



The

Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



Back on track

Race for Vocations held in person after hiatus due to pandemic, page 13.



Courtney Sauntry smiles as she prepares to receive her first Communion from Father Benjamin Syberg at St. Lawrence Church in Lawrenceburg during the Easter Vigil Mass on April 3. (Photo courtesy of AJ Waltz, Waltz Photography LLC)

New Catholic: ‘The faith really spoke to me’

By Natalie Hoefler

Courtney Sauntry, now 17, was fascinated by a particular presentation during “Religions Week” in her public school’s social studies class during her sixth-grade year.

The speaker was Donald Paquette, director of religious education at St. Lawrence Parish in Lawrenceburg, and he spoke about Catholicism.

“He talked all about Catholic prayers,” Courtney recalls. “He brought in rosaries and taught us how to use it. I just fell in love with it. The faith really spoke to me.”

Sixth grade was a particularly hard year for her. She suffered from severe depression, even contemplating suicide. She attributes Paquette’s talk as the positive turning point in her struggles.

See a list of all our new Catholics along with more stories about them, pages 9-12.

“I kept [the rosary] in my backpack,” she said. “When I held it, I felt calmer. It’s helped me get through. I still have it today.”

Last year, Courtney decided to join RCIA at St. Lawrence. “I decided even if I wasn’t Catholic, I’d still go to church every Sunday,” she says.

“The really cool part is that the Holy Spirit started to go through everyone. Even my mom and my [paternal] grandpa, who hadn’t been to church since he was 16, started going to Mass. Then my brother Jackson started going, and he ended up getting baptized, too!” she said of her 12-year-old sibling.

The joy in Courtney’s voice was clear as she recalled receiving her sacraments during the Easter Vigil Mass on April 3 at St. Lawrence Church.

See FAITH, page 12

Pro-life leaders say HHS should not do away with Trump-era Title X rule

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The same day the U.S. Supreme Court announced it will hear a Mississippi appeal of a lower court’s decision to strike down the state’s 15-week abortion ban, it dismissed suits against a Trump administration Title X policy.



Denise Harle

That policy enforced an existing Title X ban on family planning funds being used for abortion or abortion referrals.

May 17 also was the final day for public comment on the Biden administration’s proposed rule to end the Trump policy known as the “Protect Life Rule.”

Under the Biden proposal, Title X funds could again be used by health care services for low-income patients to perform abortions or to refer patients to abortion providers.

A May 3 letter to the court from the Office of the Solicitor General said the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) expects to announce the final Title X rule in December.

According to representatives of pro-life groups, this revision process has been rushed and the new rule as proposed would obliterate conscience rights. They made the comments at a May 17 online news conference hosted by the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington.

“From the start, Congress was very clear that none of these funds be used to fund abortion,” said Valerie Huber, a former acting deputy assistant secretary in the HHS Office of Population Affairs. “When Congress mandates something, HHS has neither the authority or freedom to choose what to ignore.”

The revised rules “would limit options by forcing natural family planning providers out of the program entirely,” said Denise Harle, a senior counsel with Alliance Defending Freedom.

Forcing religious family planning

See TITLE X, page 8

St. Mark student’s letter leads Indianapolis mayor to proclaim ‘Be a Friend Day’

By Sean Gallagher

Quinn McGill knew that her hometown of Indianapolis had experienced some sad events recently, and she wanted to do something about it, to help people in the city to be happy.

To achieve this goal, Quinn needed help. So the 10-year-old fourth grader at St. Mark the Evangelist School in Indianapolis wrote a letter on April 21 to Joseph Hogsett, the city’s mayor, five days after the tragic shooting at a Federal Express facility near Indianapolis International Airport that claimed the lives of eight victims.

Quinn proposed that May 10 be declared “Be a Friend Day” in Indianapolis, choosing that day in part because it was a school day for her when she could be around many of her friends.

“I think it is important,” Quinn wrote in her letter, “because a lot of people have friends and we never really get to celebrate

See FRIEND, page 8



Quinn McGill, center, sits arm in arm with her friends and classmates Christina San, left, and Kaelynn De la Cruz on May 10 at St. Mark the Evangelist School in Indianapolis. Quinn, a fourth-grader at St. Mark, asked Indianapolis Mayor Joseph Hogsett to declare May 10 as “Be a Friend Day,” which the mayor did. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

New parish leadership model is based in Second Vatican Council, canon law

By Sean Gallagher

Among the appointment of priests to ministry in parishes in central and southern Indiana that will take effect on July 7 and were published in the May 7 issue of *The Criterion*, there was one appointment that was unusual for the archdiocese.

Father Daniel Mahan and Father Jonathan Meyer have been appointed



Fr. Daniel Mahan

for a six-year term pastors *in solidum* of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Aurora, St. Lawrence Parish in Lawrenceburg and St. Teresa Benedicta Parish in Bright.

All of these faith communities are in Dearborn County in the Batesville Deanery.

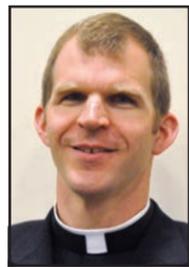
The Church's *Code of Canon Law* makes such an appointment possible in Canon 517 §1, which reads as follows: "When circumstances require it, the pastoral care of a parish or of different parishes together can be entrusted to several priests *in solidum* with the requirement, however, that in exercising pastoral care one of them must be the moderator, namely the one who is to direct the joint action and to answer for it to the bishop."

Father Meyer has been appointed the moderator of the Dearborn County parishes.

Several dioceses in the U.S. have implemented this model of parish leadership to good effect, according to Father Eric Johnson, archdiocesan vicar for clergy.

Msgr. Frederick Easton, who in retirement continues to serve as adjunct vicar judicial of the archdiocese, explained to *The Criterion* what '*in solidum*' means and how the arrangement of multiple priests serving as pastors of one or more parishes works.

"Those who are pastors '*in solidum*' work out together the arrangements of specific responsibilities," Msgr. Easton said. "In other words, the concrete pastoral duties of a pastor to which each one of the pastors '*in solidum*' is bound must be defined in the arrangement they establish together under the leadership of the moderator. All of the pastors '*in solidum*' have all the faculties as pastor but they function collegially."



Fr. Jonathan Meyer

Such an arrangement has some precedent in the archdiocese. Beginning in 1970, there were several parishes or groups of parishes that had two priests assigned as co-pastors. The practice, apart from some exceptional circumstances, stopped when the current *Code of Canon Law* was implemented in 1983.

Msgr. Easton also noted that the earlier practice of appointing co-pastors and the appointment of pastors "*in solidum*" made possible by canon 517 §1 are rooted in the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, which encouraged collegiality in ministry in the Church for the better accomplishment of its mission to proclaim the Gospel and for the salvation of souls. †

Parishes change Mass times due to holiday weekend, Indy 500 race

Several parishes in the Indianapolis West Deanery will change their Mass schedule for the Memorial Day weekend on May 29-30 due to the annual Indianapolis 500 race on May 30.

• Holy Angels Parish/St. Rita Parish, Indianapolis:

Mass will be held jointly at St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., in Indianapolis, at 6 p.m. on May 29 and at 11 a.m. on May 30. There will be no Mass at Bishop Chartrand Memorial Chapel on the campus of Marian University in Indianapolis on May 29 or 30.

• **St. Christopher Parish, 5301 W. 16th St., in Indianapolis:** Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on May 29. No Mass will be celebrated on May 30.

• St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., in Indianapolis:

Mass will be celebrated in English and Spanish at 3:30 p.m., in English at 5 p.m., and in Spanish at 6:30 p.m. on May 29. There will be no Mass on May 30.

• St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 3354 W. 30th St., in Indianapolis:

Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on May 29. Mass will be celebrated at 7 a.m. on May 30.

• St. Anthony Parish, 337 N. Warman Ave., in Indianapolis:

Mass will be celebrated in English at 4 p.m. and Spanish at 6 p.m. on May 29, and at 8:30 a.m. in Spanish and 11:30 a.m. in English on May 30.

For information about Mass changes at other parishes in the area, call the parish offices. †



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

May 21-30, 2021

May 21 – 1 p.m.

Mass honoring Senior Class of Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception, Oldenburg, at Oldenburg Academy

May 22 – 9 a.m.

Graduation Ceremony at Roncalli High School, Indianapolis

May 22 – 5:30 p.m.

Confirmation Mass for youths of SS. Francis and Clare Of Assisi Parish, Greenwood, at SS. Francis and Clare Church

May 23 – 2 p.m.

Confirmation Mass for adults throughout the archdiocese at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

May 23 – 6 p.m.

Confirmation Mass for adults from St. Monica Parish, Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

May 25 – 1 p.m.

Council of Priests meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

May 26 – 10 a.m.

Day of Formation for Priests at St. Jude Parish, Indianapolis

May 27 – 9:30 a.m.

Mass for students of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) School, Indianapolis, at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church

May 27 – 10 a.m.

Leadership Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

May 27 – 3 p.m.

Finance Council meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

May 27 – 8 p.m.

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops virtual dialogue "Journeying Together"

May 30 – TBD

Invocation for the 105th running of the Indianapolis 500

Pope appeals for peace in Holy Land, says death of children 'unacceptable'

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The injury and death of so many innocent people, especially children, caused by escalating violence between Israel and the Gaza Strip is "terrible and unacceptable," putting the area at risk of sinking into "a spiral of death and destruction," Pope Francis said.

The pope launched an appeal for calm and asked leaders of both sides "to put a stop to the roar of weapons and to follow the paths of peace, even with the help of the international community," he said on May 16 after reciting the "*Regina Coeli*" prayer with hundreds of people in St. Peter's Square.

"Many people have been injured, and many innocent people have died. Among them are even children, and this is terrible and unacceptable. Their death is a sign that one does not want to build the future, but wants to destroy it," he said.

The growing hatred and violence in different cities in Israel "is a serious wound to fraternity and to peaceful coexistence among citizens, which will be difficult to heal if we do not open immediately to dialogue," the pope said, asking, "Where will hatred and vengeance lead? Do we really think we can build peace by destroying the other?"

The pope appealed for calm, a cease-fire and constant prayers so that "Israelis and Palestinians may find the path of dialogue and forgiveness, to be patient builders of peace and justice, opening up, step by step, to a common hope, to a coexistence among brothers and sisters."

He then led those gathered in the square in praying the Hail Mary for the victims, the children and for peace.

Meanwhile, the head of the Vatican's press office, Matteo Bruni, confirmed that Pope Francis spoke over the telephone on May 17 with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

While the Vatican did not comment on the content of the conversation, the Turkish communications department said the two leaders discussed the ongoing attacks.

According to a written statement reported by Andalou Agency, Erdogan said Israel's attacks were an atrocity and that the latest violations were putting regional security in danger.

Pope Francis' appeal on May 16 came as Israel escalated its assault on Gaza and it also faced growing civil unrest in its mixed Jewish-Arab cities.

Jewish mobs had destroyed Arab property, and Arab mobs attacked Jewish businesses and burned synagogues, with attempted lynchings on both sides over the past week.

The violence between Israel and Hamas was at its worst since the 2014 Gaza War with Israeli airstrikes and hundreds of rockets launched from the Gaza Strip killing at least 145 Palestinians and 10 Israelis, according to Reuters on May 16. Efforts by the international community were underway to broker a cease-fire. †



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Readers share stories of Blessed Mother's role in their lives

(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 third of four installments featuring the responses received. From Floyds Knobs to

Greenwood, to Indianapolis and Bloomington, this week's reader responses honor Mary and her desire to help her children at all stages of life.)

M

By Natalie Hoefler

Member of St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish knows that Mary is the 'way to Jesus'

Growing up Catholic, 64-year-old Joseph Blunk says he has "always held a special place in my heart for the Blessed Mother—she's always been a part of my life."

She is so much a part of his life that the member of St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish in Floyd County begins each day praying a Hail Mary.

"All while I was growing up, my mother always had the most beautiful Blessed Mother statue in her bedroom," he recalls. "When my mother passed away a couple of years ago, it gave me great comfort to obtain that statue."

Blunk says it was his mother who explained to her children "how special the month of May was in honor of the Blessed Mother. This gave me such a warm and secure feeling not only in the month of May, but always—I knew that I could ask the Blessed Mother anything to help intercede with a difficult time I may have been experiencing."

Blunk now follows in the footsteps of his mother, praying the rosary—"or at least a decade or two"—every day.

"I pray to the Blessed Mother every day, knowing that she is the way to our Lord Jesus Christ," he says. "She didn't have to say 'yes' to be the mother of our Savior, but she did, showing us what a beautiful person she is and giving us her unconditional love."

After years of avoiding Mary, Greenwood man realizes 'she still loves you'

Bob Siefker was not raised in the Catholic faith. So in 1967, when he was received into the full communion of the Church before marrying into a family with three Franciscan sisters among its extended members, it became a Catholic baptism—by beads.

One of the Franciscan sisters "presented to me a beautiful rosary she had hand-crafted," recalls the member of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood.

"I had been assured by the priest who gave me instructions that saying the rosary was not a requirement for being Catholic and, with my two decades of Protestant background, I appreciated the gift but had no intention of ever using it."

Siefker put the rosary in a drawer "and never thought about it after."

A few years later, he was mowing the grass when his wife approached him.

"I could see by her somber look that something serious had happened," says Siefker. "I shut off the mower and she said, 'Your sister just called.'" As he suspected, the news was not good. In fact, it was devastating—his nephew had been killed while riding his bicycle.

"I could barely breathe," Siefker recalls. "It was as though someone had hit me in the chest with a 2-by-4."

What happened next caught him by just as much surprise.

"Then I heard a voice that sounded just like mine saying, 'Would you pray a rosary with me?'" says Siefker. "My wife, looking a little surprised, responded with great love and tenderness, 'Of course.'"

"I still have no idea why I said that or where the idea came from."

The grieving couple went into their house

and prayed the rosary—"my first ever—with tears streaming down our cheeks," he recalls.

"Ever since that day, the rosary and the loving tenderness that our Blessed Mother offers us has been an important part of my life."

"Just because you ignore her or put her in a drawer, she still loves you and is there for you when you are ready."

Bloomington man relishes 'real and personal relationship with Mary'

James Montgomery can identify the event that drew him close to the Blessed Mother. It was 1988, and he was on pilgrimage to the Shrine at Fatima in Portugal.

"The church grounds were ringed with merchants selling every kind of religious article," recalls the member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington. "But the moment I entered the church, I knew I was on holy ground."

He purchased a rosary and asked a local priest to bless it in Portuguese.

"That was the beginning of my real and personal relationship with Mary," Montgomery says.

His dedication to Mary led him to become a member of the Central Association of the Miraculous Medal many years ago. The organization seeks to spread devotion to Mary and the Miraculous Medal, which was designed by St. Catherine Laboure based on her visions of the Blessed Mother in 1830 in Paris, France.

When his grandson was deployed with the Army to Iraq following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Montgomery says he "gave him my Miraculous Medal and told him to keep it with him always, and told him I would say the prayers associated with it for him and his safety."

That grandson, a helicopter test pilot, will retire from the Army this August unharmed after 20 years, two deployments to Iraq and two deployments to Afghanistan.

"I credit the Blessed Mother for watching over him all these years," says Montgomery.

He himself went overseas during those years three times—but not to the Middle East. Rather, Montgomery traveled to Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where it was reported in 1981 that six teenagers were experiencing apparitions from the Blessed Mother. The Vatican has still not determined if the apparitions are of supernatural nature because they are reported to still be occurring.

On his first pilgrimage to Medjugorje in 2010, Montgomery witnessed a private, personal sign that he still ponders.

"To this day, I still don't understand parts of [what he experienced] and what it means, but I have thought about it on a daily basis since," he says.

"Needless to say, it has changed my life, and I am more convinced than ever that Mary is the greatest intercessor we could ever have, and that she always points the way to her Son, Jesus."

Indianapolis woman connects with Mary through Schubert's 'Ave Maria'

One could say Gina Langferman has had a close relationship with Mary from birth.

"My parents named me Regina [meaning "queen"] because my birthday falls between the feast of the Assumption [on Aug. 15] and the feast of the

Queenship of Mary [on Aug. 22]," explains Langferman, a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.

Given the gift of a beautiful voice, she began using her talent as a cantor when she was just 16.

"I learned how to sing Schubert's 'Ave Maria' by hearing my older sister sing it," says Langferman. "As an adult, I've been blessed to sing it at many weddings and funerals . . . Each time I sing it, I fall more in love with the Blessed Mother."

As a cantor at St. Barnabas Church, Langferman now faces a statue of Mary as she sings from the sanctuary.

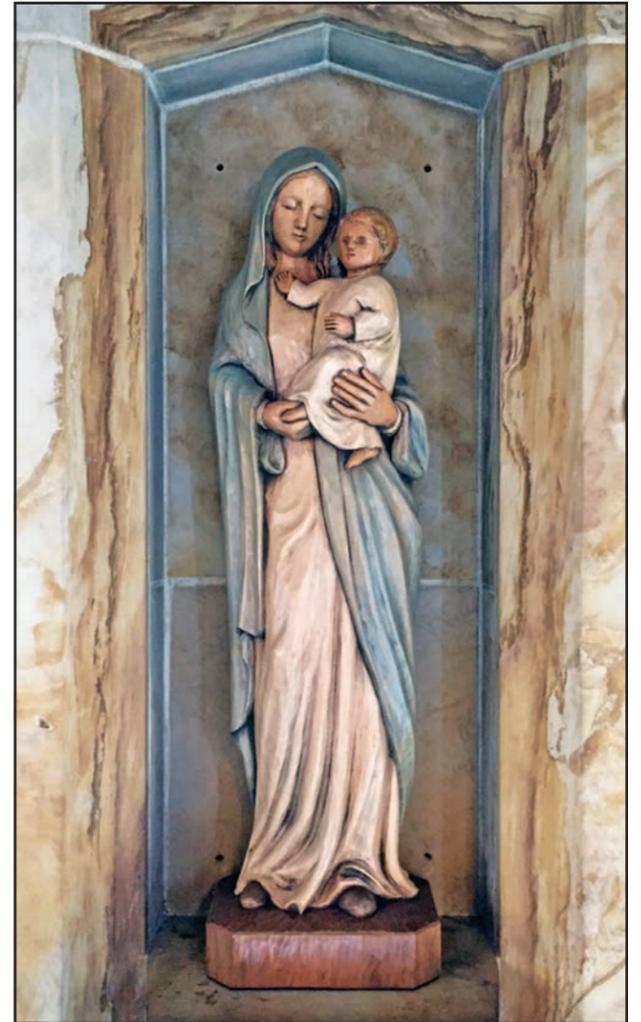
"So each time I sing this special song, I look across the church at Mary and sing it as a prayer to her," she says.

Of the many times Langferman has been blessed to sing this well-loved song, one particular instance comes first to her mind.

A few months after singing Schubert's 'Ave Maria' at her mother-in-law's funeral in 2002, Langferman was sitting in a church in the Dominican Republic waiting for Mass to begin. It was a trip the entire Langferman family chose to take as a way to enjoy time together after the loss of their matriarch.

One family member suggested Langferman start singing the well-known song, since people from many countries were there and would likely recognize it.

"I protested and said, 'Look, I'm on vacation. Besides, how do I know that they would want me to sing?'" she recalls whispering in resonance.



A statue depicts the Madonna and Child in Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

Then the chapel musician walked up the aisle, sat down at the organ and started playing the prelude to Schubert's 'Ave Maria.'

Langferman "knew right away" that this was a prompting from the Holy Spirit.

"I walked right up and asked him if I could sing the song that he was playing," she says. "He agreed, and there I was, in the Dominican Republic, on a resort, at a beautiful open-air chapel singing the song that has defined my life."

