Grandmom’s faith and his love for God's people lead Deacon Perronie to priesthood

By John Shaughnessy

A wealth of appreciation—and a measure of sorrow—fill transitional Deacon Matthew Perronie as he thinks about the one person he wishes could be there for his ordination as an archdiocesan priest on June 4.

“I think there will be a little bit of sorrow that my grandmother won’t be there, at least physically,” he says. “But knowing she has been with me through this whole journey is a consolation. She will definitely be on my mind. I realize I couldn’t have done this without God working through her.”

That sentiment leads him to share the story of how he lived next door to his maternal grandmother as a child, how he spent most weekends with her, and how she shaped his faith.

An only child whose parents weren’t religious at the time, he was intrigued by the way his grandmother went to Mass every Saturday evening so one day he asked if he could go with her.

As he watched her express her Catholic faith through the years, he also saw how she lived it through her generosity toward others, including making hot meals for neighbors in the weeks before she died.

See PERRONIE, page 8

Plan is expanded for opening of eucharistic revival; new date is June 19

By John Shaughnessy

Imagine a joyful procession that celebrates the Eucharist, weaving through the streets of downtown Indianapolis—a procession filled with youths, young adults, children who have recently made their first holy Communion, people who were received into the full communion of the Church this Easter, and everyone else who believes that Christ continues to offer his body and blood to the faithful in each Mass.

That’s the vision that archdiocesan leaders have for a celebration on June 19, Father’s Day—a celebration that will include two Masses, a eucharistic procession and a “Festival of Faith, Family and Service.”

The celebration will connect with ones in dioceses across the United States, coming on a weekend that marks the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, traditionally known as Corpus Christi.

It’s all part of a concerted effort by the bishops in the United States to call for “a three-year, grassroots revival of devotion and belief in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.”

The revival is a concrete extension of the bishops’ belief “that God wants to see a movement of Catholics across the United States, healed, converted, formed and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist—and sent out in mission ‘for the life of the world.’ ”

The culmination of this three-year revival will take place in July of 2024 when the first National Eucharistic Congress in nearly 50 years is held in Indianapolis.

The archdiocese will start its three-year path to that once-in-a-lifetime gathering with its celebration of the Eucharist on June 19.

The celebration will include two Masses at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis, with one starting at 1 p.m. and the second beginning at 3 p.m. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson will be the principal celebrant at both Masses.

Following the 3 p.m. Mass, there will be a eucharistic procession through the city, with the archbishop presiding.

See REVIVAL, page 8

Leading people to a deeper love of Christ inspires archdiocese’s ‘National Eucharistic Preachers’

By Mike Krokos

Dominican Father Patrick Hyde and Father Jonathan Meyer love the Eucharist.

And both have a passion for preaching about the body and blood of Christ.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson shared these insights when he was announced on May 2 that the two pastors serving in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

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PREACHERS
continued from page 1

Father Jonathan Meyer, pastor of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County, preaches on Feb. 26 during a Mass at the seventh annual E3 Catholic Men’s Conference at East Central High School in St. Leon.

(Photos by Sean Gallagher)

The selection of the Eucharistic Preachers is helping to lead revival efforts at the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

There are among the 58 priests who have been chosen to serve as “National Eucharistic Preachers.” Their selections are in support of the multi-year National Eucharistic Revival leading up to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) National Eucharistic Congress to be held in Indianapolis in July of 2024.

Both priests are “very good homilists with a passion for the faith and teaching it to others,” Archdiocese of Indianapolis officials said in press release.

“They have the ability to appeal to various age groups in their preaching, which is a trait of a good homilist. The revival is about reaching minds and hearts in relationship to the real presence of the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist,” Father Meyer is co-pastor with Father Daniel Mahan of the parishes of All Saints in Dearborn County, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Aurora, St. Lawrence in Lawrenceburg and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross in Bright.

Father Patrick is pastor of St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington.

The initiative was established with the goal of awakening a desire among the faithful to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist, and to cultivate a personal devotion and relationship with him in a way that bears fruit in works of charity, USCCB National Eucharistic Revival officials said in press release.

Father Meyer said he did not come to understand the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist until he was a college seminarian.

“I know that sounds odd, but it’s true,” he said. “It was not until I read a prayer book that my mother gave me after I had been accepted as a seminarian of the archdiocese, but [then] I became thoroughly convinced that Jesus is present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.”

An encounter with Jesus in the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the sixth grade helped shape Father Patrick’s belief in the Real Presence.

“I remember sitting there and knowing God’s love. I can’t explain it. I just knew at that moment that I was loved,” he said. “The hook was set. … Throughout my life, in high school and college, especially in moments of doubt and difficulty, waywardness, struggle, sin, it was always the Eucharist and the celebration of Mass … that always gave me hope, that always brought me back.”

As he reflects on his style of preaching, Father Meyer said he is inspired by the saints, including St. John Vianney and St. John Paul II. He added he also looks up to Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

“I also spend time listening to preachers in other Christian denominations, who I think do a very effective job in preaching,” he noted.

Classic theologians like St. Augustine and St. John Henry Newman have influenced Father Patrick’s style of preaching, as well as Mgr. Ronald Knox, an English priest who died in 1957, and Archbishop Sheen.

“Those are all priests and bishops who I looked up to in terms of the way they crafted a homily,” he said.

Like Father Meyer, he also listens to preachers of other denominations and how they present the Gospel “and the story of salvation.”

The process to select the preachers began by asking bishops and religious superiors to submit the names of candidates, explained Father Jorge Torres, a priest of the Orlando, Fla., Diocese who is helping to lead revival efforts at the USCCB.

As the candidates were vetted, some were asked to join the team with an explanation of their role and the time commitment involved. They were also invited to an April retreat in Chicago during which they discerned whether to join the effort.

As National Eucharistic Preachers, the priests will minister throughout the United States during the next two years.

They will soon respond to invitations from dioceses to speak at clergy convocations, gatherings of diocesan and Catholic school leaders, at diocesan holy hours and youth and young adult events to help build stronger connections with the Eucharist and build interest in the Eucharist.

In about a year, the priests will begin speaking at parishes and smaller gatherings, noted Father Thomas Meyer.

“The priests have been asked to enter into this role because of their love for the Eucharist, their ability to communicate, their schedule for allowing flexibility,” Father Torres added.

Father Meyer is eager to preach about the Eucharist as he begins his evangelizations efforts across the U.S. “I look forward to having the opportunity to inspire people to fall deeper in love with Jesus Christ. Without him, there is no true meaning or understanding of what it is to be a human being,” he said. “A rediscovery of Jesus, most importantly truly present in all the tabernacles of the world, will bring joy, hope and purpose to our existence.”

Father Patrick, too, prays plants seeds of faith that are nurtured.

“The Eucharist is a road and a revitalization within the Church that starts with our encounter with the Eucharist,” he said of the message he plans to share.

“Put first things first. Put the Eucharist first in your life,” Father Patrick continued. “I hope I can help people realize who and what the Eucharist is, and once we get there—how we realize who and what the Eucharist is—our life changes, everything changes.”

(To learn more about the National Eucharistic Preachers or find out how they can be scheduled for local events, visit eucharisterevival.org/eucharistic-preachers.)

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Seniors will soon celebrate their Catholic high school graduations

By John Shaughnessy

Pride and relief, nostalgia and celebration will blend once again as seniors prepare to graduate this spring at Catholic high schools across the archdiocese.

“May their relationship with Jesus Christ remain strong and may they use their gifts to bring glory to God.”

“If a time when friends promise to stay close forever, when seniors seek out the teachers who have made a difference in their lives, when parents of the graduates look at their children and wonder where the years have gone.

It’s also a time for congratulations to the Class of 2022, including this one from Brian Disney, superintendent of Catholic schools in the archdiocese.

“Congratulations to our Catholic high school graduates throughout the archdiocese,” Disney said. “With their outstanding Catholic education built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, our graduates are prepared to live the words of St. Catherine of Siena who said, ‘Be who God meant you to be and you will set the whole world on fire.’ ”

The superintendent applauded the graduates for how they “demonstrated their intelligence, courage, strength and commitment by excelling in academics, athletics, performing arts and other activities.” He especially saluted the graduates for the way they have lived their faith.

“They have demonstrated Christ’s love for others through hours of community service. They have demonstrated their love of God through their participation in the sacraments and growth in their relationship with Jesus Christ. They have grown in their vocations by asking for God’s guidance and by developing their talents. These graduates have achieved much on this stage of their life’s journey.”

Disney also praised all the people who have supported and contributed to the success of this year’s graduates.

“All the successes of our graduates would not be possible without their parents, their primary teachers,” he noted. “The dedication and support of their priests, school leaders, teachers, coaches and staff members have contributed to their successes as well. All their opportunities are enhanced by those committed to Catholic schools, including our benefactors and prayer warriors.”

The superintendent also hopes the graduates will continue to build upon the formation and education they have received in their Catholic school as they journey into the future.

