Elderly are to be valued, not discarded, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Older people are not “leftovers” to be discarded; rather, they continue to be precious nourishment for families, young people and communities, Pope Francis said in the homily he wrote for the Mass marking the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

“Let us ask ourselves, ‘Have I visited my grandparents, my elderly relatives, the older people in my neighborhood? Have I listened to them? Have I spent time with them?’” the pope said in his homily, which was read aloud at the Mass by Archbishop Rino Fisichella.

“Let us protect them, so that nothing of their lives and dreams may be lost. May we never regret that we were insufficiently attentive to those who loved us and gave us life,” the homily said.

The Mass July 25 was celebrated in St. Peter’s Basilica with about 2,000 people in attendance, including multi-generational families, older people and their caregivers. Large-print Mass booklets also were available.

Pope Francis, who had colon surgery on July 4, did not preside over the Mass as he was still undergoing “normal convalescence,” according to the Vatican press office.

The pope, however, did give his Angelus address and lead prayer at noon the same day. Archbishop Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, presided over the Mass, which he began by greeting the older people in attendance who, he said, had been understandably expecting to celebrate with Pope Francis.

But “we do not want him to tire Elderly are to be valued, not discarded, pope says

Annual Bishop Bruté Days camp continues to plant seeds of priestly vocations

SHELBYVILLE—Transitional Deacon Matthew Perronie stood on July 6 in the chapel of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary before dozens of teenage boys from across central and southern Indiana open to the possibility that God might be calling them to be priests.

They were there for the 16th annual Bishop Bruté Days, a summer vocations camp sponsored by the archdiocesan vocations office and hosted at the Indianapolis seminary on July 5-7.

Nicholas Weber, left, Zen Ivey, Nicholas Schneider, all members of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County, and Louis Rivelli, a member of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis, kneel during a Mass on July 6 at St. Joseph Church in Shelbyville. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

School choice expansion is game-changer for families wanting a Catholic education

John Elcesser considers the recent expansion of Indiana’s school choice program as a game-changer—dramatically increasing the number of Hoosier families who will become eligible for vouchers that will help them choose where they want their children to attend school.

Regarding families who view a Catholic school as the best option for their children, Elcesser says the expansion of the program will help parents who believe they can’t afford Catholic education for their children, and it will also benefit parents who struggle and sacrifice to provide a Catholic education for their children.

“We believe there are probably quite a few families that may have wanted or even dreamed of getting a Catholic school education, but just probably didn’t think it was affordable. Now it probably is.”

—John Elcesser, executive director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association
Archbishop said before reading the homily fully resume his pastoral ministry, "the himself so that he may spend these days resting to regain his strength and fully resume his pastoral ministry," the archbishop said before reading the homily prepared for the Mass. "Grandparents and the elderly are not leftovers from life, scraps to be discarded," the pope wrote. They are a precious source of nourishment, "the pope wrote. "They protected us as we grew, and now it is up to us to protect their lives, to alleviate their difficulties, to attend to their needs and to ensure that they are helped in daily life and not feel alone," he wrote.

The pope asked people to reconnect with older people, to visit or call and "listen to them and never discard them. Let us cherish them and spend time with them. We will be the better for it," young and old alike, he wrote.

"I worry when I see a society full of people in constant motion, too caught up in their own affairs to have time for a glance, a greeting or a bug," he wrote. The notion of "every man for himself" is "deadly," he wrote, and the Gospel asks people to share "what we are and what we possess" in order to find true and lasting fulfillment.

"Our grandparents, who nourished our own lives, now hunger for our attention and our love; they long for our closeness. Let us lift up our eyes and see them, even as Jesus sees us," the pope wrote. During the intercessions, prayers were offered for those who died during the pandemic, especially the elderly, and for the faithful to learn to cherish and serve the elderly.

At the end of the Mass, Archbishop Fisicella and Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, which was promoting the world day, blessed baskets of bright yellow, red and orange flowers, that were then distributed with the pope's message by young people to the older people attending the liturgy.

The pope appeared at the window of his studio in the apostolic palace to greet and bless those gathered in St. Peter's Square and to deliver his address before praying the Angelus. He invited everyone to visit the elderly and to give them a copy of this year's world day message. Young and old must spend time together, talking and sharing their memories, hopes and dreams, he said.

Commenting on the day's Gospel reading of the multiplication of the loaves, the pope recalled the generous gift of the boy who gave what little he had, which was enough for Jesus, who used that small gift to feed thousands. But, the pope said, think about the event from the point of view of the young boy: taking his five barley loaves and two fish to feed others seems like an "unreasonable proposal. Why deprive a person, indeed a child, of what he has brought from home and has the right to keep for himself? Why take away from one person what is not enough to feed everyone anyway?"

It shows people must ask what they can bring to Jesus each day and reminds people that "the Lord can do a lot with the little that we have at his disposal," the pope said.

Today's mindset is marked by the quest to "accumulate and increase what we have, but Jesus asks us to give, to diminish. We like to add, we like addition; Jesus likes subtraction, taking something away to give it to others. We want to multiply for ourselves, Jesus appreciates it when we share with others, when we share," he said.

The pope recalled that many problems in the world, particularly hunger, cannot be solved without "fair sharing." It is estimated that about 7,000 children under the age of five die each day because of malnutrition, he added.

Facing such scandals, he said, people should, like the boy, accept Jesus' invitation and "be brave, give what little you have, your talents and your possessions, make them available to Jesus and to your brothers and sisters. Do not be afraid, nothing will be lost, because if you share, God will multiply."
No ‘devout Catholic’ can condone killing child in the womb, says archbishop

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS)—No one can claim “to be a devout Catholic and condone the killing of innocent human life, let alone have the government pay for it,” said Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco.

“The right to life is a fundamental—the most fundamental—human right. Catholics do not opcode fundamental human rights,” the archbishop said in a July 22 statement.

“To use the smoke screen of abortion as an issue of health and fairness to poor women is the epitome of hypocrisy: What about the health of the baby being killed? What about giving poor women real choice, so they are supported in choosing life?” he said.

He issued the statement in response to remarks House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., made during her weekly news conference with Capitol Hill reporters in Washington earlier in the day.

Pelosi, a Catholic, told reporters she backed current efforts by her fellow Democrats to eliminate the Hyde Amendment and other similar language from spending bills.

For four decades, the long-standing Hyde Amendment has enjoyed strong bipartisan support. It bans federal funding of abortions except when the mother’s life is endangered and in cases of rape and incest.

Hyde has been re-enacted in spending bills every year since it was first passed in 1976.

“As a devout Catholic and mother of five in six years, I feel that God blessed my husband and me with our beautiful family,” Pelosi said, but “it is not up to me to dictate that what other people should do.”

Pelosi told reporters that federal funding of abortion for underprivileged women is about “fairness” and “health care.”

“It is an issue of health of many women in America, especially those in lower income situations in different states, and it is something that has been a priority for many of us for a long time,” Pelosi said.

Biden, who also is a Catholic and supports keeping abortion legal, has disavowed his decades of support for Hyde.

Archbishop Cordileone urged that poor women be given a “true choice” by supporting them in their decision to “choose life” and bring their baby to term.

“Two would give them fairness and equality” that “women of means” have and “can afford to bring a child into the world.”

“It is people of faith who run pro-life crisis pregnancy clinics,” he said. “They are the only ones who provide poor women life-giving alternatives to having their babies killed in their wombs.”

He added, “I cannot be prouder of my fellow Catholics who are so prominent in providing this vital service. To them I say: You are the ones worthy to call yourselves devout Catholics!”

On July 26, Archbishop Cordileone told Bill Hemmer, co-anchor of “America’s Newsroom” on the Fox News Channel, that pregnancy crisis centers give pregnant women “wraparound support” by providing information, including a 3-D sonogram of their unborn child.

The 3-D image makes it “very clear this is a human life,” the archbishop said, adding that even women who were inclined to get an abortion “change their mind” after seeing this image of their unborn child.

“These centers also provide pregnant women in need with practical help after the baby is born, he added, and that if a woman wants to put her child up for adoption, the staff at these centers walk the woman through that process.

Asked what he thought about Congress eliminating Hyde from spending bills, the archbishop said: “This is a very serious matter. It’s bad enough the government allows the killing of innocent human life and now they want to pay for it. I beg, implore our government not to pay (for abortions).

