna Kline, Brenda Stallings and Shirley Taylor. Grandmother of seven.

HEDINGER, Eugene P., 90, St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, Sept. 17. Husband of Viola Hedinger. Father of Charles, James, John, Keith, Kevin, Philip and Randall Hedinger. Brother of Martha Oser, Imelda Thomas and Daniel Hedinger. Grandfather of 15. Great-grandfather of 19.

HORAN, Franklin C., infant, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Dec. 1. Son of Michael and Brooke Horan. Grandson of Joseph and Eileen Horan and David and Dianne Grannan. Great-grandson of Mary Herbertz.

KERNEN, Mary Frances, 95, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, Dec. 18. Mother of Paula and Michael Kernen. Sister of Norene Wessel and Roseann Wiebe. Grandmother of two.

LEACH, Raymond R., 83, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, Dec. 21. Husband of Uli Leach. Father of Melissa and Sheila Leach. Grandfather of seven. Great-grandfather of five.

MARISTELA, Remedios, 92, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Dec. 25. Father of Magdalena Tooley, Cayetana, Marie and Pedro Maristela. Brother of Lucy Amsbaugh. Grandfather of four.

MEDINA, John Everret Romero, 52, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Dec. 21. Husband of Jane Medina. Son of Fe Medina. Brother of Lucy Luna, Albert and Cesar Medina.

MILLER, Charles W., 85, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Dec. 17. Husband of Sally Miller. Father of Diane Anderson, Donna Brown, Carol Conrad, Susan Hafley, Margaret Seats, Linda Torres and Carl Miller. Brother of Margaret, Jimmy and Johnny Miller. Grandfather of 20. Great-grandfather of 15.

NEAL, James E., 82, St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis, Dec. 13. Husband of Oveda June

Neal. Father of Jody Black, Kimberly Desouza, Carrie Wolfe, Sherry and Mark Neal. Brother of Peggy Sparks and David Neal. Grandfather of 11. Great-grandfather of several.

NEAL, Rita R., 91, St. Patrick, Terre Hate, Dec. 18. Mother of Nancy Birchler, Elaine Holler, Mary Beth Robinson, James, Richard and Robert Neal. Sister of Mary Ann Davis. Grandmother of 15. Great-grandmother of 16. Great-great-grandmother of four.

PARKER, Lawrence, 82, St. Mark, Perry County, Dec. 18. Husband of Donna Parker. Father of Victoria Parker-James, Daniel and Dennis Parker. Brother of Lolyce Griese, Joyce Richardt and Robert Parker. Grandmother of six.

RAMIREZ, Jonathan, 18, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Nov. 28. Son of Elizabeth Guadalupe Salazar Hernandez. Brother of Jennifer Salazar, Jorge and Michael Arana and Brandon Ramirez.

SABELHAUS, Gertrude D., 86, St. Boniface, Fulda, July 5, 2020. Mother of Bert Harris, Frances Turnbaugh, Mary Anne, David and Raymond Sabelhaus. Grandmother of 14. Great-grandmother of 15. Great-great-grandmother of one.

SCHICKEL, Joan T., 94, St. Mary, Lanesville, Dec. 12. Wife of Peter Schickel. Mother of Janet Hardy, Carol Hoehn, Marilyn Lines, Donna Zutt and Robert Schickel. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of 22.

SMITH, Jr., Cecil J., 82, St. Patrick, Salem, Dec. 24. Husband of Martha Smith. Father of Sharon Bussert, Jennifer Olesh, John and Paul Smith. Brother of Arthur Smith. Grandfather of 16. Great-grandfather of eight.

STROCHINSKY, Billy Joe, 74, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Aurora, Dec. 22. Husband of Beverley Strochinsky. Father of Gregory and Robert Strochinsky. Brother of Janet Frakey, Judy Prater and Ronald May. Grandfather of five.

WELSH PEASE, Catherine M., 97, Holy Family, New Albany, Dec. 21. Mother of Pat Byrnes, Julie Cunningham, Mary Welsh-Owen and Jerry Welsh. Stepmother of Bobbie Hawkins, Tina Pease and Jackie Rager. Sister of Mary Lee Daub and Susie Robards. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of nine.

