



The Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



It's All Good

Little acts of love are at the heart of motherhood, page 12.

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'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

(Editor's 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.

See MARY, page 9

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



Cardinal Peter Turkson

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

High school athletes savor their sports even more this spring

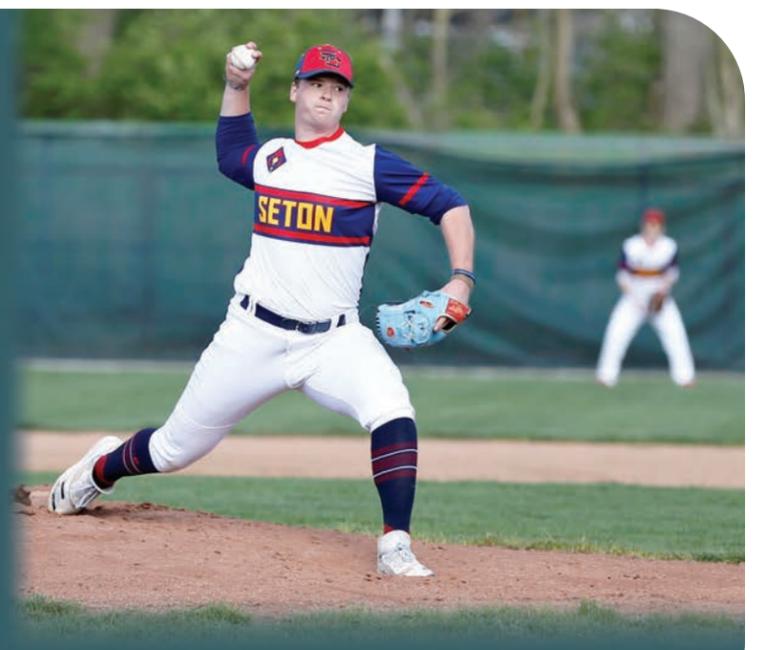
By John Shaughnessy

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 SPORTS, page 8



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)

Official Appointments

Effective July 7, 2021

Rev. Adam L. Ahern, administrator of St. Michael Parish, Charlestown, and St. Francis Xavier Parish, Henryville, appointed pastor of the parishes for a six-year term.

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

Very Rev. Daniel E. Bedel, VF, archdiocesan associate director of vocations, dean of the Terre Haute Deanery, priest moderator of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Terre Haute, and St. Mary-of-the-Woods Parish, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, and pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish, Terre Haute, and St. Patrick Parish, Terre Haute, appointed to the formation staff of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis.

Very Rev. Dustin M. Boehm, VF, dean of the Connersville Deanery 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. Jerry L. Byrd, pastor of St. Ann Parish, Jennings County, St. Joseph Parish, Jennings County, and St. Mary Parish, North Vernon, reappointed pastor of these parishes for a second six-year term.

Rev. J. Nicholas Dant, 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, administrator of St. John the Baptist Parish, Starlight, reappointed to a one-year term as administrator of the parish.

Rev. Timothy D. DeCrane, parochial vicar of St. Monica Parish, Indianapolis, and Chaplain Coordinator of Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis, appointed parochial vicar of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, Greenwood.

Rev. James M. 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, adjunct vicar judicial in the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and pastor of St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, reappointed pastor of the parish until August 6, 2024, (age of 75) while remaining adjunct vicar judicial.

Rev. Vincent M. Gillmore, parochial vicar of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, Greenwood, appointed parochial vicar of St. Monica Parish, Indianapolis,

and Chaplain Coordinator of Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis.

Rev. Aaron M. Jenkins, pastor of St. Michael Parish, Greenfield, reappointed pastor of the parish for a second six-year term.

Rev. Francis Joseph Kalapurackal, pastor of St. Thomas More Parish, Mooresville, and St. Ann Parish, Indianapolis, appointed pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Indianapolis, for a six-year term.

Rev. Daniel J. Mahan, pastor of St. Barnabas Parish, Indianapolis, and **Rev. Jonathan P. Meyer**, pastor of All Saints Parish, Dearborn County, appointed pastors *in solidum*, with Rev. Meyer as moderator of All Saints Parish, Dearborn County, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Aurora, St. Lawrence Parish, Lawrenceburg, and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish, Bright, for a six-year term.

Rev. Binu Mathew, parochial vicar of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove, appointed administrator of St. John the Baptist Parish, Osgood, 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.

Very Rev. Guy R. Roberts, VF, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish, Indianapolis, appointed pastor of St. Barnabas Parish, Indianapolis, for a six-year term.

Rev. Jude Meril Sahayam, parochial vicar of St. Christopher Parish, Indianapolis, appointed administrator of St. Thomas More Parish, Mooresville, and St. Ann Parish, Indianapolis, for a six-year term.

Rev. Msgr. 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, Bright, 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, Lawrenceburg, 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 of Jesus 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.) †



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

May 7–16, 2021

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

May 12 – 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 Judicatories 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

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 and offered a prayer 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—those who were injured, and for Brandon Hole, the shooter who took his own life during the incident.

“When will this endless gun violence stop?” 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?”



Father Rick Ginther, director of the archdiocesan Office of Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs, speaks at a May 1 memorial service at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis for the victims of the April 15 mass shooting at a Federal Express facility near the Indianapolis International Airport. (Submitted photo)

“When? When we as a people act for the common good.”

He then echoed comments of Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson at the time of the shooting that expressed the longtime support of the bishops in the U.S. for gun control legislation and positive changes in society's approach to mental illness.

“Underpinning our determination is the recognition that we are all made in the image and likeness of God,” Father Ginther said. “Holding this bedrock belief in our hearts and minds, we will continue to do what we can to end this senseless violence and to live together in peace.

“Please God, may it be so.” †



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More than 1,300 students to graduate during commencements of three Catholic colleges in central and southern Indiana in May

Criterion staff report

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 in 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 doctors will graduate from the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Undergraduates will receive their degrees during a 10 a.m. ceremony on May 8 at the university's St. Vincent Field. The commencement address at the undergraduate ceremony will be shared by Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Loretta Rush.



Chief Justice Loretta Rush



Dr. Timothy Putnam

Graduate students and medical students will receive their degrees on May 9 during a 10 a.m. ceremony at the university's St. Vincent Field. The commencement speaker at this ceremony will be Dr. Timothy Putnam.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be on May 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the university's arena/convocation center.

Each commencement ceremony will be livestreamed and can be viewed online at marian.edu/livestream.

