Pope calls all Catholics to be missionaries of God’s mercy

ROME (CNS)—Like the disciples, who experienced Jesus’ divine mercy after the resurrection, all Christians are called to become missionaries, sharing the Gospel of God’s love and mercy with others, Pope Francis said.

“Today Jesus tells us, too, ‘Peace be with you! You are precious in my eyes. Peace be with you! You are important for me. Peace be with you! You have a mission. No one can take your place. You are irreplaceable. And I believe in you.’” the pope said on April 11.

Pope Francis celebrated the Mass for Divine Mercy Sunday at the Rome Church of the Holy Spirit, just a block away from St. Peter’s Square. The church is the Rome Shrine of Divine Mercy, a devotion begun by St. Faustina Kowalska and promoted by St. John Paul II.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, fewer than 100 people were present for the Mass, wearing masks and seated only two people to a pew, except if they were members of the same family.

At the end of the Mass, Pope Francis thanked those invited: nurses and doctors from the hospital next door, refugees, people with disabilities, priests serving as “missionaries of mercy,” inmates from several correctional institutes and representatives of Italy’s civil protection service. The pope told them they represent “realities where mercy becomes concrete, draws close and serves those in difficulty.”

After reciting the “Regina Coeli” prayer with those present, the pope greeted them personally, shaking hands, blessing them and even posing for a few selfies.

In his homily at the Mass, Pope Francis focused on how, prior to the resurrection, the disciples misunderstood so much of Jesus’ words. In that case, they experienced Jesus’ divine mercy after the resurrection, all Christians are called to share the Gospel of God’s love and mercy with others, Pope Francis said.

“Today Jesus tells us, too, ‘Peace be with you! You are precious in my eyes. Peace be with you! You are important for me. Peace be with you! You have a mission. No one can take your place. You are irreplaceable. And I believe in you.’”

Pope Francis

In its 10th year, Indiana’s voucher program aids the dreams of Catholic school families

By John Shaughnessy

There’s a certain blend of joy and emotion that fills parents when they know their child is in a place where he or she is happy and thriving.

Jeff Crittendon exudes that feeling when he describes the education that his 12-year-old daughter Braelynn is getting.

“I feel our child is receiving the love and attention that she needs to grow,” he says. “I feel the education she’s receiving now empowers her for what’s to come in her future.”

Crittendon’s description of Braelynn’s experience at Holy Angels School in Indianapolis becomes even more powerful when he compares it to the experience she had in a public school in the Indianapolis area.

“We wanted to find the right fit for her. We wanted a smaller feel, some place where we didn’t feel she was a number. Now there’s an excitement to go to school. It’s drastically improved her ability to learn in the classroom as well as outside it. From where we came from, this is leaps and bounds. On a scale of 1 to 10, this is a 10.”

Braelynn confirms her dad’s assessment with a bright smile.

“It’s fantastic,” she says. “The teachers are nice, and they help me more with my work. They go slow to help me understand.”

But when the disciples are hovering

By Victoria Arthur

Exactly 10 years after the passage of groundbreaking legislation that made Indiana a national leader in school choice, the Statehouse is in the spotlight again as lawmakers weigh the first major expansion to the program since 2013.

More than 270,000 students have benefited from Indiana’s Choice Scholarship Program, more commonly known as the voucher program, since it was signed into law by then-Gov. Mitch Daniels in the spring of 2011. The current legislation under review would expand eligibility to allow even more parents to select the school they believe is best for their children—a move that advocates say is critical to extend educational opportunities to as many Hoosier families as possible.

As he was a decade ago, the lawmaker behind the current effort is Rep. Bob Behning (R-Indianapolis), chairman of the House Education Committee.

“The whole focus on what we did in 2011 was to put kids first,” Behning said.

“That is not a condemnation of our traditional educational model. It’s just an acknowledgement that people are different, and as with everything else in life, choices are important. We have excellent schools across the state, but it is nearly impossible for them to meet every unique need of every child.”

While many Hoosier families already enjoy the flexibility of Indiana’s school choice program, there is still a large group shut out of these opportunities. Behning added.

“When we started looking at the current eligibility requirements, we found a lot of hardworking families still could not send their child to the school of their choice.”

As Indiana marks a decade of school choice, legislation would expand innovative program to more families

By Victoria Arthur

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Two men are ordained transitional deacons for the archdiocese

During an April 10 Mass at the Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln in St. Meinrad, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson ordained five men transitional deacons.

Two are seminarians for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis: Deacon Michael Clawson of Annunciation Parish in Brazil, and Deacon Matthew Perronie of St. Malachi Parish in Brownsburg.

Both deacons are receiving priestly formation at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad. They are expected to be ordained priests for the Church in central and southern Indiana in June 2022.

Archbishop Thompson, those ordained in the liturgy, and those who assisted at it had all previously received full doses of a coronavirus vaccine. That is why they “ought to convey the sweetness of any-time they hear someone’s confession, anyone who is poorer than us—need this badly.”

“Like those disciples, we need to let others see Jesus. Because Jesus is there in the Eucharist. He has shared everything they have been shown by God and if they learn to love others, to be his witnesses. His disciples “discovered that they had run away, they had abandoned the master,” the pope said. “Sin brings torment; evil has its price. Our sin, as the preacher says, is always before us.

“Like those disciples, we need to let ourselves be forgiven,” the pope said. “Let us ask for the grace to accept that gift, to embrace the sacrament of forgiveness. And to understand that confession is not about ourselves and our sins, but about God and his mercy.

“Do we not confess to absolve ourselves, but to be raised up,” he said, “and—we—all of us—need this badly.”

Speaking to priests, Pope Francis said that anything they hear someone’s confession, they “ought to convey the sweetness of mercy...the sweetness of Jesus, who forgives everything. God forgives everything.”

When Jesus showed the disciples the wounds of his crucifixion, the pope said, he was not simply proving he had risen, but also made it possible for them to see and touch “the fact that God has loved us to the end. He has made our wounds his own and borne our weaknesses in his own body. The day’s first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, recounted how the early Christian community shared everything they had in common. “This is not communism, but pure Christianity,” the pope said. The disciples “discovered that they shared the mission, the forgiveness and the body of Jesus, and so it seemed natural to share their earthly possessions,” he said. “Their fears had been dispelled by touching the Lord’s wounds, and now they were unafraid to heal the wounds of those in need, because there they see Jesus. Because Jesus is there in the wounds of the needy.”

Catholics today, he said, need to ask themselves if they show others the mercy they have been shown by God and if they feed the hungry like Jesus feeds them in the Eucharist.