WIMSATT, Sr., Anthony E., 83, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville, Dec. 4. Husband of Cecilia Brown Wimsatt. Father of Debbie Selby, Theresa Shepherd, Anthony, Jr., Brent and Joseph Wimsatt. Grandfather of 13.

ZOGLEMAN, Verleen, 89, St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, Aug. 27, 2020. Mother of Cindy Gogel, Nancy Graman, Darla Hagedorn, Dean and Keith Zogleman. Sister of Angela Ebert. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of 19. †

BISHOPS

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Archbishop Naumann said the bishops strongly urged Biden “to reject abortion and promote life-affirming aid to women and communities in need.

“Public officials are responsible for not only their personal beliefs, but also the effects of their public actions,” the archbishop said. “*Roe*’s elevation of abortion to the status of a protected right and its elimination of state restrictions paved the way for the violent deaths of more than 62 million innocent unborn children and for countless women who experience the heartache of loss, abandonment and violence.”

The USCCB has also voiced its support or its concern regarding other actions taken by Biden since he was sworn in as president on Jan. 20.

—The leaders of two bishops’ committees applauded the president’s executive order reversing a policy of the previous administration that excluded unauthorized immigrants from the census count.

“We welcome this return to more than a century of American precedent that ensures all residents will be counted and included in the census and apportionment,” said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, chairman of the Committee on Migration.

“This return to our previous policy reflects the inalienable truth that all people matter and are imbued with human dignity,” they said in a joint statement on Jan. 22. Biden’s

census order—among several that he signed his first day in office—reversed two of President Donald J. Trump’s directives related to the 2020 census. The former administration had sought to determine the citizenship status of every U.S. resident through administrative records, and also planned to exclude those in the U.S. illegally from being counted in the process of apportioning state congressional seats.

—Biden’s wide-ranging executive order to extend existing federal nondiscrimination protections to LGBTQ people exceeds the U.S. Supreme Court’s June 2020 ruling on the issue in *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, said the chairmen of five U.S. bishops’ committees. In so doing, they said, the Jan. 20 order has implications for religious freedom.

“Every person has a right to gainful employment, education and basic human services free of unjust discrimination. That right should be protected,” the committee heads said in a joint statement released late on Jan. 22 by the USCCB. However, Biden’s order on “‘sex’ discrimination exceeds the court’s decision,” they said. “It threatens to infringe the rights of people who recognize the truth of sexual difference, or who uphold the institution of lifelong marriage between one man and one woman.”

The statement was issued by the chairmen of the USCCB committees for Religious Liberty, on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and on Catholic Education as well as the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism and the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

—Two leaders of the USCCB applauded the president’s Inauguration Day executive action ordering the federal government to keep in place and strengthen the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Biden also pledged on Jan. 20 to produce immigration reform legislation. Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, USCCB president, and Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Migration, said they were prepared to work with the president and Congress on such an “urgent matter of human life and dignity” for immigrants.

UNITY

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to God, his or her place on the vine, through prayer.

“In today’s fast-paced and complex world, it is easy to lose our compass, pulled as we are from every side,” he said, but “Jesus tells us that the secret of stability is to abide in him.

“Personal prayer, spending time with Jesus, adoration—these are essential if we are to abide in him,” the pope wrote. “In this way, we can place our worries, hopes and fears, joys and sorrows in the Lord’s heart.”

But an individual’s connection to Jesus also is the source of the “vitality” needed to live the Christian faith and to love others, he said.

“To the extent that we abide in God, we draw close to others, and to the extent that we draw close to others, we abide in God,” the pope wrote.

“Prayer unfailingly leads to love; otherwise, it is empty ritual,” he said. “It is not possible to encounter Jesus apart from his body, made up of many members, as many as are the baptized.”

And like the branches that Jesus said would need to be pruned sometimes, each Christian will have defects or shortcomings that will need to be pruned away, he said.

