WASHINGTON (CNS)—When the U.S. bishops meet in Baltimore on Nov. 15-18 for their Fall General Assembly, they will revisit the discussion they began in mid-June about the Eucharist and will be presented with a drafted document on the “meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the Church.”

But in the time since their virtual spring assembly, the topic of the Eucharist, and particularly the debate it raised about denying Communion to Catholic politicians who support abortion, has prompted ongoing discussion.

It even came up on the pope’s flight back from Bratislava, Slovakia, on Sept. 15.

Pope Francis said he preferred not to comment directly on the issue of denying Communion in the United States, but he urged bishops to take a pastoral approach rather than wade into the political sphere.

And it’s a complicated issue, pointed out Timothy O’Malley, director of education at the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame and author of the recent book “Real Presence: What Does It Mean and Why Does It Matter?”

During a Zoom discussion on this topic sponsored by Georgetown University this past summer, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, acknowledged the work ahead would be challenging, but as chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Doctrine, he was prepared to address it.

That committee is charged with drafting the document on the Eucharist that will be presented to the bishops in November.

“The goal of the document is to contribute to the eucharistic revival,” he said.

Even before the bishops discussed and voted on proceeding with document, Cardinal Luis Ladaria, prefect of the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, urged the bishops in a letter...
MECHANIC

Greenwald worked through the evening and the night, fixing the brakes, adding a new diode to the alternator, getting the battery charged and putting on some new wiper blades. “Of course, it cost me about $150 in parts, but the car was fixed except for the reverse gear not working,” he says. “The young lady showed up the next day and was beaming that the car was ready. She asked me how much it cost to fix the car, and I gave her the receipts and my address and told her I could send her some money when she got her first check.”

While the young woman was grateful and ready for the trip to Minnesota, Greenwald noticed that her son was still upset about having to make the move. “Once again, Greenwald believed God was calling him to make a difference.

As the snow continued through that Thanksgiving weekend, Greenwald kept track of the news and weather reports of the storm—and how trucks and cars were stranded or ended up in ditches along the route to Minnesota.

“I just couldn’t get the image of the young lady and her son stranded on the side of the road out of my head. I pretty much figured that would be the last time I would hear from them. But I got a letter in the mail about a month later with a check from the young lady.”

In the letter, the young woman wrote, “You won’t believe this, there were cars and trucks stranded and stuck all along the way, but we made it no problem. And my son was a big hit in his new school because of the Rubik’s Cube solution sheet you gave him.”

Greenwald remembers that he cried when he read her letter. He says he still tears up whenever he tells the story of God helping him be there for the young mother and her son.

“I read somewhere that ‘Grace is the power that God willingly gives us to help us do what we could never do on our own.’ I truly believe God uses us to help others. Most of the time God accepts our poor excuse of being too busy to help someone in trouble, but on rare occasions God will insist that we use the talents that he has given us to help someone in need. He refuses to let us off the hook no matter how hard we try to get out of it.”

A special song based on Psalm 103 draws a woman closer to God

By John Shaughnessy

For most people, certain songs can take them back to a place in time or to thoughts of a special person in their life. For Mary Jean Wellington, one particular song always draws her closer to God.

Mary Jean Wellington, a member of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County, Indiana, says that the song is, “Bless the Lord, My Soul.”

“My meditative rendition of this Taizé hymn, based on Psalm 103, not only plays my piano music but prays it,” she says. “God has so blessed me with this traced gift of music. My response to the Lord is to bless him with all my being through our music’s union. For me, the sacred depth of this one song both penetrates and soothes far beyond just my heart to the sacred realm of soul space and becomes adoration. Here I know God’s intimate presence, and I am one with him in the music’s prayer.”

“Bless the Lord, My Soul”, one of the lyrics to “Bless the Lord, My Soul” goes, “Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s holy name. Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life. It is God who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. God does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our faults. As a father has compassion on his children, the Lord has pity on those who fear him, for God knows of what we are made. God remembers that we are dust.”

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The Criterion • 1400 N. Meridian St. • Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF ARCHBISHOP CHARLES C. THOMPSON

November 13-18

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee and General Meeting, Baltimore, Md.

November 21 – 10:30 a.m.

Mass and Blessing at Mary, Queen of Peace Church, Danville

November 13-18

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee and General Meeting, Baltimore, Md.

November 21 – 10:30 a.m.

Mass and Blessing at Mary, Queen of Peace Church, Danville

Traveling a dark and scary road leads a woman to God’s peace

By John Shaughnessy

Most of us have moments when fear grips us, in moments that may seem ordinary and non-threatening to others. For Freta Tewelde, one such moment came when the refugee family from the African country of Eritrea drove to work along a “dark and scary” road on a recent early morning.

“Mr. recebeu sua recausenante from that simple prayer he made—again the next morning as she drove along that same road. But this time, she prayed with excitement instead of fear.

“Now, I don’t pray because I’m scared, I pray because I love meeting God, feeling his peace. That place brings me closer to God each morning. As I begin to pray, the worries go away, and all that disappears, I sincerely talk to God, praising him, thanking him—for feeling calm and peace inside me.”

Her morning prayer on the drive always starts with Psalm 23, the psalm that includes the comforting words, “He guides me along right paths,” “I will fear no evil, for you are with me,” and “Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life.”

Her prayer to God doesn’t end there. It becomes more personal.

“I tell him everything in my heart. I ask him for forgiveness, to help me be good every day, to improve every day, to be close to him every day.”

There’s a joyful tone in her voice as she says, “I have a desire to have God in my life every day.”

NEWS FROM YOU!

Do you have something exciting or newsworthy you want to be considered to be printed in The Criterion? E-mail us: criterion@archindy.org

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November 13–30, 2021

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

November 30 – 10 a.m.

Clergy Advent Day of Prayer at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, Indianapolis

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11/12/21

Clergy Advent Day of Prayer at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, Indianapolis.
The Church in central and southern Indiana, along with dioceses around the world, is in the midst of contributing to the planning process for a 2023 meeting of the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican. The topic of that meeting will be “synodality,” which is a word to describe how all the faithful are called to contribute to the guiding of the life of the Church through prayerful listening and sharing their own thoughts.

Ken Ogorek, archdiocesan director of catechesis, is coordinating the process of gathering input from across the archdiocese. He said that while the Church throughout its history has been collegial, “there’s always room for improvement.”

“It’s really an opportunity to focus on that aspect,” Ogorek said. “How are administrative and strategic decisions made? The synod is not about doctrine or morality. It’s not about the magisterium per se. It’s about how decisions are made. … This specific synod is an opportunity to continue listening and to enhance our listening skills.”

To gather contributions from as many people as possible, there are several ways that have been set up for people to offer their thoughts. Links to an online survey available in both English and Spanish can be found at www.archindy.org/SynodSurvey.

The Archdiocesan Pastoral Council met on Nov. 6 with Archbishop Charles C. Thompson to discuss the synod. Parish councils across central and southern Indiana are invited to discuss the synod and return their input to archdiocesan leaders.

Ogorek emphasized the importance of contributions from individual parishes. “It’s at the parish level where we believe that outreach to the marginalized is going to be most effectively realized,” he said. “We want to make sure that a broad variety of folks have an opportunity to weigh in on church-related matters all the time.”

All of this input should be returned to Ogorek by the end of January 2022. Archdiocesan leaders will sort through the contributions the following month and assemble a 10-page draft report.

“We plan to do that in a prayerful way that listens to how the Holy Spirit might be speaking through everyone who’s offered input and shared their thoughts and feelings,” Ogorek said.

On March 5, Catholics across the archdiocese will be able to take part with Archbishop Thompson in a meeting on the synod. The time and location of the meeting has not yet been determined. When it occurs, those taking part will be able to view the draft report and share their thoughts about the synod with Archbishop Thompson.

A final report in which input from the March 5 meeting can be included will then be completed by the end of March. The findings of that report will be made available to archdiocesan Catholics. The archdiocesan report will be submitted to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which will later send a report on the synod to the Vatican. Such contributions from dioceses around the world will help lay the groundwork for the 2023 meeting of the Synod of Bishops.

(See related editorial, page 4.)
During his homily on October 10 for a Mass to open the synod process now underway in all dioceses throughout the world, Pope Francis emphasized “encounter, listening and discernment” as essential to the success of the meeting of the Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome two years from now. The first idea, “encounter,” is the art of seeing people as they are, not being indifferent or uncaring. Our model for this is Jesus. As Pope Francis says in his homily: “The Lord does not stand aloof; he does not appear annoyed or disturbed. Instead, he is completely present to [each] person. He is open to encounter. Nothing leaves Jesus indifferent; everything is of concern to him. Encountering faces, meeting eyes, sharing each individual’s history. That is the closeness that Jesus embodies. He knows that someone’s life can be changed by a single encounter. The Gospel is full of such encounters with Christ, encounters that uplift and bring healing. Jesus did not hurry anywhere, nor keep looking at his watch to get the work done. The Holy Father describes the synod process as “a process of spiritual discernment that unfolds in adoration, in prayer and in dialogue with the Word of God.” The Word of God “guides the synod, preventing it from becoming a Church convention, a study group or a political gathering, a parliament, but rather a grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Spirit.”

