June 4 opened as a bright, late spring day in central Indiana. That weather matched the sunny attitude of the approximately 600 people who gathered in SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis for the first priesthood ordination in the archdiocese since 2019.

“What a beautiful day for an ordination,” Archbishop Charles C. Thompson said at the start of the Mass. “Of course, no matter what it was going to be like, it was going to be a beautiful day for an ordination here. … It’s long overdue.”

It was a joyous day, too, for newly-ordained Father Michael Clawson and Father Matthew Perronie.

“I had this moment of joy during the Mass, because I’ve been serving at Mass since I was 6 years old,” Father Clawson, 28, said moments after the Mass. “It was like, ‘Great! I get to do what I’ve been doing for the rest of my life.’ Prior to being ordained, I got to assist at the liturgy. Now I get to be the presider at the liturgy.”

Father Perronie found joy in seeing the people gathered in the cathedral, many of whom he’s served in archdiocesan parishes in his eight years of priestly formation.

Cathedral filled with rejoicing at the ordination of two new priests

By Sean Gallagher

Hindsight—and restored sight—help new Catholic see purpose in God’s timing

(Editors’ note: This is the third in a series of articles chronicling the journey of four people who were received into the full communion of the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass on April 16.)

By Natalie Hoefer

Gayle Blackburn believes there is purpose in God’s timing. Take for instance the timing of her becoming Catholic this year at the age of 69, despite her attraction to the faith at an early age.

Blackburn notes that had she become Catholic earlier she would have missed the joy of preparing for the sacrament of confirmation with her twin grandsons at St. Malachi Parish in Brownsburg.

And had Blackburn become Catholic at some other time in some other parish, she might have missed out on her “personal

See NEW CATHOLICS, page 7

Welcome, new Catholics, pages 8-9.

Gayle Blackburn poses with her twin grandsons Vincent, left, and Carmine Gioconda, after the Easter Vigil Mass at which all three received the sacrament of confirmation on April 16 at St. Malachi Church in Brownsburg. Blackburn also received the sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist.

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Welcome, new Catholics, pages 8-9.
Eucharistic Revival to begin in the archdiocese on June 19

The three-year National Eucharistic Revival will begin in the archdiocese on June 19 in Indianapolis with two Masses celebrated at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., both at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St.

The 1 p.m. Mass will be primarily celebrated in English. Other languages included in the liturgy will be American Sign Language, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog and Burmese dialects spoken in the archdiocese.

The 3 p.m. Mass will be primarily celebrated in Spanish. French will also be included in this liturgy.

A Festival of Faith, Family and Service will take place from 1-4 p.m. in the parking lot of the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis. It will feature lunch, service projects, family games and music.

At about 4:15 p.m., following the conclusion of the 3 p.m. Mass, a eucharistic procession will begin that will go from SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral to St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., in Indianapolis.

Children who have received their first Communion this year are invited to take part in the procession while accompanied by a parent, teacher or catechist.

All newly initiated Catholics, such as those received into the Church at Easter, can also take part in the procession.

Other Catholics are invited to line the procession route and bring banners, flags and other religious articles to decorate the route.

After the Blessed Sacrament arrives at St. John, a holy Hour will take place that will conclude with Benediction at 6:30 p.m. Men and women religious from across the archdiocese are especially encouraged to take part in the holy Hour.

As more details about the June 19 event are determined, they will be posted at eucharistcrevivalindy.org.

Pope Francis is still considering possible trip to war-torn Ukraine

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Sitting in a wheelchair in the courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, Pope Francis allowed himself to be grilled by a group of youngsters, including one who asked when he would go to Ukraine “to save all the children who are suffering there.”

“I want to go to Ukraine, but I must wait for the moment,” he said.

Pope Francis responded to Sachar, a boy from Ukraine now living in Rome. “I have to look for the right time to do it,” he said, explaining that he would not want to do something “that could do more harm to the world than good.”

The pope added that, within the next week, he would meet with representatives of the Ukrainian government “who are coming to talk about the most delicate and painful issue of mine there. Let’s see what happens.”

Pope Francis had told reporters on April 2 that he was considering a possible visit to the Ukrainian capital. But in late April, he started talking more negatively about the idea. He told the Argentine newspaper La Nación on April 21 that “I cannot do anything that puts higher objectives at risk, which are the end of the war, a truce and an agreement, at least the most important person in the world.”

As for being pope, he said, “It’s true that it is a bit heavy sometimes, because it’s scary. But I try to experience it in the most honest way, because if the Lord asked this of me, it is because he will give me the strength not to make a mistake, to be careful not to make mistakes.”

Caterina asked if it is tiring being the pope, to which he responded, “I try not, but if you ask me if it’s too tiring than the work of a dad or mom? No.”

The Criterion
The Holy Spirit pushes people to repent, change, love, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Holy Spirit shows everyone where to begin, what paths to take and how to walk the great journey of life, Pope Francis said.

“Let us sit at the school of the Holy Spirit, so that he can teach us all things,” the pope said in his homily on June 5 during Pentecost Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica.

“The evil spirit, on the contrary, pushes you to always do what you think and you find pleasing. He makes you think that you have the right to use your freedom any way you want,” he said. But then “once you are left feeling empty inside,” the evil spirit “blames you and throws you down.”

“When you are troubled by bitterness, pessimism and negativity,” he said, “it is good to remember that these things never come from the Holy Spirit. They come from evil,” which likes to fuel impatience, self- pity, complaints, criticism and the tendency to blame others for everything. The evil spirit “blames you and throws you down.”

The pope asked people to let the Holy Spirit “correct you; he makes you weep for your sins; he pushes you to change, to fight against your lies and deceptions.”

The Holy Spirit, however, will always offer a hand, comfort and constant encouragement because conversion calls for “hard work, interior struggle and sacrifices,” the pope said.

The evil spirit, on the contrary, pushes you to always do what you think and you find pleasing. He makes you think that you have the right to use your freedom any way you want,” he said. But then “once you are left feeling empty inside,” the evil spirit “blames you and throws you down.”

The Holy Spirit pushes people to be together, united in their diversity, harmonizing everyone’s different gifts. Pope Francis said. The spirit “makes us Church” as a concrete reality, teaches the Church how to be “an open house without walls of division,” to walk and go forth to evangelize and face the problems of today.

The evil spirit, on the other hand, “drives us to concentrate on our own problems and interests, on our need to appear relevant, on our strenuous defense of the nation or group to which we belong,” he said.

The pope asked people to let the Holy Spirit liberate them from an “obsession with emergencies” and a desire to “program” or “modernize” everything as a solution. Later, before leading the recitation of the “Regina Coeli” prayer, the pope said that, for some, the Gospel may seem “to be outdated, unable to speak to our current moment, with its demands and its problems.”

But thanks to the Holy Spirit, “who connects the teaching of Jesus with every time and every person,” the pope said, “the words of Christ come alive today” for each individual.

Proyecto de servicio pautado para el 19 de junio en el marco del lanzamiento del Renacimiento Eucarístico Nacional

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“The evil spirit, on the contrary, pushes you to always do what you think and you find pleasing. He makes you think that you have the right to use your freedom any way you want,” he said. But then “once you are left feeling empty inside,” the evil spirit “blames you and throws you down.”

The Holy Spirit encourages people to never to lose heart and always to start over again, he said, “by jumping right in, without waiting for someone else to come.”

And by spreading hope and joy, not complaints; never envious others, “but rejoicing in their success.”

The Holy Spirit wants people to be together, united in their diversity, harmonizing everyone’s different gifts. Pope Francis said. The spirit “makes us Church” as a concrete reality, teaches the Church how to be “an open house without walls of division,” to walk and go forth to evangelize and face the problems of today.

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Service project set for June 19 as part of launch of National Eucharistic Revival

Criterio staff report

Archdiocese of Indianapolis Catholic Charities and the Indianapolis Society of St. Vincent de Paul will assemble hygiene care packages at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, during the Faith, Family and Service Festival from 1-4 p.m. on June 19 as part of the launch of the National Eucharistic Revival.

The packages will be distributed to those in need through the archdiocese’s five Catholic Charities locations, including Holy Family Shelter and the Crisis Office, both in Indianapolis; Marie’s Community Distribution Center in New Albany; and Ryves Youth Center in Terre Haute. They will also be distributed by St. Vincent de Paul ministries in Indianapolis, including Beggars for the Poor and the organization’s food pantries.

Items needed include:
• toothbrushes
• toothpaste
• deodorant
• bar soap
• shampoo (12 ounces or smaller)
• body powder
• feminine hygiene products

Please bring items to the service project or consider collecting items in advance at your parish, then stay and help assemble the hygiene care packages.

For questions or more information, contact Theresa Champagne at tchambless@archindy.org or 317-236-1404.
Peace, God's gift, our responsibility

The first words Christ spoke to his Apostles after he rose from the dead were: “Peace be with you” (Jn 20:19).