“Let us not remain indifferent,” Pope Francis said. “Let us not live a one-way faith, a faith that receives but does not give, a faith that accepts the gift but does not give it in return.”

April 16 – 6 p.m. Legacy Gala Dinner in support of Catholic Charities, archdiocesan Catholic Schools and Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary at JW Marriott Hotel, Indianapolis

April 18 – 2 p.m. Confirmation for youths of St. Paul Catholic Center and St. Charles Borromeo Parish, both in Bloomington, at St. Paul Catholic Center, Bloomington

April 18 – 5 p.m. Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Martin of Tours Parish, Martinsville; St. John the Apostle Parish, Bloomington; St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Bedford; St. Mary Parish, Mitchell; Our Lady of the Springs Parish, French Lick; and St. Julie the Apostle Parish, Spencer, at St. John the Apostle Church, Bloomington

April 20 – 7 p.m. Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

April 21 – 10 a.m. Department Heads meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

April 21 – 5:30 p.m. Department Heads meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

April 21 – 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass for youths of Nativity Conception Parish, Millhousen; St. John the Baptist Parish, Osgood; St. Mary Parish, Greensburg; St. Maurice Parish, Napoleon; and St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Decatur County, at St. Mary Church, Greensburg

April 24 – 3 p.m. Confirmation Mass for youths of Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg at Holy Family Church

April 27 – 10 a.m. Spring Business Meeting for priests and parish life coordinators at St. John the Apostle Parish, Bloomington

April 27 – 1 p.m. Priest Council meeting at St. John the Apostle Parish, Bloomington

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WASHINGTON (CNS)—When Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago developed a comprehensive plan during a two-year period in 1991 and 1992, to address clerical sexual abuse issues in the Illinois archdiocese, he provided a copy of those procedures to all his fellow U.S. bishops at a meeting at that time.

“They responded as decidedly mixed,” Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Chicago’s current cardinal-archbishop, said in recounting these efforts by the late prelate.

“Imagine if all the bishops had taken those documents home and fully implemented them in their dioceses, how much further ahead we would be ... how many children might have been spared,” he said.

Cardinal Cupich made his remarks as part of a quartet of clergy who delivered separate prerecorded messages during an April 9 session, “The Role of Faith and Faith Leaders in Preventing and Healing Child Sexual Abuse.”

It was part of an international symposium, “Faith and Flourishing: Strategies for Preventing and Healing Child Sexual Abuse,” presented on April 8-10 by the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard University’s Institute for Quantitative Social Science.

The event also was sponsored by numerous organizations, including the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors and The Catholic Project at The Catholic University of America.

Cardinal Bernardin “submitted himself to the archdiocesan review process” when he was falsely accused of abuse, Cardinal Cupich said. “Cardinal Bernardin reached out to his accuser when he recanted, he prayed with the young man as he was dying, and offered him pastoral care and reconciliation. His example speaks powerfully to me today.”

The framework of the Chicago Archdiocese’s plan nearly 30 years ago “committed resources to put the child in the center of the room, figuratively,” Cardinal Cupich said.

This framework included an Office of Victims Assistance—“we believe it is the first of its kind in the United States,” Cardinal Cupich said—an independent Office of Child Abuse Investigations and Review, and a Safe Environment Office overseeing prevention efforts and training for adults and children.

“Archdiocesan policies have evolved over the past three decades ... but they are not a substitute for pastoral care. Faith, justice, compassion, recognition of the dignity of each person, recognition that we are all equal siblings of children of God,” Cardinal Cupich said.

The cardinal told the story of a successful businessman who came to him in his first episcopal assignment. Starting at age 9, he had been abused by the parish priest—who, after the abuse, often “walked with the boy, hand in hand” to his house to have dinner with the family.

“At a certain point in his youth, he sought out the help that he needed. He connected to other resources in his community. He finally had come to terms with the clergy sexual abuse he had endured in his life. He finally had come to terms with the clergy sexual abuse he had endured in his life. He finally had come to terms with the clergy sexual abuse he had endured in his life. He finally had come to terms with the clergy sexual abuse he had endured in his life. He finally had come to terms with the clergy sexual abuse he had endured in his life. He finally had come to terms with the clergy sexual abuse he had endured in his life. He finally had come to terms with the clergy sexual abuse he had endured in his life. He finally had come to terms with the clergy sexual abuse he had endured in his life.

“The boy asked his mother if he had to do something the priest wanted him to do, even if he didn’t want to do it, the mother replied—not knowing the nature of the priest’s requests—‘Whatever Father asks you to do, you have to do it.’

“So and the child did, for four agonizing years,” Cardinal Cupich said. “Then the child told the father, and the abuse ended.”

When the businessman came forward, he asked then-Bishop Cupich permission to “confront the priest” about the abuse, and “the priest did not deny it,” the cardinal said.

The prelate offered to go to the parish where the abuse had taken place, informed police and the Vatican, and notified other parishes where the priest had been assigned, asking other victims to come forward.

“The episode ‘forced me to be an adult in a way I had never experienced,’ Cardinal Cupich said, and it gave him a fresh insight into ‘leaders who abuse power and expect privilege and protection because of their status in the Church.’

Rabbi Diana Gerson, associate executive vice president of the New York Board of Rabbis, recalled that, as a newly ordained rabbi, she counseled a woman even though she did not belong to Rabbi Gerson’s synagogue. “As a rabbi, I had a sacred obligation to help,” but “had never heard about these issues in the classroom.”

“I realized my voice could make a big difference” from this experience, and so in 2002 for Yom Kippur—the Day of Atonement Rabbi Gerson called “The Jewish Super Bowl”—she gave a sermon on family violence before 6,000.

“People were shocked. How could I do it? How could I talk about this?” she asked her congregation.

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The late Chicago Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin is pictured with children in an undated photo. During a two-year period, in 1991 and 1992, the cardinal developed a comprehensive plan to address clergy sexual abuse and shared the plan with his fellow bishops, said Cardinal Blase J. Cupich. Chicago’s current archbishop, in an April 9 address for an international symposium on clergy sex abuse. (CNS photo/courtesy John H. White)
Every prayer—including yours—is needed to increase vocations

Mark April 25 on your calendar. It is the day the Vatican and many dioceses around the world—including the Archdiocese of Indianapolis—will celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

In a letter to priests and parish life coordinators, archdiocesan vocations director Father Michael Keucher wrote, “The Church in the whole world will be storms of heavy for God to bless his Church with numerous holy vocations!”

