



The

Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



Eucharistic Revival

See more stories, photos on page 3, pages 9-12.

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Archbishop issues statement on gun violence

In recent weeks, incidents of brutal, senseless killing in the U.S. have increased beyond anyone's



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

comprehension. Innocent lives, including the lives of young children, have been cruelly taken. These unspeakable tragedies have caused parents, families and community members in many different regions of our country to ask "How could this happen?" and

to demand that all of us unite in our common humanity to stop the massacres of innocent lives.

Catholics in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis echo Pope Francis' words following the massacre in Uvalde, Texas. "My heart is broken," the pope said. "I pray for the children and adults killed, and for their families. ... It is time to say 'no' to the indiscriminate trafficking of weapons."

As responsible citizens of diverse communities throughout central and southern Indiana, we share the enormous grief of our brothers and sisters. We pray for them, and we commit ourselves to advocating for concrete, practical actions that can prevent these nightmares from happening again.

With this in mind, we strongly urge all Indiana state lawmakers and members of Congress to reflect on these tragic events and be moved to action because of them. We believe that there is something deeply wrong with a culture where racially motivated hate crimes and acts of violence—in schools, in places of worship, on city streets, and in the public square—are increasingly common.

We are convinced that there must be respectful dialogue, followed by concrete action, to create a broader social awareness of all aspects of this increasingly horrifying crisis, including mental health, family life, the dignity of human life, the influence of entertainment and gaming industries, bullying, and the availability of firearms. Among

See ARCHBISHOP, page 13



Catholics from across central and southern Indiana follow a float carrying the Blessed Sacrament during a June 19 eucharistic procession on Illinois Street in downtown Indianapolis. The procession was part of the start of the National Eucharistic Revival in the archdiocese. (Photo courtesy of Cantaloupe.tv)

The gift and the challenge of the Eucharist come into focus in the start of the eucharistic revival

By John Shaughnessy

As the joyous sounds of church bells echoed through downtown Indianapolis on June 19—celebrating the arrival of the archdiocese's uplifting eucharistic procession along the streets of the city—about 1,000 people poured into St. John the Evangelist Church, filling it to overflowing for adoration of the Eucharist.

Being a part of that breathtaking moment at the start of a three-year eucharistic revival in the archdiocese deeply moved Jane Pollom. So did an encounter she had before entering St. John, as she followed the procession along Georgia Street.

"There was a young man standing on the street," recalled Pollom, a member of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis. "I asked him if he knew what was happening.

When he said he didn't, I explained the Eucharist to him. I told him that Jesus is coming out to you in the streets.

"I explained to him that Jesus wants him to partake of him. He asked, 'Can I come in?' I said, 'Yes, come in and kneel down in adoration.' He did. I just told him to open his heart. He's in there kneeling down now. If all of this can win a heart, it's a success. It's an opportunity for the rest of us to invite people on the street to see the real presence of Jesus."

Pollom's story was just one of many from the sun-kissed, blue-sky day—a day when the essence of Christ's teaching about the gift of the Eucharist overflowed throughout the start of the archdiocese's eucharistic revival.

See REVIVAL, page 12



Renee LaMarca of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood kneels in reverence as a float carrying the Eucharist in a monstrance passes by her on Illinois Street. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)



People in St. Peter's Square attend the *Angelus* led by Pope Francis from the window of his studio overlooking the square at the Vatican on June 19. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

Seek nourishment, satisfaction in Eucharist, Pope Francis says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—When received with faith, the Eucharist not only nourishes and satisfies one's hunger for consolation and love,



Pope Francis

but gives Christians the strength to nourish others, Pope Francis said.

Addressing an estimated 20,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square for his Sunday *Angelus* address on

June 19, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, the pope said that, through the Eucharist, "everyone can experience this loving and concrete attention of the Lord."

"Sometimes there is the risk of confining the Eucharist to a vague, distant dimension, perhaps bright and perfumed with incense, but rather distant from the challenges of everyday life. In reality, the Lord takes all our needs to heart, beginning with the most basic," he said.

The press office announced on June 13 that the pope would not lead the public celebrations for the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ—a celebration that was to have included Mass, a procession and Benediction—due to knee problems.

Before praying the *Angelus* prayer with the pilgrims, the pope reflected on the feast day and the significance of the Eucharist in Christian life.

Recalling the Sunday Gospel of St. Luke, which recounted the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, the pope said the miracle did "not happen in a spectacular way, but almost secretly" and that as the crowd eats, "they realize that Jesus is taking care of everything."

"This is the Lord present in the Eucharist. He calls us to be citizens of heaven, but at the same time he considers the journey we have to face here on Earth," he said. "If I have hardly any bread in my sack, he knows and takes care of it himself."

Just as Jesus orders the disciples to help him feed the crowd in the Gospel story, he said, Christians today must learn to take care of the needs of those around them who not only suffer physical hunger but also spiritual hunger.

"There is hunger for food around us, but also of companionship; there is hunger for consolation, friendship, good humor; there is hunger for attention, there is hunger to be evangelized," the pope said.

In the Eucharist, he added, Christians find Jesus' attention "to our needs and the invitation to do the same toward those who are beside us. We need to eat and feed others."

Pope Francis said that when receiving the body and blood of Christ, Christians receive the assurance of the presence of Jesus, "who makes himself our traveling companion, he enters into our affairs, he visits us when we are lonely, giving us back a sense of enthusiasm."

Giving himself in the Eucharist, "the Lord gives meaning to our lives, our obscurities, our doubts," the pope said. "And this meaning that the Lord gives satisfies us. This gives us that 'more' that everyone is looking for, which is namely the presence of the Lord." †



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

June 24–30, 2022

June 24 – 10 a.m.

Mass and program for Intercultural Certification for Spiritual Direction and Leadership at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, Indianapolis

June 25 – 10 a.m.

Permanent diaconate ordination at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis, followed by reception at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

June 25 – 2 p.m.

Mass for the late Father William Munshower at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

June 26 – 10 a.m.

Mass and dedication of bells and building at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, Indianapolis

June 26 – 2 p.m.

Adult confirmations at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

June 30 – 10 a.m.

Leadership team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

June 30 – 6 p.m.

Mass with Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at St. Michael the Archangel Church, Indianapolis

Pope Francis appeals for peace in war-torn Myanmar and Ukraine

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis called on world leaders to aid people suffering in war-torn countries, especially in Myanmar and Ukraine.

After praying the *Angelus* prayer with pilgrims in St. Peter's Square on June 19, the pope lamented the suffering of the people of Myanmar "who lack basic humanitarian assistance and who are forced to leave their homes that have been burnt down and to flee violence."

"I join the appeal of the bishops of that beloved land, that the international community does not forget the Burmese people, that human dignity

and the right to life be respected, as well as places of worship, hospitals and schools," he said.

Pope Francis also called on pilgrims not to forget the people of Ukraine who continue to suffer following Russia's invasion of the country in late February.

As of June 20, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said an estimated 4,569 men, women and children have been killed in Ukraine. However, due to lack of information in some areas, the office said it believed "that the actual figures are considerably higher." †

The Criterion will begin a new summer publication schedule in July

The Criterion will begin a new summer publication schedule of every other week in July and August. The reduced printing schedule will allow us to make the most efficient use of our resources during the summer.

The Criterion will be published on July 1, July 15, July 29, August 12, and August 26 and will resume its

weekly publication schedule with the September 9 issue.

Thank you for reading *The Criterion* and please continue to go to our website, www.criteriononline.com, where our staff will be regularly posting news stories from across the Archdiocese of Indianapolis as well as important national and international news. †

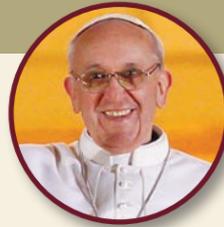
Official Appointment

Effective July 6, 2022

Deacon Charles J. Giesting, currently serving in ministry at St. Susanna Parish, Plainfield, appointed to ministry at St. Joseph Parish, Shelbyville, and St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Shelby County.

(This appointment is from the office of the Most Rev. Charles C. Thompson, Archbishop of Indianapolis.) †

Pope Francis' prayer intentions for July



- **Elderly**—We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look toward the future with hope and responsibility.

See Pope Francis' monthly intentions at archindy.org/popesintentions.



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Beauty of the Eucharist shines forth during holy hour in downtown parish

By Sean Gallagher

Father Rick Nagel has described St. John the Evangelist Parish as a “beacon of light in Indianapolis” since he began leading the downtown faith community in 2011.

But as proud as he is of his parish community, Father Nagel knows its light comes from a greater source.

“There’s no greater beacon of light than our Lord Jesus Christ,” he said on June 19 at the back of St. John the Evangelist Church, which was packed with nearly 1,000 people worshipping the Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament.

It was part of a holy hour and Benediction that concluded the start of the National Eucharistic Revival in the archdiocese.

Prior to the holy hour, two Masses were celebrated at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. There was also a Festival of Faith, Family and Service at the adjacent Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center.

Then a eucharistic procession headed into the heart of downtown Indianapolis with St. John as its final destination.

Father Nagel took part in the procession, walking with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament with hundreds of Catholics from across central and southern Indiana through the downtown where he has sought to share the Gospel for more than a decade.

He described the procession, with eucharistic prayers and hymns echoing in the canyon of high-rise buildings, as “a supernatural experience.”

“How in the world could you ever top that?” Father Nagel asked. “I’ve been telling people for weeks that this is going to be a point of history that we should all be a part of.”

Caris Roller, a member of both St. John the Evangelist and the nearby Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, put her mark on the history made at St. John on June 19.

A few hours before the start of the holy hour, Roller, with the aid of a handful of helpers, placed flower petals down the center aisle in various eucharistic and other faith-filled images, continuing a centuries-old *Corpus Christi* tradition that began in various European countries.

Roller has shared this part of her creative talents for the past two years at Holy Rosary on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, traditionally known as *Corpus Christi*. Getting to share her faith and artistry with the entire archdiocese during the June 19 holy hour was powerful for her.

“It was amazing,” said Roller, who teaches art at Lumen Christi Catholic School in Indianapolis. “I felt very humbled and grateful that I got to do that for Jesus.”

Roller said drawing others closer to Christ and the Church through beauty is key to proclaiming the Gospel today.

“I think it enlivens people’s faith to see the beauty,” she said. “It’s so important when people don’t want to hear the truth anymore. They don’t want to be good anymore. So, beauty is really a vehicle to evangelization. That is my mission.

“I feel like beauty will change the world.”

Aurora Verkamp was glad to process into St. John with two of her children over the top of Roller’s creation. She was joined there by her husband and their two other children.

“It was amazing,” said Verkamp, a member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, of the holy hour. “We go to adoration fairly regularly, but there’s not usually so many other people there

as here. It was such a blessing to be able to just focus on Jesus and not worry that my kids were making too much noise, because everybody was making noise.

“Sometimes, it can be a little lonely being Catholic. But you couldn’t be lonely here today.”

Now that the eucharistic revival has begun, Verkamp hopes the love she has for Christ in the Eucharist will spread to more people.

“I hope that more people will fall in love with Jesus,” she said. “I hope we see more events like this with more and more people coming and knowing and loving Jesus.

“You don’t have to say any specific prayers or do anything specific. You can literally just sit with Jesus. That’s all he asks. And it’s all you need.”