What he gave us as a gift after his resurrection, he left as a serious responsibility after his ascension: the Apostles, with the help of the Holy Spirit, were to communicate Christ’s peace to others. Therefore, the peace of Christ (Pax Christi) is both an unmerited gift and a grave responsibility that we who are disciples of the risen Lord are called to steward and defend.

The gift of peace is difficult to defend in a society that permits and even encourages violence. The deliberate killing of millions of unborn children, senseless slaughter of school children, murder and chaos in our city streets, and the madness of wars that destroy innocent civilians and wreak destruction on whole cities are the devil’s handiwork. They are certainly direct decay, and become for us a source of courage decisions—to change our prejudices. We must be willing, first and foremost, to pray for peace.

In the words of Pope St. John Paul II, “To pray is to enter into the action of God upon history: he, the sovereign actor of history, has wished to make each one of us his collaborator.” This is why the Holy Spirit was sent to the Apostles (and to us) to give us the courage and perseverance to speak the truth with love, regardless of the challenges they encountered as they preached the Gospel to the ends of the Earth.

Of course, prayer must be accompanied by action. We must make difficult, courageous decisions—to change our laws so that abortion, euthanasia and the death penalty are outlawed, so that gun ownership is carefully regulated and certain weapons are banned; so that our schools, businesses and civic institutions are protected against rampant violence and destruction; and so that the horrors of war are never again permitted to utterly destroy nations and peoples.

The serious responsibility we have been given as stewards of the peace of Christ demands that we pray fervently and act decisively. Woe to us—missionary disciples of Christ—if we fail to safeguard the dignity of all human life from the moment of conception to natural death. Woe to us—citizens of a nation founded on liberty and justice for all—if we fail in our sacred duty to be communities of peace and justice that welcome and protect all our sisters and brothers at every stage of their lives.

Let’s put an end to the senseless, self-justifying talk that makes the cultural and political debates surrounding these issues so unproductive. Instead, let’s pray seriously, and act decisively, for real change to our laws and our societal practices that will protect all human life from the insane violence we are experiencing today.

Let’s accept our God-given responsibility to be responsible stewards of the gift of peace.

Reflection

John Shaughnessy

A ridiculous question about friendship, and a Father’s Day wish

It ranks as one of the most ridiculous questions I’ve ever asked.

The thing is, I knew it had the potential to reach that same group even before I asked it. That’s because I was teaching a group of about 40 men. And there are just some questions that you should never ask men when they are in a large group.

I had been invited to talk to a group of Catholic men at their parish—a talk about the tremendous gift of friendship in our lives, the friendships we have with other people and especially the friendship that God offers us.

Of course, I had no delusions that I was the main reason they had come together, especially after I saw the keg of beer and tasted some of the best London Brol I’ve ever had—part of a mouth-watering meal made by two men from the parish.

Still, I like to think it’s a fun and faith-filled talk, loaded with stories that make people laugh, touch them and even surprise them.

At the beginning of the talk, I ask people to think about one of their closest friends. Someone who has a way of making them smile or laugh. Someone they can count on. Someone they would reach out to—to help them through a tough time in their life. Someone who would have their back even if they did something wrong—and maybe even challenge them to be better. Someone who would be thrilled for them when they have good news to share.

From there, I share stories that strive to prove this point. In many ways, God makes his goodness known through the surprising ways he puts people in our lives. Someone who we thought we knew, maybe someone who we thought we didn’t know, becomes our friend. Someone who is brought into our lives, makes us roar with laughter.

With that memory in mind, I raise a glass of celebration of that group—and all men who share these bonds. I wish you all a Happy Father’s Day, and thank God for the friendships he has given us, including his.

Letters to the Editor

As Catholics, we must be people of love and must feed our faith

I’m not the world’s greatest apologist. I am not the sharpest tool in the shed.

Others can express what I want to say with greater clarity and eloquence about right and wrong, of morality, evil and unjust laws, on the misinformation and correct information about the Catholic Church, or the beauty of the faith.

What I do know is that individually, we must learn and continue to learn more about our own Catholicism—its rich history, traditions and roots.

We need to cultivate our own prayer life—and enter into the interior castle of the soul. We need to revisit our catechism. Read and pray the Bible. Read spiritual books and articles from trusted sources. Learn about the doctors of the Church, mysteries of the faith, and history of interior spiritual lives.

In short, we need to do all these things not only for greater understanding of what it means to be Catholic and put into practice, but also to bear faithful witness to our faith and to others. Only then will we be armed with the truth and understanding about our faith. Only then will we be able to confront the secularism and erosion of morals within the Church and in society at large.

There is no room for compromise. We cannot cherry pick and choose so that our faith fits our own comforts levels and narratives.

We have to accept the official teachings of our faith fully, the easy parts and the difficult parts.

As Catholics, we must be people of love. They who would attempt to separate faith from love, who think that love is Faith, the soul daring to go farther than it can see.

When you feed your faith, your fears starve to death.

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

Reader: Newspaper helps me grow in my faith

I love The Criterion. I have helped you grow in faith. I hope the newspaper continues to come.

God bless you for all the good work you do.

Mary Rader | Greenwood
La Santísima Trinidad revela el misterio del amor de Dios

Una de las grandes paradojas de nuestra fe cristiana es la doctrina de la Santísima Trinidad, cuya solennidad celebramos este domingo 12 de junio. Estamos acostumbrados a pensar en la Trinidad como un misterio, y con razón, pero la paradoja de este gran misterio es que, en lugar de confundirnos, nos ayuda a entender mejor su relación con nosotros.

Según el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, “Véremos un Dios en la Trinidad y la Trinidad en la unidad, no confundiendo las personas, ni separando las substancias: una es la persona del Padre, otra la del Hijo, otra la del Espíritu Santo: pero el Padre y el Hijo y el Espíritu Santo una es la divinidad, igual la gloria, coeterna la majestad.”

Esta definición clásica de la Santísima Trinidad afirma la creencia cristiana fundamental de que Dios es tres en uno, y como misterio no podemos dejar de preguntarnos qué significa para nosotros esta divinidad divina en la unidad.

La explicación sencilla, de una sola palabra, es el amor. Es el amor del Padre el que engendra al Hijo, y ese mismo amor divino el que une al Padre y al Hijo en el Espíritu Santo. El amor de Dios une—nunca divide. El amor de Dios crea el universo y todo lo que contiene. Ese mismo amor divino redime nuestra humanidad caída y santifica (hace santa) a toda la creación en Cristo. El amor de Dios sana y restaura la creación. Nunca desintegra lo que está destinado a ser bueno.

Tal como leemos en el catecismo: “El misterio de la Santísima Trinidad es el misterio central de la fe y de la vida cristiana. Sólo Dios puede dárnoslo a conocer revelándose como Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo (Jn 16:12).”

En la existencia de este misterio se encuentra el amor y el amor que expresa el Padre en su Hijo y a través de él, es lo que nos revela este gran misterio por el poder del Espíritu Santo.

El amor es Dios; es también la forma en que Dios se relaciona consigo mismo y con todo lo que ha hecho, tanto lo que es perfecto como imperfecto. Cuando nos encontramos con el amor de Dios, que es puro y santo, no hay nada que nos impida preguntar por qué Dios envió a su único Hijo para redimirnos de nuestros pecados, o por qué el Espíritu Santo desciende para transformarnos de personas débiles y temerosas a testigos audaces y valientes de las tres personas en un solo Dios. El amor divino es sorprendente en su simplicidad y desprendimiento; nos ayuda a ver las cosas bajo una nueva luz y a comprender verdades que antes no descubriamos.

Cada vez que presenciamos los sacrificios que los padres hacen por sus hijos, comprendemos el tipo de amor que une a las tres personas de la Santísima Trinidad en un solo Dios. Cada vez que vemos a los socorristas dirigirse a situaciones de peligro de las que otros, comprensiblemente, huyen, somos testigos del tipo de amor que impulsó al Padre a enviar al Hijo para salvarnos de nuestros pecados. Y cada vez que observamos milagros de curación—ya sean físicos, emocionales o espirituales—realizados por profesionales de la medicina, consejeros o líderes religiosos, nos encontramos con la gracia del Espíritu Santo actuando en nuestro mundo. Todos estos ejemplos revelan el amor de Dios en acción, obrando para superar las manifestaciones del pecado y del mal que nos rodean.

Según leemos en el Evangelio de la Soledad de la Santísima Trinidad:

“Muchas cosas me quedan aún por decirte, que por ahora no podrían soportar. Pero, cuando venga el Espíritu de la verdad, él os guiará a toda la verdad, porque no hablará por su propia cámara, sino que dirá lo que oiga y le anunciará las cosas por vencer. Él me glorificará porque tomará de mi y se lo dará a conocer a ustedes. Todo cuanto tiene el Padre es mío. Por eso les dije que el Espíritu tomará de mi y se lo dará a conocer a ustedes” (Jn 16:12-15).