And echoing the words of the late Franciscan Sister Norma Rocklage, a longtime educator at Marian University in Indianapolis, he added, “Every prayer counts.”

We’ve editorialized about praying for religious vocations in the past, and we believe those petitions should be offered daily, asking for more holy men and women to minister to our Church.

In this time of pandemic, the ministry they offer cannot be underestimated or unappreciated. We need to offer them thanks for their unwavering commitment to being the hands and feet of Christ to so many.

We understand the challenges priests and religious currently face, spreading through countless ministries. But for the past year, COVID-19 has had them ministering to an ever-growing population—those impacted by the coronavirus—some of them living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, others who are patients in hospitals, still others staying at home because they’re safest and their need is not to step outside their comfort zones.

Pope Francis recalls us to offer constant and regular prayer for vocations, a prayer that is all about the gift of being present and giving to others.

“The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers: hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in bearing the anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes,” the pope wrote in his World Day of Prayer for Vocations message released at the Vatican on March 19.

“The priesthood and the consecrated life greatly need these qualities nowadays, in times marked by fragility, but also by the sufferings due to the pandemic, which have favored uncertainties and fears about the future and the very meaning of life,” he wrote.

“The Holy Father said religious and priestly life must be filled with the simple joy of caring every day for what really matters—faithful friendship with God and one another.

“I pray that you will experience this same joy, dear brothers and sisters who have generously made God the dream of your lives, serving him in your brothers and sisters and especially in those who are the poorest, not only with your words but also with your lives,” he wrote. Released on the feast of St. Joseph, the message was dedicated to the saint and “the dream of vocation.”

The pope declared a special year devoted to the saint starting on Dec. 8, 2020, to encourage a greater love for and inspiration from Jesus’ guardian and patron of the universal Church.

As the protector of Jesus and the Church, St. Joseph can be a model for all vocations, which are meant to be “ever-active hands of the Father, unstretched to his children,” the pope wrote.

St. Joseph has “the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines,” which is the same aim of vocations, he wrote.

Jesus’ earthly father, the pope said, is one of those gentle “saints next door” whose “strong witness can guide us on the journey.”

The saint’s heart was always listening to God, who spoke to him in his dreams, the Holy Father added. This applies also to our calling: God does not like to reveal himself in a spectacular way, pressing our freedom,” Pope Francis wrote. “He convicts us to us with gentleness,” speaking through one’s thoughts and feelings, and unveiling “profound and unexpected horizons.”

Like St. Joseph, we each must find the courage to understand and follow God’s will. In our vocations, the pope continued, “there can be no faith without risk.”

In this Year of St. Joseph, let us each make a concerted effort to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

There are resources on the archdiocese’s vocations website at arcovocations.com, including videos, prayer resources, links and other helpful information.

As Father Keucher wrote, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest” (Mt 9:37-38).

May our faith lead us to plant seeds for religious vocations. And through our efforts, we pray that more people will risk truly hearing—and following—God’s call to the priesthood and religious life.

—Mike Krokos

Be Our Guest

Ana Borovecki

Faith and autism: Adults and children need resources and encouragement

As our churches reopen, we pray everyone will return, including children and adults with autism spectrum disorder.

It is fortunate timing: April is National Autism Awareness Month. And for the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, Autism Appreciation Month.

This presents us with a good opportunity to discover more about autism and resources that parishes and individuals can use for faith formation, spiritual growth and more.

Autism spectrum disorder is, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a developmental disorder that affects approximately 1 in 54 children, as well as adults diagnosed, in some cases, long after childhood. Persons with autism have unique or limited abilities in social interaction and communication, which can sometimes be quite severe.

“Autism is a different brain structure that creates advantages and disadvantages for life,” says Legionaries of Christ Father Matthew Schneider, a psychologist diagnosed with autism in 2016. “This brain structure means that we have less of a filter on sensory input, so often need special sensory conditions or need to do things to regulate sensory input. Other challenges include having trouble understanding what other people are thinking or feeling, and an inability to interpret the social cues of others as persons who do not have autism would. This can make interaction with others difficult.”

I find that our brain structure differences,” says Father Schneider, “are often like being a foreigner in a neurotypical [nonautistic] world.”

Still, as members of the body of Christ, all people with autism have unique gifts to bring and a right to a place at the table. The National Catholic Partnership on Disability’s (NCPD) decision to use the words “autism spectrum” and “neurotypical” creates a sense of acceptance toward autism that harmonizes beautifully with our faith.

Charleen Katra, executive director of NCPD, explains, “NCPD hopes to highlight the importance of words and the meanings they carry. Hence, in April, NCPD chose to transition from ‘autism spectrum disorder’ and ‘acceptance to autism appreciation.’”

The NCPD website—www.ncpd.org—offers informational resources on autism in English and Spanish and catechetical materials specific to faith formation. It has many resources and opportunities for everyone to hear from important voices in the autism faith community.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis’ website offers an resource appreciation by Father Mark Nolette, who lives with autism, and a bilingual Facebook event with an autism self-advocate and an autistic mother of three.

There have been many resources

See PRATT, page 10
Su relato, poniéndose de repente en un terrorífico aparición del en sus corazones de los discípulos (Lc 24:35) cuando Jesús interrumpió su historia, de repente encontrándose con él, lo reconocían siempre, como y ni siquiera los que estaban cerca de la normalidad del espacio y el tiempo. Y Jesús, después de la resurrección, fue un ser humano pleno porque, una vez que recibió el don del Espíritu Santo, fueron los encargados de proclamar la humanidad de Cristo resucitado “a todas las naciones” (Lk 24:47). Los discípulos no tienen carne ni huesos, ni tampoco comen pecado asado. Jesús quiere que los discípulos lo reconozcan como un ser humano pleno porque, una vez que recibieron el don del Espíritu Santo, fueron los encargados de proclamar la humanidad de Cristo resucitado “a todas las naciones” (Lk 24:47). Deben ser testigos de la resurrección de Cristo para que no se le olvide a nadie que Cristo resucitado está presente entre nosotros, de este modo somos testigos y misioneros que den testimonio a todas las naciones, extendiendo la fe de Cristo a todos los confines de la tierra (He 3:13-15, 17-19). San Pedro nos presenta ante su Padre celestial, el que no es fantasma, que es de los muertos al tercer día, y de los discípulos que se encontraron con él en el camino de Emaús. La alegría que hemos experimentado durante este tiempo de Pascua, es el momento en el que han anunciado por medio de todos sus profetas, es decir, que su Cristo tenía que padecer (He 3:15, 17-18). Toda la humanidad comparte la culpa de los que crucificaron a Jesús, pero la misericordia de Dios, anunciada por todos los profetas, ha transformado nuestra debilidad y nuestro pecado. La pasión, muerte y resurrección de Jesús nos ha redimido y liberado. 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Events Calendar