“Let us ask the Father, then, to prune our prejudices with regard to others, and the worldly attachments that stand in the way of full unity with all his children,” Pope Francis wrote. “Thus purified in love, we

will be able to be less concerned about the worldly obstacles and stumbling stones from the past, which nowadays distract us from the Gospel.”

And while unity among Christians is essential, it is not enough, he said. God “impels us to love not only those who love us and think as we do, but to love everyone, even as Jesus taught us.”

Strengthened in unity, he said, Christians will work together to love all their neighbors and to be “good Samaritans to a humanity that is frail, poor and, in our own time, suffering so greatly.

“A tree is known by its fruits,” the pope wrote. “By our gratuitous love, it will be known if we are part of the vine of Jesus.” †

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 Catechism of the Catholic Church
- 20% discount for all employees, volunteers, and parishioners

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



REPORT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT NOW

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct by a person ministering 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:

- 1 Ethics Point**
Confidential, Online Reporting
www.archdioceseofindianapolis.ethicspoint.com or 888-393-6810
- 2** Carla Hill, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Victim Assistance Coordinator
P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410
317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548
carlahill@archindy.org

Investing with Faith/Jolinda Moore

Easy-to-implement gift options can offer tax savings

During challenging times, people find creative ways to meet needs and goals—ways to reassert control and find safety in a world full of uncertainty. As we enter a new year, it is a great time to reflect on how you may have responded to supporting the charitable needs of the Church as a result of



the pandemic. So many have given generously, going above and beyond their typical giving to fill the void that job loss has created for many. As you consider ways in which to give, the following are three easy-to-implement gift options to consider which likely offer tax savings. Each of the gifts that follow can be used to support your

parish, an archdiocesan Catholic school or an archdiocesan ministry.

—**Stock:** When compared to making a gift of cash, a gift of appreciated stock provides a very important benefit: you pay no capital gains tax on the appreciated value of the stock. In addition, when you itemize your tax return, the gift qualifies for a deduction equal to the stock's current value, even though no tax has been paid on the appreciation. Remember, a gift of stock must be a direct transfer of the stock to the charity to avoid capital gains tax. Do not sell the stock, but instead contact our office to discuss the steps needed to transfer the funds.

—**Donor-advised funds:** Donor-advised funds have become an increasingly popular way to realize personal philanthropic goals in recent years. If you have a donor-advised fund account, we invite you to remember

us and the ways you can support the Church at this important time. The archdiocesan Catholic Community Foundation (CCF) serves as a single point of contact for moving monies to your parish, school or an archdiocesan ministry area. If you do not have a donor-advised fund account, we can also assist in creating one. With a gift of \$5,000 or more, the CCF has the ability and expertise to manage your donor-advised fund that is invested using socially responsible investment guidelines as outlined by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

—**IRA:** If you are an IRA owner age 70½ or older, making a gift through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is an option worth considering. While there is no tax deduction, the amount transferred is excluded from your income for federal tax purposes—you owe no tax on the transfer! The amount you give

counts toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) when one is due. (Under the SECURE Act passed in 2019, RMD's must begin at age 72.)

You are always encouraged to check with your advisors and account representatives to ensure that your personal and charitable objectives are being met.

The CCF is glad to assist you in making a meaningful contribution to the Church. More information on these types of gifts, including a simplified process for notifying us of such gifts is available at www.archindy.org/CCF. Questions can be e-mailed to ccf@archindy.org, and calls can be directed to 317-236-1482.

(Jolinda Moore serves as executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development. Contact her at 317-236-1462 or the office at www.archindy.org/CCF.) †

LIFE

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including the unborn, the immigrant, the refugee, the poor, the addicted, the prisoner, the sick and the elderly—all woven into the fabric of what it means to be a human being created in the image of God and saved by the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Archbishop Thompson noted that, for Catholics, "The Eucharist, as source and summit of our identity and mission, provides the sustenance for this call.

"Ultimately, we march and pray to cultivate a culture of life that culminates in life eternal."

'We had to quickly pivot'

Usually after the Mass, the congregants spill out of the church to join others already lining up for the Indiana March for Life. Holding signs, praying and chanting pro-life messages, they process through the center of Indianapolis to the Statehouse lawn for a rally.