When Hammer asked Archbishop Cordileone if he wanted the Hyde amendment to be eliminated, he responded, “I did have a telephone conversation” with Pelosi “earlier this year [and] she was very respectful to me. … We had a good interchange.”

But he added that an in-person meeting on an issue as serious as abortion would be better and hoped this would happen with the House Speaker sooner rather than later, now that “thankfully, we’re beginning to emerge from the pandemic.”

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Many would like to believe the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion settled the issue “once and for all,” but instead “all it did was establish a special-rules regime for abortion,” the archbishop said.

As a result of Roe and subsequent court decisions, “state legislatures, and the people they represent, have lacked clarity in passing laws to protect legitimate public interests, and artificial groupseptes have stunted important public debate on how we, as a society, care for the dignity of women and their children,” Fitch said.

The U.S. Supreme Court said in a May 17 order that it will hear oral arguments during its next term on the Mississippi law. The court’s term opens in October, and a decision is expected by June 2022.

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

It will be the biggest abortion case to come before the court since 1992’s Casey v. Planned Parenthood, which affirmed Roe and also stressed that a state regulation on abortion could not impose an “undue burden” on a woman “seeking an abortion before the fetus attains viability.”

“Viability” is when a fetus is said to be able to survive on its own. The high court has consistently ruled states cannot restrict abortion before the 24-week mark."

Pope Francis’ prayer intentions for August

• The Church—Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

"God gives where He finds empty hands,"—St. Augustine

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**Reflection/John F. Fink**

The luminous mysteries of the rosary tell us just who Jesus was

While praying the rosary on a recent Thursday, I found myself marveling at the wisdom of St. Pope John Paul II for adding the luminous mysteries to the rosary. As we were growing up, we had only the joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries. That meant that we jumped from finding Jesus in the Temple when he was 12 to the agony in the garden, and the beginning of his passion, when he was about 33. We skipped all that Jesus did during his public life. Pope John Paul knew that wasn’t right. Indeed, the luminous mysteries give us the same lesson that the Apostles received.

They are called the luminous mysteries because they slowly shed light on who Jesus was, said in his July 25 homily read during a Mass in the presence of Pope Francis during the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly at the Vatican.

“Let us not lose the memory of the elderly, for they are children of that history, and without roots, we will wither,” Pope Francis wrote. “They protected us as we grew, and now it is up to us to protect their lives, to alleviate their difficulties, to attend to their needs and to ensure that they are helped in daily life and not feel alone.”

As we have learned, many of the elderly who lost their lives as a result of COVID died alone. Simply put, that is heartbreaking.

“Brothers and sisters, grandparents, and the elderly are bread that nourishes our life. … Please, let us not forget about them. Let us covenant with them. Let us learn to approach them, listen to them and never discard them,” the pope wrote. “Let us cherish them and spend time with them. We will be the better for it. And, together young and old alike, we will find fulfillment at [a] table of sharing, blessed by God.”

Leavers and guests to be discarded?

May the wake-up call the Holy Father is giving us help us understand we can never view our participation in the Church’s life in that way, and let us always remember the nourishment they provide for humanity.

—Mike Krokos

A ‘thank you’ for Msgr. Campion’s weekly column in *The Criterion*

I would like to say “thank you” to Msgr. Owen Campion for his Sunday readings columns each week in *The Criterion*, particularly for his “reflection” after discussing the Scriptures.

This week’s (July 16 issue) wisdom highlights—while reflecting on Jer 23:1-6, Eph 2:13-18, and Mt 6:30-34—ran: “People have to struggle to find God’s truth. God will send representatives to speak truth.”

Another nugget of wisdom was “God’s truth is exact. … It simply is as it is.”

Thanks to *The Criterion* for carrying his column.

—Alise Price

Indianapolis
“Yo soy el pan de vida—declara Jesús.— El que a mi viene nunca pasará hambre, y el que en mí cree nunca más volverá a tener sed” (Jn 6:35).

No es de extrañar que los seguidores de Jesús se sintieran confundidos cuando les dijo que “el que a mi viene nunca pasará hambre, y el que en mí cree nunca más volverá a tener sed” (Jn 6:35). Todos teníamos hambre y sed por mucho que creamos en Jesús. ¿Cómo debemos entender el hambre y la sed que totalmente a Jesus? ¿Cómo debemos entregar a todo esto en el sacrificio para que la vida se comience de nuevo?” (Ex 16:3).

La respuesta del Señor fue en el sacrificio de su cuerpo: “Yo soy el pan de vida” (Jn 6:35). El pan de vida es un alimento espiritual y no físico. Es un alimento espiritual, un alimento para nuestras esperanzas y creencias. En la segunda lectura del 18.º domingo del tiempo ordinario (Ef 5:17, 20-24), san Pablo nos enseña que: “Se debe considerar a la vida que antes llevaban, se les enseñó que debían quitarse el rogar de una vieja naturaleza, la cual está corrompida por los deseos engañosos; ser renovados en la actitud de su mente; y ponerse el ropaje de la nueva naturaleza, creada a imagen de Dios, en verdadera justicia y santidad” (Ef 4:22-24).

La única manera de permitir que el Pan de Vida, que es Jesús, nos sustenga eternamente, para que nunca más tengamos hambre y sed, es ser renovados en el Espíritu Santo y ponerse “el ropaje de la nueva naturaleza” que viviría para siempre en Cristo.

Recemos para que el Espíritu Santo llene nuestras mentes y nuestros corazones de sabiduría y discernimiento para que el Espíritu de Cristo y de la fe cristiana sean lo que significan en nuestras vidas. Que sean nuestras guías y nuestras esperanzas para siempre, a través del tiempo y las generaciones. Amen, amen, I say to you, “Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father has set his seal” (Jn 6:26-27).

El alimento que para la vida eterna es Cristo mismo, en quien Dios Padre ha puesto su sello. Es un alimento espiritual, un alimento para nuestros corazones hambrientos. 

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**Events Calendar**

**July 30-August 9**
Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, 1 Sisters of Providence, Foyle Room, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Annual Used Book Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, sponsored by Linden Leaf Gifts. Information: 866-996-2947 or lindenleafgifts@spwms.org.

**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 Center, St. Therese Room, St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, 7:45 a.m. Monday, 7:45 a.m. Tuesday. Information: 812-535-7775, soulcoreindy@gmail.com.

**August 4**
MCL Cafeteria, 5520 Southport Rd., Indianapolis. Soul Seniors, 5:30 p.m., Catholic educational, charitable and social single—separated, widowed or divorced—age 50 and older, new members welcome, call about regular Friday night dinner events. Information: 317-796-8005 or 317-243-0777.

**August 4, 18**
McClellan 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 18-35, every other Wednesday through Aug. 18, free. Information on speakers and topics: info@archindy.org. Questions: 317-236-3342.

**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: 317-829-4000, 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: 317-750-7939, mrsacredheart@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 Devotion Prayer Group, Mass, devotional prayers, rosary, 8 a.m. Information: 765-847-5462.

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: lana.donnelly2@gmail.com.

**August 8-7**
All Saints Parish, St. Paul campus, 9788 N. Darnburn Blvd., Greenwood. Summer Picnic, Sat. 5 p.m. - midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., food stands, live music by Dickson, beer, raffle, games, quilting, kickball, land, $100,000 Big Money Raffle, Rediscovers Religious Saints exhibit, pork tenderloin dinner, Sat. 7-9 p.m., chicken dinner, Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. or until sold out, outdoor dining, free admission. Information: 812-576-4302.

**August 9**
St. Mary Parish, 2500 S. Mary’s Dr., Lanesville. Parish Picnic, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., games of chance, quilt raffle, capital prize drawing, cake walk, 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-through, dressing, potato salad, country-style green beans, slaw, noodles, fresh cucumbers, pie. Online auction: barriergroup.com on July 26. Information: 812-952-2853.


**August 13-14**
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Steves 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@holymaryindy.org or italianstreetfestival.org.