(For more information about Caris Roller’s artistry in floral arrangements, visit littleloraldevotions.com.) †



Caris Roller kneels on June 19 in the center aisle of St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis surrounded by flower petals she placed there to make a variety of eucharistic and other faith-filled images, following a centuries-old *Corpus Christi* custom found in many European countries. The images were made at St. John for a holy hour that concluded the start of the National Eucharistic Revival in the archdiocese. (Submitted photo)

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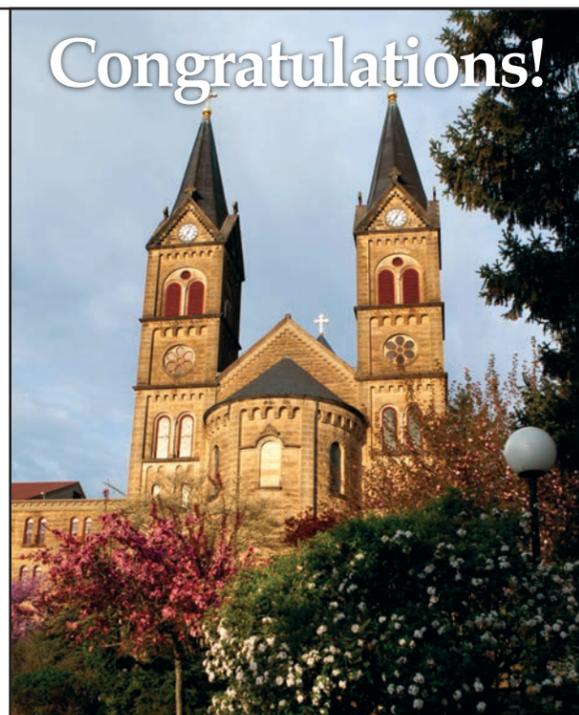
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Editorial

Revival offers us an opportunity to embrace an encounter with Christ

“The Eucharist, the very body and blood of Jesus Christ, is our fuel. It’s what makes us run as Catholics. It is the very life source of our energy, strength, power and salvation. It is from the Mass that the Lord instructs us ... ‘Start your engines’ ... in order to go forth as missionary disciples into the world.”

The words that Archbishop Charles C. Thompson wrote that were shared during homilies at June 19 Masses on the feast of *Corpus Christi* at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis spoke to the greatest gift of the Catholic faith—the Eucharist.

And the witness shared by hundreds of people of faith during the two liturgies, a service project for Ukrainian refugees, and a eucharistic procession through the streets of downtown Indianapolis, followed by a holy hour and Benediction at St. John the Evangelist Church, confirmed that those who took part believe in the true presence of Jesus Christ—body, blood, soul and divinity—in the sacrament.

But this was only the beginning of what we pray, as Archbishop Thompson wrote, is a successful three-year effort “to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the holy Eucharist.”

The June 19 events kicked off the National Eucharistic Revival in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, which will culminate with the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis on July 17-21, 2024. An estimated 80,000 people are expected to attend that four-day gathering. Along the way, there will be parish, diocesan and regional events across the U.S. to deepen Catholics’ relationship with Christ in the Eucharist.

Our faith calls us to be eucharistic people, but a 2019 Pew survey showed 69% of all self-identified Catholics in the U.S. said they believed the bread and wine used at Mass are not Jesus, but instead “symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.” The survey also revealed just 30% of Catholics believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Bishops across the U.S. believe a lack of catechesis led to this disturbing revelation, and last November, they approved a statement on “The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church,” which was addressed to all Catholics in the United States and “endeavors to explain the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of the Church.”

The life of the Church in central and southern Indiana includes our Latino brothers and sisters, those who celebrate the liturgy in French and Tagalog, and the Korean, Vietnamese and Burmese dialects that are representative of our archdiocesan family. They were all highlighted in the June 19 liturgies at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, and many of them participated in the eucharistic procession afterward, which law enforcement estimated at more than 500 people. By the time the group reached St. John, many others had joined them, filling the church to capacity as around 1,000 people all knelt in adoration to take part in the holy hour.



People kneel in prayer as the archdiocese’s eucharistic procession heads up Illinois Street toward St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis on June 19. (Photo courtesy of Cantaloupe.tv)

Each of them—and all of us—are among the missionary disciples called to spread the Gospel message of bringing the kingdom of God to all who cross our path. And the body and blood of Christ gives us the strength to fulfill our charge.

As Archbishop Thompson wrote, “The Eucharist is the very nourishment of divine grace that sustains us in our mission to go forth in ministry and service to others.”

Our lives of faith can also be strengthened, the U.S. bishops noted in their statement, in the worship we offer the Blessed Sacrament through eucharistic exposition; adoration and Benediction; eucharistic processions; and forty hours devotion.

Pope St. John Paul II wrote in his 2003 encyclical “*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*” (“On the Eucharist in Its Relationship to the Church”), “It is pleasant to spend time with him, to lie close to his breast like the Beloved Disciple and to feel the infinite love present in his heart. If in our time Christians must be distinguished above all by the ‘art of prayer,’ how can we not feel a renewed need to spend time in spiritual converse, in silent adoration, in heartfelt love before Christ present in the Most Holy Sacrament? How often, dear brother and sisters, have I experienced this, and drawn from it strength, consolation and support!” (#25)

As the source and summit of our faith, the Eucharist is transformative. It is the person of Jesus Christ.

We pray this three-year revival helps more people of faith embrace this reality and enter more deeply into a relationship with our Lord in the Eucharist.

—Mike Krokos

Be Our Guest/Greg Erlandson

Appreciating good homilies

Here’s an answer that should show up on Catholic Jeopardy: “Eight minutes.” The question is: “What does Pope Francis think the ideal length of a homily should be?”



This pope, who has not been afraid to weigh in on controversial issues, recently addressed a topic that every practicing Catholic has probably thought about, usually while listening to a sermon.

Talking to a group of Sicilian clergy on June 9, Pope Francis said a homily should be under eight minutes and leave people with “a thought, a feeling and an image” that will stick with them “all week.”

“He asked the priests to consider whether ‘they preach in such a way that people go out for a cigarette and then come back’ because the homily talks ‘about everything and nothing,’” Catholic News Service reported.

This is not the first time the pope has dispensed advice on preaching. Last January, he complained that too many homilies “are abstract, and instead of awakening the soul, they put it to sleep.”

“Preaching runs this risk,” Pope Francis said during an *Angelus* address. “Without the anointing of the Spirit, it impoverishes the word of God and descends to moralism and abstract concepts; it presents the Gospel with detachment, as if it were outside time, far from reality.”

From the pope’s lips to every preacher’s ear. Wherever two or three Catholics are gathered, at some point, there is certain to be grumbling about preaching. It is the most common complaint I hear, even from the most generous and tolerant of Catholics.

Of course, good preaching can be found on YouTube, and I know many people who tune in to Bishop Robert E. Barron’s Sunday homilies regularly to fill the gap left in the Mass they attended that morning, but I think we can do better.

I do not know the cause of so much weak preaching. Are basic rhetorical skills not being taught effectively in seminaries? Do some priests feel the homily is the moment when either dense theology or generic bromides should be downloaded to their flock? Or are they simply too busy with the chores of parish administration to spend the time writing a good sermon?

My wife was picking up our child from a Methodist preschool once when she saw the pastor practicing his Sunday sermon, speaking from the pulpit to an empty church days before he would deliver it. His desire to get it right, to hear how it sounded, to practice his delivery, was striking.

Not every priest is a born preacher (hence so many canned homilies). But practice can make better. One young priest I knew who was aware of his deficiencies studied books like Father Alfred McBride’s guide to preaching, *How to Make Homilies Better, Briefer, Bolder*. He diligently worked on his sermons and dramatically improved his ability to hold people’s attention while imparting some substance.

It is hard to speak to a diverse audience ranging from squalling toddlers and distracted parents to senior citizens who have heard it all before. But those eight or 10 or 15 minutes are likely to be the only time in the entire week that most Catholics will get a Catholic exhortation. It is a precious opportunity not to be wasted.

Not every catechetical deficiency can be addressed in a homily, but for those eight minutes, Catholics can see the connection between Scripture and their lives. It is an invitation to grow closer to the Lord and to his Church.

And I think I speak for all of us when I say thank you to those priests and deacons who take the time to preach well and leave us with food for thought in the week that follows.

(Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.) †

Be Our Guest/Mike O’Connell

Mother’s wisdom reminds us: ‘This is not your home’

My mother used a saying that has stuck with me all these years. She would often say to me and my other seven siblings when things seemed bad: “Remember, THIS IS NOT YOUR HOME.”

I now think of this very powerful and simple statement which has kept me so well grounded. I often quote this phrase to others when they may be going through some troubling times and are trying to navigate this world: “remember, this is not your home.”

I reflect back on my life as I was growing up and how I was building up my kingdom for this world—when I say kingdom, I am speaking and referring to my status, ego, career and the material things of this world.

Then came that day when the light bulb went off and I thought about that statement my mother used to say: “Remember, THIS IS NOT YOUR HOME.” My mother is right—this isn’t our home. And if it isn’t our home, then what am I living for? I must prepare for my real destination.

As we all know, when we pass from this world we won’t be taking a whole lot with us. I remember hearing a homily one Sunday morning. The priest was talking about death and dying, and he asked, “During a funeral procession, how many of you have seen a U-Haul

being pulled behind the car carting the casket?”

The Bible tells us so much about living in this world and dying to self. Jesus tells us to start living for a different world. Just think how short our life span is here in this world. If we could get a small visual glimpse of the next world, we would certainly see the awesomeness of what really awaits us, and we would know this isn’t our home.

My brother Pat once said to me, “I am going to get packed up.” I asked him what he meant, and he said, “I am going to start to get ready for my trip to the next world.” I asked him what he was going to take with him, and he said, “I am going to attend Mass and receive the holy Eucharist as often as I can. I will go to confession often, I will start serving others, I will increase my prayer life and start putting God first; that is what I will put in my suitcase.”

So when you find yourself frustrated, troubled, angry, suffering or going through trying times, remember: THIS IS NOT YOUR HOME.

(Mike O’Connell is a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington.) †



Christ the Cornerstone

The Sacred Heart of Jesus nourishes us with the Eucharist

“The designs of his heart are from age to age, to rescue their souls from death, and to keep them alive in famine” (Ps 32:11, 19).

Last Sunday, we celebrated the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (*Corpus Christi*) and we launched a three-year Eucharistic Revival here in our archdiocese and in dioceses throughout the United States. Today, less than a week later, we have the privilege of celebrating the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the feast that reminds us of the great love which God’s Son, Jesus, has for each one of us, his sisters and brothers.

One of the most familiar, frequently quoted passages in the New Testament is, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” (Jn 3:16).

In just one sentence, St. John the Evangelist tells us everything we need to know about the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He came among us as a direct result of God’s love for us and for all his creation. He suffered, died

and descended into hell in order to rescue us from the power of sin and death. And he rose from the dead and ascended to his Father so that we might be set free to live with him forever in heaven.

To nourish and sustain us in our earthly journey, the Lord of Love sent the Holy Spirit to give us the courage and the confidence we need to be his disciples. He also gave us the most precious gift of love imaginable. He gave us himself, in the form of bread and wine, radically and substantially transformed through the eucharistic mystery into his body and blood, soul and divinity. The Sacred Heart of Jesus reminds us that the tender love of Christ is with us, close to us, in the Holy Eucharist to nourish us and empower us with love for God and for our neighbor.

Christ’s Sacred Heart is filled with a love that overflows and must be shared. From this prodigiously generous heart comes mercy, compassion, healing and the kind of peace that is not temporary or intermittent but permanent and profound.

The love of Christ is beyond anything we can imagine, but its

earthly expression is the holy cross, which is why images of the Sacred Heart include a cross and a crown of thorns that serve as vivid reminders of how far Jesus was willing to go to show his love for us.

The Gospel reading for today’s Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus illustrates the intensity of his love for us:

“What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance” (Lk 15:4-7).

There will be great rejoicing in heaven because we who are sinners have been rescued by the power of love and returned to full communion with God and all the angels and saints

in our heavenly homeland. God’s love is boundless. His mercy is infinite. His willingness to give himself to us through the grace of the Eucharist cannot be contained. We are free to accept or reject his love, of course, but Christ never withholds it. His Sacred Heart is always there for us in his word, in our communion with our brothers and sisters in the Church, and most especially in the Eucharist.

St. Paul reminds us that “The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Rom 5:5). The Eucharistic Revival that we initiated last Sunday is intended to help us grow in our understanding of, and appreciation for, this magnanimous gift of love that Christ offers us each time we receive his body and blood.

“God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8). Let’s ask the Sacred Heart of Jesus to help us accept his invitation to a more intimate communion with him through more frequent, and more fervent, reception of his gift-of-self in the Holy Eucharist. †



Cristo, la piedra angular

El Sagrado Corazón de Jesús nos alimenta con la Eucaristía

“Los planes del Señor quedan firmes para siempre; los designios de su mente son eternos. Él los libra de la muerte, y en épocas de hambre los mantiene con vida” (Sal 33:11, 19).

