It’s All Good
Little acts of love are at the heart of motherhood.

Cardinal Turkson urges graduates to impact troubled world
FORT WAYNE, Ind. (CNS)—The head of the Vatican’s justice, peace and human development efforts urged more than 700 graduates of the University of St. Francis to follow the example of their school’s namesake and the advice of the pope who shares his name.

“Consider what impact you make in life,” said Ghanaian Cardinal Peter Turkson, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

He urged graduates to be “sowers of hope” in his May 1 address at the commencement ceremony at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne.

“Impact provokes change and makes beneficiaries of this change full of hope for the future,” he told the graduating class.

He also noted how St. Francis of Assisi, in his poverty, found the means to impact all things.

“With no master but Christ and no possession but his own soul, Francis was free to relate to all things and all people,” said Cardinal Turkson. He added that for the saint, “the only real relationship available for human beings to live in is the relationship of brothers and sisters, equal in dignity.”

Cardinal Turkson, 72, has led the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development since it was restructured out of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace in 2016, which Pope Benedict XVI named him to in 2009. St. John Paul II made him a cardinal in 2003.

Encouraging graduates to use their impact on the world as the indicator of their success, the cardinal offered examples of Church leaders such as St. Paul VI in 1969 voicing concern for the development of every human being, and Pope Francis in 2014 urging the World Economic Forum to adopt economic models driven by inclusion and the common good.

He also drew at length from the pope’s remarks to young people from 115
See CARDINAL, page 16

Mary was part of it all

Standing in the area of his home where he prays, Richard Turi holds a photo of him and his wife Gail before they married. The couple, members of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis, were devoted to praying the rosary daily. He continues the practice as a widower. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)

Widower recalls Blessed Mother’s continuing presence in his personal and married life
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(Editors note: In honor of May as the month of Mary, The Criterion recently asked readers to send in their stories of the impact of the Blessed Mother on their life and their faith. This week presents the first of four installments featuring the responses received.)

By Natalie Hoefer

First came a tap on the shoulder in 1985. Then came an invitation in 1987. One led to a deeply devoted marriage, and the other to an intentionally lived faith life.

“When I look back now, I believe Mary played a role” in the tap and invitation, says Richard Turi, 78.

That look back includes a turn to the Blessed Mother in his youth, several pilgrimages, the establishing of a rosary group, raising three children with his wife Gail, and the couple’s closeness to “the sacraments, prayer and Mary herself.”

“Our life together was wonderful,” says the member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis, whose wife died in December 2020. It was wonderful despite years of Gail suffering from pain and complications from scoliosis.

But it was Turi who was hurting in 1985 when he received that tap on the shoulder—the right shoulder, to be more specific—that would change the course of his life.

High school athletes savor their sports even more this spring
See SPORTS, page 8

By John Shaughnessy

Everything feels right again, even a little more special.

The warmth of the sun, the laughter with friends, the feel of a soft breeze, the cheers of the fans and—after all the hard work and practices—the opportunity to compete and be together as a team.

All those gifts disappeared in an instant last year for high school athletes across the country who play spring sports—one more loss from the COVID-19 crisis that ended many of the joys of life that people had taken for granted.

This spring, that joy has returned for many student-athletes, including four from across the archdiocese who share what it means to them to be participating again in the sport they love.

See MARY, page 9

See MARY, page 9

By John Shaughnessy

Luke Leverton of Seton Catholic High School in Richmond says “it’s the best feeling in the world” to be playing baseball again this spring. (Submitted photo)

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Cardinal Peter Turkson
See CARDINAL, page 16
Appointments

Effective July 7, 2021


Rev. Nicolaus A. Ajpacaja Tzoc, administrator of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, Indianapolis, appointed pastor of the parish for a six-year term.


Very Rev. Dustin M. Boehm, VF, dean of the Connersville Deanship and pastor of St. Gabriel Parish, Connersville, and St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Liberty, reappointed pastor of these parishes for a second six-year term.

Rev. J. Nicholas Dunst, pastor of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish, Indianapolis, granted retirement from active priestly duties and appointed to sacramental ministry at St. Rita Parish, Indianapolis, and Holy Angels Parish, Indianapolis.

Rev. Wilfred E. Day, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Starlight, reappointed pastor of these parishes for a second six-year term.


Rev. James F. Farrell, pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Indianapolis, granted retirement from active priestly duties and appointed to sacramental ministry at St. Rita Parish, Indianapolis, and Holy Angels Parish, Indianapolis.

Rev. Robert J. Gilday, adjacent vicar judicial in the Metropolitans Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and pastor of St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, Indianapolis, reappointed pastor of the parish until August 6, 2024. (age of 75) while remaining vicar judicial.


Rev. Bina Mathew, parochial vicar of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove, appointed administrator of St. John the Baptist Parish, Dougwood, for a six-year term.

Very Rev. Joseph L. Newton, vicar judicial in the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, appointed pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish, Indianapolis, for a six-year term and reappointed as vicar judicial of the Metropolitan Tribunal for a five-year term.


Rev. Mgr. William F. Stumpf, VG, vicar general and moderator of the curia for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, appointed pastor of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish, Indianapolis, for a six-year term while remaining vicar general.

Rev. Randall R. Summers, pastor of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish, Bryn Mawr, appointed pastor of Our Lady of the Springs Parish, French Lick, and Our Lord Jesus Christ the King Parish, Paoli, for a six-year term.

Rev. Benjamin D. Syberg, pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, Greenwood, and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Aurora, appointed pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish, Terre Haute, and St. Patrick Parish, Terre Haute, for a six-year term, priest moderator of Sacred Heart Parish, Terre Haute, and St. Mary-of-the-Woods Parish, St. Mary-of-the-Woods; and associate director of vocations of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. (These appointments are from the office of the Most Rev. Charles C. Thompson, Archbishop of Indianapolis.)

May 7 – noon
Anniversary Lunch for Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger at The Overlook Restaurant, Lebanon, Ind.

May 7 – 6:30 p.m.
Race for Vocations Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

May 8 – 2 p.m.
Confirmation Mass for youths of Prince of Peace Parish, Madison, at Father Michael Sharpe Memorial High School Gymnasium, Madison

May 11 – 10:30 a.m.
Priest Personnel Board meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

May 12 – 8:30 a.m.
Mass for students of Christ the King School, Indianapolis, at Christ the King Church

May 12 – 10 a.m.
Department Heads meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center

Archdiocesan priest speaks at FedEx shooting memorial service

By Sean Gallagher

Father Rick Ginther, director of the archdiocesan Office of Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs, spoke at a May 1 memorial service at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis for the victims of the April 15 mass shooting at the FedEx Ground Plainfield Operations Center in Indianapolis.

The service was sponsored and organized by the Sikh community in Indianapolis. Four of the eight people who were killed in the shooting were Sikh. Civic leaders, including Gov. Eric Holcomb and Mayor Joseph Hogsett of Indianapolis, and local leaders of a variety of faith traditions spoke at the service.

Father Ginther, who also serves as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis, offered prayers for those who died in the shooting—including FedEx employee John “Steve” Weisert, a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis—who were injured, and for Brandon Hole, the shooter who took his own life during the incident.

“Father Ginther asked, ‘When will people of good will in our society from every walk of life set aside their political differences and come together in defense of the human lives that are being destroyed so unnecessarily by these irrational killing sprees?’”

May 7 – 7 p.m.
Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Anthony Parish, Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

May 13 – 8:15 a.m.
Virtual Inductories meeting

May 13 – 6:15 p.m.
Mary’s Way and St. Joseph’s MVP Dinner at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Indianapolis

May 15 – 5 p.m.
Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Pius X Parish, Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

May 16 – 12:30 p.m.
Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Malachy Parish, Brownsburg, at St. Malachy Church

May 16 – 6:15 p.m.
Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Patrick Parish, Indianapolis, at St. Patrick Church
More than 1,300 students to graduate during commencements of three Catholic colleges in central and southern Indiana in May

Students, families, friends and educators will join in the celebration as the three Catholic colleges in the archdiocese hold their graduation ceremonies in May.

Here is a glimpse of each ceremony.