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

**August 14**
St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St. Indianapolis. Choir Re-Boot Camp, 9 a.m.-noon, director of archdiocesan and cathedral liturgical music Andrew Merkla Facilitating, 510 with lunch, free without, registration required. Information and registration: chtm.com/ReBoot

**August 14-15**
St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 995 E. Base Rd., Greenburg. Brat Weekend, all weekend Masses, Father Daniel Redel, spiritual director of Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, will celebrate Mass and share how the seminary forms future priests. Information: Ellen Sanders, 317-236-1503 or jasandrews@archindy.org.

**August 16-17**

**August 18**

**August 20**
St. Joseph Church, 1401 S. Mckley Ave., Indianapolis. Thursday Third Adoration, interceding for women experiencing crisis pregnancy, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., with Mass at 5:45 p.m.

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. Monthly Mass, 2 p.m. Information: 317-236-3988 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

**August 21-23**
St. Susanna Parish, 1210 S. Main St., Plainfield. St. Susanna Festival, Thurs. 6-10 p.m., Fri., 11-11 p.m. Sat. 6 p.m.-midnight, carnival rides, games, food vendors, Saturday ryebo dinner, beer and wine, kid’s games, live music, local entertainment. Free admission. Information: festival@saintsusanna.com or 317-234-1970.

**August 30**
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 1553 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Retreats with RetroSaville Indy, for couples in struggling marriages. Register at www.heelpormarriage.org or e-mail retroSavilleIndy@gmail.com.

**August 14**
Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. A Day with Mary, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Judy Ribar presenting, prayer, opportunity for reconciliation, feast of the Assumption Vigil Mass, $54 includes lunch. $55 for Friday overnight, with private room and light breakfast, register by Aug. 11. Information and registration: montsaintfrancis.org/day-with-mary or 812-923-8817.

**Wedding Anniversaries**

**RICHARD AND THERESA ECKSTEIN**

Richard and Theresa (Kinke) Eckstein, members of St. Anthony Parish in Morris, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 31. The couple was married at St. John the Evangelist Church in Enochbsurg on July 31, 1971. They have three children: Valerie Grossman, Stephanie Ginter and Sam Eckstein. The couple also has four grandchildren.

**ROBERT AND PAMELA GARZEWKI**

Robert and Pamela (Dorning) Garzewski, members of St. Anne Parish in New Castle, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 28. The couple was married at Holy Cross Church in Covington, Ky., on June 19, 1971. They have three children: Christine Blessinger, Jennifer Williams and Robert Garzewski, Jr. The couple also has one grandchild.

**Cheri Bush of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, left, waves as cars on I-465 pass under the Keystone Avenue bridge in Indianapolis as she, Jane Youngman (partially obscured) of St. Barbara Parish in Indianapolis and Donna Russell Woodard, parish life director of Holy Trinity Parish in Edinburgh, hold a sign declaring, “Abortion takes a human life.” The volunteers were participating in Pro-Life Action League’s “National Pro-Life Bridges Day” on July 16. It’s estimated that 44,000 commuters in Indianapolis saw the signs on either side of the bridge. The capital city was one of 67 locations taking part in the national effort, with an estimated 2 million commuters seeing the message. This was the first year Indianapolis participated in the event, through the coordination of Deacon Woodard. This year’s annual effort came in advance of the Supreme Court’s upcoming review of the abortion-related Dobbs v. Jackson case.**

(Photos by Natalie Hostler)
**Criterion staff honored for excellence in journalism**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges it presented didn’t stop staff members of The Criterion from being honored for excellence in journalism by two organizations in 2020.

Coverage of the COVID-19 crisis, ongoing news concerning the federal death penalty, and articles dealing with last summer’s civil unrest were among the stories that shaped the archdiocesan newspaper’s award-winning coverage.

The recognition included awards from the Catholic Media Association of the United States and Canada (CMA), and awards from the Woman’s Press Club of Indiana (WPCI).

For the second time in three years, The Criterion was awarded second place in the Best Newspaper category in 2020. The Criterion was awarded second place in the Best Newspaper category in 2018.

**CMA awards**

The staff received recognition on June 10 during the Catholic Media Association’s annual awards program, which was held virtually this year.

Staff writer Sean Gallagher was awarded first place in the Best News Writing on a Local or Regional event—One Shot—for his article, “St. John pastor keeps prayerful watch over parish during unrest.” The story focused on Father Rick Nagel, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, and his response to peaceful protests in downtown Indianapolis that descended into violence the weekend of May 30-31, 2020, after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

“The story itself is amazing, and the author emphasized those elements through descriptive language that humanized a tremendous situation in our recent history,” judges wrote, “juxtaposing the situation at St. John’s with the civil distress in the larger community. Choice details in the storytelling made this narrative come to life.”

Assistant editor John Shaughnessy won a first-place award for “Best Reporting on a Special-Age Group—Young adults” category for his series, “Finding a Home, Living the Faith.”

The stories included: “Where I needed to go was home”: ’The gift of a mother’s love and faith continues on in the life of a daughter,” a feature on Brie Anne Varick and her relationship with her late mother, Dr. Melanie Margareta Linehan; “An unlikely love story leads couple on their journey to God,” a story about newlyweds Alexander and Emily Mingus; and faith and how is at the center of their relationship; and “Young woman’s struggles lead her to strive to bring hope and healing to others,” a feature on Perry Langley and her story of faith and transformation that began as a teenager and continues as an adult.

“These profiles are touching, detailed and well-written,” judges said. “Each piece gives a solid sense of the subject and each subject’s life-experiences and faith. A nice selection.”

Natalie Hoefer was awarded second place for Best Coverage of Pro-Life Issues—Death Penalty Coverage—for her series of stories on several executions that occurred at the U.S. Federal Penitentiary in Terre Haute during 2020.

“Natalie Hoefer’s series examining the death penalty is impressive. Ms. Hoefer’s reporting on the subject is journalism at its best,” judges wrote. “From covering the first federal execution in 17 years to a moving story about a Catholic inmate’s last words, Ms. Hoefer keeps her audience engaged and informed through real-life stories and a powerful narrative.”

Gallagher received third-place recognition in Best Reporting on Vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life and Diaconate for three priest profiles he wrote. The stories included: “Embrace this willingly”: Priest offers suffering from brain tumor for victims of clergy sexual abuse,” about Father John Hollowell; “St. John pastor keeps prayerful watch over parish during unrest,” about Father Nagel; and “God is still blessing me each day: Msgr. Paul Koetter continues to minister despite challenges of ALS.”

“Perhaps the ultimate in personal solidarity—a priest donating a kidney to a gravely ill parishioner,” judges said. “Non-dramatic writing and a touching photo make this article compelling to the reader.”

Editor Mike Krokos received a third-place award in the Best Editorial on a National or International Issue—Weekly Diocesan Newspaper—for “Now is the time to take up our crosses and follow Christ.”

“The writer adeptly examines how to grasp onto faith through the challenges of 2020,” judges wrote. “Using Scripture and quotations from the pope, the writer’s voice of gentle assurance lets the readers know it’s still possible, and more necessary than ever, to have faith.”

As noted, the team of Krokos, Shaughnessy, Hoefer, Gallagher, graphic designer Brandon A. Evans and executive assistant Ann Lewis won an honorable mention in the Best News: Series of five articles—Continuing Coverage or Unfolding News: “The other front line—feeding and caring for those affected economically by the pandemic.”

“Perhaps the ultimate in personal solidarity—a priest donating a kidney to a gravely ill parishioner,” judges said. “Non-dramatic writing and a touching photo make this article compelling to the reader.”

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executive director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association (INPEA), which represents the state’s more than 400 non-public schools, including Indiana’s 175 Catholic schools.

“There are also families who are continuing to struggle to make that tuition payment, working multiple jobs. And this is going to help them as well.”

As an example, Elcesser notes that under the new state guidelines, “a family of four can make up to $147,075 and still be eligible” for a voucher. As of July 1, all eligible students will receive a 90% voucher, which represents 90% of the state’s tuition support for a child if they attended a local public school.

Elcesser has shared these insights during informational sessions he has conducted throughout the state this summer, including sessions in all five Catholic dioceses in Indiana.

“We need to get the word out about the changes in the program,” he told a group of pastors and Catholic school principals during one of the sessions. And many schools throughout the Archdiocese of Indianapolis have begun to share the information with their families.

While Elcesser focused on the impact on Catholic schools during his presentation to pastors and Catholic school principals, his overall message focused on the importance of families getting to choose where they want their child to be educated.