"I knew my mother-in-law heard it, too. And so did our Blessed Mother." †

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Editorial

Fourth-grader offers heartfelt example of discipleship

Sometimes the simplest acts of children can teach us poignant life lessons.

And fourth-grader Quinn McGill of St. Mark the Evangelist School in Indianapolis recently shared an idea with Indianapolis Mayor Joseph Hogsett, which led to the city leader following the 10-year-old's heartfelt suggestion.

In a letter last month to the mayor, Quinn encouraged him to make May 10 "Be a Friend Day" in Indianapolis. (See story on page 1.)

The tragic shooting at a Federal Express facility near Indianapolis International Airport that claimed the lives of eight victims on April 15, a crime that shook our city, state and nation to its core, was among the reasons Quinn asked the mayor to make such a proclamation. The sadness that resulted from the shooting planted a seed in the student's heart to write about the importance of never taking friends for granted.

"I think it is important," Quinn wrote in her letter, "because a lot of people have friends and we never really get to celebrate them. Some people don't have as many friends, and we should be a friend to them."

"...There has been some sadness in Indianapolis, and I think that this would bring some joy."

Not surprisingly, Hogsett wholeheartedly agreed with Quinn's suggestion.

"Friends are an important and valued part of our lives. Friends support us, care for us, and love us unconditionally," the mayor wrote in his proclamation declaring May 10 "Be A Friend Day" in Indianapolis. "Friendships are part of human nature and are one of the deepest bonds people can share with one another. These relationships enrich our lives and



Alex Nation, left, a staff member for Indianapolis Mayor Joseph Hogsett, and Rusty Albertson, principal of St. Mark the Evangelist School in Indianapolis, pose on May 10 at the school with fourth-grader Quinn McGill. On that day, Nation hand-delivered a proclamation to Quinn from the mayor declaring May 10 as "Be a Friend Day" in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

fill our days with laughter and joy."

While the COVID-19 pandemic has led to frustration and uneasiness for some in society—including in some school settings—Quinn's love of her friends and her letter to the mayor offer a beautiful example of discipleship.

No matter where we are in life, we would be well served to follow her example.

—Mike Krokos

Scouts called to be witnesses, to carry out missionary message

The witness of young people was also on the mind of Pope Francis when he met with Scouts on May 14 at the Vatican celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the French national organization for Catholic Scouting.

The Holy Father told the group of young girls and boys that as Catholic Scouts they have a "noble mission" to witness to the Gospel with their faith, service and care of creation.

With their commitment to helping others, Scouts are also "called to work for a more 'outgoing' Church and for a more human world," the pope said.

"I urge you to be both dynamic Christians and faithful Scouts," he told them.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic when it wasn't always possible to meet in person, Scouting has been "a sign of encouragement to young people, because it invites them to dream and to act, to have the courage to look to the future with hope," the pope said.

Despite the selfishness that some demonstrate in today's world, Pope Francis encouraged the young people

"not to close in on yourselves, not to be inert young people, without ideals and without dreams.

"Never lose sight of the fact that the Lord is calling you all to fearlessly carry the missionary message wherever you are, especially among young people, in your neighborhoods, in sports, when you go out with friends, when you volunteer or at work."

Going out. It is part of our Gospel mandate as missionary disciples. And as we continue to take steps to work through a pandemic that has dominated our way of life for the past 15 months, we must have the courage and wherewithal to let the light of Christ shine through us—especially in places where there continues to be darkness.

"Always and everywhere share the joy of the Gospel that makes you live," Pope Francis told the young people. "The Lord wants you to be his disciples and to spread light and hope, because he counts on your boldness, your courage and your enthusiasm."

—Mike Krokos

Sight Unseen/Brandon A. Evans

The wide space between two words

The best stories are those where the end of everything meets the beginning of something greater.



They're the stories that catch us, that draw us in—the ones that let us play safely at the edge of despair because we know it's all going to work out somehow. We let ourselves take in the sadness because it's precisely the sadness that will make the triumph that much sweeter.

Even more wonderful, though, is that such surprises aren't just for stories: they're part and parcel of the template set into the universe by God; things found not only on the pages of Hollywood scripts, but also on the pages of history, and even more, on the pages of Scripture itself.

The whole of salvation—from Adam and Eve to the lives of the saints—is filled, positively *filled*, with the strange idea that evil's ultimate undoing is always hidden right in its moment of victory.

Stranger yet is that God's answer to the problem of evil is precisely *that he allows it* to bring light into the world—and not merely light, but a *greater* light than would have shone without it.

Think of how many stories the Bible alone has told us that both end *and* begin at the turning of the same two words: "And yet."

Abraham, a man born of the scattered and frayed human race, should have killed his son at the altar in Moriah. He should have lost the only thing that mattered to him and died believing in a bloodthirsty God, *and yet* his hand was stayed, an ancestral line was opened, and a covenant forged.

Many years later, the Israelites, trapped and hopeless along the border of a sea with the Egyptian army bearing down, should have had their long and lustrous story wiped away in an afternoon, *and yet* God made an impossible road for them, a way where there was no way, bridging the path to countless new tomorrows.

And finally, at salvation's dawn, St. Joseph should have divorced his pregnant wife, his own story drowned in the sadness of a betrayal that could have no other explanation or happy ending, *and yet* he became the sole protector of the two most important people in the history of *history*, their lives only saved because of his fatherly care.

How and why did all these things happen? What did God require from Abraham, from Moses, from Joseph, to work such wonders? It was not, in the end, a mountainous sacrifice, or a

bloody battle, or a great and terrible deed. What saved the world thrice over when all the chips were down was not power or might or wealth or wisdom, but *willingness*.

Surrender.

Trust.

He asked for the kind of faith that fits in a mustard seed.

It seems too simple for us: Despite those true stories and the lives of countless saints, we still think that God could never do that sort of thing in our messy lives. We deceive ourselves into thinking up great sacrifices and then never making them.

But God's ways are not our ways. He does not require a fantastic amount of room and time and material to work wonders. He is calling each of us, over and again, to make the sacrifice of faith that he truly wants.

His eye is fixed on the little things, really—the things we hold close, that we keep to ourselves—those *privations* which we lock away and cling to for support instead of him.

Those little safeties, those little emotions, *those little controls*.

We all know what they are, and which ones are ours. It does not matter whether they manifest in sins great or small: at the heart of every sickness in us is a *little refusal*: a point at which we want—we demand—that *our* will be done.

And as long as we hold on to our will, we cannot be surprised by his. So God bids us gently—very gently—to the simple act of *letting go*. Not of everything, not all at once, but a start—taking even just one of those little seeds of pride in our hearts and holding them up to him like a grain of sand in our palm.

To give up such things—a joy taken too liberally, a bit of gossip, an expectation of reward, a harsh word—requires honesty and faith...but most of all love.

And God does not waste love.

The surrender of our little treasures reveals that life is not so much what we are holding back from God, but rather, what impossible things he is waiting to do with them—what strange and utterly unforeseen twists he is poised to spring into our lives with the same words he used in all those other great stories of loss turned to gain.

For the whole world—or much more of it than we dare suspect—lives within the wide and wild space of those two words: "And yet."

(*Sight Unseen* is an occasional column that explores God and the world. Brandon A. Evans is the online editor and graphic designer of *The Criterion* and a member of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield.) †

Letter to the Editor

Reader: Who or what is our god these days?

This is to lend a voice of support to John F. Fink's editorial in the April 30 issue of *The Criterion*, "Why Catholics are leaving."

Fink attributes much of this to an overall liberalization of modern society, which in turn has caused some Catholics to view the Church as "too strict," and many from their teenage years up simply "don't want to hear it [Church teachings] anymore," and leave or quit the Church.

To this, I would add the overall increase in commercialism and materialism of our modern and capitalistic society.

Almost everything anyone could ever want in life is now only a few clicks away via one's computer—or even just their cell phone. The big questions in life now are only,

"How do I get enough money to get them?"

Enlightenment era philosophers such as Rene Descartes and Thomas Hobbes predicted such a day, as wealth moved away from land and family, to simple paper currency. This last one especially created the belief that of all the things for which we used to rely on God, or each other, we could now simply get ourselves, given sufficient funds. This in turn "moved the goalpost" of our relationships away from God and each other, and toward "us and our money."

A motto on our paper currency reads, "In God We Trust." But who or what is our god these days?

Sonny Shanks
Corydon



Christ the Cornerstone

The Holy Spirit gathers us in, sends us out on mission

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’ ” (Jn 20:21-22).

The word *Pentecost* comes from the Greek Πεντηκοστή (Pentēkostē) meaning “fiftieth.” In the Jewish tradition, Pentecost celebrates the 50th day after Passover. We Christians celebrate Pentecost 50 days after Easter Sunday, the day when we believe the definitive Passover occurred.

For Christians, Pentecost is celebrated as the day when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus’ disciples and they became, as Pope Francis says, “spirit-filled evangelizers.” By the power of the Holy Spirit, a timid group of undistinguished men and women were transformed into bold witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

“On that day, the Holy Trinity is fully revealed. Since that day, the Kingdom announced by Christ has been open to those who believe in him: in the humility of the flesh and in faith, they already share in the communion of the Holy Trinity. By his coming, which

never ceases, the Holy Spirit causes the world to enter into the ‘last days,’ the time of the Church, the Kingdom already inherited though not yet consummated” (#732).

The Holy Trinity is fully revealed in our observance of this solemn feast. The tender and creative love of the Father, the redemptive power of God’s Son, and the burning flame and mighty wind of the Holy Spirit come together and fill the world with sanctifying grace. As the catechism says, this infusion of divine grace inaugurates the Church, which is the sacramental sign of God’s kingdom “already inherited though not yet consummated.”

Easter Sunday is the holiest day in the Church year. It’s the day when we recall, and re-live, the mystery of our redemption. During the 50 days of the Easter season, we express our joy in countless ways and proclaim in the words of St. John’s Gospel: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” (Jn 3:16).

Pentecost Sunday reflects the fulfillment of this sacred promise—the Father’s decision to send his only

Son, the death and resurrection of Jesus, and the descent of the Holy Spirit on everyone who seeks the courage, and the joy, of Christian discipleship. When we say that Pentecost is the Church’s birthday, we mean that quite literally. It is the day when we are born again as missionary disciples, as sisters and brothers who are on fire with the love of God and who are committed to proclaiming the Gospel to all nations and peoples everywhere.

In the first reading for Pentecost Sunday, we read:

“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim” (Acts 2:1-4).

When we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are given everything we need to witness to the Gospel. In spite of every obstacle, we can stand firm in our

faith, and we can share the joy of the Gospel with everyone we encounter in our daily lives. As St. Paul assures us in the second reading:

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit” (1 Cor 12:4-7).

The Holy Spirit shows us how to witness to the Gospel in our particular circumstances. He gives us the courage to be faithful no matter what challenges we are presented with. Through the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, those who embrace and possess his gifts and fruits—as well as those whom they encounter—are transformed as witnesses to Jesus Christ.

Pentecost Sunday celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit which the catechism tells us “never ceases.”

As we observe this most holy day, let’s rededicate ourselves to being spirit-filled evangelizers who never hesitate to keep the flame of God’s presence burning brightly—in our hearts and in our world. †



Cristo, la piedra angular

El Espíritu Santo nos reúne y nos envía a la misión

“La paz sea con ustedes. Así como el Padre me envió, también yo los envío a ustedes.’ Y habiendo dicho esto, sopló y les dijo: ‘Reciban el Espíritu Santo’ ” (Jn 20:21-22).

La palabra *Pentecostés* viene del griego Πεντηκοστή (Pentēkostē) que significa “quincuagésimo.” En la tradición judía, Pentecostés se celebra el 50.º día después de la Pascua. Los cristianos celebramos Pentecostés 50 días después del Domingo de Resurrección, el día en que creemos que ocurrió la Pascua definitiva.

Para los cristianos, Pentecostés celebra el día en que el Espíritu Santo descendió sobre los discípulos de Jesús y se convirtieron, como dice el papa Francisco, en “evangelizadores llenos de espíritu.” Por el poder del Espíritu Santo, un tímido grupo de hombres y mujeres ordinarios se transformaron en audaces testigos de la resurrección de Jesucristo.

Según el *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*:

“En este día se revela plenamente la Santísima Trinidad. Desde ese día el Reino anunciado por Cristo está abierto a todos los que creen en Él: en la humildad de la carne y en la fe, participan ya en la comunión de la Santísima Trinidad. Con su venida, que no cesa, el Espíritu Santo hace

entrar al mundo en los ‘últimos tiempos,’ el tiempo de la Iglesia, el Reino ya heredado, pero todavía no consumado” (#732).

La Santísima Trinidad se revela plenamente en la celebración de esta fiesta solemne. El amor tierno y creativo del Padre, el poder redentor del Hijo de Dios, y la llama ardiente y el viento poderoso del Espíritu Santo se unen y llenan el mundo de gracia santificante. Como dice el catecismo, esta infusión de la gracia divina inaugura la Iglesia, que es el signo sacramental del reino de Dios “ya heredado pero todavía no consumado.”

El Domingo de Pascua es el día más sagrado del año eclesial, ya que es el día en que recordamos y revivimos el misterio de nuestra redención. Durante los 50 días del tiempo de Pascua, expresamos nuestra alegría de innumerables maneras y proclamamos con las palabras del Evangelio de san Juan: “Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que ha dado a su Hijo unigénito para que todo aquel que en él cree no se pierda mas tenga vida eterna” (Jn 3:16).

El domingo de Pentecostés refleja el cumplimiento de esta promesa sagrada: la decisión del Padre de enviar a su único Hijo,

la muerte y resurrección de Jesús, y el descenso del Espíritu Santo sobre todos los que buscan el valor y la alegría del discipulado cristiano. Cuando decimos que Pentecostés es el cumpleaños de la Iglesia, lo decimos literalmente. Es el día en que nacemos de nuevo como discípulos misioneros, como hermanas y hermanos que arden en el amor de Dios y que se comprometen a anunciar el Evangelio a todas las naciones y pueblos del mundo.

En la primera lectura del domingo de Pentecostés, encontramos lo siguiente:

“Al llegar el día de Pentecostés, estaban todos reunidos en el mismo lugar. De pronto, vino del cielo un ruido, semejante a una fuerte ráfaga de viento, que resonó en toda la casa donde se encontraban. Entonces vieron aparecer unas lenguas como de fuego, que descendieron por separado sobre cada uno de ellos. Todos quedaron llenos del Espíritu Santo, y comenzaron a hablar en distintas lenguas, según el Espíritu les permitía expresarse” (Hch 2:1-4).

Cuando recibimos el don del Espíritu Santo, se nos da todo lo que necesitamos para dar testimonio del Evangelio. A pesar de todos los obstáculos, podemos mantenernos firmes en nuestra fe, y podemos

compartir la alegría del Evangelio con todos los que encontramos en nuestra vida diaria. Tal como nos lo asegura san Pablo en la segunda lectura:

“Ahora bien, hay diversos dones, pero un mismo Espíritu. Hay diversas maneras de servir, pero un mismo Señor. Hay diversas funciones, pero es un mismo Dios el que hace todas las cosas en todos. A cada uno se le da una manifestación especial del Espíritu para el bien de los demás” (1 Cor 12:4-7).

El Espíritu Santo nos muestra cómo dar testimonio del Evangelio en nuestras circunstancias particulares. Él nos da el valor para ser fieles sin importar los desafíos que se nos presenten. A través del poder transformador del Espíritu Santo, los que abrazan y poseen sus dones y frutos—así como los que se topan con ellos—son transformados como testigos de Jesucristo.

El domingo de Pentecostés celebra la venida del Espíritu Santo que, según el catecismo, “no cesa.”

Al celebrar este día tan sagrado, volvamos a dedicarnos a ser evangelizadores llenos del espíritu que nunca dudan en mantener la llama de la presencia de Dios ardiendo con fuerza, en nuestros corazones y en nuestro mundo. †

Events Calendar

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

May 24, June 7

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 25

Plum Creek Golf Club, 12401 Lynnwood Blvd., Carmel, Ind. **Catholic Radio Indy's annual Golf Outing**, check-in 10:30 a.m., Mass 11:30 a.m., lunch noon, shotgun start 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 Castleon 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.

St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oaklandon Rd., Indianapolis. **Parish Festival**, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 3 p.m.-midnight; live music Thurs. Jason and Joy, Fri. Nauti Yachtys, Sat. Stella Luna and the Satellites; new rides, Kids' Zone, free entry with purchase of \$10 in food and beverage tickets, early-bird family package available. Information: saintsimonfestival.com, 317-826-6000 or chair@saintsimonfestival.com.

June 4

Women's Care Center, 4901 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. **First Friday Mass**, 5 p.m., optional tour of center to follow. Information: 317-829-6800, www.womenscarecenter.org.

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **First Friday bilingual celebration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**, Mass, 5:45 p.m., exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, following Mass until 9 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation available. Information: 317-750-7309, msross1@hotmail.com.

June 4-5

McGowan Hall Knights of Columbus, 1305 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis. **Encounter Ministries: School of Healing Conference**, sponsored by archdiocesan Office of Human Life and Dignity, Fri. 6-9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-10 p.m., Ryan Mahle and Daniel Rodriguez presenting, registration deadline May 31, \$70, \$35 for priests/religious/seminarians, includes Sat. lunch. Registration: cutt.ly/schoolofhealing. Information: 317-236-1543, bvarick@archindy.org.

June 4-6

St. Therese of the Child Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, 4720 E. 13th Street, Indianapolis. **Summerfest**, Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 3-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., rides, entertainment, bingo, raffle, silent auction, admission \$10 for \$10 in festival coupons for food and attractions. Information: 317-357-8352, amackell@littleflowerparish.org.

June 5

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

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

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Encounter Ministries: Healing Service**, sponsored by archdiocesan Office of Human Life and Dignity, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Ryan Mahle and Daniel Rodriguez facilitating, worship and praise, Scripture, preaching, communal prayer for healing, prayer team healing. Information: 317-236-1543 or bvarick@archindy.org.

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, 10655 Haverstick Rd., Carmel, Ind. (Lafayette Diocese). **Christ be our Light: Day of Reflection for the Divorced**, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., keynote speaker Deacon Bob Angelich of Gary Diocese, \$10, includes Mass, breakfast, lunch, registration deadline May 21. Registration: ccastillo@dol-in.org, 765-269-4662. Information: Susan McIntosh, 317-938-8950.

June 8

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.

June 9

McGowan Hall Knights of Columbus, 1305 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis. **Theology on Tap**, sponsored by archdiocesan Young Adult and College Campus Ministry, speaker series for young adults ages 18-39, every other Wednesday through Aug. 18, free.

Information on speakers and topics: indycatholic.org/theology-on-tap. Questions: 317-261-3373.

June 11

Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., St. Anthony Hall, Mt. St. Francis. **Penny Sisto's Spirit of Love Exhibit and reception**,

6-8 p.m., meet fabric artist Penny Sisto and view her artwork, refreshments served, free. Information: 812-923-8817, mountsaintfrancis.org/penny-sisto.

June 11-July 9

Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr.,

St. Anthony Hall, Mt. St. Francis. **Penny Sisto's Spirit of Love Exhibit**, exhibition of the work of fabric artist Penny Sisto, hours: Mon., Wed., and Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Fri. 4-7 p.m., free. Information: 812-923-8817 or mountsaintfrancis.org/penny-sisto. †

Wedding ANNIVERSARIES

RICHARD AND CATHERINE PETROFF



RICHARD AND CATHERINE (WALKER) PETROFF, members of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 13.

