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'It's just an awesome opportunity'



Faith and family help an Olympian live his dream amid hardship and heartbreak

By John Shaughnessy

June 26 was a day of excruciating waiting for Joe Schroeder.

It was the day when the news would arrive in an e-mail as to whether the dream he had worked so hard and so long for would come true or end in devastation—his dream of being chosen as an Olympic athlete representing the United States in the Summer Olympics in

Tokyo from July 23 to August 8.

The June morning began for the 2012 graduate of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis by attending

Mass with his parents and other family members from Indianapolis at a church in the San Diego area. That's where the 28-year-old Schroeder has been training since 2017 with the goal of becoming a member of the U.S. Olympic rugby team.

Those four years have been marked by a crushing shoulder injury that required surgery and nearly a year of grueling rehabilitation. Much harder, his life has been touched by the death of his brother Will, at 22, in 2020.

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Photo: Joe Schroeder powers forward as he prepares to live his dream of representing the United States on the country's rugby team in the Summer Olympics in Tokyo. (Photo courtesy of Travis Prior)

Spending bills without Hyde seen as move to expand abortion on demand

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In eliminating the Hyde Amendment in spending bills for fiscal year 2022, the “pro-abortion” Democrats on the House Appropriations Committee “destroy over

40 years of previously unprecedented bipartisan support for a measure aimed at saving human lives,” said the president of National Right to Life.

“This is a campaign by pro-abortion Democrats to ensure that abortion is available on demand,



Carol Tobias

for any reason, at any time and paid for with taxpayer dollars,” Carol Tobias said.

The National Right to Life president made the comments late on July 15 after the committee marked up the legislation.

“The most egregious aspect of the bill presented today is the removal of the Hyde Amendment, which protects lives and prohibits taxpayer funding of abortion,” said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., during the markup session.

Hyde 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.

House Democrats said they had planned to keep Hyde out of spending bills because President Joe Biden released his proposed budget on May 28 without the amendment, according to an ABC News report.

ABC quoted House Appropriations Committee Chair Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., as saying at a July 12 hearing of the committee: “Allowing the Hyde Amendment to remain on the books is

See HYDE, page 15

Appealing to need for unity, Pope Francis restores limits on pre-Vatican II Mass

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Saying he was acting for the good of the unity of the Church, Pope Francis has restored limits on the celebration of the Mass according to the *Roman Missal* in use before the Second Vatican Council, overturning or severely restricting permissions



Pope Francis

St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI had given to celebrate the so-called Tridentine Mass.

“An opportunity offered by St. John

Paul II and, with even greater magnanimity by Benedict XVI, intended to recover the unity of an ecclesial body with diverse liturgical sensibilities, was exploited to widen the gaps, reinforce the divergences and encourage disagreements that injure the Church, block her path and expose her to the peril of division,” Pope Francis wrote in a letter to bishops on July 16.

The text accompanies his apostolic letter “*Traditionis Custodes*” (“Guardians of the Tradition”), declaring the liturgical books promulgated after the Second Vatican Council to be “the unique expression of the ‘*lex orandi*’ [law of worship] of the Roman Rite,” restoring the obligation

of priests to have their bishops’ permission to celebrate according to the “extraordinary” or pre-Vatican II Mass and ordering bishops not to establish any new groups or parishes in their dioceses devoted to the old liturgy.

Priests currently celebrating Mass according to the old missal must request authorization from their bishop to continue doing so, Pope Francis ordered, and for any priest ordained after the document’s publication on July 16, the bishop must consult with the Vatican before granting authorization.

Pope Francis also transferred to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments responsibility for

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OLYMPICS

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All of that further fueled Schroeder's already-roaring fire to live his dream.

After spending most of that June day with everyone trying to distract him, the e-mail finally came.

Schroeder slipped away to his bedroom to open the news alone, leaving his parents, two brothers and a sister-in-law in another room. He knew there were 12 spots on the team. He also knew the spots would be listed by jersey numbers, and that the jersey numbers for his position were 2 and 5. Using an index card, he slid down the selections by each number. His name wasn't next to the 2.

"At that point, I was on the edge of my seat with all of this," he recalls. "I knew it would be a tough situation between me and some other guys."

Taking a deep breath, he slid the index card past 3 and 4, bracing himself as he prepared to look at the number 5.

He focused on the name next to the 5. It was his. He yelled the news into the other room.

The celebration and the outpouring of emotion began. Cheers, hugs, tears. Everyone jumping up and down for Joe Schroeder, Olympian.

In the midst of all the joy, Schroeder told his mother Susan that he knew Will was looking down on him, sharing in the moment.

'I want to make this dream a reality'

Every Olympic athlete has an uplifting story, but Schroeder's path to the Olympics also includes *physically* lifting up people.

After playing rugby for four years at Cathedral, he went to college at Trine University in the northern Indiana

community of Angola to pursue a civil engineering degree. Trine didn't have a rugby team so Schroeder tried out and became a cheerleader, a role that included using his strength to lift female cheerleaders in the air during games.

After graduation, he moved to Ohio to take a job with an engineering company and pursue a master's degree in his field at Ohio University in Athens. At the same time, he missed playing rugby so he joined a team in Columbus. His coach saw the talent and desire he had so when the coach learned that one of the U.S. rugby coaches was coming to a training academy nearby, Schroeder's coach encouraged him to go.

Schroeder's size—6-foot, 5 inches and 225 pounds—caught the attention of the U.S. coach. And his performance impressed the coach enough for Schroeder to be invited for a week to play at the Olympic training center for rugby in Chula Vista, Calif.

After that week, Schroeder returned home. Then he got a call to come back for another week. And that led to an invitation to train with the U.S. national rugby team.

"Once I got noticed, I put a lot of time into checking out the national team," he recalls. "I'm thinking, 'Oh my gosh, this is the team that went to the Olympics in 2016! I want to make this dream a reality, and this is the first step.'"

It was also his first step in a journey across the world. He has played in Dubai, England, France, Australia, China, Singapore, New Zealand and South Africa. And every trip and tournament intensified his desire to be part of the U.S. team when they traveled to Tokyo for the Summer Olympics.

The journey has also had its hardships and heartbreak.

Halfway through his first season with



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

No public events schedule for the month of July.

(Schedule subject to change.)

the team, he dislocated his shoulder and tore his labrum and rotator cuff. Nine months of rehab followed, and it would be nearly another three months before he was back playing in a tournament.

"An injury in sports is always tough," he says. "I wanted to be out there playing. I was having such a good time with the team and doing well. It definitely tugs at you. But you always keep in mind that you want to get back to where you were. That helped me."

The pain of losing Will cut so much deeper.

'He was my biggest fan'

Rugby is a fast, sometimes brutal sport, marked by crushing hits at times, but nothing has struck Schroeder, his parents and his four other siblings harder than the sudden, heartbreaking death of Will.

"This is the toughest thing my family and I have been through," Schroeder says. "It was really tough. He was my biggest fan."

When Joe decided to move to San Diego to live, Will helped him drive his truck cross-country from Indianapolis and stayed with his older brother for a few days, the two of them hanging out together and loving the time they shared. And Will would always ask Joe for sportswear from the national team, proudly wearing a jersey that connected him in one more way with Joe.

"The Olympics were supposed to happen in 2020," Joe says about the Summer Games that were postponed because of the international COVID crisis. "My family was planning for it, to be there. Will was going to come."

Now Joe is taking Will there in spirit, knowing his younger brother further fueled his Olympic dream.

"That was a tough thing for us," he says. "It's turned into an additional motivation for me. I want to make him proud. I'm rocking one of his hair styles now—a mullet. When I look into the mirror on game day, it's a reminder of who I play for and why. It helps me."

So does his Catholic faith.

"The one constant in all of our lives is our Lord and Savior," Joe says. "He's helped me through all of this. I pray to him every day. He gives me the strength and the courage through the hard times and to live my dream. I couldn't have done any of this without him."

"My Catholic faith has shaped my life in a really good way. I know it's helped my family a lot, especially through what happened to my brother."

'We've always put our faith first'

Jim and Susan Schroeder and their children have been longtime members of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese. Following Will's death, the family needed

the support, comfort and prayers of their parish community. Their community was there for them in so many ways, the Schroeders say. They're especially grateful to their pastor, Father Richard Doerr.

"We couldn't have survived this without him," Susan says.

"Faith has always been at the forefront of everything we do," Jim says. "We know without faith we would not be anywhere. We've always put our faith first and taught that to our children."

While Jim had been raised in the Lutheran church, he and Susan were married in a Catholic church 35 years ago, and they sent their six children to a Catholic grade school and high school.

Jim had faithfully attended Mass with the family through the years, but he hadn't been received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. Father Doerr extended that opportunity to Jim in the months following Will's death. Jim embraced it and became a Catholic during a private Easter Sunday night liturgy in 2020 with his family and Father Doerr.

"It was a very beautiful and meaningful time for our family," Susan recalls. "We're all still pretty raw after the loss of Will. He is deeply missed by all of us, but there have been many beautiful things."

Those moments of beauty and meaning include being together with Joe when he received the news about being selected as an Olympian.

"We were so happy," Jim says. "Joe's been wanting this for three years. We were overcome with emotion."

Because of COVID concerns, no fans will be allowed at the Summer Olympics in Tokyo. So, the Schroeder family members are prepared to get up at home in the early morning hours—when matches will likely be played because of the time difference—to watch televised or livestreamed broadcasts of Joe and his team competing. There's no doubt their pride and emotion for Joe will be at a fever-pitch.

"He's worked so hard," Susan says.

"It's been a difficult few years with his injury and his loss of his brother. He's been so driven and passionate about this goal. It's quite exciting that he's getting to live his dream."

It's a dream he gets to live with his teammates and coaches. It's a dream he has long shared with his parents, his sister and his four brothers, including the one he believes is still cheering for him from heaven.

"It's just an indescribable feeling," Joe says about making the Olympic team. "I put so much work into this. It's just an unreal opportunity to represent my country, my family, God and everyone. It's just an awesome opportunity." †



Being there for each other through the good times and the tough times has always been a way of life for the Schroeder family. The family members are featured in this 2018 photo. Back row: Will, left, Max, Joe, Luke (holding Mara his daughter) and Nick. Middle row: Ellie, left, Jim, Susan, Angela (Luke's wife holding their son Declan). Front row: Cael, left, and Brody. Since 2018, daughter-in-law Stephanie, not pictured, has become a member of the family. (Submitted photo)



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Staff:
Editor: Mike Krokos
Assistant Editor: John Shaughnessy
Reporter: Sean Gallagher
Reporter: Natalie Hofer
Graphic Designer / Online Editor: Brandon A. Evans
Executive Assistant: Ann Lewis

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The bonds of grandparents and grandchildren extend across generations

(Editor's note: Pope Francis has proclaimed July 25 as the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, recognizing the tremendous impact this group has on the lives of grandchildren, families and younger people. With that impact in mind, The Criterion invited readers to share their stories about how their grandparents—or another older person—have influenced their life, marriage, family and faith. Here are several of their stories.)

Second of two parts

By John Shaughnessy

An extra twist to this story will be shared soon. For now, the details of the love between grandparents and grandchildren in the Gehrich family all lead back to the day when Sandy Gehrich's grandmother underwent surgery for a life-threatening condition.

Gehrich's grandmother—Mary Ellen Spangler—was 54 at the time when she entered a Catholic hospital for the operation. And when the surgery was successful, she so appreciated the outcome—and the special care that she received from the religious sisters at the hospital—that she decided to become Catholic.

"She felt that she was called to be Catholic after that experience, and she did not let her age deter her from making that decision," Sandy says. "She was baptized a Catholic on Dec. 21, 1937, and I was born three years later on Dec. 3, 1940."

Their noteworthy December moments were just the beginning of their special bond—a bond that would grow stronger through the years because of a life-changing experience that Sandy had with her grandmother.

"Though I was baptized Methodist at birth and enjoyed going to Irvington Methodist Church with my parents, my earliest memory of the Catholic Church was at the age of 4," recalls Sandy, an Indianapolis native. "I loved going to Our Lady of Lourdes Church with my grandma. I was told that from an early age I would often say, 'When I grow up, I want to be Catholic.' I felt God was always drawing me toward Catholicism."

Spangler died when Sandy was 12, leaving the granddaughter heartbroken. But it was also a time, she says, when her grandmother's "love for her Catholic faith became even more present and stronger in my life."

"As I grew up, I knew I wanted to be the kind of mother and grandmother that she was," Sandy says. "She lived a very hard life, and yet she never lost sight of her Catholic faith."

Sandy also never lost her desire to become a Catholic or be like her grandmother. And she believes her grandmother had an influence regarding the man she would meet on a blind date when she was 19.

"He was Catholic!" she notes. "God is good and faithful, and he had this in mind for me all along! I knew my grandma played a role in that as a part of the

communion of saints. After dating for over a year, we became engaged."

When Ed Gehrich asked Sandy's parents for permission to marry her, he talked to them about his faith, saying, "I don't want Sandy to become Catholic for me." Sandy's parents responded, "That's all she has ever wanted."

A short while later, Sandy was received into the full communion of the Church.

"That was 59 years ago," says Sandy, now a member of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Franklin. "Throughout my lifetime, being a wife to Ed, raising three sons, and being a grandmother to eight, I have felt my grandma's presence in my life."

"Her faith, and especially the way she lived her life, has influenced and inspired me to live as Christ would and to share my faith as often as I can. The story of my grandmother is something I love to share, because I feel it is very unique as to me becoming Catholic."

Now for the extra twist to this story.

'God's gifts are abundant'

After writing her tribute to her grandmother, Sandy Gehrich asked her granddaughter, Megan Gehrich, to forward it to *The Criterion*. Megan did and included a note that added, "As a surprise, I would like to send one in about how my grandma influences my faith life, but I would only want mine published if hers is published, because I don't want to take away from her submission. Her story of her grandma is quite beautiful."

So is Megan's tribute to her grandparents.

"My grandma, Sandy Gehrich, and my grandpa, Ed Gehrich, have been faithful influences on my life since I can remember, and even before that," notes Megan. "My mom was not raised Catholic, and though my dad was raised Catholic, at the time I was born, he was not practicing. I've been told that it was at the urging of my grandma that my parents got me baptized in the Catholic Church."

Her grandmother didn't stop there in helping her family embrace the Catholic faith, Megan says. And just as there was the defining experience of Sandy's grandmother in the Catholic hospital, Megan's family had a defining experience of faith, too.

"Several years later, my sister and I were supposed to sing at Mass and my mom had to take us," Megan recalls. "During the Mass, she felt like God was speaking to her through the liturgy and telling her to become Catholic. She signed up for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults instruction, and my grandma was her sponsor. Every week, my grandpa would come down to babysit us, while my grandma went to the classes with my mom."

The changes kept coming.

"During Easter Vigil, when my mom came into the Church, my dad felt a calling from God to also come back to the Church and to cherish and share the gift of faith that he had all along," says Megan, the daughter of Dave and Angie Gehrich.

"I feel that my grandparents instilling the faith in their



Megan Gehrich poses for a photo with her grandparents, Ed and Sandy Gehrich of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Franklin. (Submitted photo)

son from his birth, sponsoring my mom as she came into the Church, and being a constant source of spiritual encouragement is what has led me to this point in my life."

Megan tries to lead people to a deeper relationship with God and the Church as the coordinator of youth ministry and religious education at St. Mary Parish in Greensburg. She views her efforts as a reflection of her grandparents.

"My grandparents generously share their time, talent and treasure in as many ways as they can, as often as they can, and they are highly involved at their parish, St. Rose," Megan says. "Hearing the stories of their involvement, especially being a youth minister, really brings me joy."

So does the witness of their lives, their marriage and their faith.

"My grandparents have been married for 59 years, and that whole time—even through struggles, loss and heartache—their faith has never wavered, but instead has become stronger."