Because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, "We had to quickly pivot" from the usual, said Marc Tuttle, president of RTLI which sponsors the annual march and rally.

One change was to switch this year's march to a vehicle caravan. After the Mass, 125 cars, trucks and buses slowly processed along most of the usual march route, horns honking and students chanting and waving signs through rolled-down windows.

But lack of parking near the Statehouse made the usual rally there logistically impossible. So, when the caravan reached the State Capitol building, it did not stop.

Instead, it headed north to St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese, where the evening

prior more than 100 people prayed during a diocesan-sponsored Vigil for Life.

"Their large parking lot and lack of a school offered the space needed" for the vehicles and mask-wearing participants, including those who opted to only attend the rally, said Tuttle.

Bringing up the rear of the caravan was a van sporting the logos "Chicago March for Life" and "Moving the Movement."

The Chicago march organizers "decided to take [this year's march] to the people," said Tuttle.

They created a "Moving the Movement" tour of Midwestern cities with people who might normally attend the Chicago march. Each stop included a diaper drive with assistance from tour sponsor weDignify. (See related article.)

RTLI signed up the Indiana March for Life as one of six stops on the tour, which included Fort Wayne, Ind., and cities in Illinois, Nebraska and Wisconsin.

"Our team has driven over 2,700 miles, which would go coast-to-coast if you stretched it out," said Kevin Grillot, executive director of weDignify. The organization, which trains pro-life leaders on college campuses, helped coordinate the tour.

He was the first among several faith leaders, youth leaders and others who spoke at the rally.

'A growing pro-life state'

Many of the rally's estimated 450 participants gathered around an outdoor sound stage. Others listened in their cars via livestream or Catholic Radio Indy.

Their excitement combined to form a cacophony of cheers and horn-honking in response to the speakers.

Such an outburst erupted when Grillot, speaking amid gusts that dropped the wind-chill factor into the

low 20s, said, "Today is not a time to complain about life. Today is a time to sacrifice for life."

Even more noise was raised when he announced the event had both the most participants and the largest number of donated diapers up to that point on the tour. The last stop took place in Chicago on Jan. 23.

But the crowd was somber when Grillot noted Indiana's "terrible" ratio of one in 13 pregnancies ending in abortion.

Tuttle, too, cited a sobering statistic, stating that Indiana averages 8,000 abortions every year.

"But we are a pro-life state, and a growing pro-life state," the RTLI president

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Employment

RONCALLI HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL

Roncalli High School, Indianapolis, Indiana

Roncalli High School, the South Deanery Catholic high school of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, is seeking to fill the position of Principal beginning with the 2021-22 school year. The school operates under the President-Principal model of administration and as such the principal is directly responsible to the President and, by extension, the Board of Directors and the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools.

As Christ has called upon each of us to "go make disciples of all nations" and to the extent that our namesake, St. John XXIII (Angelo Cardinal Roncalli) was committed to that task, it is Roncalli High School's intention to create disciples of Jesus in the image of St. John XXIII. The successful candidate will understand and embrace the Catholic mission of Roncalli High School. He/she should have a solid background in curriculum and instruction and possess strong leadership skills with a passion for assisting students and teachers in their pursuit of excellence.

Applicants for this position must possess an administrator's license, be a practicing Catholic, and have a minimum of three years of educational administrative experience. For more information and/or to submit supporting documentation (i.e., resume, cover letter, references), please contact Rob Rash, Office of Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202, or call 317-236-1544 or email rrash@archindy.org. Deadline for submission of materials is February 19, 2021. All applications and inquiries are confidential.



Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita gives a thumbs-up during a pro-life rally sponsored by Right to Life of Indianapolis on Jan. 22 at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)



Students from Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg show their support for life during the Indiana March-turned-caravan for Life in Indianapolis on Jan. 22. (Photos by Natalie Hoefler)



Irorobeje Owghoso-Maddox of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Indianapolis holds her son River as she receives Communion from Archbishop Charles C. Thompson during a Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis on Jan. 22 to solemnly observe the *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion in the United States 48 years ago.

