Pope out of bed, walking after surgery at Rome hospital

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The second morning after undergoing colon surgery, Pope Francis was continuing to recover well and, after a restful night, he had breakfast, read the newspapers and got out of bed to walk, the Vatican press office said on July 6.

His post-operative recovery is proceeding normally, the press office said, and his “routine follow-up exams are good.”

The day before the Vatican had explained that Pope Francis’ surgery “for diverticular stenosis performed [on] the evening of July 4 involved a left hemicolectomy and lasted about 3 hours.”

The pope was expected to stay in the hospital for a week after the surgery, barring complications.

A left hemicolectomy is the removal of the descending part of the colon and can be recommended to treat diverticulitis, when bulging pouches in the lining of the intestine or colon become inflamed or infected.

The 84-year-old pope was admitted to Rome’s Gemelli hospital in the early afternoon on July 4 after leading the midday recitation of the Angelus with visitors gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

As has been his custom, Pope Francis already had suspended his weekly general audience and other meetings for the month of July, except for the Sunday recitation of the Angelus.

It is possible that Pope Francis’ midday Angelus appointment on July 11 could take place at the Gemelli hospital, as it did on several occasions when St. John Paul II was hospitalized there. The hospital maintains a suite of rooms for the pope’s use when necessary.

Announcing Pope Francis’ hospitalization in the mid-afternoon on July 4, the Vatican press office had said he was to undergo “a scheduled surgical intervention for a new church building in 1891. What to do with the leftover lumber?”

The answer still stands across the street from the church today: the one-room Navilleton schoolhouse, now a museum.

“There are so many good memories here,” says St. Mary parishioner Angie Atkins, who graduated from the parish-maintained public school in 1952. She and fellow parishioner Anna Sweeney—a 1948 graduate of the parish-maintained public school in 1952.

“Indifference is a accomplice of war,” Pope Francis wrote.

The Vatican publishing house on June 28 released Peace on Earth: Fraternity is Possible.
Pope congratulates retired pontiff on anniversary of priestly ordination

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis congratulated retired Pope Benedict XVI on the 70th anniversary of his priestly ordination.

After praying the Angelus prayer with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square on June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, the pope led the faithful in applauding his predecessor on what he said was “an anniversary that touches all of our hearts.”

“Our affection, our gratitude and our closeness go to you, Benedict, dear father and brother,” he said.

Born in 1927 in the Bavarian town of Markt am Inn, Joseph Ratzinger was ordained to the priesthood on June 29, 1951, for the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising. Before his election as pope in 2005, succeeding St. John Paul II, he served for 24 years as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. After retiring from the papacy in 2013, the retired pontiff chose to live in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery at the Vatican, along with Archbishop Georg Ganswein, his personal secretary, and a group of consecrated women.

Pope Francis said that although the monastery was meant to house contemplative communities of nuns, the monastery has made Pope Benedict “the contemplative of the Vatican who spends his life praying for the Church and for the Diocese of Rome, of which he is emeritus bishop.”

Before leading pilgrims in a prolonged applause, the pope thanked Pope Benedict for his years of service to the Church and his witness of faith.

“Thank you, Benedict, dear father and brother,” the pope said. “Thank you for your credible witness. Thank you for your continuous gaze toward the horizon of God. Thank you.”

A collection of Pope Francis’ words and speeches on the importance of praying and working for peace.

The volume closes with a chapter he wrote specifically for the book, highlighting the role each person can play in promoting peace, but also moving closer to adopting a stance of total nonviolence. Already in “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship” he questioned whether in modern warfare any conflict could be judged a “just war” because proportionality and the protection of civilians seem to be difficult if not impossible to guarantee.

“We can no longer think of war as a solution because its risks will probably always be greater than its supposed benefits,” one of the main criteria of just-war theory, he wrote in the document. “In view of this, it is very difficult nowadays to invoke the rational criteria elaborated in earlier centuries to speak of the possibility of a ‘just war.’ Never again war!”

In the new book, Pope Francis said nations groups too easily turn to war, using “any kind of excuse,” including claiming they are attacking another as a humanitarian, defensive or preventative measure, “even resorting to the manipulation of information” to support their decision.

On the issue of nonviolence, Pope Francis noted that when Jesus was about to be arrested, he did not claim a right to self-defense and even told the disciple who drew a sword to defend him, “Put your sword back into its sheath” (Mt 26:52).

“The words of Jesus resound clearly today, too,” he wrote. “Life and goodness cannot be defended with the sword.”

In the Gospel of Luke’s version of the story, Jesus tells his disciples, “Stop, no more of this” (Lk 22:51).

“Jesus’ sorrowful and strong, ‘No more,' goes beyond the centuries and more of this!” (Lk 22:51).

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Deacon Anthony Lewis had ‘God-given ability to meet people where they are’

By Natalie Hofer

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Activists who oppose the death penalty said the Justice Department’s temporary stop of federal executions is a step in the right direction, but not enough.

The order, given by Attorney General Merrick Garland in a memo to senior officials and announced publicly on May 17, immediately stopped federal executions of death-row inmates after a 17-year hiatus. In a six-month period from last summer to this January, 13 federal executions took place.

Immediately after Garland’s decision was announced, activists offered a mixed reaction.

“While a moratorium on federal executions is a step in the right direction, but not enough,” tweeted Sister Helen Prejean, a Roman Catholic nun who opposed capital punishment.

Yet Deacon Lewis “shrugged off” compliments, said Deacon Tsuleff. “Tony was very humble,” he said. “He would get praised for something and just shrug it off, saying it was nothing, often complimenting the person that gave him the praise in the first place.”