Marian University
Marian University in Indianapolis will award 1,000 degrees as two commencement ceremonies on the weekend of May 8-9. During the commencement weekend, 636 students will earn bachelor’s degrees, 185 students will receive master’s degrees, 30 students will earn doctoral degrees as nurse practitioners, and 149 future educators will join in the celebration.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in St. Mary-of-the-Woods will celebrate its commencement on May 8 when 283 graduates earn their degrees. There will be two commencement ceremonies—one for on-campus students receiving their bachelor’s degrees while the other will be for graduates of Woods Online and master’s degree programs.

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology
Forty-six students will earn master’s degrees when Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad holds its graduation ceremony on May 8.

The ceremony will be at 11:15 a.m. Central Time in St. Bede Theater on the Saint Meinrad campus.

The commencement address will be delivered by Bishop William F. Medley, bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky. Mass for the graduates and their guests will be at 9 a.m. Central Time in the Archabbev Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln.

While the graduation and the Mass are limited to graduates and their guests, both celebrations will be livestreamed at www.saintmeinrad.org/live.

Correction: We have a correction to make in the story of the United Catholic Appeal. The amounts we reported were incorrect. As of April 22, 2021, we have raised $5 million.*

TOGETHER WE WILL

WILL YOU GIVE $25 TO HELP US SERVE OTHERS?

We have roughly 63,650 registered households in our Archdiocese. Of these, 11,869 have pledged gifts to the United Catholic Appeal, leaving 51,782 who have not yet pledged.

We understand this has been a tough year and that for some, $25 is just not possible. But let’s say 50,000 households are able to make a first time or even second gift of $25. That brings us to $6.25 million! And 100% of that goes directly to support ministry programs. The ministries in our Archdiocese depend on the United Catholic Appeal to operate. And they need our support now more than ever.

Will you help?

Help us carry on God’s work.

Your last will and testament can be an eloquent statement of what was most important to you in life. A bequest to help educate priests, permanent deacons and lay ministers at Saint Meinrad is a good way to thank God for your faith and to pass it on to those who follow you.

United Catholic Appeal
Chief Our Hope

Contact us through college students at Catholic school centers across the state

Educate more seminarians at the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary and Saint Meinrad Seminary & School of Theology to become our future priests

Support more faith-centered activities for our youth who long for a relationship with Jesus Christ

Connect with more young adults in central & southern Indiana

Provide more scholarships to students who can’t afford to attend Catholic school

Food, clothes and provide shelter to homeless families and children in need...and so much more!

You hold the key of hope for others. You can make a one-time or recurring gift safely and securely by visiting www.archindy.org/UCA.

*as of April 22, 2021
Pray Our Lady’s rosary for an end to pandemic

We have all heard the adage, “April showers bring May flowers,” but for Catholics, there’s something about Mary that makes this month special. Catholics, there’s something about Mary. Mary is the personification of purity. She entered into the world as a virgin, and she was a virgin when she died. She is our guardian angel, a protector of the faithful, and is the mother of God. This month, we unite worldwide every day throughout May, and Pope Francis recently asked that this month be a monthlong practice and prayed for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic and prayer for those most affected by the disease and its consequences.

The global Catholic Church coming together to pray for an end to the pandemic represents the hope and faith of the people of God and how they find solace and strength together with Mary, said Servite Father Salvatore Perrella, a professor of dogmatics and Mariology at the Pontifical Institute Maranion in Rome.

“Our Lady does not take any honor or love. She is the one who provides the way for God to enter into our hearts. She is the one who shows us the way to Jesus. She is the one who connects us to Jesus, and she is the one who connects us to each other. The rosary, as a prayer, is a way to connect to God and to each other. It is a way to connect to others who are praying the rosary,” he said.

The Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization coordinated the rosary marathon, the scheduling of the shrines and the assigning of a specific prayer intention for each day of the month traditionally devoted to Mary. The Holy Father said those intentions would include people who have died or fallen ill with the virus, their loved ones, the medical personnel who cared for them, people who had lost their jobs, and students who long to return to school and to their friends. The prayers, he said, will also remember “the people, especially women, who endured violence within the home” during the pandemic lockdowns.

Father Salvatore told CNS that “Our Lady does not take any honor or love away from us. She unites us to us, unites us to God, and unites us to our human weaknesses.”

The rosary, he added, “is a gentle chain that unites us to us, unites us to each other, and Mary is witness to this.”

This week on page 1, we begin a series of stories from readers who share how the Blessed Mother has impacted their lives. As we wrote in promoting this package, “perhaps no saint in heaven is more beloved, fosters more devotion or is called upon more frequently for intercession and aid than the Blessed Mother Mary.”

One of my favorite moments of the past year—and maybe all time—has been when my mom at the heart of it.

The moment happened on a late Saturday night last fall—right around midnight. Minutes before, the football team of the University of Notre Dame had just upset the number-one-ranked team in the country with a dramatic, come-from-behind win. As the phone rang, I thought it was one of our children or one of my Notre Dame friends calling to share in the joy and the excitement.

Instead, it was the last person I expected to be calling—to my mom, who is 92. The reason I say she was the last person I expected to be calling has little to do with her age. It’s because she has long been a charter member of that group of women who live their lives like the old U.S. Army slogan: “They do more in nine hours of the morning than most people do in an entire day.” She usually gets up at five in the morning and heads to bed at eight at night. And as long as I’ve known her, her routine has never included staying up to watch any kind of game.

Yet here she was near midnight, phoning her older son who lives 600 miles from her, and she was talking excitedly about a Notre Dame fan who had died the year before. “I hope your dad saw that game,” she said. When I assured her that she’d called just in time, she ended the call by saying she just wanted to share that joy with me.

It wasn’t until later that I thought about the true extent of that gift from her. In all the years of my relationship with my dad, even through some tough times between us, the tradition of calling each other after a Notre Dame game never wavered. And my mom was doing her part to continue that ritual that I dearly miss.

On this Mother’s Day, may you make the world take note of the sweet love that bind a parent and child forever in love.

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Reflection/John Shaughnessy

A suprising call, a mother's gift

Like it or not, I’ll be praying

I, like others in our newsroom, usually write potential headlines for a story, column or reflection after the work is complete. Not this time.

This one was etched in my memory after receiving emails from our son’s school system detailing a pair of tragedies that recently occurred. We live in the greater Indianapolis metro area, and our youngest is a student at one of our very good public school systems.

He is in middle school, and we have been pleased with the education he has received thus far.

But one thing my wife Madeline and I noticed about this school system is doing all it can to make sure the word “prayer” is never a part of its communication, particularly in times of tragedy. And we know there are many public school systems around the U.S. who avoid using that word as well. At least that’s the impression we’ve gotten.

I grew up attending public schools, where each day started with the Pledge of Allegiance, a patriotic song and prayer. Granted, that was years ago. (For those curious, I am north of 50 years old.)

I understand times have changed in our public schools, but I am left to wonder why in 2021 some avoid using the word “prayer” and encouraging asking listeners or viewers to offer “thoughts” for the victim or victims of a tragedy.

Sorry, maybe I’m in the minority, but I cannot do that without prayer. For me, “thoughts and prayers” go hand-in-hand. One cannot exist without the other.

I understand there are various faith traditions that make up this great nation. And there have been bumps in the road where some have serious differences, be it in how they are practiced, philosophically or otherwise. But one thing I believe they all have in common—Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslim, Hindus and sisters, Muslims and people who profess so many other faiths—is to bind a parent and child forever in love.

What I have learned is a certain segment of society frowned upon it. But
As mothers do, our call is to share God’s life-giving love

The Scripture readings for the Sixth Sunday of Easter speak to us about love. “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God” (1 Jn 4:7). Because we are just six weeks removed from our observance of Holy Week with its intense focus on the passion and death of our Redeemer, our understanding of “love” is not romantic or sentimental. The kind of love that we witnessed in Jesus’ crucifixion is utterly selfless and sacrificial. Similarly, the kind of motherly love we saw in Mary as she stood at the foot of the cross was humble and filled with compassion for her son.

Christian love seeks to reflect the love that is God’s inner life. It is generous, thoughtful, kind and compassionate. As St. John proclaims in Sunday’s first reading: “...In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.” While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word” (Acts 10:34-35, 44).