El domingo pasado celebramos el Santísimo Cuerpo y Sangre de Cristo (*Corpus Christi*) e inauguramos un Renacimiento Eucarístico de tres años aquí en nuestra Arquidiócesis y en las diócesis de todo Estados Unidos. Hoy, menos de una semana después, tenemos el privilegio de celebrar la Solemnidad del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, la fiesta que nos recuerda el gran amor que el hijo de Dios, Jesús, tiene por cada uno de nosotros, sus hermanas y hermanos.

Uno de los pasajes más conocidos y citados del Nuevo Testamento es: “Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que ha dado a su Hijo unigénito para que todo aquel que en él cree no se pierda mas tenga vida eterna” (Jn 3:16).

En apenas una frase, san Juan Evangelista nos dice todo lo que debemos saber sobre la vida, la muerte y la resurrección de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Vivió entre nosotros como resultado directo del amor de Dios por nosotros y por toda su

creación. Sufrió, murió y descendió a los infiernos para rescatarnos del poder del pecado y de la muerte. Y resucitó de entre los muertos y ascendió a su Padre para que fuéramos liberados y poder vivir con él para siempre en el cielo.

Para alimentar y sostener nuestro camino terrenal, el Señor del Amor envió al Espíritu Santo para darnos el valor y la confianza que necesitamos para ser sus discípulos. También nos dio el regalo de amor más precioso que se pueda imaginar: se entregó a sí mismo, en forma de pan y de vino, transformado radical y sustancialmente mediante el misterio eucarístico, en su cuerpo y sangre, alma y divinidad. El Sagrado Corazón de Jesús nos recuerda que el tierno amor de Cristo está con nosotros, cerca de nosotros, en la Sagrada Eucaristía para alimentarnos y potenciar el amor a Dios y al prójimo, y está lleno de un amor que se desborda y debe ser compartido. De este corazón prodigiosamente generoso surge la misericordia, la compasión, la curación y el tipo de paz que no es temporal ni intermitente, sino permanente y profunda.

El amor de Cristo va más allá de

todo lo que podemos imaginar, pero su expresión terrenal es la Santa Cruz, por lo que las imágenes del Sagrado Corazón incluyen una cruz y una corona de espinas que sirven como vívido recordatorio de hasta dónde estuvo dispuesto a llegar Jesús para mostrar su amor por nosotros.

La lectura del Evangelio de la solemnidad del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús de hoy ilustra la intensidad de su amor por nosotros:

“Supongamos que uno de ustedes tiene cien ovejas y pierde una de ellas. ¿No deja las noventa y nueve en el campo, y va en busca de la oveja perdida hasta encontrarla? Y, cuando la encuentra, lleno de alegría la carga en los hombros y vuelve a la casa. Al llegar, reúne a sus amigos y vecinos, y les dice: ‘Alégrese conmigo; ya encontré la oveja que se me había perdido’. Les digo que así es también en el cielo: habrá más alegría por un solo pecador que se arrepienta que por noventa y nueve justos que no necesitan arrepentirse” (Lc 15:4-7).

Habrá un gran regocijo en el cielo porque nosotros, que somos pecadores, hemos sido rescatados por el poder del amor y devueltos a la plena comunión con Dios y con todos los ángeles y

santos en nuestra patria celestial. El amor de Dios no tiene límites; su misericordia es infinita; su voluntad de entregarse a nosotros a través de la gracia de la Eucaristía no puede ser contenida. Por supuesto, somos libres de aceptar o rechazar su amor, pero Cristo nunca lo niega. Su Sagrado Corazón está siempre a nuestro lado en su Palabra, en la comunión con nuestros hermanos en la Iglesia y, sobre todo, en la Eucaristía.

San Pablo nos recuerda que “esta esperanza no nos defrauda, porque Dios ha derramado su amor en nuestro corazón por el Espíritu Santo que nos ha dado” (Rom 5:5). El Renacimiento Eucarístico que iniciamos el domingo pasado pretende ayudarnos a crecer en nuestra comprensión y valoración de este magnánimo obsequio de amor que Cristo nos ofrece cada vez que recibimos su cuerpo y su sangre.

“Dios demuestra su amor por nosotros en esto: en que cuando todavía éramos pecadores, Cristo murió por nosotros” (Rom 5:8). Pidamos al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús que nos ayude a aceptar su invitación a una comunión más íntima con Él, al recibir de manera más frecuente y ferviente el don de sí mismo en la Sagrada Eucaristía. †

Events Calendar

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

June 27
The Villages of Indiana online Foster Parenting Virtual Information Night, 6-8 p.m., for those interested in becoming a foster parent, free. Information and registration: 317-775-6500 or cutt.ly/villagesindyreg.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **30 Years in Uganda: An Evening of Stories and Blessings with Sherry Meyer**, 6-9 p.m., prayers, songs, stories, handicrafts to purchase, freewill donation. Information and registration: 371-432-0856, sherry.m.arua@gmail.com.

June 30
 Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7225 Southeaster Ave., Indianapolis. **30 Years in Uganda: An Evening of Stories and Blessings with Sherry Meyer**, 6-9 p.m., prayers, songs, stories, handicrafts to purchase, freewill donation. Information and registration:

371-432-0856, sherry.m.arua@gmail.com.

July 1
 Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **First Friday bilingual celebration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus** Mass 5:45 p.m. followed by adoration until 9 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation available. Information: 317-750-7309, msross1@hotmail.com.

July 2-3
 St. Mark the Evangelist Church, 535 E. Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis. **Bruté Weekend**, Sat. 4:30 p.m. Mass, Sun. 7 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. Mass celebrated by Bruté College Seminary vice rector Father Andrew Syberg, talks on how the seminary forms future priests. Information: Ellen Sanders, 317-236-1501 or esanders@archindy.org

July 4
 Fairbanks Park (near fishing dock), 1100 Girl Scout Ln.,

Terre Haute. **Wabash Valley Rubber Duck Regatta**, 7 p.m., benefitting Catholic Charities, \$5 per duck, owner of winning duck wins \$10,000 cash and a chance to win an additional \$1,000,000. Information and duck adoption: duckrace.com/terrehaute.

July 6
 MCL Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, 5:30 p.m., Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles—separated, widowed or divorced—age 50 and older, new members welcome, also call about regular Friday night dinner events. Information: 317-796-8605.

July 7-9
 Holy Spirit Parish, 7243 E. 10th St., Indianapolis. **Holy Spirit Festival**, Thurs. 6-11 p.m., Fri. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 1 p.m.-midnight, live music, midway rides, festival food, beer and wine, bingo, Monte Carlo, Texas Hold 'Em, silent auction, rummage sale, parking shuttle available

at 7140 E. Washington St., free wrist bands provided to parishioners after Masses, non-parishioners \$10 in festival tickets admission, children younger than 12 free. Information: holyspiritfestival.org, festival@holyspirit.org or 317-353-9404.

July 12
 Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, 7-8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence, virtual option available at cutt.ly/Taize. Information: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org.

July 13
Group Lectio via Zoom, 7 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, Benedictine Sister Jill Marie Reuber, facilitator, sponsored by Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). Information: vocation@thedome.org.

July 14-16
 St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, 535 E. Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis. **Funfest**, Thurs. 6-11 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 5-11 p.m., rides, \$5,000 cash raffle, live music, beer garden, bingo, 50/50 and Monte Carlo, basket raffles, Sat. fried chicken dinner, free admission. Information: festival@stmarkindy.org or 317-787-8246.

July 15
 Northside Events and Social Club, 2100 E. 71st St.,

Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, presenter TBA, 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 July 12. Information and registration: cutt.ly/CBE-Reg.

July 16-17
 All Saints Parish, St. John the Baptist Campus, 25743 State Route 1, Guilford. **Summer Festival**, Sat. 5-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. music by Yorkridge Boys, Sun. music by DJ Dan Morris, raffles, beer garden, lunch stand, kiddie land, quilts, country store, religious exhibit on Eucharistic miracles, chicken dinner served Sun. beginning at 11 a.m., free admission. Information: 812-576-4302.

July 18
Sr. Thea Bowman Black Catholic Women Monthly Prayer Gathering, via Zoom, third Monday of each month, sponsored by archdiocesan Black Catholic Ministry, 7 p.m. Join meeting: cutt.ly/SrTheaPrayer, meeting ID: 810 3567 0684 or dial-in at 301-715-8592. Information: Pearlette Springer, pspringer@archindy.org or 317-236-1474.

July 20
 Calvary Mausoleum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. **Monthly Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-784-4439 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

July 21
 St. Joseph Church, 1401 S. Mickley 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.

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. **Monthly Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-574-8898 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

July 23
Registration deadline for 38th Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass on Aug. 14. Mass will take place on Aug. 14 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. 2 p.m. with Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, includes renewal of vows and certificates for milestone anniversaries, ASL interpretation provided, 3-5 p.m. reception at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., free. Information and registration: corona@archindy.org or cutt.ly/wed-mass22.

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. **Faithful Citizens Rosary Walk**, 10:45-11:45 a.m., meet in front of church. Information: faithful.citizens2016@gmail.com.

Little Flower School cafeteria, 1401 N. Bosart Ave., Indianapolis. **St. Francis de Sales Parish/School Reunion**, 1-4 p.m., food and fellowship, \$20 advance or \$25 at door. Information: 317-432-2887, pamela_casserly@att.net. †

Wedding Anniversaries

PAUL AND DOTTIE (SENF) FULLENKAMP, members of St. Louis Parish in Batesville, will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on June 26. The couple was married in the former St. Anne Church in Hamburg on June 26, 1952. They have five children: Cindy Cornett, Paula Trenkamp, Leo, Mark and Steven Fullenkamp.



ELMER AND MARY (MARKING) DIDAT, members of St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish in Floyd County, will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on June 29. The couple was married in St. Mary Church in Lanesville on June 29, 1957. They have two children: Kenneth and Stephen Didat. The couple also has three grandchildren.



JOHN AND MARJORIE (BISHOP) BOLLY, members of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 30. The couple was married in St. Aloysius Church in Louisville, Ky., on June 30, 1962. They have three children: Donna Burke, Jenifer Fuson and John Bolly. The couple also has six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



MELVIN AND ANNA MARIE (BEZY) KLEIN, members of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 30. The couple was married in St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Church in Floyd County on June 30, 1962. They have three children: Lori Jones, Jeremy and Tim Klein. The couple also has 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



CARLOS AND LOIS (BUNSELMEIER) LUKEN, members of Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 30. The couple was married in St. Mary Church in Greensburg on June 30, 1962. They have two children: Lori Beihoff and Cari Schuck. The couple also has three grandchildren.



Announcements for couples celebrating 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 or more years of marriage are accepted. Go to cutt.ly/anniversaries or call 317-236-1585.

Retreats and Programs

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

July 11-12
 Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guesthouse, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. **Summer Chant Workshop**, for directors of parish liturgical music and singers in parish liturgies, Benedictine Brother John Glasenapp presenting, \$750 single, \$835 double, \$200 commuter. Registration: saintmeinrad.org/retreats.

July 11-12
 Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Franciscan Spirituality and Praying in Nature – Day of Reflection**,

8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., led by Father Todd Goodson, includes Mass, \$45 includes breakfast and lunch and Mass. Information and registration: fjm.retreatportal.com/events, 317-545-7681 or lcoons@archindy.org.

July 13
 Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Personal Day of Retreat**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$40, includes a private room for the day and lunch; spiritual direction is available for an additional \$30, must be scheduled in advance. Information and registration:

benedictinn.org/programs, 317-788-7581, benedictinn.org.

July 13
 Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Day of Silence**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$40 per day, includes room, continental breakfast, lunch and use of the common areas and grounds, overnight stays available for additional \$30 per person, dinner additional \$10. Registration: fjm.retreatportal.com/events/, 317-545-7681 or lcoons@archindy.org. †

Sistine Chapel art exhibit available in Indianapolis from July 8-Aug. 28

Criterion staff report

An exhibit called Michelangelo's "Sistine Chapel: The Exhibition" will be available in the former Carson's department store at Circle Center Mall, 49 W. Maryland St., in Indianapolis, on Tuesdays through Sundays from July 8-Aug. 28. The exhibit allows visitors to experience this famous art from an up-close perspective. The ceiling paintings from the Sistine Chapel have been reproduced using licensed high-definition photos. Brought to life using a special printing technique that emulates the look and feel of the

original paintings, visitors are given a chance to engage with 34 frescoes at their own pace.