“May their relationship with Jesus Christ remain strong and may they use their gifts to bring glory to God.”

To the Class of 2022: We are proud of you for your accomplishments and are excited to see the continued impact you will make in our Church, communities, nation and world. Be who God meant you to be and go set the whole world on fire.”

Here is a listing of graduation-related information for the 12 Catholic high schools in the archdiocese.

Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 156 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 6:30 p.m. on May 19 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 2:30 p.m. on May 22 at the school.

The class valedictorian is Daniel O’Gara, son of Thomas and Elizabeth O’Gara of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis.

The class salutatorian is Patrick Countryman, son of Brad and Eileen Countryman of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Mgr. William F. Stumpf, vicar general and pastor of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.

Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 211 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. on May 22 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 4:30 p.m. on May 22 at Clowes Memorial Hall on the campus of Butler University in Indianapolis.

Cardinal Ritter High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 131 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 7 p.m. on June 2 at St. Monica Church in Indianapolis.

The graduation ceremony will be at 7 p.m. on June 3 at the school.

The class valedictorian is Nicholas Mark, son of Robert and Colleen Mark of St. Malachi Parish in Brownsburg.

The class salutatorian is John Baldini, son of Daniel and Kimberly Baldini of St. Malachi Parish.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson.

Cathedral High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 237 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 6:30 p.m. on May 20 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 1 p.m. on May 22 at the school’s Brunette Park.

The commencement speaker will be Summa Cum Laude graduate Allison Schneider, daughter of Brad and Melissa Schneider of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Sarah Watson, assistant superintendent of Catholic schools.

Father Michael Shawe Memorial High School in Madison has a graduating class of 19 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 6 p.m. on June 3 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 1 p.m. on June 5 at the school.

Two students are in contention for valedictorian and salutatorian honors as the school year draws to a close. The students are listed in alphabetical order.

Lina Leatherman, daughter of Gabriele Leatherman and Robert Leatherman.

Nolan Tandy, son of Duane and Sonja Tandy.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Chris Walsh, chancellor.

See GRADUATIONS, page 15
Build the human family by spreading God’s love through your vocation

“In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the people of God have become missionary disciples. All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization.” (Pope Francis in his message for the 2022 World Day of Prayer for Vocations)

We again were encouraged to pray for vocations last weekend as the universal Church marked the World Day of Prayer for Vocations on May 8. That day we also celebrated Good Shepherd Sunday.

As people of faith, many already offer daily petitions for vocations. We thank them for this heartfelt commitment they offer to our Church. Pope Francis reminded us in his message for this day of prayer that all vocations—ordained ministry, consecrated life and laity—are integral to the Church and its mission.

Reflecting on the broader meaning of vocation within the context of a synodal Church, the Holy Father said we must be a Church that listens to God and to the world.

“Synodality, journeying together, is a vocation fundamental to the Church. Only against this horizon is it possible to discern and esteem the various vocations, charisms and ministries,” the pope wrote in his 2022 message, whose theme was “In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the people of God have become missionary disciples. All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization.” (Pope Francis in his message for the 2022 World Day of Prayer for Vocations)

In every ecclesial vocation and ministry that calls us to see others and the world through God’s eyes, to serve goodness and to spread love with our words and works.

Love—it must be at the heart of every vocation and how we live it. We must never stray from letting that gift shine through us as disciples of Christ. Christians do not only receive an individual vocation; we are also called together, the pope reminded us. We are like the tiles of a mosaic. Each is lovely in itself, but only when they are put together do they form a picture. Each of us shines like a star in the heart of God and in the firmament of the universe,” he wrote. “This is the mystery of the Church: a celebration of differences, a sign and instrument of all that humanity is called to be. For this reason, the Church must become increasingly synodal: capable of walking together, united in harmonious diversity, where everyone can actively participate and where everyone has something to contribute.”

We are again reminded that God has a vocation for all of us. Are we listening?

Let us pray the Holy Spirit fills our lives—priests, consecrated men and women, and lay faithful—to journey and work together, as the pope wrote, “in hearing witness to the truth that one great human family united in love is not utopian vision, but the very purpose for which God created us.”

May the light of Christ shine through each of us, please God, so we can live lives to the fullest—lives rooted in faith as brothers and sisters in Christ.

—Mike Krokos

Letters Policy

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

Letters from readers are welcome and every effort will be made to include letters from as many people and representing as many viewpoints as possible. Letters should be informed, relevant, well-expressed and temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect.

The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to edit letters from readers as necessary based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content (including spelling and grammar). In order to encourage opinions from a variety of readers, frequent writers will ordinarily be limited to one letter every three months. Concise letters (usually less than 300 words) are more likely to be printed.

Letters must be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld.

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

Opinion

Pope Francis greets seminarians and the rector from the Pontifical North American College during his general audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican on Sept. 29, 2021. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Be Our Guest! Laura Kelly Fanucci

Speaking of resurrection

We don’t talk enough about resurrection. How a marriage can be resurrected—How what felt dead and gone to be buried in the dark earth forever, is not always dead and gone. How a friendship can be resurrected—How speaking harsh words can breathe new life into brittle bones. How relationships can come back to life through grace, mercy and forgiveness.

We see such miracles happen every day in hospitals, clinics and churches. How every priest and doctor, if you press them for a story and if they trust you with the truth, will tell you they have seen things with their own eyes that cannot be explained by anything they learned in school.

How children hold the secrets to God’s upside-down kingdom. How freely the young speak of life, death and heaven—and how arresting their simple truths can be to older ears.

We need to tell many stories—loss and grief, suffering and love, light and faith. Stories that challenge and complicate. But we also need the startling stories that defy category.

Like the first disciples who found the empty tomb, we too have run and stumbled, disbeliefing and grappling with what makes no sense by earthly terms.

But if we could make ourselves vulnerable, like Christ stretching out wounded hands so others would believe, we might be able to speak a few words—to a spouse, a friend or a child—about the holiest glimpses we have been given.

A story of sobriety after years of addiction.

A story of a lost child returning home.

A story of grudges chipped away with the right chisels.

Resurrection was meant to be shared, spread and shouted. If we do not speak of the holiest glimpses we have been given, we will lose the chance to bring life from death, you will start to try, and it will change you—us and me, our children and grandchildren, our friends and neighbors, this lost and lonely world.

We don’t talk enough about resurrection. But we could start to try, and it would change us—us and me, our children and grandchildren, our friends and neighbors, this lost and lonely world.

What’s more, when you tune your ears and eyes to the infinite ways God works to bring life to death, you will start to glimpse God everywhere.

The hair on your arms will rise when you ask a question about life or faith that you have never thought to ask.

The memory in your bones will leap like joy when you offer forgiveness to a loved one and remember how it feels to start over.

The tidy categories you assigned to God and heaven will start to unravel when you listen to a friend admit that in deepest grief, they felt surprising joy—and they never had a place to share such a story so she buried it for years.

Ordinary hints of resurrection will start to push into your life, certain as spring, stubborn as seedlings.

You could start to see dawn as affirmation—that God has deemed it good and worthy that we keep going, offering us another chance to try again.

You could open the confessional door, taking one step beyond the fear that kept you on the side of long-held sin, stepping out again with the freedom of forgiveness.

We don’t talk enough about resurrection. But we could start to try, and it would change us—you and me, our children and grandchildren, our friends and neighbors, this lost and lonely world.

If we follow Mary Magdalene to the tomb and stay when others leave, if we turn around when God calls our name, if we let go of what we carried and take up new truth into open hands, then we can keep spreading the good news, telling what we have seen and heard and known.

We don’t talk enough about resurrection. But this year we have the whole season of Easter to keep trying.

What stories will we tell this year? What truths will we find? (Laura Kelly Fanucci is a writer, speaker, and author of several books, including Everyday Sacrament: The Messy Grace of Parenting. Her work can be found at laurakellyfanucci.com)
Our Lady of Fatima asks us to pray for conversion, peace

"On 13 May 1917, the shepherd children reported seeing a woman 'brighter than the sun, shedding rays of light' in Fátima. ‘A crystal spherule filled with the most sparkling water and pierced by the burning rays of the sun.' " (Catholic News Agency, Our Lady of Fatima)

The publication date for this column is Friday, May 13, the Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima. A memorial is not a solemn feast day like the Assumption, Aug. 15, or the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, but it is still an occasion for serious prayer and reflection. In times like these, it is especially important for us to remember the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to three young children in Portugal in the early years of the 20th century.

The story of Our Lady’s appearances to Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, at the Cova da Iria in Fátima, Portugal, in 1917, has been declared “worthy of belief” by the Church.

Millions of pilgrims have visited the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, many experiencing miraculous cures and the healing of troubled minds and souls. We Catholics believe that Mary remains close to us, involving herself in our daily affairs and continuing to act in the affairs of the world. We turn to Mary in times of crisis because we know that she cares for us as her children, and because we believe that her intervention is powerful and efficacious.