The gift of the Holy Spirit, which we will joyfully celebrate in two weeks on the Solemnity of Pentecost, opens our hearts to the love of God. This same gift compels us to share with everyone we meet the redemptive love we have experienced in Christ’s resurrection from the dead.

On Mother’s Day, which we also celebrate this Sunday, we recognize the many sacrifices that mothers make when they bring new life into the world and then tenderly nourish, guide and support their children as they grow to maturity. By its very nature, motherhood is life-giving, but when it reflects the love of God for his family, motherly love is also courageous and self-sacrificing.

Pope Francis has often said that his favorite image of the Church is that of a “loving mother.” A mother who loves her children may be fiercely protective; she may be unrelenting in her desire for a child’s best interests; and she may be capable of heroic acts of self-giving in her support of her children. As the Holy Father says, the Church is most faithful to her mission when she follows the example of Mary, and all loving mothers, in her fidelity to her children.

The love that we celebrate during the Easter season is especially joyful-filled. It’s the love that has overcome the darkness of sin and death, shining the light of truth and peace on a weary, troubled world. After more than a year of pandemic, social unrest and economic hardships, we wholeheartedly welcome the Holy Spirit’s gift of redemptive and healing love. As Jesus says in this Sunday’s Gospel: “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (15:13).

Our joy is complete when we love God and each other as Jesus loves us. This means surrendering our own interests in obedience to God’s will for us. It also means laying down our lives for others. This is what mothers do (and fathers, too) when they sacrifice their own interests for the good of their families.

Our culture too often speaks of love in terms of self-gratification and the fulfillment of our personal desires. There is certainly an element of emotional satisfaction in relationships that are truly loving, but any attempt to see love as primarily focused on self is doomed to failure and disappointment. True love is meant to be an expression of total self-giving for the sake of those we love. Anything less is unworthy of the love we celebrate during this season of Easter. A Blessed and happy Mother’s Day to all mothers! 

The Criterion  Friday , May 7, 2021

Al igual que las madres, nuestra llamada es a compartir el amor vivificante de Dios

Las lecturas de las Escrituras del sexto domingo de Pascua nos hablan del amor. “Amados, amémonos unos con otros, porque el amor es de Dios,” nos dice San Juan en la segunda lectura (1 Jn 4:7). “Todo aquel que ama, ha nacido de Dios y conoce a Dios.” (1 Jn 4:7).

Dado que estamos a solo seis semanas de la celebración de la Semana Santa, con su intenso enfoque en la pasión y muerte de nuestro Redentor, nuestra noción del “amor” no es romántica ni sentimental. El tipo de amor que presenciamos en la crucifixión de Jesús es totalmente desinteresado y sacrificado. Del mismo modo, el tipo de amor maternal que vemos en María cuando estaba al pie de la cruz era humilde y estaba lleno de compasión por su hijo.

El amor cristiano trata de reflejar el amor que es la vida interior de Dios. Es generoso, considerado, amable y compasivo. Como nos dice San Juan, el amor de Dios es vivificante: “En esto se mostró el amor de Dios: que Dios envió al mundo a su Hijo unigénito, para que vivamos por él” (1 Jn 4:9).

Por supuesto, Dios Padre eligió a María para que fuera su compañera en la encarnación de su Hijo unigénito, y ella lo aceptó. Por el poder del Espíritu Santo, con el generoso consentimiento de la Virgen María, el Dios que es amor se hizo uno de nosotros “para que vivamos por él” (Jn 1:49).

Este es el amor que celebramos en este tiempo de Pascua: un tipo de amor que nunca es excluyente ni juzga, sino que está a disposición de todos. Como proclama San Pedro en la primera lectura del domingo: “Ahora comprendo verdaderamente que para Dios no existen favoritismos. Todo ser humano, sea de la nación que sea, si es fiel a Dios y se porte rectamente, goza de su estima. […] Mientras Pedro les hablaba así, el Espíritu Santo cae sobre todos los que lo escuchaban” (Hc 10:34-35,44).

El don del Espíritu Santo, que celebraremos con alegría dentro de dos semanas en la solemnidad de Pentecéstos, abre nuestros corazones al amor de Dios. Este mismo don nos impulsa a compartir con todos los que encontramos el amor redentor que hemos sentido en la resurrección de Cristo de entre los muertos.

En el Día de la Madre, que también celebramos este domingo, reconocemos los muchos sacrificios que hacen las madres cuando traen una nueva vida al mundo y luego alimentan, guían y apoyan con ternura a sus hijos mientras crecen hasta la madurez. Por su propia naturaleza, la maternidad es vivificante, pero cuando refleja el amor de Dios por su familia, el amor materno es también valiente y abnegado.

El papa Francisco ha dicho con frecuencia que su imagen favorita de la Iglesia es la de una «madre amorosa». Una madre que ama a sus hijos puede ser ferozmente protectora; puede ser implacable en su deseo de conseguir lo mejor para sus hijos; y puede ser capaz de realizar actos heroicos de entrega en su apoyo a sus hijos. Como lo expresa el Santo Padre, la Iglesia es más fiel a su misión cuando sigue el ejemplo de María, y de todas las madres amorosas, en su fidelidad a sus hijos.

El amor que celebramos durante el tiempo de Pascua está especialmente lleno de alegría. Es el amor que ha vencido las tinieblas del pecado y de la muerte, haciendo brillar la luz de la verdad y de la paz en un mundo cansado y agobiado. Después de más de un año de pandemia, con sus sociales y dificultades económicas, acogemos de todo corazón el don del amor redentor y salvador que nos ha dado el Espíritu Santo. Como dice Jesús en el Evangelio de este domingo: “Estas cosas les he hablado, para que mi gozo esté en ustedes y su gozo sea completo. Éste es mi mandamiento: que se amen unos a otros, como yo los he amado. Nadie tiene mayor amor que éste, que es el poner su vida por sus amigos” (Jn 15:12-13).

Nuestra alegría es completa cuando amamos a Dios y a los demás como Jesús nos ama. Esto significa renunciar a nuestros propios intereses en obediencia a la voluntad de Dios para nosotros, pero también significa dar la vida por los demás. Esto es lo que hacen las madres (y también los padres) cuando sacrifican sus propios intereses por el bien de sus familias.

Nuestra cultura habla con demasiada frecuencia del amor en términos de autogratificación y de satisfacción de nuestros deseos personales. No cabe duda de que hay un elemento de satisfacción emocional en las relaciones que son verdaderamente amorosas, pero cualquier intento de ver el amor como algo centrado principalmente en el yo está condenado al fracaso y a la decepción. El verdadero amor debe ser una expresión de entrega total por el bien de los que amamos. Todo lo que no sea eso es indigo del amor que celebramos en esta época de Pascua.

¡Feliz y bendecido Día de las Madres para todas las madres!”
**Events Calendar**

**May 10, 17, 24**
St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, St. Therese Room, 4720 E. 13th St., Indianapolis. Saint Joseph Rosary Workout, 6:30-7:15 p.m., prayer and exercise. Free. Information: 317-227-1167, contact3172271167@yahoo.com or cwhitney.com.

**May 11**

**May 12**
Catholic Charities Bloomington 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/catholiccharitiesbloomington. Donations: ccbloom.org. Information: ccbloomtophilanthropy.org or 317-236-1411.

**May 13, 20**
The Third Option virtual marriage crisis/enrichment class, 7-8 p.m., no registration needed. Free. Upcoming topics: May 13, “ Forgiveness and Repair.” May 20, “Rebuilding Trust.” Go to carmelthepointon.com/web-clicks to sign up and link at top of page. Information: carmelthepointon.com/web or Keith Ingram, kingram@archindy.org or 317-324-8466.

Bible Study: St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans, via Zoom, sponsored by St. Michael Parish, Greenfield, 1-2:30 p.m., sponsored by St. Michael Parish. Information and registration: Darlene Davis, lidalene@gmail.com or 317-498-2232.

**May 15**
Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 N. Meridian St., Greenwood. The Amazing Race, marriage enrichment sponsored by Celebrate. Marriage ministry, 2-7 p.m., dress as a team to compete for most fun couple, photo scavenger hunt, tailgate dinner and awards, $30 per couple, beer and wine bracket $5. Information: 317-489-1557 or olmarrriageministry@gmail.com.