“The State of Indiana believes, our organization believes, and our schools believe that every family—no matter where their ZIP code is or their financial circumstances—should be able to send their children to the school that’s the right fit for them,” Elcesser says.

“For us in the Catholic sector, it aligns with our Catholic social teaching. We believe in the preferential option for the poor. We also believe that parents are our children’s primary educators. They should be making the decision about what school is the best fit for them, whether that be traditionally public, whether that be charter, whether that be a non-public—faith-based or secular.”

Elcesser notes that Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb has described the new education legislation as “transformational.”

“I do as well,” Elcesser says. “I think it’s not just transformational for private schools who participate in Choice, but I think it’s transformational for our friends in traditional public schools, in charter schools and in non-public schools. All of those sectors benefitted from legislation that was passed.”

The recent expansion of the Indiana’s school choice program comes 10 years after the program started in Indiana, which is considered at the forefront of the effort to allow families to choose where they want their children to attend school.

“There are 26 other states and the District of Columbia that have some sort of choice program,” Elcesser notes. In the 10 years of Indiana’s program, about 273,000 children have benefited from it, by getting a Choice Scholarship that can be applied to tuition at the non-public school of their choice, he says. And more than $1 billion has been awarded to families to make that choice a reality.

“It’s hard to believe the number of families whose lives have been significantly impacted by these programs,” Elcesser says. Now, he adds, many more families will have that opportunity, thanks to the expansion of the program.

Background

The Choice Scholarship voucher Program was established in 2011 to provide every Indiana student access to the school that best meets their learning needs. The Choice Scholarship provides qualified students financial aid to help pay tuition at a non-public school of their choice.

How to Qualify

STEP 1: MEET INCOME REQUIREMENT: Families must meet the income requirement of 300% of the federal Free or Reduced-Price School Meals (FRL).

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STEP 2: MEET A PATHWAY: The student must then meet one of the following student eligibility criteria referred to as “pathways” or “tracks”:

• Two Semesters in a Public School Track – The student attended an Indiana K-12 public school (including a charter) for at least two semesters immediately preceding the first semester of receiving a Choice Scholarship

• “F” Public School Track – The student would be required to attend a specific public school based on his/her residency that has been assigned an “F” grade. (However, he or she is not required to attend that public school before becoming eligible nor return to that school should the grade be raised).

• Special Education Track – The student has a disability that requires special education services and has an individualized education plan (IEP) or service plan (SP).

• Pre-K Track – The student received an Early Education Grant (On My Way Pre-K) and is attending kindergarten at the same school that they attended for preschool.

• Foster Care Track – The student is in foster care.

• Sibling Track – The sibling of the newly applying student received either a Choice Scholarship or an SGO Scholarship in a previous school year, including a school year that does not immediately precede the school year for which the student is applying for a Choice Scholarship.

• Previous Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) Track – The student received an SGO Scholarship in a previous school year, including a school year that does not immediately precede the school year for which the student is applying for a Choice Scholarship.

• Previous Choice Scholarship Student Track – The student received a Choice Scholarship in a previous school year immediately preceding the school year for which the student is applying for a Choice Scholarship.

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the deadline to apply for a 2021-22 Choice Scholarship?

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is currently accepting applications for the fall semester. Applications for this upcoming semester must be submitted by September 1, 2021.

How do I apply for the Choice Scholarship?

Students must first apply and be accepted into a non-public, voucher-accepting school, then the school will submit the student’s Choice Scholarship application to the IDOE.

How much funding will my student receive under a Choice Scholarship?

A Choice Scholarship amount is the lesser of:

• Tuition and fees charged at the eligible school or

90% of the per-student funding for the student’s school corporation of residence.

Does every school accept the Choice Scholarship?

No. Only non-public schools that have applied to the IDOE to be a Choice Scholarship accepting school participate. Currently, there are over 300 Choice accredited schools Indiana. A full list can be found on the IDOE’s website. [https://www.doe.in.gov/choice/2021-2022-participating-choice-schools]

Does the Choice Scholarship last the entirety of my child’s education?

No. A Choice Scholarship is awarded annually to a qualified student. A student must apply each year and must continue to meet the program’s income eligibility and pathway requirements.

Where can I find more information?

Contact the non-public school of your choice to find more resources and learn if your child might qualify.
El Instituto Pastoral Intercultural ayuda a construir la fe y el liderazgo entre los hispanos

Por Natalie Hoefer

COLUMBUS—“Si lo construyes, vendrán.” La icónica frase de la película Field of Dreams (Campos de sueños) describe muy bien al Instituto Pastoral Intercultural (IPI) de la Oficina de Ministerio Intercultural de la Arquidiócesis, que lleva una década en funcionamiento.

Los ministros de la oficina la construyeron, y vinieron: se trata de aproximadamente 150 católicos hispanos del centro y sur de Indiana que buscan crecer en la fe, evangelizar el mundo y servir a la Iglesia local.

El “objetivo principal del IPI es servir a la Arquidiócesis a través del desarrollo del liderazgo pastoral” entre las comunidades hispanas de las parroquias, sentó Oscar Castellanos, exdirector de la Oficina de Ministerio Intercultural. Según expresa, “los pastores se dieron cuenta de la necesidad,” lo que llevó a la creación del IPI en 2011.

Originalmente, el Instituto incluía también otros programas, pero el programa de estudios de dos años para líderes pastorales hispanos se mantuvo debido a su amplia popularidad: en los últimos 10 años se han graduado unos 30 estudiantes cada dos años.

“Para mí, era una situación en la que la gente podía llegar a conocer a Dios de una manera más profunda, no solamente a través de toda la información que se proporcionó, sino también mediante la investigación de lo que íbamos a leer en los Evangelios,” dijo el diácono Martín Ignacio, recién graduado, de la parroquia de Santa María en New Albany. “Aprendimos no solo a crecer en la fe, sino a ser capaces de comprender mejor los dones que recibimos a través de la Iglesia.”

“Enlaces con la Arquidiócesis.”

Egresados como el diácono Ignacio han cumplido con la visión original del IPI, apuntó Castellanos.

“El IPI ha producido un seminarista, dos diáconos permanentes con dos más en formación, al menos ocho que trabajan medio tiempo o tiempo completo en las parroquias donde realizan diferentes funciones,” enumeró. También ha creado líderes dentro de movimientos eclesiales laicos que recibieron a través de toda la información que se proporcionó, así como también mediante la investigación de lo que íbamos a leer en los Evangelios.

“Uno de los aspectos más destacados del programa es que los estudiantes por crear una comunidad hasta el punto de que, cuando la gente se gradúa, dice: ‘Eché mucho de mis reuniones porque podíamos hablar y construir la cultura, y eso no es esencial. No solamente estamos educando la mente, sino la capacidad de construir una comunidad y participar en algo más que un programa para ‘mi propio enriquecimiento.’ ”

Los miembros de la comunidad de Edinburgh de la promoción 2019-2021 del Instituto Pastoral Intercultural posan para una foto después de una misa y ceremonia de entrega de certificados en la iglesia de San Bartolomé en Columbus el 5 de junio. (Foto por Natalie Hoefer)

“Construir esa comunidad”

Gracias a una subvención de Lilly Endowment, Inc., el IPI pudo ampliarse para dos años adicionales para la sesión 2019-2021, creando tres clases de graduados este junio.

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Al considerar el programa en su conjunto, Castellanos se siente satisfecho con este y con los resultados.
Runner’s surge to become Olympic starts with faith in God and self

By John Shaughnessy

As Cole Hocker approached the starting line for the biggest race of his life, he paused for a moment to follow his usual pre-race routine of saying a prayer. In that moment, he asked God to be with him as he pursued his goal of representing the United States in the 2021 Summer Olympics.

Earlier this year, Hocker—now a 20-year-old sophomore at the University of Oregon—had written his goals for the 2021 track season, including one that seemed more of a reach than a goal: to do well enough in the 1,500-meter race at these Olympic Trials so he could represent the United States in the Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

Yet that reach became reality as Hocker roared from sixth place with 150 meters to go in that race, winning it all in a blistering, breathtaking sprint to the finish line.