The couple was married in All Saints Church in Cannelburg, Ind. (Evansville Diocese) on May 13, 1961.

They have four children: Deborah Meyers, Kathleen Stewart, Sharon Vuskalns and Douglas Petroff.

The couple also has eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. †

JERRY AND BRENDA BAYLOR



JERRY AND BRENDA (GELTMAKER) BAYLOR, members of St. Mary Parish in Navilleton, will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on May 28.

The couple was married in St. Michael Church in Bradford on May 28, 1966.

They have one child: Dena Rogers.

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

BILL AND ETHEL BURKHART



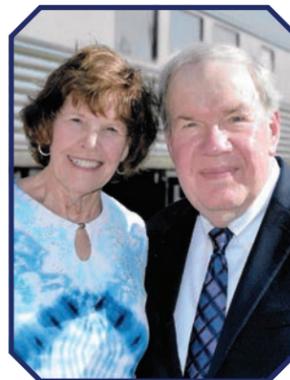
BILL AND ETHEL (SHADDAY) BURKHART, members of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 22.

The couple was married in St. Mary Church in Greensburg on May 22, 1971.

They have two children: Jared and Ryan Burkhart.

The couple also has five grandchildren. †

JOE AND NANCY PETERS



JOE AND NANCY (DINAN) PETERS, former members of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis now living in Cincinnati, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 12.

The couple was married in St. Thomas Church in Zanesville, Ohio, on Feb. 12, 1971.

They have five children: Janise Felblinger, Katy Hoying, Jessica Meade, Renee Schauer and Alan Peters.

The couple also has 11 grandchildren.

Joe worked in the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education for 29 years, and Nancy was a teacher at Our Lady of the Greenwood School in Greenwood for 23 years. †

Retreats and Programs

For a complete list of retreats as reported to The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/retreats.

June 9

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Personal Day of Retreat**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., includes private room for the day and lunch, \$40, optional spiritual direction for additional \$30 (must be scheduled in advance). Registration: www.benedictinn.org/programs. Information: benedictinn@benedictinn.org, 317-788-7581.

contribution. Registration: www.benedictinn.org/programs. Information: benedictinn@benedictinn.org, 317-788-7581.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Divine Wine & Art with Heart**, 5-9 p.m., Hayley Mosson presenting, \$45, includes program, wine, snacks and all painting supplies. Registration: cutt.ly/fatimaretreats, 317-545-7681 or jburger@archindy.org.

Sat. 3:30 p.m., writing professor Susan Yanos presenting, \$175 includes, room, meals and supplies. Registration: www.benedictinn.org/programs. Information: benedictinn@benedictinn.org, 317-788-7581.

June 13

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **You Are Not Alone: Emotional Journey of Suicide Loss Survivors**, 4-6 p.m., online option available, led by Christine Turo-Shields, LCSW, and panel, refreshments, free-will offering. Information and registration: Jennifer Burger, 317-545-7681, jburger@archindy.org, cutt.ly/notalone6-13. †

June 11-12

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **The Personal Journal: A Tool for the Spiritual Journey**, Fri. 7 p.m.-

June 10

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Peace and Nature Garden Walk**, 7-8:30 p.m., Benedictine Sister Angela Jarboe presenting, free will

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.



The Face of Mercy

By Daniel Conway



Keeping the flame of God's presence alive through prayer

In his weekly reflections on prayer, Pope Francis argues that the first duty of Christians is “to keep the flame of God’s presence alive.” This is accomplished, the pope says, through our prayer.

According to the Holy Father, “Our parents, who first taught us to pray, planted within us a seed that matures through our experience of the Christian life.” The prayers offered by children—whether spontaneous or memorized—are especially powerful because they are pure, innocent and from the heart.

“Through the example of other men and women of faith, through our sharing in the life of our parishes and above all through the sacred liturgy,” Pope Francis says, “we not only develop our prayer life as individuals, but gradually come to appreciate the richness of the Church’s patrimony of prayer and spirituality. Particularly at difficult moments in life, we come to realize the importance of prayer in strengthening our faith and hope.”

Pope Francis identifies the Holy Spirit as the great teacher who instructs all of us, the children of God, on the importance of prayer. The pope says:

“The work of the Holy Spirit is to ‘remind us’ of Jesus, to make Him present in the lives of Christians of every time and place. Because of the Spirit, Jesus is not distant, but with us always: He still educates His disciples by transforming their hearts.

“This is the experience of so many who pray, men and women whom the Holy Spirit has formed according to the ‘measure’ of Christ, in mercy, service, prayer. It is the experience not only of monks and hermits, but of ordinary people who have woven a long history of dialogue with God. Seeking God, they safeguard His presence—in the Gospel, in the Eucharist, and in the faces of those in need—like a secret flame.”

In a lovely, paradoxical phrase, the Holy Father tells us that our search for God—as individuals and as a community—actually “safeguards” God’s presence. As long as we genuinely seek God, the Divine Mystery remains vital and accessible to us, “like a secret flame” that produces heat and light in spite of its apparent hiddenness.

“History shows the importance of

communities of prayer—monasteries and religious congregations,” the pope says, “for the spiritual renewal of the Church and of society as a whole.” Communities that keep the flame of God’s presence burning brightly because of their fidelity to personal and communal prayer provide a service that is often misunderstood. It is an especially valuable service in troubled times of war, pestilence and economic hardships such as we have experienced recently.

“Prayer remains the wellspring of the Church’s life and the true source of her strength in bearing witness to the risen Lord,” the pope teaches. “For this reason, Jesus insists on the need of his disciples to pray tirelessly and without ceasing.”

For the past 2,000 years, Christians have struggled with the admonition to pray without ceasing found in sacred Scripture: “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thes 5:16-18). Pope Francis doesn’t say that in order to pray tirelessly and without ceasing we have to talk constantly. In

fact, the best prayer is often silent, an openness of the heart that allows us to listen to God’s voice without distractions. To be in constant, open dialogue with the God who has created, redeemed and sanctified us is the essence of prayer.

“To pray and to teach others to pray,” the Holy Father says, “is essential for the Church’s mission of proclaiming the Gospel, serving Christ in our brothers and sisters, and drawing all people into the unity of his kingdom.”

Keeping the flame of God’s presence alive is “the first task of Christians,” Pope Francis says, “a task symbolized by the lighted lamps that burn night and day before the Eucharist present in the tabernacles of Catholic churches.”

We should all pray for the grace to be open to the guiding influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. May this great teacher show us how to pray tirelessly and without ceasing so that we can keep the flame of God’s presence alive—now and always!

(Daniel Conway is a member of The Criterion’s editorial committee.) †

“Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God.”

—Pope Francis, “*Misericordiae Vultus*” (“The Face of Mercy”)



“Jesús de Nazaret con su palabra, con sus gestos y con toda su persona revela la misericordia de Dios.”

—Papa Francisco, “*Misericordiae Vultus*” (“El rostro de la misericordia”)

El rostro de la misericordia/Daniel Conway

Mantener viva la llama de la presencia de Dios mediante la oración

En sus reflexiones semanales sobre la oración, el papa Francisco sostiene que el primer deber de los cristianos es “mantener viva la llama de la presencia de Dios.” Esto se logra, dice el papa, a través de la oración.

Según el Santo Padre, “nuestros padres, que nos enseñaron primero a rezar, plantaron en nosotros una semilla que madura a través de nuestra experiencia de la vida cristiana.” Las oraciones de los niños—ya sean espontáneas o memorizadas—son especialmente poderosas porque son puras, inocentes y salen del corazón.

“A través del ejemplo de otros hombres y mujeres de fe, a través de nuestra participación en la vida de nuestras parroquias y, sobre todo, a través de la sagrada liturgia,” dice el papa Francisco, “no sólo desarrollamos nuestra vida de oración como individuos, sino que gradualmente llegamos a apreciar la riqueza del patrimonio de oración y espiritualidad de la Iglesia. Especialmente en los momentos difíciles de la vida, nos damos cuenta de la importancia de la oración para fortalecer nuestra fe y nuestra esperanza.”

El papa Francisco identifica al Espíritu Santo como el gran maestro

que enseña a todos los hijos de Dios sobre la importancia de la oración. Según expresa:

“La obra del Espíritu Santo es ‘recordarnos’ a Jesús, hacerlo presente en la vida de los cristianos de todo tiempo y lugar. Gracias al Espíritu, Jesús no está lejos, sino que está siempre con nosotros: Sigue educando a sus discípulos transformando sus corazones.

“Esta es la experiencia de tantos que rezan, hombres y mujeres a los que el Espíritu Santo ha formado según la ‘medida’ de Cristo, en la misericordia, el servicio, la oración. Es la experiencia no solo de los monjes y ermitaños, sino de la gente corriente que ha tejido una larga historia de diálogo con Dios. Buscando a Dios, salvaguardan su presencia—en el Evangelio, en la Eucaristía y en el rostro de los necesitados—como una llama secreta.”

En una hermosa y paradójica frase, el Santo Padre nos dice que nuestra búsqueda de Dios, como seres individuales y como comunidad, en realidad “salvaguarda” la presencia de Dios. Mientras busquemos verdaderamente a Dios, el Misterio Divino sigue siendo vital y accesible para nosotros, “como una llama

secreta” que produce calor y luz a pesar de su aparente ocultación.

“La historia muestra la importancia de las comunidades de oración, monasterios y congregaciones religiosas, para la renovación espiritual de la Iglesia y de toda la Sociedad.” Las comunidades que mantienen encendida la llama de la presencia de Dios por su fidelidad a la oración personal y comunitaria prestan un servicio que a menudo resulta incomprendido. Es un servicio especialmente valioso en tiempos difíciles de guerra, peste y dificultades económicas como las que hemos vivido recientemente.

“La oración sigue siendo el manantial de la vida de la Iglesia y la verdadera fuente de su fuerza para dar testimonio del Señor resucitado,” nos enseña el Papa. “Por eso, Jesús insiste en la necesidad de que sus discípulos oren incansablemente y sin cesar.”

Durante los últimos 2,000 años, los cristianos han luchado con la admonición de orar sin cesar que figura en las Sagradas Escrituras: “Estén siempre gozosos. Oren sin cesar. Den gracias a Dios en todo, porque ésta es su voluntad para ustedes en Cristo Jesús” (1 Tes 5:16-18). El papa Francisco no dice que

para rezar incansablemente y sin cesar tengamos que hablar constantemente. De hecho, la mejor oración es a menudo silenciosa, una apertura del corazón que nos permite escuchar la voz de Dios sin distracciones. Estar en diálogo constante y abierto con el Dios que nos ha creado, redimido y santificado es la esencia de la oración.

“Orar y enseñar a orar—dice el Santo Padre—es esencial para la misión de la Iglesia de anunciar el Evangelio, servir a Cristo en los hermanos y atraer a todos los hombres a la unidad de su reino.”

Mantener viva la llama de la presencia de Dios es “la primera tarea de los cristianos,” dice el papa Francisco, “una tarea simbolizada por las lámparas encendidas que arden noche y día ante la Eucaristía presente en los sagrarios de las iglesias católicas.”

Todos deberíamos rezar para obtener la gracia de estar abiertos a la influencia orientadora del Espíritu Santo en nuestras vidas. Que este gran maestro nos muestre cómo rezar incansablemente y sin cesar para que podamos mantener viva la llama de la presencia de Dios, ahora y siempre.

(Daniel Conway es integrante del comité editorial de The Criterion.) †

FRIEND

continued from page 1

them. Some people don't have as many friends and we should be a friend to them.

"...There has been some sadness in Indianapolis, and I think that this would bring some joy."

Hogsett agreed and fulfilled Quinn's wish. A member of the mayor's staff hand-delivered a proclamation from Hogsett on May 10, Be a Friend Day in Indianapolis, to Quinn at St. Mark School. The event was covered by a local TV station, with members of Quinn's family on hand.

In the proclamation, Hogsett noted that "our community has been through a difficult year, highlighting just how important the love and support that friendship provides truly is.

"During a year of at-home learning and quarantining, it has been difficult to see our friends during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have all had to find new ways to reach out to friends to share with them how much they mean to us ..."

Quinn was taken aback by all the attention she received.

"I was really surprised, because I just thought they were going to write back instead of doing all this."

Tristan Litz, Quinn's mother and an English teacher at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, was proud to

see her daughter honored.

Although she helped her daughter organize and structure her letter, Litz noted that the ideas and words came entirely from Quinn and were a result of her being a student at St. Mark.

"I am certain that St. Mark has played such a formative role in her development as a person and as a Christian," Litz said. "And so to the people who have found out about it and told me how much of a great job I've done as a mother, I put it all back on St. Mark, because it's all the seeds that they have planted here."

Rusty Albertson, St. Mark's principal, said the difference Quinn made in writing her letter to Hogsett just shows how the students in his school "take kindness seriously."

Encouraging students at St. Mark to be kind to each other is a priority in part to create a welcoming atmosphere for its large ethnically and racially diverse student body, which includes Black, Burmese and Hispanic children.

"I've made a lot of friends here," Quinn said. "It makes it easier, because it's not just one kind of person that you can be friends with. It's all different kinds of people."

St. Mark's Catholic identity and its ability to teach the faith helps to deepen that experience of friendship for Quinn.

"Jesus was always nice to people," she said. "He was friends with a lot of people, because people always talked with him."

Because kindness is such an integral part of the mission of the St. Mark School community, Albertson admits that he sometimes takes it for granted. He was



A local TV camera operator records Quinn McGill, looking at a proclamation she received from Alex Nation, right, a staff member of Indianapolis Mayor Joseph Hogsett, on May 10 at St. Mark the Evangelist School in Indianapolis. Hogsett had declared May 10 "Be a Friend Day" in Indianapolis in response to a request in a letter Quinn wrote to him days after an April 15 shooting at a Federal Express facility in the city. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

glad to be reminded of it by one of his students.

"Seeing this kind of brings it back to our minds," Albertson said. "None of us are beyond being taught. And what a better way than by a faith-filled [girl] who's not afraid to write to the mayor and ask for this, unbeknownst to any of us. She did this on her own."

Litz was a proud mother as she watched her 10-year-old doing something good and being honored for it.

"It was beautiful and rewarding," she said. "She has such a bright light inside of her. She doesn't have a loud personality. So, a lot of people don't see that, unless they really dig for it. It was neat to see it come out in that beautiful letter." †

TITLE X

continued from page 1

providers out of Title X "would limit options for women," she said. "And it's also illegal. Title X should not be used to punish people of faith."

Title X, enacted by the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970, provides about \$286 million a year for reproductive health care for low-income patients, in addition to wellness exams, cervical and breast cancer screenings, contraceptives, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

Section 1008 of the law states that

"none of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning."

In February 2019, the Trump administration implemented the "Protect Life Rule" enforcing that ban, and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the rule in February 2020.

Under the Trump-era rule, Title X grant recipients may provide a list of health providers to a patient, but only a minority of the health care providers on any list provided to patients may perform abortions, and the list may not identify which providers perform them.

Grant recipients that also perform abortions must impose a "clear physical

and financial separation" between any family planning program funded by Title X and abortion services.

During the public comment period for the proposed rule change, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) submitted a formal joint letter on May 4 with the Catholic Medical Association, the National Catholic Bioethics Center, the National Association of Catholic Nurses, and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"In our view, the proposed rule fails to faithfully carry out Congress's command that the Title X program not provide or promote abortion or engage in abortion-related activities," the letter states.

"Although the USCCB continues to have grave reservations about government promotion of contraceptives," it says, "we have long supported enforcement of the abortion-funding restrictions in Title X, and we believe it critical that HHS fulfill its obligation to fully enforce those restrictions."

The letter also asks "that the regulations expressly mention the right of individuals and grantees not to counsel or refer for abortion, a statutory right recognized in the preamble to the proposed rule."

"Lastly," it says, "we ask that the regulations expressly incorporate the existing requirement that Title X projects encourage family [including parental] participation in the decision to seek family planning services, a statutory requirement

also recognized in the preamble."

This requirement, imposed by Congress, "reflects the common sense notion that, as the primary teachers and caregivers of their children, parents should be involved in any decision regarding their children's own health and care," the letter adds. "For some reason, however, this requirement was omitted from the proposed rule."

A Jan. 28 statement from President Joe Biden called those "onerous requirements on abortion providers." But the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee chairman, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., has called that enforcement "a bright line between abortion and family planning."

"From day one, the Biden-Harris administration has pushed a radical and deeply unpopular agenda on abortion," said a statement from Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List. "President [Donald J.] Trump's 'Protect Life Rule' sought to honor both the plain statutory language and the will of Americans of all stripes who oppose using taxpayer dollars to fund abortion on demand."

"This government subsidization of abortion has no official legislative mandate," said Tom McClusky, president of March for Life Action, in an email. "The Title X authorization lapsed in 1985, yet the funding has continued to the present day. Despite all of this, the Biden administration wants to open up this Title X funding to the abortion industry." †



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WELCOME, NEW CATHOLICS

~ 2020 ~

Batesville Deanery

All Saints, Dearborn County

Preston Hampton, Robert Hilty, Kari Ritzi, Kimberly Schneider, Landon Smith, Abbie Wiesmann (catechumens); Chaz Bentz, Erica Boch, Emily Buckhave, Eric Fey, Gail Hornberger, Kevin Keller, Jr., Scott Leuers, Nicholas Martin, Wayne Pinney, Jeremy Smith, Teresa Van Appel, Jess Wynn (candidates)

Holy Family, Oldenburg

Jeremy Broshears (candidate)

St. Anthony of Padua, Morris

James Ruckman (catechumen)

St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg

Mellissa Bauer, Odette Cortes, Tony Fryman, II, Mark Inabnitt, Ashlee Riggs, Reneta Robers, Corey Tankersley, Douglas Weber (catechumens); Robert Curtis Bressert, John Boyken, Angela Geisler, Michael Geisler, Jeffrey Gilb, Colton Lewis, Jace Lewis, Molly Lewis, Julia Stehlin (candidates)

St. Louis, Batesville

Austin Freyer, Christian Garrison, Tasheena Griego, Adam Thompson, Leigh Walmsley (catechumens); Faith Freyer, Jillian Gutapfel (candidates)

St. Joseph, Shelbyville

Josue DonJuan, Krista Smith, Eric Werst (catechumens); Nicole Buckel, Yadira Calderon, Jason Lee, Mary Elizabeth Pease, Griffin Reid, Raquel Soriano (candidates)

St. Mary, Greensburg

Brian Cunningham, Dalton Jones, Taylor Moeller (catechumens); Greg Bennett, Wes Hersley, Charla Nash, Amy O'Mara (candidates)

St. Michael, Brookville

Joshua Simmermeyer, Nathan Striegler, Casey Westerfeld (catechumens); Daniel Chesnut, Jason Gill, Cameron Lonergan, Joan Mears, William Mears, Justin Moore (candidates)

St. Nicholas, Ripley County

Mellinda Weaver (candidate)

St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County

Jeff Eads (catechumen)

Bloomington Deanery

Our Lord Jesus Christ the King, Paoli

Kamber Wolfe (catechumen)

St. Agnes, Nashville

Chau Nguyen (catechumen); Tanner Oliver (candidate)

St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington

James Hawley (catechumen); Cameron McIntosh, Cindy Powers, Maria Stolz, Sarah Waggle (candidates)

St. Martin of Tours, Martinsville

Miranda Williams, Rebecca Williams (catechumens)

St. Paul Catholic Center, Bloomington

Luke Hayden, McKenna James, Jennifer

Lee, Elizabeth Moses, Victoria Nash, Barbara Roy, Hanna Sarosy, Michael Sutherland, Madeline Young (catechumens); Grace Bland, Jakob Brimm, Sam Jaworski, Daniel Ooley, Esmerelda Rivas-Miguel (candidates)