**May 16**
Roncalli High School, 3300 Prudue Rd., Indianapolis. Katie’s 5K Run/ Walk for Hope, registration 12:30 p.m., start time 2 p.m., benefitting Katie Lynch Scholarship Fund. picnic to follow at St. Jude pavilion, 25 adults, $15, students, $10. Family Online registration: katie5krunwalk@gmail.com.

**May 19**

**May 20**
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 the Most Holy Rosary Church in Hamburg on May 1, 1971.

May 22

**May 25**
Plum Creek Golf Club, 12401 Lynnwood Blvd., Carmel, Ind. Catholic Radio Indy’s annual Golf Outing, check-in at 10:30 a.m., Mass 11:30 a.m., lunch, shotgun start at 1 p.m., $125 individual, $450 foursome; priests, deacons, vowed religious free. Registration: catholicindy.org. Information: 317-870-8400 or info@catholicindy.org.

**May 29-30**
St. Agnes Parish, 1008 McLary Rd., Nashville. Brút Weekend at St. Agnes Church, all weekend Masses. Father Joseph Moriarty, rectior of Bishop Simon Brunt College Seminary, will celebrate Mass and share how the seminary forms future priests. Information: Paul Sanders, 317-236-1501 or paulsanders@archindy.org.

**May 31**

**June 2**
MCL Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis. Solo Senior’s Day, 5:30 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.

**June 3-5**

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

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Decatur County Right to Life hosting Bob Rust Memorial Dinner on May 21

Decatur County Right to Life will host its inaugural Bob Rust Memorial Dinner at Knights of St. John Hall, 312 S. Wilder St., Greensburg, from 4-7 p.m. on May 21. To help decrease the spread of the coronavirus, the dinner will be drive-thru only this year, with hopes of it becoming an in-person event in the future.

The dinner includes a grilled pork chop or grilled chicken breast, mac and cheese, green beans and a roll. The cost is $10 per person. Registration for tickets is required by May 17. Tickets can be purchased online at cwhitney.com or by contacting Patricia Lounage at 765-614-2528 or decaturcrt@gmail.com.

The event is named for Robert “Bob” Rust, a founding member of Decatur County Right to Life and a longtime member of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg. Rust won Indiana Right to Life’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 for his work with Decatur County Right to Life. He was serving as its president when he died from COVID-19 on March 28, 2020, at the age of 88.

The hope is for the event to become an annual gathering to help the organization and to honor Rust, who the organization said was “a true hero in the pro-life movement in south-central Indiana.”

The event is named for Robert “Bob” Rust, a founding member of Decatur County Right to Life and a longtime member of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg. Rust won Indiana Right to Life’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 for his work with Decatur County Right to Life. He was serving as its president when he died from COVID-19 on March 28, 2020, at the age of 88.

The hope is for the event to become an annual gathering to help the organization and to honor Rust, who the organization said was “a true hero in the pro-life movement in south-central Indiana.”

All proceeds will benefit Decatur County Right to Life to educate the public on the issues of abortion, infanticide and euthanasia through billboards, a presence at the Decatur County Fair, helping mothers in need of baby items, and more. For more information on Decatur County Right to Life, go to Facebook.com/decaturcrt.

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Donald and Elsie (Mahlir) Marcotte, members of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 2. The couple was married in St. Joseph Church in South Bend, Ind. (Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese) on May 6, 1961.

They have four children: Mary Beth Duffy, Ann Miller, Sherry Pesch and Susan Zurcher. The couple also has eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Wedding Anniversaries**

RogéR and Mary Ann Welge

RogéR and Mary Ann (Scheidler) Welge, members of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on April 21. The couple was married in St. Mary Church in Greensburg on April 21, 1956.

They have six children: Janet Dougan, Diane Novak, Chris, Joe, Rich and Tom Welge. The couple also has 20 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

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**Donald and Janet (Gruell) Bedel**

Donald and Janet (Gruell) Bedel, members of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 6. The couple was married in the former St. Anne Church in Hamburg on May 1, 1971. They have four children: Susan Cabalrese, Christina Koemen, Bruce and Kurt Bedel.

The couple also has seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

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**Robert and Janet (Beidel) Bedel**

Robert and Janet (Beidel) Bedel, members of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 2.

The couple was married in a home wedding on May 2, 1971, and later had their marriage consolidated in the Church.

They have three children: Andrew, Brian and Kyle Ludlow.

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

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**Dennis and Susan Ludwig**

Dennis and Susan (Smith) Ludwig, members of Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 2.

The couple was married in a home wedding on May 2, 1971, and later had their marriage consolidated in the Church.

They have three children: Andrew, Brian and Kyle Ludlow.

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

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Announcements for couples celebrating 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 or more years of marriage are accepted. Go to local parish or diocesan marriage office or call 317-236-1585.
PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS)—After a year of painful pandemic milestones, the United States has reached a hopeful statistic. As of May 2, more than 101 million Americans have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). More than 43% have received at least one dose of the coronavirus vaccine, and the average daily case count is down 16%.

Now, vaccines for children are getting attention with questions about when will they be available, if they are necessary to end the pandemic and if Catholic parents should inoculate their children. As these questions are raised, some answers remain clearer than others.

In early April, Pfizer-BioNTech asked the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for an emergency use authorization that would allow its COVID-19 vaccine to be administered to 12- to 15-year-olds. The federal agency is expected to issue a decision on this in early May.

Pfizer-BioNTech also is running clinical trials for children 6 months to 11 years old, while Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are in the midst of studying their vaccines' efficacy and safety in young people.

On March 2, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops noted in a statement that, if a choice among vaccines is available, the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines should be chosen because the Johnson & Johnson vaccine “was developed, tested and is produced with abortion-derived cell-lines.”

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease specialist, has predicted that children of all ages will be able to receive a vaccine by the beginning of 2022.

One argument for vaccinating young people is that it is necessary to achieve herd immunity—when a large portion of a community becomes immune to a disease and the spread from person to person thus becomes unlikely

But growing number of health experts are not certain herd immunity is possible.

Dr. Paul Cieslak, a senior health adviser for the Oregon Health Authority’s COVID-19 response and a member of St. Rose Parish in Portland, said it’s not clear how long immunity lasts after a vaccination or after an infection or what new strains will emerge.

If it becomes impossible to reach herd immunity because either immunity does not last or the virus mutates, the disease probably will become endemic, Cieslak said. That is, it would continue to circulate in pockets of the world but not cause the illnesses and deaths of the past year. It would be more like the measles or the flu.

Vaccines, however, can play a critical role in moving a community from pandemic to endemic and they at least temporarily protect children from the illness.

Kids are much less likely than adults to be hospitalized with COVID-19, and deaths from the disease among kids are infrequent. But there are concerning trends.

Children now encompass a larger percentage of people getting infected than earlier in the pandemic. A report by the American Academy of Pediatrics shows children accounted for 1 in 5 cases detected nationwide the second week of April. And in Michigan, there has been a record-breaking spike in child hospitalizations.

Cieslak noted that on rare occasions, kids who’ve experienced mild infections develop a sometimes-deadly condition called multi-system inflammatory syndrome in children. Yet children’s risk of dying from the virus remains very low. Since the pandemic began, around 300 U.S. children have died of COVID-19 complications.

Vaccines for children, like those for adults, will come with a small risk. If the CDC recommends children receive the shots, however, Cieslak likely will suggest parents obtain them to protect their child and others.

“I have a lot of confidence in the vetting that goes on at the FDA and the CDC,” he said. “If a vaccine gets authorized for use and recommended, I’m going to feel pretty comfortable recommending it. I’m going to feel comfortable saying the risk of your child having severe side effects is remote, but the chance that they could get the virus and transmit it to other vulnerable people is likely to be greater.”

The Portland doctor also added some nuance to his answer. He believes there are ethical questions that should be explored by Catholic bioethicists. For example, some have made the argument that children must be vaccinated mainly so they will not spread the virus to elderly individuals.

“If it boils down to that argument, some Catholic individuals are going to have a problem with it,” said Cieslak.