Each image is accompanied by informative signage, and audio guides are available to rent for a more in-depth experience.

Time slots are available on Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; and Sundays from noon-4:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$15.40-\$31.20 per person.

For more information or to order tickets, go to chapelsistine.com/exhibits/indianapolis. †

Award winner lives her faith to the fullest as she prepares to go home to God

By John Shaughnessy

Theresa Shaw lets it be known quickly that she's prone to crying these days.

And her tears flowed again when she was surprised with the news on June 7 that she was the recipient of the Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein Award for her outstanding service as a parish faith formation leader in the archdiocese.

In nearly 17 years of helping form the faiths of children and adults at Holy Family Parish in New Albany, Shaw has always strived to create experiences and encounters that would make the Catholic faith come alive and lead people to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

In the past 13 months, she has taken that approach to an even higher level since being diagnosed with terminal cancer.

"My relationship with Jesus is pretty much everything," Shaw says. "I view him as my role model. I unite my suffering to him and ask him to use it to where it's most needed. I'm trying to be a role model for suffering and dying in a way that glorifies God."

While she cries as she shares that thought, her ministry has often been touched by moments of joy and humor.

Now 60, she laughs as she shares a story that's connected to the turning point in her own faith—at a Christ Renews His Parish retreat at Holy Family in 2001.

"I was euphoric from everything that went on during that retreat," recalls the mother of three, now-grown children. "The next day after the retreat, I was taking my kids to school, and they were being rowdy. I told them, 'Calm down. I'm still on a high from my retreat!' And they said, 'Well, we didn't go on retreat.'"

That "high" continued, leading her from doing day care in her home to enrolling in a pastoral ministry program at Spalding University in Louisville, Ky. A year later, she became the coordinator of religious education at Holy Family, hoping to lead children to the same high for their faith.

"She regularly emphasized the need to connect that faith to lived activities in the home," says Father Jeremy Gries, pastor of Holy Family. "Whether it was encouraging Sunday Mass attendance, grace before meals and bedtime, or family service opportunities, the faith was never just an activity of the mind for Theresa. It required heart and hands as well to be fully and truly lived."

Shaw was always looking for those times of connection with the children, "seeing their faces light up when they got that a-ha moment," she says.

As she asked the children to reach for more in their faith, she also asked their parents to embrace their faith more deeply by becoming part of the programs for their children.

"I really emphasized family catechesis," she says. "Parents were uncomfortable teaching their children the faith because they didn't feel they knew their faith that well. Seeing the parents interact with their children

and sometimes getting the same a-ha moment as their children, it encouraged the parents. Kids can learn from adults, and adults can learn from kids as well."

Alive in her faith, Shaw has always wanted the same for everyone in the parish, Father Gries says.

"She held intergenerational activities that helped bridge the gap between the young and older of the parish, highlighting the 'handing on of the faith' from one generation to the next," he says. "She also hosted numerous book studies for adults to read, learn and discuss various Catholic topics and Catholic authors, enhancing personal faith lives.

"Theresa also was great at calling others to pray daily, whether personally or communally. She kept the parish staff rooted in regular prayer by helping to remind us to gather for the noon *Angelus*. She also regularly took holy hours during our parish adoration."

Shaw's favorite memories include helping children prepare for the sacraments of reconciliation and holy Communion. She also becomes emotional as she shares the story of a woman she guided into being received into the full communion of the Church one Easter, leading her through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program.

"We became very close," Shaw recalls. "I was able to help her find Christ before she was diagnosed with cancer. I helped her through her journey, and she helped me with the way she helped people when she was suffering. She's no longer with us."

It also seems fitting that another one of Shaw's favorite memories involves family, specifically her daughter, Andrea. They spent a year reading and discussing the Bible and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* together.

"It came at a very opportune time in her life, and it affected me very deeply as well. It was very meaningful for both of us," Shaw says. "It helped her deepen her faith and make it a higher priority in her life. It also helped to make us even closer. We've always had a close relationship, but this has cemented it."

She also expressed gratitude for her two sons, Ben and Christopher—and for her husband, David, as they



A look of joy has been a common feature of Theresa Shaw as she has shared her love of God with children and adults in Holy Family Parish in New Albany. (Submitted photo)

celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary on June 23.

The grandmother of one child also holds a special place in her heart for her parish.

"I would like to thank the staff and parishioners of Holy Family for all the support they've given me through the years and all the love they've given me in the past year," says Shaw, who is now retired because of her health. "They are the best parish, and they deserve a shout-out."

She also becomes emotional as she shares her gratitude to God for the life she has been given, and for the faith she has worked so hard and so joyfully to share.

As a source of comfort, Shaw embraces one of her favorite Bible verses, from chapter 10 in Luke's Gospel, especially the part where Jesus tells the Apostles, "Rejoice that your names are written in heaven" (Lk 10:20).

"Just knowing that my name is written in heaven is very powerful for me," she says. "Just knowing I'm getting ready to come home has been a comfort for me. I feel I have a purpose after I die—that I'll be home with God, Jesus and Mary."

Her tears flow again.

"I told you I was prone to crying." †

Ken's 12-Pack/Ken Ogorek

Things most Catholics wish they knew better: You first. No, you first!

Sixth in a yearlong catechetical series

Little things mean a lot; so the saying goes. A lot of 1970s and 1980s catechesis included a small, single feature that has big implications for our life of faith if not understood correctly.



Who made you?

The architects of catechesis from the late 1960s through the early 1990s often expressed

dissatisfaction with a question-and-answer approach to faith formation. "Better to start with human experience," said the experts.

Methodological gains were definitely made in the '70s and '80s; to deny the benefits of exploring human experience as a springboard for religious education is to overgeneralize about the deficiencies of post-Vatican II catechesis, as if to say that nothing good happened catechetically in the years immediately following this Church council.

But like all good emphases, overemphasis reared its ugly head, and soon we relied too much on human

experience for seeking to understand our utterly transcendent Creator. Ultimately, human experience, action and initiative fall short when forming our minds, hearts and souls to know, love and serve almighty God.

"Listen, Lord, for your servant is speaking"

It's an age-old temptation. Creating God in our own image and likeness. Making ourselves the center of attention in ways that aren't helpful. Defying St. John the Baptist's example that Jesus must increase while we decrease.

Doctrinal deficiencies in religion textbooks used by many adult Catholics as children include a trend that gives insufficient emphasis on God's initiative in the world with a corresponding overemphasis on human action. What we gained by de-emphasizing rote memorization, we lost by overstating the ability of human experience to connect with unfathomably beautiful mysteries like

the Trinity, incarnation and paschal mystery to name a few.

While human experience is often a good starting point for a catechetical lesson (for example, our hunger for food can help explain the spiritual benefits of the holy Eucharist) it overplays the hand of modern catechesis to imply that God somehow depends on us to manifest his holy and perfect will.

God always makes the first move

While our response of faith is crucially important to our relationship with God, it's important to remember that God always makes the first move—inspiring us to repentance and reconciliation.

Ironically, by overemphasizing our role in establishing and deepening a relationship with our loving God, some post-Vatican II catechetical gurus left us with the impression that so long as we try hard to be good people—nice people—our eternal salvation is assured.

St. Augustine observes that God created you without your permission, but

he won't save you without your consent. Your participation in the drama of your salvation from sin and death is essential; but without the free, unmerited gift of salvation offered us by Jesus, through his suffering, death and resurrection, all of our actions, initiatives and experiences fall short. Jesus—only Jesus—saves.

Several "Ken's 12-Pack" columns thus far have addressed specific doctrinal and moral teachings of our holy, Catholic Church; future pieces will do that as well.

This month, let's remember that how you teach truth (for example, overemphasizing the use of human experience to teach all that God lovingly reveals about himself) can unintentionally lead to a distorted or inadequate grasp of the very truths a catechist tries to convey.

See you next month.

(Ken Ogorek, archdiocesan director of catechesis, has lost his six-pack abs. But his 12-part series, whose theme is: *Things Most Catholics Wish They Knew Better*, will run through December. He can be reached at his archdiocesan e-mail address kogorek@archindy.org or by using the contact information at www.kenogorek.com.) †



Circle of Giving event celebrates ‘creating a culture of giving’

By Natalie Hoefler

As Archbishop Charles C. Thompson stepped to the ambo and looked at the approximately 100 people gathered, he smiled.

“It’s been three years since we’ve been able to gather in person for this event, and it’s wonderful to see everyone,” he said warmly.

The gathering on May 12 was the Circle of Giving, a Mass and dinner for members of the United Catholic Appeal’s Miter Society and the Catholic Community Foundation’s Legacy Society.

In his homily during the Mass, which was celebrated at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis, the archbishop recalled the purpose of the liturgy and event.

“We gather together to celebrate the source and summit of our Catholic identity and mission in this eucharistic banquet,” he said. “All that we are, all that we are about, our ministries and services—made possible through the time, talent and treasure of discipleship in the Lord Jesus Christ—are all rooted in the Eucharist.”

He noted that Catholics today “live in challenging times. The Gospel is not always well-received, and those who proclaim it are not always heard or respected.”

Nevertheless, it is still “our calling to carry on that mission,” said Archbishop Thompson.

“However we are received or rejected, let us remember the beauty of our lives is first and foremost in the eyes of God, who beholds us as His creation. We not only receive his Son, Jesus Christ, with all our hearts and minds, but embrace the mission of being sent to others in his name.

“We cannot control how others might receive the message, but we continue to give the best of ourselves for his sake as well as the sake of those entrusted to our care.”

Later at the dinner held across the street at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, archdiocesan vicar general Msgr. William F. Stumpf shared some positive figures with those gathered, who applauded his news.

“This fiscal year we collected nearly \$5.5 million in pledges during the

United Catholic Appeal,” he shared. “One-hundred percent of those gifts go directly to support ministries, services



Msgr. William F. Stumpf

and programs in the archdiocese that benefit everyone in our Church and the surrounding communities, so this is truly incredible.”

He also noted that the Catholic Community Foundation is “seeing a number of planned gifts, and we continue

to add new endowments on a regular basis. For fiscal year 2021, that ended on June 30, 2021, our foundation’s net assets had grown to more than \$240 million.”

Msgr. Stumpf encouraged all Catholics to “continue witnessing the importance of stewardship to your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, for it’s a truism that giving really starts at home.

“That is where we learn to take care of each other before we take care of ourselves. It’s where we learn to love one another. When we foster this at home, it is more likely that our children will grow up with a giving spirit, feeling much more fulfilled and having happy lives.”

A video highlighted the theme of the evening, “Creating a Culture of Giving,” which included interviews of Catholics throughout central and southern Indiana who have given to the United Catholic Appeal and/or the Catholic Community Foundation.

“The video highlighted how a culture of giving gets established and how mission drives the resources and not the other way around,” Archbishop Thompson explained after the video.

“When we stay faithful to God and God’s calling for us to care for our brothers and sisters in Christ, the resources follow.

“Mary Kay Wolford of Holy Family Parish in New Albany, whom you saw in the video, offered us a beautiful insight: ‘You just have to try to trust the Lord, and he takes care of you.’”

Archbishop Thompson spoke of the importance and impact of each member of the archdiocese offering their time, talent and treasure.



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson receives the gifts from Joy and Steve Day, members of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis, during a Mass for members of the United Catholic Appeal’s Miter Society and the archdiocesan Catholic Community Foundation’s Legacy Society at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on May 12. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

“When we pool our strengths and resources, we are able to build our ministries and help our brothers and sisters in need throughout central and southern Indiana,” he said. “We bring many of them peace, being the hands and feet of Christ to them.

“Our faith calls us to not only to give thanks to God, but to *be* thanks as well. This expression of gratitude to God in action is called stewardship.”

He called on all to “give thanks to God for all our gifts,” and to “continue to be grateful stewards whose words and actions show we are merciful, generous and willing to give back to the Lord with increase. May we continue to be grateful givers who always *do* thanks as well as say it.”

Ukamaka Oruche said she and her husband Ody, members of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, contribute to both the United Catholic Appeal and the Catholic Community Foundation.