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS COLLEGE

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in St. Mary-of-the-Woods will celebrate its commencement on May 8 when 281 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.

Both ceremonies will be in the Hamilton Arena of the Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center. The commencement speakers for both ceremonies are students who were selected by a committee of faculty and



Kathryn Bernice Kraft



Dylan Thomas

staff from submitted speeches.

The commencement ceremony for on-campus students who are graduating will begin at 10 a.m. The speaker will be Kathryn Bernice Kraft, who is graduating with a bachelor of science degree.

The commencement ceremony for graduates of Woods Online and master's degree programs will begin at 4 p.m. The speaker will be Dylan Thomas, who is graduating with a master's degree in leadership.

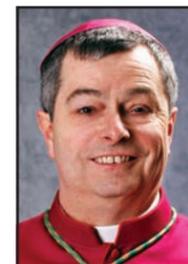
As part of its commencement day, the college will also have a Baccalaureate Mass at 1 p.m.

The commencement ceremonies can be livestreamed at www.smwc.edu/commencement/.

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.



Bishop William F. Medley

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 Archabbey 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. †

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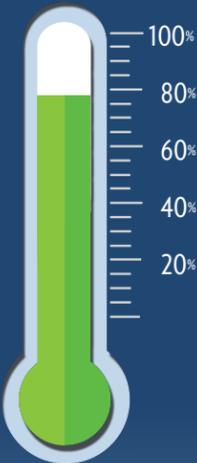
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Editorial



Anabel Mutune, a third grader at Transfiguration Catholic School in Oakdale, Minn., prays during a Children's Rosary Pilgrimage at Transfiguration Church in this Oct. 7, 2020, file photo. (CNS photo/Dave Hrbacek, *The Catholic Spirit*)

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 this month.

We celebrate our Blessed Mother during May, and Pope Francis recently asked that we unite worldwide every day throughout the month to pray the rosary, pleading for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic and praying 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 Marianum in Rome.

"Mary knows what suffering is," and just as she was at the foot of Christ's cross, "she is at the foot of the many crosses other people bear, bringing them comfort, redemption and accompaniment in a self-centered world," said the Servite priest, a theological expert in Mariology in a Catholic News Service (CNS) article.

"The pope did the right thing to call this marathon of prayer to Mary," Father Salvatore added.

Every shrine and sanctuary around the world have been invited to organize prayer initiatives according to their local customs, the priest said, and the places and people that can do so safely should take part.

For those who cannot visit a shrine, the Vatican will be broadcasting on multiple platforms starting at 6 p.m. Rome time each day from a different shrine around the world.

The theme of the month of prayer—"From the entire Church an unceasing prayer rises to God"—is significant as well, he said. It refers to the miraculous event recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 12:1-12) when all the Church prayed for Peter, who was imprisoned.

"We can see the pandemic is like a prison that we want with all our heart to break out of" and can make people lose hope, Father Salvatore added.

On May 1, Pope Francis and about 160 young adults and families from Rome began the monthlong practice and prayed the rosary in St. Peter's Basilica. They

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.

"At the beginning of the month dedicated to Our Lady, we join in prayer with all the shrines around the world, the faithful and all people of good will to entrust to our holy mother all of humanity so harshly tried by this pandemic," the pope said, introducing the recitation of the glorious mysteries of the rosary.

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 focus away from Christ. The Church emphasizes her role as "mother, sister and friend," who always comes to help, "who prays for us," and who points to and "connects us to Christ, and Christ responds to our human weaknesses."

The rosary, he added, "is a gentle chain that unites us to God, 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."

St. Teresa of Calcutta may have best summed up the importance of Mary to Catholics when a Protestant gentleman asked her about her devotion to the Blessed Mother. "No Mary, no Jesus—no mother, no son," she replied.

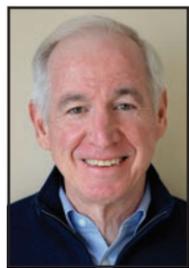
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

—Mike Krokos

Reflection/John Shaughnessy

A surprising call, a mother's gift

One of my favorite moments of the past year—and maybe all time—has 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 in double overtime. My wife and I were still hugging, high-fiving and dancing in our living room when the phone rang. I figured 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—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 mothers who live their lives like the old U.S. Army slogan: "They do more by nine in 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 how she had watched the game, what a great game it was, and how much we all needed something so joyful like that to happen in the midst of a pandemic.

Then her voice lowered as she mentioned my father, her husband, a forever-loyal Notre Dame fan who had died the year before. "I hope your dad saw that game," she said. When I assured her that he had, her joy returned. 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 moments—and savor the memories—that bind a parent and child forever in love.

(John Shaughnessy is assistant editor of *The Criterion*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.) †

Reflection/Mike Krokos

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 in what we consider a very good public school system.

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 have noticed is how 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 it in an email or other form of communication for those facing a sudden or tragic loss?

Has our society evolved to such an extreme that it's considered taboo for some to even use that word in a public setting?

I hope—and pray—that's not the case. But sadly, I fear, for many, it is.

The school system's recent email concerning the first sudden tragedy, read: "We ask that you keep his family in your thoughts as they cope with this difficult loss." The email about the second tragedy was similar: please keep our school and this family "in your thoughts as they process this difficult loss." Not a word was

mentioned about praying for these families, who were no doubt left devastated and heartbroken.

Tragically, as I wrote this piece, another area public school system began dealing with the devastating loss of a student, and school officials in a statement wrote, "Please keep these families and our students in your thoughts and prayers."

I believe school leaders in this case understand there is no endorsement of a particular faith tradition in using the word "prayer."

In its regulations, I know the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) states that school employees, when acting in their official capacity, are prohibited by the First Amendment from encouraging or discouraging prayer. But I also believe USDOE's guidance is interpreted differently by some. And I think the vast majority of people, when they hear of a tragedy, find themselves going to prayer.

Maybe it's because we are lifelong Catholics, but my wife's and my instincts were immediately—as this last school system suggested—to pray for those affected by the tragedy.

What I find just as frustrating is seeing similar sentiments excluding prayer when a tragedy is highlighted on a news show or sports broadcast—be it of the local or national variety.

I've heard local talk show hosts and national TV anchors on several occasions 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, our Jewish brothers and sisters, Muslims and people who profess so many other faiths—is to be people of prayer.

What I have learned is a certain segment of society frowns upon it. But

See REFLECTION, page 15



Christ the Cornerstone

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 of God," St. John tells us in the second reading (1 Jn 4:7). "Everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows 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 tells us, God's love is life-giving:

"In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him" (1 Jn 4:9).