When he formally inaugurated the synod process, the Pope identified three risks and three opportunities. The first risk is that the synod process will become a mere formality. Will we really commit ourselves to reaching out and listening to everyone? The second risk is that the synod’s ambitious goal will remain an abstract idea that never becomes real. And the final risk is what Pope Francis calls “complacency,” the attitude that “we’ve always done it this way” and the refusal to try new approaches to the ministry of our Church. To minimize the risks and take full advantage of the opportunities, we must all take this synod process seriously. We should participate actively in every opportunity afforded us by our parishes and by the archdiocese. As Archbishop Charles C. Thompson said in a recent message to archdiocesan leaders: “The synod process we began last month here in our archdiocese—and in all dioceses throughout the Universal Church—invites us to recognize the sacredness of all human life. In order to encounter Jesus in everyone we meet on the road we are traveling together, we must recognize every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. We are all members of God’s family, all sisters and brothers in Christ, and regardless of our differences and disagreements, we must listen to each other and treat one another with dignity and respect.”

Let’s pray that the Holy Spirit will walk with us—as individuals, families, parishes and dioceses spread throughout the world—to comfort and guide us along the way.

—Daniel Conway

At their fall meeting on Nov. 15-18, the bishops of the United States will have a chance to review, amend and vote on a draft statement titled “The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church.” Much of the media coverage this week has focused on whether it will call out Catholic politicians who support abortion rights. According to the draft sent to the bishops in September, it does not. While this headline-grabbing, clashing content will again attract press coverage in November, it would be a shame if Catholics miss the real content of the document, a reflection on the Church’s teachings on the Eucharist through the centuries. It contains many moving quotes and passages that all of us could benefit from contemplating every time we go to Mass. Here’s a sampling:

Dorothy Day, while known best as a peace activist, had a profound devotion to the Eucharist. Here is one passage from a letter she wrote to aсинod envoy in the early eucharistic faith of the Church: “It is not ‘ordinary bread and ordinary wine’ but ‘the body and blood of Christ, the flesh and blood of him who nourished his flesh by the milk from his mother’s breast.’”

Dorothy Day was a 20th-century Catholic, St. John of the Cross was born only 300 years after Christ, yet he shared Day’s sense of the Eucharist as life giving: “When you see the body of Jesus, the bread of God, you think of the words of our Lord as he preached, ‘set before you [on the altar], drink’ that we receive in the Eucharist, but ‘It is not ‘ordinary bread and ordinary wine’ but ‘the body and blood of Christ’”

The third idea—listening—makes the second idea possible. True encounters require attentive listening. If we don’t hear what others are saying; if we ignore the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our minds and hearts; if we ignore the opportunity afforded us by our parishes and by the archdiocese, as Archbishop Charles C. Thompson said in his message to archdiocesan leaders: “The synod process we began last month here in our archdiocese—and in all dioceses throughout the Universal Church—invites us to recognize the sacredness of all human life. In order to encounter Jesus in everyone we meet on the road we are traveling together, we must recognize every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. We are all members of God’s family, all sisters and brothers in Christ, and regardless of our differences and disagreements, we must listen to each other and treat one another with dignity and respect.”

Let’s pray that the Holy Spirit will walk with us—as individuals, families, parishes and dioceses spread throughout the world—to comfort and guide us along the way.

—Daniel Conway

This holiday season, remember this point: it’s not about you

Remember last year when we wanted nothing more than to celebrate with family and friends? It’s about you. The Christian life is a call to service and not an ego boost. Sometimes we have to swallow our pride or set aside our preferences to remember we are here for others. When particular plans don’t suit your fancy, take other perspectives into consideration. How might God be inviting you to grow in humility or compassion by serving others? You have to expend effort. Waiting for someone to read your mind or make the first move will often lead to disappointment. But if you anticipate that effort and energy will be required, you can be open to what arises. Relationships require hard work. Every family knows this, and our relationship with God is no different. As Dorothy Day once preached a homily that stuck with me for years. He offered three short truths meant to ease interactions between family members: When we got home from Mass that Sunday, I scribbled them down in my journal so I wouldn’t forget his wisdom. When we got home from Mass that Sunday, I scribbled them down in my journal so I wouldn’t forget his wisdom.

Now we’re on the brink of a holiday season with hopes as bright as Christmas lights. But with the return of traditions, travel and time together, we may also encounter the gripes, grudges and jostles of family gatherings.

Could a change in perspective make the difference between disaster and delight at your holiday table? A change in our perspective once preached a homily that stuck with me for years. He offered three short truths meant to ease interactions between family members. When we got home from Mass that Sunday, I scribbled them down in my journal so I wouldn’t forget his wisdom. It’s not about you. You have to expend energy. Meet people at their level. You might wish your relatives behaved or your family members treated you the way you wish. When you look at the crucifix, you will see the words “Christ loves you now.”

Our dearon was preaching about Mary and Martha, drawing from the Gospel of Luke where the sisters serve Jesus in contrasting ways, one in the kitchen and one at his feet. My husband and I listened on that hot summer day, five months after our twin daughters had died. While still in deep grief, we were starting a cross-country road trip to visit relatives and friends—and we wondered how to navigate all the twists and turns of family reunions.

Remember that ours is a God of surprises. It also says that it “is called holy Communion precisely because, by placing us in intimate communion with the sacrifice of Christ, we are placed in intimate communion with him and through him, with each other.”

The last word goes to Pope Benedict XVI: “I strongly believe that we can recognize Christ in the poorest, his brother.”

—Greg Erlandson

Greg Erlandson is director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service.
“Las naciones más prósperas tienen el deber de acoger, en cuanto sea posible, al extranjero que busca la seguridad y los medios de vida que no puede encontrar en su país de origen” (Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, n.º 2241).

Mañana, sábado 13 de noviembre, se celebra la memoria de santa Francisca Javiera Cabrini, patrona de los inmigrantes. De joven, Francisca fundó las Hermanas Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús en su Italia natal y soñaba con viajar a China como misionera. Incluso tomó como parte de su nombre religioso “Javiera” en honor al gran misionero jesuita que viajó al Lejano Oriente para proclamar el Evangelio a otras naciones y pueblos.

Aunque Francisca Javiera Cabrini nunca llegó a Oriente, en 1887 el Papa León XIII le pidió que “fuera hacia el oeste, no al este” para servir al gran misionero jesuita que viajó a la China como misionero. Francisca Javiera Cabrini creó la first school, el Hospital de los Inmigrantes, y la Casa Central de Nueva York en 1892. En 1910, la Misión de los Inmigrantes de Francia fundó la Congregación de las Hermanas Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús.

Francisca Javiera Cabrini cumplió con el deber de acoger, en cuanto fue posible, a los inmigrantes que buscaban la seguridad y los medios de vida que no podían encontrar en su país de origen. Ella se comprometió a servir el gran misionero jesuita que viajó al Lejano Oriente para proclamar el Evangelio a otras naciones y pueblos.

As Americans, we should support our work to make everyone feel at home. We take this responsibility so seriously that Church teaching points out that, as citizens, we may be obligated in conscience not to follow laws or regulations that would violate the fundamental rights of persons or the teaching of the Gospel (See Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2242).

The witness of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini reminds us that no matter where we come from originally, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, members of the one family of God. As citizens of a free society, we have a responsibility to promote the common good—for the sake of our nation and the community of nations. Peace and prosperity should be available to all people regardless of their race, ethnic origin and/or religious preferences. We should be open to all, welcoming of all and respectful of the differences that divide us and the fundamental humanity that unites us. We are fortunate that our archdiocesan has two patron saints, Francis Xavier and Mother Theodore Guérin, who were tireless missionaries and who, like Mother Cabrini, gave themselves wholeheartedly to serving the people of God in lands that were far from their homelands. St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, patron saint of immigrants, pray for us.
November 15, 22, 29
St. Therese of the Child Jesus (Little Flower) Parish Center, St. Therese Room, 4720 E. 33rd St., Indianapolis. SoulCore Rosary Workout. 6:30-7:15 p.m., prayer and exercise. Free: Information: 317-727-1167, panet32003@gmail.com or soulcore.org

November 17

November 18
St. Joseph Church, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. St. Joseph Church, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. The Parish of St. Joseph hosts a monthly Rosary at 4:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the archdiocesan Black Catholic Ministry. All are invited to join in this time of prayer and reflection. Rosary begins at 4:30 followed by a time of faith sharing. This is a special time for the community to come together and find comfort in our faith. Those interested are encouraged to come and participate in this prayerful gathering. For more information, contact Pearlette Springer at pspringer@sjparish.org.