"Grandma and Grandpa have always been an inspiration of the Catholic faith to me, and our conversations about our faith in God will be something that I treasure. They perfectly combine quiet and steadfast faith with a joyful willingness to share their blessings with everyone."

Looking back across the generations, Megan thinks about her great-great-grandmother—Mary Ellen Spangler—and how that long-ago, near-death experience gave life to the faith of a family. And Megan thinks of how her grandmother and grandfather have continued that legacy.

"My Catholic faith and the heritage that it stems from is something that I feel so incredibly grateful for in this life," Megan says.

"To think about the timeline of how the Catholic faith has been passed down and shared within our family is a true testament that God has absolutely perfect timing, and that God's gifts are abundant." †

A woman's wish: 'I prayed I could be a grandma like the one I had'

By John Shaughnessy

When Carol Blasdel became a grandmother for the first time in 2013, she prayed that she could be "a grandma like the one I had"—someone who taught her to savor the simple blessings of life, someone who tried to show her how to persevere through the heartbreak and challenges of life.

Blasdel remembers attending Sunday Mass with her "Grandma"—Cathleen Stier Loyd—and how she would often take Carol or one of her three siblings to a

restaurant for breakfast after Mass.

"We felt so special to go to the restaurant with Grandma," recalls Blasdel,



Cathleen Stier Loyd

a member of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg. "She would get coffee and toast, and I would get chocolate milk and toast. I don't know why the toast tasted so much better at the restaurant. I think it was the company of Grandma.

She was always interested in what we were doing and fun to talk to. She was funny. She also knew so many people. Everyone would talk to her."

Another defining experience were the trips they made together to the cemetery.

"Grandma lost her husband in 1940 when my mom was 9 and my aunt was 7," Blasdel says. "She also had two babies that were born who died shortly after birth. Life was pretty hard, but Grandma persevered. That always impressed me as I got older.

"I remember we grandkids would take fresh flowers to 'the babies' and Grandpa Loyd's grave with Grandma. We wrapped peonies and tulips in wet paper towels with rubber bands wrapped around the stems. I knew Grandma seemed sad when we visited the cemetery, but I could tell it brought her peace."

Her grandmother also gave her a lasting lesson about faith.

"I grew up knowing that this life on Earth is temporary and our everlasting life is in heaven, hopefully!" †

Family celebrates the extraordinary impact of their special aunt

By John Shaughnessy

While many families are touched by the difference that grandparents make, many families are also blessed by the extraordinary impact of an aunt or uncle.



Margaret Kavanaugh

Mike Kavanaugh and his seven siblings will forever cherish their "Aunt Margaret" because of the way she loved them, looked out for them and set an example for them to lead their lives.

"Our natural grandparents loved us very much, and we loved them right back, but my closest and most loved 'grandparent' was not a grandparent at all," Kavanaugh says.

"Aunt Margaret was my Grandpa Kavanaugh's older sister, so

technically she was our great-aunt. She never married, she was in town and was always around when needed. We do not have our grandparents' birthdays committed

to memory, but I promise you that everyone of us commemorates Dec. 3 in a special way."

Kavanaugh said that his brother, Tim, shared a fitting tribute to her. Tim noted, "Aunt Margaret was our favorite because she always made us feel good about ourselves. Having had no children of her own, she treated us like her own grandkids, giving us the individual attention that was sometimes difficult to get in a family of eight kids."

Margaret Gavin Kavanaugh also gave the Kavanaugh siblings lasting lessons in how to live their lives and their faith.

"As a daily Mass participant, Aunt Margaret was devoted to her Catholic faith," says Mike Kavanaugh, a member of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis. "She was fiercely independent and chose to live a simple life. Love of family and love of her Irish/Catholic heritage were her primary motivators. I do not remember her ever yelling or getting angry—except for that one game of bridge with my dad and Grandma.

"She was a big presence in our family's life. She

would stop at the Wonder Bread thrift store to bring us bread and rolls. She worked 40 years in the shoe department at the old H.P. Wasson store downtown. If she saw a 'deal,' she would be sure to bring a pair to one or more of us. After all, eight children grew out of shoes at an unbelievable rate."

A 'powerful and moving experience'

While helping to keep shoes on their feet, their Aunt Margaret also tried to expand their horizons—a gift she also lavished on many other people she came to embrace as family.

"She was noted for her extensive travelling and driving," Kavanaugh notes. "During the middle decades of the 20th century, a navigation system for many was Aunt Margaret, a St. Christopher statue and a floating compass mounted on the dash of her green Bonneville. She grew to become friends with many nuns. When they needed a ride somewhere, *anywhere*, they called her. She had a habit of

See AUNT, page 19



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, *Publisher*
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Editorial



Joe Schroeder, a 2012 graduate of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, attempts to escape a defender's tackle in an international rugby contest. Schroeder is a member of the U.S. Rugby team that is competing in the Olympics in Japan. (Submitted photo courtesy of Travis Prior)

Summer Olympics offer a golden opportunity to build community

If you're like millions of people around the world, you'll spend some time in the next few weeks with your eyes focused on Japan.

The Summer Olympics is being held in the Land of the Rising Sun from July 23-Aug. 8, and fans of numerous sports are no doubt excited to have the opportunity to watch world-class athletes compete at the highest level. The Games also present a wonderful opportunity for families to gather together and share quality time as they see the best of the best in competition.

It's hard to believe the originally-scheduled 2020 Games are finally taking place—albeit a year late. The delay is the result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused chaos, uncertainty and tremendous loss of life worldwide through the past 18 months. Sadly, as of July 19, the global death toll from COVID had reached 4.1 million people, including more than 600,000 in the U.S. May all those who have died from this illness, and all of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

We see so much division in society today, and it extends beyond faith, politics and culture. There is unrest to the south in Cuba, an ongoing border crisis, and continuing concerns about new strains of COVID that are appearing across the globe. For many of us, the Games will serve as a respite from these worries. At least we hope and pray that will be the case.

While some look at the Olympics as a chance for their home country (fill in the blank) to demonstrate their athletic superiority over others, we believe the Games offer a chance to build community and demonstrate sportsmanship.

Pope Francis recently said as much.

In a meeting in late May with *Athletica Vaticana*, the Vatican's own sports association which was about to compete in the athletic championships of the Small States of Europe, the Holy Father said sports is a central dimension in people's daily lives, so much so that it can be seen as a "sacramental of beauty."

The pope underscored the importance of working together as a team, a key element in sports.

Pope Francis went on to recommend to the *Athletica Vaticana* delegation to always live with a community spirit, training together, running together, and never losing sight of the importance of amateur, non-professional sporting activity.

Although the Olympics now include professionals in various sports, the majority of the athletes are still amateurs. No matter where competitors rank in their respective event, most of them have trained tirelessly to achieve this lifelong dream. And, as fans, we should appreciate the athletes' commitment to their craft.

For those of us in central and southern Indiana, we have extra reason to be proud. 2012 Indianapolis Cathedral High School graduate Joe Schroeder is a member of the U.S. Rugby team, and cyclists Coryn Rivera and Felicia Stancil, both graduates of Marian University in Indianapolis, are members of the Women's U.S. Cycling team. Those three are featured in articles in *The Criterion* this week, beginning on page 1. More stories are published on page 20.

But the trio aren't the only Olympians with local ties. Cole Hocker, a 2019 graduate of Cathedral High School, will be featured in next week's July 30 issue. Cole is a former high school state cross-country champion who will compete in the 1,500 meter run in Tokyo.

We wish these Olympians the best, and pray they stay safe and represent our country, their families and our community with world-class sportsmanship.

We also pray that their faith shines through, no matter the outcome.

As St. John Paul II, himself an athlete, once said, "Every Christian is called to become a strong athlete of Christ, that is, a faithful and courageous witness to his Gospel. But to succeed in this, he must persevere in prayer, be trained in virtue and follow the divine Master in everything."

Like the Olympians, may we each follow the divine Master, no matter what our vocation in life.

—Mike Krokos

Letters to the Editor

ILEARN results show Catholic schools help student development

The Indianapolis Star has indirectly given Catholic secondary education schools some well-deserved credit for its role in development of student accomplishment by publishing the most recent results of Indiana's ILEARN testing in English and Math across all school districts of our state.

The July 15 issue of *The Star* documented test results in English, showing the top schools in Indiana were dominated by Catholic schools, including schools in Indianapolis, Lafayette and Evansville. These schools represented eight of the top 10 statewide school districts cited in this category!

In the category of accomplishment in both English and Math, diocesan schools represented 50% of the top 10

statewide school districts!

These results are a true tribute to American Catholic education, and the great sacrifices by a Catholic Church which more than two centuries ago established what is today a public education system open to all—thanks to visionaries such as St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and others.

I am still struck by the irony that many of today's public education advocates argue that Catholic schools somehow violate a "separation of Church and state" when in fact it was the Catholic Church in America in the 19th century that in effect brought free public education to the state.

**Dr. David A. Nealy
Greenwood**

When it comes to unborn children, there is nothing hard to understand

What is so hard to understand?

Apparently, the word "infant" is. To what or to whom does the word infant refer?

We speak of "the infant in the womb," a "newborn infant," "the unborn infant."

Quite simply, an infant is a human being in its beginnings, whether in the womb or outside. The Catholic Medical Association has stated that life begins at conception. And that life has never, never resulted in the birth of anyone but a human being.

And when a pregnant woman is murdered and the child's death also results, the perpetrator is charged with two murders. What is so hard to understand?

When an abortion is "botched" and the infant killed afterward, why is that not murder?

We have laws prohibiting murder; are there any defining and prohibiting infanticide? What is so hard to understand?

When I was a child, my parents—with the entire country—were horrified at the wholesale slaughter of baby girls in China, wondering what sort of people could do such a terrible thing to their children.

Well now we know: we are those people. Aren't 61 million children enough?

What is so hard to understand?

**Richard Ryan
Indianapolis**

Reader: The foundation of love is the Trinity, and we must all live in love

To say that "love is love" depreciates authentic love—the love that wills the good of another.

Love is not whatever you want it to be. To say that "love is love" is both meaningless and weightless, unable to accomplish anything or persuade anyone who doesn't already agree with such an assumption.

If it's indeed true that "love is love," then it's also true that we've become love's negotiator, and our intuitions about it are above reproach, beyond the prying tentacles of laws and institutions and others' esoteric opinions.

"Love" is becoming a universal term for nothing in particular, which makes conversations about it arduous. Some say that love is blind. Love is

not blind. Love sees more, not less. Because love sees more, it is often willing to see less.

Love is all about God. Love originates in God. Love originates in and is exhausted by our triune Maker: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Love descends. Love ascends. Love extends to others. Love is relational and communal. Behold love. Love between the eternally loving, eternally secure and eternally complete Godhead.

The foundation of love is the Trinity. God is love. Live in love.

**Kirth N. Roach
Order of Carmelite Discalced Secular
Indianapolis**

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" (*Communio 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. Concise letters (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. †



Christ the Cornerstone

God heals and transforms us in the Eucharist

The Gospel reading for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Jn 6:1-15) tells the familiar story of the miracle of the loaves and fish.

Jesus has compassion on the large crowd of people who have come to listen to his preaching. When he asks the disciples, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" (Jn 6:5), Philip's response is one of frustration: "Two hundred day's wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little" (Jn 6:7). Like the social problems we face today—hunger, homelessness, addiction, unemployment, lack of access to health care—the solutions proposed seem totally out of reach.

Jesus solves the problem by taking what is available (five barley loaves and two fish) and using this to feed 5,000 people with 12 wicker baskets left over. This is a miracle of God's abundance overcoming human scarcity.

As reported by St. John's Gospel, Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and fish is a sign of the Eucharist. The words: "Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted" (Jn 6:11), anticipate the Lord's Supper

and the miracle that occurs each time we receive Christ's Body and Blood.

As with every sacrament, the matter is physical (bread and wine, water, oil) but the form is spiritual (transformation, rebirth, healing and forgiveness). The miracle of the loaves and fish is a dramatic illustration of God's ability to overcome our weaknesses, and to supply whatever we need to listen attentively to his word and respond generously from the heart.

In his *Angelus* remarks on *Corpus Christi*, on June 6, Pope Francis said, "Each time we receive the bread of life, Jesus comes to give new meaning to our fragilities. He reminds us that in his eyes we are more precious than we think. He tells us he is pleased if we share our fragilities with him. He repeats to us that his mercy is not afraid of our miseries."

What happened when Jesus fed 5,000 people with so few loaves and fish was a demonstration of human fragility being overcome by Divine Mercy. What is impossible for us fragile human beings is no problem for God.

"The mercy of Jesus is not afraid of our miseries," Pope Francis says. "And above all, he heals us from those

fragilities that we cannot heal on our own, with love."

Love is what fed the 5,000 people reclining on the grass at the foot of the mountain. Jesus' compassion is always transformative. His love heals the sick, casts out demons and raises Lazarus from the dead. His Body and Blood nourish us and transform us from self-centered individuals to sisters and brothers strongly united, who live not for ourselves but for God and each other.

Pope Francis gives some common examples of the human fragilities that Jesus heals in the Eucharist:

What fragilities? Let's think. That of feeling resentment toward those who have done us harm—we cannot heal from this on our own; that of distancing ourselves from others and closing off within ourselves—we cannot heal from that on our own; that of feeling sorry for ourselves and complaining without finding peace; from this too, we cannot heal on our own. It is Christ who heals us with his presence, with his bread, with the Eucharist.

In each case, like the disciples confronted with the large crowd of hungry people, our own limited resources are unequal to the challenges

we face. Only by relying on the grace of God can we hope to respond effectively.

"The Eucharist heals because it unites with Jesus: it makes us assimilate his way of living, his ability to break himself apart and give himself to brothers and sisters, to respond to evil with good," the pope says. "He gives us the courage to go outside of ourselves and bend down with love toward the fragility of others. As God does with us."

Going outside ourselves, and bending down with love, is exactly what Jesus did when he multiplied the bread and fish, sharing them with the crowd. It is exactly what happens when he gives himself to us in the holy Eucharist.

"This is the logic of the Eucharist," the pope concludes. "We receive Jesus, who loves us and heals our fragilities in order to love others and help them in their fragilities; and this lasts our entire life." We receive the bread of life so that we can give thanks and distribute it to others.

Let's give thanks to God for the miracle of his love generously shared with us in the Eucharist. May the compassion of Jesus transform us into brothers and sisters who care for each other. †



Cristo, la piedra angular

Dios nos cura y transforma en la Eucaristía

La lectura del Evangelio del 17.º domingo de tiempo Ordinario (Jn 6:1-15) relata la historia que todos conocemos del milagro de la transformación de los panes y los peces.

Jesús se compadece de la gran multitud de personas que han acudido a escuchar su predicación; cuando les pregunta a los discípulos: "¿Dónde vamos a comprar pan para que coma esta gente?" (Jn 6:5), la respuesta de Felipe demuestra frustración: "Ni con el salario de ocho meses podríamos comprar suficiente pan para darle un pedazo a cada uno" (Jn 6:7). Al igual que los problemas sociales a los que nos enfrentamos hoy en día—el hambre, la falta de vivienda, la adicción, el desempleo, la falta de acceso a la atención médica—las soluciones propuestas parecen totalmente inalcanzables.

Jesús resuelve el problema tomando lo que tiene a su alcance (cinco panes de cebada y dos pescados) y utilizándolos para alimentar a 5,000 personas, con 12 cestas de mimbre de sobra. Esto es un milagro de la abundancia de Dios que supera la escasez humana.

Según el Evangelio de San Juan, la multiplicación de los panes y los peces por parte de Jesús es un signo de la Eucaristía. Las palabras: "Jesús tomó entonces los panes, dio gracias y distribuyó a los que estaban sentados

todo lo que quisieron. Lo mismo hizo con los pescados" (Jn 6:11), anticipan la Cena del Señor y el milagro que se produce cada vez que recibimos el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo.