Of course, God the Father chose Mary to be his partner in the Incarnation

of his only begotten Son, and she said "yes." Through the power of the Holy Spirit, with the generous consent of the Virgin Mary, the God who is love became one of us "that we might have life through him" (1 Jn 4:9).

This is the love that we celebrate during this Easter season. It's a form of love that is never exclusive or judgmental, but is available to anyone. As St. Peter 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 joy-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 might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:11-13).

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 joy.

A blessed and happy Mother's Day to all mothers! †



Cristo, la piedra angular

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 a 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 vimos 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 para con nosotros: en 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" (1 Jn 4:9).

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. Toda persona, sea de la nación que sea, si es fiel a Dios y se porta rectamente, goza de su estima. [...] Mientras Pedro les hablaba así, el Espíritu Santo cayó 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 Pentecostés, 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 atribulado. Después de más de un año de pandemia, malestar social y dificultades económicas, acogemos de todo corazón el don del amor redentor y sanador que nos brinda 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 15:11-13).

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 indigno del amor que celebramos en esta época de alegría pascual.

¡Feliz y bendecido Día de las Madres para todas las madres! †

Events Calendar

May 10, 17, 24

St. Therese of the Child Jesus (Little Flower) Parish Center, St. Therese Room, 4720 E. 13th St., Indianapolis. **SoulCore Rosary Workout**, 6:30-7:15 p.m., prayer and exercise, free. Information: 317-727-1167, joane632003@yahoo.com or soulcore.com.

May 11

Sisters of Providence online "The Spirit Breathes" Monthly Taizé Prayer Service, 7-8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence. Link: cutt.ly/Taize. Information: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org.

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/ccbindiana. Donations: ccb@archindy.org. Information: cbush@archindy.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 carmelthirddoption.org/web, click on link at top of page. Information: carmelthirddoption.org/web, or Keith Ingram, kingram@aicinvest.com or 317-324-8446.

Bible Study: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, via Zoom, sponsored by St. Michael Parish, Greenfield, 1-2:30 p.m., led by graduates of Guadalupe Bible College, free. Information and registration: Darlene Davis, ldarlene@gmail.com or 317-498-2242.

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 bracelet \$5. Information: 317-489-1557 or olgmarrageministry@gmail.com.

May 16

Roncalli High School, 3300 Prague 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, \$100 family. Online registration: katiehope.org. Information: 317-502-1979 or katies5kwalk@gmail.com.

May 19

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

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

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. **Faithful Citizens Rosary Walk**, 10:45-11:45 a.m., meet in front of church. Information: faithful.citizens2016@gmail.com.

May 22

Virtual Dialogue on Intercultural Competency, via Zoom, sponsored by archdiocesan Black Catholic Ministry, 10 a.m., "Legacy of Racism and the Emerging Immigrant Church," Archdiocese of Milwaukee director of Ethnic Ministries Fessahaye Mebrahtu facilitating, freewill offering. Registration: cutt.ly/

YDIC. Information: Pearlette Springer, pspringer@archindy.org or 317-236-1474.

Sidewalk Advocates for Life training, location TBA, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$8 for materials. Information and registration: Sheryl Dye, smdye1@gmail.com.

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 noon, shotgun start at 1 p.m., \$125 individual, \$450 foursome, priests, deacons, vowed religious free. Registration: catholicradioindy.org. Information: 317-870-8400 or valerie@catholicradioindy.org.

May 29-30

St. Agnes Parish, 1008 McLary Rd., Nashville. **Bruté Weekend at St. Agnes Church**, all weekend Masses, Father Joseph Moriarty, rector of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, will celebrate Mass and share how the seminary forms future priests. Information: Ellen Sanders, 317-236-1501 or esanders@archindy.org.

May 31

Calvary Mausoleum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. **Memorial Day Mass**, noon. Information: 317-784-4439 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

June 2

MCL Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, 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

St. Jude Parish, 5353 McFarland Road., Indianapolis. **Parish Festival**, 6:30-11 p.m., carnival rides, live music, Monte Carlo, children's games, food trucks, free admission. Information: 317-786-4371. †

Wedding ANNIVERSARIES

ROGER AND MARY ANN WELAGE



ROGER AND MARY ANN (SCHEIDLER) WELAGE, 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 Welage.

The couple also has 20 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. †

DONALD AND ELSIE MARCOTTE



DONALD AND ELSIE (MAHLER) MARCOTTE, members of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 6.

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. †

ROBERT AND JANET BEDEL



ROBERT AND JANET (GRUELL) BEDEL, members of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 1.

The couple was married in the former St. Anne Church in Hamburg on May 1, 1971.

They have four children: Susan Calabrese, Christina Koeneman, Bruce and Kurt Bedel.

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

DENNIS AND SUSAN LUDLOW



DENNIS AND SUSAN (SMITH) LUDLOW, 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 convalidated in the Church.

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

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

HARRY AND BEVERLY SCHEMDEL



HARRY AND BEVERLY (CABLE) SCHEMDEL, members of Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 1.

The couple was married in St. Mary Church in Indianapolis on May 1, 1971.

The couple is grateful for Denise Grafe and Vicki Hartman, Harry's daughters from a prior marriage, who help care for them.

They also have three grandchildren. †

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

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 cutt.ly/BobRustDinner or by contacting Patricia Lougie at 812-614-2528 or decaturcortl@outlook.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."

All proceeds will benefit Decatur County Right to Life's efforts 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/decaturcortl. †

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

Catholic doctor weighs in on COVID-19 vaccines for children

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 vaccination, and the average daily coronavirus 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 infections 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 a 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



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/Hannah Beier, Reuters)

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." †

THANK YOU



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To all sponsors, donors, participants and volunteers who help us love our neighbors, your support has been a shower of God's grace upon St. Vincent de Paul and the neighbors we serve.

SPORTS

continued from page 1

“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 then-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, even as she works to go deeper as an individual in the state tournament.

“I’m trying to make the most of every practice and every match because

COVID is still so unpredictable. I want to be able to look back and have special memories from practices, matches—just the little things with my teammates.

“I adore my teammates. My teammates are what keep me together. We rely on each other. We support each other. We’ve got each other’s back in matches and in school.”

She says that’s especially true of her fellow senior, Phoebe Grote, who she first met when they were in the first grade at Pope John XXIII School in Madison.

“She and I have been best friends since elementary school,” says Abigail, a member of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison. “We’ve made so many memories together.”