November 19
Northside Events and Social Club, 2100 E. 73rd St., Indianapolis. Catholic Business Exchange. Monica Kelsey, founder of Safe Haven Baby Boxes, presenter, rosary, 6:35 a.m., Mass 7 a.m., buffet breakfast and program following, 18 members, $24 non-members. Register by 4 p.m. on Nov. 16. Information and registration: cuntbyCBS@CBS.com.

November 20-21
Ferdinand, Ind. (Evansville Diocese). multiple locations. Ferdnund Christkindlmarkt. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., German heritage market, antiques, food, live Gockelspiel, marionette theater, free Evansville Philharmonic concert, free tours of the Sisters of St. Benedict Monastery Immaculate Conception, shuttle service to all six Christkindlmarkt sites. Information: 800-965-4758 or www.indianachristkindlmarkt.com.

November 21
Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Parish Life Center gym, 89 N. 17th Ave., Breckinridge. Christmas Bazaar. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., more than 20 exhibitors, craft and holiday boudoir, handmade items, white elephant, chili and beans with ham soup and corn bread lunchen, free admission. Information: 317-784-6000 or p108cmaster@sbcglobal.net

November 21-28
Benediction Conferences via GroupMe. 4 p.m. Sundays. Benedictine Sister Jill Marie Reuber, facilitator, sponsored by Sisters of St. Benedict, Evansville, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). Information: vocation@thedore.com

November 24
Greentown, Ind. (via Zoom). 7 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Benedictine Sister Jill Marie Reuber, facilitator, sponsored by Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). Information: vocation@thedore.com

November 25
St. Louis de Monfort Parish, 11404 Hague Rd., Fishers, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). Free Thanksgiving Dinner. 11 a.m. Information: 317-517-4256.

November 26
St. Matthew the Apostle Parish, 4100 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. St. Matthew the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oaklandon Rd., Indianapolis. Mass at 11 a.m., lunch at 12 p.m., union $5, food item to be blessed. Information night for those interested in becoming a foster parent, no fee. For more information or to register: 317-775-6500 or visit www.villageofkentucky.org.

November 27
St. Louis Parish, St. Louis Place, Batesville. Batesville Deaconary Retreat. Summit, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Information: Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, Father Daniel Mahan, of the Sisters of St. Benedict. Ferdinand, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). Information: vocation@thedore.com

November 28
PARISH ACTIVITIES

November 29
The Villages of Indiana online. Foster Parenting Virtual Information Night. 6-8 p.m., for those interested in becoming a foster parent, no fee. For more information or to register: 317-775-6500 or visit www.villageofkentucky.org.

November 30
St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 815 Oaklondon Rd., Indianapolis. SHIP (Singles Hoping Involved Partnership). 6-8:30 p.m. fellowship ministry for singles ages 45 and older, Euchre and Mexican snack provided, talks by Sr. Catherine Berdat. †

December 1
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. Contemplative Prayer, in person or via Zoom, sponsored by Oldenburg Franciscan Center. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Franciscan Sister Olga Wittekind presenting, free will donation. Information and registration: cuntbyAFRC@AFRC.com.

December 1, Dec. 2
Providence Spirituality and Conference Center. 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Art and Soul Creation Guild, choose from 9:30-11:30 a.m. first Saturday of the month or the week of the 1st of the month. †

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December 2
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December 3
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January 2
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January 3
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January 4
The Villages of Indiana online, Foster Parenting Virtual Information Night. 6-8 p.m., for those interested in becoming a foster parent, no fee. For more information or to register: 317-775-6500 or visit www.villageofkentucky.org.

January 5
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. Contemplative Prayer, in person or via Zoom, sponsored by Oldenburg Franciscan Center. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Franciscan Sister Olga Wittekind presenting, free will donation. Information and registration: cuntbyAFRC@AFRC.com.

January 6
The Villages of Indiana online, Foster Parenting Virtual Information Night. 6-8 p.m., for those interested in becoming a foster parent, no fee. For more information or to register: 317-775-6500 or visit www.villageofkentucky.org.
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Page 7
Three women receive Sisters of St. Benedict's Angels of Grace awards
By Natalie Hoeter
Throughout the Bible, three archangels are listed by name: Gabriel, messenger of good news to Mary and Zechariah; Michael, defender of heaven who cast the devil into hell; and Raphael, the traveling companion of Tobias.
The Sisters of St. Benedict of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove have annually identified these three women who have heroically served in the roles of messenger, defender and companion, and recognized their service with an “Angels of Grace” award.
Due to efforts to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the 2020 winners were unable to receive their awards. As restrictions eased this summer, sisters from the Beech Grove community and the monastery personally delivered last year’s winners’ awards.
Receiving the honor were recipients Overdose Lifeline founder and executive director Justin Phillips for the “defender” Archangel Michael Award; SON Foundation founder and executive director Denise Jacobson for the “messenger” Archangel Gabriel Award, and Celebrate Marriage Ministry co-founder Marcy Renken for the “companion” Archangel Raphael Award.
Here are the stories of the 2020 messenger, defender and companion.

Archangel Michael Award winner Justin Phillips
Justin Phillips’ career revolved around non-profits and injury prevention for children. So when her son Aaron died in 2013 from heroin overdose—a preventable disease—she channeled her pain, passion and professional background into raising awareness of substance addiction as an inevitable chronic disease.
She did so by founding Overdose Lifeline, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping individuals, families and communities affected by the disease of addiction/substance use disorders through advocacy, education and support.
“When Aaron died and I learned a bunch of stuff I didn’t know about opioids and the real potential for overdose death from opioids and the lack of knowledge and understanding that we all had, it seemed like a logical place to transfer my skill set, because I couldn’t do anything for Aaron, but I could for other people,” said Phillips.
“That’s what keeps driving me still is the loss of Aaron combined with all the other things I know. The families of all the others I’m connected to, in their memory and honor, and to prevent this from happening to someone else’s loved one.”
Overdose Lifeline offers courses, trainings, webinars and trainer programs to increase knowledge and competency to fight the opioid public health crisis. It also offers youth programs, information about naloxone, family support and Camp Mariposa–Aaron’s Place for children of families affected by substance use disorder. The organization also led efforts to pass Aaron’s Law, which allows laypersons access to the drug Narcan—a nasal spray used to treat suspected opioid overdose—without a prescription, thus eliminating barriers to receiving the drug and using it to save lives.
“I was really honored,” Phillips said of receiving the award. “I don’t feel worthy, honestly. I have a strong work ethic and I’m just trying to make a difference for others.”
She thinks getting the St. Michael Award specifically is “appropriate because it’s my prayer that we are defending the goodness and dignity of others, but more specifically those who are affected by this disease that is often judged and stigmatized by others.”
For more on Overdose Lifeline, go to www.overdose lifeline.org.

Archangel Gabriel Award winner Denise Jacobson
Some friends are there for a friend in need. And then some friends create a non-profit organization to help others like their friend.
Such is the case with Denise Jacobson. When her friend and fellow fourth-grade teacher Tiffany Thompson took a year’s leave to heal from cancer treatments, Jacobson took a year’s leave to care for her.
During that year, God revealed to Jacobson his true calling for her: to share the love of Christ by opening a home for Christian support in downtown Indianapolis to give cancer patients and their families a place to stay when they are coming from out of town for cancer treatments.
The home opened in 2013. It named it the SON Foundation. SON stands for Serving Others’ Needs, and the foundation seeks to do so with faith at the center of all they do.
“We offer [guests] a Bible that they may take with them if they choose,” said Jacobson. “We have a minister on call if a guest would like to speak with someone. Prior to COVID, we had a weekly Bible study. We just try to show the love of Christ through what we do and how we do it.”
Volunteers connect with the home’s temporary residents, offer to pray with and for them, and serve as a liaison for any needs they might have.
“They’re just another friend on the other end of the line while [families] are here in Indy,” Jacobson explained. “They just try to be on our guests and shine the light of Christ through what they do.
We just try to give a message of hope and that there’s a community out there surrounding these families, that they’re not alone, that there are others going through the same thing, but that God also knows exactly what they’re going through and it’s for a purpose. There’s a purpose for their trial and there’s a community that will help support them through it.”
Receiving the award from the Sisters of St. Benedict was particularly meaningful to Jacobson.
“My grandmother’s house was across from the Benedict Inn,” she noted. “The sisters brought back those times with my family spent right there walking through their gardens. I never imagined I’d be standing on their grounds receiving an award!”
For more on the SON Foundation, go to www.sonzoundationindy.org.