She encourages everyone to support both efforts “because of the ability that

the archdiocese has through its several ministries to reach more people. So your dollar can go farther than just an individual trying to figure out what to do.”

Glenn Tebbe, a member along with his wife Laura Jo of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg, agreed.

“It’s all about serving the community,” he said.

Tebbe noted that he and his wife started the St. Mary Parish School Endowment Fund through the Catholic Community Foundation for curriculum development at the Greensburg school, where Tebbe served as principal for 18 years.

When it comes to the United Catholic Appeal, “Obviously, I’m partial to education,” he said with a chuckle. “But I’m in for it all. We always check the box to give wherever the biggest need is.”

Tebbe noted it was “heartwarming to see as many people here tonight as there are. It’s good just to be a part of something that’s much bigger than our little bit.” †

Leaders weigh in on how appeal, foundation donations help their ministries

Compiled by Natalie Hoefler

Donations to the annual United Catholic Appeal and the Catholic Community Foundation help the many ministries of the archdiocese serve the needs of brothers and sisters in Christ throughout central and southern Indiana. Here are comments from a few archdiocesan leaders on the impact of those contributions.

Brian Disney, archdiocesan superintendent of Catholic Schools

“The United Catholic Appeal really assists with our day-to-day operations of supporting our 68 Catholic schools in the archdiocese. We provide a lot of professional development for building leaders. We work with pastors, presidents, and principals on issues as they arise. We assist our schools with Choice Scholarships and other government programs and regulations.

“One of the great funds that we have through the Catholic Community Foundation is the Teacher Catechist Education [TCE] grant. Our teachers use this grant

to help pay for advanced coursework to expand their expertise in areas like school administration, gifted and talented, special education, and to teach college credit classes in our high schools. Several of our Catholic school principals earned their master’s degree in educational leadership through the TCE grant.”

Ken Ogorek, archdiocesan director of catechesis

“Our 120-plus parish catechetical leaders range from full-time professionals with master’s degrees to part-time volunteers with high school diplomas and day jobs. Each is entrusted with the mission-critical duty of running a vibrant,



Ken Ogorek

effective parish catechetical program—womb to tomb.

“United Catholic Appeal and Catholic Community Foundation dollars help our evangelization and catechetical offices support these leaders with professional and spiritual development, guidance for specific challenges and situations, and resources to keep these ecclesial ministers from reinventing the wheel.”

Ellen Sanders, director of mission advancement for archdiocesan education initiatives

“Donations to the United Catholic Appeal and the Catholic Community Foundation, along with individual donations, provide the funding so college-age men can live at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary [in Indianapolis] while discerning if they are being called to become a priest. Both of the men who were ordained as priests this year, Father Michael Clawson and Father Matthew Perronie, are alumni of Bishop Bruté.

“People who donate to the United Catholic Appeal and the Catholic Community Foundation are directly supporting vocations to the priesthood, which are so desperately needed so our children and grandchildren can experience the sacraments of our Catholic Church.”

Pearlette Springer, archdiocesan coordinator of Black Catholic Ministry

“These monies allow us to be present at the Indiana Black Expo and share our faith with people from across the U.S. They also allow for activities that bring Black Catholics together as a community, such as the annual Black Catholic



Pearlette Springer

Women Advent Reflection. They also help us gather Black Catholic men together for dialogue and prayer at the National Black Catholic Men’s Conference, which will take place this year in October. Lastly, the United Catholic Appeal provides funding for the Fr. Boniface Hardin Practical Theology and Intercultural Competence Program. Through this, participants discuss the practical ways of living our faith.”

Father Michael Keucher, archdiocesan director of vocations

“The United Catholic Appeal and the Catholic Community Foundation benefit the work of the

vocations office in helping to fund the formation of future priests and various promotional events across the archdiocese.

“Those events include Bishop Bruté Days, a retreat for young men who will be in grades 9-12 in the fall who are seeking to grow closer to Christ, and who may be open to the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood; our monthly Storm the Castle for high school age men to come see what life in seminary is like and spend time in prayer and fellowship with our college seminarians; the Climb the Hill retreat at Saint Meinrad [Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad] for men who’ve graduated from high school and older; and the annual St. Andrew Dinner for priests to bring young men they think would be interested in becoming a priest.

“We are deeply thankful to all donors who help make our efforts possible and fruitful.” †



Brian Disney



Ellen Sanders



Father Michael Keucher

Diverse community of faith at heart of liturgies opening Eucharistic Revival

By Sean Gallagher

The National Eucharistic Revival started in the archdiocese with two joyful Masses celebrated on June 19 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

One thing that could have made the liturgies even more joyful would have been if Archbishop Charles C. Thompson could have been present for them.

However, he was absent because he tested positive for COVID-19 earlier that day.

Father Patrick Beidelman, rector of the cathedral, invited the worshippers at the first Mass to keep the archbishop in prayer.

"In a special way, let's lift up Archbishop Thompson today and all the sick, that God may grant them a speedy recovery, healing and comfort," said Father Beidelman in opening remarks at the Mass that began at 1 p.m.

In place of Archbishop Thompson, he was the principal celebrant of the Mass, which was celebrated primarily in English. Other languages incorporated into the liturgy included American Sign Language, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog and Burmese dialects.

"We are grateful to be here," said Robert Shwe, a Burmese Catholic who, along with his family, are members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. "We thank Jesus. We are happy to see everybody here. We love it."

Veronic Win, Shwe's wife who emigrated to Indiana four years ago, appreciated seeing worshippers at the Mass from so many places around the world.

"I really love to see all the ethnic groups," she said. "It's like my country, Myanmar. There are more than 150 ethnic groups there. In Christ, we are all human and children of God, even though we are from different ethnic groups and countries."

People come each year from all over the world to Indianapolis to compete in and watch the Indianapolis 500. Archbishop Thompson's homily, which was read at the first Mass by archdiocesan vicar general Msgr. William F. Stumpf, likened the Mass to a pitstop in the Greatest Spectacle in Racing where Catholics "recharge, to fine tune and to recalibrate any aspect of our lives that would hinder us from making the checkered flag and reaching the finish line."

"The Eucharist, the very body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, is our fuel," Msgr. Stumpf said. "It's what makes us run as Catholics. It is the very life source of our energy, strength, power and salvation."

"It is from the Mass that the Lord instructs us, 'Start

your engines,' in order to go forth as missionary disciples into the world."

The Eucharist has been a source of strength for Celina Le since she moved to Indianapolis from Vietnam 25 years ago when he was 13.

"It was difficult, because of the language barrier, the culture, all of it," said Le, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Indianapolis, which includes a vibrant Vietnamese Catholic community. "I was raised as a Catholic. My parents, my grandparents are all Catholic."

When you go through difficulties and you think about God, it raises your spirits up and stops you from giving up. It's very important."

The faith is important also to Patrick Vogt, who attended the first Mass from St. Mary Parish in North Vernon.

His wife Courtney leads liturgical music at the Seymour Deanery faith community and assisted at the first Mass on June 19 as cantor.

While his ancestors came to Indiana from Germany many generations ago, he values coming together to worship with fellow Catholics who moved here more recently.

"We're all one people, even though we might have different cultures and practices," Vogt said. "We're all together at that source and summit of our faith. It's interesting to see how different cultures have accepted the faith and woven their practices into it."

Msgr. Stumpf, while he said that "my heart just broke" because the archbishop was not able to celebrate the Mass, still took joy in worshipping with Catholics from around the world.

"It was beautiful to see so many people show up to celebrate their love for the Eucharist," he said. "It was such a beautiful Mass. You could feel the Spirit and everyone's great love and reverence for the Eucharist. They're all centered on the Eucharist. It goes across all cultures and languages."

Father Beidelman highlighted this aspect of the liturgy in closing remarks at the first Mass.

"We had both the word of God proclaimed in spoken word as well as sung prayer in many different languages today," he said. "There were wonderful choirs that sang. Although I didn't know all the languages that were being spoken today, I could hear our love for our eucharistic Lord in everything that was offered today. And that says something about our unity."

At the 3 p.m. Mass primarily celebrated in Spanish, French was incorporated into the liturgy. Archdiocesan officials said a combined 850 people attended both Masses.



Father Patrick Beidelman elevates the Eucharist during a June 19 Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis to start the National Eucharistic Revival in the archdiocese. Concelebrating the Mass are Fathers Jude Meril Sahayam, center, and Minh Quang Duong. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)



Husband and wife Robert Shwe, right, and Veronica Win kneel in prayer with their children Jerome and Louis Shwe, during a June 19 Mass at the cathedral. The Burmese family are members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)



Carmen Rosa Hurtado, a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, proclaims the first reading in Spanish during a June 19 Mass. (Photo by Mike Krokos)



Celina Le, left, and her mother, Dho Hoang, Vietnamese Catholics who emigrated to Indiana, pray during a June 19 Mass in the cathedral. They are members of St. Joseph Parish in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)



Transitional Deacon José Neri leads the rite of penance during a Mass celebrated primarily in Spanish on June 19. Also pictured are Father Todd Goodson and Deacon Juan Carlos Ramirez. Shown behind them is Father Dustin Boehm, who served as a master of ceremonies. (Photo by Mike Krokos)

Father Todd Goodson, pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, was the principal celebrant of the later Mass, and also delivered Archbishop Thompson's homily in Spanish.

"Why is it important for us to embrace the Catholic belief in the real presence of Jesus Christ—his body, blood, soul and divinity—in the Eucharist? Because more than a mere symbol the very reality of his sacred presence is transformative," he said. "No encounter with him leaves us the same as before any such moment of grace."

Gustavo Ramirez, a member of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis, attended the later Mass with his sister, Alejandra Hernandez, who is a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish.

"We were here as the one body of Christ," Ramirez noted after the liturgy. "Pope Francis has talked about us being united [as people of faith]. For us, it was very important to be here."

Carmen Rosa Hurtado, who proclaimed the first reading in Spanish at the later Mass, had a joyful glow after the liturgy.

"The whole time, I love listening to the Mass," said the member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis. "For me, it is food for my soul."

Deacon Juan Carlos Ramirez of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus has the same feeling about the Eucharist.

"You're allowing Jesus to go into your being," said Deacon Ramirez, who assisted at the Mass. "And having Jesus inside you, you're praying and hoping that you will be able to act, think and serve in the same way that he did. And that means to be Jesus to everybody."

(Editor Mike Krokos and Assistant Editor John Shaughnessy contributed to this story.) †

An encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist



Archdiocesan Catholics fill Illinois Street in downtown Indianapolis on June 19 during a eucharistic procession that was part of the start of the National Eucharistic Revival in the archdiocese. (Photo courtesy Cantaloupe.tv)



Father Patrick Beidelman incenses the Blessed Sacrament in St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis during a holy hour on June 19. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)



Children who received their first Communion this year wait to take part in a eucharistic procession on June 19 in Indianapolis that was part of the start of the National Eucharistic Revival in the archdiocese. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)



Cristal Rodriguez Yañez, a member of St. Philip Neri Parish in Indianapolis, cantors during the Mass celebrated primarily in Spanish on June 19 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. (Photo by Mike Krokos)



People take part in a service project during the beginning of the National Eucharistic Revival in the archdiocese. (Photo by Mike Krokos)



The archdiocese's eucharistic procession heads up Georgia Street toward St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis on June 19, part of its nearly two-mile journey to celebrate the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)



The three F's—faith, fellowship and, of course, food—were at the heart of the kickoff of the National Eucharist Revival on June 19. (Photo by Mike Krokos)



Vox Sacra, the archdiocese's schola cantorum, performs during a June 19 holy hour at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. (Photo by Mike Krokos)



Brian and Kristyn Tomlinson and their children—Eddie, Patrick and Grace—of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis show their reverence for the Blessed Sacrament as a float carrying the Eucharist passes by them on Illinois Street in Indianapolis on June 19. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)



Father Patrick Beidelman gives Communion to Tammi Ngo, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Indianapolis and its Vietnamese Catholic community, during a June 19 Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)



Hundreds of Catholics from across central and southern Indiana follow a float holding the Blessed Sacrament during a June 19 eucharistic procession in downtown Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

REVIVAL

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Take this gift into your heart and your soul.

Take this gift into the world.