April 17-May 1 (virtual), April 24 (in person)
Indianapolis St. Vincent de Paul “Love Your Neighbor & Run Walsh,” run or walk 5K with two options—

April 21

April 22, 29, May 6, 13
The Third Option virtual

April 24
Virtual: April 17-May 1 (virtual), April 24 (in person)
Indianapolis St. Vincent de Paul “Love Your Neighbor & Run Walsh,” run or walk 5K with two options—

April 22, 29, May 6, 13
The Third Option virtual

April 24
Celebration Roncalli, via Zoom, 6-8 p.m., fundraiser and silent auction benefiting Roncalli High School, silent auction site open for bidding April 19 10 a.m., “Importance of Africentric Catholic Catechesis,” director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University in New Orleans Dr. Kathleen Dorssey Bellow facilitating, free. Registration: call 317-236-1457. Information: www.svdpindy.org/celebration.

May 8
John Paul II Parish, 4901 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. First Saturday Marian Devotional Prayer Group, Mass, devotional prayer, rosary, 8 a.m. Information: 765-647-5462.

May 12
Chatholic Charities Bloomingtone online fundraiser, noon-1 p.m., success stories in mental health assistance in response to three times the normal requests during the pandemic. Event link: www.facebook.com/cbdiabetes Donations: cbcdiabetes.org. Information: chshelby@ archindy.org or 317-236-1411.

May 19

Webinar ‘Cry of the Earth and Cry of the Poor’ scheduled for April 22
A webinar titled ‘The Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor: Care for God’s Creation and Root Causes of Migration’ will take place from noon to 1 p.m. on April 22.
The event, hosted by the archdiocesan Catholic Charities - Social Concerns and CARE (Catholic Accompaniment and Reflection Experience) Ministry in partnership with the Archdiocese Care Creation Ministry, will explore the relationship between care for God’s creation, migrants and every person. It will be led by CARE coordinator Simona Reising and Archdiocese Creation Ministry coordinating Benedictine Sister Sheila Fitzpatrick.
The webinar will include prayer, an overview of creation care and migration, and time for questions and answers. Reising will present on factors of migration and how care for creation and care for undocumented persons are connected. Sister Sheila will offer an overview of the recent publication from the Vatican’s Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, titled “Pastoral Orientations on Climate Displaced People.”
The event is free, but registration is required. To register, go to creationandmigration.eventbrite.com. For more information or questions, call 317-236-1457. †

Retreats and Programs

April 21-June 2
STEAM team powers to nations
The Rube Goldberg STEAM Team of St. Louis School in Batesville poses with their “Back 2 the 80s” machine. The goal of the machine is to shake and pour a box of Nerd’s candy. It placed in the top 10 for their division, sending the group to the national competition virtually this year. While the team did not place in the national competition, they did win first place in an in-person event held in Ripley County on April 10. Starting in the bottom row, the team members are Karynn Watson, left, Lucy Meyer, center, and Lesting Anvey. Arrow is Jaden Lohmeuller. In the top row are Meg Ritter, left, Sophia Hohenstein, Rachel Suttmann, Ben Dorsey, Ethan Rathschole and Felicity Bregle. (Submitted photo)

May 20-23, 2020
First Saturday Marian DevOTIONAL prayer group, Mass, devotional prayer, rosary, 8 a.m. Mass with confessions prior. Information: 317-246-5322.

May 3, 2020
St. Mary Church, 145 S. Main St., Indianapolis. Final Saturday Marian Devotional Prayer Group, Mass, devotional prayer, rosary, 8 a.m. Information: 765-647-5462.

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May 19
Calvary Mausoleum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. Monthly Mass. 2 p.m. Information: 317-784-4349 or www.catholiccemeteries.org.†

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The blessings have extended to their faith journey together. Their faith and praying as a couple have helped them through the COVID-19 pandemic, the end of abortion, for their parents, all priests, Pope Francis, and for everyone who was helping others during the pandemic.

Monica Santangelo’s experiences were reflected in her online workshop on YouTube and remarks to priests at the March 30 Convention. She says she discovered some Catholic programs on YouTube and a few other programs I watch daily. In me, there was a significant awakening and yearning for God.

Her approach of living life with God was a theme of many of the workshops. That’s why it’s not surprising the topic of pandemic learning was a theme of so many of the workshops. People are teaching their children what they need to learn and also are practicing wisdom, fortitude, self-control, other-centeredness, resilience. These are all things that we need to learn and also are people who are learning what they need to learn and also are learning intangibles.

As I smile while wearing a mask, I am grateful for my faith journey together.

Angela Gilmer

People who are on the site can offer their intentions by posting them on the comment section. Between the decades, they read the intentions out loud as we all watch the postings scroll by and offer our prayers for them.

Another bonus of the website is that it offers a monthly retreat via a Zoom meeting, Gilmer says. “Because of this website, I have grown in my faith so much deeper. Knowing that hundreds of people are praying with me from all over the world at the same time is comforting and inspiring. I encourage all to log on at 9:30 p.m. to experience this global rosary community. I thank God every night that he guided me to it.”

Catholic educators share unexpected lessons of teaching in pandemic

WASHINGTON (CNS)—No one has to tell Catholic school leaders what this past school year has been like.

At the start of the pandemic last spring, most Catholic schools adapted to online schooling and continued that way until the fall, when schools finally opened.

At the start of this school year, many of these schools across the country reopened in person, with multiple safety protocols in place, or they operated under a hybrid model with some students attending classes in person and other students in class virtually.

Learning impacted Catholic preschools to high schools across the country, and its success seemed to hinge primarily on the flexibility of students and teachers alike.

That’s why it’s not surprising the topic of pandemic learning was a theme of so many of the workshops offered during this year’s annual National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) convention on April 6-8. Even the convention, which often draws thousands of people, was going virtual this year.

At the start of the online workshop with participants joining from all over the world at the same time were Sister Susan Kaspar, superior general for the Archdiocese of Chicago, who noted the challenges of the past year and thanked teachers and principals for their response, which he said was a “testimony to your faith.”

Workshops focused on best practices in the pandemic, remote assessment of students, plans for students not returning next year, and next steps during COVID-19.

One April 6 workshop highlighted what schools might keep from their virtual learning experiences and what they might not.