Archangel Raphael Award winner Marcy Renken
The Worldwide Village program is known for strengthening marriages. In the case of Marcy and Tom Renken of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, their marriage was so transformed that they wanted to strengthen other couples’ relationships as well.
The couple founded the Celebrate Marriage Ministry in their parish in 2012.
“We grew to see how important community is in marriage,” said Renken. “It’s not just one’s friends, but for couples to have a community of couples to encourage each other and to know that we all have struggles, good days, bad days, and that no matter where you are in your marriage, God can make you to make your marriage better.”
The ministry, which is open to all marriage couples, hosts four events a year, each focusing on a specific aspect of marriage.
“One is romance, so we have a marriage reception for couples to connect with each other and to love on each other,” Renken explained. “Second is our Celebrate Fun event, which is friendly competition between couples, like scavenger hunts and games. Third is an all-day conference where married couples can spend the whole day together. And fourth is Celebrate Covenant, a date night with entertainment for couples to spend with other couples.”
She said they hope to inspire similar ministries in other parishes.
Renken was thrilled to receive the honor from the Sisters of St. Benedict.
“It’s really humbling, a huge shock, to get an award I didn’t even know I was in the running for,” said Renken.
“For the Benedictines to hear about our ministry and think it’s worth giving this award for, I can’t put words to it. With COVID, it’s been difficult—with the ministry, marriage, life, work, day to day changes. To be acknowledged for doing the work of God during this time I feel was a play by the Holy Spirit to say, ‘You’re on the right track.’”
For more information on the Celebrate Marriage Ministry, go to celebratemarriageministry.com.

Denise Jacobson poses with the Archangel Gabriel Award.
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Catholic youths and young adults join march for climate change
GLASGOW, Scotland (CNS)—Thousands of Catholics took to the streets of the United Kingdom to show their support for action to halt climate degradation.
Many joined the Nov. 6 Day of Action in Glasgow, Scotland, ahead of the Oct. 31-Nov. 12 U.N. Climate Change Conference. They took part in a three-mile march that drew up to 100,000 demonstrators from all over the world. It was the largest of about 100 protests in the UK and the largest demonstration since the beginning of COP26, as the conference is known.
Many Catholics chanted and carried banners as they marched with such groups as the Scottish Catholic Aid Fund, and CAPOD, its English and Welsh counterpart. Others came as part of the Laudato Si Movement, which processed in front of a huge inflatable globe, or with Catholic Missions or in particular groups.
They braved five hours of strong winds and driving rain to gather in Kelvingrove Park in the west of the city and walked to drumbeats with thousands of each Christians through the city center to Glasgow Green in the east.
CAPOD member Emily Murray, 20, from Reading, England, said visible action was essential because she believed the poor world of the poor were “already being oppressed by climate change.”
“I think people need to start acting while they still have time. More than ever, young people are really interested in climate change.”
Colm Fahy was one of 28 young adults to walk 52 miles from Edinburgh to Glasgow with Jesus Missions on the “Growing Our Future” pilgrimage ahead of the conference. He said he hoped real change would come from COP26.
“Pilgrimages go to miraculous things, if we think about Lourdes and Guadalupe,” he told CNS. “We think that the answer is prayers. We think that is the answer.”
Passionist Father Antony Connelly of St. Mungo Parish, Glasgow, said Catholic youth “are very aware of the need for social teaching on the environment developed since the pontificate of Blessed Paul VI and preached emphatically by Pope Francis.”
“For us, it’s an emergency,” he said. “We need to take action, not just against this planet again, and we need to be loving those who are suffering the effects of climate change, especially.
“It’s the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor that we are committed to. It is hurting those who are poor the most. I hope this will be a turning point. I would be very proud if it was, but I am still praying for a miracle.”

Justin Phillips poses with the Archangel Michael Award.

Marty Renken poses with the Archangel Raphael Award.

Marcy Renken poses with the Archangel Raphael Award.

(Angeles of Grace award winners usually receive awards at a fall Roman Catholic Mass honoring women benefiting women’s programs at the Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center in Beech Grove. The 2020 and 2021 events were cancelled to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To make a donation to support the cause, donate online at www.benedictinn.org/angels-of-grace, or write a check to Benedict Inn Angels of Grace, 3468 Beech Grove Church Rd, Beech Grove, IN 46107. For more information, call 317-788-7581. All photos above were submitted).†
Archbishop Gomez says Church must proclaim Christ ‘boldly’ in response to new movements

LOS ANGELES (CNS)—The Catholic Church must proclaim Christ “boldly” and “creatively” in the face of new secular movements that promote “social justice,” “woke-ness” and “intersectionality,” among other beliefs, in order to answer “all of society’s” questions about human life and the human person, about marriage, about freedom and dignity for every person, according to Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Addressing pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square on Nov. 7 for his Sunday Angelus address, the pope warned the faithful to be on guard “against hypocrisy, which is a dangerous illness of the soul. This is a warning for all time and for every Church and society: to never take advantage of a special role to crush others, never to make money off the backs of the weakest!”

After praying the Angelus prayer, the pope expressed concerns over increasing violence in Ethiopia amid reports that Tigray Defense Force rebels were approaching the outskirts of the country’s capital, Addis Ababa. The conflict, which began in Tigray on Nov. 4, has killed thousands and displaced more than 1 million people, as it has displaced more than 1 million people, as it

The pope added: “I invite everyone to pray for these people so sorely tried, and I renew my appeal that fraternal harmony and the peaceful path of dialogue may prevail,” the pope said.

The pope also prayed for victims of a deadly tanker explosion in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on Nov. 5 that claimed the lives of more than 100 people.

“VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Christians must strive for a sincere faith that seeks to serve others rather than to exploit the weakest for personal gain,” Pope Francis said.

During their spring meeting, 75% of U.S. bishops approved the drafting of a document ‘addressing the Catholic Church’s efforts to answer a deepening appreciation for the Eucharist with an appeal to accept the Eucharist as the source and summit of our commitment to the world and others as a way to overcome the illusion of creating a society of equity. “We all want to build a society that provides equality, freedom and dignity for every person,” Archbishop Gomez said. “But we can only do that by starting with the foundation of the truth about God and human nature. Referencing Pope Francis’ 2020 encyclical letter ‘Fratelli tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship,’ Archbishop Gomez went on to note, “Unless we believe that God is our Father, there is no reason for us to treat others as our brothers and sisters.”

“Today’s critical theories and ideologies are profoundlyathletic,” he continued. “They deny the soul, the spiritual, transcendental dimension of human nature, or they think that it is irrelevant to human dignity. They reduce what it means to be human to essentially physical qualities—the color of our skin, our sex, our notions of power in the name of creating a society of equity.”

In the United States, “these strictly secular movements are causing new forms of social division, discrimination, intolerance and injustice,” he added.

As challenging as this situation is for the Church, Archbishop Gomez said that there is a hopeful way forward for believers, noting that while there is “no need for a new secular religion to replace Christianity,” there is a need for “you and me to be better witnesses. Better Christians. Let us be beguiled by love, loving sacrifices for others, putting away spiritual poisons like resentment and envy.”

Living such Gospel principles does not allow Christians to “remain passive in the face of social injustice. Never! But we do need to insist that fraternity cannot be built through animosity or division. True religion does not seek to harm or humiliate, to ruin livelihoods or reputations. True religion offers a path for even the worst sinners to find redemption.”

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to proceed with caution in developing a national policy “to address the situation of Catholics in public office who seek to legislate against abortion, contraception or other moral evils.”

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Pope: True faith known by sincerity of heart, not hypocrisy of appearances

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savoring the two great joys of her life—her bond with her family and her relationship with God. The log cabin sits on a piece of grassy, tree-lined land near the home of her sister, her brother-in-law, the two nieces and three nephews that she adores. The log cabin is also the place where she has increasingly drawn closer to God after a whirlwind journey around the world in which she teetered on the edge of losing her way, her faith and herself at times.

As a young adult Catholic, Bedwell’s journey is far from over. Yet, for now, she’s savoring the two great joys of her life—the two nieces and three nephews—who live just across a driveway from the two-story cabin. And Bedwell says the touches of faith atmosphere she has created in the log cabin she calls home.

She has strived to live that foundation of faith in the four years she has called the log cabin home. She has opened the place for Bible study and prayer groups. And she chooses not to have a television to make the space open and contemplative for her to know God’s presence.

“Through faith in Jesus, I saw the Eucharist for the first time as truly the ‘source and summit’ of the faith. The Mass became my absolute life source because I experienced Jesus giving me myself as flesh to heal my flesh.”

Bedwell considers that experience as her “St. Paul moment of conversion.” She soon returned to Indiana and began attending Mass every day. Yet even though she was back home, her spiritual journey wasn’t over. Instead, it took her to a place she had never been before.