At the same time, there is Church teaching on solidarity, “and that getting your child vaccinated is helping protect your fellow man,” he said. “I would like to see this all discussed.”

The federal agency is expected to issue a decision on this in early May.

Kira Lundell, 16, receives a COVID-19 vaccine at Variety, the Children’s Charity of Delaware Valley, during a vaccine clinic on their campus in Worcester, Pa., on April 29. (CNS photo/Thomas B. Sheahen, Reuters)
“What happened last year was definitely an awful feeling,” says Luke Leverton, about that lost season of 2020 that was halted before it even began. So the senior at Seton Catholic High School in Richmond has savored this spring season all the more since he stepped onto his school’s baseball diamond and stood on the pitcher’s mound for the first game of his last season.

“It’s the best feeling in the world to be playing,” he says. “There’s the smell of the grass, the feel of the dirt, the sound of the ball hitting the catcher’s mitt, the sound of the bat hitting the ball—even just picking up the ball. It means so much to me.

“I find so much joy in pitching. When I walk out on the diamond and get on the mound, I get really excited. It’s just being in the moment of the game—competing and being out there with your best friends. It’s such a blessing to be out there.”

In one of Seton’s games this year, Luke struck out 17 batters, setting a school record. It’s the kind of pitching dominance that has earned him a baseball scholarship to continue playing at Miami University in Ohio. Still, he’s in no hurry to end his last season at the school that has shaped his life in so many ways.

“I’m enjoying it a lot,” says Luke, a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond. “I’ve been at Seton since kindergarten. We talk about God every day. We pray before every class. It’s always calming to talk to God every day. It’s definitely had an impact on my life.”

“We’ve made so many memories together”

For Abigail Hill, the worst part of losing last year’s tennis season was that she didn’t get to share that experience with her teammates, especially the seniors who had become her close friends.

“It was heartbreaking,” she says. “I wished I had that time with my teammates. I was just sad.”

Now that she’s a senior on the team at Father Michael Shawe Memorial High School in Madison, Abigail has kept one priority in mind even as she strives to lead the squad to a winning season, one priority in mind even as she strives to lead the squad to a winning season,

“I was not motivated to run, not motivated to do anything. “Last year taught me to be grateful for whatever I get and whatever I have this season.”

“Track brings people together,” says Emily Vasquez when she recalls her first experience of running track in high school.

As someone who likes to keep moving, Emily Vasquez laughs when she recalls her first experience of running track in high school.

The first day, she says, was a different experience for her. She hadn’t run in her sprinting practice, her coach appraised her sprinting speed and made a different suggestion.

“He thought I’d be good at distance,” Emily says with a laugh. “The first day, we ran five miles! I was tired. I was in pain, and I was thinking, How do these people do this? But I kept coming back, and now I love it.”

That first year was so much fun that Emily looked forward to running as a sophomore last year. Then the track season was stopped in its tracks by the pandemic.

“I was home every day,” she says, the low tone in her voice revealing how hard it was for her to not be with her teammates. “I was not motivated to run, not motivated to do anything.

“Last year taught me to be grateful for whatever I get and whatever I have this season.”

Track continues to be one of Emily’s favorite experiences in her junior year at Scecina, where she is also a soccer player, a student ambassador, a member of the student council and part of the musical’s cast.

“Track brings people together,” says Emily, a member of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis. “I like that it’s a co-ed sport. There are so many boys and girls I wouldn’t know and talk to if it wasn’t for track. Also I like that it’s a team sport where you can lean on each other. If you’re not running, you’re cheering on your teammate.

“And in track, it’s only you who can get you to your goals. It’s up to you how good you are. I think that’s really cool.”

Being there through the struggles and triumphs

One of the most revealing views of a student-athlete—or anyone—comes from the way he or she handles disappointment and adversity.

Gavin Caswell was so looking forward to his first track meet of his senior season at Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville.

He had enjoyed his freshman year on the track, throwing the shot put and the discus. It was a year when he benefitted from his coach’s reward system of getting a milkshake when he set a “personal best” in his events—a reward offered to anyone on the team. Yet far beyond his preference for a chocolate milkshake, Gavin savored the feeling of competing, improving his technique and being with his teammates. And he couldn’t wait for the seasons ahead.

Yet injuries prevented him from competing in his sophomore year and COVID-19 ended his junior season.

“Everything turned upside down. I was really disappointed,” he says. “But it was for every sport, every school. I put it in perspective, and I prayed for every school.”

As he prepared for the first meet of his senior season, he also worked to help the younger members of the team improve their techniques. Then he gave them a different kind of lesson in leadership at the first meet.

“I was pretty disappointed in my performance,” says Gavin, a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany. “However, I was very proud of my teammates because almost all of them broke their personal records. I was glad they were having a good time.”

Since then, his season has taken a turn for the better. At the same time for him, his sport is more than the challenge of lifting the shot put and discus and throwing them as far as he can. It’s also the joy of lifting the spirits of his teammates.

“When the throwers get done with their events, we cheer the others on. We want to see we’re with them through their struggles, their triumphs.”

The struggles of losing last year’s spring sports season have given way this year to the triumphs of the human spirit.
At 83, woman acknowledges that ‘Mary was just my life’

By Natalie Hoefler

At 83, Mary Becht says she knows the Blessed Mother has been with her every step of the way—through childhood, adolescence, motherhood, marriage and even now as a widow.

“My devotion to the Blessed Mother reigned in my life back to when we prayed the rosary for an end to World War II, says the member of St. Mary of the Knobs Parish in Floyd County. As she started dating, “I would pray for Mother Mary to find me a good Catholic man. And so it happened,” says Becht.

Richard Becht knew the moment he saw Mary when she was 16 years old that he would marry her, she says.

“He had a good Catholic upbringing, went to Catholic school, prayed the rosary and always carried the rosary with him,” Becht recalls. The couple married when Mary was 18 and Richard was 19.

“The rosary, our precious daughter was born,” says Becht. “She was healthy, and I was too! Thanks to Mary’s assistance, Jesus answered our prayers.”

Appropriately, the couple named their baby girl Maria.

The influence of the Blessed Mother leads a woman to follow a pro-life calling

By Natalie Hoefler

The Blessed Mother is known by many titles, some based upon her virtues and some based upon an apparition.

For Caroline Routson of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County, an experience of Mary under the title of Our Lady of Grace led to a devotion to Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of unborn children.

The experience occurred in Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where six teenagers reported having apparitions of Mary starting in 1981. The Vatican has declared it is not certain if the apparitions are of supernatural origin.

However, Pope Francis approved of parish and diocesan pilgrimages to Medjugorje in June 2019. For frequently asked questions on Medjugorje, go to cutt.ly/Medjugorje.

A heart-shaped stone box holds the rosary Gail Turi used to pray with daily before her death on Dec. 13, 2020. Her husband Richard now uses the rosary. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

The Criterion  Friday, May 7, 2021  Page 9

‘Thanks to Mary’s assistance, Jesus answered our prayers’

By Natalie Hoefler

Having been a mother herself, the Blessed Mother is a natural draw for women with children of all ages—even before they’re born.

So it was that, in 1987, Linda Weigel turned to Mary when her pregnancy became difficult.

“I was pregnant with our second child, and in June of that year, I had to leave work due to pregnancy complications,” recalls the member of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg. “I prayed the rosary daily that Mary would intercede with Jesus and allow us to have a healthy baby and to keep me safe.”

Weigel was able to care for her and her husband’s “active” 18-month-old son until the pregnancy issues led to her hospitalization on Oct. 7, the feast of Mary’s birthday, she notes.

She was hospitalized again two weeks later. Finally, on Oct. 5, amniocentesis results showed it was safe for the child to be delivered.

“But we didn’t tell anyone,” he says.

“Finally, Gail said, ‘Maybe what worked for Zoe didn’t work for you!’” Turi explains. “Clicks were still not officially dating in 1987 when Turi was invited by a fellow parishioner to go on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, but they didn’t tell anyone.”

Turi got to know the young man more at the event and “Finally, Gail said, ‘Maybe what worked for Zoe didn’t work for you!’” Turi explains. “Clicks were still not officially dating in 1987 when Turi was invited by a fellow parishioner to go on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, but they didn’t tell anyone.”