Como en todo sacramento, la materia es física (pan y vino, agua, aceite) pero la forma es espiritual (transformación, renacimiento, curación y perdón). El milagro de los panes y los peces es una dramática ilustración de la capacidad de Dios para superar nuestras debilidades y suministrar todo lo que necesitamos para escuchar atentamente su Palabra y responder generosamente desde el corazón.

En su discurso del *Ángelus* del *Corpus Christi*, el 6 de junio, el papa Francisco dijo: "Cada vez que recibimos el Pan de Vida, Jesús viene a dar un nuevo sentido a nuestras fragilidades. Nos recuerda que a sus ojos somos más valiosos de lo que pensamos. Nos dice que se complace si compartimos con Él nuestras fragilidades. Nos repite que su misericordia no teme nuestras miserias."

Lo que ocurrió cuando Jesús alimentó a 5,000 personas con tan pocos panes y peces fue una demostración de la fragilidad humana superada por la Misericordia Divina. Lo que es imposible para nosotros, frágiles seres humanos, no representa un problema para Dios.

"La misericordia de Jesús no teme nuestras miserias," dice el papa Francisco. "Y, sobre todo, nos cura con amor de aquellas fragilidades que no podemos curar por nosotros mismos."

El amor es lo que alimentó a las 5,000 personas sentadas en la hierba al pie de la montaña. La compasión de Jesús es siempre transformadora. Su amor cura a los enfermos, expulsa a los demonios y resucita a Lázaro. Su Cuerpo y su Sangre nos alimentan y nos transforman de personas egocéntricas en hermanas y hermanos fuertemente unidos, que no viven para sí mismos, sino para Dios y para los demás.

El papa Francisco da algunos ejemplos comunes de las fragilidades humanas que Jesús cura en la Eucaristía:

¿Qué fragilidades? Pensemos: la de sentir resentimiento hacia quienes nos han hecho daño —esta no la podemos sanar solos—; la de distanciarnos de los demás y aislarnos en nuestro interior—esta no la podemos sanar solos—; la de autocompadecernos y quejarnos sin encontrar descanso—tampoco esta la podemos sanar nosotros solos—. Es él quien nos sana con su presencia, con su pan, con la Eucaristía.

En cada caso, al igual que los discípulos enfrentados a la gran multitud de hambrientos, nuestros

propios recursos limitados no están a la altura de los desafíos a los que nos enfrentamos. Únicamente al confiar en la gracia de Dios podemos esperar responder eficazmente.

"La Eucaristía sana porque nos une a Jesús: nos hace asimilar su manera de vivir, su capacidad de partirse y entregarse a los hermanos, de responder al mal con el bien," dice el Papa. "Nos da el valor de salir de nosotros mismos y de inclinarnos con amor hacia la fragilidad de los demás. Como hace Dios con nosotros."

Salirnos de nosotros mismos, e inclinarnos con amor, es exactamente lo que hizo Jesús cuando multiplicó los panes y los peces, compartiéndolos con la multitud. Es exactamente lo que ocurre cuando se entrega a nosotros en la santa Eucaristía.

"Esta es la lógica de la Eucaristía," concluye el Santo Padre. "Recibimos a Jesús que nos ama y sana nuestras fragilidades para amar a los demás y ayudarles en sus fragilidades. Y esto durante toda la vida." Recibimos el Pan de Vida para poder dar gracias y distribuirlo a los demás.

Demos gracias a Dios por el milagro de su amor compartido generosamente con nosotros en la Eucaristía. Que la compasión de Jesús nos transforme en hermanas y hermanos que se cuidan mutuamente. †

Events Calendar

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

July 25

St. Augustine Parish, 18020 Lafayette St., Leopold.
Drive-Thru Dinners and Raffle, 10:30 a.m. CT until sold out, homemade chicken dinners include choice of white or dark meat, fries, green beans, noodles, slaw and chocolate chip cookie, \$10 (cash preferred), seating available in Leopold Park. Information: 812-843-5143.

July 26, August 2, 9, 16

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.

July 26-29

Our Lady of Grace Parish, 9900 E. 191st St., Noblesville (Lafayette Diocese).
Encounter Summer Intensive, 6-9 p.m. each night, \$75, \$50 for clergy, religious, seminarians or college students, register by July 21. Information: 317-795-4912, indianapolis@encounterschool.org or encounterschool.org.

July 29-31

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, 10655 Haverstick Road, Carmel (Lafayette Diocese).
SetonFest, 6-11:45 p.m., amusement rides, inflatables, children's games, food trucks, grilled food/sandwiches, hourly games of chance, bingo, beer and wine tent, fireworks Friday and Saturday nights. Monte Carlo and live

music: The Woomblies Rock Orchestra, The DOO! and My Yellow Rickshaw, free admission. Information: 317-846-3850 or kevin.sweeney@setoncarmel.org.

July 30-August 1

Rachel's Vineyard Healing Retreat, greater Indianapolis area (exact location given upon registration), for women and men who have known regret, sorrow, guilt or shame after abortion, \$175, scholarships available, registration deadline July 22. Registration and information: 317-452-0054 or projectrachel@archindy.org.

August 4

MCL Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, 5:30 p.m., Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles—separated, widowed or divorced—age 50 and older, new members welcome, also call about regular Friday night dinner events. Information: 317-796-8605 or 317-243-0777.

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: 317-236-1542.

August 6

Women's Care Center, 4901

W. 86th St., Indianapolis. **First Friday Mass**, 5 p.m., Father James Farrell celebrant, optional tour of center to follow. Information: 317-829-6800, 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.

August 7

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.

Clay County Courthouse lawn, 609 E. National Ave., Brazil. **Pray USA Prayer Rally**, noon, sponsored by Annunciation Parish Legion of Mary, prayers for the country. Information: tana.donnelly@fontier.com.

August 7-8

All Saints Parish, St. Paul campus, 9788 N. Dearborn

Road, Guilford. **Summer Picnic**, Sat. 5 p.m.- midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., food stands, live music by Disorderly Conduct, beer garden, raffles, gaming quilts, kiddie land, \$10,000 Big Money Raffle, Rediscover Saints religious exhibit, chicken dinner Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. or until sold out, outdoor dining, free admission. Information: 812-576-4302.

August 8

St. Mary Parish, 2500 St. Mary's Dr., Lanesville. **Parish Picnic**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., games of chance, quilt raffle, capital prize drawing, cake wheel, 50/50 prize raffle, linen and crafts, silent auction, fried chicken or ham dinner; \$12 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-11, outdoor dining or drive-thru, dressing, potato salad, country-style green beans, slaw, noodles, fresh

cucumbers, pie. Online auction: harrittgroup.com on July 26. Information: 812-952-2853.

August 10

Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **"The Spirit Breathes" monthly Taizé Prayer Service**, 7-8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence, virtual option available at cutt.ly/Taize. Information: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org.

August 13-14

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. **Italian Street Festival**, 5-11 p.m., religious procession 6:45 p.m. Sat. followed by 7 p.m. Mass, homemade Italian food, wine and beer, live

music, amusement rides, free admission, free parking. Information: 317-636-4478, info@holyyrosaryindy.org or indyitalianfest.org.

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7225 Southeastern Ave., Indianapolis. **Augustravanza**, 4:30-11 p.m., kid's games and rides, food, live music, bingo, free admission. Information: 317-357-1200.

August 17

Bishop Chatard High School, 5885 N. Crittendon Ave., Indianapolis. **Made for More: Visions of the Promised Land**, a Theology of the Body event by Christopher West with music by Mike Mangione, 7-9:30 p.m., \$25. Tickets: indy.eventbrite.com. Information: Maureen Malarney, 317-503-8090, mmalarney@bishopchatard.org. †

Retreats and Programs

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

August 11

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

August 12

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Day of Silence**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$35, includes room, continental breakfast, lunch and use of common areas and grounds, overnight

stays available for additional \$28 per person, dinner additional \$9. Registration: cutt.ly/fatimaretreats, 317-545-7681 or jburger@archindy.org.

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Peace & Nature Garden Walk**, 7-8:30 p.m., Benedictine Sister Angela Jarboe presenting, free, donations accepted, advance registration requested. Registration: www.benedictinn.org/programs. Information: benedictinn@benedictinn.org, 317-788-7581.

August 13-15

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat

House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Retrouvaille Weekend**, sponsored by Retrouvaille Indy, for couples in struggling marriages. Register at www.helpourmarriage.org or email retrouvindy@gmail.com.

August 15

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **You Are Not Alone: Spiritual Journey After Suicide Loss**, 4-6 p.m., online option available, led by Father James Farrell, includes refreshments, freewill offering. Information and registration: Jennifer Burger, 317-545-7681, jburger@archindy.org, cutt.ly/notalone8-15. †

Archdiocese offers two choir 're-boot' camps on Aug. 14 and 21

Andrew Motyka, director of archdiocesan and cathedral liturgical music, will offer two choir "re-boot" camps for parish choir members and directors in August.

The first opportunity will take place at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, from 9 a.m.-noon on Aug. 14.

The second camp is at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, 1752 Scheller Lane, in New Albany, from 9 a.m.-noon on Aug. 21.

The camps will provide a morning of

education and habit-building for singers, and help for directors to maintain healthy singing among their choirs. Time will be spent on singing anatomy, body mapping, breathing, posture and exercises and warm-ups for participants to take with them to mitigate the effects of not singing together for so long.

The cost is \$10, which includes lunch.

To register for the Indianapolis camp, go to cutt.ly/RebootIndy. To register for the New Albany camp, go to cutt.ly/RebootNA. †

Wedding Anniversaries

FRED AND JANET HOTEL



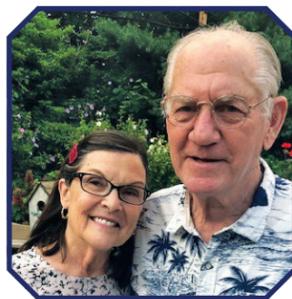
FRED AND JANET (SCHRAMM) HOTEL, members of St. Lawrence Parish in Lawrenceburg, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on July 21.

The couple was married at St. Dominic Church in Cincinnati on July 21, 1956.

They have 11 children: Jane Crotty, Jeannie Jansen, Anne Willmann, Katherine, Daniel, David, Fred, Joseph, Michael, Paul and Steven Hotel.

The couple also has 26 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. †

MICHAEL AND JANET TOSICK



MICHAEL AND JANET (SCHNORR) TOSICK, members of St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington, will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on July 30.

The couple was married at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Indianapolis on July 30, 1966.

They have three children: Anna, John and Mike Tosick.

The couple also has five grandchildren. †

JIM AND BOBBIE BRADLEY



JIM AND BOBBIE (SCHROEDER) BRADLEY, members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 24.

The couple was married in a con-validated service at St. John Lutheran Church in Chicago, Ill., on July 24, 1971.

They have three children: Matthew, Scott and Timothy Bradley

The couple also has nine grandchildren. †

MARION AND CAROLYN SYLVESTER



MARION AND CAROLYN (BONDS) SYLVESTER, members of Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 19.

The couple was married at St. Joseph Church in Tuskegee, Ala., on July 19, 1971.

They have three children: Kasey Garcia, Clinton and Michael Sylvester

The couple also has four grandchildren. †

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.



Marriage Supplement

FALL 2021

A moral and scientific way to cooperate with God's plan for fertility

By Gabriela Ross

As the Director of Marriage and Family Life, I coordinate Natural Family Planning (NFP) outreach in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. I work with clergy, medical professionals, certified NFP instructors and witness couples, and together we inform the faithful about God's plan for marriage and family and how fertility is a component of the vocation of marriage and responsible parenthood.



At a Catholic wedding, the bride and groom are asked three questions before they give their consent to marry. One of these questions is: "Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?" (#60, *The Order of Celebrating Matrimony*). Natural Family Planning is a morally acceptable, medically sound and natural tool to fulfill this promise.

'Are you prepared to accept children ... ?'

In my work preparing engaged couples for the sacrament of marriage, we talk about NFP and how learning about a husband and wife's fertility can help them cooperate with God to achieve or avoid pregnancy. We address the role of NaPro (Natural

Procreative) technology, which is a morally acceptable alternative to *in vitro* fertilization, and can help couples who are experiencing infertility or other complications.

We are so blessed to have Catholic doctors who are proficient in NaPro technology come to speak to engaged couples at our Pre-Cana and One in Christ marriage preparation retreats about fertility awareness and the science of NaPro technology, and to have dedicated witness couples share their experience practicing NFP in their marriage.

Past retreat participants have said: "I felt that the NFP talk was really great. I wish I was taught this before today, but I'm glad I have another option," and "I loved having an MD discuss NFP. I was skeptical but the medical background was super helpful and convinced me to do it."

Many brides are happy to learn that NFP instructors can help their fertility return to normal after their hormones were altered from being on chemical contraception for many years.

'I wish I was taught this before ...'

But NFP is not just for engaged couples preparing to start a family. A new mother-daughter program was recently launched by the Couple to Couple League to help middle school and adolescent girls who are coming of age to understand their blossoming fertility in light of God's design, without getting into the topics of family planning.

With this tool, mothers can utilize resources to mentor their daughters, parishes can host mother-daughter events, and schools can incorporate the age-appropriate information into their health curriculum, knowing it is both scientific and from a Catholic perspective.

New mothers and women ending their child-bearing years are two other groups that could benefit from tracking their fertility through an NFP method. Because our society has relied on chemical contraception to treat all fertility issues, women are often left in the dark about the changes their body will naturally go through after giving birth or when entering menopause. With hormone changes come fertility changes, and women often benefit from the additional support that an NFP instructor can provide during seasons of change.

Take a look at the information provided in this issue of *The Criterion* to learn more about Church teaching on family planning, different methods to track fertility and the mother-daughter program, outreach in Spanish, and where to find local instructors and medical professionals who are ready to assist you.

If you have a personal story of how NFP has impacted your life, I would love to hear from you.

(Gabriela Ross is the director of the Marriage and Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and can be reached at gross@archindy.org.) †

(Graphic above provided by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops)

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- Engagement and Wedding Announcements, pages 10-12
- Submit Your Wedding Announcement to Appear in our Spring Marriage Supplement, page 11
- What is Natural Family Planning? page 12



A DOZEN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING & CONTRACEPTION METHODS

Is in harmony with fertility			Interferes with fertility
Treats fertility as a gift			Treats fertility as a disease
Fosters increased communication			Requires little/no communication
Encourages "SPICE" (Spiritual, Physical, Intellectual, Communicative, Emotional) concept of sexuality			May inhibit "SPICE" growth
Promotes marital bonding			May promote feelings of being used
Reports less than 5% divorce rate			Reports greater than 50% divorce rate
Is effective to avoid and achieve pregnancy			Used only to avoid pregnancy
Encourages the couple to revisit the decision to avoid or achieve pregnancy			Assumes avoiding pregnancy
Can change use of the method to avoid or achieve pregnancy at a moment's notice			Requires discontinuing the method to achieve pregnancy
Is open to God's will for life			Is closed to beginning a new life
Protects the love and life nature of marriage			Interferes with love and life nature of marriage
Is healthy & brings awareness of the women's reproductive abnormalities for treatment			May cause side effects requiring treatment

Staff of the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life



Gabriela Ross

Gabriela Ross has worked for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for six years. She previously taught Theology of the Body in Catholic grade schools and parishes in Cincinnati. Her first position for the archdiocese was with the Office of Catechesis. Since 2019, she has worked as director for the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life. Ross is bilingual in English and Spanish and can be reached at gross@archindy.org or 317-592-4007.



Claudia Corona

Claudia Corona is from Guadalajara, Mexico. She has worked for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for 3.5 years. Her previous position was as administrative assistant for the Intercultural Pastoral Institute of the archdiocesan Intercultural Ministry Office. Since March, she has worked as office and event coordinator for the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life. Corona is bilingual in English and Spanish and can be reached at corona@archindy.org or 317-236-7310.