“I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t surprised that it happened so fast,” Hocker said about his ascent from Indiana cross country champion to being the youngest national champion in the 1,500 meters or mile in 110 years. “It hasn’t fully set in yet. It brings me such pride knowing I’m representing America. I’ve always dreamed of that. I want to represent my country the best way I can.”

Now his focus is on the next biggest races of his life as Hocker heads to Tokyo to compete in the first round of the 1,500-meter race on Aug. 3, with the hope of advancing to the semi-finals on Aug. 5 and the finals on Aug. 7.

He will bring that same faith in God and that same faith in himself to the Olympics. The reason I run is because I have a God-given talent,” he said in a telephone interview from Oregon before he left for Tokyo. “I just feel God has given me the gift of running, and my job is to give it my best.

“On top of that, because I’ve been given that, I want to take advantage of it. And it’s more gratifying because of how hard I have worked. This year, more than ever, I’ve held myself to a higher standard. Every race I’ve entered, I thought I could win. After years of thinking about running in the Olympics and dreaming about it, to have it all come to fruition is awesome."

He feels the same way about the support he has received from his family, friends and the communities of Cathedral High School and the University of Oregon.

“I’ve had so much support in the past few weeks and even the whole season,” he said. A large group of family and friends, including his brother Stone and his parents—Kyle and Janet—were at the U.S. Olympic Track Trials when he won the 1,500-meter race. Now, his family won’t be able to cheer for him in Tokyo because fans are restricted from attending the Summer Olympics because of COVID concerns. Instead, they will watch him race on television at home.

“I still have a sheet of all the goals he wrote down in middle school, or even prior to that,” said his father, who started coaching Cole when he was in the third grade. “He wanted to be a champion at something.”

Besides the Olympic Trials victory, Hocker also was the men’s 1,500-meter champion in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Outdoor Track and Field Championships this spring.

His next step is to write down his goals for the Olympics. He already has some thoughts in mind.

“My goal is to make it to the finals,” he said. “And then when I get there, my mentality is to win.”

Notre Dame alum is first American to win individual gold in foil fencing

TOKYO (CNS)—“Gold is my favorite indeed,” the University of Notre Dame in Indiana tweeted on July 25 after Lee Kiefer, class of 2017, won the gold medal in women’s foil fencing at the Tokyo Games.

She beat defending champion Inna Deriglazova of Russia 15-13. Kiefer, 27, is the first American, male or female, to win an individual Olympic medal in foil fencing.

“It’s such an incredible feeling that I share with my coach, my wife, my family, just everyone that’s been a part of this,” said Kiefer, quoted as saying in an Indianapolis Star story. “I wish I could chop it [the medal] up in little pieces and distributed it to everyone I love.

Now a medical student at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Kiefer was the fifth-ranked foilist in the world going into the Olympics.

Tokyo was her third trip to the Summer Games; she competed in London in 2012 and Rio de Janeiro in 2016; she placed fifth in foil in 2012 and 10th in 2016.

Eight of the members of the USA Fencing team have a Notre Dame connection, including Mariel Zagunis, class of 2008, who was the first American to win a gold medal in Olympic fencing, in Athens in 2004.

She followed it up with another gold medal in women’s saber in Beijing in 2008. She also took home bronze in the team event in 2008 and 2016.

In the women’s saber individual table of 32 event July 26, Zagunis defeated Canadian Gabriella Page 15-3 and won on to face Ji-Yeon Kim from South Korea in the table of 16 event.

While at Notre Dame, Kiefer was a four-time NCAA foil champion and four-time First Team All-American. She earned a bronze medal in women’s foil at the 2011 World Fencing Championships.

Her husband, Gerek Meinhardt, won a team bronze in foil in 2016. In Tokyo, Meinhardt competed in the men’s individual foil table of 32 event July 25 against Russian Vladislav Mylnikov, who won 15-11.

According to The Indianapolis Star, Notre Dame established the Lee Kiefer/ Gerek Meinhardt Award in 2018, honoring a fencer who gives “time selflessly and humbly in training.”

According to a bio on Kiefer posted on the website of the International Fencing Federation, the gold medalist followed her father, Steve, into fencing, as did her sister and brother, Alexandra and Axel.

Lee was 5 years old when she started in the sport.

“Growing up, my dad decided that he wanted to take up fencing again. He hadn’t picked up a foil in 10 or 15 years, and me and my siblings watched him compete at a local tournament,” Kiefer said in an interview a couple of years ago. “Then he asked if we wanted to try it, and we said yes. Twenty years later, I’m still doing it.”

Both of Kiefer’s parents are doctors.

Her mother, Teresa, emigrated from the Philippines to the United States of America as a child, according to the federation’s bio. Her father was captain of the fencing team at Duke University. Her siblings also have represented the U.S. in fencing.

“Fencing and medicine is all I have ever known since I was born,” Lee Kiefer told the federation. “Before my sister went to college, we all went to every single practice together. It wasn’t only a lot of bonding time, but we all made each other better through constant practice.

“Any of us are very competitive, which meant there was a lot of fighting when we were younger. But it was a lot of fun, and now we have that experience together as adults.”

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is ordained a priest for the archdiocese in June 2022. Deacon Perronie gives credit to Bishop Bruté Days for helping him start discerning his vocation.

“The idea of being open was really planted here at Bishop Bruté Days,” he said.

“Brothers in the faith”

In the past 16 years, the annual vocations camp has become a significant way for young men in the archdiocese to do the same. Nearly all the archdiocesan seminarians who staffed Bishop Bruté Days this summer were previous participants in the camp.

Seminarian James Hentz, who will be a junior at Bishop Bruté Seminary starting in August, went to Bishop Bruté Days six times as a junior high and high school student.

“I loved the community in Bishop Bruté Days,” said Hentz, a member of St. Michael Parish in Greenfield. “Sometimes you can feel alone in your parish as a young Catholic guy thinking about the priesthood. Then you come here and you have all of these guys here discerning the same thing. They’re brothers in the faith with you.”

That fellowship is built during Bishop Bruté Days through praying together at daily Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours, hearing presentations on the faith and the sacrament of penance. It’s also fostered by having the high school participants live together for three days in the seminary’s dormitory rooms, sharing meals and taking part in outdoor games like basketball, ultimate frisbee and capture the flag.

This kind of prayerful and fun-loving community that Hentz experienced at Bishop Bruté Days laid the groundwork for the brotherhood he’s experienced in the seminary during the past two years.

“When I came to [Bishop] Bruté as a seminarian, it was like ‘Wow. These are the same guys that I was at Bruté Days with,’” Hentz said. “It was so cool to see.”

Like Hentz, Joseph Von Essen is a member of St. Michael Parish in Greenfield. Going into his sophomore year at Greenfield Central High School, Joseph has taken to Bishop Bruté Days much like Hentz did.

“I love it—it the structure, the community, the way of life, being prayer-centered. It’s like paradise,” Joseph said.

While life in Greenfield won’t be like the paradise he has experienced at Bishop Bruté, he said the three days he spent at the vocations camp will help him in his life of faith through the rest of the year.

“It’ll encourage me to persevere more through high school,” Joseph said. “A lot of my time I just spend kind of hoping that I’m getting closer to my goal of becoming a priest. This will encourage me.”

“A beautiful image of discipleship”

While Bishop Bruté Days is a three-day experience for high school students, there’s also a one-day program for boys in the seventh and eighth grades.

There were a combined 64 participants in this year’s Bishop Bruté Days, which ties the record for most participants in the history of the event. Father Michael Keucher, archdiocesan vocations director, delighted in seeing so many participants.

“This is the kind of thing that I’ve been dreaming about and hoping for,” he said.

That’s especially the case because he became vocations director in November 2019, just a few months before the coronavirus pandemic put a clamp on social activities that draw many people.

“I had about three months of normal,” Father Keucher said.

Last year, Bishop Bruté Days was limited to being a one-day event because of continued pandemic protocols. Father Keucher said that it “paled in comparison” to being able to have high school participants together for three days.

This year’s camp, which saw a return to its ordinary three-day schedule, was focused on St. Joseph since the Church is in the midst of a year dedicated to the foster father of Jesus.

On the second day of the camp, participants heard from priests in a variety of ministries reflecting on how St. Joseph serves as a model for them.

They visited St. Francis Hospital in Indianapolis and heard from Father George Plaster, a chaplain there, talk about the example of St. Joseph’s servant in the ministry and Hentz helped him in his ministry.