But there was plenty of joy in him, too, his friends noted.

“He was very active in the parish,” said Father Hankoo. “He loved God, the Church, his family and his parish family. You got that sense just by talking to him or being around him.”

For his parish ministry as a deacon, Deacon Lewis “helped people with the annulment process, baptism classes, he was involved in RCIA [Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults],” said Father Hankoo. “Even in places where he wasn’t directly involved, he still made his presence felt. He was very welcoming of newcomers and in helping new parishioners find their place here. He would do just about anything you asked, even getting in a dunk tank at the parish festival.”

When it came to serving outside of his parish, Deacon Lewis “especially loved his jail ministry,” said Deacon Tsuleff. “He would often talk about how fulfilling it was—how he felt he was helping inmates find God and peace. He always had ideas to improve his ministry.”

Deacon Scarlett agreed, saying Deacon Lewis’ only problem “was that there were never enough hours in the day to serve.”

He also described Deacon Lewis as “very well-rounded,” noting that “in each of the four aspects of the diaconate—intellectual, spiritual, pastoral and human—Tony was excellent at all of them.”

Whether serving in jail ministry, at his parish, as a spouse or parent or friend. Deacon Lewis had the rare quality of “ever-presence,” Deacon Scarlett said. “Tony had this really great, God-given ability to meet people where they are,” he said. “When you talked to him, you felt like you were the most important thing. He was engaged, listening and focused on you.”

Father Hankoo agreed, saying that Deacon Lewis, “from what I can see, knew when it was time to listen and when it was time to speak. He wasn’t afraid to speak the truth and share the truth, and I always knew him to do that in a loving way.”

Yet Deacon Lewis “shuffled off” compliments, said Deacon Tsuleff. “Tony was very humble,” he said. “He would get praised for something and would just shrug it off, saying it was nothing, often complimenting the person that gave him the praise in the first place.”

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“As Christians, We Are Called to Do the Same.”

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“God gives where He finds empty hands.” - St. Augustine

The Criterion Friday, July 9, 2021
Young people, school communities offer powerful example of faith

Many of us continue to have a sense of helplessness as we see more bodies pulled from the rubble of a partially collapsed beachfront high-rise apartment building in Surfside, Fla. As The Criterion went to press on July 6, there were 32 confirmed deaths and 113 people unaccounted for as a result of the June 24 tragedy, according to local law enforcement officials.

But as our hearts ache for the families, friends and community who continue to reel from the unimaginable, we also see the power of prayer.

One only need to look at young people in a parish and those connected to school communities in south Florida to see an example of faith in action. At St. Joseph Parish in nearby Miami Beach, teenagers, young adults and other members of the community took part in a prayer for Surfside, gathering. Seated in the campus’ Roca Theater, they also heard words of encouragement from Jesus Father Guillermo Garcia-Tuñon, the school’s president.

“As Catholics, we place so much of our hope and fears, our sadness and anger in the hands of the Mother of Jesus,” Father Garcia-Tuñon said. “She experienced his joy and his sadness. She experienced his fear, anger and sorrow. She experienced his death. It is only natural that in times of such sorrow and pain that we run to our Mother for help.”

On June 26, Belen Jesuit Preparatory School in Miami drew 300 people to a “Prayer for Surfside.”

That decision gave our country one of the most extreme abortion policies in the world, sparking a decadeslong controversy and strong criticism on the court itself.

Some criticism relates to the court’s arbitrary “trimester” framework—partly because medical advances keep shifting the age when a child may be viable—that is, able to survive outside the womb if born. In the second trimester, states could do almost nothing to regulate abortion; in the third, they could only act to protect the health of the pregnant woman, not her child.

And in the final months, when the child may be “viable”—that is, able to survive outside the womb if born—the court reaffirmed Roe’s decision. That would usher in a Dark Ages for the protection of human life, waiting to see if the rest of us are willing to set even modest limits to the taking of innocent human life.

Weighed against this sweeping claim is that “quite recognizable” human baby, waiting to see if the rest of us are willing to set even modest limits to the taking of innocent human life.

(Richard Doerflinger worked for 36 years in the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He writes from Washington state.)

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are published in The Criterion as part of the newspaper’s commitment to “the responsible exchange of freely held and expressed opinion among the People of God” (Comunione et Progressio, 116).

Letters from readers are welcome and every effort will be made to include letters from as many people and representing as many viewpoints as possible. Letters should be informed, relevant, well-expressed and temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect. The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to edit letters from readers as necessary based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content (including spelling and grammar). In order to encourage opinions from a variety of readers, frequent writers will ordinarily be limited to one letter every three months. Contact Jodi Conklin (usually less than 300 words) are more likely to be printed. Letters must be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld.