(Infographic above courtesy of the Archdiocese of St. Louis Office of Natural Family Planning)

Marriage event provides ‘an avenue of grace’ for couples

By Natalie Hoefler

DOVER—When nationally-known Catholic marriage presenters Troy and Kathleen Billings emphasized the importance of date nights for wedded couples, Justin Egan listened.

“Justin took that message to heart,” said his wife of 13 years, Katherine. “He set up a schedule with several other couples so that we alternate watching each other’s kids and having a date night.

“In the last month, we have been to a movie and also tried out a new restaurant!”

The Egans, members of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish in Bright, heard the Billings speak at All Saints Parish in Dearborn County on June 12. About 50 couples—from nearly 54 years of marriage to just three months—attended the event as a means to nourish their marriages.

“The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that marriage is the foundational building block of the world,” said Father Jonathan Meyer, pastor of All Saints Parish. “In our world, people are really starving for marriage ministry, and there’s just not a lot out there.

“We held this event so couples would know we love them and support them.”

‘Marriage is like dancing’

The Billings spoke not just from their years of experience as a married couple with five children, but also from their experience as leaders of a marriage ministry for their parish, bloggers for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ “For Your Marriage” website, and as authors of a new book to be released soon.

The retreat, like their blog, was called “Two to Tango.”

“We both loved to dance,” said Kathleen after sharing that she and Troy met as college students—he at the University of Notre Dame and she at the nearby all-women’s Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame. “The problem was, we had different styles. We were always stepping on each other’s toes.

“Marriage is like dancing. Sometimes you step on each other’s toes. But the goal is to be close and to move with each other.”

Of course, marriage—particularly a Catholic marriage—is more than a dance, said Troy.

“As a sacrament, marriage is holy,” he said. “Sacrament has the same root as sacrifice, which means ‘to make holy.’

“When you sacrifice for your spouse—from cleaning to doing yard work—you’re giving of yourself and making your marriage holy.”

With the sacrament of marriage comes grace, Troy reminded the couples.

“So many forget to tap into that grace,” he said. “Couples need to ask God for the grace to live their marriage according to his will.

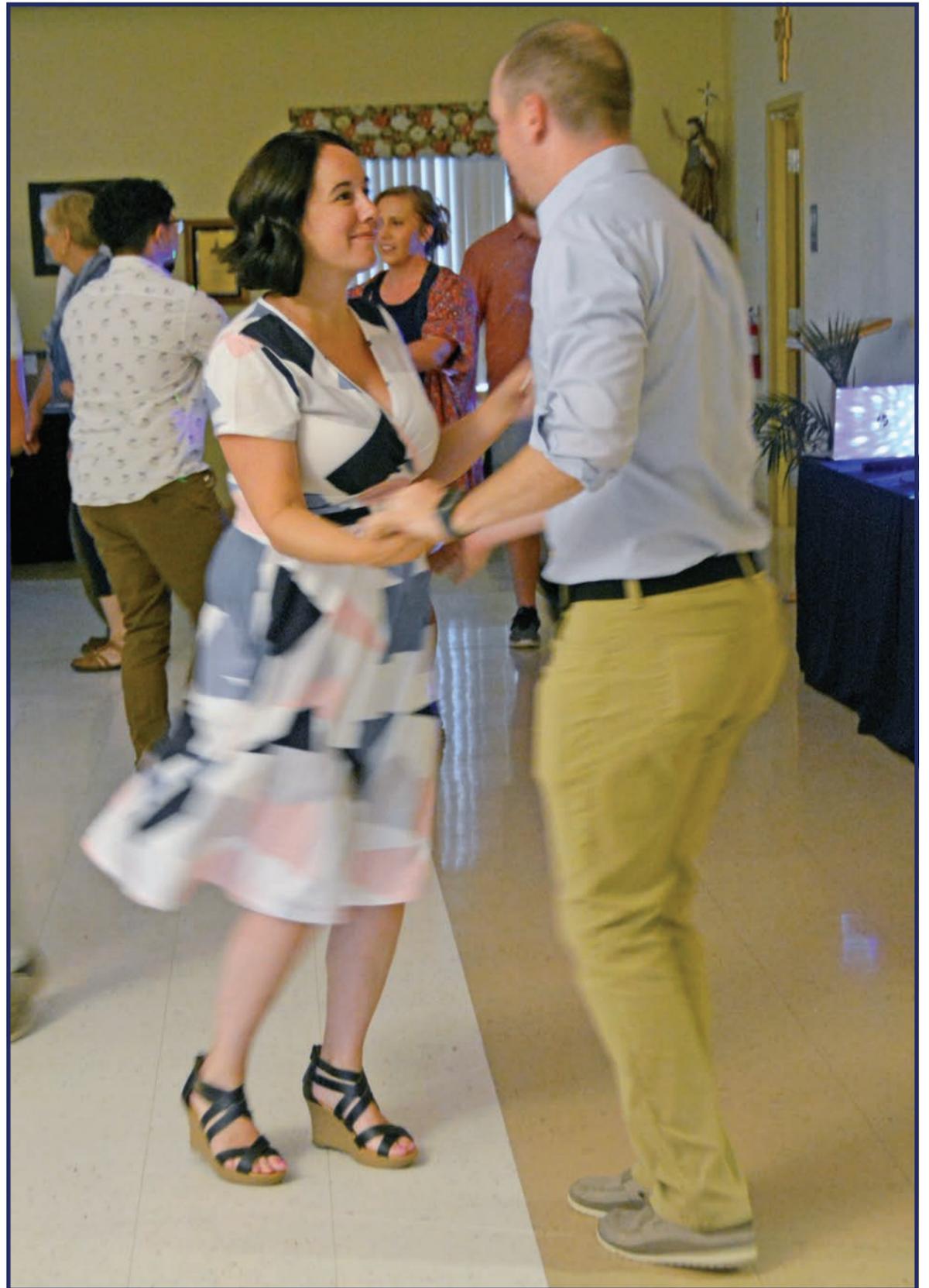
“The purpose of marriage is to communicate God to each other, but you can’t do that if you don’t know God. The more you know God, the more [grace] you have to pour into your marriage.

“We live in a crazy world. You have to keep Christ at the center of your marriage.”

‘Take 15 minutes a day’

Kathleen agreed with her husband.

“Satan is out there attacking marriage,” she said. “He’ll do everything in his power to destroy your marriage. He’ll provide a million distractions, even your



Katherine Egan smiles at her husband Justin as he leads her out of a twirl during a marriage event at All Saints Parish in Dearborn County on June 12. The Egans are members of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish in Bright. (Photos by Natalie Hoefler)

children. So keep a strong relationship with God, call on his grace and take time with your spouse every day.”

That spouse time needs to be intentional, Kathleen noted.

“Take 15 minutes a day—and not the last 15

minutes—to connect,” she said. “Not talk about the kids, not talk about the budget, but talk about how each of you are really doing.”

Kathleen also noted that it’s important to “make sure that your spouse feels loved. Not everyone feels love the same way,” she said, recommending the book *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman. “We can do many things that show love, and the other still doesn’t feel loved.”

The includes time for intimacy, she said, noting that “fresh love and fireworks fade without work. ... You have to be intentional about intimacy, both emotional and physical.

“Regular date nights are so important for spouses to stay connected and enjoy themselves,” Kathleen said.

‘Marriage takes work’

With nearly 54 years of experience, Rosele and John Jones, members of St. Michael Parish in Greenfield, agreed with the Billings.

“Marriage takes work,” said John. “It’s things like this [event] that get you out of our day-to-day routine and let you have a little time in a different place.”

Sitting next to the Joneses, Mary Jo and Bob Stoops nodded in agreement. The couple, members of St. Lawrence Parish in Lawrenceburg, have been married for nearly 12 years.

“I think it’s important to stay open to ways to improve and nourish your marriage,” said Bob.

“You need to be nourished in your family life just like you need to be nourished in your faith,” Mary Jo added.

Annie and Zach Webber are starting to nourish their marriage early, having just married in May. The couple

See EVENT, page 13



Troy and Kathleen Billings, Catholic marriage ministry leaders, bloggers and authors, laugh during their presentation at a marriage event at All Saints Parish in Dearborn County on June 12.

Wedding ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRAINARD-HARRISON



Marie Elizabeth Brainard and Thomas Robert Harrison will be married on Sept. 4 at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Elizabeth Hackl Brainard and James Brainard. The groom is the son of Melanie Collop Harrison and David Harrison.

ETLING-HARTMAN



Mary Kathryn Marie Eting and Collin Wayne Hartman were married on June 19 at St. Joseph University Church in Terre Haute. The bride is the daughter of Joseph and Gretchen Eting. The groom is the son of Brian Hartman and Melissa Hartman-Compton.

HOTKA-BOWLING



Alexis Marie Hotka and Isaiiah Michael Bowling were married on July 10 at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jason and Jenifer Young. The groom is the son of Charlie and Jeanette Bowling.

KRUEER-SHEPARD



Nicole Marie Krueer and David Paul Shepard will be married in Sept. 18 at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Church in Floyd County. The bride is the daughter of Robert and Elaine Krueer. The groom is the son of Alan and Maria Shepard.

MILLER-SHIREMAN



Deidre Sue Miller and Daniel Shireman will be married on Nov. 6 at St. Joseph Church in Corydon. The bride is the daughter of Dennis Miller and Debbie Zimmerman. The groom is the son of Joseph and Cindy Shireman.

ROLAND-ARDIZZONE



Audrey Lynn Roland and Joseph Robert Ardizzone were married on May 21 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Marc and Jamie Roland. The groom is the son of Tony and Judy Ardizzone.

CARLSTON-CONWAY



Gabrielle Nicole Carlston and Richard Edwin Conway were married on April 24 at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. (Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese). The bride is the daughter of Greg and June Carlston. The groom is the son of James and Mary Conway.

FRYE-LEONARD



Heidi Marie Frye and Riley Asher Foltz Leonard were married on Sept. 5, 2020, at St. Joseph University Church in Terre Haute. The bride is the daughter of Bernard and Myrthel Frye.

HUNTER-McMAHON



Savannah Grace Hunter and Hayden Charles McMahon were married on May 15 at St. Mary Church in New Albany. The bride is the daughter of Andrew and Kimberly Hunter. The groom is the son of Terrence and Charisa McMahon.

LIVELY-GLOUDEMANS



Patricia Claire Lively and Colin Alexander Gloude-mans were married on June 26 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Chris and Kathleen Lively. The groom is the son of David and Julie Gloude-mans.

NICKELS-CUNNINGHAM



Rebecca Clara Nickels and Clay David Cunningham were married on July 10 at St. Christopher Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Katherine Nickels. The groom is the son of David and Lynn Cunningham.

SCHEIBEN-NEWTON



Tess Anastasia Scheiben and David Lee Newton were married on Oct. 9 at St. Mary Church, a campus of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, in Richmond. The bride is the daughter of Robert Scheiben and Pamela Waters. The groom is the son of Jerry and Vicky Newton.

CHANDLER-FIXMER



Jeanie Marie Chandler and Nathan Bryan Fixmer were married on June 12 at St. Joseph Church in Shelbyville. The bride is the daughter of Ronnie Chandler and Tina Mazingo. The groom is the son of John and Sue Fixmer.

GARTRELL-BEHLMER



Stephanie Lee Gartrell and Adam Daniel Behlmer will be married on Aug. 28 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Debbie and the late Darryl Gartrell. The groom is the son of Jeff and Linda Behlmer.

JAGER-KILLEEN



Shannon Marie Jager and Kevin Alexander Killeen II will be married on Oct. 1 at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bloomington. The bride is the daughter of John and Barbara Jager. The groom is the son of Kevin and Nancy Killeen.

MARTIN-FUNK



Shelby Anne Martin and Patrick Joseph Funk were married on May 29 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Bryan and Sandra Martin. The groom is the son of James and Patricia Funk.

PARAS-DAVIDSON



Morgan Elizabeth Paras and Nicholas Richard Davidson will be married on July 31 at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Mark and Lola Paras. The groom is the son of Greg Davidson and Kathy Korwek.

SCHMITTLER-JOHANNIGMAN



Katlin AuDale Schmittler and Christopher Mathias Johannigman will be married on Oct. 23 at Immaculate Conception Church in Millhousen. The bride is the daughter of Larry and Audrey Schmittler. The groom is the son of William and Nicole Johannigman.

DOLNE-TODD



Heather Michelle Dolne and Scott Morris Todd were married on April 17 at St. Jude Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Christopher and Kim Dolne. The groom is the son of Gary and Beth Todd.

GAYNOR-ZENGERLING



Tanya Marie Gaynor and Jacob Andrew Zengerling will be married on May 22 at St. John the Baptist Church, a campus of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County. The bride is the daughter of Ronald and Donna Gaynor. The groom is the son of Steven and Karine Zengerling.

KLINE-SCROGGINS



Jessica Marie Kline and Trent Kaine Barkley Scroggins will be married on Oct. 23 at St. Nicholas Church in Ripley County. The bride is the daughter of Bryan and Marie Kline. The groom is the son of BJ and Theresa Scroggins.

MAZE-KINNE



Grace Elizabeth Maze and Jordan Matthew Kinne will be married on Oct. 2 at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church in Greenwood. The bride is the daughter of Scott and Lillian Maze. The groom is the son of Jeff Kinne and Cindy Pullano.

POPP-MARTIN



Kaylyn Mackenzie Popp and Matthew Nicholas Martin were married on June 4 at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Church in Floyd County. The bride is the daughter of Gary and Julie Popp. The groom is the son of Terry and Nancy Martin.

ELLIS-DUCKETT



Emily Jean Ellis and Owen Nathaniel Duckett will be married on Sept. 18 at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jeffrey Ellis and Amanda Ellis. The groom is the son of Zach and Jackie Williams.

HINEMAN-FLOOD



Madelyn Suzanne Hineman and Daniel Patrick Flood were married on May 22 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Michael and Grace Hineman. The groom is the son of Dr. Michael and Mrs. Catherine Flood.

KNAPP-REGIER



Casey Lynn Knapp and Paul Michael Regier were married on May 8 at Holy Family Church in New Albany. The bride is the daughter of Tim Knapp and Tracy Harfert. The groom is the son of Pat and Ellen Regier.

MILLER-SHEPHERD



Lyndsay Nicole Miller and Jackson Samuel Shepherd will be married on Nov. 20 at St. Mary Church in North Vernon. The bride is the daughter of Shawn and Vicky Miller. The groom is the son of Travis and Laurie Shepherd.

POWERS-McHUGH



Paige Powers and Luke McHugh will be married on Dec. 18 at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bloomington. The bride is the daughter of Jeff and Mary Powers. The groom is the son of Jim and Maureen McHugh.

See more couples on next page

Couples may announce engagement or marriage next spring in *The Criterion*

Engagement announcements will be published in a February 2022 issue of *The Criterion* for couples who are planning to wed between Jan. 1 and July 15, 2022, in a marriage that is recognized by the Church as a valid sacramental or valid natural marriage.

Couples who were wed in the second half of 2021 in a marriage that is recognized by the Church as a valid sacramental or valid natural marriage may also submit an announcement if their engagement announcement was not published in *The Criterion*.

The wedding announcement form is available online at www.criteriononline.com by selecting "Send Us Information" from the menu on the left side of the screen, then choosing "Wedding Announcements."