Take it knowing that this gift is the fulfillment of God's love for all people.

The hope of the Eucharist

Joe Wilhelm felt both the stress and the responsibility of being the driver of the float that transported the monstrance containing the Eucharist through downtown Indianapolis and to St. John Church.

"I worried every time I hit a bump," Wilhelm said with a relieved smile after the completion of the 1.7-mile journey of the procession from the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center at 14th and Illinois streets to St. John. "I felt I was riding the brake the whole time."

Driving his red pickup truck, the Purdue University senior and member of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis was also responsible for setting a comfortable pace for the estimated 500 people who participated in the procession—a crowd that swelled to nearly 1,000 by the time the procession entered St. John.

Still, through it all, Wilhelm focused on "the honor to be able to pull the float with the Blessed Sacrament on it to start this eucharistic revival."

"The Eucharist is what everything should revolve around," he said. "It keeps us on track and keeps Jesus in our lives. It's both comforting and fills me with hope—just to have the feeling that Jesus is present with us, and he's guiding our lives."

The shared love of the Eucharist

At 7 years old, Faye Allen came well prepared for taking part in the procession with other girls and boys who recently received their first Communion.

While wearing the dress she wore when she received the Eucharist for the first time at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis, Faye also had her water bottle, wore her gray sneakers and carried her white rosary, a gift from her godparents. Equally special on this Father's Day, she also had the blessing of having her dad to walk with her.

"Our faith is the centerpiece of our life," said her dad, Matt Allen. "It's important to model for your kids the importance of your faith."

Brian Tomlinson had the same goal when he and his wife Kristyn brought their three children to witness the procession. As the float carrying the Eucharist passed by them, the family members from Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis knelt on the hot street—a common occurrence among the people who lined Illinois Street to watch the procession.

"We wanted to make sure our children know the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist," Brian said. "It's the source and summit of our whole life—the very reason for our existence. It's a perfect example of God's relationship with us—his absolute desire to remain with us and love us despite our efforts to separate from him."

By the time the procession reached St. John, Faye and Matt Allen found a small measure of shade after the long journey.

Asked how she felt, Faye smiled and said, "Good." And then she added, "Tired."

The joy of the Eucharist

As the two friends prepared to take part in the procession, Javeona Kirby and Deysi Garcia beamed

as they shared their thoughts of recently being received into full communion of the Church at Easter at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis.

"I'm very happy because I love the Eucharist," said Kirby, 21. "I just like it when a lot of Catholics are together. Before I became Catholic, I liked to be with Catholics, and now that I'm Catholic, I'm very happy."

Garcia glowed as she talked about another one of the great blessings for her as a young adult of 19.

"I love being able to find people of my age wanting to continue in their faith and growing as a whole. It just shows that God is in everyone's hearts, even young people."

The unity of the Eucharist

Working side by side, Cheryl Bergin and Mayra Sacanamboy embraced one of the main goals of the archdiocese's eucharistic revival—bringing the hope, love and promise of the Eucharist to fulfillment through acts of service to people in need.

Before the procession, they were part of several teams of volunteers who helped pack 13,000 meals to be shipped to Ukrainian refugees. About 1,500 care packages of personal hygiene items were also assembled for people who request help from Catholic Charities and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the archdiocese.

"I always ask Jesus for ways I can help," said Bergin, flashing a huge smile. "I love saying 'yes' to Jesus. That's why I am here. It's the joy of Jesus. He wants to smile at everyone, so he uses my face."

A member of St. Agnes Parish in Nashville and St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, Bergin says her joy and her service are directly related to her love of the Eucharist.

"The closer I am to the Eucharist, the more I have peace and clarity in my life."

Sacanamboy shares that feeling.

"When you do things for others, you put into action what we as Christians should do," said the member of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus. "It's meaningful. It gives me a sense of peace to help."

The Eucharist also gives her a sense of connection.

"Every time we have the Eucharist, we have Jesus inside us. In our parish, we have people from different places around the world, and there are a lot of different languages. But the feeling that we are all one brings us together. We are one family."

The promise of the Eucharist

Christ's promise in the Eucharist was once again at the heart of the two Masses—one primarily in English, one primarily in Spanish—that were celebrated at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral to start the eucharistic revival.

In the first Mass,



Nearly 1,000 worshippers filled St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis on June 19 for a holy hour and benediction that was the conclusion of the start of the National Eucharistic Revival in the archdiocese. (Submitted photo by Julie Motyka)

the one in English, Father Patrick Beidelman held up the host during the consecration and repeated the life-giving offer that Jesus made to his disciples at the Last Supper, "Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body, which will be given up for you."

Then, raising the chalice of wine, Father Beidelman—pastor of St. Mary Parish and rector of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, both in Indianapolis, and executive director of the archdiocese's secretariat for worship and evangelization—said, "Take this, all of you, and drink from it. For this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me."

For that first Mass, Andrew and Jenna Cain brought their six children, ranging in age from 11 to 1, with their seventh child due in September. Being there was another way for the members of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg to try to keep the promise of the Eucharist at the center of their family's busy life.

"It helps us to not take it for granted and to renew our gratitude for the Eucharist, and to help to make it more of a priority in our lives," Jenna said.

The invitation and the challenge of the Eucharist

After being part of the day's events, Ginny and Pat Maher viewed the start of the eucharistic revival as both an invitation and a challenge.

"Just an awesome event—just to consider you're honoring the body of Christ in such a spiritual and community way," said Ginny, a member with Pat of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis. "It's neat to see the blend, the diversity of people. It's one of those events that if you experience in your lifetime, you're blessed."

Pat noted, "You can seriously see the Holy Spirit in action today. Plus, it was fun going around talking to some of the families whose children had made their first Communion."

"I remember my first Communion. It was at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in May of 1963. I hope in this eucharistic revival that people remember their first Communion and how special it was, and how special it can be now."

He paused and smiled before adding, "Having that bread for the journey, it's amazing." †



Wearing the dress she wore when she recently received her first Communion at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis, 7-year-old Faye Allen participated in the eucharistic procession on June 19 with her dad, Matt Allen. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)



A woman and a child in Uvalde, Texas, walk on May 30 near the memorial at Robb Elementary School where a gunman killed 19 children and two teachers on May 24. (CNS photo/Shannon Stapleton, Reuters)

ARCHBISHOP

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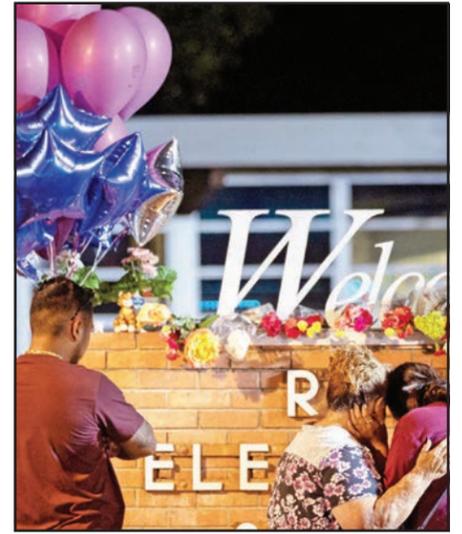
the many steps toward addressing this endemic of violence is the necessity of passing reasonable, effective gun control measures.

Pope Francis has warned many times that we live “in a world marked by a ‘globalization of indifference’ which makes us slowly injured by the suffering of others and closed in on ourselves.” As the pope also said, in his address to a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress in 2015, “Here we have to ask ourselves: Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society?”

We are keenly aware that violence in our society will not be solved by legislation alone because many factors contribute to the violence we are witnessing all around us today. Even so, our leaders must engage in a real debate about urgently needed measures to save lives and make our communities safer.

We call on members of Congress to work together in a bipartisan fashion. Towards this end, we endorse the following measures recommended by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2017:

- A total ban on assault weapons;
- Measures that control the sale and use of firearms, such as universal background checks for all gun purchases;
- Limitations on civilian access to high-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines;
- A federal law to criminalize gun trafficking;
- Improved access to mental health care for those who may be prone to violence;
- Regulations and limitations on the purchasing of handguns; and



People visit a memorial outside Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, on May 25, the site of a mass shooting. (CNS photo/Nuri Vallbona, Reuters)

- Measures that make guns safer, such as locks that prevent children and anyone other than the owner from using the gun without permission and supervision.

We acknowledge the importance of the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, but considering the daily advances in modern technology, and the fact that some weapons are increasingly capable of causing mass murder when used with an evil purpose, we believe that the common good requires reasonable steps to limit access to such weapons by those who intend to misuse them in any way.

+ Charles C. Thompson

**Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson
Archbishop of Indianapolis
June 16, 2022**

Declaración sobre la violencia armada del Arzobispo Thompson

Los incidentes de asesinatos brutales y sin sentido que hemos presenciado en Estados Unidos durante las últimas semanas han aumentado más allá de toda comprensión. Se han arrebatado cruelmente vidas inocentes, incluidas las de niños pequeños. Estas tragedias indescriptibles han hecho que los padres, las familias y los miembros de la comunidad de muchas regiones de nuestro país se pregunten “¿Cómo ha podido ocurrir esto?” y exijan que todos nos unamos como humanidad para detener las masacres de vidas inocentes.

Los católicos de la Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis se hacen eco de las palabras del Papa Francisco tras la masacre de Uvalde, Texas: “Estoy desconsolado,” afirmó el Papa. “Rezo por los niños y los adultos asesinados, y por sus familias. [...] Es hora de decir ‘basta’ al comercio indiscriminado de armas.”

Como ciudadanos responsables procedentes de diversas comunidades del centro y sur de Indiana, compartimos el enorme dolor de nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Rezamos por ellos y nos comprometemos a abogar por acciones concretas y prácticas que puedan evitar que estas pesadillas se repitan.

Teniendo esto en cuenta, instamos encarecidamente a todos los legisladores del estado de Indiana y a los miembros del Congreso a que reflexionen sobre estos trágicos sucesos y se sientan movidos a actuar en consecuencia. Consideramos que existe algo fundamentalmente erróneo en una cultura en la que los delitos por odio racial y los actos de violencia—en las escuelas, en los lugares de culto, en las calles de la ciudad y en la plaza pública—son cada vez más frecuentes.

Estamos convencidos de que debe haber un diálogo respetuoso, seguido de acciones concretas, para crear una mayor conciencia social sobre todos los aspectos de esta crisis cada vez más horrible, lo que abarca la salud mental, la vida familiar, la dignidad de la vida humana, la influencia de las industrias del entretenimiento y del juego, el acoso escolar y la disponibilidad de armas de fuego. Entre los muchos pasos que se deben dar para hacer frente a esta violencia endémica está la necesidad de aprobar medidas razonables y eficaces de control de armas.

El Papa Francisco ha advertido en numerosas ocasiones que vivimos “en un mundo marcado por una ‘globalización de la indiferencia’ que poco a poco nos acostumbra al sufrimiento de los demás y a encerrarnos en nosotros mismos.” Asimismo, en el discurso que pronunció

ante una reunión conjunta del Congreso de Estados Unidos en 2015, su santidad señaló que: “Aquí tenemos que preguntarnos: ¿Por qué se venden armas mortales a quienes planean infligir un sufrimiento indecible a las personas y a la sociedad?”

Somos muy conscientes de que la violencia en nuestra sociedad no se resolverá únicamente mediante una legislación, porque son muchos los factores que contribuyen a la violencia que presenciamos hoy en día. Aun así, nuestros dirigentes deben entablar un debate real sobre las medidas que se requieren urgentemente para salvar vidas y hacer que nuestras comunidades sean más seguras.

Pedimos a los miembros del Congreso que trabajen juntos de forma bipartidista. Con este fin, respaldamos las siguientes medidas recomendadas por la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos en 2017:

- una prohibición total de las armas de asalto;
- medidas que controlen la venta y el uso de armas de fuego, como la comprobación universal de antecedentes para todas las compras de armas;
- limitación del acceso de los civiles a las armas de gran capacidad y a los cargadores de munición;
- una ley federal para criminalizar el tráfico de armas;
- mejorar el acceso a la atención de salud mental para quienes puedan ser propensos a la violencia;
- regulaciones y limitaciones en la compra de armas de fuego; y
- medidas que hagan que las armas sean más seguras, como seguros que impidan a los niños y a cualquier persona que no sea el propietario utilizar el arma sin permiso y supervisión.