Just this year, on another Marian feast, the Annunciation of the Lord, March 25, our archdiocese joined with Pope Francis in publicly consecrating the suffering peoples of Ukraine and Russia and all humanity to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This act of consecration was first requested by the Virgin Mary when she appeared to the three Portuguese children 105 years ago. The original apparitions took place during the six months preceding the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, when the world was at war, and the children related that the Lady talked to them about the need to pray, especially for Russia.

Now, more than 100 years later, amid the turmoil of Russia’s 2022 “special military operation” in Ukraine, sanctions against Russia, and fears of nuclear war, the Latin Rite Catholic bishops of the Episcopate of Ukraine requested that Pope Francis “…publicly perform the act of consecration to the Sacred Immaculate Heart of Mary in Ukraine, and Russia, as requested by the Blessed Virgin in Fatima.” Our archdiocese and dioceses throughout the world joined in this solemn act of consecration.

As Pope Francis has observed, “When Mary said ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord’ [Lk 1:38] in response to the news that she would become the Mother of God, she didn’t say ‘this time I will do the will of God, I am available, then I’ll see.’ Hers was a full ‘yes’, without conditions.”

Instead of imitating this attitude of Mary, the Holy Father says, “We are experts in the ‘half-yes’; we are good at pretending not to understand what God wants and consciousness suggests.” That’s why we turn to Mary, Queen of Peace—to help us overcome our fear, hesitation and reluctance and to show us the way to her Son, Jesus, the source of true justice and peace. Mary embodies us with her courage at the same time that she comforts us with her tenderness.

Each full and unreversed “yes” we say to God is the beginning of a new story, Pope Francis tells us. Saying yes to God is the witness given to us by the saints, especially Mary our mother and patroness of the children of Fatima as the children of Fatima saw her—“a Lady more brilliant than the Sun” because she points us toward Jesus and illumines the way he wants us to live.

We are blessed with many ways to express our love for Mary. The rosary, which Mary urged the children at Fatima—and all of us—to pray, is the most popular form of Marian devotion.

When we pray the rosary, we have a special opportunity to meditate on the incidents in the life of Christ, the sacred mysteries of our redemption, even as we ask Our Lady to intercede for us as we struggle to follow her Son as missionary disciples who are called to give witness to his peace.

When we consecrate our sisters and brothers in Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we acknowledge that they are fellow members of God’s family who need the protection and tender care of our Blessed Mother. When Mary, the Mother of God, accepts our prayer: Regina pacis, ora pro nobis! (Queen of Peace, pray for us!)

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

La Virgen de Fátima nos pide que recemos por la conversión y la paz

“El 13 de mayo de 1917, los niños pastores informaron haber visto a una mujer ‘más brillante que el sol que irradiaba rayos de luz’ en las Cova da Iria, Fátima, Portugal. Cuando María dijo ‘Soy la esclava de tu voluntad’ [Lc 1:38] en respuesta a la noticia de que sería la Madre de Dios, no dijo ‘esta vez haré lo que quieres’ sino ‘si estoy disponible, entonces veré.’ Ella fue un ‘sí’ total, sin condiciones.”

En lugar de imitar esta actitud de María, el Santo Padre dice: “Somos expertos en los ‘sí a medias’: somos buenos para fingir que no entendemos lo que Dios quiere y la conciencia sugiere.” Es por eso que nos dirigimos a María, Reina de la Paz, para que nos ayude a superar nuestros miedos, dudas y reticencias y nos muestre el camino hacia su Hijo, Jesús, fuente de la verdadera justicia y la paz. María nos invita a unirnos con su valor durante este tiempo que nos consuela con su ternura.

Cada ‘sí’ completo y sin reservas que le decimos a Dios es el comienzo de una nueva historia, nos dice el papa Francisco. Decidirse a Dios es el testimonio que nos dan los santos, especialmente María nuestra madre y nuestra estrella guía. Veneramos a María como la vieron los niños de Fátima: “más brillante que el Sol,” porque nos señala a Jesús y el camino que Él desea que sigan en la vida.

Tenemos la bendición de contar con muchas formas de expresar nuestro amor por María. El rosario, que María instó a los niños de Fátima (y a todos nosotros) a rezar, es la forma más popular de devoción mariana.

Cuando lo rezamos, tenemos una oportunidad especial de meditar sobre los episodios de la vida de Cristo, los sagrados misterios de nuestra redención, incluso cuando pedimos a nuestra Madre Santísima que interceda por nosotros, llamamos para que nos guíe a seguir a su hijo como discípulos misioneros llamados a dar testimonio de su paz.

Cuando consagrarnos a nosotros mismos a María, nuestra madre y nuestra estrella guía, reconocemos que somos compañeros de la familia de Dios que necesitan la protección y la luz de la guardiana de nuestra Santísima Madre. María, la Madre de Dios, acepta nuestra oración: Regina pacis, ora pro nobis! (Reina de la Paz, ruega por nosotros).
Retreats and Programs

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

Saint Meinrad Archabbey to hold women’s Catholic Leadership Forum on June 17-19

A women’s Catholic Leadership Forum will be held at the Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 3353 S. Springville Rd., in Saint Meinrad, on June 17-19. The forum offers an opportunity to learn from other women leaders in the Church, to reflect on your own leadership call and gifts, and to bring your experiences into conversation with others. This gathering, limited to 50 participants, is open to women at all stages of their leadership journey, from seasoned veterans to those new to a leadership role or beginning to navigate their sense of leadership within the Catholic Church.

Speakers include Rev. Father Jerry Robinson, executive partner for Global and National Initiatives, and Kimberly Baker, associate professor of politics at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Workshops include “Leadership Lessons from One Woman’s Life” by Spouse of the late T. D. Burns; “The Vocation of Mary” at Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Ind.; “How Purpose Changes Across Your Lifespan: The Dyer Family” and “Those Lifetime Transformations” by Rachel Forbes Kaufman, founding director of The Retirement Income Store, and “Becoming the Visible Face of God: Praying with Icons” by Benedictine Sister Jeanne Visel of Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Ind.

The cost is $220, which includes housing and meals. The fee for drivers commuting is $100. Scholarships are available. Registration is due by June 1. Speaker and presenter information, a schedule and registration are available at www.menscatholicchurch.org.

Deadline to receive checks for St. Agnes Academy All-Class Reunion in June is May 25

All class members of the former St. Agnes Academy in Indianapolis—including those who attended but did not graduate from the school—and their guests are invited to the St. Agnes Academy All-Class Reunion at the Riviera Club, 5640 N. Illinois St., in Indianapolis, on June 12.

The cost is $25 per person. Checks and registration to attend must be received by May 25. Make checks payable to Pat Douglass, and include maiden name and class year. Send checks to Pat Douglas, 7550 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46240.

Bring your yearbooks, class pictures and other memorabilia to share. For additional information, call Pat Douglas at 317-340-7550 or send an e-mail to padoglass@gmail.com.

June 1, 2
Provider: Spirituality and Conference Center, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, and Soul Creation Guild, choose between 9:30 a.m. – noon first Wednesday of the month or 6-8:30 p.m.

FRED AND DONNA AMRHEIN

FRED AND DONNA (YOUNG) AMRHEIN, members of Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Ferdinand, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 12. The couple was married in St. Ann Church in Jennings County on May 12, 1962. They have five children: Gretchen Armand, Aimee Cunningham, Gregory, Michael and Wayne Amrhein. The couple also has 14 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

FRED AND DONNA (YOUNG) AMRHEIN

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JERRY AND CAROL HOLLOWAY

JERRY AND CAROL (JEHN) HOLLOWAY, former residents of St. Barnabas and St. Mark the Evangelist parishes, both in Indianapolis, and currently members of Holy Family Parish in Jacksonville, Fla., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 5.

The couple was married in Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Dayton, Ohio. They have four children: Lynn Matingly, Marianne McCalip, Lisa Massie and Armand. The couple also has 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Events Calendar

May 16, 23, June 6
St. Jude Parish Hospitality Room, 3353 S. Springville Rd., in Indianapolis. Bereavement Group, 7 p.m., last three sessions; attendance required but not required. Information: 317-786-4711 or pspringer@archindy.org.

May 17
Chase the King Church, 1827 Kessler Blvd., Indianapolis. Mystogy Talk Series, 6:30 p.m., third of five stand-alone sessions (May 24, 31), “Catholic Social Teaching: Do This in Remembrance of Me” by Theresa Chamblesh and Laura Sheehan. Information: 317-255-3666.

May 18

May 19
St. Joseph Church, 1401 S. Mckinley Ave., Indianapolis. Third Thursday Adoration, interceding for women experiencing crisis pregnancy. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., with Mass at 5:45 p.m. Information: 317-244-9002.

May 20
Notre Dame Events and Social Club, 2000 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. Catholic Business Exchange, Robert Vanate, president and CEO of Veteran Strategies, Inc., presenting “Lessons Learned from Leaders and Legends.” 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 May 17. Information and registration: cctk@cbi.re.