Send letters to “Letters to the Editor,” The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.
Reflecting on fatherhood in the Year of St. Joseph

Estamos ya a más de la mitad del Año de San José (que se inició en diciembre de y culmina en diciembre de 2021) proclamado por el papa Francisco en su carta apostólica “Patris corde” (“Con corazón de padre”) que conmemora el 150 aniversario de la declaración de San José como patrono de la Iglesia universal. Las Sagradas Escrituras no nos dicen mucho sobre san José; nunca se le cita, pero como dice el refrán, sus acciones hablan más que las palabras. En hebreo, el nombre José significa “se multiplicará” o “hará crecer.” Como esposo de María y padre de Jesús, San José es un excelente patrono de los hombres, y de las mujeres también. En la frase “padre”, el de ‘castísimo’. No es una razón la tradición también le ha dado a St. Joseph el título de ‘castísimo’; No es una razón la tradición también le ha dado a St. Joseph el título de ‘castísimo’. Quizás por esta razón, la mayoría de las veces, cuando pensamos en St. Joseph, pensamos en su castidad. Sin embargo, St. Joseph es también un padre de familia, y la vocación de St. Joseph, según Dios, es ser padre. Esta es una vocación que requiere humildad, valor y una buena dosis de perseverancia. Además de la humildad, el valor y la perseverancia que acabamos de mencionar, entre los atributos de un padre se encuentran también la ternura, la creatividad, el trabajo duro, la acogida y la obediencia. Una virtud adicional identificada por nuestro Santo Padre es la “castidad” de José. Dado que este término puede ser malinterpretado, cabe analizar con detenimiento lo que el papa Francisco quiere decir con esto. Según expresa “Ser padre implica introducir a su hijo en el centro de su vida” (Mt 1:20-21). La vocación de José, según el mensaje de Dios, es la de ser un marido y un padre que acoge a María en su casa y que llama a su hijo Yeshua o “Dios salva.”

San José es un excelente patrón para los padres: nos recuerda que la verdadera paternidad no es simplemente el resultado, accidental o planificado, de la relación física entre un hombre y una mujer o, como puede ocurrir hoy en día, de la inseminación artificial de la semilla de un hombre en el vientre de una mujer. La verdadera paternidad es una elección, y un compromiso, que va mucho más allá de la concepción del hijo y de una vocación que requiere humildad, valor y una buena dosis de perseverancia. A pesar de la adversidad, San José nunca dudó en ser el modelo y el ejemplo del amor a su hijo Yeshua. Aun cuando éste no era un hombre, San José protegió a su hijo, incluso a la muerte. San José es un modelo de hombre que no se detiene ante los desafíos, y que persevera en la recta dirección. San José es un padre que nunca se rindió, y que continuó amando a su hijo a pesar de las dificultades. Este es el legado de San José que nosotros debemos aprender y seguir en nuestra vida diaria.

In the case of St. Joseph, fatherhood was clearly his vocation, a call he received directly from God through an angelic messenger, is to be a husband and father who takes Mary into his home and who names her child Yeshua—God saves. Joseph is an excellent patron saint for fathers. He reminds us that true fatherhood is not simply the result, whether accidental or planned, of the physical relationship between a man and a woman, or today, of the artificial insemination of a man’s seed into a woman’s womb. True fatherhood is a choice and a commitment that goes far beyond the conception of children. It is a calling that requires humility, courage and perseverance just mentioned, these fatherly attributes include tenderness, creativity, hard work, acceptance and obedience. As the husband of Mary and father who takes Mary into his home and who names her child Yeshua—God saves.

Pope Francis speaks of the virtues of fatherhood that is especially needed in our world today. Perhaps for this reason, St. Joseph is traditionally called a ‘most chaste’ father. That title is not simply a sign of affection, but the summation of an attitude that is the opposite of possessiveness. Chastity is freedom from possessiveness in every sphere of one’s life. Only when love is chaste, is it truly love. A possessive love ultimately becomes dangerous: it imprisons, constrains and makes for misery. God himself loved humanity with a chaste love; he left us free even to go astray and set ourselves against him. The logic of love is always the logic of freedom, and St. Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the center of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on that which is more important to him: God.

Let’s pray that in this Year of St. Joseph, all fathers will embrace their vocations and look to St. Joseph as a model for all parents and guardians of children, youth and young adults. May the most chaste spouse of Mary teach us all the dignity and the joy of being a father with St. Joseph.
Register by July 19 for online “Why Do We Need the Church?” seminar at discounted rate

Through a partnership between Catholic Distance University and the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, members of the church can sign up for a three-week online seminar called “Why Do We Need the Church?” from July 19-August 9 for $75, a $90 discount from the normal cost.

Many people today claim to be “spiritual,” but not “religious.” Surveys show that only 20% of Catholics born after 1970 attend Mass. Surprisingly, about two-thirds of that figure believe that God exists and consider themselves to be Christian, yet they see little value in attending Mass.

Therefore, the need has never been greater to equip Catholics to credibly, convincingly and convincingly explain and share why we need the Church, the sacraments, and the Church.

This apologetics seminar will help participants respond to this alarming and growing trend by equipping them with key reasons why active involvement in the life of the Church, especially the Mass, is Christ’s will for his followers. All Catholics are encouraged to attend this unique seminar as an opportunity to strengthen their faith, and learn valuable information for sharing with family and friends who do not attend Mass.

The online seminar consists of three sessions, one per week: “Why does the Church still matter today?”, “Why are we Catholic?”, and “Why do we need the Church?”.

Steven Hemler, president of the Catholic Apologetics Institute of North America and author of The Reality of God: The Layman’s Guide to Scientific Evidence and Search More No: The Keys to Truth and Happiness, will present all three sessions.

It is one of six online seminars in the Certificate in Apologetics offered by Catholic Distance University.

The cost for the “Why Do We Need the Church?” seminar is normally $115, but is now free because of the Catholic Distance University partnership, the cost for the first 150 members of the class is $75, which includes one Continuing Education Unit.

For more information, go to cdu-evansville.com or e.catholiceducation.com.
God’s grace transforms sinners into apostles, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Even the lowest of sinners can become the greatest of apostles by answering God’s call and allowing his grace to work in their heart and mind, Pope Francis said.