El misterio trinitario está más allá de nuestra comprensión: “que por ahora no podrían soportar” nos dice Jesús (Jn 16:12). Pero cuanto más abramos nuestras mentes y nuestros corazones a la realidad del amor de Dios, y cuanto más nos convirtamos nosotros mismos en personas bondadosas, amorosas y misericordiosas, más llegaremos a apreciar plenamente quién es Dios y cómo se relaciona con nosotros.

El Catecismo nos da la clave para entender el misterio de las tres personas en un solo Dios. Cuanto más amorosos sean nuestros corazones, más nos acercaremos al amor de Dios y más podremos entender quién es Dios y cuánto nos ama.

Que tengamos un bendecido domingo de la Santísima Trinidad.
June 14
St. Pius X Parish, 7200 Sarto Dr., Indianapolis. Informational meeting on helping with SPRED retreat (virtual option available), 7-8 p.m., for those interested in helping with archdiocesan Ministry for Persons with Special Needs retreat for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities on July 23-24 in Bcrest Grove, no special medical or educational background necessary. Information: Erin Jeffers at rjeffers@archindy.org; 317-517-4744.

June 15

June 16
St. Joseph Church, 1401 S. Mckley 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.


June 17
Northside Events and Social Club, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. Catholic Business Exchange, Wally Brant, CEO and owner of Indiana Oxygen presenting “God found me wandering and lost in the Himalaya.” 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 June 14. Information and registration: cutt.ly/CBE-Res.

St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 2222 E. 8th St., Bloomington. Hog Roast and Beer Garden Fest, 4:30-8 p.m., benefitting Bloomington St. Vincent de Paul Society; featuring Justin Case Band, silent auction, 90/90 raffle, 11: international folkdance instructor, beer and wine, face painting, food, iced tea, lemonade, $10 adult admission pre-sale, $12 at the door; $6 child 6-12, children ages 5 and younger free. Information: 812-961-1510.

June 17-18
St. Thomas More Parish, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville. World Fest, Fri. 5-10 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., food and entertainment from around the world, hot air balloon rides, Texas Hold ‘Em, corn hole, raffle, magic shows, free admission. Information: 317-416-7170.

June 18
St. Michael Parish, 145 S. Michael Blvd., Brookville. Parish Festival, 11 a.m.-11 p.m., fried chicken dinner 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 90 Proof Twang 7-10 p.m. beer garden, silent auction, raffles, children’s games, free admission. Information: 765-647-5462 or brookvilleparish@ gmail.com.

Griffin Bike Park, 10700 Bonsu Road, Terre Haute. Quick Quack 5K Trail Run, 6:30-7:30 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. race, benefitting Terre Haute Catholic Charities, disposable chip timing, live results, refreshments, register by June 12 to receive T-shirt; $30 individual, $50/10 family of four to eight members, register by June 17. Information and registration: cutt.ly/QuickQuack.

St. John the Evangelist Church, 3347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Masses and Eucharistic Procession for the Opening of Eucharistic Revival, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Corpus Christi Masses, celebrated by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, eucharistic procession following 3 p.m. Mass to St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., for holy hour until 6:30 p.m., first communicants in special attire with guardians and newly initiated Catholics with sponsors invited to participate in procession (meet at 3:30 p.m. in the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center Assembly Hall, 1400 N. Meridian St.), parish groups encouraged to line procession route. Information: eucharisticrevivalindy.org.

Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Festival of Faith, Family and Service, 1-4 p.m., lunch, family activities, music, free, bring hygiene items for service project. Information: eucharisticrevivalindy.org.

June 20-24
Marion University, 3200 Cold Spring Rd., Indianapolis. Health Care Day Camp, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors interested in learning about health care professions, includes breakfast, lunch and all camp materials, financial assistance available, $100. Information: 317-285-8134 or cwhitton@marion.edu.

St. Michael School, 101 S. Michael Dr., Charlestown. Vacation Bible School, 5:45-8:30 p.m. daily, for children pre-K through fifth grade, free, information and registration: 812-256- 1370 or 765-647-5462; www.vbs.indy.org; cutt.ly/vbs.

Events Calendar

For a list of events for the next four weeks as reported to The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/events.
Bishops urge Congress to address gun violence in U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In response to the multiple mass shootings in recent weeks, the chairs of four U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) committees sent a letter to Congress urging lawmakers to “stop the massacres of innocent lives.”

“We urge all members of Congress to reflect on the compassion all of you undoubtedly feel in light of these tragic events and be moved to action because of it,” the bishops wrote June 2.

Two days before the letter was sent, a faculty on a Catholic hospital campus in Tulsa, Okla.—St. Francis Health System’s Natalee Medical Billing—was the site of a mass shooting, where a gunman killed four people, including the doctor who had treated him for back pain. The bishops said such violence “is the result of acts of violence as demonstrated in Uvalde, Texas, and Buffalo, N.Y., to name some examples, requires a broad response that examines the impact of state of families, the valuation of life, the influence of entertainment and gaming industries, bullying and the availability of firearms.”

And although they see a need for broad reform, they focused on guns in particular, stressing that “among the many steps toward addressing this endemic of violence is the passage of reasonable gun control measures.”

The letter was signed by Archbishop Paul S. Coyle of Oklahoma City, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the Committee on Marriage, Family Life and Youth; Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; and Bishop Thomas A. Olph of Dallas, chairman of the Committee on Catholic Education.

These committee leaders noted that even work needs to be done to address the root causes of gun violence, there were practical steps Congress could take right now by supporting legislation to expand background checks for gun sales.

They also criticized Congress for its lack of action on gun control, noting that in the 10 years since the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., “very little has been done by Congress to regulate these weapons and prevent another catastrophe.”

The bishops urged Congress to work together in a bipartisan fashion to make sure these horrific attacks less likely to happen again, they wrote. They said Congress needs to pass measures to address gun violence and continues to do so.

Looking at specific measures, they said they support a bill to ban assault weapons and limitations on civilian access to high-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines. They also cited their support for universal background checks for all gun purchases.

“Blackburn, who calls her parents “very devout Christians,” was raised as a Baptist in Akron, Ohio.

“We went to church every Sunday and Wednesday—they were very staunch in getting us to church,” she recalls. “I just couldn’t believe that things had to be like that,” she says. She recalls being “always drawn to the Catholic faith” since her youth when she would go to Mass with a friend.

“I loved the different things that were done during Mass,” she says. “It seemed so sacred to me and so fulfilling.”

She considered Catholicism and even marriage. But Catholicism had never seemed far from her spiritual journey. She got engaged after high school and eventually married a Catholic man. But her faith seemed so sacred to me and so fulfilling.”

This was the one

“I was planning on finding a place of my own anyway, but it would have taken a lot of modifications and help, and I was scared,” she says. “I could’ve done it, but now I feel much more comfortable moving out on my own.”

The date of her healing was on Oct. 24, 2021. The Gospel reading that day was from Mark. “Jesus said to [Barthmaeus] and to the one who was with him: ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ The blind man replied to him, ‘Master, I want to see.’ Jesus told him, ‘Your way, your faith has saved you.’ Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.” (Mt 10:51-52).

“I started crying, I was so happy”

In light of her restored vision, perhaps it’s not surprising that one of Blackburn’s favorite moments of the Easter Vigil Mass on April 16 was at the beginning.

“When they dimmed the lights and the candles were going from darkness to light was very powerful,” she says. She was also touched upon receiving all the communion in one sitting.

“Can you feel a cleansing, a change after you’re baptized?” says Blackburn, who had not previously been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Her 14-year-old twin grandsons, Vincent and Carmine Gioconda, joined her in receiving the sacrament of confirmation.

“That was the most special thing ever,” she gushed. “Every Sunday we went to Mass and [RCIA] class, and we’d talk about it after.”

Blackburn says receiving her first Communion gave her “chills.”

“It was amazing—the sanctity of that and understanding that every little, tiny morsel is God and Jesus. To realize what that is is very profound. If you think about it, if you pray about it, if you’re really earnest about it, it can be life changing. You can feel whole again, transformed.”

Her journey to that transformation was decades in the making. But Blackburn sees it all as part of God’s timing and purpose—and not because of her physical healing.

“That took me a long time to get here,” she says. “But I think the purpose was so I could walk the steps with my grandsons. It was so touching to see both of them being confirmed and that I was a part of that. I started crying, I was so happy—to see that and know that we all did it together.

How many grandparents get to do that?”
During Easter Vigil Masses held on April 16 in parishes throughout central and southern Indiana, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis welcomed 607 souls into the full communion of the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Following is a list of the catechumens and candidates reported to The Criterion.