Abigail’s favorite memories from this year start with a team ritual.

“The most special moments are right before the match when we get into our huddle, and we pray and talk strategy. I always love those moments. Then during the matches, we talk to each other and pick each other up.”

Those moments reflect the experience she has had in the Catholic schools in Madison ever since she began her education as a pre-kindergarten student when she was 3.

“My four years at Shawe have been really great. I have a good support system at home and school. All my coaches are amazing,” says Abigail, who also played volleyball and basketball. “I love the education I’ve had. I’m excited for my future, but I know I’m going to miss this school a lot.”

‘Now, I love it’

Emily Vasquez laughs when she recalls her first experience of running track in high school.

As someone who likes to keep busy, Emily thought that even with her schoolwork and her involvement in the spring musical, there was still enough time to fit in another activity in her freshman year at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis.

So she decided to join the track team, focusing on becoming a sprinter in races that would be over in a flash. Yet on the first day of 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.”



Being back on the track this spring has been a joy for Emily Vasquez of Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)



Besides throwing the shot put and discus, Gavin Caswell has been enjoying lifting up his track and field teammates this spring at Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville. (Submitted photo)

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. I also 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 team, 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 our events, we cheer the others on. We want them 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. †



Abigail Hill is all smiles at the thought of sharing her senior tennis season with her teammates at Father Michael Shawe Memorial High School in Madison. (Photo courtesy of Laura Jayne Gardner Photography)

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.

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This statue of the Blessed Mother can be found in St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Church in Floyd County, where 83-year-old parishioner Mary Becht leads a rosary group every Tuesday at 1 p.m. (File photo by Natalie Hoefler)

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

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 Sept. 8—“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.

“On Oct. 7, the feast of Our Lady of



Linda Weigel poses with her daughter Maria Conklin on May 1. Weigel credits Maria’s health and safety at birth to prayers of intercession to the Blessed Mother after experiencing complications during her pregnancy. (Submitted photo)

the Rosary, our precious daughter was born,” says Weigel. “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

yet certain if the apparitions are of supernatural origin.

However, Pope Francis approved of parish and diocesan pilgrimages to

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MARY

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‘Peace of heart and soul’

Richard Turi had reached a low point in his life in 1985 when, on a Saturday evening, he turned to God in desperate prayer.

“I told God, ‘I know you’re talking, but I can’t hear you. So I need you to do it my way,’” Turi recalls. “I asked God to send me someone who could help me, and to have that person tap my right shoulder.”

The next morning, Turi went to the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas. Sitting in a pew, he felt a tap on his right shoulder.

It was Gail Rowe, a member of a parish Lenten study group he’d recently joined. She simply wanted to say hello to him.

“I just started sobbing,” says Turi. “She didn’t know I was hurting, and she had no idea how much her tap on my right shoulder meant to me.”

After Lent, the 12 members of the Lenten study group decided to continue meeting as a small faith-sharing community.

During the next five years, Turi and Gail grew closer, “but we didn’t tell anyone,” he says.

They were still not officially dating in 1987 when Turi was invited by a fellow parishioner to go on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje in what was then Yugoslavia.

Six years earlier, six teenagers reported apparitions and messages from the Blessed Virgin there. (See endnote for the Vatican stance regarding Medjugorje.)

Departing on the pilgrimage, Turi felt good about his relationship with the Blessed Mother.

“My devotion to Mary came to me by having a loving mother who didn’t know how to show it,” he says. “Hugs were not a part of her life.

“I don’t negate her, but that [lack of outward affection]

drew me to Mary as a mother because I wanted more.

“I thought I had a devotion, and I prayed the rosary occasionally.”

But some private, personal experiences in Medjugorje opened Turi’s eyes, and he realized his devotion “wasn’t as serious or as deep as I thought it was. Through confession, I found a peace of heart and soul like no other time in my life.

“I got more serious about my conversion into deeper prayer and attending Mass with a devotion I never had before, and realizing that Christ is so present with us on Earth every moment of our lives.”

In 1988, Turi returned to Medjugorje with members of his faith sharing group, including Gail, whom he by then was dating.

“She went to pray for relief from her scoliosis, and I went in support of her prayers,” he says.

The group returned to Medjugorje in 1989, and the couple repeated their request for Gail’s healing.

“One year later, Mary did see to it that she became pain free,” says Turi. “It was such a gift.”

‘A vow of three’

That gift came in time for the couple’s wedding on June 24, 1990. In the longstanding tradition of those living in the Medjugorje region, they asked to be wed during a regularly scheduled Sunday Mass “where it could be witnessed by our whole community,” Turi explains.

During their vows, the couple held a crucifix they made—another tradition of Medjugorje.

“It’s a way of showing the vow is with three—the couple and Christ,” Turi says. “Jesus, God the Father and Mary have been here for us during our life’s journey, without fail.”

But then, the Turis called upon Christ and God through Mary without fail.

After returning from the 1989 pilgrimage, the couple formed a rosary group that prayed together on the 5th, 15th and 25th of each month.

The couple also prayed the rosary daily, right up until Gail’s death.

“We had a prayer corner where we would pray the rosary,” he says. “It has the crucifix we made for our wedding.”

‘All three came out perfect’

The couple’s daily rosary became a family daily rosary with the birth of the couple’s three children, Zachary John, Zoe Marie and Zane Joseph.

“Our boys did it more out of obligation,” Turi admits. “But Zoe liked to lead [the rosary].”

“It was Jesus, Mary, God the Father and God the Son who gave us our three wonderful children,” Turi acknowledged.

When he and Gail married, he

was 48 and she was 40, so “her pregnancies were already at-risk because of her age,” Turi explains.

“But the doctors also advised her not to have children because of her scoliosis. They said they didn’t know if her spine would be able to bear up through pregnancy.

“But all three came out perfect,” Turi says.

Still, there were illnesses to deal with. As an infant, Zoe had recurring bouts of conjunctivitis, an eye infection.

The couple used holy water from two Marian apparition sites—Lourdes and Fatima—to anoint their daughter’s eyes.

“The next day, she wasn’t any better,” Turi recalls. “Then Gail said, ‘We forgot to pray!’”

“So that night we anointed her eyes again, and this time we remembered to ask Mary for her healing.

“The next day Zoe’s eyes were clear, and she never had conjunctivitis again.”

Around that time, Turi was experiencing severe pain from arthritis in his shoulder. As a full-time barber, it was affecting his ability to work, and no doctor seemed to be able to help.