“We’ve had a year,” said presenter Michelle Lia, co-director of the Greeley Center for Catholic Education at Loyola University Chicago, reminding educators they likely had some “amazing Hall Mary saves” and many opportunities to try new things.

When she invited the online participants to respond in the chat section with a few words to describe what they learned in the past year, responses included “flexibility” (several times), “patience,” “grace,” “humor” and “adaptable.”

One educator said they had been stretched this school year. Another said they were tired.

Lia said she has heard a fair amount of criticism from students and parents about busyness homework during the pandemic and said that going forward, “Google-able” homework, where students can find the answers online, should be eliminated.

She also noted: “Technology is here to stay, and it can be our friend,” noting students might be able to attend school virtually if they have a long illness and that parent-teacher conferences, which seemed to work better on Zoom, also might continue.

Teaching students who are virtually learning requires teachers to be very clear about their expectations, which of course should continue, Lia said.

Another said they were “shocked” that pandemic learning was led by a panel of teachers and principals from the Chicago Archdiocese and Julie Ramski, director of early childhood education for the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Office of Catholic Schools.

Ramski said when Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich announced in March of 2020, two months into his tenure as archbishop, that schools would reopen in person in the fall, this initially caused a lot of anxiety.

She said she spent a lot of time doing her own research and talking to teachers to reassure them they could do it.

“I kept saying, ‘if you’re all right, the kids will be all right,’” she added, saying she was convinced the best place for these students was to be in the classroom, with schools’ safety policies in place.

The preschool teachers and elementary school principals told their online audience, many of whom went through much of the same experience, about keeping young students socially distanced and masked.

For preschoolers, it was important that they had more personal space and weren’t sharing crayons or other supplies, something that will continue in the future, these teachers said.

They also said they will likely continue Zoom parent-teacher conferences as these were convenient for both groups, and they would absolutely continue with the safety protocols already in place, especially the daily cleaning of classroom surfaces.

“Watching these people, these teachers and principals, there have also been lessons for students that likely won’t come up on any assessment tests,” said Dr. Brian Lia, a professor of education at Northern Illinois University.

“Let’s just keep working with what’s working for right now,” she said.

There are so many things you can do, so just drop the negative of what you can’t do and your whole experience will be much, much better,” Lisa Abner, a preschool teacher at St. Benedict’s School just outside Chicago, told the online workshop participants.

Amid all the challenges and new ways of doing things for teachers and principals, there have also been lessons for students that likely won’t come up on any assessment tests.

Martha Holladay, who teaches Advanced Placement English literature and composition at Padua Academy, a girls Catholic school in Wilmington, Del., said her students are learning what they need to learn and also are learning intangibles.

“They’re learning gifts of the Holy Spirit. They’re practicing wisdom, fortitude, self-control,” Holladay said.

“The experience has taught her “that these girls are flexible, they’re resilient. They want to learn, and they really want to be good people.”

That encourages me, she added. “It gives me hope.”
Great-grandparents, vouchers help change the lives of three children

By John Shugart

Jo Griffiths cried when she received the news that her three grandchildren would be able to attend school there. Then, on March 12, 1971, when the Indiana House passed the first bill ever to authorize a voucher program, she and her husband, Joe, were overjoyed. “We were overjoyed,” Jo says. “It meant a lot for them to go to a Catholic school.”

Still, there was one more blessing the Griffiths hoped for: for their three great-grandchildren, Mykiah, Aidan and Aislin to a public school. That’s when the school choice movement, which was predicated on the belief that siloed education leads to a lack of options for children, turned a new page. As Joe and Evan have worked to give their great-grandchildren a better life, they have also found that great-grandchildren have the resilience to change the lives of three children.

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Vouchers benefit Catholic school students

In its 10th year, the voucher program in Indiana has benefited students, schools and parents, and a growing number of Catholic school leaders say educational opportunity vouchers may be one of the most important educational opportunities at the state level. Many have long been working in partnership with other stakeholders including the Indiana Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana, to advocate for educational opportunity vouchers. As the 2021 General Assembly session is how many more families will be provided that last piece of the puzzle. Voucher students do not receive any federal or state financial aid. They are funded through a tax credit scholarship system. Each credit is then assigned to the student and can be used at any school of their choice. In 2019: • Eight out of the top 10 schools were voucher-accepting schools.

School choice fact myths and facts

By John Elcesser, executive director of the INPEA (www.inpea.org)

The same arguments that opponents of school choice leveled against Indiana’s voucher program when it was introduced in 2001 are still being repeated in the public arena. And then, now, one of the leading voices countering these attacks is an Nedra Wiley, president and chief executive officer of the Indiana Public Education Association (INPEA), the only organization focused on the public schools in the entire state.

There has been a growing negative narrative in the media from opponents to the proposal school choice expansions contained in this year’s legislative session. Dr. Tony Bennett, who now serves as senior adviser to Education Secretary Betsy DeVos for the Trump administration, has not been shy in his public comments to counter this narrative.

There are 175 Catholic schools, has compiled a list of common

MYTH 1: CHOICE UNDERMINES PUBLIC SCHOOL QUALITY

FACTS:

• Nineteen of the top 50 grade 3-8 schools were voucher-accepting schools. • Unlike public schools, voucher-accepting schools are not required to have non-academic programs. • The most formal accountability is choice. No one wants to lose their voucher. Students have the right to transfer to other schools. • Eight out of the top 10 schools were voucher-accepting schools.

MYTH 2: CHOICE DOES NOT LEAD TO BETTER ACADEMIC OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

FACTS:

• For the 2019-20 school year, the average voucher student spent $12,906 in tuition, compared to $7,153 paid to public schools. • Eight out of the top 10 schools were voucher-accepting schools. • Twenty-five of the top 50 high schools were voucher-accepting schools. • Eight out of the top 10 schools were voucher-accepting schools.

MYTH 3: CHOICE PROGRAMS DO NOT COST ANY MORE THAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FACTS:

• Unlike public schools, voucher-accepting schools are not required to have non-academic programs. • The most formal accountability is choice. No one wants to lose their voucher. Students have the right to transfer to other schools.

MYTH 4: CHOICE PROGRAMS ALLOW FOR DISCRIMINATION.

FACTS:

• Indiana Catholic schools are accredited. • All voucher-accepting non-public schools must be accredited. • Unlike public schools, voucher-accepting schools are not required to have non-academic programs. • The most formal accountability is choice. No one wants to lose their voucher. Students have the right to transfer to other schools.