May 21
Springwood Park, 60 Waterfall Rd., Richmond. Flying Cardinal SK 9, a nonprofit Seton Catholic Schools’ Home and School Group and Middletown Boosters, $20 individual or $60 family rate for four runners. Tickets guaranteed to pre-registered runners. Information and registration: 785-962-3002, ext. 4, skitchin@setonosf.org or setonevents@archindy.org.

May 22
St. Michael the Archangel Church, 1827 Kessler Blvd., Indianapolis. African Liberation Day Mass, 5 p.m. Celebrating pan-African Liberation, celebrated in several African languages and French and English, reception to follow, bring dish and non-alcoholic drinks to share, sponsored by the African Black Community. Information: Pearllette Spring at 317-236-1474 or pspring@archindy.org.

May 23
St. Theobold Bowman Black Catholic Women Monthly Meeting, via Zoom, third Monday of each month, sponsored by archdiocese Black Catholic Ministry, 7 p.m. Join meeting: cttt fr/ StTheobaldPrayer meeting ID 901 5077 9960 or dial at 301-715-8592. Information: Pearllette Spring at 317-236-1474 or pspring@archindy.org.

May 24
Christ the King Church, 1827 Kessler Blvd, Indianapolis. Faithful Citizens Rosary Rally, 10:45-11:45 a.m., in front of church. Information: faithfulcitizens2019@gmail.com.

May 30

May 31
Christ the King Church, 1827 Kessler Blvd., Indianapolis. Faithful Citizens Rosary Rally, 10:45-11:45 a.m., in front of church. Information: faithfulcitizens2019@gmail.com.

June 2-4
St. Jude Parish, 5353 McFarland Rd., Indianapolis. Summer Festival. Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 5-11 p.m., children’s games, growers bands and food, silent auction, bingo, Monte Carlo games, beer tent, free admission. Information: 317-786-4371.

June 3

June 8

June 10-30

June 12
First Friday Picnic, 9 a.m., benefitting the Family of Holy Family Parish in Jacksonville, FLA., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, also call about regular Friday night dinner events. Information: 317-786-8005.

June 13
St. Jude Parish, 5353 McFarland Rd., Indianapolis. Summer Festival. Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 5-11 p.m., children’s games, growers bands and food, silent auction, bingo, Monte Carlo games, beer tent, free admission. Information: 317-786-4371.

June 18

June 20
Hoosier Brewing Company, 147 S. Madison Ave., Greenwood. SHP (Singles Having Hopeful Interacted Partnership) Outing, 6:30 p.m., fellowship ministry for singles ages 40-45, one hour of axe-throwing, Mexican buffet with bottomless fountain drinks, 5:30 register by May 18. Information: martinw@msn.com.

May 28
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. Faithful Citizens Rosary Rally, 10:45-11:45 a.m., in front of church. Information: faithfulcitizens2019@gmail.com.
Officials condemn violence, threats after high court leak on abortion case

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Biden administration officials issued an assessment statement about violence on May 9 following protests outside the homes of two Supreme Court justices in the Washington area as well as a spate of vandalism and disruptions targeting locales of groups that oppose abortion. Some of them include Catholic churches.

Responding to the incident, President Joe Biden by the Twitter handle for President of the United States, or @POTUS, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said that he “strongly believes in the Constitutional right to protest.”

“But that would never include violence, threats, or vandalism. Judges perform an incredibly important function in our society, and they must be able to do their jobs without concern for their personal safety,” she tweeted.

The statement came after news agencies reported protests outside the home of Justice Brett Kavanaugh in Chevy Chase, Md., and the nearby home of Justice Amy Coney Barrett. Others said another justice and his family had to be taken to an undisclosed location because of threats, but it turned out to be unfounded.

After the online news site Politico published a report late on May 2 from a leaked draft opinion signaling that the majority of Supreme Court justices seem set to overturn Roe v. Wade, the decision legalizing abortion, those opposed to having it overturned have taken to the streets to protest. But vandalism showing discontent with the potential ruling also seems to be on the rise.

The New York Times reported on May 7 that part of the wall of the headquarters of Wisconsin Family Action, in Madison, was set on fire, leaving behind graffiti that read, “If abortions aren’t safe then you aren’t either.”

Madison Bishop Donald J. Hying, in a May 9 statement, called the vandalism, “a brazen act of violence, which all citizens should condemn, as an attack on the respect and concern we owe to each other in seeking the common good.”

Officials from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ religious liberty office said they documented nine similar incidents on the weekend after the leak, stretching from New York to Los Angeles.

Most were disruptions or destruction of property such as the one reported by The Denver Channel in Colorado, an ABC affiliate, where Sacred Heart Mary Church staff, in Boulder, removed graffiti, paint, and broken glass near Mary Mother’s Day weekend.
Her inspiration led him into being received into the full communion of the Church as a youth, setting him on his way to his ordination at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

“I see my willingness to serve through my grandmother’s example,” he says. “I intend to offer my first Mass for her and for my grandfather on the day after my ordination.”

That tribute to Leona and Bob Wathen will take place during a Mass in their grandson’s home church, St. Malachy in Brownsburg, at 3 p.m. on June 5.

That devotion to his grandparents is one of the insights that reveal the person that Deacon Perronie is and the priest he hopes to be—insights that include why his favorite movie is Elf, what he wrote in his eighth-grade notebook that stunned his mom, and how his relationship with God has deepened.

The eighth-grade revelation that shocked his mother

“In the eighth grade, he brought home a notebook, and there was a page where it said, ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’” recalls Kathy Perronie, his mother.

“He wrote, ‘A priest.’ It shocked me at first.” At the time, she didn’t say anything to her only child, but a week later she asked him the same question, and he gave the same answer of wanting to become a priest, adding, “Don’t be mad at me because I can’t give you grandchildren.”

Instead, he has given his parents two other special gifts, starting with helping them embrace their Catholic faith.

Kathy has returned to the Catholic faith that was the lifeblood of her mother’s life, becoming a member of St. Malachy Parish. So is Brent Perronie, who entered into full communion with the Church in 2015, a year after his son entered the seminary.

Their son has also given them the gift of knowing that the choice he has made for his life brings him so much joy.

“We couldn’t be prouder of him,” Brent says. Kathy adds, “You can tell his whole heart is in the faith. When he first started seminary in 2014, he looked so scared and shy. Now it’s clear that this is what he wants to do. His faith is there. And it’s nice to know my mom inspired him.”

The change that led to a deeper relationship with God

Deacon Perronie’s relationship with God changed dramatically during an eight-day, silent retreat during the summer of 2018.

Before that time, he placed too much of an emphasis on praying to God.

“I was doing a lot of things in prayer, but I was more doing instead of being. The retreat shook me up and got me out of a monotoneous thing. Now, I’m just focusing on God’s presence and what he wants to say to me. I share with him all my joys and struggles. I know I can take any situation I’m in and bring it to him in prayer. And I listen for how he is asking me to move forward in those situations. I gained a renewal of my relationship with God.”

As part of that change, his favorite time of devotion is spending a daily hour of silence in eucharistic adoration.

“I enjoy starting off my day in the presence of God—the idea of just being there, being renewed, being open to him. As my ordination approaches and I begin to work with people in the parish, I’ll take whatever people are dealing with, bring it to God and listen for what he wants me to say to them and how he wants me to minister to them.”

‘His joy and his humor’

As a fellow seminarian in the archdiocese, Tyler Huber laughs when he recalls spending the summer of 2019 with Deacon Perronie in Mexico as part of their education and formation at Saint Meinrad Seminai. “That’s when I really got to know him,” Huber says. “In Mexico, he was famous for talking to everyone that we met. It didn’t matter where we were or whether it was on our first day when we didn’t know anyone. He would be 100 yards behind us because he’d stop and talk to so many people. He loves encountering people, talking with them, and sharing his joy with them.”

Deacon Perronie brought that same approach to his fellow seminarians when he returned from that trip to Mexico, Huber says.

“I saw how his joy and his humor that I witnessed in Mexico came out in new ways at Saint Meinrad. He set aside certain nights every week where he’d wander through the dorm halls, and if people’s doors were open, he’d stop and get to know them. Not everyone does that. He’s very good at developing friendships and keeping friendships going. He fills his breaks with family and keeping in touch with families at the parishes where he’s been. He goes out of his way to minister to people.”

Why Elf is his favorite movie

“I enjoy the movie because, one, it’s a Christmas movie, and I enjoy anything connected with Christmas,” Deacon Perronie says. “And two, just the sense of the wonder and awe that he experiences as he leaves the North Pole to find his dad. It renewes me and reminds me to always be open for adventure and to explore the unknown.”

Deacon Perronie had the same sense of adventure recently when the deacons at Saint Meinrad Seminary spent a month in Europe, traveling to London, Rome and Einsiedeln, Switzerland.

“I’m very big into ancestry and genealogy. When I was in London, there was a free day, and I took a train to Tarnworth, England, where I had learned that a branch of my family had lived in the 1600s. I walked around the town and visited the graveyard—just being open to what I could find there.”