They went on to St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville, where they heard Father Vincent Lampert reflect on his ministry as archdiocesan exorcist and on how St. Joseph is known as the “terror of demons.”

While sharing lunch in Shelbyville, Father Adam Ahern, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Henryville and St. Michael Parish in Charlestown, spoke with the participants about how St. Joseph is a patron saint of workers.

Toward the end of the day, the seminarians visited the Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis near Bishop Bruté.

There, Msgr. Joseph Schaeckel, pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, spoke to the campers about how the example of St. Joseph can increase their faith. The priest also shared the history of the chapel and the Mayer Brothers, who built the chapel’s altar.

“Joseph offers us a beautiful image of discipleship and its different dimensions,” said Father Keucher, who also serves as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and sacramental minister of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County.

“That’s why it’s so neat to have a wide variety of priests and seminarians who each live one aspect of St. Joseph in powerful and beautiful ways.”

Joseph Von Essen was impressed hearing priests in a variety of ministries.

“I think of them as kind of heroes,” Joseph said. “It’s nice to know that you can maintain your individuality even after ordination.”

“Young people on fire for the faith”

Seminarian Samuel Hansen, who will be a senior at Bishop Bruté Seminary in the coming formation year, helped lead Bishop Bruté Days this summer. He had participated in it after his freshman year at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

“I was at a point where the priesthood was a distant speck on the horizon,” said Hansen, a member of St. Roch Parish in Columbus.

“It was something that I was interested in and thought was beautiful. But, in many ways, I knew I wasn’t capable of it at that moment.”

He said he knows that many of the young men who took part in this year’s Bishop Bruté Days are in the same position. But he also recognized the opportunity that he, his fellow seminarians and the priests who assisted with the camp had to form the teenage boys who came to it.

“It’s been exhilarating to see so many young men come here,” Hansen said.

“The big adventure is knowing that something that I might say about what I’ve accepted and held in practice as a Catholic for a while might be something that they’ll hear for the first time.”

Undergirding the efforts of the seminarians and priests who run Bishop Bruté Days were members of Catholic organizations in the archdiocese, including the Knights of Columbus and the Serra Club of Indianapolis, who helped provide meals for Bishop Bruté Days.

Jim Ryback, a member of St. Malachi Parish and the Knights of Columbus, was part of a crew that provided dinner on the last day of Bishop Bruté Days.

“This is a wonderful thing,” said Ryback.

“It’s inspirational to see such young guys come out through the ranks. And what’s coming out is what we’re really excited about,” including their fellow parishioner, Deacon Perronie.

For his part, Deacon Perronie knows personally the power that Bishop Bruté Days can have and is grateful to see it continuing for the next generation of teenage boys.

“It’s encouraging to see young people on fire for the faith and wanting to look into [the priesthood] a little bit more,” he said. “Taking time out of their summer to come spend a few days here and actively consider it. It’s powerful to see.”

(For more information on a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, visit HearGodsCall.com.)
Confession helps us uproot weeds in our spiritual life

I recently became a first-time homeowner. After renting for nearly three decades, I have immediately felt like I have shed the blessings of this status change. But because my husband and I have the opportunity to do something, we have the space to expand our family and look forward about our future; and our children will have a place that they associate with the formation of their identity.

The challenges are also evident: the bunk beds with thin mattresses and repairs and maintenance. Let’s just say that it’s been a steep learning curve for me when it comes to the maintenance of toilets and gallons of paint needed per square foot.

But the greatest challenge so far has been our yard. In the three months that we have owned our home, my husband and I have weeded our gardens to the point of being overgrover stronger, longer and more sprawling weeds. All of this landscaping has me thinking about certain aspects of our Catholic faith.

For the Journey/

Elise Italiano Ureneck

Advice and saying “the rotten fruit” of our digital age

The Eighth Commandment is taking a beating on the Internet. Lying and defaming are no longer the only sins. They are clickbait.

The crisis of fake news and media manipulation started gaining the attention of U.S. bishops, and it’s hard to believe there’s a minute too soon. Manufactured conspiracies like Qanon are dividing families and communities. False assertions about COVID-19 are still filling intensive care units, and it doesn’t stop there.

Last year, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Va., issued a pastoral letter titled “All Can Hear. Communicating the Hope of Christ in Times of Trial.” Bishop Burbidge praised the benefits of the digital world, but also warned that some people manipulately called attention to “false alerts and false crises, provoking strong reactions before the truth or falsehood of an assertion can be established.”

Now Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of Detroit, vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), has gone a step further. In his new pastoral letter titled “The Beauty of Truth: A Pastoral Note on Communicating Truth and Love in the Digital Age,” the archbishop declared that “words matter” because of the consequences of those words matter.

Calling “the uncivil nature of our civil discourse” a “rotten fruit” of “ill-used words,” he warned of “a world awash in deceptions of all kinds.”

“There are innumerable media outlets, including many claiming to be Catholic, that threaten to steer us away from Christ and His Church if we accept their messages indiscriminately,” he wrote.

Indeed, particularly when it comes to news, the changing landscape of Catholic communications is leading some Catholics to turn to untrustworthy news outlets filled with allegations and distortions that leave them angry, confused and distrustful.

The shrinking number of diocesan newspapers and news sites is creating a vacuum for the ideologically unscrupulous. Archdiocese of Indianapolis and five other Catholic newspapers recently halted their publication. 

“Any proposition out of harmony with the teachings of Christ and his Church.”

Archbishops Vigneron advised consulting the Catechism of the Catholic Church when presented with questionable teachings. I agree.

For those of

see CALDAROLA, page 14

Road trips offer a reminder we pass by this life only once

It was our first cross-country road trip since the COVID-19 pandemic had shut down the world as we knew it.

I’ll admit I had some trepidations. As my husband and I ventured forth into an uncertain future, I might or might not be well-vaccinated or observe the proper wearing of a mask. But it had been 16 months since we visited our extended family, including a new granddaughter. It was time.

One thing I love about long road trips, unlike my journey to the house, the car is quiet, the windows don’t open, and the bass is cranked. The only thing I want to do is listen to music and watch the scenery fly by. But the music, playing softly on the speakers during dinner, a great glass of Malbec, and that conversation with strangers on the journey, people I’ll never meet, for that day’s message.

But the service on my birthday was more challenging. Rather than in my family, who lives in Shelbyville, was experiencing some health challenges around that time.

On my birthday, I ended up doing some grocery shopping for my family in the morning (and usually there for me). But the bulk of it was made up of driving twice between our family home in Indianapolis and Dad’s retirement home in Shelbyville on (or sometimes around) a highway undergoing major construction work.

I went to Shelbyville to buy some groceries and other supplies for Dad while my wife Cindy, a registered nurse, took care of him at his home.

After visiting with Dad for a while, I went back to Indianapolis to take my son Ralph to work. (He doesn’t have his driver’s license yet.)

After another trip to Shelbyville to pick up a prescription for Dad that had just been filled. Then it was back to Indianapolis to take Ralph around 10 p.m. at the end of his shift.

Now I know well enough in this describing this day of service, I’m doing so very much from the cheap seats compared to people who give much more of themselves in caring for loved ones on a daily basis for months or years.

Even in the care my dad has needed recently, Cindy has given more than I, partly because of her medical expertise.

But what made this birthday so special was that I was able to spend time with my dad without any feelings of frustration or self-centered resentment.

It was like a gift beyond value and one that came straight from God, for I know that it was only by the help of his grace that Dad was able to be with me.

So, on my birthday, I did have a wonderful day. I received the priceless gift of joy in doing something good for others and not being weighed down by selfishness.

Open yourself to God’s grace, and he will fill your heart with the gift of his joy when you serve others simply out of love for God itself.

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

God’s gift of joy can come in giving oneself in service others

“...I have you a wonderful day.”

Noted another day: a passing traveler in me wants to urge her to keep a gratitude journal and enjoy the trip. But she rushes on to the parking lot.

I did keep a journal, and that’s why I shared dinner at an outdoor restaurant in Indiana. We wanted to eat outside because despite being vaccinated, we assume some maskless folks are not. At first, we had the covered patio all to ourselves, but a brief encounter appeared. They removed their masks, ordered cocktails and dinner, and held hands.