“How often, in the face of the Lord’s great works, does our imagination arise. How is it possible that God uses a sinner, a frail and weak person, to do his will? And yet, none of this happens by chance, because everything has been prepared in God’s plan. He weaves our history and, if we correspond with trust and the law, ‘towards him, which led him to experience a radical transformation, well known to all.’” The pope said. “On the one hand, he insists on problems, as we are often tempted to do shallow arguments used by his detractors,” Pope Francis said. “This is not how the Gospel works, but instead ‘chose to go deeper, because what was at stake was the truth of the Gospel and the freedom of Christians.’”

“Nearly 2,000 years after his crucifixion, St. Paul continues his new series of talks on the Letter to the Galatians, reflecting on the challenges that his community faced as they struggled to break free from the chains of legalism and self-righteousness.

In his main audience talk, the pope continued his new series of talks on the Letter to the Galatians, reflecting on the theme, “Paul, true Apostle.” St. Paul shows “a father’s concern” for the Christian community, he said, and in reading his Letter to the Galatians, “we immediately discover that Paul has a profound knowledge of the mystery of Christ.”

When problems arise, such as the dispute over whether Gentiles must be circumcised, St. Paul did not follow “the shallow arguments used by his detractors,” but instead “chose to go deeper, because what was at stake was the truth of the Gospel and the freedom of Christians.”

“Do not be multiple, Pope Francis said. “Let us allow ourselves to be used by this awareness. The primacy of grace transforms existence and makes it worthy of being placed at the service of the Gospel.”

By Kara Amyx

Special to The Criterion

St. Joseph is the epiphany of what we should all strive to be as Catholic Christians.

Throughout his life, he answered God’s call, even if he was reluctant. He gave himself to God in order to fulfill his mission and meet the needs of the Virgin Mary and Jesus. He was the ultimate example of what we should strive to be as future parents and as tools of God in this life.

What is known to us of St. Joseph, the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus Christ, comes from the Bible. However, St. Joseph is not mentioned with his prayers. I thank him so much, and I also would like to take the opportunity to thank all the laypeople who bring the Church forward with his work, with his goodness and his faithfulness. He is one of those who are tools of God in this life, who are perfect, it can be hard to follow the life God calls us to, and it may seem undesirable. However, it’s imperative, especially in our youth, that we listen for God’s call and put him at the forefront of our lives.

We may not hear God’s voice explicitly or have an angel appear to us in a dream to tell us what we need to do, but if we listen to God and pray to him about what our vocation is in this life, we will get a sign and do what we know is best.

(Kara and her parents, Jarrod and Trena Amyx, are members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond. She recently completed the 12th grade at Seton Catholic High School in Richmond and is the 12th-grade division winner in the Indianapolis Serra Club’s 2021 John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest.)

The Criterion  Friday, July 9, 2021  Page 7
Water helps me recognize God's love and peace

As I gaze upon the gentle rippling of the ocean water, my soul feels a deep sense of peace wash over me. The rhythmic motion of the water soothes my mind, allowing me to connect with the divine. The sound of the waves lulls me into a state of tranquility, where all my worries fade away.

For me, it is a time to relax, enjoy the beauty of nature, and experience the presence of God. I find myself in a peaceful state, where I can truly hear the words of my heart and allow them to guide me. The ocean water, my soul stirs. I feel the anticipation of new adventures and the promise of joy.

Though countercultural, our faith calls us to serve others and to be humble. Our relationship with God is not something that can be measured by social status or popularity. The list of those who are recognized and celebrated by society's standards is not the one we follow. For us, it is about serving others and living a life that is pleasing to God.

As parents age, we are faced with having to discuss difficult decisions. Helping an aging parent make these decisions can be challenging, but it is necessary. It is important to be open and honest with your loved one about your concerns and to provide them with the support they need.

Helping an aging parent make major decisions

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Have you ever been struck with how easy it is for our bodies to react to the stimulation of the ocean? The motion of the water as it tossed sand back and forth, the rhythm of the waves, the sound of the gulls, and the way the water moves in the wind all combine to create a sense of peace and tranquility.

The wind suddenly picks up, the skies rapidly darken, thunder rumbles in the distance. I watch as a gentle mist morphs into a downpour. I reflect that as a child, thunderstorms frightened me from the window of my bedroom. Older now, they feel like a hiatus, as if God is telling me to stop, to take a break from the constant activity of my life. A brief rain storm is the same effect on the ocean.

Later, I head for the pool. I float on my back in the cool water and my eyes close. I hear the sound of a torn shower curtain, and I find a sense of comfort in the noise. It’s my mother calling me home for dinner. I feel the anticipation of new adventures and the promise of joy.

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The wind suddenly picks up, the skies rapidly darken, thunder rumbles in the distance. I watch as a gentle mist morphs into a downpour. I reflect that as a child, thunderstorms frightened me from the window of my bedroom. Older now, they feel like a hiatus, as if God is telling me to stop, to take a break from the constant activity of my life. A brief rain storm is the same effect on the ocean.

Later, I head for the pool. I float on my back in the cool water and my eyes close. I hear the sound of a torn shower curtain, and I find a sense of comfort in the noise. It’s my mother calling me home for dinner. I feel the anticipation of new adventures and the promise of joy.

Though countercultural, our faith calls us to serve others and to be humble. Our relationship with God is not something that can be measured by social status or popularity. The list of those who are recognized and celebrated by society's standards is not the one we follow. For us, it is about serving others and living a life that is pleasing to God.

As parents age, we are faced with having to discuss difficult decisions. Helping an aging parent make these decisions can be challenging, but it is necessary. It is important to be open and honest with your loved one about your concerns and to provide them with the support they need.