An engagement or wedding photo may be submitted by e-mail to alewis@archindy.org. Digital photos must be clear, high-resolution images with the couple close together. Photos can also be mailed to Ann Lewis, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN, 46202. To receive the photo back, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Due to print quality, Xerox copies of photos will not be accepted. †

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

SINGLETON-GOLDNER



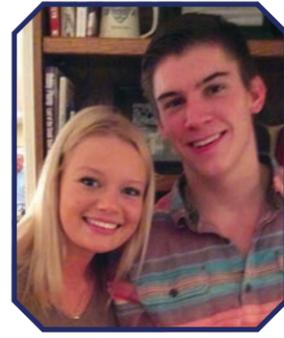
Victoria Singleton and Kevin Goldner will be married on Oct. 23 at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of John and Jeanne Singleton. The groom is the son of Rob and Jeanine Goldner.

WILLIAMS-MASCHINO



Brooke Elizabeth Williams and Jacob Daniel Maschino will be married on Aug. 21 at St. Joseph Church in Jennings County. The bride is the daughter of Lawrence and Sherri Maschino. The groom is the son of Jeffrey and Diane Maschino.

YOUNG-SCHUTZMAN



Emma K. Young and Brian J. Schutzman will be married on Aug. 21 at St. Mary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Gail and the late Daniel Young. The groom is the son of John and Teresa Schutzman.

STEPHENS-SANCHEZ-LAZARO



Ashley Nicole Stephens and David Crisogono Sanchez-Lazaro will be married on Oct. 9 at St. Mary Church in New Albany. The bride is the daughter of Louis and Bobbie Wilson. The groom is the son of Filemon Sanchez Angeles and Maria Lazaro Martinez.

WUNDERLICH-TORRES



Adriane Rochelle Wunderlich and Luis Alberto Mendoza Torres were married on July 10 at St. Joseph Church in Tampa, Fla. The bride is the daughter of Daniel and the late Margaret Wunderlich. The groom is the son of Yolanda Torres and Luis Mendoza.

ZAPFE-BRANDENBURG



Megan Nicole Zapfe and Craig Thomas Brandenburg were married on April 10 at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church in Greenwood. The bride is the daughter of Margaret and the late Richard Zapfe. The groom is the son of Howard and Sheryl Brandenburg.

What is Natural Family Planning?

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is the general name given to the scientific, natural, and moral methods of family planning that can help married couples achieve or postpone pregnancy. It celebrates and reverences the vision of human sexuality.

Approved Methods

There are several scientific methods that have been developed to track a couple's fertility for natural family planning purposes. In the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, the following methods and providers have been approved. Other methods and providers may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the Marriage & Family Life office for more information.

The Sympto-Thermal Method taught by The Couple to Couple League

- Website: ccli.org.
- In-person and online instruction; Spanish instruction online.
- Includes instruction for irregular situations, postpartum and perimenopause, and a charting "app" for mobile users. Offers Mother-

Daughter program to begin discussing fertility awareness with adolescent young women (English only).

The Creighton Model FertilityCare System (CrMS) taught by local Creighton practitioners

- Website for Creighton practitioners: www.fertilitycare.org.
- Website for NaPro Technology: popepaulvi.com.
- In-person and online instruction; Spanish instruction local and online.
- Some Creighton practitioners have a NaPro (Natural Procreative) Technology specialization to treat infertility issues and other complications.

The Marquette Method (Sympto-Hormonal) taught by Whole Mission or a regional instructor

- Website for Marquette Method: cutt.ly/MarquetteMethod.
- Website for Whole Mission instructors: www.mmnfp.com.
- Regional providers in Louisville and Evansville provide in-person training. All other training is online, also in Spanish.
- Includes online charting tools, one year of follow-up consultations as needed, and consultation for irregular situations, postpartum and perimenopause.

Planificación Familiar Natural (PFN)

La Planificación Familiar Natural (PFN) es el título general de los métodos científicos, naturales y morales de planificación familiar que pueden ayudar a las parejas casadas a lograr o posponer el embarazo.

¡Celebra y reverencia la visión de la sexualidad humana!

El Programa de PFN de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos organiza una campaña educativa nacional del 25 al 31 de Julio, que destaca el aniversario de la encíclica papal "Humanae Vitae" (25 de julio) que articula las creencias católicas sobre la sexualidad humana, el amor conyugal y la paternidad responsable. Las fechas también marcan la fiesta de los santos Joaquín y Ana (26 de julio), padres de la Santísima Madre. El Papa Francisco ha designado el 25 de julio como el Día Mundial de los Abuelos y las Personas Mayores.

Si te interesa conocer más sobre:

- Cómo funcionan estos métodos
- Lista de instructores certificados en Indianápolis (en persona o en línea)
- Testimonios de parejas que lo practican
- Semana Nacional de Concientización PFN

Te invitamos a visitar la página de recursos para PFN en español de la Oficina de Matrimonio y Familia de la Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis: www.archindy.org/marriageandfamily/nfp-espanol.html. †

TO HAVE
TO HOLD
TO HONOR

Natural Family Planning
Supporting God's gifts of love and life in marriage



(Image courtesy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

For a list of local instructors and NFP resources, visit www.archindy.org/nfp.

NFP Awareness Week

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is participating in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' NFP Awareness Week, which occurs this year on July 25-31. It coincides with the anniversary of the papal encyclical "Humanae Vitae" (July 25), which articulates Catholic

beliefs about human sexuality, conjugal love and responsible parenthood.

The dates also mark the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (July 26), parents of the Blessed Mother. Pope Francis has designated the Sunday closest to their feast day—July 25—as the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly.

To learn more, go to cutt.ly/NFPWeek (case sensitive). †

TENERTE
QUERERTE
RESPECTARTE

Planificación Familiar Natural
Apoya los dones de Dios de amor y vida en el matrimonio



(Image courtesy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

EVENT

continued from page 9

are members of the Oratory of SS. Philomena and Cecilia in Oak Forrest.

“We wanted to start off strong,” said Annie.

Upon hearing that dance lessons would follow the presentation, Zach said he had one goal for the evening: “I hope to learn not to trip over my own feet—or Annie’s.”

‘An avenue of grace’

After the presentation, the lights were turned low and a disco ball scattered shards of moving color around the parish hall. One by one, couples joined the dance floor as a snippet from their wedding song was played.

Katherine Egan smiled up at her husband as Justin led her out of a twirl.

“It was a fantastic date night!” she later told *The Criterion*.

With the scheduled date nights the two have enjoyed following the event, the effects of the evening continue.

“In the past it would not be uncommon for several months to go by before we would do something, just the two of us” without their three children, she said. “The event ignited a desire in us to prioritize time together.”

The benefits the Egans gained from the Two to Tango evening affirmed Katherine’s opinion about the importance of such events.

“We often hear of retreats for those

who are discerning their vocation, or for kids who are growing in their faith,” she noted. “Often we neglect to continue to nurture our marriages.

“These retreats are an important opportunity for us to spend time as a couple, to lean on others for support and provide us with an avenue of grace.” †



Annie and Zach Webber, newlyweds married in May, enjoy dancing again to their wedding song during a marriage event at All Saints Parish in Dearborn County on June 12. The Webbers are members of the Oratory of SS. Philomena and Cecilia in Oak Forest.



A couple listens as Catholic marriage ministers, bloggers and authors Kathleen and Troy Billings share a message during a marriage event at All Saints Parish in Dearborn County on June 12. (Photos by Natalie Hoefler)

Couple offers tips for making marriage work

By Natalie Hoefler

Troy and Kathleen Billings—Catholic marriage ministry leaders, bloggers and authors—recently offered tips and advice on making marriage work at All Saints Parish in Dearborn County on June 12.

Below are snippets of advice and tips the couple offered:

• “The difference between a creek and a river is that boulders and rocks can alter the flow of a creek because its shallow. But they don’t alter the flow of a river because it’s deeper. God intended marriage to be like a river, not a creek.”

• “If you do a little different thing each day—get up early with the kids or make a call so your spouse doesn’t have to—these build up over

time to say ‘I love you.’”

• “In the words of St. Therese the Little Flower, ‘Do little things with great love.’ When you see your spouse do something extra, compliment them. Remember that small things add up to a great marriage.”

• “Do you date your spouse? As you get busier and have more kids, you need to stoke the fire of your marriage. It’s easier to stoke a fire than to build a fire again after it’s gone out.”

• “Take 15 minutes a day to talk with your spouse about how each

of you is doing. That’s about 1% of your day.”

• “One of the best ways to insure a healthy and holy marriage is to pray together. Maybe it’s the Our Father, the rosary, spontaneous prayer or making a holy hour together. A holy hour guarantees at least one hour of silence in your week! It’s a date night with Jesus.”

• “The greatest gift you can give your kids is to love your spouse. Kids notice the little things you say and do for your spouse, and it’s important to them.” †



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37th Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass

August 29, 2021

2:00 pm

Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul

1347 N. Meridian St.

Indianapolis, IN

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, presider.

Registration at: www.archindy.org/weddingcelebrations
or contact Claudia Corona 317-236-7310 Ccorona@archindy.org

Organized by: Marriage & Family Life Office

The Mass will include a blessing for the renewal of nuptial commitment and a certificate of recognition will be awarded to couples who celebrate their 25, 50, 60, 65, 70 and 75 years of marriage in 2020 or 2021. A reception will follow the Mass.

How Natural Family Planning changed my life

By Dawn Farias

Special to *The Criterion*

As a child I was baptized Catholic, but essentially grew up with no religious practice. As a married adult, I re-entered the Church, and soon after felt a tugging at my heart to stop practicing contraception. At that time, I did not know about Natural Family Planning (NFP).

More basic, I did not know about Church teachings on the moral practice of family planning.

What I would learn about God's design for my married life and through the practice of NFP would change my life.

True freedom and openness to life

When my husband, Ariel and I took an NFP class, I have to admit that I was scared.

Giving up control was frightening! It was one thing to be committed to an ideal, but something quite different to follow through on it. It definitely involved a leap of faith! Over time and with some experience, I began to appreciate the gift and beauty of NFP.

In practicing NFP, my husband and I must decide if we, as a couple, are ready to embrace the possibility of a new life in each menstrual cycle.



When we had used contraception, we ignored this reality. With NFP we could not ignore how God made us—as a man and a woman.

NFP helped us understand the relationship that God designed between the marital act and procreation. It has made us “open to life.” It even brought our last two children into the family!

The gift of self

In using NFP over the years, both my husband and I now see that we give ourselves to each other fully in the marital act. For us, the idea of contraception has become almost vulgar. It cheapens the marital act. Contraception seems to say: “I love you, honey, but I don't love you THAT much.”

NFP also guards against the objectification of the woman in the relationship.

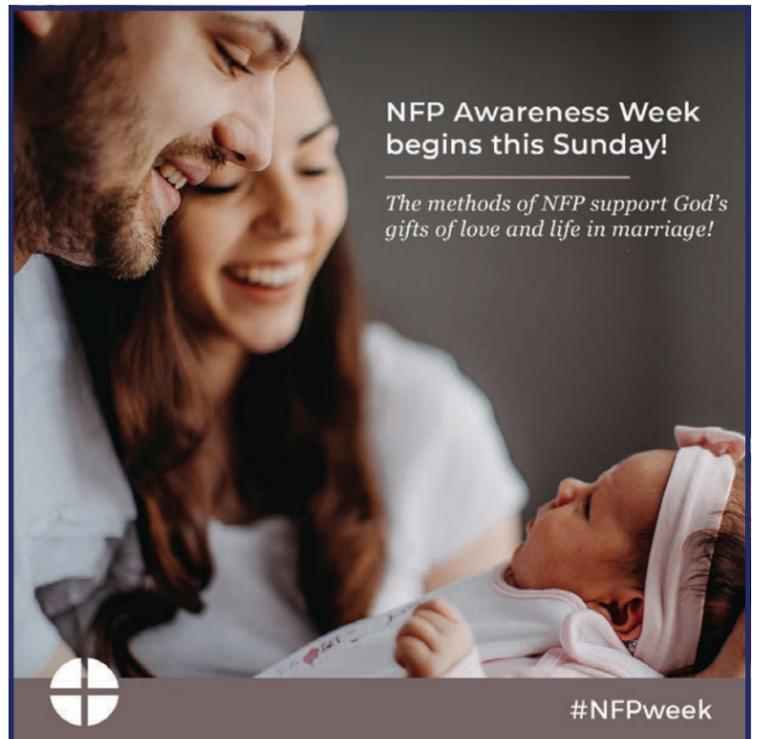
Contraception often keeps the woman in a defensive position because it allows “intimacy on demand.” NFP does not allow this because of the practice of periodic abstinence when not seeking a pregnancy. A deeper equality between husband and wife can be nurtured with NFP. NFP begins the process of this awareness.

Growing together in holiness

The sacrifices that NFP entails have only served to make me a better person and more devoted to the Lord. Without knowing it, using contraception promotes the idea that children are a burden.

Children do require lots of work, and pregnancy demands its own set of sacrifices, but NFP has helped me meet these challenges by leading me to the realization that children are God's blessings. I am constantly forced to pray, change, make concessions and find solutions to the selfishness and laziness that come up often when meeting the needs of others.

Today, I am confident that had I not been open to life in the practice of NFP, I would not have needed to



depend on God, and not have grown as a person. This growth benefits my family and the people I meet in everyday life.

Jesus calls us to serve others. Marriage and parenthood are ways we can immediately apply this call in our lives. NFP has led me to be more open to life, more aware of God's design for intimacy in marriage, more dependent on him to fulfill these plans. It has strengthened my relationship with my husband, given me personal insight, and it has given our children life!

(Dawn and her husband Ariel Farias have four children and live in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Farias, Dawn, “How Natural Family Planning Changed My Life,” NFPP/US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC: USSCB, 2011. Used with permission. Graphics courtesy of the USSCB.) †

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Glenn Adams
317-724-6741
Glenn.Adams@kofc.org



Jeremiah Blossom
812-212-7715
Jeremiah.Blossom@kofc.org



Chad Jasper
317-650-5751
Chad.Jasper@kofc.org



Bob Kelly
317-966-4533
Bob.Kelly@kofc.org



Greg Mark
317-250-8082
Greg.Mark@kofc.org



Timothy Martin
765-374-9102
Timothy.Martin@kofc.org



Harold Smith
765-276-8386
Harold.Smith@kofc.org



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General Agent
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StackowiczAgencymail@kofc.org



Jeffrey Goralczyk
Assistant General Agent
574-282-1082
Jeffery.Goralczyk@kofc.org



Knights of Columbus®

MASS

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overseeing the implementation of the new rules.

In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI issued "*Summorum Pontificum*" on the use of the pre-Vatican II Roman liturgy. It said any priest of the Church's Latin Rite may, without any further permission from the Vatican or from his bishop, celebrate the "extraordinary form" of the Mass according to the rite published in 1962. The *Roman Missal* based on the reforms of the Second Vatican Council was published in 1969.

The conditions Pope Benedict set out for use of the old rite were that there was a desire for it, that the priest knows the rite and Latin well enough to celebrate in a worthy manner, and that he ensures that the good of parishioners desiring the extraordinary form "is harmonized with the ordinary pastoral care of the parish, under the governance of the bishop in accordance with Canon 392, avoiding discord and favoring the unity of the whole Church."

The now-retired pope also insisted that Catholics celebrating predominantly according to the old rite acknowledge the

validity of the new Mass and accept the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

In his letter to bishops, Pope Francis said that responses to a survey of the world's bishops carried out last year by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith "reveal a situation that preoccupies and saddens me and persuades me of the need to intervene. Regrettably, the pastoral objective of my predecessors, who had intended 'to do everything possible to ensure that all those who truly possessed the desire for unity would find it possible to remain in this unity or to rediscover it anew,' has often been seriously disregarded.

"Ever more plain in the words and attitudes of many is the close connection between the choice of celebrations according to the liturgical books prior to Vatican Council II, and the rejection of the Church and her institutions in the name of what is called the 'true Church,'" Pope Francis wrote.

To promote the unity of the Church, Pope Francis said, bishops should care for those Catholics "who are rooted in the previous form of celebration" while helping them "return in due time" to the celebration of Mass according to the new missal.