“Finally, Gail said, ‘Maybe what worked for Zoe will work for you.’ So we anointed my shoulder [with the water from Lourdes and Fatima] and prayed to God through Mary’s intercession for healing so I could be the dad my children needed,” Turi says.

“Four days later, my arthritis pain was gone. It never returned to the point of having so much pain.”

‘Mary ... was part of it all’

But Gail’s scoliosis and pain did eventually return. In 2014, she had two extensive back surgeries to correct the curvature of her spine.

“She ended up three inches taller,” says Turi. “But her pain was even more severe. We saw a pain management doctor, but she lived with chronic pain the rest of her life.”

The couple continued to pray the rosary together as Turi helped care for his wife. When Gail’s weak lungs prevented her from praying the rosary aloud, Turi found online recitations of the rosary on YouTube that they could silently pray along with.

Ultimately, he says, “The pain just wore her out. Nothing helped her but the consolation of Mary, and we knew it was going to be OK.”

On Dec. 13, 2020, an accidental fall led to a brain injury that took her life that same day.

Turi still prays the rosary daily in the couple’s prayer corner, and “I ask Gail to join me,” he says.

“There’s not one thing that happened in life that we would not thank God for. And Mary, because she was part of it all.”

(The Vatican has declared it is not yet certain if the apparitions are of supernatural origin. While individual pilgrimages were never disallowed, Pope Francis approved of parish- and diocesan-led pilgrimages to Medjugorje in May 2019. For more on the Vatican’s stance regarding the Medjugorje, go to www.medjugorje.org/church.htm. 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)

DEVOTION

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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.

She received training to be a sidewalk counselor outside of an abortion center in Orlando, where she and her husband lived.

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

"I did that for eight or nine years," she says. "It was very fulfilling, but it just got to be too much. Between that and my job, I was gone all the time."

But her call to pro-life ministry was not finished.

"Our daughter in Oxford [Ohio] has nine children, two of them with special needs," Routson says.

So she and her husband retired from their jobs in Orlando and moved into a house neighboring their daughter's to help care for the children.

Routson says the experience under the Our Lady of Grace statue in Medjugorje "was the turning-back-to-Jesus conversion in my dead cradle Catholic life. During my teens I had lost respect for purity, chastity, the Eucharist and the Church.

"Thank God for confession, the sacraments and Our Lady of Grace!" †



A statue of Our Lady of Fatima and a large rosary adorn the space where Caroline Routson, a member of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County, prays in her home. (Submitted photo)

LIFE

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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." †



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Pandemic forced parents to ‘create a new narrative’ for families

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.



A mom in Los Angeles carries her son and groceries on May 9, 2020, amid the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic put unprecedented challenges before parents. (CNS photo/Patrick T. Fallon, Reuters)

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 us when fear came to engulf us.

We also read stories of saints who had gone through trials. With the help of God’s grace, these ordinary people

stood firm in their faith and had the courage to answer God’s call. This made them extraordinary. It made them saints. We read about others like Anne Frank, Corrie ten Boom and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who faced adversity with grace and strength. These stories revealed to us how easy we had it.

It is not as if I did not have my struggles, but as a leader in my house, I knew I could not fall into despair. Children are sensitive to their parents’ emotional life. And in my home, they are especially sensitive to mine.

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.) †



The Pantoja family sits down for dinner on March 7 in their home in Valatie, N.Y. The coronavirus pandemic has forced parents to “create a new narrative” for their families. (CNS photo/Cindy Schultz via The Evangelist)

Pastoral Ministry/Sean Hussey

When evangelizing, go out to where people are

Our 14-month-old daughter Emma loves dancing to her favorite music, which is basically three or four nursery rhymes repeated. ... All day long! Needless to say, it is a much more enjoyable experience for Emma than for her mom and me.



One of Emma's current favorites is the song "Five Little Ducks." As I was listening to it with

Emma for the 100th time, something really struck me. *This song is actually a great analogy for evangelization*, I thought. In case you haven't heard this 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, quack."*

But only four little ducks came back.

As the song goes on, gradually, one at a time, fewer little ducks come back to Mother Duck until eventually, *none of the five little ducks come back.*

Then one day ...

*Sad Mother Duck went out one day
Over the hill and far away
Mother Duck said, "Quack, quack,
quack, quack."*

And all of the five little ducks came back.

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 within the walls of our parish 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 can 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 where people are.

Effective evangelization must involve not only inviting people to come to something at church, but for those of us within the Church to go out and bring the good news into the world.

Pope Francis once said, "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 her 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 out those who have wandered.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus says, "What man of you, having a hundred

sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one 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). Jesus came to "seek and save the lost" (Lk 19:10).

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 bring the good news of Jesus Christ into 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 McGowan Hall in Indianapolis. TOT gatherings are on June 23, July 7, July 21, Aug. 4 and Aug. 18. If you know young adults who have wandered from the faith, invite them to join us for TOT this summer! For more information, visit indycatholic.org/theology-on-tap.) †

For the Journey/Effie Caldarola

In times of worry, Jesus offers the best advice

When I was a little girl, my dad would tell me, "Don't take your troubles to bed with you." I was an inveterate worrier. I wanted



the hallway light left on near my bedroom in our old farmhouse.

Monsters seemed to lurk, not just under the bed but in every nook and cranny. My imagination was, and remains, lively. My brain sometimes won't shut down for the night.

When I was very young, I slept in a big bed with my little brother Tommy after he yielded his crib to the newest sibling. I mostly took comfort from his presence, but sometimes I would lie, sleepless and worried, staring at his toddler profile as he slumbered beside me.

I would imagine his image becoming fuzzy and indistinct. Was he my baby brother? Or in the darkness could I imagine him morphing into another threat? It's funny now, but the humor escaped me then.

What's ironic is that my dad, with his homespun advice about worry, suffered from intense anxiety and depression, which eventually led to his death. But perhaps that's not so ironic.

We desperately hope our children can be spared the problems from which we suffer, so if we can offer them advice, even advice we ourselves can't follow, we try.

This has been an anxious year for many people, and just because we've gotten our vaccinations doesn't mean the anxiety magically disappears. What comes next? Some of the decisions we face now increase our anxiety.

I have never completely overcome my nighttime fears. I still hear my dad's advice, and often it works well until about 3 or 4 a.m. That seems to be the hour at which my internal alarm occasionally wakes me and my tummy seizes up with worry.