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Medjugorje in May 2019. (For more on the Vatican’s stance regarding Medjugorje, go to www.medjugorje.org/church.htm.)

“I was on pilgrimage, waiting in line for a blessing,” Routson recalls. “I found myself beneath a statue of Our Lady of Grace.”

What happened next as she looked at the statue was a private experience that changed her life.

“I felt an electric current rush over me from my head down to my feet, passing back up from my feet to my heart,” recalls Routson. “I felt the weight of my many years of selfish, self-centered sins, justified and forgotten in my mind. I felt how I hurt Jesus.”

She felt a call from the Blessed Mother to make an honest confession.

“I also heard in my heart, ‘The harvest is rich, but the laborers are few’ [Lk 10:2]. I felt I was being called to work in the pro-life ministry, as this evil of abortion is so great,” says Routson. “My attention turned to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of unborn children.”

Routson, who worked in real estate at the time, purchased a small home to take in pregnant women in need.

“Within 11 months, their first child was born, with ‘six more beautiful children following,’” she says. “When the twin boys were born, we had five children under the age of 4.

“Each child I had, I knew Mary was right with me in my labor and other difficulties I had. Mary was my go-to,” says Becht, who now has 25 grandchildren and 59 great-grandchildren. “I prayed the rosary every day. I just knew she understood my problems.”

As her children grew, Becht had time to become more involved in the parish with her husband. She also had more time for retreats, including Cursillo.

Through those experiences, she says, “Mary drew me closer to her Son. I believed in Christ’s presence in the Eucharist, but I never knew him as my personal savior. Mary led me to Jesus.”

After 60 married years “of much happiness, joys and sorrows,” Richard died in 2016.

Becht never stopped praying her daily rosary. In late 2017, “I really felt the Blessed Mother was asking me to start a rosary group,” she says. “It took about three months before I answered.”

The call came to fruition in February 2018. Since then, a group of “very faithful people” have been meeting at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Church on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. to pray the rosary. The regular attendees “always welcome anyone who wants to come pray with us,” she says.

Looking back on her 83 years, the truth is obvious to Becht: “Mary was just my life.”
By Shemaiah Gonzalez

Is it just me or does every mother feel as if we are just winging it? Motherhood is the ultimate in “on-the-job training.”

We read all the books, ask advice from more seasoned mothers than us, but nothing could have prepared us for mothering this year. There isn’t an issue of “What to Expect When Parenting Through a Pandemic.”

As COVID-19 engulfed our country, our lives and our faith, I felt myself submerged by fear—fear for myself, for my family and specifically for my children. I tried not to let that fear crack through my façade, but I saw it reflected in the faces of my two sons as they looked to me for reassurance. I knew then that I could not let fear overtake me.

We needed to create a new narrative in our family story—one of resilience. Even in families like mine, where husbands share the load of household commitments, I knew I needed to set a tone for our home before we fell into despair. I knew my sons were looking to my husband and me for security and to remind them that they were safe.

Frankly, at the beginning of the pandemic, I didn’t know if they were safe. But I knew that only God could provide us comfort if we were not. I knew we needed fortification.

Without Mass, parish activities or Catholic school services, it was up to me to establish that rhythm of liturgy in our home. We began to read, pray and reflect as a family in a way that we never had before.

We began each day with a Scripture reading, a story of a saint, prayer and a song. Through this rhythm, I taught my sons not to be fearful. I thought of fear as another communicable disease. Just as a mother inoculates her children against diseases which infect their bodies, I worked to protect their hearts, souls and minds.

I taught my children not to be fearful, that fear is not from God. We only fear God himself. We remembered how each time an angel appears he said, “Fear not!” And we memorized grounding passages like, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear” (1 Jn 4:18) or “For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control” (2 Tm 1:7).

We called upon these passages to calm the fear that often seeps into our home. We needed to guard them and find space to express these emotions away from our lives and our faith, I felt myself submerged by fear—fear for myself, for my family and specifically for my children. I tried not to let that fear crack through my façade, but I saw it reflected in the faces of my two sons as they looked to me for reassurance. I knew then that I could not let fear overtake me.

We also read stories of saints who were especially sensitive to mine. Children are sensitive to their parents’ struggles, but as a leader in my house, I knew sometimes it was OK to let them see me struggle, because they, too, were struggling. But sometimes I needed to guard them and find space to express these emotions away from my children. I learned this from one of Corrie ten Boom’s stories.

Ten Boom was a Dutch Christian who hid Jews during World War II. This eventually led to her own imprisonment in a concentration camp. She never lost her faith or joy. So much of her joyful outlook on life and faith can be credited to her father.

Once on a train ride as a child, she asked her father a very grown-up question. Instead of answering it, her father asked her to carry their luggage. The luggage was large and heavy. She told her father she could not. It was too heavy.

Her father told her that he wouldn’t be a good father if he asked a little girl to carry such a load and that it was the same thing with knowledge. “Some knowledge is too heavy for children. When you are older and stronger, you can bear it. For now, you must trust me to carry it for you.”

I use this story when my children ask questions about the world, pandemic or no pandemic. Sometimes I answer the question, but sometimes I say, “It’s too much information for a little person to carry. You must trust me to carry it for you.”

This story has been a helpful tool. After hearing the story, they know what I am referring to. They trust me to reveal an appropriate amount of information. When they press me for more information, I say, “Ask me again in a [month, six months, year], and I’ll see if your mind and heart is strong enough for more information.”

It has been an interesting year but not a bad one. Changing our family narrative has been the key.

(Shemaiah Gonzalez is a freelance writer. Her website is www.shemaiahgonzalez.com.)
When evangelizing, go out to where people are.

In the U.S.—and throughout the world—many Catholics, especially young adults, are leaving the Church at an alarming rate. Our Church often continues to operate on the assumption that our parishes and campus ministry buildings, calling out to those who have wandered, hoping they will come back. And yet, we are continuing to lose our “little ducks,” one by one. As Mother Duck experienced, and as we very clearly see within the Church, this is not working. If we hope to bring people into, or back to, the Church, we must go out to the people.

Effective evangelization must involve not only inviting people to come to something, but to break into our Church within the Church to go out and bring the good news into the world.

For Emma once, “Evangelizing presupposes a desire in the Church to come out of herself.”

Notice how in the nursery rhyme the five little ducks don’t come back home until Mother Duck “went out” to find them. Sadly, it took losing all five little ducks before Mother Duck realized she needed to do something different.

I pray that we won’t wait until we have lost most, or all, of our people before we realize the urgency of evangelization and seeking creative ways to bring them home.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus says, “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.’” (Lk 15:4-6).

Crucial to evangelization is to have the heart of Jesus for the lost, for those who have wandered. We must be willing to go beyond the walls of our churches and beyond good-natured efforts for our homes, workplaces and communities.

(Sean Hussey is the associate director of Young Adult and College Campus Ministry within the archdiocesan Secretariat for Pastoral Ministries. He can be reached at shussey@archindy.org. The mission of this office is to seek, find and invite all young adults, ages 18-39, to authentic life in Jesus Christ and to spiritually equip them to become lifelong, missionary disciples. One way we do this is through our summer Theology on Tap [TOT] series hosted at McGuigan Hall in Indianapolis. TOT gatherings are on every Sunday, June 27, July 4, Aug. 1 and Aug. 8. If you know young adults who have wandered from the faith, interested in TOT or just want to hear some amazing conversations, For more information, visit indycatholic.org/theology-on-tap) ?

Patti Lamb, a member of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.†

Recently, a co-worker shared the sweetest photos from her daughter’s first birthday party. She had custom baseball jerseys made for her family with each member’s name and age on the back, fewer little curves make the shape of a baseball jersey, along with baseball-themed decorations, adorned with the charm of the celebration. The invitation came in the form of a tailor-made baseball ticket. As I was listening to her nursery rhyme, here’s a refresher on some of the lyrics:

Five little ducks went out one day
Over the hill and far away
Mother Duck said, “Quack, quack, quack.”