Helping an aging parent make major decisions

As parents age, we are faced with having to discuss difficult decisions. Helping an aging parent make these decisions can be challenging, but it is necessary. It is important to be open and honest with your loved one about your concerns and to provide them with the support they need.
**The Sunday Readings**

**Sunday, July 11, 2021**

- *Ephesians 1:3-14*
- *Sunday, July 11, 2021*
- *The Sunday Readings*

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**My Journey to God**

**GOD IN THE MOONLIGHT**

By M. Lynell Chamberlain

God’s love washed over me
In the misty moonlight,
Serenaded by the crickets
On a warm summer night.
I’d searched for the meaning,
For the secret of life,
But I found it on the porch
In the misty moonlight.

(M. Lynell Chamberlain is a member of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg. Photo: The moon rises over Maryland’s Chesapeake Bay in this 2020 photo.) (CN photo/Rob Roller)

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**Daily Readings**

**Monday, July 12**

- Exodus 1:8-14, 22
- Psalm 124:1-8
- Matthew 10:34-11:1

**Tuesday, July 13**

- St. Henry
- Exodus 2:1-15a
- Psalm 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34
- Matthew 11:20-24

**Wednesday, July 14**

- St. Kateri Tekakwitha, virgin
- Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12
- Psalm 103:18-4, 6-7
- Matthew 11:25-27

**Thursday, July 15**

- St. Bonaventure, bishop and doctor of the Church
- Exodus 5:1-20
- Psalm 105:1, 5, 8-9, 24-27
- Matthew 11:28-30

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**Question Corner/By Kenneth Doyle**

**Take steps to return to faith and have your child baptized**

Q I have been a non-practicing Catholic, but I am sending my child to a Catholic school. She is now 4 years old and wants to be baptized, and I want this for her, too. My desire is to return to practicing the faith, have her baptized and bring her up as a Catholic. But because I have not been attending a Catholic church, I cannot find a parish that will baptize her.

Recently, I was asked to fill out a form whereby the pastor of my previous parish would sign permission for her to be baptized in the parish that we will now be attending. I have no idea how to proceed, and I am hoping that you can advise me. (Texas)

A It surprises me that you have been unable to find a parish willing to baptize your daughter—especially given your willingness to return to practicing the Catholic faith yourself and thus serve as an example for your child. As a parish priest myself, I would be delighted to come back to the sacraments someone with a similar story.

If the parish that you now wish to attend is requiring your former pastor to submit a letter of approval, by all means you should try to make that happen. But first, if I were you, I would telephone (or, even better, visit) that former pastor and explain your situation.

Make sure that he understands your deep desire to have your daughter baptized and your own intention to return to regularly attending, and ask him if he would be comfortable in supporting your efforts.

Q As a Catholic, I am very devoted to St. Expeditus. I have tried to look for a Catholic parish named for this saint, but I have been unable to find one in the United States.

Also, if it be God’s will, would you consider placing a statue of St. Expeditus in your own parish churches? There is a statue of St. Expeditus in Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in New Orleans. (City and state of origin withheld)

A This question is indicative of the recent devotion some Catholics have to particular saints of which little may be known historically. St. Expeditus (or Expeditus) is generally thought to have been a Roman centurion who was martyred for his Christian faith about the year A.D. 303 in what is now Turkey.

Devotion to the saint seems to have only started much later, and there is some doubt about his existence.

As for the statue in the New Orleans church, one story (perhaps legendary) is that in the 1920s Catholic nuns at Our Lady of Guadalupe on Rampart Street received a crate marked “expeditus,” inside was contained an otherwise unidentified statue of a Roman soldier, whom the nuns dubbed “St. Expeditus,” and that statue now stands near the entrance to the church where it draws prayers from those seeking rapid intervention.

That saint may or may not have an historical basis, but I don’t think it hurts for someone to invoke his help.

(Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbus Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.)
school—took The Criterion on a trip to the past via the one-room building. Atkins and Sweeney, who both serve on the schoolhouse museum’s committee, weaved tales of their shared educational past to create an idyllic scene of a day in the life of a one-room, no-plumbing, stove-heated school.

‘Our legs would be numb’

The story begins in 1893 with an arched description by a boy who worked for a schoolhouse for $40, with $800 designated for its construction. According to literature about the schoolhouse, the museum was built to be Greenville Township as a public school for over 100 years, originally, and later for $60 a year.

“Some took a bus to school, but many of us walked,” Atkins recalls. “We’d probably have a basket with us that had her take a jug of milk and canned goods to sell at the store. We’d come back and make sandwiches and eat them. It was a lot of work, but it was fun.”

Sweeney remembers walking nearly a mile to the school. “We always wore dresses with stockings, so in the winter our legs would be numb,” she remembers.

But daily the elementary students came, lunch pails swinging then placed on a shelf toward the back of the building. In winter, the church janitor would have already lit the pot belly stove in the center of the room to heat the schoolhouse by the time the children arrived.

But for two students it was back outside, whatever the elements, to fill a bucket with water to use during the day, since the schoolhouse had no plumbing.

“Each week it was a different student’s responsibility to walk up to Angie’s grandma’s house to fill the bucket with water, and they got to choose another student to go with them,” says Sweeney.

The lack of indoor plumbing also meant trekking to the boys’ or girls’ outhouses “some distance” from the building, regardless of the weather.

While the non-Catholic students and the Catholic students attended Mass at 7:30 a.m., prayed the rosary and received catechism classes in the church across the road, Atkins recalls.