I know I am not alone at this dark hour, as a cohort of insomniacs are out there in the universe with me. Small comfort. But I am also not alone in that God is there as well, fuzzy and indistinct perhaps, but stronger and kinder than any of the unseen troubles that assail me.

The website pray-as-you-go.org is run by the Jesuits in Britain. They have daily prayers and meditations available, but they also have special retreats and series that cover topics like depression, aging and insomnia. One is called Mental Health Awareness Exercises, and includes a short piece on anxiety.

It certainly doesn't purport to be a cure-all, but it helps by walking us through the Gospel of Matthew: "Do not worry about your life. ... Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?" (Mt 6:25, 27)

The advice is good. For example, consider the lilies of the field, perhaps by taking a daily walk to observe nature and God's gifts. Daily exercise relieves stress and anxiety.

During this strange year, counselors and therapists have had long waiting lists. If we're really anxious, we might need to call a hotline or seek immediate help. But at the least, find a friend with whom you feel free to share. Be open. Go ahead and cry.

Consider what you eat at night. I find overeating can lead to sleeplessness, as can an overly warm room. Remember that alcohol, which may seem to make you drowsy, also has stimulant effects and is an unreliable friend.

Perhaps list your worries on a piece of paper and give them to God right before bed. Sometimes praying, "Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner," helps me fall asleep.

And Jesus' advice sounds a little like Dad's: "Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take of itself" (Mt 6:34).

(Effie Caldarola writes for Catholic News Service.) †

It's All Good/Patti Lamb

Little acts of love are at the heart of motherhood

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. And the custom-made cake in the shape of a baseball jersey, along with baseball-themed decorations, added to the charm of the celebration. The invitation came in the form of a tailor-made baseball ticket.



"You are such a great mom," I told her. I was impressed by all the little details that went into making her daughter's first birthday so special.

Fast forward to the next week, and I experienced a series of "mom fails." First, I missed an important email in my junk folder regarding a form I needed to fill out for my 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 the windows were open. I regret that the neighbors heard my tirade about the messy state of the kids' bathroom when I went to put toothpaste near their sink after returning from the grocery store.

I apologized to one neighbor the next day, joking that I'm out of the running for "Mother of the Year 2021."

I gave myself a pep talk, allowing myself grace, but also providing some encouragement to do better.

The next morning, I tried to regain some points by tucking a handwritten note into each of my kids' lunch boxes. Around noon, both Henry and Margaret sent me a text, expressing gratitude for the note and the reminder that they are loved.

"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 pleasantly surprised and said, "That was really thoughtful, and I appreciate it."

At the end of the week, I tucked 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.

"You 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 motherhood 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 his math test; the delivery of your daughter's lunch box to school when she forgot it in her hurry to catch the bus.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux said, "Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, or even at their difficulty, as the love with which we do them."

I take comfort in those words.

Motherhood isn't about the grandiose gestures as much as it is about the consistent reminders to our kids of our love for them, and God's love for them.

Little acts of love are the building blocks of beautiful—but imperfect—relationships between a mother and her children. We will never be perfect parents, and that's fine, as long as we love big and keep trying.

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms out there. God is at work in you!

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

The Human Side/Fr. Eugene Hemrick

Overcoming that empty feeling with the help of God's grace

In the movie *Ben-Hur*, there is a wild chariot race in which Ben-Hur is victor



and Messala, his once-friend turned enemy, is killed. Afterward, he stands before the emperor and receives the winner's crown. In the next scene, he is alone in a silent, vacant stadium, no more cheering, nothing but dead silence.

My mother, who watched the movie with me, exclaimed, "How empty!" One meaning of "empty" is having no worth or purpose, being useless, to be without meaning or force.

Is it not true we sometimes experience

more of these feelings than fulfillment in our life? And when someone does something spectacular, does it not make us feel how little we have accomplished? How then can we combat these sentiments?

In the book *The Virtues*, Father Romano Guardini, a German priest and one of Pope Francis' favorite thinkers, answers our question. He states, "One of the most profound paradoxes of life is the fact that a man becomes more fully himself the less he thinks of himself."

He distinguishes between the "false self" and "true self" that exist in every human being, with the false self emphasizing "I" and "me" as it pursues honor, prosperity, achievement and domination.

All of this obscures the true self, which does not regard itself but which flourishes

in interior freedom, sincerity and integrity. Only as the false self disappears is the true self freed.

Father Guardini concludes: "The way in which a man puts away the false self and grows into the real self is that which the masters of the interior life call 'detachment.'"

One reason for feeling empty is a lack of heartfelt generosity toward others. We are too self-centered. Fulfilled life thrives on charity, even though its practice may cost us our cherished comforts.

Detachment is imperative to becoming our essential self. Its reward is joy that emanates from responding to God's loving generosity planted in us.

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 9, 2021

- Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
- 1 John 4:7-10
- John 15:9-17

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 partiality 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 group present, including the gentiles. Peter says that anyone so prompted by the Spirit cannot be denied baptism.

To set the stage for this reading, Cornelius was not Jewish. His name indicates that he was Roman, a gentile, part of the detested occupying pagan power. His associates almost certainly were gentiles.

Despite all this, Peter entered the home of Cornelius—an unbelievable act for a devout Jew such as Peter. The Apostle went nonetheless, insisting that all should have access to God and that God welcomes all. Finally, God, in the Holy Spirit, comes into the hearts of all. The Spirit was with Peter.

Peter brought all into the Church by baptizing them.

The First Epistle of St. John is the source of the next reading. This reading is a moving and especially descriptive message about God's love. God is love. God is in Jesus. Love is in God. Marvelously, God shares this divine love with the faithful.

God's love and living according to God's love brings joy—a joy unequalled by anything on Earth.

The test of loving God is in obeying his commandments. God revealed the commandments and the divine plan for salvation through and in Jesus.

St. John's Gospel furnishes the last reading. As did the second reading, this proclamation of the Gospel centers upon the love of God.

In this reading, God's love is celebrated. The Lord's willing, sacrificial death on Calvary proved God's love. "There is no greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:13).

Because of uniting with Jesus in faith and love, disciples are friends of God. For the ancient Jews, as well as others in their Mediterranean world, friendship arguably was much more powerful in its meaning than it is today. It meant an intense bond, a loyalty.

Truly loving God means to love others. The image of the vine occurs again.