Batesville Deanery
All Saints, Dearborn County
Simeon Graves, Kyla Fischer, Tim McComas, Emma Williams (catechumens); Gayle Griffiths (candidate)
St. Joseph, Shelbyville
Haskell Gibson, Mark Jones, Teresa Molter, Erick Mikael Persson, Kaylee Ramsey, Cindy Winkler, Taylor Welting (catechumens); Anita Benefiel, Timothy Benefiel, Cody Clark, Ivan Gutierrez, Alex Guzman, Wendy Guzman, Emily Hernandez, Rockie Kesling, Alexandra Kennedy, Graham Anthony Kennedy, Kelly Kennedy, Diego Edgar Molinno, Sayra Morales, Sheila Myers, Tory Nash, Christina Anieta Persson, Morgan Pittman, Jamaica Schmidt, Kathryn Shapiro, Debbie Kay Stiegelz, Bryan Taylor, Mark Turney (candidates)
St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg
William Carroll (catechumen); Vincent Votz (candidate)
St. Louis, Batesville
Sebastian Back, Damien Hooten, Madelyn Pohlman, John Shaw, Dominique Vogege, Briggs Zins, McKenzie Zins (catechumens); Riley Bailey, Kayla Craig, Layla Craig, Gabriel Eckstein, Gerald Fagan, Susan Fagan, Steacy Gysperydi (candidates)
St. Mary, Greensburg
Michaela Fields (catechumen); Kayla Carder, Vonda Elsner, Jim Galyen, Dyleyln Hedrick, Kelby Hedrick, Riley Hersley, Julie Kirchhoff, Tiffani McFarland, Kattie O’Mara, Cindy Parker, Myra Steele (candidates)
St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Aurora
Emma Neff (catechumen); Ronald Heffelmire, Bellmarie Neff, Kellian Neff, Corey Rudolf (candidates)
St. Michael, Brownville
Everett Taylor (catechumen); David Bowser (candidate)
St. Nicholas, Ripley County
Leean Henry (catechumen); Aleigha Roll, Violet Sharp (candidates)
St. Peter, Franklin County
John Miller (candidate)
St. Teresa Benedicta, Bright
Kevin McCord (catechumen)
St. Vincent de Paul, Shelbyville
Alyna Alvarado-Weaver, Mark Jones, Cindy Winkler (catechumens); Penny Poe (candidate)

Bloomington Deanery
St. Agnes, Nashville
Abraham Smedley (catechumen); Phillip Baker, Patrick Lee, Weston Moore (candidates)
St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington
Francesca Fox, Benjamin Johnson, Brody Johnson, Elias Martinez, Alexa Pollock, Michelle Stankard, Cole Stephens, David Stephens, Sarah Thompson, Blake Wilbur (catechumens); Gregory Allen, Hayden Ewalt, Riley Fettig, John Moreland, Daniel Swanson, Annabel Thornbury, Nolan Thornbury (candidates)
St. John the Apostle, Bloomington
Stephen Denny (catechumen); Sarah Kolodziej, Jordan Swanson, Annabel Thornbury, Nolan Thornbury (candidates)
St. Martin of Tours, Martinsville
John Givans (candidate)
St. Mary, Mitchell
Doug Carmichael, Mary Ann Carmichael, James Stalker (candidates)
Connersville Deanery
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond
Evelyn Beare, McKenna McDonald, Abigail Sandlin, Allison Sandlin (catechumens); Isabella Cornell, Carol Dils Ladd, Dianna King, Kevin King, David Newton (candidates)
St. Gabriel, Connersville
Mary Blazer, Ramsey Blazer, Brenna Carpenter, T-Ana Congleton, James Dargie, Nate Grzposki, Rylin Handy, Atria Smith (catechumens); Mandy Blazer (candidate)
St. Mary, Rushville
Ashley Herbert (catechumen); Ashley Hoeing, Amy Tush (candidates)
Indianapolis East Deanery
Holy Spirit
Our Lady of Lourdes
Kelly Klyklyo (catechumen); William Fleak (candidate)
St. Mary
Milton Castro, Sophia Esquailet, Kamily Gehrart, Amelia Hargis, Charles Hargis, Ethan Hayes, Crystal Orellana Valdez, Robs Orellana Valdez, Igle Orellana Valdez (catechumens); Fatima Candelaria, Collin Hargis, Taylor Hargis, Phillip Majors (candidates)
SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral
Hannah Alcaide, Genesis Alcauter Yanez, Jose Rodriguez Francia, Brian Castro Guevara, Marizama Noda, Kevin Arias Yanez (candidates); Manuel Castro, Yaneira Leiva (candidates)
St. Philip Neri
Cruz Cuartle Duran, Emmally Gonzalez Villa, Francisco Martinez, Jr., Kimberly Martinez, Kendy Olvera Nuñez, Maria Segura-Peña (candidates)
St. Rita
Alice Brechel Endicott (candidate)
St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower)
Amber Cooper, Eugene Daniels, April Jones, John Jones, Keeghan Jones, Joy Range, Tyrese Range (candidates); Sandra Pritchett (candidate)
St. Thomas the Apostle, Fortville
Spencer Baverden (catechumen); Brianna Eastman (candidate)
Indianapolis North Deanery
Christ the King
Carissa Fortney, Katherine Province (candidates); Zachary Hawkins (candidate)
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Thomas Pease, Blake White (candidates); Christopher Garren, Kelsey Pease, George Stohner (candidates)
St. Luke the Evangelist
Jayden Bien Amie, Hutton Fraser, Ilsa Fraser, Pierson Fraser, Ava Grove, Chase Grove, Maya Grove, Lance Hansen, Sara Hatz, Sarah McGinley (candidates); Kyle Allen, Julie Collier, Will Eck, Nathan Fraser, Desire Johnson, Ronnie Kloth, Elsa Sands, Cory Wuerch, William Zyck (candidates)
St. Matthew the Apostle
Romine Jones (candidate); Hunter Jones, Rae Mallers, Stacy Muir (candidates)
St. Pius X
Holly Scott (candidate); Mike Gibson, Jason Good, Janie Ulmer (candidates)
St. Simon the Apostle
Mira Clark, Jamie Dahmen, Arlynn Ewing, Ella Fahey, Scarlett Fly, Taylor Huntington, Mark Johnston, John Litt, James Safargent, Owen Storms, Kenley Wysong (candidates); Dustin Argo, Jason Bernhard, Penny Leeson, Robert Locke, Rueane Ripley, Michael Robertson, Kyle Storms, Kirk Voelkel (candidates)
St. Thomas Aquinas
Connor McHugh (candidate)
Indianapolis South Deanery

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Amy Hoover, Jaime Eads (catechumen); Bradley Sprinkle (candidate)

Our Lady of the Greenwood
Yezabel Crooke, Edith Espinosa-Guerrera, Selena Hernandez, Alexander Macedo-Cortez, Sarah Macedo-Cortez, Jocelyn Martinez, Valeria Martinez, Gonzalo Martinez-Martinez, Jessica Martinez-Martinez, Jimena Martinez-Martinez, Rosamaria Martinez-Martinez, Annabelle Moorman, Kellene Moorman, Mason Moorman, Cera Petersen, Ron Raney, Marie Stephens, Shelby Tanner, Camilo Trujillo (candidates); Joshua Cowan, Kyle Guinther, Thomas Smith (candidates)

St. Barnabas
Drew Christie, Adelyn Click, Charlotte Click, Lincoln Click, Shelly Harkins, Sloan Straley, Bryson Taylor, Lincoln Treadway, Evelyn Weis (catechumen); Andrea Elliott, Elizabeth Elliott, Ethan Elliott, Jonathan Elliott, Joshua Elliott, Samuel Elliott, Emily Treadway (candidates)

SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi
Forrest Franck, Morgan Freeman, Emily Milstead, Gabrielle Sallee, Eli Undercoffer (catechumens); Matthew Collinsworth, Matthew Maurer, Jennifer Schmidt, Laurie Serak (candidates)

St. John the Evangelist
Cody Bauer, Katelyn Burch, Ryley Clark, Michael Gagnar, Spencer Jyawook, Adam Scott (candidates); Alexandra Nahem, Michael Jeffries, Jordan Morey, Matthew Thompson, Carol Tuttle, Benjamin Wilson (candidates)

St. Jude
Trent Mason, Amanda Switzer (candidates); Casey Allen, Donal Siler, Jacob Switzer (candidates)

St. Patrick
Elvira Bautista-Santiago, Mairio Dgo-Juan, Yamilet Dgo-Sanchez, Rachel Jenkins, Andres Juan-Andres, Fernando Juan-Andres, Neida Juan-Andres, Emilia Lancon, Eulalia Miguel-Diego, Elissa Pacheco-Reyes, Deysi Palma, April Rosales (catechumens)

St. Roch
Ande Douglas, Colton Kiklyko, Michael Stuart (candidates)

Indianapolis West Deanery

Church of the Holy Angels
Johnette Grant (candidate)

St. Anthony

St. Gabriel the Archangel

St. Malachi, Brownsburg
Gayle Blackburn, Ella Fredette, Holly Gutzwiller, Allison Hession, Lyla Hunter, Brittany Masters, Andrew Ogle, Tara Winter (candidates); Sydne Craig, Mary Darel, Brady Larkin, Kaley Larkin, Mark Preston, Melanie Thiel (candidates)