Reconocemos la importancia de la Segunda Enmienda de la Constitución de Estados Unidos, pero teniendo en cuenta los avances diarios de la tecnología moderna, y el hecho de que algunas armas tienen cada vez una mayor capacidad de causar asesinatos en masa cuando se utilizan con un propósito funesto, creemos que el bien común requiere medidas razonables para limitar el acceso a dichas armas por parte de aquellos que tienen la intención de hacer un mal uso de ellas.

+ Charles C. Thompson

**Reverendísimo Charles C. Thompson
Arzobispo de Indianápolis
16 de junio de 2022**



FOLLOWING OUR GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY

Throughout time, individuals have made all manner of gifts to charity – from stocks to property, grain, vehicles and more. Such donations can greatly benefit the charity of their choice. However, it is important to note that one man’s treasure may not be what the charity needs or can accept.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis and all its entities are governed by a Gift Acceptance Policy and must follow requirements for appraisal of the potentially donated property.

If you are thinking of a gift of property to benefit your favorite parish, school, agency or Archdiocesan ministry, it is best to first contact the organization to determine if your gift can be accepted.

For more information about this and other planned giving options through the Catholic Community Foundation, call 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1482, or email us at ccf@archindy.org.

SERRA CLUB VOCATIONS ESSAY

Encounter with Christ in adoration confirms faith for teenager

(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 continue with the winning entry in the ninth grade. Please note this year there were no entries from the 11th grade.)

By Josephine Wolfe

Special to The Criterion

Growing up in a Catholic family, others often assume you are in love with God. But that is not always true. In fact, many people do not actually nurture a relationship with God.



For me, I always knew God was real and did what my parents asked of

me, but I seldom felt God's presence. Sometimes, it made me question my faith. What if God is not real? What if we are living a lie?

As I tried to find these answers, it pushed me into a deeper hole. With all the confusion, I decided not to worry about it, but that led to a heavy void in my heart.

I tried to fill that emptiness with instant pleasure. However, it was only temporary happiness. Would this feeling ever go away? Could Jesus really be present to me in the Eucharist?

I continued to feel the ache in my heart. Searching for the pure happiness that I truly desired, I was lonely. Until one day, I was told about the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) which was in Indianapolis. I decided to go, more because it would be a great time with my friends.

When the first day of NCYC arrived, we participated in various events. I was going through the motions, having fun with my friends but not really feeling God's presence. The usual thoughts

flooded my mind. Here's one more thing I try to do to make myself closer to God.

Little did I know that one evening would change my life completely.

On the last evening of the conference, God was calling me to open my heart and give everything to him: my thoughts, my worries, my everything. I began by going to the sacrament of reconciliation in order to have a fresh start, a clean slate.

An immense weight was lifted off my shoulders; I was ready to give my heart to God. My friends and I then rushed to an adoration chapel at the conference. I sat and simply stared at Jesus in the monstrance, begging God to let me in, pleading that he would enter my heart.

I knelt down, opened my hands, and reached out to him. Only seeing darkness with my eyes softly closed, I begged, "Lord, I need you." Out of nowhere, Wham! Tears gushing down my cheeks, his merciful love entered my heart; I was drowning in his love and forgiveness. My heart was being put back together piece

by piece.

Time spent before the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at NCYC gave direction to my life. My personal encounter with Jesus filled me with God's mercy. The Holy Spirit grabbed me and took me to true peace where nothing else mattered. It was only God and me as I rested in his presence, feeling his warmth racing through my veins.

Experiencing his true presence changed me. How I see life now is through a completely different lens. My doubts, fears and questions were answered. Adoration changed my life forever.

(Josephine and her parents, Jeremy and Amy Wolfe, are members of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County. She recently completed the ninth grade at the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg and is the ninth-grade division winner in the Indianapolis Serra Club's 2022 John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest.) †

Diocese takes first step toward possible cause for former FOCUS missionary

BISMARCK, N.D. (CNS)—Bishop David

D. Kagan of Bismarck announced on June 16 the diocese will open an investigation into "the holiness of life and love for God" of North Dakota native Michelle Christine Duppong, who died of cancer on Dec. 25, 2015. She was 31.



Michelle Christine Duppong

At the time of her death, Duppong was the director of adult faith formation for the Diocese of Bismarck. Before that, she

was a missionary for six years with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), whose mission is "to share the hope and joy of the Gospel" on campuses and in parishes through Bible studies, outreach events, mission trips and discipleship.

Duppong mentored hundreds of students on college campuses and her final assignment with FOCUS was on its inaugural team at the University of Mary in Bismarck.

"Michelle's holiness of life and love for God certainly touched us here in the Diocese of Bismarck, at the University of Mary and throughout FOCUS, but hers is also a witness which should also be shared

with the universal Church," Bishop Kagan said.

He announced the diocesan investigation into her life and faith at the FOCUS new staff training at the University of Mary. The investigation could lead to her beatification and canonization.

"Michelle was a radiant, joyful woman with the heart of a true servant," said Msgr. James Shea, president of the Benedictine university.

A documentary titled *Thirst for Souls: the Michelle Duppong Story* is in the works. Its worldwide premiere will take place at SEEK23, FOCUS' national conference, to be held on Jan. 2-6, 2023, in St. Louis. †

Marriage ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be a part of our Fall Marriage Edition

July 29 issue of *The Criterion*

Couples who are planning to be married between July 9 and Dec. 31, 2022, in a marriage that is recognized as a valid sacramental or valid natural marriage, or couples who were wed between Jan. 1 and July 8, 2022, in such a recognized marriage and did not have their engagement announcement in *The Criterion* are invited to submit the information for the upcoming July 29 Fall Marriage Edition. Announcements can be submitted by mail using the form below or electronically at www.archindy.org/engagements.

E-mailed photos

Photos should be saved in jpg format and be at least 500 kb. Color photos are preferred. We recommend sending a photo where the couple's faces are close to each other. Please send the photo as an attachment to the e-mail: alewis@archindy.org. Subject line: Fall Marriage (Last name). In the e-mail, please include the information in the form located below.

If it is not possible to e-mail a photo, a photo can be mailed with the bottom form. Please no photocopies or laser prints. To have the photo returned, please include a return addressed envelope with a postage stamp on it.

Deadline

All announcements and photos must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 15. (No announcements or photos will be accepted after this date.)

— Use this form to furnish information by mail —

Clip and mail to: BRIDES, *The Criterion*, ATTN: Ann Lewis, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. To submit information online go to: www.archindy.org/engagements. Deadline with photos: Friday, July 15 at 5 p.m.

Please print or type:

Name of Bride (first, middle, last)		Daytime Phone	
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code
Name of Bride's Parents (first, last)			
City		State	
Name of Bridegroom (first, middle, last)			
Name of Bridegroom's Parents (first, last)			
City		State	
Wedding Date	Church	City	State
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo Enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> Return photo		<input type="checkbox"/> No Picture
Signature of person furnishing information		Relationship	Daytime Phone

74th Annual Holy Spirit Festival

July 7,8,9 - 2022

The Holy Spirit Festival features midway rides and concessions, Parish booths for hamburgers, hot dogs, onion rings, elephant ears, popcorn, desserts, fruit smoothies, tacos, burritos, shish kabobs, tenderloins, pizza & many other items.

The Holy Spirit Festival offers adult games for Bingo, Monte Carlo, Texas Hold 'Em and serves many types of beer and wine. We have a Silent Auction with many items to bid on and a Rummage Sale held throughout the entire festival. You will enjoy our scheduled entertainment held at the main stage with rock bands, German bands, Latino music, folk music and a full jazz band.

Please view our website for more information at: holyspiritfestival.org
7243 East 10th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46219



Project Rachel

Experience Hope and Healing After Abortion

Upcoming Retreat in the Greater Bloomington Area

Rachel's Vineyard Healing Retreat: July 29-31, 2022

For Confidential Help Contact
317-452-0054 or projectrachel@archindy.org
for more information and to register

All Calls and Locations Are Confidential.

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*

Faith *Alive!*

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Doubt in the midst of faith is possible when hope is strong

By Mary DeTurrís Poust

Back when my husband and I taught a two-year confirmation prep program at our parish, many of the students in our class were attending because they had to be there.

They did the work, asked good questions, trudging through the weekly evening sessions. But faith formation was just one more requirement on their very long to-do lists. One student, however, was unhappy to the point of being outwardly angry and belligerent.

Although this student had attended almost all of our classes during that two-year period, as confirmation weekend approached, we received an e-mail stating that she had decided she did not want to be confirmed. I imagined how challenging that decision was for her parents, and I e-mailed a hopeful reply.

I assured them that their student's decision not to be confirmed proved to me that she was taking this sacrament more seriously than many of her classmates. Most were going through the motions to please their parents, but this student was thinking deeply.

She would not agree to something in which she did not fully believe. I saw her doubt as the mark of a true seeker, someone who wants more than simply checking off a box on the faith journey. I was not surprised to learn that a year or two later she was confirmed on her own terms.

Doubt is part of any faith life, or at least it should be. A faith life with no questions at all feels rather small, as though we're too afraid to look in the dark corners for fear of what we might find. But it's precisely in the difficult questions and nagging doubts that we often discover an unexpected opening to even deeper faith.

"We do not need to be afraid of questions and doubts because they are the beginning of a path of knowledge and going deeper; one who does not ask questions cannot progress either in knowledge or in faith," Pope Francis said at a general audience in 2016.

A few years prior, in a 2013 interview published in *America* magazine, Pope Francis had said something even more dramatic on this topic:

"In this quest to seek and find God in all things, there is still an area of uncertainty. There must be. If a person



St. Teresa of Calcutta is pictured with an ailing man in an undated photo. She lived out her faith for decades in the midst of serious doubts because she always maintained a strong hope in God. (CNS photo courtesy Catholic Press Photo)

says that he met God with total certainty and is not touched by a margin of uncertainty, then this is not good. For me, this is an important key. If one has the answers to all the questions—that is the proof that God is not with him."

What does that mean for those of us who are walking the path of faith and trying to lead others to do the same? Should we throw our hands in the air and give up?

No, just the opposite. Our challenge is to remain present, non-judgmental and open in the face of hard questions—our own and those of others. And to continue to do so even in the face of doubt or outright disbelief.

It's not likely that anything we say—especially if it's tinged with anger, fear or self-righteousness—is going to turn someone from doubt to certainty. The key is compassion, understanding and simply listening without trying to tie everything up with a nice, neat spiritual bow.

Yes, we can share what helps us through our own faith struggles and carries us forward, but trying to turn someone from doubt to certainty isn't the goal. The goal is helping someone find abiding trust in God's mercy, tenderness and unconditional love.

Mother Teresa, the beloved saint whose life work served as a model of faith, suffered deep darkness and doubt throughout her life. Does that mean she loved God less than we imagined? No, it means she suffered more. But she remained steadfast, trusting that all would be well in the end.

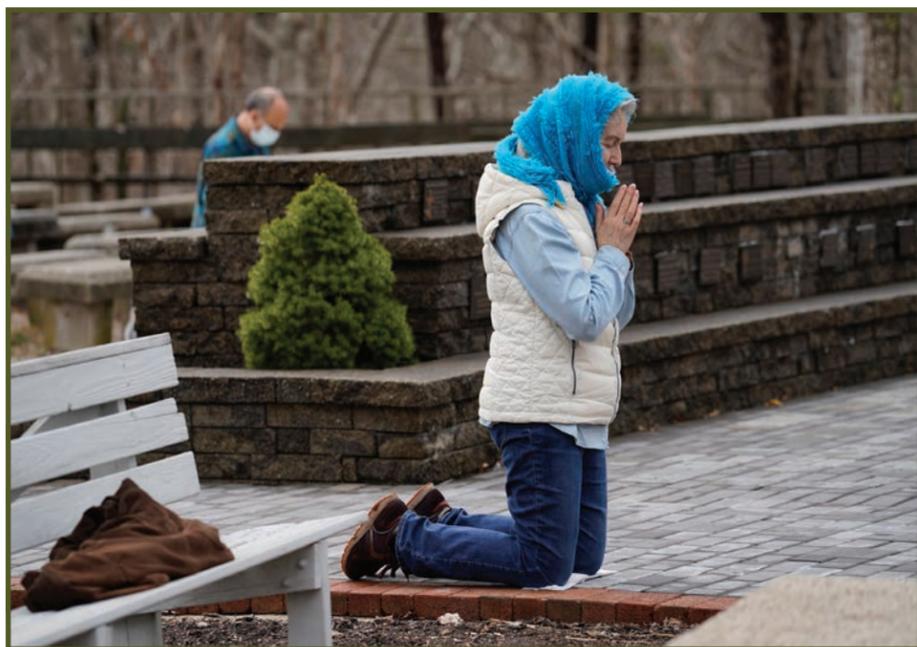
As far back as 1957, she confided to her spiritual director:

"Where I try to raise my thoughts to heaven, there is such convicting emptiness that those very thoughts return like sharp knives and hurt my very soul. Love—the word—it brings nothing. I am told God lives in me—and yet the reality of darkness and coldness and emptiness is so great that nothing touches my soul."