Once school started at 8:30 a.m., the students would take their seats—the older kids sat on the left side. We called students would take their seats—the older ones were taught, so you knew what was coming up for the next year!”

Sweeney adds that if a student had a question, “You didn’t ask the teacher—you asked the older kids.”

And she and Atkins remember the camaraderie among the students, regardless of age.

“We all played together at recess,” says Atkins. “We’d play ‘catchers’—sort of like tag—and ‘drop the banana,’ and there was a table for playing jacks.”

Sweeney smiles at the memory.

“Everyone just got along,” she says. “I don’t recall there ever being a bully.”

The two agree the school had a family feel.

“We knew everyone’s parents, siblings, where everyone lived,” says Atkins. Friday nights added to the family feel, when students and parents would gather at the schoolhouse for spelling bees, arithmetic competitions, sing-alongs and ‘pie suppers.’

“She would bake pies, and the boys would bid on them,” Sweeney explains.

“Usually it was our dads who bought the pies,” she admits, but there was one year when a boy bought the pie she baked. “I think he was sweet on me,” she says with a grin.

‘Like a big family’

The fond memories end with the 2006 opening as a museum. “The story begins in 1893 with an arched description by a boy who worked for a schoolhouse for $40, with $800 designated for its construction. According to literature about the schoolhouse, the museum was built to be Greenville Township as a public school for over 100 years, originally, and later for $60 a year.

A going concern in the building.

One year, there were six kids in one class—that hadn’t happened before in our lifetime. ‘Kinds in the first through fourth grade sat on the right side of the school, and the older kids sat on the left side. We called it the ‘little side’ and the ‘big side.’ The younger ones couldn’t wait to get to sit on the big side!”

Whether sitting on the right or left side of the schoolhouse, the hope was to sit close to the stove in the winter, says Sweeney, noting that “from the stove to the windows, it got cold pretty quickly.”

Pope Francis has been generally healthy since becoming pope in March 2013 except for recurrent bouts of sciatica. This condition causes sharp pain that radiates along the path of the sciatic nerve, which branches from the lower back through the hips and down each leg. In late December and early January, he missed several events because the pain was so intense.

The pope also suffered from a pulmonary condition in 1957 at the age of 21 that required him to undergo surgery to remove the upper right lobe of one of his lungs. In an interview for a book published early in March, the pope said that while his recovery was painful, it was “complete, and I never felt any limitations in my activities.”

As you have seen, for example, in the various trips I have made and that I have covered, I never had to restrict or cancel any of the scheduled activities. I never experienced fatigue or shortness of breath,” he told Nelson Castro, a physician and Argentina journalist.

The pope also told Castro that when he was the provincial superior of the Jesuits in Argentina, an office he held from 1973 to 1979, he underwent emergency gallbladder surgery.

The Criterion
Friday, July 9, 2021

Photo by Natalie Hoefer

Angie Atkins, left, and Anna Sweeney stand in the one-room Navilleton schoolhouse they attended and later helped restore as a museum. It was built by their parish, St. Mary, in 1893.
Bishops support investigation of former U.S. residential schools

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In response to a late June announcement, the United States will be conducting an investigation of former federally funded boarding schools to search for Native American children who died or went missing from Indian boarding schools.

The U.S. Interior Department’s initiative was prompted by the recent discovery of 215 unmarked graves at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia. Just two days after the announcement, on July 27, the bishops will “look forward to the healing journey.”

Many of these government-funded schools were Church-run boarding schools.

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Cardinal Becciu was forced to offer his resignation to the pope in September 2020 after he was accused of embezzling an estimated 100,000 euros ($116,361) of Vatican funds and redirecting them to a fund for funding the Pope’s book project and Osservatore Romano.

The new initiative, which will present a final report by Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, will be “one stage of many in the healing journey.”

By “bringing this painful story to light,” she added, “may it bring some measure of peace to the victims and a heightened awareness so that this disturbing history is never repeated.”

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Cardinal Becciu said the accusations exposed him to “an unparalleled media pillory to which I did not defend myself, suffering in silence.” However, in November, he filed a lawsuit against the Italian magazine L’Espresso, claiming they “wrongly kept him hanging by his chance at becoming pope.”

“Only by considering this great initiative as a test of faith can I find the strength to fight this battle for truth,” the cardinal said. “Finally, the moment of crisis is now coming, and the court will be able to find the absolute falsity of the accusations against me and the dark plots that have evidently sustained and fed them.”

In April, the pope updated the laws governing the Vatican’s civil judicial system, stating that cardinals and bishops accused of a crime could be tried by the Vatican court, which, as it turned out, paved the way for the indictment against Cardinal Becciu.

The new law requires the pope’s approval before a cardinal can be indicted, approval Pope Francis gave for charging Cardinal Becciu.

The charges stem from a Vatican investigation into how the Secretariat of State used $200 million to finance the property development project in London’s posh Chelsea district and incurred millions of dollars in debt.

The investigation, which spanned across several countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Great Britain, the British island of Jersey, Luxembourg, Slovenia and Switzerland, “brought to light a vast network of relationships with financial market operators that have generated substantial losses for the Vatican finances, also drawing from resources destined for the personal charitable works of the Holy Father,” the indictment stated.

Cardinal Becciu was forced to offer his resignation to the pope in September 2020 after he was accused of embezzling an estimated 100,000 euros ($116,361) of Vatican funds and redirecting them to a fund for funding the Pope’s book project and Osservatore Romano.

Among the former Vatican officials included in the indictment are René Brulhart and Tommaso di Ruzza, respectively former president and former director of the Vatican’s financial watchdog agency, now known as the Supervisory and Financial Information Authority.