St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford

Mary Coressel, Conner Posey, Cooper Posey, Heather Posey, Jeremiah Turner (catechumens); Jenifer Garner, Elizabeth Grant, Joseph Kimmel (candidates)

Connersville Deanery

St. Bridget of Ireland, Liberty

Cody Hill, Courtney Hill (catechumens); Sherry Wooley (candidate)

St. Gabriel, Connersville

Jimmy Cox, Whitney Cox, Elsie Eckstein, Kylie Hale, Trevor McIntyre, Lindsay Wood (catechumens); Penny Kindred (candidate)

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Rushville

Maggie Cameron, Owen Hunt, Karson Leon, Sara Osborne (catechumens)

Indianapolis East Deanery

Holy Spirit

Feliciana Cadwell, Abram Cruz, Jonathan Cruz, Sabasjun Delgado, Gabriela Fierro, Maria Flores, Isaac Hernandez, Alexander Irigoyen, Cristian Nopal, Joseph Perez, Kenia Perez, Diego Ramos, Jason Raudales, Oscar Raudales, David Tenorio (catechumens); Leslie Aguatl, Maria Aguilar, Nancy Aguilar, Marlon Aguirre, Mauricio Botello, Fernando Montiel, Alicia Olvera, Edward Pascual, Arelly Ramirez, Edwin Ramirez, Marvin Sanchez, Urbano Santos, Arturo Sosa (candidates)

Our Lady of Lourdes

Wayne Bowles, Jr., Dylan Dudley, Ashelyn Lucas, Leydannis Mendez (catechumens)

St. Mary

Samantha Jahnke (catechumen); Derek Jahnke, Randy Wanis (candidates)

St. Michael, Greenfield

Morgan Frost, Jacob Bohanon (catechumens)

St. Philip Neri

Angeli Argueta-Chavez, Abbel Carranza-Flores, Raul Carranza-Flores, Guadalupe Castillo-Leon, Luis Castillo-Leon, Luz Castillo-Leon, Rogaciano Castillo-Leon, Nataly Cortes, Cristian Garcia Guerrero, Silvia Garcia-Quiriarte, Sofia Gonzalez, Brandon Hernandez-Tovias, Luis Castillo Leon, Jazmin Lozano Perez, Maria Mahuis-Vazquez, Sofia Spalding, Arnie Medina, Mia Montes de Oca, Jean Carlos Rodriguez-Montes de Oca, Romeo Montes de Oca, Isabel Rodriguez Montes de Oca, Leilany Rodriguez-Montes de Oca, Roselyn Rodriguez Montes de Oca, Cesar Martinez Santiago, Alan Tovias-Villasana (catechumens); Francisco Coronado, Joely Crisanto, Kimberly Cuaya, David Garcia, Joseph Garcia, Paola Jimenez Prado, Fernando Alonso Lopez, Luis Palacios, Joshua Spalding, Carolyn Vega (candidates)

St. Rita, Indianapolis

Iesha Vitalis (catechumen); James Combs, Tyjanna Person (candidates)

To say the last 15-plus months have been a time like no other for many of us would be an understatement.

But as the Church, we have continued our best to try to live out our faith despite the challenges presented by COVID-19.

Some might have been welcomed into the full communion of the Church in the year following the 2019 Easter Vigil, but most would have been welcomed at the 2020 Easter Vigil. Because of the pandemic, however, there were no Easter Vigils celebrated publicly in 2020.

As we returned to being able to attend Mass during the summer of 2020 and beyond, each parish gradually welcomed new Catholics in the full communion of the Church, usually during regularly scheduled weekend Masses, through the summer and fall.

We now officially welcome those 780 individuals.

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower)

Preston Ballesteros, Amber Hudgins, Kinzy Kinser (catechumens); Neil Maynard, Richard Redell (candidates)

Indianapolis North Deanery

Christ the King

Pam Hill, Amy Smith (candidates)

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sally Rose Dunn (catechumen); Matthew Jordan Dunn, Elise Morgan Johns, John Nicholas Murphy, Conor Michael Pardo, Chad Garrison Pitschka, Lauren Elizabeth Tiemen, Gabriel Wray (candidates)

St. Joan of Arc

Sherman McMurray (catechumen); Brock Brothers, Cody Campbell, Derwin Lester, Austin Rutan, Brennan Ward, Stephanie Westenhaver (candidates)

St. Lawrence

Chelsea Amantecatli, Nolvin Escalante Callejas, Brandon Dominguez, Monserat Dominguez-Valle, Sarah Garcia, Graciela Hernandez, Angel Itsede, Ximena Lopez, Vincente Santiago, Sherlyn Ximeyo (catechumens)

St. Luke the Evangelist

Cole Marr (catechumen); Leeta Albea, Daren Beam, Jeremiah Bolander, David Dawson, Gena Elam, Megan Holmes, Courtney Pope, Betty Walker, Brie Anne Zamudio (candidates)

St. Matthew the Apostle

Taylor Drake, Daniel Jele, Amelia McKee, David McKee, Kelton Saylor, Kathy Snyder, Isabella Young, Sarah Zurschmeide (catechumens); Rachel Engle, Mary Jele, Philip Jordan, Kyle Winebar (candidates)

St. Pius X

Jennifer Pechette, Christopher Rensing, Connor Rensing (catechumens); Travis Carroll, Kristine Cullina (candidates)

St. Simon the Apostle

Tara Bouton, Clara Skeeters, Macy Skeeters, David Williamson, Bill Wolfe, Adam Woodward, Ryan Woodward (catechumens); Sandra Arroyo, Vanessa Arroyo, Cayle O'Connor, Betsy Woodward, Brad Woodward (candidates)

Indianapolis South Deanery

Holy Name of Jesus, Beech Grove

Michelle McMillan (candidate)

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Justin Houston, Aaron Kruse (catechumens); Dorcas Chege, Rachel Perkins (candidates)

Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood

Edward Acosta-Banegas, Anthony

We also welcome the 636 individuals received into the full communion of the Church during this year's 2021 Easter Vigil. Most of the people listed in the 2021 list below received sacraments of initiation during the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 3. The names listed here were provided by catechetical leaders in local parishes.

The 759 total catechumens listed are people who have never been baptized and were baptized, confirmed and received their first Eucharist. The 657 total candidates listed were baptized in other Christian traditions and were received into the full communion of the Church with a profession of faith, confirmation and first Eucharist.

Most of the 1,416 new Catholics are listed in the parishes where they received their religious formation and the sacraments of initiation. †

Calderon-Powers, Sarah Calderon-Powers, David Collins, Dillon Collins, Gregory Deadman, Juan Diaz, Sofia Diaz, Bryan Esquivel-Saucedo, Diana Esquivel-Saucedo, Saul Esquivel-Saucedo, Jazmin Estudillo, Elizabeth Flores-Martinez, Tracy Garcia, Yazmin Garcia Antonio, Kaitlyn Sierra Greer, Alan Ibarra-Iniesta, Thomas Laufer, Ashley Martinez, Brittney Martinez, Bryan Martinez, Giovanni Martinez, Jorge Martinez, Oliver Martinon, Daisy Mendez, Michael Randall, Zachary Staley, Jovany Valdes-Osorio, Uriel Valdes-Osorio, Melissa Velasco, Rolando Velasco, William Velasco (catechumens); Brent Brandon, Christie Collins, Brent Mortenson, Brenda Richardson (candidates)

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Indianapolis

Sheila Bradshaw, Nyle Essex, Richard Essex, Chelsea Plummer (catechumens); Michael Bradshaw, Judith Essex, Ryan Fuller, Ginger Kidwell (candidates)

St. Ann, Indianapolis

Ismary Bonilla, Kelly Bonilla, Gary Jiminez, Melissa Jiminez, Chris Williams (catechumens); Carla Keeney, Linda Routon (candidates)

St. Barnabas

Gina Hoover; LaShaunda Lally, Linea Vincent (catechumens); Tamera Davis, Vince Fox, Alexander Tichenor (candidates)

SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood

Elijah Linder, Logan Linder, Daniel Meadows, Braxton Rehmer, Rebecca Sheets, Bennett Weddle (catechumens); Jamison Bolle, Lynda Durden, Daniel Gibson, Madison Montgomery (candidates)

St. John the Evangelist

Jourdann Borski, Jeremy Campbell, Virginia Compton, William Ehret, Malissa Magiera (catechumens); Melissa Abel, Stephanie Anderson, Lauren Blubaugh, Jay Bolle, Rachel Coffman, Stephanie Dee, Mary Degenhardt, Samuel Haines, Heidi Jackson, Margaret Redmond, Samuel Rodino, Kimberly Smith, Israel Wignall, Alex Yarbor (candidates)

St. Jude

Brandy Fultz, Spencer Fultz, Dominik Hall, Joslyn Hall, Heather Yocum (catechumens) Jaime Cabrera, Vilmenia Cabrera, Chad Hall, Jessica Henschen, Fred Moyer, Ronald Perkins, Clare Spelick, Ryan Spelick (candidates)

St. Mark the Evangelist

Norm Biggs, Kielanna Copeland, Samuel Gowin, Carissa Groce, Chloe Groce, Cayden Moore, Kyle Smith, Nichole Smith, Bella Watters (catechumens); Rachelle Baumgart, Ron Baumgart, Eva Laster, Jakob Meyer, Dan Reed, William Whitlow (candidates)

Continued on the next page

St. Roch
Harold Allen, Teagan Couch, Billy Couch, Jr., Eugene Gadiant, Riley McClurg, Brandon Underwood (catechumens); Lindsay Couch, Ruby Hottinger, Adrienne Thornburg (candidates)

Indianapolis West Deanery

Holy Angels
Mavis Sibanda (candidate)

St. Anthony
Camila Apolinar-Bujanda, Isabel Apolinar-Bujanda, Allison Arreola-Gonzalez, Martin Sabriel Bernardino, Eben Bonilla-Vargas, Adam Castañeda, Masan Castañeda, Naxely Duran-Sanchez, Dayanara Galeana-Virgen, Jaime Garcia, Jov Garcia, Ashley Gomez-Gonzalez, Juan Juarez Cruz, Julian Juarez Cruz, Alejandra Martinez-Piedra, Manuel Martinez-Piedra, Marisela Martinez-Piedra, Owen Molina-Rizo, Michael Vargas Morales, Daphne Perez, Ciji Puebla, Xitlaly Rios-Bustamante, Yahaira Rodriguez, Berny Rosales, Eduardo Santana, Abe Santos-Santiago, Jhonny Santos-Santiago, Alexandra Vargas Morales, Camila Villicana-Rodriguez (catechumens); Richard Rodriguez Bernard, Everardo Solares Cano, Gelacio Perez Castillo, Rene Cedenro Portillo, Marcos Morales Diaz, Veronica Flora, Lauro Flores Garcia, Yessenia Gomez Lugo, Alejandro Rufino Hernandez, Benito Campechano Jimenez, Daniela Jones, Raquel Linares, Hector Cedenro Portillo, Oliver Jimenez Rueda, Luis Segura, Miguel Garcia Solares, Vicente Ruacho Tamayo (candidates)

St. Christopher
Marie Goundeke, Jan Robinson, Joyce Sparenblek (catechumens); Erik Burl, Kimberly Burl, David Glidewell (candidates)

St. Gabriel the Archangel
Christina Aguirre, Edgar Arriola, Manuel Arriola, Natasha Arriola-Ramirez, Cerlin Avila-Cano, Jason Barger, Briant Santiago Carpio, Jamin Cortes-Monterrosa, Eymi Cruz, Oscar Dominguez-Garcia, Jose Garcia, Christopher Gonzalez, Ashley Huesca, Joshua Huesca, Edgar Jimenez-Lopez, Tania Lopez-Villagres, Giovanni Lozano, Camila Martinez-Ortega, Sergio Martinez-Ortega, Jennifer Medina-Cordova, Ricardo Medrano-Rodriguez, Michelle Mendez, Lucia Mendez-Aleman, Sergio Mendez-Aleman, Yohana Mendez-Aleman, Ana del Rocio Mendez-lopez, Yosgart Mendoza-Galvez, Adriel

Mendrano-Rodriguez, Vicente Reyes-Moreno, Glenda Rodriguez-Betancourth, Jamie Tellez-Ortiz, Yahir Tellez-Ortiz, Ana Maria Turcios-Rodriguez, Luis Velasquez, Eric Velazquez (catechumens); Katherine Aguirre, Kevin Caceres, Luis Cordova-Orlarte, Rodolfo Gomez-Ortiz, Yecifer Herrera Hernandez, Maria Mendez-Lopez, Sebastian Nunez-Alcala, Sandra Retena-Carrera, Evaristo Sandoval, Jose Tutul (candidates)

St. Malachy, Brownsburg
Emma Dallman, Noah Dallman, Jonas Eklou, Marci McQuern Allen, Jennifer Sanders (catechumens); Jeremy Kirkman, Rick Mattson (candidates)

St. Michael the Archangel
Carolyn White (candidate)

St. Monica
Faith Adanedjan, Alexandra Avonce Hernandez, Ashley Benavidez, Jason Benavidez, Kimberly Benavidez, Adrian Canela, Liam Angulo Estrada, Ayla Flores, Maverick Galo Guillen, Ana Garcia, Cristian Garcia, Miguel Garcia, Juan Guillen Galo, Jasmine May, Ahsley Mendoza, Delaney Nava, Cynthia Noriega, Jesus Sumano Perez, Venus Perez Jimenez, Tonya Puente Torres, Tatiana Stansberry, Deisy Sumano Perez, Josephine Sumano Perez, Moises Torres Ramos, Paul Torres Ramos, Elizabeth Torres, Javier Puente Torres, Juliana Torres, Daylin Valladares Trochez, Victoria VerKamp, (catechumens); Jaime Aguilar, Gregorio Agustin, Nerelda Agustin, Anna Alanis Parra, Emma Alvarez Ayala, Bryan Amado, Daniel Amado, Tony Amado, Edson Angel, Giselle Angel, Jose Angel, Lizbeth Angel, Daniela Angulo Estrada, Brian Arreola, Jennifer Arreola, Christian Avonce, Juan Padilla Avonce, Ernesto Castillo Barbabosa, Joanna Barragan, Luis Barragan, Briany Blanco Trochez, Vianey Islas Bruno, Edgar Camacho, Alejandra Cardenas Cisneros, Jasmine Cardenas Cisneros, Sebastian Martinez Castaneda, Sergio Chirinos, Jocelyn Cordoba Rodriguez, Leonel Cruz, Octavio Cruz, Bobby Ezenwelu, Jeff Ezenwelu, Jennifer Ezenwelu, Nicole Ezenwelu, Anthony Jasso Flores, Camila Santiago Franco, Carmen Flores Fugon, Jackuelin Garcia Apolonio, Ashley Garcia Lopez, Xavier Guillen Galo, Noe Nieves Guijosa, Eduardo Gutierrez, Alejandro Guzman, Kimberly Guzman, Jesus Herdia, Adolfo Gaspar Hernandez, Alan Hernandez, Chasity Hernandez, Jonathan Hernandez, Erik Herrera Avonce, Hanson Hinshaw,

Ignacio Simental Ibanez, Jennifer Islas Bruno, Elizabeth Javier, Ivan Jimenez, Sol Jimenez, Fernando Gonzalez Lopez, Yarib Maldonado, Carlos Martinez, Cristian Martinez, Katie Martinez, Alejandra Mendoza, Fernanda Mendoza, Ahtziri Mercado, Charlie Rivera Miranda, Jennifer Morales, Juan Alanis Parra, Luis Alanis Parra, Brenda Ramirez Astorga, Yeny Ramirez Santos, Rocio Torres Ramos, Ana Reyes, Daniel Rodriguez, Edgar Romero, Juan Negrete Sabino, Karen Sanchez, Yayson Tirado Sepulbeda, Vicente Tolentino, Jr., Vicente Tolentino, Sr., Luis Torres, Brayano Blanco Trochez, Jonathan Urroz, Sarahi Urroz, Sofia Valdez Castaneda, Lucia Vargas Herrera, Axel Gonzalez Ventura (candidates)

St. Susanna, Plainfield
Glenn Amos, EmilyAnne Brick, Samantha Bozzo, Elan Carol, Chloe Cassidy, Noah Cassidy, Hailee Dockery, Matthew Emberson, Emily Epling, Elisa Hartman, Grace Hartman, Henry Hartman, Travis Pendleton, Lindsay Vaseloff, Connor Walsh, Olivia Walsh, Abygail Williams, Elyas Williams, Harley Williams, Kayden Williams, Lynleigh Wood (catechumens); Deanna Crews, Steve Galbreath, Rebecca Israel, Terri Ruff, Nick Vaseloff, Olivia Wood, Tracey Wood, Nathan Dalton, Julia Griffin, Steve Ruff, Joshua Stewart, Zachary Treash, Terry Vaughan (candidates)

St. Thomas More, Mooresville
Bryan Hill (catechumen); Donna Clark, Philip Fowler, Julie Parker, Mindy Wood (candidates)

New Albany Deanery

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
Josh Smith (candidate)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
Bryan Baker (catechumen); Drew Haynes (candidate)

St. Augustine, Jeffersonville
Esther Boice (candidate)

St. Bernard, Frenchtown
Brianna Bottorff, Joshua DuBois (candidates)

St. John Paul II, Sellersburg
Kimberlee Bodong, Gavin Law, Nicholas Law, Zachary Law, Jack Thomas, Jeremiah Thomas, the late Terry Whitworth (catechumens); Greg Law, Abigail Thomas, Wayne Townsend (candidates)

St. Joseph, Corydon
Gene Duncan, Jess Long, Dameri Ortiz, Kim Schillmiller, Madison Schillmiller (catechumens)

St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County
Jamie Belicove, Garrek Harris, Kara Harris, Sean McDonald (catechumens); Sumter Pittenger (candidate)

Seymour Deanery

Prince of Peace, Madison
Yancy Denning, Sarah Lacy, Luke Stephens (catechumens); Vikki Conners, Bekah Hillenburg, Christy Minor (candidates)

St. Ambrose, Seymour
Ronald Euler (catechumen); Ashley Caceres, Destiny Caudill Gerringier, Daniel De Arcia, Diego Tomas Diego, Sebastian, Petrona Domingo Martin, Lucia Felipe-Sebastian, Pascual Baltazar Pascual, Martin, Albin Pena Maldonado, Jose Santos Ramirez, Javier Sebastian-Juan, Matt Vieck (candidates)

St. Bartholomew, Columbus
Benito Rodriguez Adorno, Hanna Betz, Kathy Butz, Iris Elliot, Karla Hernandez-Azuara, Felicity Hess, Anthony Portaluppi, Bryana Portaluppi, Sabrina Portaluppi, Jackie Ramirez, Estefania Salas-Cardozo, Rob Woodruff (catechumens); Katelyn Butz, Anna Clark, Brandon Clark, Jason Hester, Jobeth Johnson, Hannah Manliet, Ashley Melson, Leonardo Portaluppi, Miriam Portaluppi, Lediz Ordonez Reyes, Andersson Samuel, Jessica Sanchez, Bryan Stater, Sheana Weiss, Morganne Wetzel Matilde Hernandez Yzquierdo (candidates)

St. Mary, North Vernon
David Sargent, Debbie Sharp (catechumens); Amos Sharp (candidate)

Tell City Deanery

St. Paul, Tell City
Collins Hartz, Kamden Herp, Casey Hoelsli, Pamela Sweat, Ethan Whalen (catechumens); Hayley Fackler (candidate)

Terre Haute Deanery

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brazil
Angie Glaze, Ayden Howard, Randy McMurray, Ryan Ross (catechumens)

‘It’s wonderful to be Catholic—I feel so at peace’

By Natalie Hoefler

Michael McFeely, 58, was born and raised in the Catholic faith. “I believe we can set examples,” he said before paraphrasing a quote often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: “Always preach the Gospel, and sometimes open your mouth.” And so the member of St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville did for the last several years after meeting his new neighbor, Judy Townsend. There were two things McFeely did almost every day—visit his neighbor and walk across the street for Mass at St. Gabriel Church. “One day we started talking about different kinds of religion and different belief systems,” he recalled. Townsend, who at the time was a self-proclaimed “holy roller” Pentecostal, started to question McFeely about his daily trips across the street for Mass. “I started asking more questions, and he started bringing over books,” said Townsend, 74. “I’d read one and ask for more. I was hooked.” She soon found more time to read when an illness put her in the hospital for several months. McFeely visited Townsend, and so did his sister Abigail, an oblate of Saint Meinrad Archabbey. “She was a volunteer, and she used to console me in the hospital,” said Townsend. “We got to be close.” The more Townsend learned, the more she wanted to know. Soon she and Mike were going to the Mary grotto

on the parish’s grounds, where he taught her how to pray the rosary. “Going to a holy roller church, I never learned about Mary,” she said. “I was really taken by her.” With the help of the words and witness of the McFeely siblings, Townsend felt the call to become Catholic. She joined RCIA and, with Mike as her sponsor, entered into the full communion of the Church on April 3. “I was so happy to become Catholic,” said Townsend. “After Communion I just felt happiness.” She admitted to also feeling a bit of sadness. “I wish Abby could have been there,” she said. “She died last summer. For my confirmation name, I took Abigail in honor of Mike’s sister.” Knowing his sharing the Gospel with his neighbor helped lead her to the Church, McFeely is on fire to do more. “I’ve got more people in mind for next year,” he said. “I’m going to try to get as many in [the Church] as possible. All the troubles we face in life—I’m convinced the Catholic faith helps us to get through.” But seeing Townsend be baptized, confirmed and receive her first Eucharist does not mean that McFeely is moving on. The neighbors walk across the street together for Mass every Sunday.