The bill, which passed out of the House, was not heard in the Senate. “When we took the bill up in the Senate,” said Daniels, “the majority leader of the Senate, Sam Gearhart, wanted to follow the same script as the House.” Daniels had said in his 2011 State of the State address, “The dream of a public education for every child is just not enough to secure Indiana’s future.”

The students will be served by voucher students in public school, or the public charter school for their children, or their parents can receive the education. For more information, including access to INPEA policy briefs, white papers and research data, visit www.inpea.org. Daniels added and remains heavily involved in the school choice movement. “If this is something I care about,” he said, “it will be in the best interest of all Hoosier students.”

The bill had passed both chambers, and advocates, including the INPEA, the Institute for the Study of Form and the Center for Education Reform, have been working to build support for school choice in Indiana. The bill has been supported by the the governors of 17 states, and was introduced in the 10th year of the voucher program, it has been renewed and updated each year since 2001. In 2019: • Eight out of the top 10 schools were voucher-accepting schools.

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Author: Holocaust’s ‘righteous’ need to be remembered, too

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The number of Holocaust survivors is dwindling but so, too, are those “righteous Gentiles” who saved Jews who were almost certain to perish, according to the son of one such survivor.

“On my father’s side, he and his parents and his brother all survived in Italy because of the kindness and bravery and human decency of the people who saved them,” said Jonathan Sacerdoti, a London-based writer and broadcast journalist, in an April 9 phone interview with Catholic News Service (CNS).

Three of those who protected Sacerdoti’s father, uncle and grandparents have been recognized by Yad Vashem, Israel’s official memorial to Holocaust victims, as Righteous Among the Nations. They include the mother superior of a convent who took in the boys, ages 5 and 3, in 1943, and their mother; and two priests who arranged for new hiding places in Italy when the Nazis got too close for comfort.

“It was a traumatic experience, but one that saved them,” Sacerdoti told CNS. He places in Italy when the Nazis got too close for comfort.

Sacerdoti’s father, Cesare, was the son of one such ‘angels of the Holocaust when they’re gone?’ for Jonathan Sacerdoti also wrote the number of surviving Righteous Among the Nations has shrunk to 193, as two died during Holy Week.

They weren’t Jews, but whatever their backgrounds—nuns or priests in my father’s case, peasants in Eastern Europe or Poland, or teachers or industrialist in the famous case of Oskar Schindler,” Sacerdoti told CNS, “even [the recently deceased] Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, his mother was recognized as a Righteous Among the Nations for saving people she knew.”

Jonathan Sacerdoti said of his father.

“All of Cesare’s rescuers, Jonathan Sacerdoti said, had died by the time of that visit. Cesare Sacerdoti died in 2019. But Jonathan Sacerdoti, using his journalist’s training, recorded interviews with his father about his experiences as a Jewish child during the war. “I have them on tape—literally, on tape. So I have that for the next generation—and future generations, I guess. He was pleased to tell the stories. I would say, the last 10 or 20 years. He seemed reinvigorated, re-energized to tell the story more,” he told CNS.

“We knew his gratitude to the people who saved him.”

Others helped the Sacerdoti family, although their names are lost to history. These include the people who ran an orphanage where the Sacerdoti boys lived for several months when they could no longer stay at the convent.

“My father’s everwinding memories of his nine months in the orphanage were of hunger and cold, but also of the warmth of the nuns who protected him—he told us that warmth stayed with him all his life,” Jonathan Sacerdoti wrote in his essay.

“When faced with the question of what our duty is as citizens of the world, each of us can choose to make a difference.”

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Within the faith family, parishes can build fellowship with persons with autism by, for example, providing a sensory-friendly environment for prayer or offering a Catholic social group or Bible study. And within Scripture, although there is no direct mention of autism, there are verses with deep meaning all can relate to.

“If I had to pick one verse, it might be 1 Samuel 16:7. ‘The Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’”

Father Schneider, “covers how autistics pray differently from neurotypicals, and the second half has a series of 52 daily devotions for autistics.”

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Faith

Filipino Catholics celebrate 500 years of faith in the island nation

By Fr. Ricky Manalo, C.S.P.

This year is a significant event in the faith lives of Filipino Catholics throughout the world. This year, we celebrate the quincentenary of Christianity in the Philippines.

It was 500 years ago, in 1521, that the Portuguese navigator and explorer Ferdinand Magellan (1480-1521) arrived in the Visayan region of the Philippines. His grandson had been ill for two years, his cure, Humabon was convinced and asked to consider baptism. And as predicted, more than 2,000 of his people were baptized afterwards.

With the success of establishing a working relationship with the island inhabitants of Cebu, it didn’t take long for Magellan to set his sights on more ambitious and expansive goals by considering the colonization of the entire archipelago, comprising more than 4,400 islands and islets.

However, in his attempts to expand beyond Cebu and other neighboring islands, Magellan eventually was struck by a spear and died during a battle. Alas, Magellan never completed his goal of circumventing the entire world, but also circumventing the entire world, the Philippines remains the only major predominantly Catholic nation in Asia.

The background that led up to this monumental event is worth remembering.

When news of Christopher Columbus’ discovery of the Americas in 1492 reached Europe, a fervor and thirst for treasures, fame and potential Christian converts took hold of those empires that were navigationally competent to expand beyond their borders.

The Spanish and the Portuguese empires were rivals, so the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas essentially divided the world into two halves: the Americas and Asia. The Spanish Empire was granted exploration rights to the Americas, and the Portuguese Empire was granted these rights to Asia.

Enter the Portuguese navigator and explorer Ferdinand Magellan (1480-1521). From 1505-1513, he sailed for his own Portuguese Empire to the eastern coasts of India and the western coasts of Africa. But after disputes with his own King Manuel over rewards for his services, he moved to Seville, Spain, and switched allegiance to King Charles I.

Based on his interpretation of the Treaty of Tordesillas, Magellan convinced the Spanish king that the exploration rights to the Spice Islands or Moluccas (located just northeast of Indonesia and south of the Philippines) was debatable. Of course, there was only one way to find out: The king would need to send someone out there right away and claim it for the Spanish Empire, before the Portuguese arrived there first.

Thus on Sept. 20, 1519, the most ambitious exploration began with the goal of not only claiming the Spice Islands, but also circumventing the entire world, all for the glory, fame and wealth of the Spanish Empire.

On March 31, 1521, Easter Sunday, Magellan and his crew celebrated Mass on a small island off the coast of Leyte, just northeast of Cebu in the southern region of the Philippines. There was much to celebrate because two weeks prior to this Mass, during the week of March 20, his fleet had reached the shores of these islands.