‘People here love him’

Earlier this year, Father Joseph Feltz received a surprise from Deacon Perronie that brought a smile to the pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany.

“This year, on the anniversary of his baptism, he forwarded me a picture of him being baptized by me,” Father Feltz says. “It was a pleasant surprise. I was his pastor at St. Malachy when he was baptized [in 2010].”

Their lives have also been connected for the past two years as Deacon Perronie has done part of his pastoral ministry at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.

“It’s been neat for me because I knew him as a rather shy, introverted eighth grader,” Father Feltz says. “Now he’s gotten his confidence. People here love him. What’s really impressed me is how he is ready to go out to people, connect with people, and meet them where they are. That’s going to be an important aspect of his ministry.”

One of the ways that Deacon Perronie has connected with members of the parish has been by offering to bless their homes.

“Just as he will build relationships with his parishioners, I see him doing the same thing with his fellow priests,” Father Feltz says. “While he was with me this past summer, he said, ‘I want to cook a dinner for all the priests in the deanery.’ I said, ‘Knock yourself out.’ There were 10 or 11 of us, and he did it all. It will be a great joy to welcome him as a fellow priest.”

‘I want to truly live among the people’

Asked to name his favorite saint, Deacon Perronie chose St. John Vianney, a parish priest who transformed the community of Ars, France, in the 1800s.

“From early on in the seminary, I knew he was someone I should pay attention to and learn about. Two things in particular stood out. One, when he was sent to Ars, he encounters someone and says, ‘Show me the way to Ars, and I will show you the way to heaven.’ He encountered people in the midst of their town, journeyed with them and led them to God, providing the sacraments and being present to them.

“There’s also the story of how he would hear confessions 16 hours a day. I know I have to take care of myself, but that inspires me to give until it hurts, if that makes sense—to be able to freely give of myself and spend myself for the people I’ve been called to minister to.”

As he reflects upon the journey that St. John Vianney made with parishioners, Deacon Perronie also thinks of his own journey to his ordination day—the influence of his grandmother, his conviction at the age of 12 that he wanted to be a priest, his help in leading his parents to embrace the Catholic faith, and his own transformation from a shy, first-year seminarian to a confident person who is convinced—and thrilled—that God has led him to his vocation.

“It’s been a long journey—and to see how God has sustained the journey to this point, and then how the journey will continue and begin with the priesthood.

“I want to truly live among the people I serve—to provide the sacraments, to be present with them, to journey with them. There’s definitely excitement and joy.”

(Transitional Deacon Michael Clawson, who is also being ordained to the priesthood on June 4, will be featured in the May 27 issue of The Criterion. For more information about a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, visit www.HearGodsCall.com)
St. Augustine Home Guild member Kathy Smith, right, smiles with home resident Anne Wickens during a High Tea event the guild hosted for residents of the St. Augustine Home in Indianapolis on April 19. (Photos by Natalie Hoefer)

Guild members enjoy ‘being and seeing Christ’ at St. Augustine Home

By Natalie Hoefer

It’s time for High Tea at the St. Augustine Home for the Aged, and the home’s guild members fuss over the residents like mother hens—pouring tea, serving cookies and striking up conversation. Their eyes radiate the smiles their face masks hide. The April 19 event is one of the first in-person events the guild members have hosted for the residents since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020.

“It’s nice to be back to where we can talk with the residents and interact with them,” says guild president Beth Hansen. Technically, the all-female St. Augustine Home Guild is a non-profit “dedicated to aiding the Little Sisters of the Poor in the operation of the St. Augustine Home in Indianapolis,” according to the guild’s website.

They accomplish this goal through volunteering, fundraising and hosting events for the residents. But the essence of the guild is so much more, says Little Sisters of the Poor Mother María Christina Lynch, the home’s superior.

“They’re not just raising awareness or funds,” she explains. “They really are about relationship.”

“It’s all about relationship”

For 55 years, guild members have been touching lives and forming relationships with the residents and the sisters of St. Augustine Home on the northwest side of Indianapolis.

“It’s a life-giving organization,” Mother María Christina said of the guild. “They have a sensitivity to the needs of older persons, and a real passion for our residents.

“With our Lord, it’s all about relationship. It’s this outreach to others. What they do is a combination of faith and action.”

Angie Bagnoli agreed.

“We all get something different out of what we do,” said Bagnoli, a 20-year member of the guild. “When you see a resident smile or they tell you a story, it makes you feel good and them feel good. And the sisters feel good that the residents have additional support.”

The guild found a way to provide that support even during the pandemic when in-person visits were not allowed. Through a new Resident Companion Program, participating guild members were given a resident’s name, explained program creator Linda Bear.

“We would send them letters and little gifts, just to let them know we were thinking of them,” said the nine-year guild member.

“The isolation was so hard on them. We want to do anything we can to be part of their lives.”

Resident Mary Rose Peyton appreciates the relationship she’s developed with guild member Nancy Stolitz through the program.

Now that COVID restrictions have lessened, Peyton said she and Nancy “go out to eat sometimes. Or she’ll come to my apartment, and we’ll play games or talk. We send each other cards and talk on the phone. It feels good knowing there’s someone out there you can talk to. She’s a very caring person.”

“There’s so much love”

As restrictions lifted, guild members were excited to interact again in person with the residents.

“Going out there to make the beds and see the residents is a lot of fun,” said Hansen, one of the guild volunteers who weekly put fresh sheets and blankets on the beds of assisted living residents.

“A few weeks ago, a lady I was making a bed for said, ‘I look so forward to seeing you.’ It’s just a great benefit—they’re happy to see us and were happy to see them.”

Lu Ann Hestert explained with a laugh that volunteering in the guild’s “Little Store” gift shop in the home is “definitely hands on” as she helps residents try on donated clothes they can purchase for $1.

“I like helping them pick out greeting cards and clothes,” she said. “They talk about the family they’re buying the cards for. Or if they’re buying clothes, they tell you where they’re going to wear them. So you get to know them better by learning what’s going on in their lives.

“It makes me feel really happy that I can do something to make them happy, because that’s really the goal.”

The personal interactions result in a positive way of looking at their situation.

“Even with behind-the-scenes activities, like ‘helping in the kitchen and even sorting canned goods, there’s so much love’ behind what the guild does, said Bear.

That same care goes into the guild’s fundraisers.

“We always bring a buaload of residents to the guild’s annual Hats Off to Spring fashion show fundraiser, said Bear, who co-chairs the event. “The sisters dote on them, and we make sure they have a good time.

“It’s a passion that we have, even in fundraising, that we want to do everything we can to help the residents and the sisters.”

‘You can see God in their attitude’

The residents feel that passion.

“They’re figuratively embracing, like you feel their arms around everyone here,” said Tom Wickens. He and wife Anne, married for almost 62 years, have lived in an apartment at St. Augustine Home for five years.

“They always take time to visit with you,” Anne added. “It feels good to be recognized as a person and as a friend.

And they keep the residents active, said Peyton.

“They have a lot of events they put on for us,” she said. “All the holidays, they seem to jump in and say, ‘This is for you!’

She especially likes the monthly Bingo games sponsored by the guild.

“I go there, and I know all of them, and they know me—I’m kind of a serious Bingo player,” she said with a laugh.

Tom appreciates how the guild members make the residents feel valued.

“In conversation with one a while ago, I mentioned that I really like to drive,” he recalled. “She said, ‘Would you like to be a volunteer driver?’ So now I’m a volunteer driver! I drive the sisters and take people to appointments.”

Pe Peyton, too, has been recruited by the guild members to help. Spoiler alert: the following paragraph reveals her secret identity!

“Every year at Christmas, the guild buys little presents for all the residents, like Kleenex, candy, pens and little pads of paper, things like that,” she said.

“They then give them to me and at night, when everyone is sleeping, I go around and hang the gift bags on everyone’s doors. I feel just like Santa Claus!”

On a more serious note, Peyton voiced her gratitude for the guild.

“I appreciate everything they do,” she said. “They think about us, and they’re here for us if we need them. They’re just great to have around.”

Anne agreed.

“You can see God in their attitude toward all of us, in their service,” she said. “They’re like the sisters: gracious, joyful, kind, compassionate.”

“When you lift hearts, your heart is lifted”

There is one person behind everything the guild members do for the residents and the Little Sisters, said Bear. That person is Christ.

“We talk about being Christ and seeing the face of Christ in the residents,” she said. “When they take your hand and ask for help, you’re helping Christ. Christ becomes visible when we give, and it comes back to us in our gratitude and happiness.

“It’s in giving that we receive, and in loving that we’re loved. That’s why we have the guild.

“When you lift hearts, your heart is lifted, and I’m just happy to be part of this family.”