But only four little ducks came back.
As the song goes on, gradually, one at a time, none of the five little ducks came back. The next morning, I tried to regain some points by tucking a granola bar and some raisins into the side pocket of my daughter’s tennis bag since I thought it was a cure-all, but it helps by walking us through the lilies of the field, perhaps by taking a short piece on anxiety.

As the song goes on, the four little ducks come back.
Mother Duck said, “Quack, quack, quack.”
And all of the five little ducks came back.

Mama is trying,” I said to myself, in the spirit of redemption.
I saw my son’s work uniform in need of washing, so I laundered and ironed it so it was ready for his shift later that day.

He was pleased and surprised, and said, “That was really thoughtful, and I appreciate it.”

At the end of the week, a friend gave me a granola bar and some raisins into the side pocket of my daughter’s tennis bag since I realized she had forgotten to take a snack for an away match.

I don’t know how happy I was to find that in my backpack,” she texted me that evening.

Even though my kids are teenagers now, I’m still learning that the Lord isn’t about perfectly curated parties shared on Facebook. What’s more important are the little things not on display—a text to your son reminding him that you’re praying for him, or for your daughter’s tennis coach. The next evening after collecting Margaret from practice, I noticed that her big toe was coming through her tennis shoe.

I suppose I need to get you to the store for some new shoes,” I said.

The third strike came a day later. It was unseasonably warm, and I forgot that my son had made a note in his journal regarding a form of a tailor-made baseball ticket. As I was listening to her nursery rhyme, here’s a refresher on some of the lyrics:

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The Acts of the Apostles once again provides the first reading for Mass this weekend in the Easter season.

In this reading, St. Peter enters the house of Cornelius, who falls to his knees to give homage to the leader of the followers of Jesus. Graciously, Peter lifts Cornelius to his feet and then insists that he has no part among persons of various ethnic and national backgrounds, because God has no such partiality.

At the moment of this testimony of faith and of true discipleship, the Holy Spirit descends into the hearts of all. The devout Jew such as Peter. The Apostle associates almost certainly were gentiles. Cornelius was not Jewish. His name be denied baptism. anyone so prompted by the Spirit cannot including the gentiles. Peter says that faith and of true discipleship, the Holy Spirit was with Peter.

It is possible because strength and insight come to any true believer from the Holy Spirit, insight that brings direction, stamina, peace, and joy. Discipleship is outreaching and great in its compassion and service. It comes to anyone who earnestly seeks God, even if they are tempted by sin.

The image of the vine occurs again. was much more powerful in its meaning for the ancient Jews, as well as others in their community. The love of God. The Bible says that Jesus has forgave for our sins; St. Paul tells us in Colossians that “even when you were dead in transgressions — he brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions” (Col 2:13).

But it is perhaps more precise to say that Jesus, by suffering and dying for our redemption, has simply opened for us the possibility of heaven—something we could not have done for ourselves. The question remains, though, that if pardon for sins ultimately from Christ’s work on Calvary, how is it received by individuals? The answer is that Jesus wants us to contribute to his work in making amends for our sins, so our eternal salvation is not automatic.

Remember that St. Matthew’s Gospel pictures Jesus at the last judgment saying to some: “Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Mt 25:41). If the manner of our life has effectively been a denial of God’s teachings, we will be judged on that.

And if God had already forgiven all of human sin in a single act, it would have made no sense for Christ to bestow on the disciples the power to forgive sins when he told them following the resurrection: “Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained” (Jn 20:22-23).

Would you have a life of ease with time to use just as you please? Martha’s house could never stand the clutter of my pots and pans. But could my feet and arms, too, have the time for more to do? The moments I can steal for prayer perhaps are sweet because so rare. So my heart be still. Perfection lies in what He wills. Perfection lies in what He wills. It is possible that commitment does not affect the children in the faith—especially when they do not make any effort whatever to bring the children to Mass or share their faith with them, even at an early age? (Maryland)

The First Epistle of St. John is the Church is preparing us for life after the Ascension. The obligation of genuine discipleship is upon us. What does it mean? Jesus calls us “to love one another.” He is the model. Loving all others is a challenge for mere mortals, always and today. Yet it is possible.

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My Journey to God
For Weary Moms

Martha’s life was clean and neat. No stewns at her feet. Mary left the world so fair to glorify Him in her prayer. No frets little time I have to spare to give back to the One who cares. Foolish heart, why do you pine for a calling still more fine?

Just where, dear Lord, do I fit in to give homage to the leader of the followers of Jesus. A leader of the followers of Jesus. A leader of the followers of Jesus. Our Father, to explain, “If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions” (Mt 6:14-15).

My question concerns Catholic sacramental marriage, which I always understood to include a commitment to the couple to raise their children in the Catholic faith. So, is a marriage invalidated when the parents of one of them, do not fulfill their commitment to raise their children in the faith—especially when they do not make any effort whatever to bring the children to Mass or share their faith with them, even at an early age? (Maryland)

Jesus’ death on the cross opened the possibility of heaven to humanity. Q. can understand that Jesus died on the cross to reconcile us with the Father, but why do we say that Jesus died to forgive our sins when we have to repent forgiveness for those sins? (location 12203.)

A. The Bible says that Jesus has forgave for our sins; St. Paul tells us in Colossians that “even when you were dead in transgressions — he brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions” (Col 2:13).

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A. You are correct in assuming that a Catholic marriage includes the commitment to raise children in the Catholic faith. In fact, during the wedding ceremony itself, the priest or deacon asks the couple: “Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?”

And even in a mixed marriage (where one of the spouses is not a Catholic), the Catholic party must pledge to continue to practice the Catholic religion and must also (in the words of Canon 1125.1) “make a sincere promise to do all in his or her power so that all offspring are baptized and brought up in the Catholic Church.”

But if the faithful in marriage to carry out that commitment does not affect the sacramental validity of the marriage itself. A Catholic marriage results when, in freely consenting to marry, the couple has the intention to marry for life, to be faithful to one another and to be open to children.

Q. (Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.)
Research with fetal tissue from elective abortion called ‘deeply offensive’

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee on April 20 called on the Biden administration to fund research "that does not rely upon body parts taken from innocent children killed through abortion."

"The bodies of children killed by abortion deserve the same respect as the bodies of any other person," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"Our government has no right to treat innocent abortion victims as a commodity that can be scavenged for body parts to be used in research," he added.

His remarks were a reaction to a notice the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Md., posted on April 16 in the grants area of its website announcing the end of a Trump administration ban on research involving human fetal tissue acquired from elective abortions.

"It is also deeply offensive," he added, "to millions of Americans for our tax dollars to be used for research that collaborates with an industry built on the taking of innocent lives."

Other pro-life reaction to NIH's announcement included a statement from Tom McClusky, president of the March for Life Action, the sister organization of the March for Life.

"This medical waste into medical miracles."
SAN FRANCISCO (CNS)—A pastoral letter issued on May 1 by San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone focuses on the unborn, Communion and Catholics in public life.

It emphasizes that “those who reject the teaching of the Church on the sanctity of human life and those who do not seek to live in accordance with that teaching should not receive the Eucharist.”

The archbishop’s pastoral letter, the first he has issued, is called: “Before I Formed You in the Womb I Knew You: First he has issued, is called: “Before I Formed You in the Womb I Knew You.” Archbishop Cordileone said the letter was issued on May 1 by San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone.

Our faith has taught me that prayer is one of the greatest gifts I can offer to others, even if they are not people of faith and pray themselves.

With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones (Eph 6:18). “Therefore I tell you, all that you ask

"Abortion is the ax laid to the roots of the tree of human rights. … Without protection of the right to life, no other talk of rights makes sense," the archbishop wrote in the teaching document to the priests and laity of the archdiocese.

He also spoke directly to pregnant women and those who have had abortions, writing: “God loves you. We love you.”

He emphasized that Catholic teaching on who is morally responsible for abortion is very clear.

“Those who kill or assist in killing the child [even if personally opposed to abortion], those who pressure or encourage the mother to have an abortion, who pay for it, who provide financial assistance to organizations to provide abortions, or who support candidates or legislation for the purpose of making abortion a more readily available ‘choice’ are all cooperating with a very serious evil,” the archbishop wrote.