Their discovery simultaneously began the process of converting the indigenous people to the Christian faith. In large part, their strategy was straightforward: If they could convince the chiefs of each island to convert, then everyone else would follow suit. So, Magellan set his sights to the island of Cebu (located to the left of Leyte) where Chief Humabon reigned.

At first, both leaders exchanged gifts, with Magellan offering 13 pieces of Spanish iron and Humabon offering 10 pieces of the island gold. Conversations about whose God was more powerful transpired, but it was the performance of a miracle that finally convinced the chief to consider baptism.

His grandson had been ill for two years, and after the accompanying chaplain baptized the young man, resulting in his conversion, Humabon was convinced and asked to be baptized himself. And as predicted, more than 2,000 of his people were baptized afterward.

With the success of establishing a working relationship with the island inhabitants of Cebu, it didn’t take long for Magellan to set his sights on more ambitious and expansive goals by considering the colonization of the entire archipelago, comprising more than 4,400 islands and islets.

Today, eight in 10 Filipinos profess Catholicism as their faith. After Brazil and Mexico, the Philippines boasts the third largest number of Catholics, followed by the United States.

Even beyond numbers, it is easy to experience and appreciate how the Catholic faith has been integrated within the myriad social and spiritual practices that mark the everyday lives of Filipinos.

These include but are not limited to: the sacramental practices that are fostered within the family systems; the countless devotions to the saints, especially to Mary, as expressed through daily rosary recitations, novenas and pilgrimages; the sequence of Advent Masses known as in the native Filipino language of Tagalog as “Simbang Gabi” (“Night Masses”) that continues to grow in popularity throughout the U.S., and the active participation of so many Filipinos in their local parish liturgies, pastoral outreach programs and diocesan social events.

To help celebrate this milestone, a website has been created that lists all the quincentenary festivities that are happening in U.S. dioceses throughout the next 12 months (www.1521stories.com). A national celebration is being planned to cap off this year during the weekend of March 18-20, 2022.

Indeed, Filipino Catholics not only pray in thanksgiving for the gift of our Catholic faith, but we also look forward to the next 500 years!

(Paulist Father Ricky Manalo is a composer, theologian and author. He is the co-author of a new book on Filipino American Catholicism, A Treasured Presence: Filipino American Catholics. He resides at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in New York City.)
Would you please tell us a little bit about yourself? I was born in Bloomington and diagnosed with autism at 2½ years old. I really became aware of it at around 7 or 8 years old. I started discerning the priesthood as a secondary role in God's story. I also must remind myself that there was a time when I was around 2½ years old. I really became aware of it at around 7 or 8 years old. I started discerning the priesthood as a secondary role in God's story.

What drew you to seek formation as a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bloomington? What advice would you give a parish minister who is trying to form new members? I was born in Bloomington and diagnosed with autism at 2½ years old. I really became aware of it at around 7 or 8 years old. I started discerning the priesthood as a secondary role in God's story. I also must remind myself that there was a time when I was around 2½ years old. I really became aware of it at around 7 or 8 years old. I started discerning the priesthood as a secondary role in God's story.

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The discernment experience has been pretty rough. Some vocational directors and religious don’t completely understand what autism is, its variations or how to handle it. Some order don’t take candidates if they are autistic, especially if there are no available resources in the seminaries. My goal now is to help priests understand what we in the autistic community experience. I think we would be great priests and religious in the right circumstances.

What are some areas of growth you’ve noticed since you began formation? I was born in Bloomington and diagnosed with autism at 2½ years old. I really became aware of it at around 7 or 8 years old. I started discerning the priesthood as a secondary role in God’s story. I also must remind myself that there was a time when I was around 2½ years old. I really became aware of it at around 7 or 8 years old. I started discerning the priesthood as a secondary role in God’s story.

What advice would you give someone who is on the autism spectrum and is discerning a vocation or seeking a spiritual “home” as you seem to have found with the Dominicans? I was born in Bloomington and diagnosed with autism at 2½ years old. I really became aware of it at around 7 or 8 years old. I started discerning the priesthood as a secondary role in God’s story. I also must remind myself that there was a time when I was around 2½ years old. I really became aware of it at around 7 or 8 years old. I started discerning the priesthood as a secondary role in God’s story.

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The Acts of the Apostles again furnishes the first biblical reading for Mass this weekend. Almost every Sunday in the Easter season features a reading from this book of the New Testament. In this reading, St. Peter preaches to a crowd in Jerusalem. Americans are very accustomed to lip-service preaching. They hear it in their own churches and on the radio, television and online. Preaching about salvation and God’s mercy is common. Actually, to preach is to assume a mighty role and a great responsibility. Preaching, after all, by definition, is not simply lecturing or speaking aloud. It is speaking in the very name of God.

Those who preached by ancient Jewish standards were privileged people in this sense. None chose to be a preacher. Rather, God selected each preacher. Peter stood before this Jerusalem crowd after having been called to preach. Most importantly, though, he spoke in the place of Jesus. He preached the words of Jesus, on behalf of him. This reading makes three points. First, it establishes the identity of Peter. He is an Apostle. Second, clearly, he is the chief of the Apostles. He speaks in the name of them all. Finally, through Peter and the other Apostles, the salvation given by Jesus still reaches humanity. They continue the Lord’s work.

Apostles. The Church carefully protects this reading. It is another Resurrection narrative, and it looks back to the Emmaus story, which reports the walk to a small town outside Jerusalem by two disciples and by the risen Lord, and the disciples’ recognizing Jesus in the “breaking of the bread” or Eucharist (Lk 24:35). As this group of disciples was talking, Jesus stood in their midst. He was no longer bound by location or time. Risen from earthly life, victorious over sin, Jesus now lived in the fullness of eternity—still in the Incarnation, true God and true man. He showed them his pierced hands and feet. Indeed, these disciples were encountering the Crucified, but the Crucified had overcome death and lived!

Reflection

The Church continues to summon us to the joy of Easter celebration. He lives! The readings once more this week exclaim the Church’s great trust in and excitement about the Resurrection. As St. Paul said, the Resurrection is the bedrock of our belief. In these readings, the Church calls us to the fact that our redemption is in Jesus. He rescues us from death, from the living death of sin and hopelessness, from eternal death. As did the Lord, all people, including believers, must die. As Jesus rose, they, too, will rise if they do not relent in their love of and obedience to God. Thus, all believers can anticipate and provide for eternal life in God.