“During a retreat in New York in 2016, as she was discerning whether to become a Maryknoll lay missionary, she asked God a question that she considered terrifying, ‘Lord, what do you want me to do?’

‘Up to this point in my life, I had never actually asked God before what he wanted. I simply made decisions and presumed he would catch up along the way. I prayed that prayer and did the cleaning. ‘Open the Bible to a random page and find the answer.’

Bedwell’s opening of that random page led her to the Bible verse of Mark 3:19–20. ‘Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.’

Returning to Indianapolis, she joined a Bible study and began to share her story among friends, all the time remembering the details of her soul-searching journey. ‘A common phrase I would hear while traveling was, ‘All paths lead to God.’ I asked Jesus in prayer one day, ‘If all paths lead to you, why would I bother listening to the Gospel at all? Do all paths lead to you?’ His response in my heart was gentle and firm: ‘No. But I follow you down every path.’”

The log cabin and a foundation of faith

Bedwell shared her story this summer in Indianapolis with more than 200 people at a Theology on Tap get-together, an informal social event focused on developing faith and friendship in the archdiocese’s young adult Catholic community.

It was the first time she had ever talked about her faith journey in front of so many people. The nervousness of that reality gave way to joy the she felt when people responded positively.

“I prayed that what I said would be helpful or encouraging to the people who were listening,” she says. “It was really encouraging to have several people come up afterwards and share their story. I could see God’s grace at work.”

She feels God’s grace at work in her life, and she strives to make an ever-welcoming place for him. She attends daily Mass, noting, “If I just go to Mass every day of my life, it will be a life worth living. I’d rather start my day with the Lord than leave it up to chance.”

Her welcoming of God in her life is also evident in the atmosphere she has created in the log cabin she calls home.

Crosses, statues of Jesus and images of the Blessed Mother are on display at every turn inside the two-story cabin. And Bedwell says the touches of faith go even deeper.

She smiles as she shares the story of the woman who previously lived in the nearby house where her sister’s family now resides. The woman had a dream that a log cabin also needed to be built on the property. So the woman’s husband soon began building it, putting down a foundation of cinder blocks that the wife insisted be marked with certain words.

Bedwell discovered the wording on the cinder blocks when the cabin needed additional electrical wiring. Venturing into the crawl space, she saw that different blocks had been marked with the words, “Jesus,” “Prophets,” “Apostles” and “Disciples.”

“‘The coolest thing,’ part 1

After dropping out of college, training to become a massage therapist and living at home for three years, Bedwell decided she needed more adventure in her life and her faith back on course.

‘The coolest thing,’ part 2

At the same time, she loves the liveliness that her two nieces and three nephews—who live just across a driveway of grass and stone—add to her life. The triple-decked bunk bed in the log cabin is well-used by the children.

Bedwell has no doubt that God has more plans for her in the future, that her faith journey is far from over. Yet, for now, she’s savoring the best place she has ever been—close to God in so many ways.

“I’m a work in progress,” she says. “I feel like John oftentimes. He described himself as ‘the beloved.’ I feel the same way. I’m loved. It’s a wonder and a fascination of being loved in spite of who I am.”

As for more adventures in her life, Bedwell is focused on one destination.

“Heaven. This is going to be the coolest thing you do. All the things I’ve done in the world, I’m just looking forward to what God has next for me. He really does follow me down every path.”
The culture of death includes all forms of abuse, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Every form of abuse—sexual, psychological or an abuse of power—is part of “the culture of death” that needs to be eradicated through the conversion, education and the active participation of everyone, Pope Francis said.

“May the safeguarding of minors be an even more concrete and regular priority in the Church’s educational efforts and may it be promoted as a service that is open, reliable and authoritative” and aimed at combating “every form of domination, affronts to personal intimacy and complicit silence,” he said in a written message.

Guaranteeing safe environments for minors and vulnerable people is a journey that everyone in the Church must embark on together, driven by “the sorrow and shame that everyone in the Church must embark on designing, implementing and moving toward a culture where everyone, regardless of age, can develop their talents, freedom and dignity, and avoid the temptation ‘to seduce or lure, which only in appearance can facilitate relations with younger generations,’” he wrote.

Pope Francis encouraged young people to play a greater role in these efforts, noting they would be important in recognizing and flagging where there are risks and in reminding people of their responsibility in safeguarding.

U.S. Cardinal Sean O’Malley of Boston, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, was one of the conference speakers and delivered his remarks online.

He praised the lay Catholic associations promoting the “SAFE” project, noting their groups work in “almost every area of the lives of children and young people today: in their homes, schools, recreational activities and sporting associations.”

“In some countries, there is a perception that children are not at risk in community organizations and recreational groups,” he said. “This can lead to a false sense of security that unintentionally leaves children and young people at risk of abuse.”

Based on the papal commission’s work in offering guidelines and best practices, the cardinal offered some suggestions for the SAFE project.

“Firstly, even the most stringent protection policies, educational programs and victims’ assistance services are fruitless if there is no regular verification of their implementation and efficacy” with open and transparent audits by outside third parties, he said.

Second, they should include survivors as partners in their work, he said.

Unfortunately, some dioceses have noted when they invite survivors or their loved ones “to attend confidential meetings and listening sessions, few if any persons respond, leading the leadership to conclude that there have been few if any occurrences of abuse in their diocese,” he said.

However, “there are very few if any places where the tragedy of sexual abuse has not occurred in the life of the Church. We need to create a culture within our organizations that believes a survivor’s testimony, which mitigates silence born of fear or delays in addressing situations that put children and vulnerable adults at risk,” he said.

Finally, how people are to report abuse must be publicized and accessible in their associations and online.

“We must promote a culture in which children, young people and their families know they can speak out, know who they can speak to and that when they do, they will be heard and—where there is a risk of abuse—action will be taken,” the cardinal said.

Pope Francis

Diaconate ordination

Bishop Michael C. Barber of Oakland, Calif., ritually lays hands on Jesuit Brother Joseph Kraemer during an Oct. 23 Mass at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland during which Brother Kraemer and eight other Jesuits were ordained as transitional deacons. Deacon Kraemer was previously a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond.

(Pic courtesy of Jesuit-West Province)

November 5, 2021
Happy Birthday, JDub! We love you!

JDub’s letter to his mom.

Mom, if you are reading this just know nothing was your fault. You were the best mother I could of ever asked for and I love you so much. I never understand why any of this had to happen to me, but I am finally at peace with everything and all the pain and suffering is gone. You and dad gave me the best life you could have asked for and you guys will never know how thankful I was for everything. Even though I am not living here, I will always be here in your guys hearts. I had 23 great years of life and wouldn’t change a thing. Take care of Mander and tell him I love her, and tell rainnie and dad I love them too. Don’t be sad at all, just know I am happy now and in a better place. I’ll always love you mom, thank you for everything. Your son Max.❤️

JDub’s letter to his family and friends

If you are reading this my fight with cancer has come to an end. I gave it everything I had and never gave up one second. I knew that I had other ones then me. I want to thank everyone who has been there for me through it all. I never knew how many people loved and cared about me, and I will never forget any of you. I am at peace now and all the pain is gone. I love everyone from the bottom of my heart, and I had the best 23 years of life anyone could ask for. One thing I learned through this all is never give up, no matter what you are going through, and to live your life to the fullest, do those things you’re always wanted to do and never hold grudges life is too short. I will see you all again one day, and I’ll always be watching over all of you!❤️—Love Max
Church emphasizes importance of peace—even in teachings on war

By Stephen M. Colecchi

The Church’s teaching on war begins and ends with its teaching on peace. Building peace does not ultimately rely upon weapons. Peace is built upon human rights and social justice.

Peace is both the starting point and the ultimate goal of the Church’s teaching on war and peace. Although the tradition includes the concept of a just war, it is more important to speak of a just peace. St. John Paul II had a beautiful image for peace. “Like a cathedral, peace has to be constructed, patiently and with unshakeable faith,” he said.

He warned that peace is destroyed “wherever the strong exploit the weak; wherever the rich take advantage of the poor; wherever great powers seek to dominate and to impose ideologies.”

Peace is a positive social reality in which people can find fulfillment. For conflicts to be resolved and for people to prosper, the basic demands of justice and equity must be fostered. St. Paul VI put it succinctly, “If you want peace, work for justice.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: “Peace is not merely the absence of war, and it is not limited to maintaining a balance of powers between adversaries. Peace cannot be attained on Earth without... respect for the dignity of persons and peoples... Peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity” (#2304).

St. John Paul was highly skeptical of modern warfare: “Today, the scale and the horror of modern warfare—whether nuclear or not—makes it totally unacceptable as a means of settling differences between nations. War should belong to the tragic past,” he said.

The catechism quotes the Second Vatican Council’s acknowledgement that “as long as the danger of war persists and there is no international authority with the necessary competence and power, governments cannot be denied the right of lawful self-defense, once all peace efforts have failed” (#2308).