St. Michael the Archangel
Asia Madayag (candidate); Larissa Callahan, Jessica Crooke, Madison Crooke (candidates)

St. Monica
Beatrice Agonyo, Andrea Calix, Jacqueline Galvez, Celso Palacier Garcia, Deyni Hernandez, Francisca Luna, Reyna Monzadragon, Alejandro Shepherd (candidates); Maribel Amaro, Ana Anaya Gutierrez, Leyla Bardales, Pedro Jose Diaz, Edgar Jara, Elizabeth Javier, Jocelyn Martinez, Alexandra Martinez Ruedas, Paula Martinez Ruedas, Jesus Caballero Meza, Griselle Moreno, Eva Mar Olascoaga, Fausto Olascoaga, Mark Rangelz, Rigoberto Toto, Kelly Villeanos (candidates)

St. Susanna, Plainfield

New Albany Deanery

Holy Family, New Albany
Luca Schuler (candidate), Bruce Cunningham, Lindsey Dixon (candidates)

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
William Urts (candidate)

St. Augustine, Jeffersonville
Benjamin Bates, Christine Darrow, George Mosley (candidates)

St. John Paul II, Sellersburg
Rebekah Boer, AJ Graf, Emily Mozoski, Isabella Mozoski, George Tipker IV (candidates)

St. Mary, New Albany
Mia Dougherty, Jamie Earls, Patricia Juan Santiago, St. Mary, New Albany (candidates)

St. Michael, Bradford
Justin Jaso, Bri Little (candidates); Tasha Bleivins, Adam Cantrill (candidates)

Seymour Deanery

American Martyrs, Scotsburg
Alisha Campbell, Daniel Spicer (candidates)

Prince of Peace, Madison
Kara Schafer (candidate); Adley Ashcroft, Patty Kelly, Astrid Lagunes, Andrew Raffa, Stephanie Ramsey (candidates)

St. Ambrose, Seymour

St. Bartholomew, Columbus

St. Mary, North Vernon
Michael Biggs, Timmille Biggs, Judi Johnson-Stevens, Elizabeth Lynch, Axel Morales, Joshua Morales, Haley Sporeider, Alexis Sporeider, Austin Sporeider (candidates); Abigail Capes, Sarah Lindberg, Xavier Lindberg, Issac Sherman, Liliana Sherman (candidates)

Tell City Deanery

St. Paul, Tell City
Tiffany Blowers, Jason Stiles, Brandon Wirthwein (candidates)

Terre Haute Deanery

Annunciation, Brazil
Chrischelle Brown, Christina Burton, Joe Burton, Debbie Straight (candidates); Alisia Kluger (candidate)

St. Benedict, Terre Haute
Samantha Bridgewater (candidate); Camryn DeGraff, Terry Hamilton, John Zeller (candidates)

St. Patrick, Terre Haute
Harold Chapman, Brittney Dibble, Charles Jackson III, Mark Sturm (candidates)
A beautiful thing to witness

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson and priests process on June 4 into SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis at the start of the archdiocese’s first ordination Mass in three years. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson asks questions of transitional Deacons Michael Clawson, left, and Matthew Perronie about their willingness to be ordained priests during the June 4 ordination Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Father Douglas Hunter, left, shares a joyful sign of peace with newly ordained Father Matthew Perronie during the June 4 Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis during which Father Perronie and Father Michael Clawson were ordained priests. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)

Laura Thompson, a member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg and a friend of Father Michael Clawson, proclaims the second reading during the June 4 ordination Mass. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson anoints the hands of newly ordained Father Matthew Perronie with sacred chrism oil during a June 4 ordination Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Newly ordained Father Michael Clawson, right, gives a blessing to Maria Gejdos, second from right, and her two children, Maria and Mark Gejdos, on June 4 in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. The Gejdos family are members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Father Eric Augenstein, second from left, and Father Eric Johnson, right, ritually lay hands respectively on transitional Deacons Michael Clawson and Matthew Perronie. Father Augenstein serves as archdiocesan director of seminarians. Father Johnson ministers as archdiocesan vicar for clergy, religious and parish life coordinators. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)

Newly ordained Father Michael Clawson, right, gives a blessing to Maria Gejdos, second from right, and her two children, Maria and Mark Gejdos, on June 4 in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. The Gejdos family are members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Father Eric Augenstein, second from left, and Father Eric Johnson, right, ritually lay hands respectively on transitional Deacons Michael Clawson and Matthew Perronie. Father Augenstein serves as archdiocesan director of seminarians. Father Johnson ministers as archdiocesan vicar for clergy, religious and parish life coordinators. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)

Newly ordained Father Michael Clawson, right, gives a blessing to Maria Gejdos, second from right, and her two children, Maria and Mark Gejdos, on June 4 in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. The Gejdos family are members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)
“I looked out at all the people who were there, realizing the friendships that I’ve made,” he recalled. “But I also remembered that I’ll need to continue to cultivate that among the parishes that I’ll be at.”

Beginning on July 6, Father Perronie will begin service as parochial vicar of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis. On that same day, Father Clawson starts his ministry as parochial vicar of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg and chaplain coordinator of Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis.

In his homily during the ordination Mass, Archbishop Thompson also reveled in the joy of the day.

“The Church rejoices in your courage, humility and generosity of committing yourselves to the life and ministry of ordained priesthood,” Archbishop Thompson said. “… The archdiocesan presbyterate welcomes you with great joy. “Dare to serve from both strength and weakness, relying not so much on yourselves but on the grace of God, the teachings of the Church, the fraternity of the presbyterate in union with the bishop and the faith of God’s holy people.”

The archbishop encouraged the men he was about to ordain as priests to root their ministry in the broader community of priests in central and southern Indiana. “Our presbyterate, though diverse in various ways, is made up of many good, holy, gifted and devoted men of God, sons of the Church,” Archbishop Thompson said. “At the very core of such holy priests is a deep commitment to ongoing prayer, discernment, formation, education and conversion all rooted in the word of God, the grace of the sacraments and outreach of service.

“We welcome and encourage Deacons Matthew and Michael to be a part of this presbyterate, enhancing our fraternity, not just with age, but with the gifts and talents that you bring, your own particular spirituality.”

Father Clawson experienced the care of the priests he was joining when they all ritually laid hands on his head during the Mass. As each faced him to place their hands on his head, the folds of their chasubles enveloped his head in what he said was a symbol “of the protection of God.”

“In relationship to the presbyterate that we’re joining, through that fraternity comes these relationships that will help to sustain me and hold me up,” Father Clawson said. “They’ll be there as support when I need them.”

For Father Perronie, his relationship with the priests of the archdiocese isn’t new. “Journeying through the seminary these past eight years, I participated in a way that fraternity, getting to know priests and getting to be with them,” he said. “Now in a real way I’m one of their brothers. It’s cool to look at how I have cultivated fraternity up until this point and how all of that will continue and become even greater.”

Father Eric Augenstein accompanied both new priests throughout their years of priestly formation, first as archdiocesan vocations director and more recently as archdiocesan director of seminarians. He appreciated seeing them grow toward ordained ministry.

“It shows what formation can do and the gifts that can be developed over time,” Father Augenstein said. “They’re natural in a person to begin with. But then through prayer and good formation, they’re developed and bear fruit in the priesthood. That’s a beautiful thing to witness.”

Father Joseph Moriarty said he was “overwhelmed” by taking part in the ordination of two men whom he helped to prepare for ordained ministry while serving on the formation staff of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis.

“To have ordinations again made me very emotional,” said Father Moriarty, rector of Bishop Bruté.

He was glad to see his own emotions matched in the congregation, who applauded for the two new priests at different points during the Mass. “The applause was a revelation of our joy for these two men,” said Father Moriarty.

Parents of the two new priests shared in the joy of the Mass.

“It was exciting and emotional, just knowing that it’s come full circle,” said Kathy Perronie.

“I’m really proud of him,” added Brent Perronie, who, with his wife, is a member of St. Malachy Parish.

“It’s such a long road for any seminarian,” said Annette Clawson, a member of Annunciation Parish in Brazil. “It’s amazing. What a beautiful Mass that was. Everyone ought to experience it once.”

Although the people gathered at the cathedral rejoiced in the ordination, Archbishop Thompson reminded then-Deacons Clawson and Perronie in their homily moments before he ordained them of the true focus of the priestly life and ministry they were about to take on.

“In the end, it’s not about either of you, me or any other person gathered here,” he said. “This is all about glorifying God, working to bring about his kingdom and the salvation of souls.

“We seek to serve rather than be served. With eyes, hearts and minds fixed on Jesus Christ the great high priest and shepherd, may this be so for you, may this be so for me, may this be so all of us.”

“(For a gallery of photos from the ordination Mass, visit www.CriterionOnline.com. For more information about vocation to the priesthood in the archdiocese, visit HearGodsCall.com.”