My journal noted that it was a good dinner, a great glass of Malbec, and that delicious, playing softly in the background was a sizzling volcannic of anger. I’m like most people most of the time—a mix of good motivations and selfishness.

So, on my birthday, I did have a wonderful day. I received the priceless gift of joy in doing good for others and not being weighed down by selfishness.

Open yourself to God’s grace, and he will fill your heart with the gift of his joy when you serve others simply out of love for God itself.
The Book of Exodus provides us with the first reading for Mass this weekend. As the name implies, this book of the Bible traces the path of the Hebrews as they fled Egypt, under the leadership of Moses, and proceeded across the desolate Sinai Peninsula on the way to the land God had promised them.

A trip across Sinai today on a paved highway and in a modern vehicle is no delight. The land in general is unoccupied, arid and unappealing. When the Hebrews crossed this territory, the circumstances were even more forbidding.

Of course, they were traveling on foot. They were exposed to the heat of the day and the chill of the night. The peninsula offered little by way of food or drink. They had no compass to guide them, no shelter.

Nevertheless, Moses urged them onward. He constantly reminded them that God had prepared a place for them, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Following Moses at times seemed to the Hebrews to mean that they were wandering farther and farther away from civilization and security. Deeper and deeper they marched into the unknown and the inhospitable.

So, they grumbled. This reading from Exodus captures some of their complaints. They were hungry.

Moses challenged them even more to trust in God. Miraculously, they discovered one morning that the ground was covered with a substance that indeed they could eat. They called it manna. Without this food, they would have starved.

In any case, the vital point for the Hebrews was that this substance arrived precisely when they needed food, and precisely after they had prayed for food. God provided for them. God works through nature. The fact that the manna may have had natural origins in no way diminishes the fact of the miracle.

For the second reading, the Church offers a passage from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians. This reading calls upon the Christians of Ephesus to recognize Jesus, the Lord, as the source of all wisdom. He is the source of all goodness.

In this reading, the Lord presents salvation as God’s gift. Jesus brings this salvation. Indeed, the Lord bears the bread of life to a people otherwise vulnerable to starvation.

Then Jesus makes a startling statement. “I am the bread of life” (Jn 6:35).

In these readings, the Church reminds us once more that we are humans. First, we are vulnerable to death. We can die physically if we are deprived of material food long enough. We also may die spiritually if we are left to ourselves and without God.

Part of our human limitation is our arrogant trust in ourselves and our ignorance of the genuine dangers before us.

These readings don’t remind us of our plight in a gloomy way, but instead with excitement and hope. They recall the fact that again and again God is with us and has answered our needs.

God’s greatest and most perfect answer is in Jesus. He is the complete revelation of God. If, with the help of grace, we live as Jesus lived, we will be near God.

Most importantly, Jesus is the bread of life. If we worthy consume this bread in the Eucharist, Jesus is part of us. He lives in us. We live in Jesus. ™️

My Journey to God

In Exodus

By Natalie Hoefer

Like a thorn in my side
From which I can’t hide,
Temptation poked and pricked at my resolve.

With weak constitution
And lax resolution,
I felt what little self-control I had dissolved.

O God, Your help I need,
And that with haste and speed,
Lost I fall into the trap of life-destroying sin.

I thought I heard,
“Turn to My word,
And find all hope and wisdom there within.”

In Exodus 14:13 I found
Words so true and so profound.
So now when doing battle with temptation, I say:

“Fear not! Stand firmly,
And you will see
The victory the Lord will win for you today!”

(Natalie Hoefer is a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis and is a writer for The Criterion. Photo: The likeness of St. John of the Cross is seen at St. Etienne Cathedral in Auxerre, France.) (CNS photo/Gene Plaisted, The Criterion)

Previously used vestments, chalices may be purchased for devotional use

As a Catholic, I like to decorate my home with religious art that helps draw my heart and mind to God. At times, I am able to find vintage religious pieces on online auction websites that I can’t find elsewhere.

I noticed recently that some online re-sellers have items like used chalices and vestments (stoles in particular) for sale. Does it go against Church teaching to purchase such items to be used on a home altar for prayer and devotional practices only? (Location withheld)

What you are doing is not only permissible, it is laudable. It pleases me to know that the items you describe will be used once again for devotional purposes.

Sometimes people think that, once blessed for religious use, something can never change hands at a reasonable profit. That is incorrect.

What you are purchasing is not the blessing, but the material object. So even chalices or stoles once used in celebrating the Eucharist can be put to later use in the manner you suggest. You are not trafficking in spiritual goods, not committing the sin of usury, price gouging.

Simon the Magician, in the eighth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, tried to offer the Apostles money so that he could bestow the Holy Spirit by laying his hands on people. That is not what you are doing at all.

If you seek to purchase previously used vestments or sacred vessels (such as a chalice or paten), you might consider donating them to a diocese or religious community that would be willing to receive them and have them used anew for their original purpose.

I understand that Catholics can’t do ashes over cremation—and that ashes can only be buried or kept at home. Both my sister and her daughter are Catholics. My sister told me that she has instructed her daughter to use her ashes as fertilizer on plants or trees after cremation. Is this allowed? (Hawaii)

This question—and many similar ones that I receive—reflects readers’ continuing fascination with the disposition of bodily remains. You are correct in your understanding—almost.

The Church’s practice is that ashes from oneself should be buried or entombed in sacred ground—but not kept at home. The Church teaches that cremated remains should be treated with the same reverence as the body of a deceased person.

In 2016, the Vatican issued an instruction regarding burial practices for Catholics. That document specified that either the body or the ashes of the deceased should be buried in sacred ground and that cremated remains should not be kept in private homes or scattered on land or at sea, nor “preserved in mementoes, pieces of jewelry or other objects.

Burial in sacred ground, said the Vatican, prevents the deceased from being forgotten and encourages family members and the wider Christian community to remember the deceased and to pray for them.

The Church’s Code of Canon Law continues to express a preference for burial over cremation because it more clearly expresses the Christian belief in an eventual resurrection when the body and soul will be reunited. As for using the cremated remains for fertilizer, that is in no way enviable in Catholic teaching—or permitted.

(Questions may be sent to Rathen Kenneth Doyle at askrathendoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr, Albany, New York 12203.)
Please submit to writing to our office by 10 am. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere. All obituaries. 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.


DODERO, Samuel, 78, St. John the Apostle, Bloomington, June 2. Husband of Mamie Dodo.


HANCOCK, Gregory, 39, St. John the Baptist, Indianapolis, July 3. Son of Tom and Amy Hayes.

Brother of Cara Bilshe and Ryan Hayes. Grandson of Robert and Joanne Williams.


LONnon, joE, L., 86, Holy Family, Westfield, July 14 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, died on July 14 at Mother Theodore Hall on the campus of her religious community’s motherhouse. She was 89.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 21 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse in St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Burial followed at the sisters’ cemetery. Edna Carolyn Schipp was born on July 9, 1922, in Ferdinand, Ind., which at the time was a part of the then-Diocese of Indianapolis. She entered the Sisters of Providence on Jan. 6, 1940, and professed final vows on Aug. 15, 1948.

Sister Annette was a member of the Sisters of Providence, a religious order of the Roman Catholic Church, consecrated in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. She would later return to the motherhouse where she helped care for the sisters in health care.

In the archdiocese, Sister Annette served in Indianapolis at St. Luke the Evangelist School from 1965-67 and St. Joan of Arc School from 1967-76, and at Providence Retirement Home in New Albany before volunteering in parishes and community groups in Indianapolis for 15 years. Sister Annette later returned to the motherhouse where she helped care for the sisters in health care.

During her 81 years as a member of the Sisters of Providence, Sister Annette served in Catholic schools for 49 years in Illinois and Indiana. After retiring from education, she served as a receptionist at Providence Retirement Home in New Albany before volunteering in parishes and community groups in Indianapolis for 15 years. Sister Annette later returned to the motherhouse where she helped care for the sisters in health care.


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

**Online Lay Ministry Formation**

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has partnered with the University of Notre Dame and Catholic Distance University for 49 years in Catholic schools. During her 81 years as a member of the Sisters of Providence, Sister Annette served in Catholic schools for 49 years in Illinois and Indiana. After retiring from education, she served as a receptionist at Providence Retirement Home in New Albany before volunteering in parishes and community groups in Indianapolis for 15 years. Sister Annette later returned to the motherhouse where she helped care for the sisters in health care.