The pope also indicated he believed that sometimes parishes and communities

devoted to the older liturgy were the idea of the priests involved and not the result of a group of Catholic faithful desiring to celebrate that Mass.

Pope Francis asked bishops "to discontinue the erection of new personal parishes tied more to the desire and wishes of individual priests than to the real need of the 'holy people of God.'"

However, he also said that many people find nourishment in more solemn celebrations of Mass, so he asked bishops "to be vigilant in ensuring that every liturgy be celebrated with decorum and fidelity to the liturgical books promulgated after Vatican Council II, without the eccentricities that can easily degenerate into abuses."

The liturgical life of the Church has changed and developed through the centuries, the pope noted.

"St. Paul VI, recalling that the work of adaptation of the *Roman Missal* had already been initiated by Pius XII, declared that the revision of the *Roman Missal*, carried out in the light of ancient liturgical sources, had the goal of permitting the Church to raise up, in the variety of languages, 'a single and identical prayer' that expressed her unity," Pope Francis said. "This unity I intend to re-establish throughout the Church of the Roman Rite." †



Father C. Ryan McCarthy elevates the Eucharist during an April 16 Mass at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis that was celebrated according to the *Roman Missal* in use before the Second Vatican Council. Pope Francis on July 16 restored limits on the celebration of such Masses. Father McCarthy is pastor of Holy Rosary Parish. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Advocates: Ruling against DACA must push Congress to act

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Catholic immigration advocates are urging Congress and President Joe Biden to speed up legislation to protect immigrants after a federal judge ruled on July 16 to end a program that prevents the deportation of thousands of immigrants brought into the U.S. illegally as children.

These groups immediately took to social media to respond to the decision by U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen, who said the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, was illegal.

His ruling, which plaintiffs plan to appeal, bars the government from approving any new applications to the program, but leaves it open for current participants.

The decision means that "tens of thousands of people who applied but had their initial cases stuck in limbo due to crisis-level processing delays ... will not receive life-altering protection from deportation or stability, security, opportunity," tweeted Lisa Parisio, director of advocacy for Catholic Legal Immigration Network, or CLINIC.

"We must meet this moment, and we must all make it impossible for Congress not to deliver. This is way past enough," she said on July 16 of the "politically motivated,

inhumane, morally bankrupt decision."

Hanen ruled in favor of Texas and eight other states that filed suit in 2018 against DACA on the grounds that former President Barack Obama, who created the program by executive order in 2012, did not have the authority to do so because he bypassed Congress.

The states that joined Texas in the lawsuit—Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Carolina and West Virginia—also said the program has been a financial strain.

DACA has enabled about 700,000 qualifying young people, described as Dreamers, to work, go to college, get health insurance, a driver's license and not face deportation. These young adults were brought to the U.S. as children by their parents without legal documentation.

Just last year, the Supreme Court ruled against efforts by the Trump administration to end the program, saying the actions taken to rescind it had been "arbitrary and capricious." A federal judge at the end of last year also ordered the Trump administration to fully restore DACA.

In response to the Supreme Court's ruling, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) urged

President Donald J. Trump to "strongly reconsider terminating DACA," and they also urged U.S. senators to "immediately pass legislation that provides a path to citizenship" for Dreamers, stressing that this kind of "permanent legislative protection" is long overdue.

Advocates had similar pleas after Hanen's ruling. "Texas does not have the right to dictate federal immigration policy or to upend the lives of hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients. Congress and the President must act decisively and swiftly to enact lasting protections for Dreamers, including a pathway to citizenship," tweeted Hope Border Institute on July 16.

Similarly, the Cabrini Immigrant Services of New York tweeted: "We demand that Congress and @POTUS take immediate action to provide a pathway to citizenship. We cannot wait any longer. There are NO excuses."

Biden pledged to protect DACA in his presidential campaign, and he has since proposed legislation that would provide immigrants with a pathway to citizenship. DACA supporters have long insisted that it's up to Congress to pass legislation that would provide Dreamers with permanent relief. †

HYDE

continued from page 1

a disservice to our constituents. We are finally doing what is right for our mothers, our families and our communities by striking this discriminatory amendment once and for all."

DeLauro, like Biden, is a Catholic who supports keeping abortion legal.

Jennifer Popik, legislative director of National Right to Life, cited data showing that Hyde has "saved over 2 million American lives" since 1976.

"The Hyde Amendment has proven to be the greatest domestic abortion-reduction measure ever enacted by Congress," she added in a statement.

Also missing from the appropriations bills was Weldon Amendment language to protect the conscience rights of medical providers and prevent them from being forced to participate in an abortion.

Rep. Andy Harris, R-Md., who is Catholic, told the committee members: "I will tell you as a practicing physician, the Weldon Amendment is incredibly important at protecting people with deeply held conscience and religious beliefs from being forced to participate in something they don't agree with."

Another Catholic member of Congress, Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., issued a statement on July 15 lamenting the move by House Democrats to break from the decades of bipartisan consensus on Hyde "to advance legislation that would force U.S. taxpayers to pay for abortion on demand."

The majority of the American people remain opposed to forcing taxpayers to fund elective abortion, said Smith.

"Polling consistently shows that a

majority of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion—nearly six in 10," he said, citing a recent Marist poll. "Another eight in 10 Americans think laws can protect both the well-being of a woman and the health of her unborn child."

Smith, who is co-chair of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, and many other pro-life leaders have noted how Biden as a senator always supported the Hyde Amendment.

In a 1994 letter to a constituent, he said that "on no fewer than 50 occasions," he had voted against federal funding of abortions. "Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them," he said. In a 2007 memoir, he similarly stated he was against federal funding of abortion.

In June 2019, Biden declared he no longer supported the Hyde Amendment. *The New York Times* quoted him as saying: "If I believe health care is a right, as I do, I can no longer support an amendment that makes that right dependent on someone's ZIP code. I can't justify leaving millions of women without access to the care they need, and the ability to exercise their constitutionally protected right."

The "ZIP code" reference was in relation to his opposition to the efforts in a number of states to enact restrictions on abortion.

Smith is the author of the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2021, or H.R. 18, which would make Hyde and similar provisions permanent. He has 166 co-sponsors.

On June 23, in a late afternoon vote, all 218 Democrats in the House approved a procedural "previous question" motion that prevented the House from debating and voting on the measure. The Republican

vote against the motion was 209.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) committee chairman, individual bishops, the head of the Catholic Health Association and several other pro-life organizations have called on Americans to write to their members of Congress demanding the Hyde Amendment be included in spending bills.

The USCCB's Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities is asking Catholics and all "people of goodwill" to sign an online petition, www.notaxpayerabortion.com, urging Congress not to let federal funds be used to pay for abortions. The petition, "Save Hyde. Save Lives," will be sent to members of Congress and staff. As of late on July 16, the petition had 121,000 signatures. †

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Corrections Corner/Richard Hoying

Prison ministry helps those incarcerated make spiritual connection

I have visited prisoners at the U.S. Penitentiary in Terre Haute for the past 18 months. The largest surprises have come in what these visits teach me about myself. Among these, I would not have known that I had any ability to discuss aspects of the personal spiritual journeys of the prisoners.



Reggie is 29 years old and has been incarcerated for nearly all of the time after he was 16, the last eight years in Terre Haute. On our last visit, Reggie introduced me to the street phrase: “jumped off the porch,” meaning “started hustling in the streets.” Reggie “jumped off the porch” at age 12 when “home” for his mother, brother and sister was a Pontiac Grand Am.

I share this background so that readers might understand the obstacles Reggie has faced in coming to his present spiritual “maturity,” following Muslim prayer and religious practices. During our April visit, in the middle of Ramadan, Reggie was genuinely joyful that this time of sacrifice

(only cold cereal before dawn and cold prison food leftovers after dusk, no TV, etc.) had brought him closer to God than he had ever been.

We hear about such joy in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 6, but I can’t say that I had previously witnessed this in anyone. Reggie also told me of his increased reverence in prayer, saying, “I pray to let God know that I’m here.”

John was raised Catholic. Since coming to Terre Haute (after stints in state prisons), he has actively taken part in the programs that are available. He will soon graduate from one of the programs. Perhaps I shouldn’t have been surprised, but he told me of “spiritual care” dimensions of the prison program.

He was particularly thankful for the spiritual guidance provided by Providence Sister Dorothy in leading a part of the course of study. Through John, I’ve come to appreciate just how meaningful “Catholic witness” and “Catholic prayer” are to him as an individual.

At this difficult time in his life, he is truly being fed through his book of daily devotions, through his continued correspondence with a deacon he met in

state prison, and through the ministers at Terre Haute. My conversations with John remind me of the spirituality and mindfulness available to us as Catholics, if we get away from our distractions and seek him.

In her book, *Waiting for an Echo: The Madness of American Incarceration*, Dr. Christine Montross describes the lengths to which those in solitary confinement go to make connection with their fellow prisoners. As a volunteer visitor, I hope I can provide prisoners with a human connection to someone on the “outside.”

Another prisoner, George, calls the visits “a short time on an island” inside the prison. But I’ve also come to appreciate the spiritual connection that these men have shared. It would seem that forgiveness and redemption reside at that interface of human and spiritual connection.

Perhaps we volunteers can play a small part in assisting those in prison ministry make those connections.

(Richard Hoying is a member of the archdiocesan Corrections Ministry Advisory Committee and a member of St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville.) †

For the Journey/

Effie Caldarola

Standing with those on the margins

This story happened many years ago. Some of the principal actors in this story are dead.



My husband was the director of Catholic Social Services in the archdiocese where we then lived.

We were attending a social event, and a Catholic woman who had long served as a foster mom both for the state and the

Catholic agency approached my husband. Helen had taken care of a multitude of babies, many of whom were on their way to adoption. But now she had a problem.

She was caring for a tiny baby who had hydrocephalus, a buildup of fluid around the brain. Today, early treatment often results in a long life span, but this baby had many profound issues, and Helen was concerned about his survival. She wanted him baptized.

She had approached her pastor, who told her that much paperwork would be involved. The mother, who had abandoned the child but not legally relinquished, would have to be located to give consent.

In general, this is a good rule. Initiating someone into a religious group is a parent’s right. But in this case, that presented a bureaucratic and logistical nightmare, if not an impossibility. The baby, Helen felt, needed to be baptized now.

My husband said, “Let’s ask Steve,” pointing across the room toward the priest who would soon be the vicar general for the archdiocese. He was also, like us, a former Jesuit volunteer, and a good friend.

Steve didn’t hesitate. “Bring the baby to the chancery on Friday,” he told Helen. There was a Mass for chancery employees every Friday, held in a small conference room and usually sparsely attended.

On Friday, I drove downtown for the baptism. The conference room was packed, the chancery community wanting to be part of this. Helen was the godmother, my husband the godfather.

My memories are vague. But what I do remember has lived with me for a long time.

“In the eyes of the world,” Father Steve told us, “this child means nothing. But in the eyes of God and of our Church, this child is precious and valued.”

I do remember many people cried. On my refrigerator hangs a card with the picture of Jakelin Caal Maquin, who was 7 years old when she died of sepsis after being taken into U.S. custody following her journey from her native Guatemala. Many times, cleaning up, I’ve thought about tossing the picture in recycling. But I can’t, because the priest’s words linger. In the eyes of the world, this child meant nothing.

But to us, Jakelin is precious. So are those considering the tragedy of abortion because they have no access to good health care for themselves and their babies. Precious are those on death row, and the homeless, so prevalent in a country where some of the wealthiest pay little or no tax.

If we, the Church, follow Jesus, these should be our concerns.

Jesus lived at the margins with lepers, prostitutes, tax collectors, and a woman a bunch of self-righteous men wanted to stone. He died between two thieves. Jesus, like Father Steve, wanted us to understand that God’s plan for the kingdom on Earth, the beloved community, ran counter to so much of what the world promotes and values.

With Jesus, we attempt to stand at the margins with the abandoned, the unwanted, the desperate and the unwelcomed.

(Effie Caldarola writes for Catholic News Service.) †

Love’s Litmus/Natalie Hoefler

Grandmother’s kind act encourages granddaughter’s interest, faith

The gift was given on no special day and for no particular reason.

It was not a large gift, either—just a simple, spiralbound notebook, the kind available at any grocery or drug store.



Rosemary Stader sat down at the kitchen table next to me, her then 10-year-old granddaughter.

“I know you like to write, so I thought I would get a little something for you to write in,” she said, sliding the new, green-covered notebook over to me.

“You have a gift for writing,” she added. “That’s something that comes from God.”

So write what’s in your heart, but remember that your heart and your gifts come from God.”

I thanked her and immediately took the notebook and a pen outside. I sat against a tree, crossed my legs and opened the notebook, excited to see that first vacant white page, waiting to be filled with words of my own crafting.

But words had already been scrawled upon that first page, right in the middle!

It was a message from my grandma:

“God made Natalie to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him, so that she may be happy forever with Him in Heaven,” it read.

Later I would learn those words had come from the *Baltimore Catechism*, which by that time was no longer taught in religious education in Catholic schools.

I filled that notebook from cover to cover. I went on to fill many more notebooks with journal entries, reflections, poems, stories and conversations with God.

“Love is kind,” says Paul in 1 Cor 13:4. My grandma’s kind act encouraged not only my love for writing, but also sealed for me who was the source of that love and for whom I should use that literal love.

Forty-some years later, I feel so blessed to use God’s gift of writing in service of his Church by writing for *The Criterion*.

I still have that notebook and all that was in my 10-year-old’s heart written within its pages.

And my heart still carries that ever-important message from my grandma, who died in 2014. I still call upon it today as a reminder of all that is important in this life: to know, love and serve God—using the gifts he gave me—so that I may live forever in his eternal loving presence.

(Send your stories of people you know who live out love as described by St. Paul in 1 Cor 13:4-7 to Natalie Hoefler at nhoefer@archindy.org, or call 317-236-1486 or 800-932-9836, ext. 1486. Include your parish and a daytime phone number where you may be reached.) †

Living Well/Maureen Pratt

Simple action is a powerful ‘hook’ to evangelize and grow the Church

My trusty 2000 Toyota Camry with less than 70,000 miles attracts a lot of attention and even unsolicited offers to buy. However, what



people often find most compelling is not the car’s great condition or low mileage, but two simple hooks that came with the car when it was new.

Sturdy and nicely sized, the hooks are bolted on either side of the inside of the trunk. They can hold very heavy bags, keeping contents secure, and are, according to others, quite unusual.

The hooks remind me of other, different kinds, which surfaced in the work I did for my final synthesis paper for a master of theological studies at the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University, which I completed in May.

Then, I studied how the Church acted and reacted during four past pandemics and what we might glean from today’s pandemic and its aftermath.

I don’t have much space to go into the details (books are on the way!), but one thing does stand out: Simple, Christian action has been a powerful “hook” to evangelize and grow the Church.

In the pandemic of around 160, for

example, the early Church was mostly considered an outlying cult on the margins of the polytheistic pagan society. Roman military action exposed troops to smallpox, and it caught and burned throughout the empire.

Christians were among those blamed for the resulting devastation. Persecuted, killed, many of our early brothers and sisters in Christ paid the ultimate price for professing faith in Jesus during that time.

Yet, as the pandemic raged and “traditional” physicians fled, the Christians were noted for their unwavering, courageous, compassionate care to the sick, dead and dying.

From their actions, which included sheltering suffering pagans and Christians, the seeds of what are now hospitals were sown. And, very astounding, despite the persecution and marginalization, the Church grew!

There are many more stories from the past that might inspire and inform us today. The simple dedication to loving in the name of Christ despite societal persecution and a terrible scourge is, I think, important for us as we gather again in our faith communities.

In many parishes, it is a time of financial uncertainty, loss and a desire to rebuild. We might worry about programs that need staffing or have too small

budgets. We might worry that we don’t have enough “bells and whistles” to attract others, or whether technology will be the answer to effective evangelization.