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A Special Word to Those Who Have Had an Abortion...

Do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope....

If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace.

~Saint John Paul II, The Gospel Life

Transitional Deacon Michael Clawson, left, stands next to his mother Annette Clawson and siblings Emma and Matthew Clawson at the start of the June 4 Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis during which Deacon Clawson and transitional Deacon Matthew Perronie were ordained priests.

Transitional Deacon Matthew Perronie stands next to his parents, Brent and Kathy Perronie, during the June 4 Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis in which he and transitional Deacon Michael Clawson were ordained priests.

(Photos by Sean Gallagher)
**Shame on those who take advantage of the elderly, ill, Pope Francis says**

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Old age, frailty and vulnerabilities should not be hidden, Pope Francis said.

“We are all tempted to hide our vulnerability, to hide our illness, our age and our seniority, because we fear that they are the precursor to our loss of dignity,” the pope said on June 1 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

“Do not hide old age, do not hide the fragility of old age,” he said, because society needs to be taught and respected what seasons of life.

He said, “We specialize in this society of ours to intimidate them in myriad ways.”

Continuing his series of talks about old age, the pope looked at Psalm 71, in which the author, an elderly man, laments his many afflictions and misfortunes, and pleads to the Lord for help, expressing, in the end, hope and praise.

The psalmist shows how the process of becoming more weak, fragile and vulnerable with advancing age “becomes an opportunity for abandonment, deception and for prevratication and arrogance, which at times prey upon the elderly,” the pope said.

Even today, “in this throwaway society, this throwaway culture, elderly people are cast aside and suffer these things,” he said. It is “a form of cowardice to which we specialize in this society of ours” where there are many people “who take advantage of the elderly, to cheat them and to intimidate them in myriad ways.”

“Shame should fall on those who take advantage of the weakness of illness and old age,” he said.

“Such cruelty also occurs within families,” he said, asking people to reflect on how they relate to their older relatives:

Do I remember them? Do I go to visit them? Do I try to make sure they lack nothing? Do I respect them?” and talk with them to “obtain wisdom?”

“Remember that you, too, will become elderly. Old age comes for everyone. And treat the elderly today as you would wish to be treated in your old age,” the pope said.

Everyone in society “must hasten to take care of the elderly—they are its treasure,” the archbishop added.

**Bishops lament that Nigerians are not safe after church attack**

LAGOS, Nigeria (CNS)—Condemning the actions of gunmen who attacked a Catholic Church as parishioners gathered for Mass on the feast of Pentecost, Nigeria’s Catholic bishops lamented that nowhere is safe in the country after the incident left dozens of people dead.

Archbishop Lucius Ugorji, president of the Nigerian Catholic bishops’ conference, released a statement from the bishops on June 6, saying he was shocked and dismayed to learn of the attack a day earlier at St. Francis Xavier Church in Owo, a town in Ondo state in the southwestern part of the country.

Witnesses said unidentified gunmen began shooting at people during Mass and outside the church. The gunmen escaped and remained at large on June 7.

Nigeria has experienced an increase in violence in recent months.

A doctor said at least 50 people had died and were taken to two hospitals, the Reuters news agency reported. The dead included children, witnesses said. In addition to those who were killed, dozens more were injured and rushed to nearby hospitals.

“Nowhere seems to be safe again in our country: not even the sacred precincts of a church,” said Archbishop Ugorji, who is preparing to be installed as the leader of the Archdiocese of Owerri on June 22.

“We condemn in the strongest terms the spilling of innocent blood in the house of the Lord. The criminals responsible for such a sacrilegious and barbaric act demonstrate their lack of the sense of the sacred and the fear of the God,” he said.

The archbishop called on government to quickly find the gunmen, saying that if they were not taken into custody and prosecuted, he feared the country would descend into anarchy.

“The world is watching us. Above all, God is also watching us,” he added.

Hours after the attack, Ondo Governor Rotimi Akeredolu said his administration will do everything possible to find the perpetrators and prosecute them.

“Security is in shambles, the economy has failed as nonstate actors operate freely and with impunity,” the archbishop said.

**Ordination at Saint Meinrad**

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson poses outside of the Archdiocese of Our Lady of Einsiedeln St. Meinrad with Benedictine Fathers Nathaniel Szidzik, left, and Kolbe Wolniewicszki, whom he ordained as priests on June 5. Both are members of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad. Father Nathaniel will begin graduate studies in Scripture this fall at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Father Kolbe will begin ministry in July as parochial vicar of St. Boniface Parish in Fulda and St. Meinrad Parish in St. Meinrad. (Photo courtesy of Saint Meinrad Archabbey)

Fulda and St. Meinrad Parish in St. Meinrad. (Photo courtesy of Saint Meinrad Archabbey)

**Happy to be priests**

Newly ordained Father Michael Clasow, left, and Father Matthew Perronie pose with Archbishop Charles C. Thompson on June 4 in the rectory of St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis after the Mass in which the two priests were ordained. Beginning on July 6, Father Perronie will begin service as parochial vicar of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis. On that same day, Father Clasow starts his ministry as parochial vicar of St. Monica Parish in Brownsburg and chaplain coordinator of Cardinal Ritter Jr./St. High School in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)
Holy Spirit Parish: Serving Indianapolis’ east side for 75 years

By Natalie Hoefer

It was two years after World War II, and the east side of Indianapolis was growing. According to Holy Spirit Parish pastor Father Michael O’Mara, the area surrounding the faith community’s future site “was rural farmland.”

“As Indianapolis was growing, it was decided that a parish should be erected to serve the residents that would be building homes on the far eastside of Indianapolis, where large factories employed thousands of people,” he said. The first Mass was celebrated by the faith community in its new church on the feast of Pentecost, 1947.

As the parish celebrated its 75th anniversary on June 5—the feast of Pentecost—Father O’Mara noted that the parish is still thriving in its changing environment.

“Heading into the third millennium, the large factories were closing and we began to see stores and restaurants closing as the children of long-time eastsiders moved in search of better economic opportunities,” he said. “And most important to Holy Spirit Parish, they needed a place to worship God and celebrate their life of faith. ‘Lattinos now account for 45% of the parish. Holy Spirit celebrates this cultural diversity as we grow in faith and mission with one another together as one parish.’

‘A welcoming community with dynamic liturgies’

Through the changes, the faith community “has been here serving the local neighborhood as a parish is called to do,” said Father O’Mara. Its largest ministry is its pre-kindergarten through eighth grade school, serving 460 students.

The parish also maintains a strong presence of outreach both locally and abroad. “Our St. Vincent de Paul Society continually reaches out to the poor and struggling,” he said. “We also work closely with St. John [the Evangelist] Parish downtown in their ministry to the homeless.”

Holy Spirit also has a sister parish in Honduras. This month, 18 parishioners will visit on a missionary trip, bringing medicine, clothes and school supplies collected by the parish. The parish also serves up fun at its annual summer festival. This year’s event will take place on July 7-9. (See below for more information.)

While there, take a moment to pray and reflect at the parish’s Our Lady of Guadalupe grotto. “It’s a place of prayer and contemplation off of noisy and fast-moving East 10th Street,” said Father O’Mara. He invites all to worship at Mass with the parish community.

“Holy Spirit offers a welcoming community with dynamic liturgies,” said Father O’Mara. “The parish is especially faithful to daily Mass, with daily attendance of 75-125 people,” he said. “And we have a very active Spanish Charismatic prayer group that meets every Friday for reconciliation, Mass, adoration and prayer.”

For Mass times, go to www.holyspirit-indy.org.

Glass fun and a hole in one

An obvious choice for worshipping at Holy Spirit Church is during its annual summer festival. This year it will take place from 6-11 p.m. on July 7; from 6 p.m. -midnight on July 8, and from 1 p.m.-midnight on July 9.

The festival features live music, midway rides, festival food, beer and wine, bingo, Monte Carlo, Texas Hold ‘Em, a silent auction and a rummage sale. The cost for admission is $10 in festival tickets for those 12 and older. There is no cost for children younger than 12.

Parking and a shuttle to the festival are available at 7140 E. Washington St. For more information, go to holyspiritfestival.org.

For those not eating festival food, Father O’Mara recommends Jarapeo, Tacos al Diablo and The Patio. For golf enthusiasts, bring your clubs and courses near Holy Spirit Parish. Morning Star Golf Club is located within the parish boundaries at 271 S. Mitthoeffer Road. Their website invites golfers to “come prepared with your best short game.”

Bordering the west boundary of the parish at 601 N. Arlington Ave. is historic Pleasant Run Golf Course, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

For something a little different, try taking a glass art workshop at GRT Glass Design, located just inside the parish’s south boundary at 6400 S. Brookville Road. Classes range from making sculpted glass flowers to paperweights, birds, bowls and more.