(For more information on the St. Augustine Home Guild, their events, to join or to donate, go to www.sahgindy.org. To stay up-to-date with the guild, follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/staugustinehomeguildindy/.)
After legal battle to exist, St. Luke the Evangelist thriving six decades later

By Natalie Hoefer

The year was 1959, and the Archdiocese of Indianapolis decided the time was right to build a new parish and school on land it had purchased 11 years prior in the town of Meridian Hills on the far north side of Indianapolis. The Meridian Hills zoning board disagreed. They denied the archdiocese’s petition in February 1959.

So began a two-year legal battle for the establishment of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish and its school. According to The Town of Meridian Hills: An Early Legal History, an Indiana Superior Court judge overruled the decision that September. The zoning board appealed to the Indiana Supreme Court.

The Court unanimously ruled in favor of the archdiocese in February 1961. St. Luke the Evangelist parish and school were established the same year.

Six decades later, both are thriving.

Education, evangelization, stewardship

Now with nearly 2,000 members, the parish is one of the largest in the archdiocese, says Msgr. Joseph Schaedel, its pastor.

With about 600 students, “Our major ministry is in the field of education,” Msgr. Schaedel says. And in the spirit of ministry is in the field of education,” Msgr. Schaedel says, “We have Mass twice a day and confession seven days a week,” and the parish’s Mary’s Way event for young and older adults, medals, gifts for receiving sacraments, seasonal items, music—it’s difficult to walk away without a purchase in hand. For hours, go to www.celticcrosscatholic.com or call 317-777-0059.

Toward St. Luke’s southern boundary is Holliday Park. The 94-acre park offers all of the following at no charge: spacious lawns for picnics and recreation, an expansive playground. 3.5 miles of wooded trails with paths leading to the White River, a large nature center, sculpted gardens, an arboretum and a unique area featuring column-facade remnants of a former New York City building made with Indiana limestone. For more information, go to www.hollidaypark.org.

If you favor a sit-down meal over a picnic, Msgr. Schaedel suggests Daddy Jack’s on the north side of the parish's boundaries.

“I always see St. Luke people there,” he says.

But don’t expect him to give a rundown of menu items.

“I love the walleye,” says Msgr. Schaedel. “About 95% of the time, I get the walleye.”

(Mass Excursions is a monthly feature highlighting an archdiocesan parish and local attractions, encouraging a trip to the area that includes Mass with the members of that parish. Each month will highlight a parish in a different deanery to showcase faith communities throughout central and southern Indiana.)

Catholic gifts, nature and walleye

The best time to visit St. Luke is for their annual parish festival in September. The dates for this year’s festival have not been set yet, so keep an eye on their website closer to September.

Indianapolis offers plenty of opportunities for a day trip. But if you want to stick close to St. Luke, two destinations within or close to the parish boundaries are The Celtic Cross Catholic Gift Shop and Holliday Park.

“We are passionately Catholic,” states the website for The Celtic Cross, located on the west side of the road that marks St. Luke’s western boundary.

The store is a one-stop-shop for all things Catholic. Art, books for children and both young and older adults, medals, rosaries, statues, jewelry, baby items, gifts for receiving sacraments, seasonal items, music—it’s difficult to walk away without a purchase in hand. For hours, go to www.celticcrosscatholic.com or call 317-777-0059.

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FranciscanHealth.org/WomensHealth
Happiness and joy remain elusive in troubled times

By Effie Caldarola

Is America’s collective teeth-grinding an indication of its happiness level? A Twitter user mentioned how badly she grinds her teeth in her sleep. A torrent of responses replied, detailing clinic visits, grinding, mouth guards, cracked, broken teeth and worn-down enamel, a tale of angst born out in the night.

A more scientific look at the state of our happiness is a recent study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that said that even before the angst born out in the night. A torrent of responses replied, detailing clinching, mouth guards, cracked, broken teeth and worn-down enamel, a tale of angst born out in the night.

Americans don’t appear to be particularly joyful or contented right now. What’s going on?

There are the usual suspects: the isolation, fear and death caused by the pandemic; the overdose of social media; the breakdown of the family; the onslaught of bad environmental news and political polarization.

And there’s another possibility that can’t be overlooked. As a country, we’re moving away from organized religion. People often claim to be “spiritual but not religious,” but without the help of a faith community, they often neglect that spiritual side or aren’t sure where to turn for guidance.

Most mainline denominations report fewer worshippers at services, and the pandemic contributed to this trend. Once people stayed home from their usual place of worship, it sometimes became a habit, and habits are hard to break.

Wendy Everson is a licensed mental health practitioner in Omaha, Neb. She gives each of her clients a survey to find out what they are looking for and what brings them contentment. She urges them to spend more time with the things that bring them joy and peace.

I try to work with their strengths. Where do you find joy and happiness?

When was the last time you’ve put time into that activity?

Part of her survey asks about a client’s spiritual life. How important is their relationship to God, and what is getting in the way of it?

“I would say maybe 75-80% of the people I see will say, ‘I used to be connected to this church or faith, but I’m not anymore.’ ”

Most claim to believe in God and have various reasons for stopping their involvement in a faith community. Sometimes it’s a Sunday job or children’s activities. Although the pandemic played a role, Everson said she sees many people who continued to worship online.

The majority of Everson’s clients are between the ages of 23-45, an age group where people feel freer than older adults to question the Church in which they were raised. Many still have strong reactions to the clergy sexual abuse scandal, and many former and practicing Catholics have difficulty with the Church’s views on LGBTQ issues.

Everson said connection to a faith, a higher power and spirituality found through singing, prayer, Scripture, nature—all of these can contribute to mental health.

“When people are struggling, what do they have to lean on?” she asks.

COVID-19 played a tremendous role in the stress people are feeling, said Everson.

“From my perspective, the family dynamic was affected. Parents were stressed, working virtually with children learning virtually. It did a number on the family.”

Because COVID-19 brought on more stress, “it exacerbated and accelerated couples’ problems. People weren’t socializing or getting away from each other.”

People can build community in different ways, said Everson, and this is important for mental health. Even connection to a group of friends is vital.

Everson said her requests for help shot up in September and into October 2021 when people were beginning to feel that “this pandemic should have been over months ago.”

Although Everson does not work with children or adolescents, several in her practice do, and they’ve seen the number of calls for help climb dramatically.

“In mid-March of 2022, we saw the greatest volume of calls we’ve ever had for children age 5-10,” she said.

This accelerating demand for mental health assistance isn’t entirely a bad indication of our collective mental health, Everson agreed. In many ways, it represents a positive view of the need for mental health assistance.

The old stigmas against mental illness have begun to weaken, and people acknowledge that asking for professional assistance is a constructive way to deal with the angst and unhappiness that plague our society today. (CNS photo/courtesy Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City)
Joyful Witness/Kimberly Polkowy
Retreat leads to finding peace in the miracle of healing

I had received the sacrament of the sick on at least two previous occasions, both prior to impending surgeries, I remember at the time feeling a great sense of comfort knowing I was receiving this beautiful sacrament of healing. But the anxiety had been there wasn’t so comfortable.

In March, I attended my retreat at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis led by Father John Hosey on the “Miracles of Healing: The Power of the Sacraments.” Father Hosey had a delightful personality and drew me into his account of Jesus’ life and the pivotal role his many miracles of healing played in spreading the Gospel. He helped me see that he came to heal a world in desperate need of restoration, forwarding Jesus’ name and act of healing to secure our salvation.

I admit I wasn’t feeling great the day of the retreat. My anxiety was acting up, making it difficult to spend a day sitting. As I prayed throughout the day, I could only take between moments to focus on my goals and pain. I experience pain every day. How long for a day from the shakles of pain. However, many years ago, I vowed to never again question the “why” of God. Even when I experience pain, I do not blame God or ask “why me?” This day was no exception, but some days are harder than others, making it difficult to prevent the pain from robbing me of joy. This was where my head was at during the retreat—struggling to want to rebel while not blaming God, all while praying to believe God might offer me his healing.

Listening to Father Hosey recount stories throughout the Gospel when Jesus cured people of their physical, emotional and spiritual illnesses I could use, but get my hopes up that I too might be worthy of healing during the sacrament of the sick offered in a wide array.

Father Hosey relayed to us that only those who believed in God’s power to heal were healed. As I thought, “Well, of course I believe.” But upon further reflection, I realized I wanted to believe, but didn’t feel worthy. Whenever I have thought about being healed, I usually revert to the idea that there are so many people who are worse off than I for me to ask God to heal me. That day, my prayer shifted to asking God to help me experience his healing—in whatever form that took.

I continued to dwell on what I heard at the retreat in the coming week and tried to decipher what message God had for me. I then expressed that while I didn’t feel anything, I knew I had received the sacrament of the sick again so soon. Whenever I have thought about being healed, I believed I had experienced the healing of acceptance—understanding that God calls me to this pain—for whatever reason. Accepting this realization has shifted my perspective and helped me find peace with pain.

Healing comes in all forms (Kimberly Polkowy is a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis. She is the director of major and planned gifts for the archdiocese.)