A just war must adhere to moral principles. War is permissible only to serve a just cause and confront aggression whose dangers are “lasting, grave and certain” (#2309).

War must be declared by a competent governing authority and only as a last resort. There must be a probability of success since only correcting a fundamental injustice legitimizes the use of force.

In addition, the conduct of the war must use force that is both proportionate and discriminate. The good the war aims to achieve must outweigh the evil caused, and no act of war can be directed against innocent civilians. The destructive power of modern weapons makes it more difficult to meet just war criteria today. Some believe it is more morally appropriate to speak of the use of just force, but not just war.

Just force might include limited military engagements that separate warring parties or police-like actions that protect vulnerable populations such as U.N. peacekeeping missions.

There is another stream of the Catholic tradition regarding how to resist injustices and aggression. In their 1993 reflection, “The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace,” the bishops in the U.S. pointed to the effectiveness of nonviolence in countering unjust aggression in Eastern Europe, South Africa and elsewhere.

They acknowledged that many Catholics believe nonviolence better reflects the values of the Gospel. At the very least, nonviolent resistance to injustice provides another effective tool that should be considered before one resorts to the use of force.

Pope Francis has built upon the teaching of his predecessors. In the encyclical “Fratelli Tutti, On Fraternity and Social Friendship,” Pope Francis explores “the injustice of war” and quotes St. John XXIII who taught that “it no longer makes sense to maintain that war is a fit instrument with which to repair the violation of justice” (#260).

Other modern popes have reached the same conclusion. Pope Francis makes the bold judgment: “Every war leaves our world worse than it was before. War is a failure of politics and of humanity” (#261).

Tragically, the nations of the world invest enormous resources in preparing for war. Instead, the Church argues that humanity should invest more in building peace. The bishops of Vatican II in “Gaudium et Spes,” the “Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World,” argued that “the arms race is an utterly treacherous trap for humanity, and one that ensures the poor to an intolerable degree” (#61).

Let us look at the war in Afghanistan in light of the Church’s teaching. At the onset of that war, the bishops in the U.S. called for the observance of the “norms of the just war tradition” such as “noncombatant immunity, proportionality, right intention and probability of success.”

Two decades ago, they warned about the difficulty of assessing the “probability of success” and called for “developing criteria” for when would be “appropriate to end military action in Afghanistan.”

“The war went on for 20 years without success or clear criteria for its end. According to a study by Brown University, the war cost our nation more than $2 trillion and resulted in the deaths of an estimated 243,000 people, including more than 6,000 Americans and more than 70,000 civilians, not including indirect deaths from disease, hunger or destruction of infrastructure.”

In light of these realities of modern warfare, it is little wonder that bishops of Vatican II in “Gaudium et Spes” called for an “evaluation of war with an entirely new attitude” (Stephen M. Colecchi retired as director of the Office of International Justice and Peace of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2018. He currently serves as an independent consultant on Catholic social teaching and international issues of concern to the Church.)†
United in the Eucharist, we are called to community

I imagine most Catholics have a favorite prayer or Scripture passage. There is a prayer in the liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass that has had a profound impact on my way of thinking.

When it comes to favorite prayers during Mass, my heart goes to the words that the priest would audibly recite the old version of the Roman Missal just prior to Communion: “May the body and blood of Christ bring us to everlasting life.”

Only, he would insert the word “all” in an “all” made, for me, such a profound impact on my way of thinking.

When I first paid attention to my way of thinking, my heart was aghast. This version of the words I had always recited was not the one I knew, and I felt torn between two versions of my faith. I was more familiar with the “all” version but felt that it was not the version that was being used during Mass.

So, I began to ask Jesus to enter my body, mind and heart so that I may be Christ to others. And attending Mass is the most powerful way that we can make Christ present in the world. We are called to bring the Eucharist into the world around us.

I believe that only through the Eucharist that strengthens us, it is up to all of us to help one another attain heaven.

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When I first paid attention to my way of thinking, my heart was aghast. This version of the words I had always recited was not the one I knew, and I felt torn between two versions of my faith. I was more familiar with the “all” version but felt that it was not the version that was being used during Mass.

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I believe that only through the Eucharist that strengthens us, it is up to all of us to help one another attain heaven.
The Book of Daniel provides the first reading for Mass this weekend. Michael, the “great prince” of the angels, is the center of attention (Dan 12:1). He is one of the few angels who is mentioned by name in the Scriptures. Michael’s role in Daniel was to defend God’s people. In this role, he of course was a model of God’s instrument. Michael, along with the other faithful angels, appear as opposites of the devils, the fallen angels.

In this reading, Michael protects God’s people. The fundamental point is that God protects the good from everlasting death and defeat before evil. The setting is very trying, a scene of great distress. Persecution, hardship and terror are everywhere. Some will die. The names of all will be recorded. The dead will awaken. Some will live forever. Others will be cast into eternal doom. Living forever will be the wise. The wise, in the Scriptures’ judgment, are not necessarily persons of high intelligence, but rather those among the faithful who have served all their lifetime to God (12:2). And Michael tells us that although the world shall again be divided into the good and the bad, it has vanished all enemies of God and of the right and just. He sanctifies, or makes holy, all who are faithful to God.

The Sunday Readings

The Criterion  Friday, November 12, 2021

By Thomas J. Rillo

Do not try to imitate God
Always let God be God
Subordinate your own will
Be still and come to know Him
Listen to His words with your heart
The ear of your heart is best
Let go and let God guide you
A journey taken to grow closer to Him
Our God is a mighty God if you let Him
Let God be omnipotent and eternal
For this is what He is and can be for you.

Let God show you His hidden majesty
Allow God to work His purpose out
Let God speak His almighty Word
Loosen your tongue and praise God
Rejoice before God your Maker
Listen to God through His prophets.

Magnify God who created the world
Let God be your sound foundation
Let God share with you His only begotten Son
Let God open the door to His heavenly house
Allow God to be always in your heart
Let God take you by the hand at heaven’s gate.

By Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Parents have authority over the medical care of teenage children under 18

On our pastor’s homily last week, he stressed how important it is for teenagers to be vaccinated for COVID-19. From the pulpit, he praised a group of teenagers who are actively encouraging others their age to be vaccinated, and he said that those who decide not to get the vaccine are being complacent. This upset a lot of parents in our congregation who claimed that it was divisive. I’m wondering whether each parish is autonomous in its approach, or is it supposed to follow a centrally coordinated message dispersed among all archdioceses? (Georgia)

Certainly many Catholic leaders—such as the beginning with Pope Francis—have urged people to get vaccinated against COVID-19. In a video message produced in August, the pope praised the work of researchers in producing safe and effective vaccines and said that getting the vaccine is an “act of love.” Doing so, he explained, “is a simple yet profound way to care for one another, especially the most vulnerable.”

To answer your direct question, I am not aware of any “centrally coordinated message dispersed among all archdioceses” in this regard, though it seems clear that many Church leaders are strongly encouraging vaccination.

But as to recommending it for teenagers, I think we should defer to the will of parents since they have authority over their teenage children while they are minors. If a pupil appeals urges students to avail themselves of the vaccine, it should include the proviso that parents do not want the final say.

I have been married for 33 years to a wonderful man. We had a Catholic wedding, even though I was not Catholic at the time. We now have two daughters and a happy family life together, which includes regular Mass attendance.

Three years ago, I decided to convert to Catholicism; in the course of my instructors program, I learned the Church’s view that a sexual union is a big part of marriage and is the unique connection of man and wife in the eyes of God.

Here’s the problem. We have a totally celibate marriage, and my family’s experience of trying to conceive five years after we were married, we had no sexual intercourse.

This is not mutual. I would welcome a sexual union with my husband, I have begged and pleaded with him, but he’s just not interested. I had to threaten him with divorce to get him to have sex with me when we were trying to conceive.

At the time we were married, I knew that the relationship would be a celibate one, since my husband told me so. I didn’t think it would be such a big deal, since I loved him so much (and still do). But I was wrong. I spoke with a priest in our parish about all this, and he told me that, since we had children, clearly we had consummated the marriage and I should just deal with it. What do you say? (New York)

I say that you should speak with your doctor and seek a referral to a canon lawyer. The Catholic view of marriage has always been that it includes the right to have sexual relations with one’s spouse.

What you need to ask is whether your marriage in the Church was even a valid one to begin with. Though you agreed to celibacy at the outset, this seems to have been imposed by your husband as a condition for the marriage—which, I would think, calls into question the validity of the marriage itself.

Then, having consulted with the canonist, bring that information back to your husband. I am not advocating the end of your marriage—since you love your husband and have two children—but perhaps you can persuade your husband to grant what is legitimately yours.