For dates, times and cost, go to curt/ GlassClass or call 317-357-9006. (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.)”
Pilgrimages are a reminder that life itself is a pilgrimage to heaven

By Zac Davis

So many significant moments in my spiritual life are tied to sights, smells, sounds and emotions felt on a pilgrimage. The deep sigh after walking all the way up from the train stop to the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Assisi, Italy. My jaw dropping when I turned the corner and saw St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican. Squatting and praying at the Sea of Galilee shortly after my grandmother passed away.

There are a billion reasons why you might go on a pilgrimage: to get away or to come home; to find yourself or to find God. Although Jesus lived his life in a relatively small geographical radius, Christians—since Constantine’s mother St. Helena made her own trip to Jerusalem—have always made pilgrimages.

They’ve gone to tombs of martyrs and sites of Marian apparitions, as well as the place that Jesus walked. Pope Francis has said that going on pilgrimage is “one of the people of God’s most eloquent expressions of faith.”

Why? And why should Catholics today try to go on one as often as possible?

First, it reminds us that our very lives are a pilgrimage. Our homes are in this world, but we are only here temporarily. Even within our four walls and our hometowns, we are guests on this Earth. And while a pilgrimage on a pilgrimage might seem a little meta, it does remind us that we should live our lives as if we are merely travelers passing through.

Second, it reminds us that the world and the Church are bigger than what we’ve known thus far. It expands our ideas of both time and space. Pilgrimage and the Church are bigger than what we might seem a little meta, it does remind us that we should live our lives as if we are merely travelers passing through.

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Third, like a retreat, pilgrimages allow us to step outside of the regular churn of productivity to destabilize us enough that we might actually hear God’s voice. Yet unlike a retreat, it requires that we be on the move, giving us practice at becoming contemplatives in action.

But how does someone make a pilgrimage? There are a few tips to keep in mind and questions to consider when discerning making a pilgrimage:

Where should you go? This depends on your time and budget. Mostly, The Holy Land, Rome, the Camino de Santiago, Guadalupe—those and a few others are heavy hitters for a reason and, if possible, everyone should try to do one of them once in their lifetimes.

But you don’t need to travel to another country or get on a plane. According to the University of Dayton, there are thirteen shrines in 37 U.S. states. You could even make a pilgrimage in your hometown. Are there places in your family or community that have spiritual resonance and a connection to the past? Schedule an intentional day to travel there—maybe on foot or by scenic route—and spend some quiet reflective time there.

A pilgrimage is not a vacation (but that doesn’t mean it isn’t relaxing or fun). As Pope Benedict XVI said, “To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place toadmire its treasures of nature, art or history.” Rather, it “really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendor.”

As a result, you’ll want to approach it differently than you would your typical vacation. Pack simply and lightly. Manage your expectations: Something will probably go wrong.

The site, shrine or painting you were most excited to see may be closed for renovation. It may rain on the day you arrive. Your bad knee will act up at the worst possible time. A good pilgrim is an adaptable one who realizes that all these things are part of the pilgrimage you were supposed to be on.

Ask God for a specific grace to come from your pilgrimage. You aren’t just going to visit something when you’re on pilgrimage—you’re bringing some things with you. Hopes, fears, anxieties. Call those to your heart and mind.

Maybe you have a big life decision coming up. Ask for clarity. Maybe someone in your life is going through a debilitating illness. Ask God to comfort that person. It might seem odd to think about yourself or your home while traveling, but it helps put some of the experience and prayers you’ll go through on pilgrimage into perspective.

Pray to travel with a pilgrim’s heart. Be open to new experiences. Trust in God’s providence and the welcome and kindness of strangers to guide your way. These are good practices for life, but we can do our best to accustomize them on pilgrimages, when we’re somewhat forced to.

Ultimately, pilgrimages help us to see ourselves, our homes and our world with the eyes of God: eyes of wonder, mercy and solidarity. So, what are you waiting for? I’ll see you on the road.

(Zac Davis is an associate editor of America magazine and a co-host of the podcast, Jesuitical. Davis is leading a pilgrimage to Italy this September. To join him, visit selectinternationalhours.com/jesuitical-podcast to find out more.)

Faith Alive!

Active-duty military personnel and veterans taking part in the “Warriors to Lourdes” pilgrimage march on May 12 on the Esplanade in front of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary in Lourdes, France.

Pilgrimages to the Holy Land and other sacred places both near and far are reminders that life itself for Christians is a pilgrimage to heaven. (CNS photo/Tamino Petelinsek, Knights of Columbus)
Joyful Witness/Kimberly Polovey

Experiencing Jesus’ life from conception to crucifixion

It’s hard to articulate, much less wrap my head around the fact, that less than two weeks ago I was literally walking in Christ’s footsteps in the Holy Land. Sisters, priests, friends, family and colleagues have asked me to document or recommend the one or my favorite part. I was privileged to experience everyday life, from conception to crucifixion. How do you boil that down into a favorite memory?

First, let me say a few words about the folks on the pilgrimage. We had the unique opportunity to travel with four priests and 10 young men from Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. I was one of two women in the group. I was there two weeks ago I was literally walking in Christ’s footsteps in the Holy Land. Sisters, priests, friends, family and colleagues have asked me to document or recommend the one or my favorite part. I was privileged to experience everyday life, from conception to crucifixion. How do you boil that down into a favorite memory?

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The Most Holy Trinity/Mgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, June 12, 2022

- Proverbs 8:22-31
- Romans 5:1-5
- John 16:12-15

The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Sunday this weekend, and it uses the celebration to teach us about the Trinity, the mystery of three persons in the one God.

For its first reading, the Church offers us a passage from the Book of Proverbs. It is one of a series of books in the Old Testament that is known as the wisdom literature. The purpose behind the writing of these books was to reassure pious Jews that their belief in the one God of Israel, a divinity of mercy and eternal faithfulness, was completely in harmony with sound human reasoning.

This reading reveals the essential link between God and the quality of wisdom. Wisdom is of God. “The Lord begot me,” Wisdom declares in the reading. “From of old,” it continues, “I said I was, and I was before the Earth” (Prv 8:22-23). In it, the Lord powerfully reassures with eloquence and grace. As is typical of all the parts of the Spirit’s divine identity. Love is dynamic. Without this wisdom, we cannot fully understand reality.

Paul’s Epistle to the Romans furnishes the second reading. As so often appears in his writings, the Apostle Paul majestically presents the reality of Jesus and of life in him. Humanity is put at peace with God through the Lord Jesus, and of life in him. It explains creation. It explains salvation. It explains the root of Catholic belief. It teaches toddlers to make the sign of the cross, through studies at the highest levels of institutional education, Catholics teach us about the

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HOEHN, Herbert F. Greenfield, 85, St. Luke the Evangelist, 1907-1985. Brother of Rose McConnell, formerly Sister Jane, and by her marriage to William McConnell of Patoka, Illinois. Sister Jane was born on Jan. 7, 1948, and professed first vows on May 23, 1975. Sister Jane is survived by her husband, Roy Hoehn; her brother, Randy Herbert; and four grandchildren. There are other survivors. Burial followed at the sisters’ cemetery. Sister Jane earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education at Marian University in Indianapolis and a master’s degree in educational administration at Cungregh University in Omaha, Neb. She later did additional work in Franciscan studies at St. Bonaventure University in New York, N.Y. and in Scripture and theology at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. During her 56 years as a member of the Sisters of St. Francis, Sister Jane ministered in Catholic education for 16 years in Indiana before serving as director of novices for her province from 1984-87. She later served as director of ministry in the Evansville, Indiana, community from 1984-87. She was a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Indianapolis from 1965-1965, and professed final vows on Aug. 12, 1973. Sister Jane earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education at Marian University in Indianapolis and a master’s degree in educational administration at Cungregh University in Omaha, Neb. She later did additional work in Franciscan studies at St. Bonaventure University in New York, N.Y. and in Scripture and theology at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. During her 56 years as a member of the Sisters of St. Francis, Sister Jane ministered in Catholic education for 16 years in Indiana before serving as director of novices for her province from 1984-87. She later served as director of ministry in the Evansville, Indiana, community from 1984-87. She was a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Indianapolis from 1965-1965, and professed final vows on Aug. 12, 1973. Sister Jane earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education at Marian University in Indianapolis and a master’s degree in educational administration at Cungregh University in Omaha, Neb. She later did additional work in Franciscan studies at St. Bonaventure University in New York, N.Y. and in Scripture and theology at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. During her 56 years as a member of the Sisters of St. Francis, Sister Jane ministered in Catholic education for 16 years in Indiana before serving as director of novices for her province from 1984-87. She later served as director of ministry in the Evansville, Indiana, community from 1984-87. She was a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Indianapolis from 1965-1965, and professed final vows on Aug. 12, 1973. Sister Jane earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education at Marian University in Indianapolis and a master’s degree in educational administration at Cungregh University in Omaha, Neb. She later did additional work in Franciscan studies at St. Bonaventure University in New York, N.Y. and in Scripture and theology at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. During her 56 years as a member of the Sisters of St. Francis, Sister Jane ministered in Catholic education for 16 years in Indiana before serving as director of novices for her province from 1984-87. She later served as director of ministry in the Evansville, Indiana, community from 1984-87. She was a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Indianapolis from 1965-1965, and professed final vows on Aug. 12, 1973. Sister Jane earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education at Marian University in Indianapolis and a master’s degree in educational administration at Cungregh University in Omaha, Neb. She later did additional work in Franciscan studies at St. Bonaventure University in New York, N.Y. and in Scripture and theology at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.