Judy Townsend receives her first Communion from Father Dustin Boehm during the Easter Vigil Mass on April 3 in St. Gabriel Church in Connersville. Her badge bears her confirmation name, St. Abigail. (Submitted photo by Mellissa Ackerman)

“I told her this is just the beginning,” McFeely said. “We’ve got Pentecost coming up—there’s so much more to learn.” Townsend agreed, saying she has “a lot more reading to do.” But for now, she said, “It’s wonderful to be Catholic—I feel so at peace.” †

Connersville Deanery

St. Bridget of Ireland, Liberty
Asher Rudnick, Parker Wooley (catechumens)
St. Gabriel, Connersville
Mick Pollitt, Judy Townsend (catechumens); Gary Bergman, Jon Turpin (candidates)

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Rushville
Xavier Goodman, Mattea Holtsclaw, Benjamin Houston (catechumens); Samantha Glover, Kyle Karkosky (candidates)

Indianapolis East Deanery

Holy Spirit
Ashley Blanco, Derek Blanco, Brennan Blythe, Shawn Iruva, Brandy Isaro, Christian Lopez, Luis Lopez, Silvia Lopez, Axel Moron, Wendy Moron, Ryan Mugisha, Bruce Tepehua, Delilah Tepehua (catechumens); Katherine Ayala Carranza, Mauro Barrera, Juanita Beristain, Maydeli Coria, Blanca Guadarrama, Elena Henriquez, Zirli Juarez, Erica Ortiz, Marilu Osorio, Alonso Perez, Estela Perez, Joceline Pizarro, Emily Ramirez, Milder Ramos, Luis Ricardo (candidates)

Our Lady of Lourdes
Terry Berg, Lacey Root (catechumens); Jessica Almon, Winnie Byer (candidates)

St. Mary
Nichole Gardner, Sandra Ramirez, Cristina Ramirez-Castro, Dulce Ramirez-Castro, Gabriel Willey (catechumens); Beckett Garry, Kevin Lange, Nathan Piper (candidates)

St. Michael, Greenfield
Carrie Goodwin (catechumen)

St. Philip Neri
Marisa Beltran, Benito Castro, Leylanie Castro, Jessica Delgado, Jorge Delgado, Jose Delgado-Vasquez, Monica Delgado-Vasquez, Abigail Dominguez-Franco, Fatima Escobedo-Velazquez, Camila Garcia Castillo, Julian Juarez Gonzalez, Brenda Guzman, Jacob Hernandez, Guadalupe Mancera-Gomez, Anthony Ramirez-Rinconada, Maubricio Rojas-Cuatlacuatl, Nayeli Romero Sanchez, Jose Luis Vargas, Jr., Jeffrey Velazquez-Ochoa, Lyndsey Velazquez-Ochoa, (catechumens); Nancy Rojas Becerra, Sayra Rojas Becerra, Jason Garcia Castillo, Jessica Cuenca (candidates)

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower)
Jakob Ballesteros, Aliza Bell, Avery Bell, Alysse Bowlin, Gabriel Lamb, Dakota Waters, Isiah Waters, Kayden Waters, Kourtney Waters, Lindsey Waters (catechumens); Margarita Gomez-Gallardo, Justun Sharp (candidates)

Indianapolis North Deanery

Christ the King
Brittany Hamrick, David Tolin (catechumens); Cari Roush, Keevan Vonderheide (candidates)

Immaculate Heart of Mary
Elisabeth Allen, Michael Allen, Stephanie Allen, William Allen, Karly Seeloff (catechumens); Kiersten Baumgartner, Emily Bell, Ella Freihofner, Juliana Meyer (candidates)

St. Joan of Arc
Taty Baughn, Bridgette Richards, Turner Walling (catechumens); Jon Gray-Smith, Melissa Higdon, Diane Jarosz, Zach Weismiller (candidates)

St. Lawrence
Bryan Balbuena, Henry Balbuena, Brittane Castillo, Mario Castillo, Maryjane Castillo, Jose Castillo, Jr., Lucas Hernandez, Brian Julian, Maritza Julian, Ayane Lopez, Edgar Lopez, Ashly Medina Hernandez, Anthony Tellez, Eddy Tellez, Michael Valle, Edwin Velasco (catechumens); Keaton Aldridge, Brian Hall (candidates)

St. Luke the Evangelist
Harper Sandifur, Trent Sandifur (catechumens); Jennifer Bolander, Ari Cottler, Elizabeth Feldmann, Jordan Hickam, Kristin Hogan, Addison Sandifur, Delaney Sandifur, Jill Sandifur, John Sandifur, Josette Sandifur, Justin Scott, Isabell Wilson (candidates)

St. Matthew the Apostle
Anthony Stout, Thomas White (catechumens)

St. Pius X
Melissa Iaria, Alice Maggard (catechumens); Monica Morgan (candidate)

St. Simon the Apostle
Christopher Cunningham, Colin Cunningham, Olive Cunningham, Ashley Downey, Astrid Downey, Evelyn Downey, Harrison Downey, Henrietta Downey, (candidates)

Continued on the next page

‘I have that relationship with Christ I always wanted’

By Natalie Hoefler

As a youth, Brian Hall was involved with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. So was his good friend, whose family were members of St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis. On April 3, Hall was received into the full communion of the Church at St. Lawrence Church. “I’ve come full circle,” said Hall, who will marry his RCIA sponsor, St. Lawrence coordinator of youth ministry Cari Weibel, there in July. Hall, 38, is a social worker. He was baptized when he was young, grew up going first to a Methodist church and then attended a non-denominational Christian church. “I was always searching for a church after college,” he said. But not just any church. “I wanted to find one that had a family environment where I would be able to get to know everyone and have that family bond,” said Hall. “I feel like when you’re having a relationship with Christ, then you really need to have a bond with the people around you.” He was also looking for someone to share his life and a faith. He tried Match.com without much luck. He was about to cancel his membership in October of 2019 when he decided to give it one more week. “That’s when I met Cari,” he said of his fiancée, who was born and raised Catholic. “I saw in her profile that religion was really important. The first question I asked her was, ‘Do you

really necessarily have to be with a Catholic?’ I wanted someone who would go to church every week and had a strong relationship with Christ. That would make for a strong partnership.” The fact that the two lived just five minutes apart helped. They started dating “We talked about religion all the time,” said Hall. “A month or two later I started going to Mass with her. . . . “I fell in love with Catholicism when I found out about its rich traditions [and] that you’re building a relationship with Christ by going to Mass.” Hall was also fascinated to learn that Catholics believe in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist. “I’ve always had the mindset that if you take Communion, you’re taking in the body of Christ—it’s not a symbol,” he said. “I have to believe you’re literally ingesting Christ into your soul and body to be one of his disciples.” For Hall, he found “the whole process” of the sacraments “lifechanging.” “I went to confession,” he recalled. “After that, I felt like I was cleansed. And then being able to take in Christ and really be one of his disciples was really exciting. “I felt like I was exactly where I needed to be. I feel like I can actually say with my whole heart the entire process has changed me, and receiving Communion was the pinnacle.” Hall chose St. Louise de Marillac, patroness of social workers, as his confirmation saint. Armed with the Catholic faith, “I feel like I can really have an impact on people now,” said Hall. “I have that relationship with Christ that I’ve always wanted.” †



Brian Hall smiles with his sponsor and fiancée Cari Weibel in St. Lawrence Church in Indianapolis after being received into the full communion of the Church during the Easter Vigil Mass on April 3. (Submitted photo by Sandra Hartlieb)

~ 2021 ~

Batesville Deanery

All Saints, Dearborn County
Travis Bender, Jacob Scheffel, Wanda Smith (catechumens); Jacob Sterwerf, Anthony Wilson, Jacob Zengerling (candidates)

St. Catherine of Siena, Decatur County
Kylie Ricke (candidate)

St. Charles Borromeo, Milan
Hannah Lunsford (catechumen); Charlie Morgan (candidate)

St. Joseph, Shelbyville
Elder Figueroa, Erick Hebauf, Deborah House, Bryan Julian, Eliel Julian, Alex Mendoza Julian, Jesus Julian, Jr., Kevin McFarland, Allison Mendoza Julian, Jocelyn Mendoza Julian, Alex Morales,

Angeline Morales, Jocelin Morales, Sayra Morales, Ezequiel Munoz (catechumens); Jessica Arriaga Soriano, Juliete Real Aguila, Jazzmin Washington, Connor Zobel (candidates)

St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg
Graysen Lunsford, David McCarty, Jacqueline Russell, Courtney Sauntry, Jackson Schnebelt (catechumens); Kelsie Billups, Alissa Hartman, Roberta Hartman, Diana Popov (candidates)

St. Louis, Batesville
Ethan Fuentes, Nathaniel Fuentes, Jacob Garrett, Adelan Garrison, Colton Schmidt, Georgia Voegele, Cara Waller, Logan Waller, Shawn Waller (catechumens); McKenzie Dreyer, Kate Walke (candidates)

St. Mary, Greensburg
Ethan Bailey, Hannah Daugherty, Troy Federle, Megan McDole (catechumens); Audrey Federle, Toby Harrell, Linda Hash (candidates)

St. Michael, Brookville
Madison Miller (candidate)

St. Nicholas, Ripley County
Adrielle Perkins (catechumen); Donovan Imel, Aaron Meyer (candidates)

Bloomington Deanery

St. Agnes, Nashville
Justin Chadwell, Lisa Hupfer, Tina Kessler (candidates)

St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington
Erika Bartlett, Ella Haskett, Isabelle Martinez, Max Martinez, Ethan Wright, Isaac Wright (catechumens); David Bartlett, Grace Bartlett, LynnAnn Bartlett, Megan Bartlett, Erica Dobkowski, Anderson Lewis (candidates)

St. John the Apostle, Bloomington
Sadie Davis, Kari Magno-Perez, Austin Parkes, Nicole Real (catechumens)

St. Mary, Mitchell
Jeremy Carmichael (catechumen)

St. Paul Catholic Center, Bloomington
Adam Coulon, Kari Ann Peiscop-Grau (catechumens); Carly Altier, Rickie King (candidates)

St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford
Jenevive Case, Roland Case, Russell Case (catechumens); Garrett McLaughlin (candidate)

Theodore Downey, Claudia Hedberg, Rosaleigh Jeffares, Makella Lewis, William Lewis, Ella Mathison, Blake McAllister, Terri Uppfalt (catechumens); Emily Cunningham, Daniel Downey, James Ford, Nicole Klawitter, Braxton Mathison, Audrey McAllister, Tara Thornburg (candidates)

St. Thomas Aquinas

Brooke Towns, Mark Winchester (catechumens); Michael Botta, Mary Sinkewicz (candidates)

Indianapolis South Deanery

Holy Name of Jesus, Beech Grove

Betty Garthright (candidate)

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Michael Crooke, Brandy Distel (candidates)

Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood

Alisson Cortez, Luis Teles Cortez, Anthony Espinoza, Jonathan Espinoza, Elizabeth Reynolds, Sergio Saucedo, Jr., Hunter Spencer, Gabrielle Stephens, Eliza Tidd, Evelyn Tidd, Matthew Tidd, Katelyn Torres, Mauricio Trujillo (catechumens); Ashley Cory, Greg Davis, Courtney Tidd, Kimberly Wrigley (candidates)

St. Ann, Indianapolis

Michael Daniels, Ashley Kurek, Krista Oskins (candidates)

St. Barnabas

Grason Holt, Jerden Ragland (catechumens); Jon Berry, Deborah Fey, Jocelyn Noe (candidates)

SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood

Roy Boswell, Zachary Combs, Kalie Garnel, Randy Reel (catechumens); Michael Wheeler (candidate)

St. John the Evangelist

Quinn Demaree, Gavin Kaiser, Deborah Mears, Stewart Wahle, George Zhang (catechumens); Keegan Beineke, Claire deRoos, Benjamin Fountain, Hannah Garcia, Heather Gough, Collin Hartman, Morgan Knight, Mitchell Pitcock, Leighton Steph (candidates)

St. Jude

Betty Stapp (catechumen)

St. Mark the Evangelist

Katie Lauck, Lauren Wernke (catechumens); Janet Larch, Mathew Williams (candidates)

St. Patrick

James Priest, Jesus Sanchez-Baxin, Ariana Reynalda Saucedo, Teagan Tellez, Christofer Tomax-Cinto (catechumens); Rolando Florentino (candidate)

St. Roch

Alice Barnes, Amber Brummett, Wade Haney, Alexis Hinton (candidates)

Indianapolis West Deanery

Church of the Holy Angels

Rebecca Hardin (catechumen); Vincent Howard (candidate)

St. Anthony

Emily Allen-Munoz, Johan Baez , Ziannie

Baez , Samuel Chavez Betrado, Santos Cruz-Orellana, Andy Escobar, Michael Flores, Luis Garcia, Chelsea Gonzalez, Barbara Jimenes-Castro, Alan Jimenez-Santiago, Kaeilin Moreno-Barbon, Antonio Munos, Oscar Navarrete-Cruz , Yamileth Navarrete-Cruz , Rosa Orellana-Cruz, Angelica Palencia, Emmanuel Portillo-Orellana, Jose Portillo-Orellana, Katie Portillo-Orellana, Lesly Puebla-Perez, Ennon Sanchez-Garcia, Yuma Sanchez-Garcia, Julie Soto, Kahterine Soto, Allison Ulloa-Mejia, Ashanti Isabel Ulloa-Mejia , Eva Velasco-Gonzalez, Alejandro Viveros, Heidy Zapata (catechumens); Abraham Aguilar-Garcia, Eviani Cardona, Anthony Castellon, Francisco Cruz-Arellana, Jose Cuevas, Asusena Dela Cruz, Rosalba Diaz-Ortiz, Martha Gallardo-Morales, Karina Garcia-Hernandez, Jorge Garcia-Jose, Ashley Guia Hernandez, Yoselin Hernandez Valdes, Valentina Montes, Angelica Morales-Barbon, Adriana Perez, Rosaio Pinedo, Rolando Pinedo Cardona, Lilia Rosas Vargas, Mariana Saavedra, Jovani Valdes, Maria Valdes Barrera (candidates)

St. Christopher

Amanda DeHoney, Zachary Johnson, Lloyd Mitchell, Jeff Polley (catechumens); McKenna Brown, Michelle Mitchell, Kitty Polley (candidates)

St. Gabriel the Archangel

Edwin Cortez Alvarado, Shirley Cortez Alvarado, Stephanie Diaz, Kimberly Esquivel Rios, Kevin Alberto Garcia, Johnny Gerardo-Apolinar, Bladimir Gonzalez-Lopez, Tania Gonzalez-Lopez, Jefferson Lucero, Justin Lucero, Edwin Morales, Sherlin Morales, Dylan Nunez, Alexia Nicole Rivera, Isabella Sanchez, Matteo Sanchez, Valentina Sanchez, Arlette Vasquez, Ashley Vasquez, Astrid Vasquez, Maytee Zamora Policarpo (catechumens); Lesbia Colay Patzan, Francisco Galeana-Bravo, Jeimy Garcia-Barrientos, Leticia Garcia-Villares, Daniela Gutierrez-Alvarez, Cecilia Guzman Cordoba, Jacqueline Infante, Juana Leonardo, Rigoberto Morales, Randy Jackson Moran, Antonina Munoz-Bautista, Carolina Olivo, Antonio Palacios, Lucero Virgen Hernandez (candidates)

St. Malachy, Brownsburg

Jennifer Burton, Matthew Cundiff, Evan Horvath, Sarah Weldon (catechumens); Scott Densmore, Alissa Easlick-Horling, Donald Werner (candidates)

St. Michael the Archangel

Bereziwe Miza, Claudia Oribhabor (catechumens); Laura Cruz, Deidre Guerrettaz, Shawn Vigue, Tim White (candidates)

St. Monica

Mia Abraham, Geovanni Calderon, Jackeline Castro Hernandez, Esteban Garcia, Gabriela Gomez Argueta, Anibal Hernandez, Hugo Hernandez, Miranda Hernandez, Pamela Hernandez, Ashley Hubertz, Julio Lazaro, Fabian Marcial Perez, Kimberly Melquiades Nava, Noemily Melquiades Nava, Jasmine Padilla Reyes, Ava Roney, Dylan Roney, David Servin, Britany Toledo Peñaloza, Cristal Toledo Peñaloza, Edgar Vazquez, Maria Vicente (catechumens); Stephany Alonso Gonzalez, Alexander Alpizar, Angel Alpizar, Ashley Alpizar, Josue Alpizar, Rocio Amaya, Esteban Morales Anastacio, Yoxan Avila, Darling Avila

Corrales, Jennifer Barragan Flores, Isai Caballero, Javier Caballero, Julianne Castro Hernandez, Alicia Cisneros, Ceasar Avila Corrales, Ithaly Cova Torres, Camerino de Jesus, Lluvia Elizalde Solano, Tiffany Garcia, Alex Alonso Gonzalez, Janet Guevara Diego, Joel Hernandez, Oliver Hughes, Sherlin Jorge, Ashley Jorge Jimenez, Maira Lazaro, Daniel Llanos, Fatima Llanos, Jolet Marcial Perez, Yamilet Marcial Perez, Eduardo Flores Martinez, Kevin Flores Martinez, Noemy Meliquiades Nava, Stephany Meliquiades Nava, Esmeralda Mendoza, Alexis Morales Anastacio, Iker Dominguez Moralez, Maurizio Moreno Morales, Jared Tepepa Ortiz, Annette Ortiz Garcia, Athsiri Quebrado Torres, Maria Reyes Ramirez, Gustavo Padilla Reyes, Juan Rubio, Maria Saavedra, Bianca Sanchez, Katherine Sanchez, Jose Servin, Briza Oropeza Solano, Jesus Oropeza Solano, Learsi Solano Tellez, Monica Solano Tellez, Zael Quebrado Torres, Dianna Vazquez (candidates)