Perhaps you and your husband could seek guidance to discuss your insistence on a celibate marriage.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfurd Doyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbus Circle Dr, Albany, New York 12203.

The Daily Readings

Monday, November 15
St. Albert the Great, bishop and doctor of the Church
1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63
Psalm 119:53, 60, 134, 150, 155, 158
Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday, November 16
St. Margaret of Scotland
St. Gertrude, virgin
2 Maccabees 6:18-21
Psalm 3:2-7
Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday, November 17
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, religious
2 Maccabees 7:1-31
Psalm 17:1b, 5-6, 8b, 15
Luke 19:11-28

The Dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and Paul
St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, virgin
1 Maccabees 2:13-29
Psalm 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15
Luke 19:41-44

Friday, November 19
1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59
(Responsorial) 1 Chronicles 29:10, 12-13
Luke 19:45-48

Saturday, November 20
1 Maccabees 6:1-3
Psalm 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19

Sunday, November 21
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Daniel 7:13-14
Psalm 91:1-2, 5
Revelation 1:5-8
John 18:33b-37
**Online Lay Ministry Formation**

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has partnered with the University of Notre Dame to offer the University of Notre Dame Catholic Lay Ministry University (CDU) to offer not-for-credit online theology classes:
- Earn certificate in Lay Ministry
- Complete 11 core courses online with ND STEP program
- CDU offers classes on Catechesis of the Catholic Church
- 20% reduction for CDU members, volunteers, and parishioners

For more information, please log on to:
www.archindy.org/layministry

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**Accompany, pray for people experiencing depression, burnout, Pope Francis says**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)—People experiencing depression often need someone to talk to, and they can benefit from psychological counseling and reading what Jesus has to say, Pope Francis said.**

"Let us pray that people who suffer from depression or burnout will find support and a light that opens them up to life," the pope said.

In a video message released by the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network on Nov. 3, the pope offered his prayer intention for the month of November, which he dedicated to people experiencing depression. November and the start of shorter and colder days for the Northern Hemisphere sometimes trigger “seasonal affective disorder” and depressive symptoms, according to many medical experts.

In his video message, the pope said, "Overwork and work-related stress cause many people to experience extreme exhaustion—mental, emotional, affective and physical exhaustion." "Sadness, apathy and spiritual tiredness end up dominating the lives of people, who are overloaded due to the rhythm of life today," he added.

The pope said, "Let us try to be close to those who are exhausted, to those who are desperate, without hope. Often, we should just simply listen in silence because we cannot go and tell someone, 'No, life's not like that. Listen to me, I'll give you the solution.' There's no indispensable psychological counseling, which is useful and effective, Jesus' words also help, such as, ‘Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest’ (Mt 11:28).”

Pope Francis has spoken candidly in interviews about his own mental health.

He found help from a psychiatrist for how to deal with depression, he recalled. "Often, we should just simply listen in silence because we cannot go and tell someone, ‘No, life’s not like that. Listen to me, I’ll give you the solution.’ There’s no solution,” he said.

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**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. Obligations of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in The Criterion. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, because they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.

**BERRAND, Alberta E., 93, St. Mary of the Knobs, Floyd County, Nov. 1. Mother of Jim, Ronald and Steven Berand. Sister of Judy Bowe, Mildred Nieloth, Rita Nolot, Ann. Eimer and Melford Andrews. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of five.**

**CORNELIUS, Elizabeth A., 70, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, Oct. 20. Sister of Mary Eckstein, Allan, Eric, Harry, Jr., and Timothy Gay. Aunt and great-aunt of several.**

**DAVIS, Dorothy Brown, 85, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, Oct. 28. Mother of Brenda Armstrong and James Brown. Sister of Donald and William Armstrong. Grandmother of two.**

**DEVALERIA, Herman, 95, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, Oct. 18. Father of Valerie, David, Patrick and Paul DeValeria. Great-grandfather of eight. Great-grandfather of four.**

**ENDRIS, Daniel V., 57, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, Oct. 25. Husband of Debbie Endris. Father of Charles Endris and Jaylin Endris. Son of Paul Endris. Brother of Mary Pat Endris and Paul Willis Endris.**

**ENZINGER, Lawrence P., 72, St. Louis, Bataville, Oct. 20. Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Enzinger. Koester, Constance Munchel and Paul Einginer. Uncle of several.**


**HALL, Thomas W., 83, Holy Guardian Angels, Cedar Grove, Oct. 31. Father of John, Julie and Mary. Grandfather of three.**

**HARTSOCK, Robert, 101, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Aug. 2. Husband of Alicia Hartsock. Father of Rebecca Hartsock Kelly and Kim Hartsock. Grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of nine.**

**HARTSOCK, Jack, 80, St. John the Baptist, Starlight, Sept. 20. Son of Carl and Helen Huber. Father of Maureen Huber, Carl, Dennis and Greg Huber. Father of Carol Koster, Ronni Banet and Bob Zurschmeide. Great-grandfather of 12. Great-great-grandfather of nine.**


**KELLY, Charles R., 80, St. Andrew, Indianapolis, Oct. 19. Husband of Barbara Kelly. Brother of Patricia Kelly and Bill Kelly. Uncle of several.**

**MARCOS MATEOS, Jose Luis, 51, St. Anthony, Indianapolis, Oct. 30. Father of Julissa, Jose Luis and Rafael Marcos Ruiz. Brother of Amelia, Graciela, Juana, Martha, Teresa, Juan Carlos, Manlio and Maximino Marcos Mateos. Grandfather of four.**

**MARKLETT, Jerome R., 81, All Saints, Brownsburg, Oct. 13. Husband of Jane Marlett. Son of Jeff and Joan Marlett. Great-grandfather of three.**

**MCLANE, JoAnn W., 97, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Oct. 22. Mother of Beth Ann Carroll, Bill and David McLane. Great-grandmother of one.**

**MCLINTOCK, Albert, 97, St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, Oct. 28. Son of Robert and Virginia Mclintock. Brother of Richard, David and Martha Mcintock. Great-grandfather of eight.**


**MCLINTOCK, Ronald, 82, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Oct. 22. Father of Beth Ann Carroll, Bill and David McLane. Great-grandfather of one.**

**NIESE, Mary, 74, All Saints Parish, Dearborn County, Oct. 12. Mother of Joe Nieze. Great-grandmother of several.**


**SHEETS, Thomas A., 65, St. John the Apostle, Indianapolis, Oct. 27. Brother of Joseph Sheets. Uncle and great-uncle of several.**

**SINGER, Beverly, 92, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Aurora, Oct. 25. Mother of Beth, Julie and Allen Singer. Great-grandmother of six.**


**TORD, Mary H., 94, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, Oct. 17. Mother of Tina Stauder and Fernando Tord. Sister of Anne and Al Mikula. Great-grandmother of four.**


By John Shaughnessy

For 16-year-old Lily Cridge, the unexpected meeting on her driveway was a sign from God—a sign that he would be with her through the challenge ahead, that she could put aside all her worries.

For many years, ambition had crept into her preparations for the girls’ state championship cross country race of the Indiana High School Athletic Association on Oct. 30—a race that Lily was the overwhelming favorite to win. “On that Monday, I was feeling a lot of pressure and anxiety because I almost felt like I had to win,” says Lily, a junior at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis. “I felt for the whole season that this is what everyone expected me to do.”

“I see a sports psychologist every week, and we talked about it—that it’s a blessing to be in this position, that I’ve put in all the hard work. From then on, I switched to a mindset of thanking God for this gift and that I’m in this position. I prayed throughout the week for God to take the worries off of me.”

Then came the clinching moment when the worries disappeared for Lily, a member of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis. It happened as she was taking a walk with her dad on the Saturday morning of the race. “This man in our neighborhood, Doug Brown, was passing by,” recalls the younger daughter of Matt and Jill Cridge. “He said, ‘We know him from the parish, and he asked if he could pray over me. At that point, I knew God was looking out for me that day. I do believe that was a sign from God. I could pray over me. At that point, I knew God was looking out for me that day. I do believe that was a sign from God. I’ve put in all the hard work. From then on, I switched to a mindset of thanking God for this gift and that I’m in this position. I prayed throughout the week for God to take the worries off of me.’"

On the day of the race, her drive led her to an individual championship and the cheers and congratulations of her teammates, her parents, her extended family, her friends and a large contingent of supporters from her Bishop Chatard family. “With all of them being there, the one word to describe it is ‘love,’ ” she says. “For them to drive all that way to see what I do, what I love to do most, I was amazed.”

During the celebration, Lily’s thoughts also turned to her older sister Gillian, a triathlete at the University of San Francisco who is one of Lily’s inspirations and who was cheering for her from afar. Their shared joy of running is part of their close bond. “Running is pretty much my happy place,” Lily says.