Daily Readings

Monday, May 10
St. Damien de Veuster, priest
Acts 16:11-15
Psalm 149:1b-6a, 9b
John 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday, May 11
Acts 16:22-34
Psalm 138:1-3, 7c-8
John 16:5-11

Wednesday, May 12
St. Nereus, martyr
St. Achilleus, martyr
St. Pancras, martyr
Acts 17:15, 22-18:1
Psalm 148:1-2, 11-14
John 16:12-15

Thursday, May 13
Acts 18:1-8
Psalm 98:1-4
John 16:16-20

Friday, May 14
St. Matthias, Apostle
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
Psalm 113:1-8
John 15:9-17

Saturday, May 15
St. Isidore
Acts 18:23-28
Psalm 47:2-3, 8-10
John 16:23b-28

Sunday, May 16
The Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9
Ephesians 1:17-23
or Ephesians 4:1-13
or Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13
Mark 16:15-20

Disciples are the branches. Christ is the great, main vine. Disciples live if they are linked to Christ. They produce much fruit.

The reading closes with the wonderful command of Jesus to "love one another" (Jn 15:17).

Reflection

Carefully and deliberately, the Church is leading us forward to the feast of the Ascension of the Lord. It is as if we Christians had been standing beside the Apostles in the days following the Resurrection, hearing with them the words of the risen Jesus, seeing as they saw the wonder of life victorious over death.

Now, the mood slightly shifts. 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.

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 outreach and great in its compassion and service. It comes to anyone who earnestly seeks God, even if they are tempted by sin.

These words may seem charming and idealistic. They are demanding. The difficulty is in truly loving all—the strangers, the unwanted, even sinners—and serving all. †

My Journey to God

For Weary Moms

By Maureen Houle

Martha's life was clean and neat,
No strewn toys at her feet.
Mary left the world so fair
to glorify Him in her prayer.

Just where, dear Lord, do I fit in
midst the babes, noise and din?
Scarce 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?

(Maureen Houle is a member of St. Pius V Parish in Troy. Photo: First-time mother Irorobeje Owahoso-Maddox of Sacred Heart Parish in Indianapolis holds her son River after a Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis on Jan. 22. Mother's Day is on May 9 this year.) (File photo by Natalie Hoefler)



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 please be still.
Perfection lies in what He wills.

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Jesus' death on the cross opened 'the possibility of heaven' to humanity

QI 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 continually for those sins? (location withheld)

AThe Bible says that Jesus has forgiven 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 sin comes 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).

Nor would it have made sense for Jesus, when teaching the disciples to pray the 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).

QMy question concerns Catholic sacramental marriage, which I always understood to include a commitment by the couple to do their best to raise their children in the Catholic faith.

So, is a marriage invalidated when the parents, not even 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)

AYou 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 the failure later in marriage to carry out that commitment does not affect the sacramental validity of the marriage itself.

A valid 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.

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

Rest in peace

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

BARRETT, Debra E., 66, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, April 19. Stepdaughter of Phyllis Barrett. Sister of Diana Hay, Denise Tobin, Dennis and William Barrett, III. Stepsister of Ann Branson, Paul and Phil Markey. Aunt and great-aunt of several.

BOWMAN, Mary Elizabeth, 102, Christ the King, Indianapolis, April 21. Mother of Linda Haislup, Joyce Nitchman, Marcia Shields and Tony Bowman. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of 19.

CASTRO CARDONA, Angel, 57, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, April 9. Husband of Maria de Jesus Lugo Rodriguez. Father of Salma, Selena, Eduardo and Miguel Castro Lugo. Son of Jose Castro. Brother of Dolores, Norma, Francisco, Javier, Jose, Juan and Victor Castro Cardona.

CONNELLY, Francis S., 85, St. Luke the Evangelist,

Indianapolis, April 21. Husband of Emme Connelly. Father of Maureen Fabry, Anne, Mary Beth, Patrick and Thomas Connelly. Brother of Patricia Haas, Jackie Peterson, Jeanne Rechenmacher and John Connelly. Grandfather of seven. Great-grandfather of four.

CORD, Virginia, 83, St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County, April 17. Mother of Barbara Groves, David and Michael Cord. Sister of Deborah Chambers, Alan, Darryl and Greg Curson. Grandmother of six. Great-grandmother of one.

GREGORY, Shirley, 86, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, March 24. Mother of Jeannine, Brian and Michael Gregory. Grandmother of four.

GRIFFIN, John K., 80, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, March 31. Father of Amy Giesler, Theresa Jasper, Jennifer Martinelle and Patrick Griffin. Grandfather of seven.

HANLEY, Edward E., 89, Christ the King, Indianapolis, April 19. Husband of Ruth Ann Hanley. Father of Katherine Knutson, Teresa Lesch, George, Jerome and Martin Hanley. Grandfather of 17. Great-grandfather of 14.

HAPPEL, William, 96, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, April 16. Husband of Juanita Happel. Father of Melodee McNames, Julie Parsons, Eric and Kevin Happel. Brother of Alberta Mooney. Grandfather of 10. Great-grandfather of six.

HEGINBOTHAM, Callidora, 94, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Indianapolis, April 8. Mother of Donna Lee and Frank Kinney. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of nine.

Wildlife in Wales



A red panda rests on a tree at Manor Wildlife Park in Tenby, Wales, on April 26, after the park reopened following the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions. (CNS photo/Rebecca Naden, Reuters)

HOFF, Edith E., 99, St. Louis, Batesville, April 22. Sister of Franciscan Sister Irene Hoff. Aunt of several.

KELLER, Anita, 69, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Indianapolis, April 22. Mother of James, Morgan and Robert Keller, Jr. Sister of Pamela Adams, Lonnie and Ricky Hinkle. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of nine.

LEBEAU, Thomas C., 82, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, April 14. Father of Cindy Cottey, Brian, Greg and Jeff LeBeau. Brother of Mike and

Steve LeBeau. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of five.

PANTOJA, Enzo B., infant, St. Nicholas, Ripley County, April 8. Son of Willy and Kaylee Pantoja. Grandson of Juan and Maria Pantoja and Bob and Jona Dierckman.

SCHNEIDER, Mary E., 98, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, April 15. Mother of Eileen, Daniel, James, Michael, Thomas and Timothy Schneider. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of six.

SIEDELMANN, Mary Ann C., 84, Holy Name of

Jesus, Beech Grove, April 17. Wife of Dean Siedelmann.

Mother of Barbara Dahlstrom and Scott Siedelmann. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of seven.

VEACH, William, 87, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, April 11. Husband of Shirley Veach. Father of Jennie and John Veach. Grandfather of one.