Archbishop Cordileone stressed that reverence for Communion is at the heart of his concern and quoted St. Justin Martyr’s words in the second century: “No one may share the Eucharist with us unless he believes what we teach is true; unless he is washed in the regenerating baptism of repentance for his sins, and unless he lives in accordance with the principles given us by Christ.”

He then applied these same requirements to the topic of abortion, saying those who reject Church teaching on the sanctity of human life and do not seek to live in accordance with Church teaching in that area “should not receive the Eucharist.”

The archbishop spoke directly to Catholics in public life on this topic, urging them to “please stop pretending that advocating for or practicing a grave moral evil—one that snuffs out the innocent human life, one that denies a fundamental human right—is somehow compatible with the Catholic faith. It is not.

“Please return home to the fullness of your Catholic faith. We await you with open arms to welcome you back,” he added.

The archbishop’s letter is available online at archsf.org/inthewomb.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, commended the archbishop for his pastoral letter, which he said “correctly identifies legalized abortion as ‘the ax laid to the root of the tree of human rights’” and a symbol of a "severely disordered society.”

In a May 3 statement, he said the pastoral letter on Communion makes several compelling arguments starting with the emphasis on the “legal and scientific case for the protection of the unborn child and the foundation for all other human rights.” He also credited the pastoral letter for pointing out that “legislators and public figures who advocate and promote abortion’s availability share in the moral culpability for the evil of abortion.”

Archbishop Naumann reiterated the letter’s emphasis that to receive Communion “while rejecting one of the Church’s most fundamental moral teaching is dishonest” and that “Catholics in public life who advocate for abortion create scandal by encouraging others to do evil.”

He said the tone of Archbishop Cordileone’s pastoral letter “makes clear his earnest desire for the immediate and eternal welfare of all those entrusted to his care,” and said the archbishop “provides a tightly reasoned rationale why the protection of the unborn remains a pre-eminent priority among many other important concerns for upholding the dignity of each and every human person.”

S.F. archbishop examines abortion, Communion in pastoral letter

Executive Director of Mission Integration

Bishop Chatard High School

Bishop Chatard High School, an archdiocesan Catholic high school located on the north side of Indianapolis, is seeking a dynamic Catholic leader and visionary to fill the position of Executive Director of Mission Integration.

At Bishop Chatard, we believe that ministry formation is a dynamic, life-long process rooted in the person of Jesus Christ and the teachings of his Church. Building upon the lived experience of students, staff, parents, alumni and community partners, the Executive Director of Mission Integration creates opportunities for ongoing growth. Under the executive director’s leadership, the formation experience provided by Campus Ministry helps all BCHS stakeholders to articulate, implement, and integrate our Catholic educational mission as it inspires our community to live in a way which is consistent with an authentic Catholic identity. The executive director promotes workplace spirituality as a key component of mission integration.

A qualified candidate will possess a Bachelor’s Degree; a Master’s Degree in Ministry is preferred. Relevant experience in school, parish or other Catholic institutional ministry is required. For more information on the duties and responsibilities of this position, view the job description at www.bishopchatard.org/about/employment.

To apply, email a resume, cover letter and references to Maureen Malaney, Assistant to the President, at mmalarney@bishopchatard.org. Submission deadline is May 21, 2021.
At rosary, pope prays resources move from military to pandemic prevention

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Under the gaze of a seventh-century icon of Mary, Pope Francis launched a monthlong, global recitation of the rosary, pleading for Mary’s intercession for the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

And he prayed on May 1 that Mary would move people’s consciences “so that the enormous amounts spent to increase and perfect weapons are instead used to promote research to prevent similar catastrophes in the future.”

The pope and about 160 young adults and families from Rome prayed in St. Peter’s Basilica and were joined remotely by people at the National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham in England, the first of 30 Marian shrines around the world that will lead the rosary every day throughout May.

“Mother of Succour, welcome us under your mantle and protect us, sustain us in times of trial and light in our hearts the lamp of hope for the future,” the pope prayed, standing before the Marian icon.

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was scheduled to lead the prayers “for all world leaders and for all heads of international organizations” on May 17, and the Quebec Shrine of Notre Dame du Cap was to lead prayers for “for all law enforcement and military personnel and for all firefighters” on May 23.

While leaving much of the planning up to the shrines and their local expressions of faith, the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization included in the outline for the prayer services one of the special prayers to Mary in the time of COVID-19, written by Pope Francis last year when the pandemic had just begun.

Pope Francis’ invocations to Mary on May 1 included large sections of that prayer, including a plea to “turn your merciful eyes toward us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply.

“Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them,” the pope continued. “Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.”

But he also prayed that government leaders would work with “wisdom, care and generosity” to aid those who lack even the basic necessities and that their recovery plans would be farsighted and marked by solidarity with the poor.

Pope Francis also added a prayer to the “beloved mother,” asking her to help everyone in the world recognize that they are part of “one great family” and should care for one another, especially those most in need.

“Encourage firmness in faith, perseverance in service and constancy in prayer,” he asked. “O, Mary, consoler of the afflicted, embrace all your suffering children and have God intervene with his hand.”

CARDINAL continued from page 1

countries at a virtual, Assisi-based conference held last November, where Pope Francis characterized the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity for discernment of how to transform society.

“He wanted them to become the protagonists of a new economic and a new social order—to serve people, and not people reduced to serving money,” the cardinal said.

“Hesitated to return them to a new economic order and a new culture,” said Cardinal Turkson and the university’s former president, Franciscan Sister Elise Kriss, received honorary degrees at the ceremony, which marked the first major gathering for the University of St. Francis since the pandemic’s start, as well as the first commencement for the university’s new president, Father Eric Albert Zimmer.

Nearly 50 members of the class of 2020, whose commencement was canceled due to the pandemic, also participated.

While the cardinal has ties to Holy Cross College in Notre Dame, Ind., and has worked with the University of Notre Dame’s Mendoza School of Business on days of reflection for CEOs and other leaders of fuel industries, this was his first visit to the Fort Wayne-based university founded in 1890 by the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration.

“I told my students in the Catholic social teaching course that he was coming,” said Franciscan Sister Jacinta Krecek, chair of philosophy and theology, who used the occasion for her students to delve into the efforts and issues led by the cardinal’s dicastery. “And three of the class are graduating today, so they were ready for his arrival.”

“It’s nice that we have such an obvious Franciscan connection... and on such a crucial issue,” said theology professor Adam A.J. DeVille on Cardinal Turkson’s widely-credited role as drafter of the pope’s 2015 encyclical on care for the environment, “Laudato Si’ , on Care for Our Common Home.”

“It’s incredible having a cardinal here. Being a Catholic institution and to have someone from the Vatican come and speak, I think that we’re very blessed,” said theology professor T. Alexander Giltner.

Cardinal Turkson’s office has also led the Vatican’s COVID-19 commission, which has coordinated with the Church in more than 50 countries, providing support where possible, and—in the Vatican’s capacity as a state—has engaged in multilateral talks to advocate for inclusive vaccine distribution that doesn’t leave poor countries behind.

Citing Pope Francis in his address, the cardinal said the pandemic “started as a health care issue, but it has also exposed a lot of other social issues: the fragility and unsustainability of a lot of our social structures.”

Speaking to media prior to the ceremony, he addressed the Vatican’s concern that as many people as possible get vaccinated, in order to end the pandemic.

“Unless we’re all out of this, we’re never going to be all out of this,” he said. “We recognize there’s a lot of hesitation about taking the vaccine, supported by a lot of conspiracy theories.”

But ultimately, he said, personal freedom has to acknowledge moral responsibility.

“A health care decision is a personal decision, but we still say, although this is a personal decision, recognize the well-being and the good of the other,” he said.

He also emphasized that the decision to be vaccinated against COVID-19 “has an impact and a responsibility toward your neighbor and those you live with.”

“Take time to take care of yourself. Call your physician today.”

POSITIVE TRUTH STATEMENT: At Rosary, Pope Francis Prays for Resources to Move from Military to Pandemic Prevention

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TO THOSE WHO SELFlessly SERVE.

Whether you prioritize the well-being of your children, parents or friends, today we recognize you first.

Happy Mother’s Day to every woman who goes the extra mile to help others.

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