I feel I don’t have to care about anything in the world. I don’t have any of the worries that I have in school. I can just be myself.”

A championship day that began with a sign from God ended with a prayer to him. “When I was laying down in bed that night, I was thanking God he got me safely through the race. I was thinking about last year when I wasn’t able to run because I was injured. I was thanking him for how far I have come and how much we can do together.”

(Next week: Three state championship teams from Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis will be featured.)

In look in the mirror before correcting others’ mistakes, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—To believe in Jesus means to follow him and avoid “going the opposite way,” following one’s own interests and inflating one’s own ego, Pope Francis said.

Similarly, when Christians see one of their brothers or sisters has strayed, they must be humble, gentle and compassionate, the pope said on Nov. 3 during his weekly general audience in the Paul VI audience hall.

“The supreme rule regarding fraternal correction is love: to want the good of our brothers and sisters” by praying, being patient and accompanying them to help them correct themselves, he said.

However, he added, “this is not easy. The easier path is tailing, skinning the other alive as if I were perfect.”

The pope continued his series of talks on St. Paul’s Letter to the Galatians by focusing on an excerpt from the Apostle’s exhortation on the “freedom of the Spirit.” According to the pope, this “is not just about something that is necessary for himself as well,” he said.

“The Apostle does not place himself above his community,” Pope Francis said. “He doesn’t say, ‘I am the boss ... I have reached the mountaintop and you all are still walking.’ He doesn’t say this, but he places himself in the midst of the journey everyone is on in order to provide a concrete example of how much it is necessary to obey God, corresponding better and better to the Spirit’s guidance.”

Departing from his written remarks, the pope said, “It’s beautiful when we find shepherds who walk with their people, who don’t separate themselves, [thinking], ‘I am more important, I am a shepherd, I am a priest, I am a bishop,’ with their noses held high. No, shepherds who walk with their people—this is very beautiful.

“Walking according to the Spirit is not only an individual task—it also concerns the community as a whole,” which is “exciting, but demanding,” he added.

No matter the challenges, difficulties and temptations to sin along the journey, Christians are able to acquire “a positive vision of life” because they know, no matter what, “God is always stronger than our resistance and greater than our sins,” he said.

On the day of the race, her drive led her to an individual championship and the cheers and congratulations of her teammates, her parents, her extended family, her friends and a large contingent of supporters from her Bishop Chatard family. “With all of them being there, the one word to describe it is ‘love,’ ” she says. “For them to drive all that way to see what I do, what I love to do most, I was amazed.”

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For advertising rates call (317) 236-1585.
Legal professionals from law students to judges—Catholic and non-Catholic—gathered at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on Oct. 5 for Saint Thomas More Society of Central Indiana’s annual Red Mass. For those in the legal field, going to the Mass is “an important thing to do,” said James Sweeney, United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of Indiana, who has attended the Mass for 24 consecutive years. “It’s the Church praying for us to make sure that justice is done,” added the member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. The Mass was hosted by the society, whose mission “is to encourage Catholic lawyers, judges and law students to grow in the practice of our faith and to work with other legal professionals to promote justice and ethical behavior in our community,” according to its website.

At a reception following the Mass, the organization honored former Indiana Fifth District U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks with its Woman for All Seasons Award. “I have to say, there are really no words to express how humbled I am to receive this award,” said Brooks, a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson welcomed her and those of all faiths at the beginning of the Red Mass.

“Nothing Trumps the common good”

Quoting from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the archbishop noted in his homily that “all law finds its first and ultimate truth in the eternal law” (#1951) and that “moral law finds its fullness and its unity in Christ. Jesus Christ … is the end of the law, for only he teaches and bestows the justice of God” (#1953). While the law involves “rights and responsibilities for the sake of individuals, families and communities,” said Archbishop Thompson, “nothing ultimately trumps the common good.”

“The bottom line for us as Catholics, whether serving in the civil or canonical field of law, is keeping before us Jesus Christ as the end of the law, the ultimate teacher of the law and bestower of justice.”

For baptized Christians working in the legal field, he said, “it is more than a profession. It is a means by which to live out one’s call to holiness and mission.”

The archbishop reminded those present that “there are circumstances to be weighed and considered in any given case or situation. It is one thing to know the law. It is another to know how to apply it justly and, as the Church exhorts, with mercy.

“No matter any case or case is the same, but the manner in which we approach each one deserves that same, steadfast perspective in faith and respect for the dignity of life.”

Regardless of one’s role in the legal realm, the archbishop urged those present to keep before them “the person of Jesus Christ as the supreme master of justice and fulfillment of all law.”

“Let us take opportunities to sit with him in prayer, Scripture and sacrament so that those entrusted to our care will benefit from the wisdom and knowledge gained in our service of the law.”

“Arbiters of the truth”

Those who attended the Mass had time to socialize at a reception prior to Brooks receiving her award. It was the first time in two years that Red Mass attendees were able to gather after the Mass, due to precautions last year to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

“I always look forward to celebrating the Red Mass, which is celebrated for the purpose of seeking God’s guidance in the administration of justice,” said Nancy Gargula, a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis who works for the U.S. Department of Justice. She has served on the board of the Saint Thomas More Society of Central Indiana for 40 years.

“The fact that [the Mass is] attended by judges and members of the bar from all faiths—withstanding the fact that of course it is a Catholic Mass—I think brings meaning to all members of the legal profession.”

Father Timothy Wyiczakalla, who earned a licentiate in canon law in Rome in 2019 and serves part time for the archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal, was named chaplain of the Saint Thomas More Society of Central Indiana just days before the Red Mass. He explained that the timing of the event coincides with the beginning of the U.S. Supreme Court’s legal season.

With the Red Mass, he said, “We are able to come and at least begin the federal judicial season by acknowledging that in all things we seek to be arbiters of the truth and of bringing forth justice and mercy, and these are all things that are very much in line with our Catholic liturgical beliefs as well.”

“Strength in my new role”

Before receiving her Woman for All Seasons Award, Brooks shared “a little bit about the seasons of my career and how the role of the Catholic faith has impacted me and my family.”

Her career started in 1985 as a criminal defense lawyer. From 1998-1999, she served as deputy mayor of Indianapolis, followed by two years working for the Indianapolis-based Ice Miller law firm. In 2001, then-president George W. Bush appointed her as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. She had still not been confirmed in that role when the tragedy of Sept. 11 occurred.

Brooks had just left a meeting when she saw the second plane hit the south tower of the World Trade Center Center on television.

“I went back to the meeting to share the news, and someone said, ‘Good luck on your new job, Susan.’ That really hit me,” she recalled.

Later that day when she picked up her children from St. Monica School in Indianapolis, she attended a special Mass for students and parents celebrated in St. Monica Church.

“… feelings in Mass that day that God was going to watch over me; that my family would be safe, we would be protected and that he would give me strength in my new role if I continued to stay near God and trust and count on him,” she said.

Finding common ground, kindness and being peacemakers

Brooks served as a U.S. Attorney through 2007. After working in leadership for Ivy Tech Community College until 2011, Brooks ran for and was elected as the U.S. representative for Indiana’s fifth district. She ran again and won in 2016.

“My greatest legislative successes—and we got a lot of bills signed into law—wouldn’t have been possible without my partners on the other side of the aisle,” she said. “Yet these same partners were often people I disagreed with on maybe 70% of their voting record. … But we would find things we agreed on.

“Why I bring that up is because your adversaries aren’t always your adversaries. If you get to know people … you will find that you have so much more in common with them … It’s this type of civility and compassion for others that I think demonstrates God’s love and what we are supposed to do as lawyers.”

Brooks also spoke about the importance of those in the legal profession being peacemakers.

“I believe we can’t just talk about peace as lawyers,” she said. “It’s in taking the actions that promote harmony and peace that are difficult yet so necessary, and today more than ever.”

As an example, she shared how she and her staff would focus on lavishing kindness upon all who “lined up to talk with us one-on-one” at events. From 2013 through 2019, they came to talk with about their disagreement, whether it was President Barack Obama or President Donald Trump or Congress,” she recalled. “Some yelled, many were threatening, and it was clear to us their level of stress was very high.”

Before each of those events, said Brooks, “We discussed each and every time the importance of listening calmly and politely and peacefully. I can’t tell you what a difference that made.

“If I talk you … to be peacemakers and to demonstrate the Christian principle of being loving,” she said. “Find a way to listen with compassion and with patience, I think you can find that common ground. … I think the world needs more peacemakers.”

(For more information about the Saint Thomas More Society of Central Indiana, visit stmsindy.org.)

Former U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks poses with Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, left, and Marion County Superior Court Judge David Geri after receiving the Woman for All Seasons Award bestowed upon her by the Saint Thomas More Society of Central Indiana during a reception at the Archdiocese Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis on Oct. 5. (Submitted photo by Kim Pohovey)