Brulhart was accused of abuse of office, while di Ruzza was accused of embezzlement, abuse of office and violation of the secret of the office.

In Canada, not only have hundreds of graves been detected at two former residential schools, but an investigation by Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the past six years has revealed accounts of brutality, neglect and sexual abuse within the network of these schools.

Chief Cadmus Delorme of Canada’s Cowessess First Nation has called for a papal apology for what has happened, saying it would be “one stage of many in the healing journey.”

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops announced on June 10 that a delegation of “elders/knowledge keepers, residential school survivors and youth from across the country” representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities is preparing to travel to the Vatican.

Archbishop Donald Bolen of Regina, Saskatchewan, said Pope Francis would be able to listen to their stories “in person, what they need from him and the Church.”

In Vancouver, British Columbia, Archbishop J. Michael Miller has said the archdiocese will “offer to assist with technological and professional support” to help the affected nations in whatever way they choose to honor, retrieve and remember their deceased children.”

Vatican officials involved in London deal

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In an unprecedented move, Vatican prosecutors have indicted 10 individuals and entities, including Cardinal Angelo Becciu, former president of the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Causes for Saints’ Causes, on charges ranging from embezzlement to money laundering and abuse of office.

The indictment included charges against “ecclesiastical and lay personnel of the Secretariat of State and senior figures of the former Financial Information Authority, as well as external figures active in the world of international finance,” the Vatican said on July 3.

Their trial at the Vatican is set to begin on July 27.

In a statement released by his lawyers shortly after the announcement, Cardinal Becciu declared, “I am innocent,” saying he “was the victim of a plot hatched against me.”

Cardinal Becciu said the accusations exposed him to “an unparalleled media pillory to which I did not defend myself, suffering in silence.” However, in November, he filed a lawsuit against the Italian magazine L’Espresso, claiming they “wrongly kept him hanging by his chance at becoming pope.”

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“Among the former Vatican officials included in the indictment are René Brulhart and Tommaso di Ruzza, respectively former president and former director of the Vatican’s financial watchdog agency, now known as the Supervisory and Financial Information Authority.”

“Brulhart was accused of abuse of office, while di Ruzza was accused of embezzlement, abuse of office and violation of the secret of the office.”

“Also included in the indictment were: Mgr. Mauro Carlo, the former secretary of the Secretariat of State; Becciu when he served as ‘sustituto,’ the No. 3 position in the Vatican Secretariat of State, who is accused of extortion and abuse of office; and Fabrizio Tirabassi, a former official at the Secretariat of State accused of corruption, extortion, embezzlement, fraud and abuse of office.”

“Enrico Crasso, a long-time investment manager who worked with the Vatican, faces the most charges, including embezzlement, extortion, corruption, extortion, money laundering, abuse of office, forgery and falsifying documents.”

“Two companies owned by Crasso—Prestige Family Office SA and Sogesol Capital Investment—were included in the indictment.”

“Several other players involved in the majority stake purchase of the London property were also indicted, including Guanlugi Torzi, an Italian broker who served as the middleman in the development deal, and London-based Italian financier Raffaele Mincione, the owner of the London property who is accused of embezzlement, fraud, abuse of office, misappropriation of funds and money laundering.”

Indigenous girls attend a first Communion ceremony at the Spanish Indian Residential School in Ontario in 1955. Recent confirmation of hundreds of unmarked graves on the grounds of two former residential schools for Indigenous children in Canada has prompted a U.S. Department of the Interior inquiry into U.S. boarding schools for Native Americans, which were often run by churches. (CNS photo/Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre, Handout via Reuters)
**Archbishop, cardinal offer prayers, comfort at collapse site**

**SURFSIDE, Fla. (CNS)—**After spending time at Surfside’s informal Wall of Remembrance memorial for the victims of the Champlain Towers South collapse, Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski told CBS4 Miami on July 2, “It’s quite shocking to see.”

He made the comments during his visit to the memorial with Boston Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley and Father Ivan Sosa, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, which is close to the site.

“The people in the building represent so many different religious and cultural backgrounds. Some in the community told me stories that struck me really when I’ve been reading the names of the families, survivors and the missing of how much this has impacted and affected everyone all of South Florida,” the archbishop said.

The memorial sprung up following the tragic partial collapse of the Champlain Towers South condo building near Miami Beach, Fla. It has been so popular that at one point local law enforcement had to close the area due to hundreds gathering on the streets there.

As of July 6, 32 people were confirmed dead; 113 others remained unaccounted for since the collapse early on June 24. On the evening of July 4, crews demolished the remaining part of the building.

Officials were concerned the outer bands of Tropical Storm Elsa could affect what was left of the building in Surfside. By midday on July 5, Elsa was expected to head toward Florida’s west coast after whipping parts of the Florida Keys.

This has certainly been an especially difficult and emotional moment for the whole community. But even in these times of great challenge, we see how much good comes out of people—in their generosity, courage and desire to help those in need,” Cardinal O’Malley wrote in a post for his blog, cardinalsomaless.org.

He said he headed to Miami on July 1 to spend time with friends and relatives for the Independence Day holiday, and Archbishop Wenski extended an invitation to join him in visiting the site of the building collapse in Surfside, “where so many people perished.”

“We prayed for those affected by the tragedy and met some of the relatives of those who are still missing,” Cardinal O’Malley wrote.

“It was a very moving experience,” he said of the visit, “but it was also encouraging to see how the community has come together to help in the search for the missing, and to try to bring comfort and solace to those who have lost family and friends.