St. Thomas More, Mooresville

Nick Jewell Tessmer (catechumen); Jeremy Harless, Victor Lindemann (candidates)

St. Susanna, Plainfield

Juno Calvert, Sienna Gonzalez, Zander Gonzalez, Luca Russo, Rachel Russo (catechumens); Jessica Calvert, Robert Calvert, Veronica Cuiriz, Katrina Ent, Helmuth Gonzalez, Patrick Klug, Michael Russo, Tiffany Shepard, Marlys Vaccari, (candidates)

New Albany Deanery

Holy Family, New Albany

Shawn Goodale, Quintera Quinn, Grant Tenbarga, Lane Tenbarga (catechumens); Brandon Blake, Casey Knapp, Lucas Windell (candidates)

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville

Angelina Brandenburg, Hayden Brandenburg, Jacy Woods (catechumens); Christine Carver, Daniel Holder (candidates)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany

Carolyn Panozzo, John Panozzo (candidates)

St. John Paul II, Sellersburg

Aiden Church, Chad Korff, Sydney Tivnan (catechumens); Jennifer Korff, Mike Stahl (candidates)

St. Mary, New Albany

Alece Butler, Kistrin Butler (catechumens)

St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County

Nicole Janes, Ronnie Janes, Chloe Spalding, James Spalding, Joseph Spalding, Pamela Tobbe (catechumens); Chandler Harper, Rebecca Horner (candidates)

St. Michael, Bradford

Cameron DeRay, Carter DeRay (catechumens); Lillianna Bary (candidate)

Seymour Deanery

Prince of Peace, Madison

Megg Bear, Garrett Leahigh

(catechumens); Mark Johnson, Bailee Koehler, Daniel McClure, Aubray Pruitt, Will Pruitt, Deanna Salisbury, Luke Stephanus (candidates)

St. Ambrose, Seymour

Breanna Jaynes, Jarya Jaynes (catechumens); Israel Gomez-Garcia, Felipe Juan Miguel, Martin Miguel Juan (candidates)

St. Bartholomew, Columbus

Luz Bitahalia Hernandez, Anderson Lazo Bonilla, Grisel Bonilla Lemus, Angel Cordova, Milagros Cordova, Keily Deras-Rivera, Leny Deras-Rivera, Jerson Diaz-Pineda, Lauren Ernst, Keyla Espinoza Pineda, Mia Garcia Castro, Brian Gordillo-Hernandez, Pamela Kindel, Crystal Mullis, Frida Pendaz Alvarez, Raeanne Saddler, Samantha Salinas Vargas, Daniel Salinas Vargas, Rogelio Salinas Vargas, Tonantzin Velazquez Castillo (catechumens); Andrew Day, Ariel McFarland, Reinaldo Cruz Santiago, Morgan Wheeler (candidates)

St. Mary, North Vernon

Nathaniel Green, Joshua Skidmore, Lillian Skidmore, Peter Skidmore (catechumens); Seth Jines, Brandi Skidmore, Colin Skidmore, Dylan Skidmore, Cherlyn Wallace (candidates)

Tell City Deanery

St. Augustine, Leopold

Wendell Brown (catechumen); Tina Bockhold (candidate)

St. Michael, Cannelton

Caleb Lain (catechumen)

St. Paul, Tell City

Shanda Brumfield (catechumen)

Terre Haute Deanery

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brazil

Levi Greiner (catechumen)

Sacred Heart, Clinton

Brent Rinehart (catechumen); Darlene Porter, Matthew Tucker, Andrew Zamani (candidates)

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Terre Haute

Samantha Collier (catechumen)

St. Benedict, Terre Haute

Christopher Jaeger, Helio Kuok (catechumens)

St. Joseph University, Terre Haute

Cory Burger, Ethan Cox, Ashley Stanisz (catechumens); Pamela Green, Michaela Jackson, Danielle Wolfe (candidates)

St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute

Jordyn deLeon Vazquez, Jacob Goodhew, Kaitlyn Vaughn (catechumens); Justine Gibson, Sarah Maher, Kathy McCann, Terry Warren, Justin Young (candidates)

St. Patrick, Terre Haute

Trey McCue, Danny Morris (catechumens)

St. Paul the Apostle, Greencastle

Amelia Bewley, Asa Bewley, Whitney Johnson, Taylor Switzer (catechumens) †

FAITH

continued from page 1

“Oh, my goodness, I was over the moon!” she gushed. “I was ecstatic, smiling.”

She said when her parish priest, Father Benjamin Syberg, “started to say the prayer and we had to respond, ‘I do,’ I was smiling from ear to ear! I couldn’t contain my happiness!

“When he poured the water on me, I had this moment where I felt clean and different.”

It was a joyful moment for Courtney’s mother Samantha Sauntry as well.

“The whole time we were there I kept thinking, ‘I can’t believe this is happening,’” she said. “This couldn’t have happened without God.”

Sauntry is sure of this fact because, despite her Catholic upbringing, she hadn’t been to Mass in several years.

“After my Dad died [in 2015], I went through a gray period in my faith,” she said. “I felt angry and hurt.”

Now, she said, she feels “proud” of Courtney and Jackson, the oldest of her four children.

“And I feel blessed that God didn’t forget about us,” she added. “It makes me feel happy. And it got me back in church.”

Courtney has found joy in the sacraments, and happiness in going to

Mass with her family.

But there is one additional blessing for which she is grateful.

“Through the RCIA class and learning about God, I learned how to be able to stand on my own,” she said.

“Something I struggle with is what people think of me. Going through this class taught me the only person’s opinion we should care about is God’s. ... I stay on my path and just worry about what my Father-God thinks.” †

Race for Vocations held in person after one-year hiatus due to pandemic

By Sean Gallagher

GREENFIELD—Ordinarily, the annual Race for Vocations is run in conjunction with the OneAmerica 500 Festival Mini-Marathon and the Delta Dental 500 Festival 5K.

Dotted among the thousands who come to downtown Indianapolis to take part in the event have been runners and walkers wearing blue T-shirts that list the kinds of vocations in the Church with the additional message, “Everyone has a vocation. What’s yours?”

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the 500 Festival events have taken place virtually in 2020 and this year. The Race for Vocations also took a hiatus in 2020 during the height of pandemic.

This year, however, Race for Vocations organizers held the event in person on a brisk May 8 morning at St. Michael Parish in Greenfield.

The approximately 70 participants in the mini-marathon and 5K events started on the grounds of the Indianapolis East Deanery faith community, proceeded to the nearby Pennsy Trail and eventually made their way back to St. Michael.

Archdiocesan vocations director Father Michael Keucher has been a member of the Race for Vocations team for about 10 years, going back to his early years as a seminarian.

“It’s the smallest and most intimate one that I’ve run in,” he said, adding that “it was wonderful to be back. I think we were all ready to make a comeback and race again for vocations.”

Casey Deal was a member of the Race for Vocations team for the first time. He was in a position similar to Father Keucher when the priest first took part in the event.

Deal is a new archdiocesan seminarian. A member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington, he ran the 5K event and posted the fastest time at 19 minutes, 19 seconds.

“It was fun to see the other blue



Members of the Race for Vocations team begin a 5K on May 8 at St. Michael Parish in Greenfield. The event was held in person this year after a one-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

shirts that were out here for the Race for Vocations,” Deal said while catching his breath after crossing the finish line.

While he had been discerning a possible call to the priesthood for many years, the Race for Vocations was the first time that Deal had acted publicly as a seminarian. He was excited about it.

“It’s a new start in my life,” he said. “This is what I’m doing.”

During a Mass celebrated the evening before the Race for Vocations, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson offered words

of encouragement for those taking part in both the 5K and mini-marathon in Greenfield.

“Running is a sport ... where you’re out there on your own,” he said during the May 7 liturgy at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. “But we’re running for something more than ourselves. We’re running for our high

school team, for our road team, for our college team, our grade school team. ... We’re usually running for someone else.”

The archbishop noted he tries to run five times a week, which helps him deal with stress.

Reflecting on the second reading for the Mass (2 Tm 4:12, 6-8), the archbishop

See RACE, page 14



Annie Byers, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville, crosses the finish line of the Race for Vocations 5K while pushing her children John Paul and Helen in a jogging stroller. The event took place on May 8 at St. Michael Parish in Greenfield. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)



Jacob Heintzelman, a freshman at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, crosses the finish line in the Race for Vocations mini-marathon on May 8 at St. Michael Parish in Greenfield. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

You may be the only **JESUS** that some people see.

“Therefore, **SHINE** your light on the world.” Matthew 5:16

God’s love calls us to walk in a new light of **compassion** and **love** for one another.

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RACE

continued from page 13

said Catholics must follow St. Paul's advice to Timothy "to run the race when it is convenient and inconvenient, to persevere, [and] to never lose sight" of something greater than the race of life.

Archbishop Thompson shared a story from his running days at Bellarmine University in Louisville, where his college coach questioned him about his efforts. "You're too comfortable. You've got to give more of yourself in that middle part of the race. You save it all for the end," the coach told him.

"Jesus is telling us," in the Gospel reading for the Mass (Jn 15:12-17), the archbishop said, "we cannot hold back, we have to extend ourselves, we have to give of ourselves," Archbishop Thompson said.

We are called to follow Jesus' example of love for us, he added.

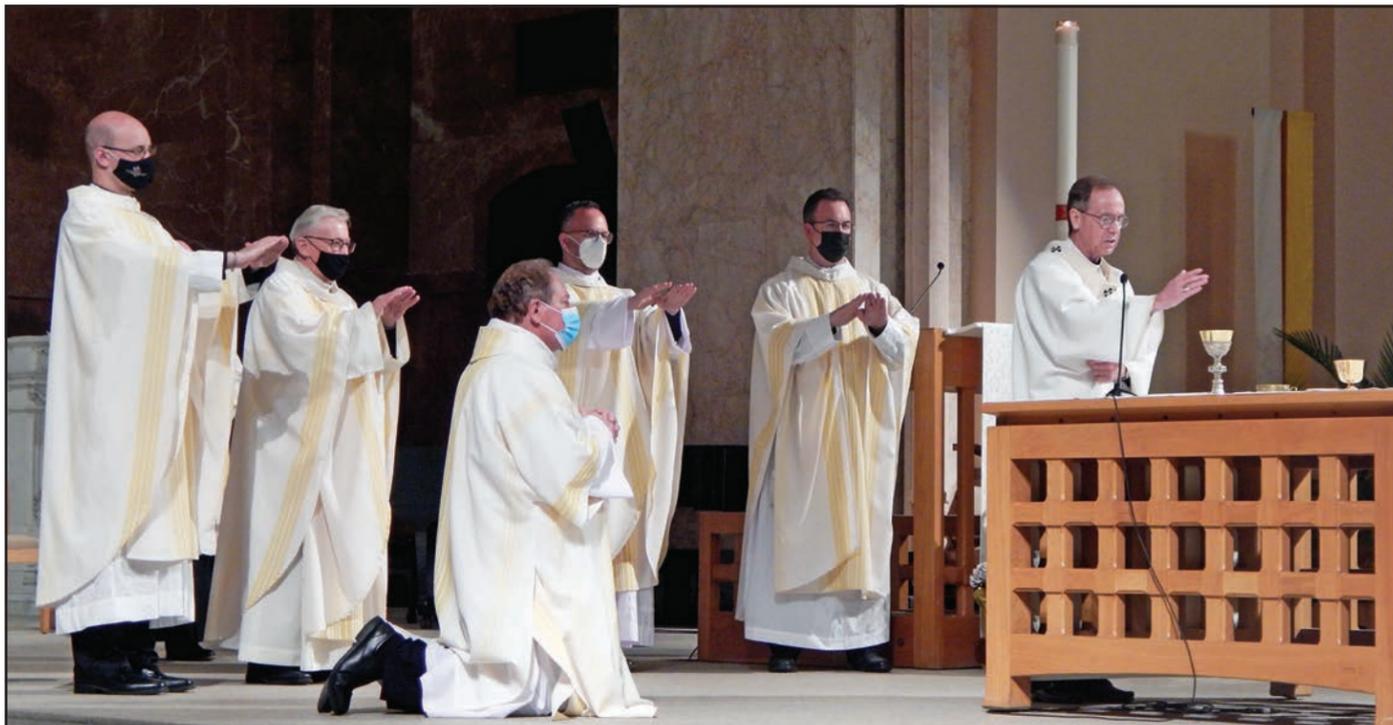
"It is a love, that is ultimately ... one of conviction, and not of mere emotion."

Annie Byers shared that conviction of love as she ran the Race for Vocations 5K while pushing a jogging stroller with two of her children as passengers. The mother of six children also had two older sons run in the 5K—and finish ahead of her.

"I just wanted to pray for vocations and strengthen my own vocation," said Byers, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville. "So, when I go out for runs, I pray for my children and the children in the community, that they'll listen to God's voice in their lives and respond."

Such prayers are music to the ears of Larry Kunkel, who has helped the Indiana Council Knights of Columbus organize the Knights-sponsored event for several years.

"I'm thrilled that we're back," said Kunkel, a member of St. Louis de Montfort Parish in Fishers, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese. "This is for vocations, which is near and dear to my heart. I'm so glad that we can do this."



Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson prays the eucharistic prayer during the annual Race for Vocations Mass on May 7 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. Also pictured from left are Father Michael Keucher, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis; retired Father James Bonke, chaplain of the Serra Club of Indianapolis; Deacon Thomas Hill of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville (kneeling); Father Derek Aaron, associate director of vocations for the Diocese of Lafayette; and Father Sean Aaron, associate pastor of St. Louis de Montfort Parish in Fishers, Ind., in the Diocese of Lafayette. (Photo by Mike Krokos)

About 40 members of the Knights of Columbus assisted with the event, both at the start/finish line and at water stations along the route.

The Knights "are all about serving the Church," said Kunkel, who serves as the life director for the Indiana State Council of the Knights of Columbus. "That's why we exist, first and foremost. We try, from a vocations standpoint, to do whatever we can to help the Church and the seminarians. Vocations is really who we are as Knights."

Two Catholic young adults posted the fastest men's and women's times in the mini-marathon.

Jacob Heintzelman, a freshman at Indiana University-Purdue University

Indianapolis, ran the 13.1 miles in 1 hour and 40 minutes. Sarah Mahnesmith, a freshman at Butler University in Indianapolis, posted a time of 1 hour and 44 minutes in the mini-marathon.

"It was really great," said Heintzelman. "I love running and praying. I loved the atmosphere, everybody was waving as you were going by."

"It was big just not to run alone," said Mahnesmith. "Having other people to run with, having them from the Catholic community and having them all run for the same reason was pretty awesome."

(Editor Mike Krokos contributed to this story.) †



Norma and Juan Escobedo, members of St. Patrick Parish in Indianapolis, pray after receiving Communion at the Race for Vocations Mass on May 7. (Photo by Mike Krokos)



Roncalli Salutes the Graduating Class of 2021

David Jonathan Abplanalp
Christopher Ian Abraham
James Matthew Adams
Luke Patrick Aldrich
Atotozin Citlalli Amezcua
Matthew Thomas Babb
Marina Joann Babcock
Benjamin Thomas Bailey
Sarah Elizabeth Bailey
Alexandria Kathleen Balint
Hayden Thomas Bean
Nicholas Eugene Beckman
Elizabeth Marie Beeson
William Henry Michael Beikes
Michaela Grace Belden
Lindsey Danielle Benson
Mackenzie Marie Billerman
Rylee Annaliese Billups
Madelyn Grace Bischoff
Alec Braeden Brooking
Dominic Lee Brown
Thomas Patrick Brownfield
Dylan James Bruner
Elijah Phillip Buening
Matthew Samuel Sering Cabalan
Connor Edward Cadwallader
Scott Joseph Cahill
Alyssa Marie Candler
Andrea Grace Cannaday
Kassie Ann Carman
Ava Terese Carothers
Abigail Rose Carr
Sofia Kathryn Carr
Mallory Kate Carson
Kaelin Jane Cash
Grace Louise Cassiero
Alejandro Francisco Cerimele
Chloe Catherine Clawson
Mary Isabel Clodfelter
Drew Michael Clouse
Callie Renee Clowers
Evan Michael Coffman
Sarah Elaine Colvin
Katherine Diane Comer
Joseph William Corbett
Cole Charles Cothron
Dylan James Craig

Lauren Blue Crist
Matthew Frederickson Croddy
Luke Andrew Cromer
Monica Rose Cunningham
Kate Elizabeth Curtis
Hannah Lynn Cushing
Alexandra Renee Dafforn
Elliott Grace Dahltorp
Joseph Charles Dees
Elizabeth Ann Divish
Anthony James Martin Donahue
Kathleen Rose Doninger
Emily Kathryn Doyle
Joseph Henry Dugan
Alivia Rose Dugger
Kyle Alexander Eckstein
Lucas Oliver Eiland
Joseph Cole Elzea
Allison Sarah England
Savannah Grace Evans
Thomas Alexander Fellmeth
Hayden Patrick Fitzgerald
Noah Matthew Fleming
Eva Catherine Fox
Hayden Robert Fuhrman
Matthew Joseph Gallagher
Samuel Patrick Gallagher
Coby Yahir Garcia
Juan Andres Garcia Ramirez
Chelsea Ivette Garcia-Andalon
Danielle Nicole Gebhart
Ariana Elise Gilley
Lena Marie Gillum
Mya Grace Gonzalez
Celeste Marie Gorbail
Morgan Ashley Grabczak
William Ryan Green
Maxwell Joseph Greene
Nicholas Edward Greene
Alessandro Oliverio Guzman
Sean Michael Haberthy
Ryan Skyler Haggenjos
Rachel Anne Hahn
Elaina Marie Harmon
Keelin Elizabeth Harrington
Isaiah Daniel Hastings-Rogers
Veronica Michele Hatfield

Joseph Russell Hayse
Ryan Patrick Henry
Grant Laker Hillan
Brianna Jolynn Himelick
Jacob Michael Hinson
Kathryn Rose Hofmann
Andrew Elijah William Holm
Gracie Taylor Holok
Lucy Catherine Houser
Nicholas Ray Houtz
Baron James Huebler
Joseph Thomas Hurrle
Peyton Rosalie Jones
Benjamin Matthew Kanter
Jacob Michael Kappes
Dylan Joseph Kedra
Erynn McKenzie Kehoe
Olivia Ann Kelley
John Patrick Kesterson
Logan Scott Khairy
Olivia Grace Kill
Mary Niang Khawl Kim
Gregory Arthur Kirkman
Theodore Francis Koehl
Alexa Nicole Kruse
Christina Louise Kurz
Logan Riley Lahey
Emily Elizabeth Langston
Jazmyn Aleksa Lawry
Margaret Rose Leising
Caroline Ann Leister
Paige Diane Lentz
Elizabeth Cathryne Lewis-McDonald
Mang Sian Lian
McKenzie Hayes Liegibel
Samuel John Limcaco
Fernanda Elitania Lopez-Estrada
Zoey Jeanette Lord
Patrick Alexander Luttrell
Cambri Carole Lux
Darbi Patricia Lux
Fiona Madeline Lynch
Carson Andrew Lyngh
Anna June Maddox
Jeremy Alexander Madriz
Jamie Elizabeth Mahin
Connor Joseph Mahoney