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would add seeking the counsel of a trusted pastor or religious educator as well.

**WARNING:** “Unsubstantiated claims or allegations.”

Talk is cheap, particularly in the anonymity of social media. “We have seen all allegations of kinds, even extremely grave accusations, leveled against people without the benefit of supporting evidence,” the archbishop said. These charges are meant to attract eyeballs to a site or demonize an opponent.

**WARNING:** The manipulation of media such often pose as documentaries, pulling the viewer along to conclusions that are neither true nor Christian.

**WARNING:** Ad hominem attacks.”

Catholics can engage in spirited debate, but such debate should never include gratuitous personal attacks.

**WARNING:** “God’s Holy Spirit unites. Satan divides,”

The archbishop concluded. “Zeal for a good cause neither requires nor excuses manipulation. The archbishop warned particularly of video presentations using music and images to ‘steer the emotional response of viewers,’ and narratives that tell the compelling story of a person’s IRA to do so.

**WARNING:** “The spirit of division.”

“Charity must always grow engagement for alumni and inspire them to give back to the school in meaningful ways. The position oversees sacramental preparation, Program, RCIA and Adult Faith Formation Programs. The position is responsible for the development and management of Roncalli’s Circle of Faith Annual Fund Dinner, Walkathon and Celebration Roncalli. Our goal is to reach further into our community and we are seeking an individual who is extremely interested in Catholic faith and a bachelor’s or master’s degree in theology or religious studies.

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**TO ADVERTISE IN THE Criterion**

Employment

**Director of Corporate Relations**

Roncalli High School is excited to announce three part-time positions within the Office of Advancement. Given the right candidate, the three of these positions could be combined into a full-time position.

Please submit resume by August 1, 2021. Qualified, interested candidates are invited to email a current resume and letter to Terese Carson at tcarson@roncalli.org. Please include at least three references as a part of the resume.

Employment

Roncalli High School
committees that become what he calls “bridges with the archdiocese.” “We’ve created committees that serve as advisory boards to archdiocesan ministries,” he noted, enabling those ministries to be better aware of the culture, contributions and needs within the Hispanic community.

‘Building that community’

Thanks to a grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., the IPI was able to expand to two additional areas for the 2019-2021 session, creating three graduating classes this June. “With the grant, we decided to replicate what we have here [in Indianapolis] in the Edinburgh and New Albany areas,” Castellanos said. While the grant was only good for two years, he believes the archdiocese can continue to expand the IPI in the future into more areas of central and southern Indiana. The program involves about six courses per year, with participants meeting weekly for two-to-a-half hours.

“Having it offered in Edinburgh made all the difference for me,” said recent graduate Raquel Contreras of Bartholomew Parish in Columbus. “I wanted to do it, but was afraid of driving in the snow to make the meetings in Indianapolis. Once I heard they were creating a group in Edinburgh, it was like God confirming my call to do it.”

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Deacon Ignacio not only participated in the New Albany program; he also recruited other participants and taught a course on the sacraments.

“One of the highlights of the program is we’re really intentional about building the community to the point that, when people [graduate], they say, ‘I really miss my meetings because we could talk and bond.’ To us, that’s essential,” he said. “We’re not only educating the mind, but creating the capacity to build community and engage in something more than a program for ‘my own’ enrichment.”

Looking at the program as a whole, Castellanos is pleased with it and the results.

“When I had the opportunity to travel to national gatherings and compare what other dioceses are doing, I think we’re doing an awesome job,” he said. “The caliber of teachers we have, the kind of energy and support from pastors is just amazing.”

“It’s like a gift”

Recent graduates agree.

“I recommend this program for everyone, even those just starting to get involved in their faith or [who] have just a little bit of interest in what the faith is about,” said Yajaira Landaverde of St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis. “I think even if you don’t have full knowledge, I think this is a program where advanced people in the faith can benefit from your presence. Teachers help you see where you fit in.

“Anyone who truly is wanting to expand their knowledge or to strengthen their faith is a perfect fit.”

More than one recent graduate noted appreciation for the relationships that resulted from the program.

“The bond we all shared was truly wonderful,” said Contreras. “The teachers were amazing, and we all wanted to learn and had so many questions. We always had good discussions.”

Fellow Edinburgh graduate and St. Bartholomew parishioner Edgar Alvarez said he started the program “happy with my faith, but not too committed.” He came out of the program with a “more developed faith and developed soul. I was spiritually restored.”

Deacon Ignacio likened the program to a present.

“It’s like a gift that was given to us,” he said. “We opened it up and saw how beautiful our Catholic faith is, and we appreciate it even more.”

Hoping for a deeper bond with the youth in your life? Consider this event

Calling all adults who have a young person in their lives

What: “Into the Heart” event by the archdiocese’s Office of Youth Ministry for all teachers, parents, coaches, youth ministers, priests, grandparents. This year’s theme, “Known by Name.”

Why: To help adults get to know young people at a deeper level, with the hope of helping them make a deeper connection with God and their Catholic faith.

When: Aug. 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Roncalli High School, 3300 Prague Road, Indianapolis. Cost per person: in group of 1-4 people, $25; in group of 5-10 people, $20; in group of 10-14 people, $15; in group of 15 or more people, $10. Registration: bit.ly/3raUK (case sensitive)

Discount: When registering online, you can get $5 off the ticket price by entering the code “Criterion” after clicking on “enter promo code.”

Those are all good things, but are we stopping in the midst of all the busyness to recognize the child in front of us?” asks Sifuentes, a parent of five with his wife Alex. “So on their birthday, we all go around as a family and say things we love about the birthday person. That’s a way for us to focus on who that person is in front of us.”

Stopping to recognize the youths in our lives—and to interact at a deeper level with them—is also the focus of this year’s “Into the Heart” event that the archdiocese’s Office of Youth Ministry will hold at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis on Aug. 14.

The event is open to any adult from across the archdiocese who has a connection with a youth—parents, teachers, coaches, youth ministers, priests, grandparents—basically any adult, says Sifuentes, the director of youth ministry in the archdiocese. The theme of this year’s event is “Known by Name.”

“We all have a desire to be known,” notes the promotional material for the event. “Young people especially have a need to be known by the adults in their lives.”

The event will provide practical advice and tips to help adults make a deeper connection with youths, with the ultimate goal of helping youths connect more deeply with God and the Church.

“The more we can have adults accompany a young person—whether it’s in a program or on a basketball court—is good for our Church. Because we’re losing our young people,” Sifuentes says. “And many times, it is because young people just come in and out of all the things we do. How many times do we take the time to get to know them?”

“Sometimes young people leave because they never had a relationship with us, the Church. It’s not a relationship with a key piece of dogma, it’s us. We’re the Church. That’s why it’s important for us to form these relationships. To even say ibello could really be important in the life of a young person.”

To show the importance of knowing someone by name, Sifuentes uses the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus (Lk 19:1-10), a tax collector who made his wealth at the expense of others. When Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see Christ among a crowd, Jesus calls him by name and invites himself to the tax collector’s house.

Zacchaeus is not living the best life. Jesus says, “I’m coming to your house today,” and Zacchaeus changes his life.

Sifuentes says, “In the same way, Jesus meets us and says, ‘Accept me into your home, accept me into your life, and you’ll change your ways.’”

A crucial part of that story is that Jesus calls him by name—and how important it is for us as leaders to know the young people we serve. How do we do that? As parents, how do we get to know our kids better? As coaches, how do we get to know our kids better, not just that we’re running a play, but we know who these individuals are? That’s really what the day is all about. It’s about asking young people their name and then getting to know them. It’s about knowing who they are.

Sifuentes says the hope for the day is to inspire, motivate and equip adults with practical ways to interact with youths—to even take the risk of starting a deeper-than-usual conversation with them.

Sometimes people get intimidated, like “How do I bring my grandkids back to the faith?” It’s about talking about life from your perspective of faith. It’s talking about how important that is to you. When you do that, and you know who they are, that means huge amounts,” he says.

“You have one life, kids still go through problems. Life is not perfect. So there are opportunities to have these conversations and accompany them.”