WAGNER, Richard A., 89, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, April 17. Husband of Nancy Wagner. Father of Catherine Woodworth and Anthony

Wagner. Brother of Bernice Lamping. Grandfather of four.

WALTERS, Mary Lou, 94, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, March 14. Mother of Robert Schnabel.

WIRTZ, Hilda, 103, St. Michael, Brookville, April 9. Aunt of one.

WITHEM, James M., 85, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Indianapolis, April 14. Husband of Mary Margaret Withem. Father of Monica Davis, Joan Jacobs, Jimmy and Matthew Withem. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of six. †

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 that 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 said.

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.

In addition, NIH and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will no longer convene the Human Fetal Tissue Research Ethics Advisory Board.

Under President Donald J. Trump, the two agencies had established the board to review research applications for NIH grants, cooperative agreements, and research and development contracts that proposed using fetal tissue from elective abortions.

The previous administration also terminated contracts with outside institutions that used fetal stem cells for research.

According to Roll Call, a news outlet on Capitol Hill, the decision to lift the ban came after 26 House Democrats wrote to HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, urging this policy change.

“It is unethical to promote and subsidize research that can lead to legitimizing the violence of abortion,” Archbishop Naumann said in his statement. “Researchers have demonstrated that we can do effective scientific research and develop efficacious clinical treatments without harvesting tissue from aborted babies.

“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 March for Life Action, the sister organization of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund.

He said the Biden administration’s decision to “fund research that requires aborted fetal tissue [is] very disappointing.

“This type of experimental research is a gross violation of human dignity and is not where the majority of Americans want their tax dollars being spent,” McClusky said. “The government has no business creating a marketplace for aborted baby body parts.”

It is a move in the wrong direction, agreed Tara Sander Lee, senior fellow and director of life sciences at Charlotte Lozier Institute, which is the research and education arm of the Susan B. Anthony List.

“There are superior and ethical alternatives available such as adult stem-cell models being used by countless scientists worldwide to develop and produce advanced medicines treating patients now, without exploitation of any innocent life,” she said. “All scientists should reject the administration’s attempts to prey on fears related to the pandemic to advance the practice of harvesting fetal tissue.”

“Pro-abortion Democrats push this deeply unpopular agenda at their own political peril,” said Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List.

The HHS ban on NIH using human fetal stem cells in

research announced on June 5, 2020, came after an audit and review of its own research involving human fetal tissue and elective abortions. Regarding contracts with outside institutions, HHS refused to renew a \$13 million research contract with the University of California, San Francisco, because it failed to live up to its moral and ethical standards.

In 2019 alone, NIH spent \$120 million on fetal tissue of unborn babies, according to a news release issued by HHS at the time.

Meanwhile in Congress, ahead of the April 16 announcement by NIH, Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., spoke during debate on a bill to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005. Smith was the prime sponsor of the 2005 bill and of a bill to reauthorize it in 2015.

The new law created a nationwide umbilical cord blood stem-cell program, designed to collect, derive, type and freeze cord blood units for transplantation into patients to mitigate “and to even cure serious disease,” Smith said on April 14.

“Pursuant to the law, it also provided stem cells for research” he said, adding that new cord blood program was combined with an expanded bone marrow initiative, whose main sponsor was the late Rep. C.W. Bill Young, R-Fla.

The reauthorization bill for the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act authorizes \$23 million to be appropriated for fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2025. It also authorizes \$30 million to be appropriated for fiscal years 2021 through 2025 for the bone marrow transplant program.

“This continues funding at the same levels authorized in the 2015 authorization bill,” Smith said.

“Each year, nearly 4 million babies are born in America. In the past, virtually every placenta and umbilical cord was tossed as medical waste,” Smith said in his comments on the floor. “Today, doctors have turned this medical waste into medical miracles.”

“Not only has God in his wisdom and goodness created a placenta and umbilical cord to nurture and protect the precious life of an unborn child,” he continued, “but now we know that another gift awaits us immediately after birth. Something very special is left behind—cord blood that is teeming with lifesaving stem cells.”

According to Smith, one of “the best kept secrets in America” is “umbilical cord blood stem cells and adult stem cells in general are curing people of a myriad of terrible conditions and diseases—[more than] 70 diseases in adults as well as in children.” †

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:

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

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P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410
317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548
carlahill@archindy.org

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

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.



Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone

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: A Pastoral Letter on the Human Dignity of the Unborn, Holy Communion and Catholics in Public Life.”

He publicly announced the letter in the homily of the 8 a.m. monthly Mass for Life at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption on May 1. After the liturgy, many members of the congregation prayed the rosary while walking to the Planned Parenthood clinic four blocks away, where they planned to continue praying.

“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 waters of baptism for the remission of 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 an 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 sfarch.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 and thanked Archbishop Cordileone for his pastoral letter, which he said “correctly identifies legalized abortion as ‘the ax laid to the roots 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 as 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 teachings 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.” †

REFLECTION

continued from page 4

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

for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours” (Mk 11:24).

Scripture is full of references to prayer.

And as a Catholic, I feel called to offer petitions for the hungry, the homeless, the unborn, the persecuted and those who have suffered unforeseen tragedies in our world.

As the headline for this reflection reads: “Like it or not, I’ll be praying.”

(Mike Krokos is editor of The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.) †

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Pope Francis’ prayer intentions for May

- The World of Finance**—Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

See Pope Francis’ monthly intentions at archindy.org/popesintentions.

Employment

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 Malarney, Assistant to the President, at mmalarney@bishopchatard.org. Submission deadline is May 21, 2021.



Employment

Director of Enrollment Management Bishop Chatard High School

Bishop Chatard High School, a dynamic archdiocesan Catholic high school located on the north side of Indianapolis, is seeking a creative and engaging individual who will be responsible for the development and implementation of the school’s Enrollment Management program. The Director of Enrollment Management serves as a member of the school’s Advancement team in support of the Bishop Chatard mission. This is a full-time, 12-month, salaried position.

Qualified candidates will possess exemplary written, presentation and interpersonal communication skills; be proficient with technology and social media; and have the ability to manage and work collaboratively on diverse initiatives. A Bachelor’s Degree is required, and three to five years of experience in Enrollment Management or a related field is preferred.

For more information on the duties and responsibilities of this position, view the job description at www.bishopchatard.org/about/employment/

To apply, please email a resume, cover letter and references to Executive Director of Marketing & Enrollment Management Kelly Lucas at klucas@bishopchatard.org.



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.



Pope Francis

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 Succor, 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

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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. “He exhorted them to regenerate economic order and a new culture.”

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.” †



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