Josephine Marie Maloney
Taylor Maddie Markins
Rodrigo Martinez-Reyes
Gabriel Charles Massie
Ethan Edward McGuire
Robert Michael McKay
Gina Nicole McNulty
Kaden Briggs Meek
Logan William Mercuri
Keigan Jerome Miller
Jessica Rene Minor
Luke Benjamin Monroe
John William Moore
Benjamin Lawrence Morgan
Emma Renae Morgan
Samantha Ann Moylan
Sasha Rose Mullen
Sierra Morgan Muse
Ruth Frances Neu
Amelia Ellen Niezgodski
Matthew Arthur Niezgodski
Brendan Michael O'Connor
Brett Michael Oechsle
Luke David Oller
Ryan Lee Papandria
Chloe Nicole Parks
Jessica Ann Parrett
Jacob Cecil Parton
Mary Margaret Peats
Skyler Justus Phillips
Veronica Elise Phillips
Matthew Kyle Pittman
Hannah Elizabeth Pollard
Lauren Marie Prather
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Colin James Prior
Eliza Jane Rail
Thomas Raymond Ralston
Andrew David Reed
Ryan Michael Remy
Gerardo Godofredo Rivas-Deassis
Gianna Margaret Romano
Catherine Marie Ruplinger
Jaxson Jay Sandlin
Chiara Michele Schilten
Emma Rose Schneider
Tyler Samuel Schofield

Amaya Isabella Schornack
Annamarie Elaine Schura
Virginia Ruth Sever
Ryan Patrick Shanahan
Ana Guadalupe Silva
Sean Patrick Harrington Sinovic
Ryan John Sissons
Megan Ann Snyder
Elizabeth Grace Soller
Declan Edward Stanley
Carson John Steele
Nathan Lewis Stevenson
Grace Elizabeth Stewart
Tobey Grant Stong
Sarah Rae Strodtbeck
Suicerchin Grace Suiaung
Kamryn Rece Swingendorf
Ella Sophia Teipen
Thomas Barry TenBarge
Tha Tha
Raegan Kay Thomas
Abigail Marie Tillar
John Christopher Troxell
Ashley Elizabeth Van Bree
Anna Jacqueline Vane
Grace Elizabeth Vavra
Owen Thomas Volk
Evan Jay Wade
Claire Elisabeth Wagner
Katherine Lynn Walesky
Rosemary Nicole Walters
Matthew Kyle Watson
Graeham Gust Watt
Zoey Marie Webb
Nolan Michael White
Graham Ian Widdifield
Ryan Christopher Wiese
Reese Elizabeth Wiley
Hayden Christopher Willis
Miranda Danielle Wilson
Lucas Anthony Wolf
Joshua William Wormann
Conner Matthew Wray
Alexus Morgan Wright
Bailey Elizabeth Wyeth

Faith *Alive!*

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Holy Spirit can make forgiveness as much a part of life as breathing

By Mike Nelson

What could be more essential to life than breathing—or forgiving?

Breathing and forgiving: One follows the other. Forgiveness, as Jesus makes clear throughout his earthly ministry, is part of the deal for all who call themselves his disciples.

We read about it in the Gospel for Pentecost Sunday, when Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained” (Jn 20:22-23).

“All Jesus does is breathe forgiveness,” says Franciscan Father Richard Rohr in his book, *The Wisdom Pattern: Order, Disorder, Reorder*.

“It’s interesting,” Father Richard continues, “that Jesus identifies forgiveness with breathing, the one thing that we have done constantly since we were born and will do until we die. He says God’s forgiveness is like breathing. Forgiveness is not apparently something God does; it is who God is. God can do no other.”

Forgiveness is something we seek and offer, as is clear at each Mass.

In the penitential rite, we confess our sins, we beseech the prayers of Mary and we hear the presider pray, “May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.”

In our profession of faith on Sundays and holy days, we proclaim our belief “in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.”

And when we pray the Our Father, we ask the Lord “to forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who have trespassed against us.”

Many years ago, I heard a priest use a good share of his homily to address this last phrase—“as we forgive those who have trespassed against us.” He suggested that if we didn’t feel the need to forgive someone for however he or she may have offended us, we didn’t have to, because we have God-given free will, right?

“But,” the priest added, raising and shaking his finger, “don’t expect forgiveness for what you have done if you’re not going to forgive someone for what they have done to you. Forgiveness has to work both ways or it doesn’t work at all.”

If we hold on to the hate, the bitterness, the anger attached to an offense committed against us—real or perceived—who does that hurt? Hint: not the offender.

And even if we feel ready to forgive, we often aren’t sure that the offender wants or is even aware of the need for forgiveness.

What I have learned—slowly, I confess—is that if I want to move forward in my life, I need to let go of the negative feelings that come with being offended. I need to make peace with my offender.

I need to acknowledge that this person, no matter how serious and hurtful the offense, is a creation and child of God like myself, and for that reason alone deserves to be treated with the respect and dignity that all of God’s creation deserves. That includes offering forgiveness.

Which isn’t to say that forgiveness means we tell our offender, “Hey, whatever, no problem,” any more than we should expect the same response from those whose forgiveness we seek.

We would hope that the action of forgiving is accompanied by a sincere resolve and effort to change for the better.

No, we can’t control how others respond. But we can choose to move forward and not “retain,” as Jesus said, the anger, bitterness and hurt.

Think of the responsorial psalm for Pentecost Sunday: “Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the Earth” (Ps 104:30). Exactly how does the Spirit renew the face of the Earth?

Through us, it would seem. Pentecost Sunday’s first reading reminds us that the descent of the “tongues of fire” upon the disciples of Jesus so filled them with the Holy Spirit that they began speaking in different languages “of the mighty acts of God” (Acts 2:3-4, 11).

Soon those disciples moved forward to spread the good news—to breathe new life into a world that needed renewal. Sound familiar?

Indeed, in these times when so much vitriol and vilification is in our midst, what could happen if each of us took time to really reflect upon the hurts we’ve been dealt and made a serious effort to breathe some forgiveness into this world?

I know one thing: When I am able to forgive or when I am forgiven, something very powerful and wonderful takes place inside me. I feel like I can breathe, as if a great weight has been lifted off my chest.

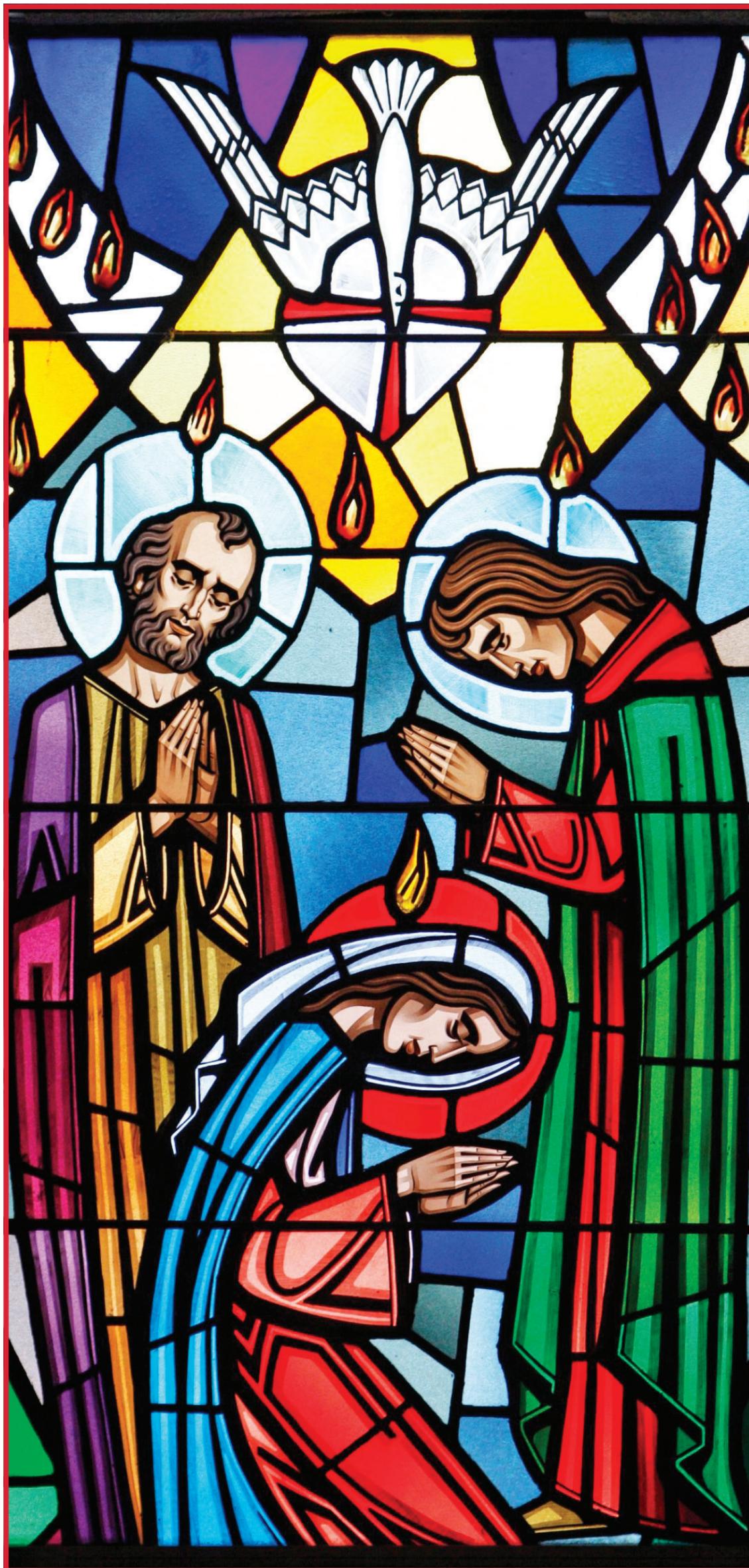
Letting go of anger and bitterness and hurt is an amazing gift to myself. When I forgive, I have let God into my life in a way that heals and renews.

The Pentecost sequence phrases it nicely:

“You, of comforters the best; You, the soul’s most welcome guest; sweet refreshment here below; in our labor, rest most sweet; grateful coolness in the heat; solace in the midst of woe.”

Yes, come, Holy Spirit, come!

(Mike Nelson writes from Southern California.) †



A scene from Pentecost is depicted in a stained-glass window at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Greenlawn, N.Y. The Holy Spirit empowers believers to make forgiving others as much a part of life as breathing. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic)

Worship and Evangelization Outreach/Jennifer Burger

At home or at work, Mary is always near to us

It is probably safe to say that anyone reading this has at least one, and likely a number of images, statues or icons of the Blessed Virgin Mary in their homes. I do, and while some have been given as gifts, most are items that I've picked up somewhere. Except for one or two, most are not prominently displayed or seen but are sitting on a bookshelf, windowsill, dresser or nightstand. Chances are you'll also find smaller images of Mary in drawers throughout my home.



I'm not sure what this says about me as a person: Am I a compulsive shopper? A hoarder? I'm not sure what this says about me as a Catholic Christian either: what is the point of having these Mary items all over the house if I am passing them by on most days without notice?

To be honest, these questions do not plague me, for my simple response is that I like having Mary around and knowing she is near.

I can say the same about my work environment. I work at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis, and obviously we have many statues and images of Mary throughout the retreat house as well as on our grounds. Unlike my home, these statues and images are prominently displayed and are not only visible but very accessible. Yet, in the busyness of the day, it is common to walk by and not even notice them.

One such icon is the statue of Mary that is displayed in the main entrance vestibule. She sits on a shelf attached to the wall, and except for special occasions when she is given honor and celebrated at Fatima and moved to the chapel or other worship area, she keeps watch in this small space.

It wasn't until a recent celebration when the statue was moved to the chapel that I really took notice and I was captivated by her. She is beautiful!

What I saw was not just the physical beauty of the artist's interpretation of Mary in the statue, but I *felt* her beauty. Her features are unassuming, yet gentle and knowing, and her gaze is somewhere between heaven and Earth. I could feel the love in her heart for me and for her

son Jesus, brought together in her folded hands in prayer. If I had to describe the role of Mary in the Church in imagery, this would be it.

I like that this Mary has a place in our vestibule. I like knowing that when guests and visitors walk through our doors, she is there to greet them and bless them, even if they don't see her or know who she is. I like knowing that when our staff comes to work, she greets us and blesses us, too.

She is one of us. She belongs to us and to everyone who walks through our doors, and to the Church.

And whether we "need" or even know her or not, whether we have a deep devotion to her or only turn to her in times of great need as intercessor and for miracles, she is there, in our ordinary lives, in those small spaces in our lives, in our coming and going, always ready and available to open her heart and unite us with her son Jesus. For this, I am truly grateful.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!

(Jennifer Burger is office manager and registrar at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis.) †

Amid the Fray/Greg Erlandson

Caring for Mom as Mom cared for me

There is a particularly unexpected twist in the saga of many families when the child suddenly starts acting the parent and the parent resembles the child.



It is not a welcome transition, reversing roles and inverting relationships. Sometimes, it takes years to really accept it. Before that acceptance comes, there is frustration and

anger and nostalgia and sorrow. The hope is that something gentle and generous is what follows.

I went home recently to visit my mom. For most of her life, she has been a mother. She had eight children in 14 years, one of whom died at age 2. She was a wife for 43 years, but her husband, my father, died 26 years ago.

My mom and my dad were great role models for marriage and for adulthood, and we kids kind of idealized them for many years. Of course, as our life experiences grew, we saw more clearly the strains and the sacrifices, the stresses and the resilience that we didn't notice when we were younger.

My mom was unbowed by my dad's death, even working weekly on a computer in a Catholic Charities office until she was 92.

But time took its toll. Some incidents suggested disorientation and forgetfulness. Slowly, over the years, the woman who always knew how to put on a feast lost interest in cooking. She learned to mask her memory lapses until she couldn't anymore.

She needed her kids to go with her to medical appointments so that vital instructions were not forgotten. She began to need in-home care, even with a son and a daughter-in-law living with her.

And slowly the roles reversed. While I live far away from my childhood home, I have wonderful siblings who dote on her and care for her. They help her get dressed and go to the potty. They make sure she is fed and engage her in games.

She can't go to Mass anymore but watches on TV. One blessing of this time of life is that she doesn't remember the bad events like losing her driver's license, even if that means she doesn't remember the good events either.

It takes a long while to learn how to calm the anxious moments and how to respond to the repetitious questions about where her purse is or where we are going. During that long while is where the pain is. Why doesn't she remember? Why can't she keep it straight? Why isn't she acting like my mom anymore, is what we are really asking.

I was sitting across from my mom during my recent visit, and she was doing a word jumble. She found a word that was upside down and at an angle. The truth is, she found it quicker than I did. And I praised her.

"That was great, Mom. Wow, that was fast!" She smiled, and I felt a sudden pang of sadness that this smart, insightful, loving woman was doing word jumbles and I was praising her as I would my own children when they were little.

But this is where the gentleness and the generosity come in. Now is the phase when the child loves the parent with the selflessness with which he was loved. God has given me an opportunity to just love her without expecting anything more than her smiling back at me and saying, "I love you madly."

I'm not sure she remembers my name, but she knows this man across the table holding her hand loves her. My only gift I can give is the gift she gave me: The gift of knowing she is loved. Loved madly.

(Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.) †

That All May Be One/Fr. Rick Ginther

Tragedy offers 'teachable moment' about Sikh community

As a teacher, I love "teachable moments."

Students learn quicker when an event or question challenges them. Leading them in the "moment" grants them multiple levels to grasp understanding, knowledge, even wisdom.



The 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 provided, sadly, a "teachable moment" for Christians. Four of the victims were of the local Sikh faith community.

Sikhism originated in the Punjab region of northwest India, and the religion arose near the end of the 15th century. With 25-30 million adherents, it is one of the youngest major religions and the fifth largest organized religion worldwide.

"Sikh" best translates as "disciple," "seeker" or "learner." The "teacher" is a guru.

After a succession of 10 gurus, the last, Gobind Singh, named the Sikh scripture "Guru Granth Sahib" as his successor. The line of human gurus ceased, and the scripture became the eternal, religious spiritual guide.

The scripture opens with the "Mul Mantar," a fundamental prayer about the "one God."

Sikhism is considered to be monotheistic. While it is true that Sikhism does honor several "deities" from the Hindu pantheon, they are "honored," not worshipped. Only the one God is worshipped. "One" is the central characteristic of the divine.

The core beliefs of Sikhism find its foundation in the name of the one creator. Sikhs are called to faith and mediation upon this name.

From such reflection, the divine unity reveals the belief in the equality of all humankind (in marked contrast to the caste system of Hinduism).

From the equality of all humankind arises selfless service and striving for justice for the benefit and prosperity of all.

Honest conduct and livelihood are the bedrock for

selflessness and justice.

Sikhism has respect for all religions and champions religious liberty.

Sikhism, as many religions, arose as a contrast to other religions (for example, Mughul Islam and Hinduism).

It has experienced periods of persecution from the time of its inception to the present. These periods of persecution have resulted in a diaspora to the West (England, Canada, U.S. and Italy). But 83% of Sikhs, however, remain in India, especially the state of Punjab.

There are symbols that an observant "Khalsa Sikh" wears to show their commitment to the Sikh way of life. The symbols are physical statements of their faith.

Known as the five "K's," they are worn at all times. Kesh (uncut hair), Kangha (wooden comb), Kara (iron bracelet), Kachaera (a 100% cotton undergarment) and Kirpan (an iron dagger to defend oneself or a defenseless person).

The unique "turban" worn over the Kesh is called a "dastar." One can see these worn by men on their jobs, at worship and at home. They are quite evident at the Festival of Faiths in Indianapolis each year.

A "gurdwara" (door to the guru) is where Sikhs assemble for worship. In keeping with the tenet of faith that all people are equal, all faiths are welcomed in gurdwaras.

Their scripture is enthroned on a "takhat," in a prominent central position known as the "Darbar Sahib." Scripture verses are recited or sung with explanations for the congregation.

All gurdwaras have a "langar" hall, where people can eat free vegetarian food served by volunteers.

There are five gurdwaras in the archdiocese: three in Indianapolis, one in Greenwood and one in McCordsville. Another is just north of Indianapolis in Fishers.

My experience of Sikh hospitality and dedication to community service and justice bodes well for learning even more about these neighbors who call Indiana their home.

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

The Human Side/Fr. Eugene Hemrick

Images can help us envision God's relationship with us

What are some of the most recurring images of God? Is it being called God's children? Or is it being cared for by the Good Shepherd?



My Italian grandfather was a shepherd. As a child, I envisioned myself living on a beautiful mountain minding sheep like grandpa.

Years later, I saw a movie about an Italian boy being dragged

from school by his father and ushered up into the mountains to tend the family sheep. The movie taught me most stories have two sides, one glamorous and one unglamorous.

The place where the boy's sheep were grazing was above the timber line.

At nighttime, temperatures dropped dramatically. With no place to escape the cold, the boy slept in a hollow ditch. Robbers would sometimes steal sheep from his herd.

The boy endured one cross after another, and yet he remained faithful to his duties.

Learning about this negative side of shepherding, I wondered why is Christ portrayed as a shepherd? To understand why, we need to combine it with being pictured as God's children.

When a new child is born, parents tend to experience ecstatic love, feeling no other child exists like their own.

In Fyodor Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, a wise old priest, Zosima, expounds on this ecstasy of love: "Love changes one more than knowledge. ...

Love is more powerful than thought."