Spending time in adoration helps student to ‘hear God’s words’

(Editor’s note: The Indianapolis Serra Club’s annual John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest ordinarily awards prizes each spring to winning essayists in grades 7-12 in the archdiocese. This week, we begin with the winning entry in the seventh grade. Please note this year there were no entries from the 11th grade.)

By Brooklyn Wurzelbacher

I have put a lot of thought into the questions I have been asked. “How has spending time before the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament given direction to your life?” and also “How has the Eucharist directed your life?”

The first thought that came to mind was adoration. My family has gone to adoration many times before. In adoration, I feel close to Jesus. Sometimes, I even feel his presence around me.

In adoration, it is just a peaceful and quiet place. There are no distractions, just you and the Blessed Sacrament. I also feel that having this quiet time with Jesus, I hear God’s words. I think this is how our friendship with God begins. This quiet time helps us and others build trust and a relationship with God. When you have a deep relationship with him, you can just freely talk to him. You can ask for forgiveness, give thanks, talk to him about your problems and blessings. He might not answer your prayers right away, but he still hears them. I believe all of these things can give you a better idea of what God’s will is for you.

I think the Eucharist has directed my life by bringing me closer to Jesus. My relationship with Jesus and the Eucharist gives me more trust in him and brings me closer to him. When I need help, I can pray to him.

Sometimes I might not get the answer I want; sometimes I don’t like the answer, but I accept it. The Eucharist makes me want to be a better person.

Beyond just trying to grow closer to him, I want to learn more about him. I think that the time spent before the Eucharist is very important. It helps us to connect with Jesus, especially while in adoration.

Jesus directs our life in so many ways. You just have to take time to spend with him and have faith and trust in him.

(Brooklyn and her parents, Curtis and Cindy Wurzelbacher, are members of St. Michael Parish in Brookville. She recently completed the seventh grade at St. Michael School in Brookville and is the seventh-grade division winner in the Indianapolis Serra Club’s 2022 John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest.)

Archdiocese of Indianapolis Maintenance Technician

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is always on the lookout for good, competent and committed maintenance technicians. We have regular turnover of maintenance staff at the Archdiocesan level, as well as at our parishes. We are looking for both entry-level maintenance technicians who can be trained and career maintenance professionals who may be looking to make a career change. Working with the Archdiocese and our parishes can be a tremendous way to enhance your spiritual connection with the Church. This may also be an excellent way for you to apply your time, talents and treasures.

We need persons with knowledge of HVAC, electrical, plumbing, roofing, preventative maintenance and deferred maintenance.

Applicants need to be able to work independently, but be capable of working as a team player. A driver’s license and background check are required.

Communication skills are very important.

Full- and part-time positions are available. Full-time positions offer a full complement of benefits.

Interested parties should send their resumes to: Dherbertz@archindy.org.
Who are the important role models in your life of faith?  
The important role models of faith in my life are my deceased parents, St. Francis of Assisi, and the late Benedictine Father Paschal Boland, both of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, and Pope Francis.

What are your favorite Scripture verses, saints, prayers and devotions?  
I have three favorite Scripture verses: “I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends” (Jn 15:15); “You belong to God, children, and you have conquered them, for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 Jn 4:14); “The Lord himself will fight for you; you only have to keep still” (Ex 14:14).

My favorite saints are St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Theodora Guerin and St. Francis of Assisi. My favorite prayer is: “Lord, lead me to it, but help me through it.” I learned this from a nursing home patient. My favorite devotion is the Jesus “Daily Eucharist,” which is an examination of conscience.

Deacons often minister, formally or informally, to others in the workplace. How have you experienced that already and what do you anticipate doing in the future?  
I have been working at a hospital as a chaplain for a number of years, and I will continue to do so in the future. There are so many opportunities to pray with people in their best and worst moments.

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a deacon?  
I feel God has called me to a life of service. The deacon’s lifestyle is one of service, especially to those on the margins. Pope Francis said it best in these words: “These two terms—Apostle and servant—go together. They are like two sides of the same medal. Those who proclaim Jesus are called to serve, and those who serve proclaim Jesus.”

How will being ordained a deacon have an impact on your life and family?  
I will validate and strengthen me to keep serving and reminding me that “as the master goes so must the disciple.” The family is the school for learning to wash another’s feet.

How do you hope to serve through your life and ministry as a deacon?  
I hope to serve by tending Jesus; he reminds us that: “He was called to serve and not to be served” (Mk 10:45). I hope to rekindle the teaching of the Second Vatican Council regarding the universal call to holiness and to continue to read the signs of the times and to smell like the sheep. I hope to build a field hospital in the secular world for those with authentic needs.

My favorite Scripture verses are “For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, plans for welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future and a hope” (Jer 29:11); and “Jesus went up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Quiet! Be still!’ The wind ceased and there was great calm” (Mk 4:39). My favorite saints are St. Francis of Assisi, St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. John Paul II. My favorite prayers are the generosity prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the Liturgy of the Hours.

Deacons often minister, formally or informally, to others in the workplace. How have you experienced that already and what do you anticipate doing in the future?  
As a firefighter, we respond to a lot of tragedies. As began to circulate of my pursuit of being ordained a deacon, I would be asked to say a prayer or to pray with a family by my presence. Since my retirement, I still get phone calls from firefighters wanting to talk about situations they’ve had to respond to.

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a deacon?  
Service has always been a high priority for me, from my career goals to my family life and community. I’ve always looked for ways to make someone feel that they matter. We have all had times in our life when we needed help. The job of a deacon is just that, to help those in their time of need, with a smile, just as Christ instructed us to do.

How will being ordained a deacon have an impact on your life and family?  
I am very blessed to have a family that has been so supportive of my decision to pursue being ordained a deacon. I know that they will continue to support me. I look forward to being able to celebrate both the sacraments and my ministry of service with them.

How do you hope to serve through your life and ministry as a deacon?  
By being a good husband and father to my family. I look forward to my parish becoming a part of my extended family. And I hope that new relationships will flourish through my ministries. I hope to learn more about myself and God’s plan for me.

My favorite Scripture verses are, “These two terms—Apostle and servant—go together. They are like two sides of the same medal,” and “Lord, lead me to it, but help me through it.” I learned this from a nursing home patient. My favorite devotion is the Jesus “Daily Eucharist,” which is an examination of conscience.

Deacons often minister, formally or informally, to others in the workplace. How have you experienced that already and what do you anticipate doing in the future?  
I hope to build a field hospital in the secular world for those with authentic needs.

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Deacons often minister, formally or informally, to others in the workplace. How have you experienced that already and what do you anticipate doing in the future?  
I have been working at a hospital as a chaplain for a number of years, and I will continue to do so in the future. There are so many opportunities to pray with people in their best and worst moments.

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a deacon?  
I feel God has called me to a life of service. The deacon’s lifestyle is one of service, especially to those on the margins. Pope Francis said it best in these words: “These two terms—Apostle and servant—go together. They are like two sides of the same medal. Those who proclaim Jesus are called to serve, and those who serve proclaim Jesus.”

How will being ordained a deacon have an impact on your life and family?  
I will validate and strengthen me to keep serving and reminding me that “as the master goes so must the disciple.” The family is the school for learning to wash another’s feet.

How do you hope to serve through your life and ministry as a deacon?  
I hope to serve by tending Jesus; he reminds us that: “He was called to serve and not to be served” (Mk 10:45). I hope to rekindle the teaching of the Second Vatican Council regarding the universal call to holiness and to continue to read the signs of the times and to smell like the sheep. I hope to build a field hospital in the secular world for those with authentic needs.

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Who are the important role models in your life of faith?  
The important role models of faith in my life are my family, especially my parents and wife, Father Jonathan Meyer, Father Daniel Mahan, Father Michael Keucher and Deacon Robert Decker.

What are your favorite Scripture verses, saints, prayers and devotions?  
I have three favorite Scripture verses: “I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends” (Jn 15:15); “You belong to God, children, and you have conquered them, for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 Jn 4:14); “The Lord himself will fight for you; you only have to keep still” (Ex 14:14).

My favorite saints are St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Theodora Guerin and St. Francis of Assisi. My favorite prayer is: “Lord, lead me to it, but help me through it.” I learned this from a nursing home patient. My favorite devotion is the Jesus “Daily Eucharist,” which is an examination of conscience.

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