Christians further can rejoice in the fact that salvation did not pass away when Jesus, who lived for a time on earth, ascended into heaven. His mercy and power remain. His words endure. God has provided for us, so that we, too, may have salvation. We may encounter Jesus. We may hear the Lord’s words. We learn of the risen Jesus from the Apostles. The Church carefully protects and echoes the words of Jesus as repeated by the Apostles. He lives for each of us! †

St. Luke’s Gospel provides the last reading. It is another Resurrection narrative, and it looks back to the Emmaus story, which reports the walk to a small town outside Jerusalem by two disciples and by the risen Lord, and the disciples’ recognizing Jesus in the “breaking of the bread” or Eucharist (Lk 24:35). As this group of disciples was talking, Jesus stood in their midst. He was no longer bound by location or time. Risen from earthly life, victorious over sin, Jesus now lived in the fullness of eternity—still in the Incarnation, true God and true man. He showed them his pierced hands and feet. Indeed, these disciples were encountering the Crucified, but the Crucified had overcome death and lived!

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From Darkness into Light

By Cathy Lamperski Dearing

I saw how a flower grew From seed to bloom From darkness into light And I knew that could happen To our world too— This growing in And emerging from Darkness into Light: A Light that illuminates Hope; Whose beams radiate Healing, Renewal, and Transformation; Whose rays shine On the promise Of Life again.

And what of our world? It will be flowering For all to see! (Cathy Lamperski Dearing is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. Photos: New buds of purple pasque bloom in the early morning light in Trnavske. Czech Republic) (Photo by Alex Maze on unsplash.com)
**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:

- Eum certicate in Lay Ministry
- Complete 12 courses with ND STEP program
- CDU offers courses in Catechesis of the Catholic Church

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

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**REPORT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT NOW**

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

- Ethics Point
  - Confidential, Online Reporting
  - www.archindy.org/ethicspoint or 888-393-6810

- Carla Hall
  - Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Victim Assistance Coordinator
  - 317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548
  - carlaehall@archindy.org

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**Ware continued from page 12**

director. I’ve been very blessed in relationships with great priests in our archdiocese like [the late] Father Richard Eldred, our own Archbishop Charles C. Thompson. Father Daniel Bedel my spiritual director. Father John Hollowell and [Dominican] Father Patrick Hyde. I’m also extremely blessed to work with Fath er J ean Paul, our administrator at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford. In terms of a specific religious order, that depends on the individual and the situation. Having a good spiritual director is a great start.

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**ERLSONDSON**

The polarization of the faithful has been accompanied by an apocalyptic retreat to “a smaller and purer Church,” on the one hand, and a willingness to embrace unshakably the trends and values of a larger culture increasingly unmoored from Christian teaching on the other.

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**Rest in peace**

Please submit to 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 in our archdiocese are listed electronically 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.

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KARNATZ, Marilyn F., 75, Christ the King, Indianapolis, March 29.
PATTERSON, Lois A., 87, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Columbus, March 27. Mother of Alan Patterson.
ZINKAN, Sharon, 86, St. Anne, New Castle, April 1. Mother of Pamela Ottinger, Katherine Paul, Diane Personsett and Lisa Zinkan. Grandmother of six. Great-grandfather of six.†
Virtual series seeks to explain, discuss, find ways to address systemic racism

The archdiocesan Black Catholic Ministry is offering daily Zoom sessions for all Catholics of central and southern Indiana on the topic of intercultural competency. The goal of the series is “to discuss intercultural competency and how we can address systemic and structural racism through dialogue and action,” said Pearlette Springer, coordinator of Black Catholic Ministry in the archdiocese.

The need for the series evolved from the death of George Floyd, a Black man, under the knee of a white police officer in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020, and the death of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Ky., on March 13, 2020.

“Addressing the evil of racism is obviously a matter of respecting life, upholding the dignity of every person from the moment of conception to natural death, which is part of Catholic social teaching,” he said.

“In New Orleans, Fessahaye Mebrahtu, Catholic Studies at Xavier University, says, “These Zoom sessions are not only an opportunity for people to engage in an overview of information, but also to engage in conversation to the point where they’ll feel more comfortable in engaging in conversations in their parishes.”

The monthly sessions, which began in January, include prayer and worship, and feature leaders from around the country.

Upcoming speakers include Dr. Kathleen Dorsey-Bellow, director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University in New Orleans; Fessahaye Mebrahtu, director of Ethnic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee; and Deacon Royce Winters, director of African American Pastoral Ministries for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Upcoming topics include “The Importance of Africentric Catholic Catechesis,” “The Legacy of Racism and the Emerging Immigrant Church,” and “The Catholic Church: Do Black Lives Really Matter?”

“Together, we can choose to leave at any time, “I don’t want to say a session is over [if people are still discussing] because these are conversations I want them to have.”

“Some discussions among those of various races are necessary, she believes, because “racism affects us all. The main thing is to figure out how to help people understand how it’s affecting them, and then for all of us to work toward addressing systemic racism in our Church and our nation.”

(To register for one or more of the monthly sessions, go to interculturalcompetency.org. For questions or more information, contact Pearlette Springer at 317-236-1474 or pspringer@archindy.org)

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By Natalie Hoefer

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
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KEEPING IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT

“If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.” Galatians 5:25

JOIN US VIRTUALLY
Friday, April 16, 2021 | 6:30 pm

EVENT LINK:
www.archindy.org/LegacyGala2021

THIS IS AN EVENT YOU WON’T WANT TO MISS!
Here’s What You Can Expect...

Fun | Music by The Doo | Amazing Auction Items | Honoring Mickey Lentz
The Best Emcee - Rafael Sanchez (WRTV6) | Hear from Archbishop Thompson
Watch Impactful Ministry Stories | And Much, Much More!

It’s FREE to join! Simply visit this link on April 16 at 6:30 pm: www.archindy.org/LegacyGala2021.
REGISTER AND BID EARLY ON AUCTION ITEMS! SIMPLY TEXT LEGACYGALA2021 TO 243725.

Who likes blooper highlights? We thought we should share a quick segment of some funny moments with Rafael and Mickey.

So, what is this event all about?
In an effort to be good stewards of its people, resources and our donors’ time, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis has made the decision to combine the Celebrating Catholic School Values and Spirit of Service events. In doing so, we are establishing the inaugural Legacy Gala as a way to garner support among the Catholic community for three vital archdiocesan ministries: Catholic Charities, Catholic Schools and Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary.

OUR 2021 LEGACY GALA HONOREE IS...
Annette “Mickey” Lentz
Celebrate with us as we honor Mickey Lentz for her 60 years of service to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING WITH YOU!

A very special THANK YOU to our sponsors for making this virtual event possible!