“We were also able to speak with a number of the rescue workers from around the country and from Israel who were working at the site of the collapse. I even met a firefighter from Newton [Massachusetts] who was helping out,” he added.

Cardinal O’Malley noted that Father Chris Marino, a Miami archdiocesan priest who is a chaplain with the Miami Fire Department, is a good friend of his and was with the firefighter who was with the crew that found the body of his own 7-year-old daughter, Stella Cattarossi, on the night of July 1. The firefighter carried her from the rubble.

The girl had been with her mother, grandparents and an aunt visiting from Argentina, according to news reports.

“On behalf of the Archdiocese of Boston, we also offer our prayers and support for the families impacted by the collapse,” Cardinal O’Malley said. “We know that God does not abandon us in our time of need. He is always present in our hour of grief.”

Father Sosa’s parish church, the nearest Catholic church in Surfside’s “ground zero,” is serving as a place of spiritual refuge for families of the Surfside/ Miami Beach community—both Catholic and non-Catholic—who have been affected by the tragic partial collapse of the Champlain Towers South condominium.

St. Joseph also is accommodating first responders and journalists from around the world who are parking or camped out on its premises.

The church remains open daily from 8 a.m.—when Mass is celebrated—until the conclusion of the last Mass each day.

On the evening of June 26, teens, young adults and others in the parish community gathered at the church for eucharistic adoration, rosary, songs and reflections, followed by a solemn walk to the site.

“Our hearts go out to all those affected by the tragedy,” Archbishop Wenski said in a statement issued shortly after the building collapsed. “We also pledge our prayers for the victims, their families, and first responders. May the Lord give them strength.”

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami staffs have been offering assistance in whatever way they can, along with Father Sosa, other local clergy and faith leaders, and local parishioners.

The agency continues to appeal for financial contributions for those affected by the building collapse. To make a donation, visit ccm.org.

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**House members urge Biden to Hyde Amendment to budget proposals**

**WASHINGTON (CNS)**—Proposing a budget without the Hyde Amendment “is an affront to the majority of Americans who do not want their tax dollars funding abortion on demand resulting in the death of children in the womb,” 172 members of the U.S. House said in a July 1 letter to President Joe Biden.

“We know you understand this. You get it—or at least you once did,” they said.

“Years ago, you wrote a constituent explaining that a law against funding for abortion would “protect both the woman and her unborn child,”” their letter said.

“You wrote: ‘I have consistently—on no fewer than 50 occasions—voted against federal funding of abortions. Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them.’”

Then-Sen. Biden made those comments in a 1994 letter to a constituent concerned that health care proposals being weighed by Congress at the time would include abortion coverage.

Biden’s people, he wrote, “are committed to: On Life and Politics, Biden wrote: ‘I’ve stuck to my middle-of-the-road position on abortion for more than 30 years. I still vote against federal funding for abortion and federal family planning.’”

Biden’s proposed $6 trillion budget for fiscal year 2022, which he released on May 28, includes his $1.8 trillion American Jobs Plan and his $2.3 trillion American Families Plan. It would invest heavily in areas the president has said are his top priorities including infrastructure, education, research, public health, paid family leave and child care.

In his proposed budget, the letter said, Biden calls for “the removal of the Hyde Amendment and several modest, long-standing pro-life protections that have long been the subjects of legislative consensus.”

“Your budget breaks with this historic bipartisanship,” the House members’ letter said. “Your budget would double down on forcing taxpayers to fund plans that cover elective abortion by permanently establishing programs to cruelly and fraudulently support a so-called ‘public option’ for a government-run health insurance that would cover abortion.”

The Hyde Amendment first became law in 1976 to prohibit federal funds appropriated through the Labor Department, the Health and Human Services Department and related agencies from being used to cover abortion or fund health plans that cover abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered.

Hyde has been re-enacted in spending bills every year since it was first passed.

More than 2 million people are alive today because of Hyde, the House members wrote, citing statistics from more than 20 peer-reviewed studies. About 60,000 children are born every year under Hyde, and their mothers have benefited from prenatal health care and support, they said.

Biden’s proposed budget increases funding for abortion providers—“both domestically,” through Title X, and “internationally,” through the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA).”

Title X, enacted by the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970, currently provides $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 which provide abortion or a method of family planning.”

In February 2019, the Trump administration implemented the “Protect Life Rule” enforcing Section 1008, and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the rule in February 2020. The Biden administration has ended the Trump policy.

Biden has proposed $56 million of his budget for the State Department go to UNFPA, and, according to the House members’ letter, he has removed “even the modest protections signed into law by President Barack Obama to prohibit UNFPA from funding abortions and prohibiting UNFPA funds from being used directly for country programs in China.”

“Mr. President, if your words [on Inauguration Day] that the ‘dream of justice for all will be deferred no longer’ are to have true meaning, the lives of unborn children must be included, and their previous lives must be protected,” the letter said.

Justice demands that the Hyde Amendment and all pro-life protections be reinstated in your budget request and maintained in the appropriations legislation for fiscal 2022,” it added.

A recent poll found that nearly 60% of Americans oppose using tax dollars to pay for a woman’s abortion, it said: “Americans should not be forced to fund an act that denies the most basic human right, the right to life, to unborn children.”

The letter was spearheaded by Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., co-chair of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, and Rep. Jim Banks, R-Ind., who is chairman of the Republican Study Committee, along with Reps. Andy Harris, R-Md., Michelle Fischbach, R-Minn., and Kat Cammack, R-Fla., who also are Pro-Life Caucus co-chairs.

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See related editorial, page 4.