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continued, noting that Americans United for Life recently ranked Indiana fifth on its list of most pro-life states in the country.

Looking at ratios, said Tuttle, “A woman is less likely to receive an abortion now than a woman was in 1973 when *Roe v. Wade* came down.”



Marc Tuttle

The statistic is just one indication that “our movement is growing,” he said.

“We’re changing hearts and minds. A lot of that is credited to you,” he told the crowd, whose

faces from young to old represented the face of the pro-life movement in Indiana.

He also credited “great leadership” in the Statehouse.

Not just illegal, but ‘unthinkable’

One such leader is Rokita, whom Tuttle introduced as “a brother in the Knights of Columbus” and “strongly pro-life.”

“This practice of killing unborn children is a direct contradiction of America’s founding principles,” said the state’s new attorney general, who is a member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg. “The abortion industry totally rejects the idea that God gave all people—all people—the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

The goal of the pro-life movement “is not just to make abortion illegal, but to make it unthinkable” by changing hearts and minds, said Rokita.

It is a change wrought by showing compassion not only for the unborn, but also “toward every woman who finds herself overwhelmed, unprepared, ill equipped for a major life change,” he said. “Perhaps she’s scared, perhaps jobless, perhaps in an abusive relationship. ... Whatever the case, let’s commit to providing an abundance of love and support.”



Holding her daughter Eva Maria Lopez, Jaqueline Vidaurri stands next to her sister, Yahilin Vera Montelongo, during a Jan. 22 Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis held in solemn observance of the legalization of abortion in the United States 48 years prior. All three are members of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus.

He closed his address with words of encouragement from Scripture: “Let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not” (Gal 6:9).

‘We must hold this event every year’

Tuttle admitted the ongoing pandemic posed challenges for this year’s Indiana March for Life and rally.

But in his mind, not holding the annual event was not—and never can be—an option.

“We must hold this event every year,” he said. “It’s important to take a day like today to remember and mourn the 62 million lives that were lost to abortion.”

The statistics on abortions each year

since 1973 “are more than numbers,” he said. “For those of us born after 1973, they represent classmates, missing friends, parts of our community.

“When we talk about the numbers involved in abortion, we lose sight of the individual tragedies, not just for the babies but for the women as well, who

were often coerced and who’ve undergone abortion against their will.

“As long as abortion is legalized and our brothers and sisters are perishing, we must hold this event every year to remember and to honor them as human beings, to make sure that no one ever forgets these [statistics] were people.” †



Elianna, left, Mataya, Gamliel and Cirita Watson of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis listen to a speaker during a pro-life rally sponsored by Right to Life of Indianapolis on Jan. 22 at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese. “Blacks need to lessen their number of abortions and stand up for life,” said Mataya.

Effort results in 32,000 diapers for three Indianapolis pregnancy care centers

By Natalie Hoefler

Right to Life of Indianapolis registered this year’s Indiana March for Life and rally, held on Jan. 22, to be one of six stops of the Chicago March for Life’s “Moving the Movement” Midwest tour through Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska and Wisconsin.

At each of the stops, tour sponsor weDignify held a diaper drive to benefit three local pregnancy care centers of the host’s choosing.

The Indiana March for Life event brought in more than 32,000 diapers.

They will be distributed to Birthline, Life Centers and Women’s Care Center, all in Indianapolis.

Overall, weDignify set a goal of collecting a grand total of 130,094 diapers—one for each of the average number of annual abortions in the Midwest.

Through participants’ generosity, they exceeded the goal. As of Jan. 24, the total number of diapers collected—either actual or to be purchased by weDignify through funds donated online or on-site—was more than 156,500. †



Fourth- and fifth-grade students of St. Lawrence Catholic School in Muncie, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese, kneel to pray as their principal Rob Frey lights a candle in St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. Participating in the Jan. 22 Mass there “was the highlight” of a day-long, pro-life focused field trip, said Frey. The group also visited two pregnancy care centers, prayed outside the Planned Parenthood abortion center in Indianapolis and learned about the Safe Haven Babybox installed at a Muncie fire station.