Zosima observes that, more than a feeling or a thought, love is concrete action. "It is as much a creation as is a poem." For the early Greeks, poetry was considered the most precious gift a person could possess. Why is it so exalted? Because it penetrates the very soul of life and unveils its true reality.

Zosima concludes, "As we advance in love, we grow surer of the reality of God and of the immortality of the soul."

Why do we then love the images of being children of God and shepherded by Christ? It is because they represent active love par excellence, guaranteeing our immortality gained through Christ's death.

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

Pentecost Sunday/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 23, 2021

- Acts 2:1-11
- 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
- John 20:19-23

In the Church's liturgical year, only Easter and Christmas eclipse Pentecost. The importance and grandeur of these



feasts, of course, derive from the events being commemorated, but the Church also records the lessons taught by the feasts. Through the readings for these feasts, it instructs us in how to follow the Lord as faithful and worthy disciples.

Pentecost also is an ancient Jewish feast. The first Christians were often of Jewish origins. The Apostles were Jews. So, they observed the Jewish Pentecost.

In the Jewish context, this feast celebrated the identity, unity and vocation of the Hebrew people. With the coming of the Holy Spirit and in the overall context of salvation in Christ Jesus, Pentecost took on a broader meaning for Christians, a meaning centered in Christianity.

Pentecost became a great Christian holy day, recalling the moment when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and formed the reality of the Church as the community of believers and bearer of salvation in Christ to future generations everywhere.

The first reading recalls the first Pentecost and what happened in its wake. Under Peter's leadership, the Apostles were united. They were emboldened, never relenting in their mission of declaring Jesus as Lord and Savior. According to tradition, all of the Apostles, except St. John, died as martyrs, although John endured severe persecution.

An important lesson is that the first Christians were in a solid community, gathered around the Apostles, with St. Peter undeniably at their head.

For the second reading, the Church presents a passage from St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians. Absolute faith in Christ, as God and as Savior, is key. It is vital. Without grace, humans are confused and liable to even fatal misstep.

St. John's Gospel is the source of the last reading, a resurrection narrative. The risen Lord appears before the Apostles, commissioning them to forgive sins. The

reading is profoundly relevant for Catholics.

Jesus as the Son of God breathed the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles so they had the authority to forgive sins. This power awaits the repentant today. It lives in and through the Church.

Reflection

For weeks, the Church has rejoiced in the Resurrection, excitedly proclaiming that Jesus is—not was—Lord. He lives!

Throughout the Easter season, the Church, in the readings at Mass, has called us to realize what effect the Resurrection had upon humanity. It has been a wondrously good effect.

Future generations, including our own, share in this effect. How? Christ lives again and encounters us in and through the Church.

While true conversion requires a completely free and uncompromised individual decision, Christians are bound together in the Church, once committed to Christ, because they share their identity with Christ, their bond with Christ, and their life in Christ.

Faith is a gift and a challenge. Christians bear together the mission to bring God's mercy and wisdom to the world. Christians, however zealous, cannot be ships passing each other silently in the night.

Rather, as Acts reveals, they are part of the community still gathered around the Apostles, under the leadership of Peter, still looking to the Apostles for guidance and direction.

Nothing is more Catholic, more traditional, than the recent popes' call for evangelization by Catholics in all walks of life. Nor is anything more Catholic than the attention of Pope Francis to the desperate and outcast. He stands now in a great line of caring and of acting.

On this feast, the Church teaches a very contemporary lesson. In 2021, as 20 centuries ago, we believers compose an apostolic Church, a community created by God to bring divine mercy to weary and wandering humans.

Through the Church, through us, as in Jerusalem so long ago, Christ serves all and offers hope to all.

Think about it. How can we renew the world? †

Daily Readings

Monday, May 24

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
Genesis 3:9-15, 20
or Acts 1:12-14
Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7
John 19:25-34

Tuesday, May 25

St. Bede the Venerable, priest and doctor of the Church
St. Gregory VII, pope
St. Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi, virgin
Sirach 35:1-12
Psalm 50:5-8, 14, 23
Mark 10:28-31

Wednesday, May 26

St. Philip Neri, priest
Sirach 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17
Psalm 79:8-9, 11, 13
Mark 10:32-45

Thursday, May 27

St. Augustine of Canterbury, bishop
Sirach 42:15-25
Psalm 33:2-9
Mark 10:46-52

Friday, May 28

Sirach 44:1, 9-13
Psalm 149:1b-6a, 9b
Mark 11:11-26

Saturday, May 29

St. Paul VI, pope
Sirach 51:12cd-20
Psalm 19:8-11
Mark 11:27-33

Sunday, May 30

The Most Holy Trinity
Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40
Psalm 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22
Romans 8:14-17
Matthew 28:16-20

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Pope Francis and Shiite leader met to promote peace and understanding

When the Holy Father and Ayatollah al-Sistani met recently, at the end they stood facing each other and seemed to be talking without an interpreter. What language did they use in order to communicate? (Virginia)



According to the website of the Jesuit magazine *America*, there was, in fact, an interpreter present. *America* said in its report on the March 6 meeting that "the two leaders of Christianity and Shia Islam sat beside a small wooden table and spoke with the assistance of the pope's Palestinian-born translator."

I am happy, though, that you have called our readers' attention to this important meeting in the cause of peace.

The 90-year-old grand ayatollah is a revered and highly influential leader in Iraq, where more than 60% of Muslims are Shiites.

The Vatican noted that the meeting had given Pope Francis a chance

to thank the ayatollah and the Iraqi Shiite community, which "raised their voices in defense of the weakest and the persecuted, affirming the sacredness of human life and the importance of the unity of the Iraqi people" during the 2014-17 offensive of the Islamic State militants in which Christians suffered heavily.

After meeting with Pope Francis, the ayatollah said that the meeting served as an example of the importance of world leaders holding powerful nations to account and calling on them "to give priority to reason and

wisdom [and] to reject the language of war."

My 83-year-old sister has had dementia for many years. Now she is not eating regularly and seems to have no appetite. I was told that this is a sign that the end of life is nearing. As we are both Catholics, am I obligated to have her on life support and to begin tube feeding? I don't believe she would want this, and neither do I. (New York)

Whether a feeding tube is required depends on the patient's circumstances. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reflects that teaching: "Discontinuing medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be legitimate" (#2278).

The general principle, as enunciated by St. John Paul II in a 2004 talk to the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations and the Pontifical Academy for Life, is that artificial nutrition and hydration are, in principle, ordinary and proportionate measures and should be given to patients, even those who are in a persistent vegetative state.

Thus, nutrition and hydration should be provided to a terminally ill patient whose death does not appear to be imminent.

The Church's point is that patients should die because of the underlying pathology and not because they are starved to death.

But that principle can be overridden in particular situations; tube feeding would not be morally obligatory when it brings discomfort and pain to a person who is imminently dying, or when the patient's body cannot assimilate it.

I hope the information I have provided has been helpful for you in a general way. Unfortunately, decisions like the one you're facing require a good deal of precise knowledge of the medical history of a person.

With that in mind, it would not be appropriate for me to advise you on your question. I would recommend that you speak about your concerns with your sister's medical power of attorney (if it is not you), her medical professionals and a priest, perhaps one trained specifically in Catholic medical ethics.

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

My Journey to God

The Holy Spirit from Dawn to Dusk

By Natalie Hoefler

Come, Holy Spirit!
Light a fire in me
so intense
that its flame
will wake the dawn.

Come, Holy Spirit!
Let your breath of life
flow through me
that I may stir the world
as I embrace the day.

Come, Holy Spirit!
Enfold around me
your dove-like wings
as I tuck in the night
with prayers of praise.

Come, Holy Spirit!
From dawn to dusk,
from cradle to grave,
fill my heart fully
that I may leave
Your transforming mark.



(Natalie Hoefler is a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis and is a reporter for The Criterion. Photo: A girl is enamored of her Easter candle during the Easter Vigil on April 15, 2017, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita, Kan.) (CNS photo/Christopher Riggs, The Catholic Advance)

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.

BARR, Dale R., 73, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, May 10. Brother of Mary Baker, E. Joann Kane, Theresa Lawrence, Patrica Roe, Jennifer Zigler, Charles and Robert Barr. Uncle and great-uncle of several.

BRUNE, Edward, 84, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, April 28. Husband of Jane Brune. Father of Kate Dieveney, Doug and Tom Brune. Grandfather of nine.

CENTO, Antonio, 50, St. Roch, Indianapolis, May 5. Husband of Regina Cento. Father of Olivia Delp and Antonio Cento. Son of Lisa Cento. Brother of Michael Cento.

CULLEN, Kenneth R., 75, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, April 30. Husband of Bette Cullen. Father of Amanda, Terri and Chris Cullen. Brother of Kathleen, Sheliah, Dennis, Don and Douglas Cullen. Grandfather of two.

CUMMINS, James 90, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, April 21. Husband of Mary Cummins. Father of Mary Sue Skillman, Annie Voelkel, Danny and Jimmy Cummins. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of 10.

HOLDER, Judith A. (Brandenburg), 75, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis April 22. Mother of Denise Doran, Cheryl Forrester and Doug Holder. Sister of Donna Hass. Grandmother of nine. Step-

grandmother of two. Great-grandmother of two.

HOLLEY, Jack, 87, St. Martin of Tours, Martinsville, April 24. Husband of Rebecca Holley. Father of Jill Beach, Jessica Miller, Brian, Chad, Daniel and Jarrod Holley. Grandfather of 12. Great-grandfather of two.

HOLLEY, Rebecca, 81, St. Martin of Tours, Martinsville, May 3. Mother of Jill Beach, Jessica Miller, Brian, Chad, Daniel and Jarrod Holley. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of two.

JAMES, Elizabeth, 69, St. Augustine, Leopold, May 3. Wife of Ronnie James. Mother of Niki Brown, Jami Smith, Chad, Keith and Robby James. Sister of Julie Bellamy, Mona Goffinet, Patricia Huffman, Susan Hughes, Jackie Witvoet, Bill, Byron, Chris, David, Kevin, Paul, Ralph and Terry Alvey. Grandmother of 13.

JUDY, Justin D., 21, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Cambridge City, May 2.

Son of Pete and Renee Judy. Stepson of Edward Campbell and Barb Judy. Brother of Kaitlyn Barrett, Cheyenne Hedrick, Hannah Holliday, Jacob and Joshua Judy. Grandson of Mary Johnson, and Penny and Andy Pentecost. Uncle of several.

KRUEGER, Angela M., 56, St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville, May 8. Wife of Leeland Krueger. Mother of Meredith Krueger. Daughter of William and Joan Irwin.

LUKEN, Patricia A., 67, St. Mary, Greensburg, May 8. Wife of Jim Luken. Mother of Brent and Matthew Luken. Daughter of Lou Ann Burns. Sister of Charlotte Bailey, Kim Burns, Dottie Gommel, Margie Poling and Jeff Burns. Grandmother of four.

MAPPES, Lois A., 84, St. Roch, Indianapolis, May 12. Mother of Sharon Swhear, Debbie Watkins, Dianne Williams, Mark, Mike and Nick Mappes. Sister of Rosie Schmoll. Grandmother of 19. Great-grandmother of 13.

MCBRIDE, Mary V., 97, St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville, May 4. Mother of Julie Bingham, Virginia Cline, Connie Grosse and Ownie

McBride. Grandmother of four.

WALKO, Gerald S., 80, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, May 2. Husband of

Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, the former secretary of St. John Paul II, looks at the spot of the May 13, 1981, assassination attempt against the Polish pope, after placing flowers in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on May 13. Cardinal Dziwisz and a small group of Catholics gathered in the square to mark the 40th anniversary of the shooting. In 1981, then-Msgr. Dziwisz cradled the pope after the shooting. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Marian Walko. Father of Laura DeDomenic, Susan Flottesch and Joe Walko. Brother of Theresa Walko. Grandfather of seven. †

Providence Sister Mary Louise O'Connor served in education and administration

Providence Sister Mary Louise O'Connor (formerly Sister James Margaret), a member of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, died on May 3 at Mother Theodore Hall on the campus of her religious community's motherhouse. She was 94.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, a virtual funeral service was held on May 11. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

Sister Mary Louise was born on May 18, 1926, in Fall River, Mass. She entered the Sisters of Providence on July 22, 1956, and professed final vows on Aug. 15, 1964.

Sister Mary Louise earned a bachelor's degree at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and a master's degree at Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

During her 65 years as a member of the Sisters of Providence, Sister Mary Louise ministered as an educator and guidance counselor for eight years in schools in Indiana and Florida. She later

served for 23 years in administration of schools in Washington, D.C. Returning to the motherhouse in 1993, Sister Mary Louise ministered as the business manager of the Providence Spirituality and Conference Center for six years. After retiring, she volunteered in many ways at the motherhouse before dedicating herself entirely to prayer in 2013.

In the archdiocese, Sister Mary Louise served at the former St. Leonard of Port Maurice School in West Terre Haute from 1959-60, as the coordinator of the Development Education Program for Religious Communities in Indianapolis from 1990-92 and as business and facilities manager of the Providence Spirituality and Conference Center at the motherhouse from 1993-99.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876. †

Keep focused on peace, unity, pope tells Myanmar Catholics

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Celebrating a Mass for peace in Myanmar, Pope Francis urged the country's Catholics to "keep the faith."

"To keep the faith is to keep our gaze lifted up to heaven, as here on Earth, battles are fought and innocent blood is shed," he said at the Mass on May 16. "To keep the faith is to refuse to yield to the logic of hatred and vengeance, but to keep our gaze fixed on the God of love, who calls us to be brothers and sisters to one another."

Pope Francis had invited Catholics from Myanmar living in Rome to the Mass at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's Basilica. The congregation included about 100 women religious and about 70 priests and seminarians studying in Rome or working at the headquarters of their religious orders.

Father Bosco Mung Sawng, a priest from Myanmar studying at the Pontifical Urbanian University in Rome, spoke on their behalf at the end of the liturgy, thanking Pope Francis and telling him, "This Mass is a great occasion for healing, not only for those of us here, but for the thousands of Catholics in Myanmar and for the Myanmar diaspora throughout the world.

"Myanmar is now in God's hands. Our tears, our bitter discouragement [and] our shattered peace, call for divine intervention," he said. "We firmly believe that this extraordinary event in Rome with our pastor is the starting point of God's intervention in our history."

The Asian nation has been embroiled in violence since Feb. 1 when the Myanmar military took power, declaring elections the previous November invalid. Hundreds of people have been killed and thousands arrested.

In an interview with *America* magazine on May 14, Cardinal Charles Bo of Yangon, president of the nation's bishops' conference, said, "Our people need democracy,

but they also need daily food.

"The conflict has thrown millions into starvation, so there is an urgent need for peaceful solutions," the cardinal told *America*.

"In these days when your beloved country of Myanmar is experiencing violence, conflict and repression," Pope Francis said in his homily, the country's Catholics are called to keep the faith, keep praying, promote unity and defend truth.

Division is "a deadly disease," he said. "We experience it in our hearts, because we are divided within; we experience it in families and communities, among peoples, even in the Church.

"Sins against unity abound: envy, jealousy, the pursuit of personal interests rather than the common good, the tendency to judge others," Pope Francis said. "Those little conflicts of ours find a reflection in great conflicts, like the one your country is experiencing in these days.

"Once partisan interests and the thirst for profit and power take over, conflicts and divisions inevitably break out," he added.

Each individual can and must make a contribution to promoting unity and peaceful coexistence, the pope told them. "We are also called to do this as a Church; let us promote dialogue, respect for others, care for our brothers and sisters, communion!

"We cannot allow a partisan way of thinking to enter into the Church, a way of thinking that divides, that puts ourselves at the center while casting others aside," he said. "This is very destructive; it destroys the family, the Church, the society and each one of us." †

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:

- 1 Ethics Point**
Confidential, Online Reporting
www.archdioceseofindianapolis.ethicspoint.com or 888-393-6810
- 2** Carla Hill, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Victim Assistance Coordinator
P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410
317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548
carlahill@archindy.org

Court to hear major abortion case from Mississippi in next term

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court said in a May 17 order that it will hear oral arguments during its next term on a 2018 Mississippi abortion law banning most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

The case is *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The court's term opens in October, and a decision is expected by June 2022.

Just after then-Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant signed the law on March 19, 2018, a federal judge blocked it temporarily from taking effect after the state's only abortion clinic filed suit, saying it is unconstitutional. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld the block on the law.

In commending Bryant for his signature, the state's Catholic bishops, Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz of Jackson and Bishop Louis F. Kihneman III of Biloxi, said: "[We] wish to reaffirm the sacredness of human life from conception until natural death. With Pope St. John Paul II, we recognize abortion as 'a most serious wound inflicted on society and its culture by the very people who ought to be society's promoters and defenders.'"

In 2020, the Jackson and Biloxi dioceses filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch's petition to the Supreme Court asking it to review the 5th Circuit's ruling prohibiting the state from enforcing the law.

The high court should clarify current law on abortion "in light of a state's interests in protecting the sanctity of life," the dioceses' brief said.

A number of states have passed laws restricting abortion that have been challenged in court by supporters of legal abortion. Pro-life advocates have been hoping one or more of those laws would be taken up by the Supreme Court as a way to challenge 1973's *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion.

The Mississippi case will be the first abortion case the court will consider since the Oct. 26, 2020, confirmation to the court of now-Justice Amy Coney Barrett, President



The U.S. Supreme Court is seen in Washington on May 11. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

Donald J. Trump's third pick for the court. His first two picks, Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch, were on the court when it took up its first major abortion decision since they were confirmed.

The case was a Louisiana law requiring abortion providers to have admitting privileges at local hospitals.

The court struck it down as unconstitutional in a 5-4 ruling. Chief Justice John Roberts joined Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Ruth Bader Ginsburg in knocking down the law. Kavanaugh and Gorsuch joined Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas in upholding the law. †

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods buildings to open for first time since March 2020

Criterion staff report

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, will officially reopen all public buildings, sacred sites and grounds beginning on May 24. In addition, Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception will again be open to the public beginning at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 23.

At this time, all Sisters of Providence at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods have been fully vaccinated, and they are ready to welcome everyone back to the grounds.

General Superior Providence Sister Dawn Tomaszewski said the congregation made the decision to essentially close many of the buildings on campus in March 2020 out of an abundance of caution due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The sisters, like many people, have had limited contact with friends and loved ones for more than a year.

Sacred sites which will be reopened to the public include the Shrine of Saint Mother Theodore Guérin, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, the National Shrine of Our Lady of Providence and the Church of

the Immaculate Conception, among others.

In addition, retail stores are now open daily. Linden Leaf Gifts store hours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., on Saturdays and Sundays, while store hours for the Farm Store at the White Violet Center are noon-5 p.m. on Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sundays.

And beginning on June 8, the congregation's monthly Taizé Prayer service will be open to the public. Livestream services will continue for those who are unable to attend in person. The service takes place from 7-8 p.m., on the second Tuesday of each month.

For more information on upcoming workshops, retreats and more, visit [Events.SistersofProvidence.org](https://www.sistersofprovidence.org).

The congregation is asking that all visitors remain attentive of safety protocols which remain in place, including wearing a mask, physical distancing and washing hands. Properly-fitted masks will be required to enter buildings on the grounds.

For more information, go to [SistersofProvidence.org](https://www.sistersofprovidence.org) and click the COVID-19 update button. †

Employment

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The complete position description can be found online at www.stmonicaindy.org

Send resume and cover letter to: St Monica PA Search Committee, 6131 Michigan Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46228 or email to: jmccaslin@stmonicaindy.org.

The deadline for priority consideration is June 19, 2021.

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