Guest Column/Richard Etienne
Like St. Paul, we are called to conversation in our lives of faith

If you are reading this column in The Criterion, there is probably already another much bigger decision at some point in your spiritual development. You are making a conscious effort to continue in conversation in your life of faith. You may wonder where this column is going. I propose that something happening in your life of faith can help you to keep searching for spiritual inspiration on a regular basis.

I was a senior at Antioch High School during my senior retreat many years ago. The retreat was an extended weekend model where I truly embraced the idea of a 72-hour retreat that was “lovable—right now—just as I am— not in some faraway time and place in the distant future.” I went off to a beautiful place with a good group and a perfect Christian, Johann.

And I also realized that I was gifted with many talents, and thereby should use these gifts within the communities around me. Through these actions, I realized how important it was to use self and self-sufficiency in life because only on this path would I be carrying out God’s will. My experience wasn’t as St. Paul’s conversion in chapter nine of the Acts of the Apostles. But it did start in a new direction.

The depression and anxiety continued throughout her teen and young adult years. She was unable to hold down a job and continued to miss school. She reached out to her pastor’s wife at age 19 and was able to attend a workshop about overcoming addiction. At 21, she briefly saw a therapist and tried some medication, but her efforts at recovery were half-hearted and sporadic. Shelby continued to struggle with her illness until she was 25.

The turning point was her relationship with her mom. She said that her mom finally realized Shelby was sick and needed help. They talked about what she was going through. Her mom promised her she would support her in any way she could.

While her daughter was struggling with her mental illness, Shelby’s mom was battling cancer. The cancer was spreading, and she underwent chemotherapy on a monthly basis. The cancer would eventually win, but before she died, her mom made Shelby promise she would remain committed and consistent with her mental health treatment. Shelby said the moment that really changed her was the promise. If not for that, she might not be here today.

Shelby initially contacted a Catholic Charities therapist for counseling and then was put in contact with a local psychiatrist for medication. She has been seeing two psychiatrists that have helped her succeed: commitment to her therapy and taking her medication.

Since Shelby started receiving services at Catholic Charities, she said she couldn’t imagine her life being even a third as good as it is now.

Her illness no longer controls her. She has tools and skills to make it through hard times. Shelby no longer feels like a victim; she is a survivor, and the future is open for her to live fully.

(David Bethuram is executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Catholic Charities. You can contact him at davidb@archindy.org.)

Digital detox: guard your mind, slow the pace

It was time. Time to get away, to unplug, to finally write that novel. Time to prove he could read what was being written, not just texts and tweets and notifications in order to form an opinion on a worthy endeavor.

So journalist Johann Bethuram looked for a room on the tip of Cape Cod and made plans for an online-offline for three months.

He left his electronic devices with a friend, printed a map of his destination since he would no longer be able to use phone navigation and boarded a ferry. He felt a twinge of panic, but it vanished when he arrived and gazed into the ocean.

“I felt a sudden certainty—you only get these feelings a few times in a lifetime—that I had done absolutely the right thing,” Johann wrote.

He strolled along the beach and through the streets, wandering into a pub where his group gathered around a piano singing showtunes.

They ended, fittingly, with the Aladdin song “Whole New World.”

It took a couple weeks to re-orient, then the words poured out in his mind. In March, he wrote 90,000 words.

“It came back!” he realized. “My brain came back!”

Johann’s digital detox compelled him to dive into neuroscience, interviewing experts on attention and flow. He learned about the value of unplugging, of play and of natural sleep rhythms. He compiled his findings into a new book called Stolen Focus: Why You Can’t Pay Attention—and How to Think Deeply Again.

It is a cultural indictment and a call to action. Media, the author believes, are in the interconnection of body, mind and soul, the book is a spiritual summons.

When I think about these three dimensions of self, one appears sorely neglected. Discussion of physical health and spiritual health must shine a light on mental health. They should provide guidelines for healthier habits and make real changes: assigning less homework, rescheduling school days to allow for more unstructured outdoor play, restructuring programs to help all students, reminding teens how to interact face-to-face, urging us all to turn off our phones.

We ask Catholics to “pray the rosary.” How much sleep their teenagers get, they tell me it’s bad. “Can we pray the homework?” I ask. “No, it’s not that simple,” they say.

But we must make a leap, adjusting our schedules, thinking more about our children’s days to establish more natural rhythms.

Workplaces that make fundamental cuts, such as implementing a four-day work week, reap huge benefits.

Their employees are more rested, more connected to their families. They are happier. We can start by asking the right questions, strategizing changes and holding each accountable.

The idea is high.

(Christina Capacetti is a freelance writer.)

Page 12 The Criterion Friday, May 13, 2022
Once again in this Easter season, the Acts of the Apostles supplies the first reading for the Mass. It reports some of the missionary activities of Paul and his disciple Barnabas. Although eventually they parted ways, Paul and Barnabas visited several prominent cities in Asia Minor, the Roman empire of the first-century A.D.

While ancient traditions see all the Apostles as missionaries, as most of whom went far and wide to proclaim the Gospel, the Acts of the Apostles concentrates on Paul’s efforts in missionizing.

The reading is more than a biography. It is a lesson about the faith of Paul and Barnabas and about their uncompromising determination to make Jesus known. It also reveals the conditions in which these two great figures in early Christianity lived.

As they spoke to Christians whom they visited, they warned these followers of Christ that hostility and difficulties faced them. Their warnings sprang from their own personal experiences.

Paul and Barnabas themselves met opposition and endured difficulties. It is not surprising that these two great champions of the Gospel faced hardships. The culture of the Roman empire absolutely was hostile to the values of the Gospel. The political order was becoming hostile as well.

Nevertheless, Paul and Barnabas were undaunted. They continued to move from city to city, from Christian community to Christian community, to reassure believers in Christ and to promote the Gospel.

Despite the risks and the more than occasional rejections, their faith inspired them and impelled them.

For the second reading, the Church this weekend offers a passage from the Book of Revelation. This book, the last book of the New Testament in the Book of Revelation, is highly poetic. It is moving and very often strikingly beautiful in its imagery, but often its symbolism is so involved or so unique to the first century that understanding the book is not easy without reading scholarly commentaries along with the text itself.

In this reading, the vision of heaven is symbolized by the holy city of Jerusalem—a transformed Jerusalem—and of God. It is a look into eternity and to the reward promised to those who love God.

St. John’s Gospel is the source of the last reading. This is not a resurrection narrative, but it is strongly reminiscent of the resurrection and of the Lord’s death on Calvary. Jesus obliquely refers to the crucifixion. He also refers to rising from the dead.

Eternal life is an option for humans who follow the Lord in obedience to God, in sacrifice and in faith. With Jesus, the faithful will die but also rise to eternal life.

Reflection

A month ago, the Church called us, with joy and the deepest faith, to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus after the terrible event of the crucifixion.

Gradually but unrelentingly, the Church has called upon us personally to respond to Jesus, to secure for ourselves the salvation brought to humanity by Jesus.

This weekend’s readings proclaim the sacrificial death as well as the rising of Jesus from the dead, but they also call upon us to respond by following the Lord.

As the second reading from Revelation tells us, eternal life with God in heaven will be our reward. While still in this life, we authentically become disciples by loving God, each other and all people as Jesus loved.

In this divine love, Jesus died on Calvary as a sacrifice.

In God’s plan, divine love triumphed when Jesus rose. We are not alone in our effort to be with God, to love as Jesus loved.

The Church is an assembly of those who follow the Lord in obedience, to be with us and strengthen us in the Church.

Question Corner/ Fr. Kenneth Doyle

It is believed Jesus ascended to heaven near Jerusalem (Editor’s note: This column by Father Kenneth Doyle was originally published in 2021.)

Q Where did the Ascension take place? Matthew and Mark tell us that the Apostles are to go back to Galilee, but Luke says that they should stay in Jerusalem until Jesus has risen. (Kentucky)

A On the top of the Mount of Olives outside of Jerusalem’s Old City is a small hexagonal chapel that commemorates the site of the ascension of Jesus.

St. Luke narrates in the Acts of the Apostles how the disciples gathered with Jesus, and “as they were looking on, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight” (Act 1:9). Then, Luke notes, “they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath’s journey away” (Acts 1:12).

In the weeks following his rising from the dead, Jesus appeared to the Apostles and disciples on a number of occasions, both in Jerusalem and in Galilee.

On Easter itself, he appeared to Mary Magdalene, to the women at the tomb, to Peter, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus and to the 10 Apostles in Jerusalem (when Thomas was not present).

A week later, when Thomas was with them, he appeared again to the Apostles in Jerusalem. Later, he appeared to seven disciples as they were fishing near the shores of the Sea of Tiberias (21:1) and to 11 disciples in a mountain in Galilee (Mt 28:16).

The ascension marks the final departure of Jesus for heaven following this series of apparitions. From then on, the disciples were to live by faith and communicate with Jesus through prayer and the sacraments.

A month ago, the Church explained, “Christ’s body was glorified at the moment of his resurrection, as proved by the new and supernatural properties it subsequently and permanently enjoys.”