The early Church grew despite having no money, no acceptance in the broader society and very little infrastructure.

Instead, what brought people to the faith in the aftermath of smallpox in the late second century was what I might call a “hook of the heart”—the compelling action of the Holy Spirit sparking through Christians acting for others suffering from a terrible, disfiguring disease, despite persecution and other tremendous obstacles.

From simple, powerful faith in action, amazing blessings flowed.

Our world is very different today than in 160. Our Church is larger, global in diversity, breadth and depth.

But like the time-tested hooks in my car’s trunk that still delight and draw, the centuries-deep, heart-full work of Christians inspires now as then, inviting us to look, see and draw near without fear that we lack enough to grow.

Rather, with fearless faith, we have everything we need.

(Maureen Pratt writes for Catholic News Service. Her website is www.maureenpratt.com.) †

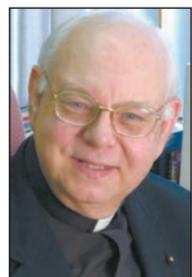
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, July 25, 2021

- 2 Kings 4:42-44
- Ephesians 4:1-6
- John 6:1-15

The Second Book of Kings is the source of the first reading for Mass this weekend. The two books of Kings originally were one



volume. At one point in the development of the Bible, they were divided into two books.

These two books are historical, but their purpose was religious. They attempted to look through the reigns of the kings and proclaim the fidelity of God to

the nation. Thus, prophets, who spoke for God, were prominent in these books.

This weekend's reading does not even mention a king. Instead, it recalls the life of the prophet Elisha. As an act of faith in and homage to God, a devout man brought the first produce of the harvest to Elisha as a gift to God. This produce was in the form of 20 barley loaves.

Elisha accepted the offering, but told the man to distribute the loaves among the people, who numbered 100. The man of course doubted that only 20 loaves would suffice for so many people. Nevertheless, the man complied.

Rather than being insufficient, the loaves were plentiful enough to satisfy the crowd.

For its second reading, the Church this weekend presents a passage from St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians.

This epistle was directed to the Christian community of Ephesus in the first century. It was a major city in the Roman Empire and an important port on the coast of what is now Turkey on the Aegean Sea.

Crowning the city was the magnificent temple of Diana, the Roman goddess. Throngs came as pilgrims to this great pagan shrine. Ephesian Christians were surrounded by intense pagan fervor and sinfulness as well.

Understandably, Paul called upon these Christians to be strong in faith and not to yield to the temptations that most certainly overwhelmed the city.

St. John's Gospel furnishes the last reading. In this story, Jesus encountered a crowd on the shore of the Sea of Galilee near the ancient and still thriving city of Tiberias. The Gospel pointedly notes that Passover was near.

The crowd was hungry. The Apostle Philip approached Jesus with this fact. Another Apostle, Andrew, noticed that a boy had five barley loaves and a few fish. Jesus instructed the Apostles to distribute these loaves and fish among the crowd, numbering 5,000.

Before this distribution, the Lord blessed this food.

The five loaves and few fish, obviously meager given the number of hungry people, satisfied the multitude. Indeed, after all had had their full, an abundance remained.

Daily Readings

Monday, July 26

SS. Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34
Psalm 106:19-23
Matthew 13:31-35

Tuesday, July 27

Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28
Psalm 103:6-13
Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday, July 28

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99:5-7, 9
Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday, July 29

St. Martha
Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38
Psalm 84:3-6a, 8a, 11
John 11:19-27
or *Luke 10:38-42*

Friday, July 30

St. Peter Chrysologus, bishop and doctor of the Church
Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37
Psalm 81:3-6, 10-11b
Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday, July 31

St. Ignatius of Loyola, priest
Leviticus 25:1, 8-17
Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 7-8
Matthew 14:1-12

Sunday, August 1

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15
Psalm 78:3-4, 23-25, 54
Ephesians 4:17, 20-24
John 6:24-35

Reflection

The Church reassures us this weekend. God is never distant from us, unless we willfully distance ourselves from him by our own selfishness and sin. God is with us today in Jesus, the risen Lord.

God gives us life and all that we need to maintain life. We are not left to struggle as best we can.

In Second Kings and in the Gospel, people were hungry and unable to meet their needs on their own. God magnificently entered the story in each case. All had their fill.

The connection between Jesus and the Apostles, and their role in salvation, is

clear. The Apostles, through the Church, still bear our concerns to Jesus and still convey to us all the blessings of the Lord.

Links between this event in John and the Eucharist are many. First, bread is food. Food is vital for life. Secondly, the gathering of the people on the shore in this story occurred near Passover. The Eucharist is the great Passover meal.

Next, Jesus gave thanks, the same gesture that appears in all the accounts of the Last Supper.

Finally, all partook in the Lord's gift of this food and were completely satisfied. And much was left over, revealing the lavishness of God's love and mercy. †

My Journey to God

I Ask My Grandmother to Teach Me to Sew

By Julianna Connelly

She raises the fibrous fabric in her left hand and shimmies it under the presser foot, careful to push away my fingers aching to help until I "know the difference between the presser foot and the foot pedal."

Her lithe hands splay across the cotton clasping it steady as a rock, careful not to pull it too taut yet snug enough for the stitches to hold true.

My nose tickles in preparation to sneeze, but I press my tongue to the roof of my mouth, like my brother taught me, and recite "watermelon" three times to convince my nose to hold in its blow. I refuse to miss even one second of her tutorial.

In one second, the thread could get jammed in the spool or come loose from the needle's eye, and if I sneeze now, I'll have no clue how to re-thread it just right.

Her crinkled eyes smile at me as she says, "From the spool pin around this series of hooks, pulled down and through the needle. That's how you thread the sewing machine."

With a slight shift of the fabric to keep it from bunching up, I tap the foot pedal and still feel her hands on mine, guiding me through how to stitch up my life.

(Julianna Connelly is a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis.)

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Church sees no conflict between theory of evolution and story of Adam and Eve

QHow is one to accept the story of Adam and Eve, if one believes in evolution? (Kentucky)



AThere is no conflict between the biblical story of Adam and Eve and the acceptance of the scientific theory of evolution. The first human bodies may well have been the product of the ordinary evolutionary

process. But a Catholic is compelled to believe that the first human souls were created directly by God.

So, concerning biological evolution, the Church does not have a definitive position on whether various life forms developed over the course of time. But if that was the case, then they did so under the impetus and the guidance of God. Furthermore, the observation of Pope Pius XII in his 1950 encyclical "*Humani Generis*" still carries weight:

"The faithful cannot embrace that opinion which maintains that ... Adam represents a certain number of first parents. Now it is in no way apparent how such an opinion can be reconciled with that which ... the documents of the teaching authority of the Church propose with regard to original sin, which proceeds from a sin actually committed by an individual Adam" (#37).

And so the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says: "The account of the fall in Genesis 3 uses figurative language, but

affirms a primeval event, a deed that took place at the beginning of the history of man. Revelation gives us the certainty of faith that the whole of human history is marked by the original fault freely committed by our first parents" (#390).

QI enjoy reading murder mysteries. I like seeing how the detectives work through the clues to solve their cases. Many of these stories contain graphic violence and sexual elements in these crimes.

Is it a serious sin to read these types of stories? When I ponder this, I recall that even the Old Testament has very similar instances. (Kansas)

AI suspect, by the fact that you even raise the question, that you are committing no sin in reading murder mysteries. The key question has to do with why you are reading these books. If you were reading them to glory in the violence or to focus on and take pleasure in the sexual descriptions, then that would certainly be a concern.

But you have told me that your interest, instead, is to guess and observe how the detectives will weigh the clues. Here is what you might do: If you are unsure about your motives in reading such mysteries, you might consult with a priest or a spiritual counselor to help you sort that out. But my guess would be that you are doing nothing wrong.

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

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry. E-mail submissions for consideration—including name, address, parish and a telephone number—to nhoefler@archindy.org. Poems may also be mailed to "My Journey to God," The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Please note, however, that mailed submissions will not receive a reply unless the piece is selected for publication. †

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.

BAURLEY, Linda, 72, St. Charles Borromeo, Milan, April 22. Wife of Raymond Baurley. Mother of Jane Lieland and Kate Stock. Grandmother of six.

ESTER, Donald, 91, St. Charles Borromeo, Milan, June 19. Husband of Rita Ester. Father of Heidi Becker, Gretchen Hooker, Don Paul and Eric Ester. Grandfather of 10. Great-grandfather of eight.

FENTON, Carolyn Ann, 80, St. Joseph, Shelbyville, June 23. Wife of David Fenton. Mother of Bonnie Reaves, Peggy Russo and Christopher Fenton. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of 13.

HOUGHLAND, Steven M., 71, St. Boniface, Fulda, June 24. Husband of Judy Houghland. Father of Lydia Baker and Braden Houghland. Son of Elsie Houghland. Brother of Linda Rogier, Charles and Karl Houghland. Grandfather of two.

JACKSON, Larry L., 75, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, June 28. Husband of Judith Jackson. Father of Sarah McKelvie, Maggie Norris, Beth Parkhurst, Andrew and Ben Jackson. Brother of Denise Gibbens, Sharon McDonald, Joanna Zaharako and Steve Jackson. Grandfather of 14.

MAYER, Roger, 77, St. Charles Borromeo, Milan, June 12. Husband of Janice Mayer. Father of Cheryl Pence, Christopher, Daniel and Kevin Mayer. Grandfather of six. Great-grandfather of five.

MCANDREWS, Edna, 96, St. Gabriel the Archangel, Indianapolis, March 26. Mother of Monica and Patrick McAndrews. Sister of Helen

Wilson and Edward Lavin. Grandmother of four.
MEISBERGER, Patrick J., 76, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Indianapolis, June 30. Husband of Alice Meisberger. Father of Becky Carey and Angie Williams. Brother of Delores Otto and Betty Perry. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of three.

MORAND, John T., 64, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, June 30. Husband of Julia Morand. Father of Timothy Morand. Stepfather of Erin and Kelly Grube and Amanda and David Krutz. Brother of Judith Fink, Dennis and Patrick Morand. Grandfather of five.

MULLIS, Joseph, 90, St. Boniface, Fulda, June 25. Husband of Mary Alice Mullis. Father of Jackie Bozarth, Cheryl Hanloh, Peggy Wendholt, Gene, James and Randy Mullis. Brother of Esther Klee, Mary Ann Troesch, Leroy and Oscar Mullis. Grandfather of 13. Great-grandfather of four. Great-great-grandfather of four.

NORTHAM, Ann, 72, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, June 10. Wife of Stephen Northam. Mother of Katie Koch and Tracy Northam. Sister of Helen Lyons, Alice Taylor and Robert Gorey. Grandmother of three.

OKERSON, Kathleen P., 89, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, June 25. Wife of Raymond Okerson. Mother of Theresa Hadley, Dave, Jim, Joe, John, Kevin, Paul and Tom Okerson. Grandmother of 18. Great-grandmother of 15.

OLSON, Jacqueline A., 73, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, June 7. Wife of Charles Olson. Sister of Mary Ulmer and Robert Weber. Aunt of several.

PENN, John D., 76, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, June 20. Husband of Carol Penn. Brother of Mary Ann Rolando and Dale Madelans. Uncle of several.

PRZYBYLSKI, Leo, 93, Christ the King, Indianapolis, June 21. Father of Carol Kappes, Marian Stout, Gerald, John and Lawrence Przybylski. Brother of Elaine Maurie. Grandfather of six. Great-grandfather of three.

REED, William, 86, Holy Family, New Albany, June 23. Husband of Mary Ann Reed. Father of Mary Williams, Kevin, Robert, Stephen and William Reed. Grandfather of 11. Great-grandfather of five.

Holy Father expresses closeness with Cuban people as unrest continues

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis expressed his closeness to the people of Cuba a week after protests erupted on the island nation.

In his first public appearance after his release from Gemelli hospital, the pope told pilgrims in



Pope Francis

St. Peter's Square on July 18 that he was "near to the dear Cuban people in these difficult moments, in particular to those families suffering the most."

"I pray that the Lord might help the nation construct a society that is more and more just and fraternal through peace, dialogue and solidarity," he said, as a large group of pilgrims in the square held Cuban flags.

The pope encouraged the people of Cuba to entrust themselves to the maternal protection of the island's patroness, Our Lady of Charity, who "will accompany them on this journey."

Thousands of Cubans in Havana and elsewhere took to the streets on July 11 to protest economic hardships, lack of basic freedoms and the Cuban government's handling of the coronavirus outbreak, making for what some have described as the most significant unrest in decades.

Since the protests, the government reportedly has responded by arresting people, including clergy, not only on the streets but also in their homes. There was at least one confirmed death after police shot a man taking part in the anti-government protest.

In response to the recent events in Cuba, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Ill., chairman of the USCCB's Committee on International Justice

and Peace, said in a July 19 statement, "As protests continue in Cuba and among the diaspora in the United States, we would like to express our solidarity, as well as that of our brother bishops in the United States, with our brothers in the Cuban episcopate, and with all men and women of goodwill in Cuba."

"As the Cuban bishops declared in their July 12 statement, 'A favorable solution will not be reached by impositions, nor by calling for confrontation, but through mutual listening, where common agreements are sought and concrete and tangible steps are taken that contribute, with the contribution of all Cubans without exception, to the building-up of the Fatherland.'"

The USCCB statement continued, "In the same spirit as the Cuban bishops, we urge the United States to seek the peace that comes from reconciliation and concord between our countries. For decades, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, in conjunction with the Holy See and the Cuban bishops, has called for robust cultural and commercial engagement between the United States and Cuba as the means to assist the island in achieving greater prosperity and social transformation."

Before praying the *Angelus*, the pope reflected on the Sunday Gospel reading in which Jesus shows concern for his disciples and "their physical and interior tiredness" after returning from preaching.

Jesus does this, the pope said, to make them aware of the danger of being "caught up in the frenzy of doing things, falling into the trap of activism where what is most important are the results that we obtain and the feeling of being absolute protagonists."

"How many times this happens in the Church: we are busy, we run around, we think that everything depends on us and, in the end, we risk neglecting Jesus and we always make ourselves the center," he said. †

ROBISON, Stanley E., 66, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, July 1. Husband of Marge Robison. Father of Sarah Davis and Daniel Robison. Brother of Scott, Shawn and Steve Robison.

ROSALES, Salvador, 46, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, June 13. Husband of Clara Rosales. Father of Araceli, Isabella, Arturo, Edwardo and Salvador Rosales, Jr. Brother of Teresa Perez, Raquel, Gerardo, Javier and Miguel Rosales. Grandfather of two.

ROWE, James D., 81, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, June 29. Husband of Janet Rowe. Father of Debbie Fellmeth, Donna Nihiser, Angie Roucoulet and John Rowe. Brother of Barb Presley. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of two.

SEIFRIED, Donna, 78, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville, June 11. Wife of William Seifried. Mother of Lisa Kessinger, Bryan, Douglas, Gregory and Jeffery Seifried. Sister of Jolene Gordine, Janice Rogers, David, Michael and Robert Walsh. Grandmother of 11.

SILVA GALLEGOS, Remigio, 78, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, June 4. Husband of Marie de Jesus Rodriguez de Silva. Father of Maria Guadalupe Salinas, Erika Saldivar, Patricia Villegas

Orozco, Abel, Arnulfo, Heriberto, Jose, Mario, Salvador and Saul Silva.

STEINER, Mary Lou, 76, St. Michael, Brookville, June 26. Sister of Ed Joe, Fred, Henry, Patrick and Ronald Steiner. Aunt of several.

STENGER, Edward, 77, St. Michael, Brookville, June 21. Husband of Kathy Stenger. Father of Susie AIDulijan, Jenny Kent, MaryKay Nobbe and Jim Stenger. Brother of Janet Bedel, Marge Wietlisbach and Gerry Buckler. Grandfather of 20.