But during the 40 days when he eats and drinks familiarly with his disciples and teaches them about the kingdom, his glory remains veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity.

Jesus’ final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, symbolized by the cloud and by heaven, where he is seated from that time forward at God’s right hand” (6595).

Q When is it proper to leave church when the recessional hymn has ended? (Tennessee)

A You should remain in church while the recessional hymn is being sung. Singing is a part of worship—particularly so if it is a hymn meant to be sung by the entire congregation.

It bothers me when I see people leaving church early—sometimes, alas, even right after Communion—in a rush to get to the parking lot.

What’s the urgency, I think, and isn’t God worth the extra few minutes? I have read—and I understand—that technically the Mass finishes when the priest blesses us and the deacon or priest tells us that the Mass is ended.

But for the sake of simple politeness, one ought not distract others in the congregation by leaving before communal worship is concluded.

I find it helpful if the priest remains at the altar for the first or two verse of the recessional hymn and structure it so that the procession of linage ministers reaches the back of church as that hymn is ending.

Eventually, of course, worshipers would then spend a few minutes in private, silent prayer of thanksgiving before leaving church.

On this side of heaven, we are never closer to the Lord than when we’ve just received him in the Eucharist.

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 15, 2022

• Acts of the Apostles 14:21-27
• Revelation 21:1-5a
• John 13:31-33a, 34-35

The Criterion Friday, May 13, 2022

My Journey to God

What is a Mother?

By Greg Hublar

From the moment of conception, a woman is first and foremost a protector of her child. Every decision made revolves around this new life—fragile, gentle, mild.

The life she has known she selflessly puts on hold. The love from within her soul empowers her to be so bold.

Denying herself of everyday pleasure, sacrifices she will make—she won’t even mind.

Focused only on the time when she will finally hold this new life close to her chest,

(Greg Hublar is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany. Photo: Pictured is a close-up of a tapestry depicting St. Gianna Beretta Molla that was hung during her May 16, 2004, canonization Mass.) (CNS photo by Daniele Colarieti, Catholic Press Photo)
Pro-lifers in Canada, Australia rally around new Roe may be overturned

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (CNS)—Pro-life advocates in Canada are buoyed by news that the U.S. Supreme Court was poised to overturn its decision on Roe v. Wade, but they said expect limited immediate effect in the country.

In Australia, Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney described the decision as “a huge moral victory” in Australia that would have Hàn ajudade major opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito, who said “Roe was egregiously wrong from the start.”

The draft opinion that may strike down the 1973 abortion law back in the hands of the states, which advocates in Canada are buoyed by news that the Supreme Court was poised to overturn its decision on Roe v. Wade, but they said expect limited immediate effect in the country.

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OWENSBORO, Ky (CNS)—U.S. Catholics’ relationship with the Eucharist was largely altered with the COVID-19 pandemic, but some semblance of normalcy concerning Communion is about to return for Catholics in the Diocese of Owensboro.

Bishop William F. Medley of Owensboro announced in April that the suspension of Communion received on the tongue and wine from the chalice will be lifted on June 19 on the feast of Corpus Christi. In his letter to the priests of the diocese, Bishop Medley said Corpus Christi this year would have additional significance as the COVID-19 restrictions on the Eucharist are lifted, and as the diocese joins the rest of the Catholics in the U.S. in a three-year eucharistic revival.

Like most regions of the U.S., the Diocese of Owensboro suspended in-person liturgies in its parishes and shifted to livestreaming Mass for several months in 2020, making the reception of Eucharist difficult, if not impossible. Canonical worship was restored later in 2020, health guidelines required masking and social distancing in the pews during liturgies, as well as the suspension of receiving Communion on the tongue or receiving Communion wine from the chalice.

As COVID-19 cases steadily declined in the region, different restrictions—such as keeping the holy water fonts empty, masking requirements and social distancing—have been lifted. In his letter, Bishop Medley expressed his gratitude to the priests “for your ceaseless care of the souls and hearts of the people we are called to serve.”

Amid all the turmoil of the pandemic, I believe that most people found an oasis of peace and hope in us—even through times of closed churches, limited worship, distancing and masking,” he said.

The bishop emphasized the importance of catechesis in the parishes to educate the faithful on properly receiving Communion on the tongue, as well as retraining the extraordinary ministers of holy Communion to adequately cleanse the lip of the chalice after each communicant.

Lauren Johnson, co-coordinator of the diocese’s Office of Worship, said early saints of the Church had had different preferences on how one receives the Eucharist, but that “both can show due reverence and devotion to Christ our Lord when the communicant receives with a disposition of humility and adoration,” she said.

Roncalli High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 287 seniors. The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 6 p.m. on May 20 at the school. The graduation ceremony will be at 9 a.m. on May 21 at the school.

The class valedictorian is Anne Ames, daughter of Marie (Starr) and Michael Ames of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood. The class salutatorian is Katrina Gangstad, daughter of Joseph Gangstad and Danielle Turnak of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis. The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Archbishop Thompson.

Seton Catholic High School in Richmond has a graduating class of 13 seniors. The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 1:30 p.m. on June 5 at St. Andrew Church in Richmond.

The graduation ceremony will follow at 3 p.m. on June 5 at the school.

The class valedictorian is Lydia Reichley, daughter of Dan and Dr. Tina Reichley of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond.

The class salutatorian is Camryn Ewing, daughter of Justin and Amanda Ewing.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Msgr. Stumpf.

The graduation ceremony will be at 7 p.m. on May 27 at Our Lady of Providence High School in Sellersburg.

Zach Van Wie, son of John and Shelley Van Wie of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville.

The class salutatorian is Kaden Connin, son of Clippert and Jane Connin of St. Anthony of Padua Parish.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Brian Disney, superintendent of Catholic schools.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 1 p.m. on May 20 at Providence High School in Sellersburg.

The class salutatorian is Are’Ana East, daughter of Rhonda and William Easier.

The class salutatorian is Cassie Mitchell, daughter of Doreen Mitchell.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Watson.

“None of us, however, were ever truly alone,” she said. “We were all in this together.”

The archdiocese will be represented by Lauren Johnson, co-coordinator of the diocese’s Office of Worship, and Mike Connin, superintendent of Catholic schools.

“We also learned teamwork, the value of perseverance, and that a little help goes a long way,” Ewing said.

The graduation ceremony will begin at 5:45 p.m. on June 4 at Brebeuf Jesuit Parish in Indianapolis.

The class valedictorian is Michael Ameis of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 11:30 a.m. on June 4 at the school.

The class salutatorian is Isabelle Smith, daughter of Andy and Sarah Smith of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis.

The class valedictorian is Hope Bakemeyer, daughter of Beth and Brian Bakemeyer of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Archbishop Thompson.

The graduation ceremony will be at 1 p.m. on May 29 at the school.

There are two class valedictorians: Dallas Bonnet, daughter of Gary and Rhonda Bonnet of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg.

Zach Van Wie, son of John and Shelley Van Wie of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville.

The class salutatorian is Kaden Connin, son of Clippert and Jane Connin of St. Anthony of Padua Parish.

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Meet our future deacons

On June 25, the fourth class of permanent deacons for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will be ordained at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. There are 13 men from across central and southern Indiana who will be ordained.

This week’s issue of The Criterion continues a series of profiles of these men that will run in the weeks leading up to their important day.

**Tim Elder**

**Name:** Tim Elder

**Wife:** Shari

**Home Parish:** St. Joseph Parish in Corydon

**Occupation:** U.S. Army Contracting Officer

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**Mark Henry**

**Name:** Mark Henry

**Wife:** Brenda

**Home Parish:** St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis

**Occupation:** Retired Mechanical Engineer

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The expanded approach to the June 19 event is a Festival of Faith, Family and Service. The new plan also is an expansion of the previous one. The plan has been expanded because not only have our pastors hoped for more ways in which our people can participate, but also because we’re hearing the word “accompaniment” and being present to the extent possible. I expect for there to be some unexpected opportunities to do just that in the future.

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a dean? In the story of Abraham and Isaac, God asks to see if you would do something. I sometimes don’t really want you to do something. God also speaks through others. I am a strong believer in signs and suggestions of others and listening attentively to homilies and talks by my previous pastor that got me looking into it. There have been several obstacles, notwithstanding COVID-19. Then almost immediately I experienced a tremendous encouragement, something or someone inevitably gave me pause to reconsider.

How will being ordained a dean have an impact on your life and family? It will definitely alter what I thought my retirement plans were going to be. I hope to have a new role model in my life of faith. I imagine I may have to balance ministry and family life. I expect it to be a deepening of their experience of Christ and will be an opportunity for individuals and families to be welcomed. For those who are regular in their practice, I hope it will be a new springtime of faith, a time in which people who are away from the Church feel a call to come back and [feel] welcomed. For those who are regular in their practice, I hope it will be a deepening of their experience of Christ and will be given an expression in the form of service, care for one another and strengthening our local communities.†

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