STRYKOWSKI, Anna M., 79, St. Jude, Indianapolis, July 1. Wife of Robert Strykowski. Mother of Chris and Steven Strykowski and John Zautcke. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of three.

TETRICK, Sr., Richard L., 89, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, June 9. Father of David

and Richard Tetric, Jr. Grandfather of eight.

TORRES, Isidro, 79, St. Anthony, Indianapolis, June 30. Husband of Laura Torres. Father of Diana, Isidro, Jr., Jaime, Jesse, Jose, Liborio, Mario and Oscar Torres. Grandfather of 19.

TURNER, Edna, 87, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, June 24. Wife of Howard Turner. Mother of Krista Mann, Diana Nall, Karen Rohe, Jane Selvidge, Anna Stuckey, Howard and Mark Turner. Sister of John, Melvin and Robert DuVall. Grandmother of 16. Great-grandmother of seven.

VOLZ, Donald E., 79, Holy Family, Oldenburg, June 22. Husband of Judy Volz. Father of Mindy Meyer, Tim Meer, Andy, Brent and Daniel Volz. Brother of Dick Volz. Grandfather of 13. Great-grandfather of 15

WEATHERS, Thomas L., 78, St. Mary, Navilleton, July 1. Husband of Linda Weathers. Father of Lee Ann Smith, Lindsay, Anthony, Thomas III and Timothy Weathers. Brother of Joseph Weathers. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of nine.

WEIL, Dr. Robert, 84, St. Charles Borromeo, Milan, June 12. Husband of Marilyn Weil. Father of Emily Buchanan, Stephenie Cook and Leah Meinders. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of seven.

WUEBBOLT, Louis G., 88, St. Michael, Brookville, June 6. Husband of Margaret Wuebbolt. Father of Jeanmarie Baxter, June Ann Hyde, Jeff and Jerome Wuebbolt. Grandfather of 14. Great-grandfather of five.

ZUK, Helena (Dyczkowska), 92, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, June 25. Mother of Maria Mastalerz and Leszek Zuk. Grandmother of two. Great-grandmother of two. †

Ursuline Sister Dolorita Lutsie served in Catholic schools in Clarksville

Ursuline Sister Dolorita Lutsie, a member of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, died on July 13 at Twinbrook Assisted Living in Louisville, Ky. She was 89.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 21 at the Motherhouse Chapel in Louisville. Burial followed in St. Michael

Cemetery in Louisville in a section designated for the Ursuline Sisters.

Sister Dolorita was born on Feb. 13, 1932, in Allentown, Pa. She entered the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville on July 2, 1953, and professed

perpetual vows on July 4, 1958.

Sister Dolorita earned a bachelor's degree at the former Ursuline College in Louisville and a master's degree at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. She ministered for many decades in Catholic schools in Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and West Virginia.

In the archdiocese, Sister Dolorita served as librarian at Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville from 1983-2003 while also assisting in the school's business office and for its performing arts and athletics programs. She also ministered as a part-time librarian and instructor at St. Anthony of Padua School in Clarksville from 2004-17.

Sister Dolorita is survived by a sister, Helen Lutsie Reynolds of Asheboro, N.C., and brothers John Lutsie of Asheboro, N.C., Larry Lutsie of Morgantown, W.Va., and Michael Lutsie of Anaheim, Calif.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Mission Advancement Office of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, 3115 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY, 40206. †

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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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

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AUNT

continued from page 3

making monthly trips to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods to transport nuns back and forth.

“Aunt Margaret would sometimes take one of us down with her to Saint Meinrad Seminary or to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. In the words of my sister, Maureen, ‘These were places of quiet and natural beauty. I did not have this experience with anyone else in our family.’ I was personally lucky enough that she took me to Father Jim Sweeney’s ordination—a very powerful and moving experience.”

Just as memorable were her routine weekly visits to their homes, including her times as a babysitter, even as she approached the age of 80.

“Why mom and dad would leave a nearly 80-year-old woman with anywhere from six to eight kids is a bit of a mystery, but it worked out. We all loved having her over,” Kavanaugh says.

“For a special treat, one or two of us would spend the night at her house. She always had 7-Up in the refrigerator, and she always insisted that we wash our face first thing in the morning. That was to help us wake up and feel refreshed. Of course, if you spent the night at her house, you knew you would be walking the four blocks over to St. Phillip Neri Church for Mass the next morning.”

A special tribute

The gifts and the lessons she shared even continued in the last stage of her life. Nearing 90, she spent her last seven years in an Indianapolis nursing home where she still maintained her feistiness and her concern for others.

“It was hilarious listening to her talk about the ‘old bittys’ down the hall—many of whom were younger than her. But my brother, Kevin, reminds me of how compassionate she was,” Kavanaugh says. “She reminded him that ‘the old guy in the corner who had severe dementia had previously been president of a local bank. And that woman who was strapped in a chair had been a high school homecoming queen.’”

“She reminded us all that everyone has a story that goes beyond what can be seen on the surface. Sometimes, you just have to look a little closer and listen a little harder.”

Their Aunt Margaret did that and so much more, Kavanaugh says. She left the eight Kavanaugh siblings with a story to remember and savor, the story of an aunt who loved them, looked out for them and set an example for them to live their lives.

Her impact is evident in a special family tribute to her.

“Several family members, spanning at least three generations, honor her by including either Margaret or Gavin—her mother’s maiden name—as middle names,” Kavanaugh says.

“Her legacy continues.” †

Young woman shares a touching tribute to her grandfather

By John Shaughnessy

The tribute pours from the heart of Taylor Roach, showing the impact that a grandparent can have on the life and the faith of a grandchild.

“He has been the best father and grandfather,” Taylor says about her grandfather, Charles Roach. “I couldn’t ask for a better Catholic role model than him. He is a true earthly image of who Jesus has called us to be.

“His devotion to his faith can be seen in his day-to-day interactions, his 58-year marriage to my grandmother, Linda, and through his three faith-filled children—Dawn, Debbie and my father, Chuck. He is kind, patient, generous and giving. As his grandchildren were growing up, he never missed any event that any of us were participating in, whether it was a kindergarten school musical or my cousin’s college football games.”

Taylor’s grandfather has also provided her with the example of how a marriage should be.

“He is fiercely devoted to his wife, and their example of marriage is my gold standard,” Taylor says. “They have set the standard—truly a lofty relationship goal.”



Taylor Roach, her dad, Chuck Roach, and her grandfather, Charles Roach, share a moment of joy. (Submitted photo)

Taylor and her grandfather are both members of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis. She credits her grandfather with shaping and strengthening her own faith.

“My faith would not be as strong as it is today without his guidance and his true example of Christ in my life,” says Taylor, who is 29. “As I get older, I am more and more thankful to have such a strong man of faith in my life.” †

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Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology is seeking a skilled, experienced, and highly motivated Director of Permanent Deacon Formation.

The Director is responsible for managing all aspects of Saint Meinrad’s program. Overseeing the academic formation of permanent deacon candidates in a number of different dioceses. Hire and oversee guest lecturers for the program. Cultivate and negotiate terms of service with new dioceses.

This position could be full-time or part-time. The candidate should have at least a Master’s level degree in a theological field and have knowledge and appreciation of Roman Catholic tradition.

Please send cover letter & resume with references to:

Human Resources Department
Saint Meinrad Archabbey
200 Hill Drive
St. Meinrad, IN 47577

Or email: hr@saintmeinrad.edu

Employment

St. Monica Catholic Church - Director of Music Ministry

Saint Monica Catholic Church is looking for a full time Director of Music Ministry. This person is responsible for the effective preparation, coordination, performance; development of musicians, cantors, and choral groups; and leadership of music within the liturgical celebrations of an intercultural and multi-lingual parish. This person of faith is both a pastoral minister who possesses a vision of how a local Church can develop its potential as an integrated musical community and a professional who holds specialized credentials in music and has a thorough understanding of Roman Catholic liturgy.

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

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

The deadline for priority consideration is August 17th, 2021.

RONCALLI HIGH SCHOOL

Roncalli High School is excited to announce three part-time positions within the Office of Advancement. Given the right candidate, two of these positions could be combined to create one full-time position. Please submit resume by August 7, 2021. Qualified, interested candidates are invited to email a current resume and cover letter to Terese Carson at tcarsen@roncalli.org. Please include at least three references as a part of the resume.

You are the perfect candidate if you are constantly looking ahead, engaging in meaningful conversation, have a passion for Catholic education, and love Roncalli High School. If you are someone who has mastered the art of managing multiple priorities at once, then read on!

The **Director of Special Events** is responsible for the execution of all fund-raising, friend-raising and informational events. The Director of Special Events will coordinate annual fundraising events, such as Circle of Faith Annual Fund Dinner, Walkathon and Celebration Roncalli but will also brainstorm new events that allow us to reach further into our community. We are seeking an individual who is extremely organized and will plan, coordinate and promote all aspects of events.

The **Director of Alumni Relations** is responsible for the development and management of Roncalli’s alumni relations program. The Director of Alumni Relations develops, directs, and maintains relationships with current students as they approach graduation and all alumni of Chartrand, Kennedy, Sacred Heart and Roncalli for the purpose of deepening connections and engaging those constituents with the school and our mission. The Director of Alumni Relations will develop and implement a strategy to grow engagement for alumni and inspire them to give back to the school in meaningful ways.

The **Director of Corporate Relations** is responsible for raising meaningful philanthropic gifts and sponsorship opportunities from businesses and corporations. The Director of Corporate Relations will develop and lead a portfolio of corporate prospects and donors, from identification and qualification to cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship. The Director of Corporate Relations is responsible for increasing Roncalli’s visibility among businesses while actively working to establish long-term partnerships and strengthen existing relationships within the corporate sector.

For more information on each of these positions, please visit <https://www.roncalli.org/about/employment>.

Faith helps guide cyclist on the road to her Olympic dream

By John Shaughnessy

The road ahead is a busy and joyful one for 28-year-old Coryn Rivera, starting with the dream that she has been racing toward since she was 10—representing the United States as an Olympic athlete in the sport she loves, cycling.



Coryn Rivera

Rivera will live that dream on July 25 when she competes in the road race at the Summer Olympics in Tokyo, speeding along a 140-kilometer course—about 87 miles—in pursuit of the gold medal she hopes to capture.

“It’s a huge honor. I’m proud of my country. I’m proud of where I grew up,” says Rivera, a 2015 graduate of Marian University in Indianapolis who lives in Tustin, Calif., where she and her family have been longtime members of St. Thomas More Parish.

“I’ve represented our country at the Junior World Championships, the Pan American Championships and the Pro World Championships, but the Olympics is something special.”

So is the impact that her Catholic faith has had in her life.

“I grew up in a Catholic family, and I’m still practicing,” says Rivera, the daughter of two immigrants from the Philippines who met in the United States. “It’s the backbone of my family. It’s given me guidance. It’s given me hope and faith in what we’re going through. God has always led our family. It’s kept us really strong.”

She and her family have especially relied on that faith since her father, Wally Rivera, died of COVID-19 in March, after being part of the effort to fight the disease as a laboratory scientist. He was the one who introduced her to cycling, rode with her in her early years of the sport, and encouraged her dreams of success.

“As I was getting into cycling, it was mostly me and him,” she recalls. “I started riding when I was 8 or 9. When I was 10, I won a race. That’s when I broke through. I thought, ‘I really want to do this.’”

In the years since, she has thrived in the sport, and is on the short list of the most successful cyclists in



Coryn Rivera says her Catholic faith has been a great influence in her life. (Submitted photo)

the country. When her dream of participating in the 2016 Summer Olympics eluded her, she focused on the Olympics in Tokyo, fulfilling a longtime goal for her that she and her father shared. He had planned to be there to cheer for her in Tokyo.

“It’s always something that’s sad,” she says. “I always try to find the positives of what he’s built for us and made for us. It gives me extra motivation to make him proud.”

While her parents and her family helped shape the person she is, so did her years at Marian, the Catholic university in Indianapolis that is renowned for its cycling success under the direction of coach Dean Peterson.

“I’m grateful for my time at Marian and for Coach Dean,” she says. “At that point in your life, there’s a lot to learn—going from a kid to an adult. It helped shaped

me as an adult. I don’t think I’d be where I am today if I didn’t go through everything I did at Marian.”

She met her future husband—Nate Labecki—at Marian. The couple plan to be married on Oct. 3 at Our Lady, Queen of Angels Church in Newport Beach, Calif. It’s one more great ride to celebrate on the busy and joyful road ahead of her.

Right now, though, the focus is on living her Olympic dream.

“One of my strengths is my mental strength,” she says. “I’ve been at a lot of levels of racing. At the end of the day, you have to remember it’s just another race. I’ll just be focusing on what I love to do and what I’m good at doing. I think my chances are really good.

“I’m pretty elated about going to the Olympics. It’s a dream come true.” †

Dad’s love and a dog’s joy help an Olympian on her ride to glory

By John Shaughnessy

When the interview with Olympic cyclist Felicia Stancil begins, the 26-year-old Indianapolis resident says

it would be great if one particular story could be shared with people.

It’s a story about her and her father Jamie, a former professional BMX racer who introduced her to the sport.

“My mom Samantha passed away when I was 3,” Stancil says. “BMX was my dad’s way of showing his love to me. It’s something we have bonded over our entire life. I started when I was 4. He calls me all the time.”

There’s also another defining story about Stancil, who will represent the United States in the Summer Olympics in Tokyo, with her BMX qualifying race taking place on July 28 before the final is held on July 29.

It’s a story of her toughness.

In late April of her senior year in high school, she was competing in BMX, which she describes as “a 50-second, all-out race” on a dirt track marked by jumps and turns—a race where “there’s not a lot of time to think so you have to make quick decisions and trust yourself.”

During that race, she had a horrendous crash, leaving her with four broken bones, a concussion and a lacerated liver.

“I was rushed into liver surgery right away to stop all the bleeding,” she recalls. “Because I had a concussion, I was awake during the surgery.

“It took two months to fully recover. After a month of training, I went to the world championships in July and won the two races I was in. I never lost my faith in what I could do. My friends and family helped me through that.”

Ever focused, Stancil spent her college years at Marian University in Indianapolis, which is renowned for its successful cycling program.

“Marian was the only college I applied to because that’s where I saw myself doing both my education and cycling at a high level,” says Stancil, who graduated with honors. “I mainly wanted to grow my cycling career, to grow as an athlete. I definitely matured at the time, too.”

Her maturity shows in the way she talks about her career in racing,

especially her approach to it, which is heavily influenced by her father. The focus is on proper preparation and training—what she describes as “the process.”



Felicia Stancil

“It’s definitely been an amazing journey. One thing my dad taught me is to focus on the process. He never rewarded the results. He awarded the process. I’ve definitely learned a lot about work ethic—and to enjoy

the process. Sometimes, training at the highest level gets lonely. You have to trust yourself and things will come together.”

Her approach to life reflects a similar maturity: “I try to live each day and make the most of each day.”

Consider what Stancil did when the Summer Olympics were postponed last year because of international COVID concerns.

“I’ve always wanted a dog,” she says with a laugh. “She was my best friend during COVID.”

Daisy the dog has become so special to Stancil that the cyclist has added images of daisies to the back of her Olympic bike helmet.

So Daisy will be there in spirit. So will Stancil’s father, who won’t be able to cheer for her in person because fans are restricted from attending the Summer Olympics because of COVID concerns.

As for Stancil, she plans to approach the Olympics with her usual combination of passion and perspective.

“I’m very passionate about the things I do. I want to give all I can to represent my country in the best way I can. I don’t have any huge expectations. I’m trying to live in the moment.” †



Felicia Stancil will represent the United States in cycling at the Summer Olympics in Tokyo. (Submitted photo)