We may read those words and wonder what hope there is for us if someone as holy and devoted as Mother Teresa could feel so lost and alone. But there is always hope. There was for Mother Teresa, for the student in my faith formation class and for every one of us. Doubt can be sustained in a life of faith; it is only when we lose hope that things become more troubling.

So, what do we do? We go to God with our doubts. Talk to God. Yell at God, if that's what it takes. Tell God exactly what we're feeling and thinking. Rather than shy away from doubts, we can dive in headfirst and let God open our heart and eyes to the answers we seek, which are often right in front of us.

(Mary DeTurrís Poust is a writer and retreat leader living in upstate New York. Visit her website at www.NotStrictlySpiritual.com.) †



A woman kneels in prayer while attending Mass on the feast of the Annunciation on March 25, 2021, at Our Lady of the Island Shrine in Manorville, N.Y. Doubt in the middle of a life of faith can be a sign of an honest seeking after the truth. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

Corrections Corner/Deacon Marc Kellams

From start to finish, criminal cases have several steps

Did you ever wonder how a criminal case gets from arrest to trial? This is how it works in the courts of Indiana.



When a crime is allegedly committed, it is most often reported to a police agency. If the crime is a felony and the suspected offender is in police presence, and the police have probable cause to believe that the person committed

the crime, then the person may be taken into custody. Probable cause is defined as a reasonable ground for belief that the offender violated a specific criminal law.

That police agency prepares a report, which is then sent the following day to the prosecuting attorney's office. The prosecutor is an elected official and serves as the chief law enforcement officer of each county. He or she handles all cases involving crimes alleged to have been committed in that county. No one, including a judge, can make the prosecutor file a charge, and unless there is a legal defect in the filing, no one can force the prosecutor to dismiss a charge.

If the person is taken into custody, a formal determination of probable cause must be made by a "neutral and detached" magistrate within 72 hours of arrest or the person is released. If the alleged offender was not arrested at the scene, then the probable cause determination must be made to issue a warrant for that person's arrest. This applies to both felonies and

misdemeanors. Most minor offenses result in release on the person's own recognizance, or if not initially arrested, a summons may be issued requiring them to appear in court.

Presuming the accused is arrested on a warrant, they are brought before the court in the next day or two for an initial hearing. At that hearing, the person is formally advised of the charges brought against them, the penalties upon conviction of those charges, and the person's constitutional rights, which are: the right to maintain a plea of not guilty and have a public and speedy trial by jury; the right to be present and face any accusers who might testify against them and the right to cross examine them; the right to require witnesses to appear to testify in their own behalf; the right to require the state to prove their guilt beyond a reasonable doubt before they can be convicted; and the right to remain silent and not be forced to testify against

themselves at any hearing or trial.

Reasonable doubt means, in simple terms, that a judge or juror may not find a person guilty of a crime unless they are "firmly convinced" of the defendant's guilt. The person also has the right to have an attorney appointed for them if they cannot afford to hire an attorney.

Finally, if the person remains in custody, the issue of bail may be considered or if the prosecutor objects and requests more time to investigate the alleged crimes and the incarcerated person's prior criminal history, the court may reset it for a bail hearing. The judge will usually set a pretrial, and often a trial date.

More to come in future columns.

(Deacon Marc Kellams is the Coordinator of Corrections Ministry for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He can be reached at mkellams@archindy.org or call 317-592-4012.) †

Interested in prison ministry?
Here's how to get more information

In the May 27 Corrections Corner column, we inadvertently left off contact information for anyone interesting in learning more about volunteering for prison ministry at the Terre Haute Federal Penitentiary.

Richard Hoying, a member of St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville,

has taken over the coordinator's role for volunteers at the prison.

"The need is great," he wrote in his May column, "and now there is a long waiting list that has built over the two years of COVID."

To contact Hoying, call 317-752-7230, or e-mail him at rhoying@indy.rr.com. †

Guest column/Mary Marrocco

Saint shows us a place of silence in these confused times

It's impossible to hold a real conversation when it's peppered with mean, toxic words. The more our attempted conversation becomes thwarted by invective, the more we lose the ability to hear and speak at all. A silence creeps forth, not the sweet silence of life and growth, but the terrible silence of contempt, disdain and denial.

This kind of experience has become so prevalent among us that we're in danger of losing sight of what's happening. When we're screaming at each other or holding one another in contempt, how can we find each other? How can we not become (collectively) anxious, depressed and out of sorts when it's getting harder and harder to encounter one another, in all our glorious similarity and difference—as we were made for and can't live without?

As we get pushed out of real encounters, as conversation gets more difficult and we lose the desire even to sit with each other—there comes a time for a different silence. We might not go looking for it, but it will come looking for us.

A newly canonized saint shows us a place of silence in these confused days. He went there for different reasons, not looking for silence but looking for people. He wanted to make a difference. And he did, though in his own lifetime it did not seem so.

Long before his canonization, St. Charles de Foucauld came unexpectedly into my life. I had been offered to lead a certain ministry, one that would require me to change many aspects of my life and leave people I loved. I knew in my heart I needed to say yes. But I didn't want to.

A beloved spiritual guide helped me reflect, a person of deep faith whose words were backed up by his way of life, working with the outcast in different countries. As St. Paul VI observed, "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, #41).

So when this person spoke, it was hard to justify not listening—although his words were leading me where I was frightened to go. Indeed, he said plainly: "Your problem is not that you don't know what to do; it's that you're afraid of suffering." Fear of suffering is nothing to be ashamed of; the danger is to be unaware of our fear and become enslaved by it.

The particular suffering I feared was being alone. Not physically alone, but alone in my faith, alone with Jesus to

face human problems, wondering whether he's real. Faith can be difficult even in a crowd of the faithful, each carrying their little candle lit from the big paschal candle. What about with no witnesses around to hold the flame with you, while the flame itself (waving though it may be) exposes you in the night?

My guide picked up on my fear with far greater understanding than I had. He didn't respond with soothing words—"That's OK, we're all afraid"—helping me stay stuck. Nor with contempt—"How can you be so cowardly?"—driving me underground. Nor with the (oh so much easier) conclusion that since I was afraid, I'd better say no. He simply said: "Charles de Foucauld died alone in the desert."

Aloneness in the desert might sound like a punishment, but there are times when it is the place we need to go. It might become a divine gift, a place of silence, encounter and strengthening.

Pope Paul VI, in his day, named how difficult it was becoming for people to hear the Gospel. His words showed a way for the Church to help people hear the word of truth they needed. In our day, even a true witness speaking true words is hard to hear. The silence reigning around us is a silence of hostility. Truth itself has been found wanting and sent to the recycle bin or labeled as toxic waste.

Pushed by hurtful conversation and angry silence into a desert of solitude, might we receive as a gift another kind of silence? Charles de Foucauld didn't set out to die alone in the desert, but his radical love and faithfulness led him there. He did not refuse. By his unconditional love, he allowed such a solitude, even unto death, to be transformed.

Taking Pope Paul VI's insight into our own day, Pope Francis has received and encouraged the image of Our Lady of Silence emerging into the present cacophony and chaos. He sees that from this silence will come the Church's renewal.

When I did take up that new ministry, a fellow worker turned out to be someone inspired by de Foucauld. At the end of each working day, in the silence of a small chapel, the two of us would recite together de Foucauld's Prayer of Abandonment. "Do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all."

(Mary Marrocco can be reached at mary.marrocco@outlook.com.) †

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

Family journey together in a pilgrimage of faith

From the earliest days of the Church, the followers of Christ have made processions and pilgrimages a deep part of their life of faith.



Indeed, in the Acts of the Apostles, the Church itself is described simply as "the Way" when St. Paul, before his conversion, was authorized to arrest Christians in

Damascus (Acts 9:2).

Christians from the beginning until now see each day of their lives of faith as one more step in their pilgrimage toward heaven, a solemn procession in which they take part with other believers shoulder to shoulder.

And just as the incarnation of Christ—the Son of God taking on human flesh—is central to our faith, so we as Christians fittingly express in physical ways our spiritual belief that our life is a pilgrimage to the house of our heavenly Father.

That's why physical pilgrimages and processions have always been an important part of Christianity.

This important manifestation of our faith was on display in a beautiful and dramatic way on June 19 as Catholics from across central and southern Indiana joined together in a solemn and joyful eucharistic procession through the streets of downtown Indianapolis.

The procession spanned a mile and half from SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, the mother church of the archdiocese, to the historic St. John the Evangelist Church in the heart of Indianapolis' downtown and the first Catholic parish in the city.

Such public processions are a way to invite others to join us in our personal pilgrimage of our lives to heaven. The June 19 procession was a very public act of evangelization.

Who knows how or when might bloom the seeds of faith planted in the hearts of people walking on the sidewalks of downtown Indy on June 19 who, through God's providence, may have witnessed our Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament and his holy people in the procession?

As important as such public demonstrations of our faith are for the Church and the world, the steps of our pilgrimage of faith ordinarily happen in more hidden ways in the lives of families, which are the fundamental building blocks of the Church.

Parents walk with their children in their common procession of faith when they show in their own lives how the faith is lived out in ordinary daily situations.

For their part, children help their parents along that same pilgrimage path when they, in their innocence and youthful vigor, re-enliven the fire of faith of their elders that, over time, may have died down to embers hidden in ashes.

And when families, with the help of God's grace, consciously shape their life together according to Gospel principles, they can plant seeds of faith in the hearts of their neighbors, fellow students, friends and co-workers.

Such a procession of faith might not be dramatic and solemn like the eucharistic procession that went through downtown Indianapolis on June 19, but it's crucial to the successful proclamation of the Gospel from one generation to the next.

So, families, come join in wholeheartedly in the Church's great procession of faith to heaven. Let's help each other in this great journey and invite others to walk alongside us. †

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

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, June 26, 2022

- 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21
- Galatians 5:1, 13-18
- Luke 9:51-62

The First Book of Kings is the source of the first reading for Mass this weekend. As the names of these two volumes imply, First and Second Kings were written to a degree to be a chronicle of the lives and reigns of Israel's early kings. They were in no sense political or even personal biographies, however. They were written with the purpose first and foremost of drawing the people of Israel more closely to God and to obedience to God's commandments.

With such being the case, it is not surprising that they feature prophets as much as kings. In this weekend's reading, the focus is upon Elisha and Elijah, two of the earliest recorded prophets.

Described is the passage of responsibility from Elijah to Elisha, much more than simply a conferral of authority upon a new generation by a preceding generation. Succession occurred, but God directed Elijah to call Elisha to the role of prophet. In other words, both Elijah and Elisha were divinely chosen.

It was part of God's plan to give the chosen people direction, lest they go astray—and to their doom—if left to their own plans.

Two points are worth remembering. The first is somewhat coincidental. God told Elijah to anoint Elisha. Anointings with olive oil continue in Christian liturgies. Anointing is one of the most ancient gestures of ritual. It means being marked.

The second point is that the prophets put everything aside to serve God.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians is the source for the next reading. While pious Jews abhorred slavery, the literal owning of human beings was commonplace in the Roman Empire. Galatian Christians included many Gentiles. They saw slavery every day and everywhere. Everyone instantly would have understood a reference to slavery.

Paul reminded the original audience of his Letter to the Galatians, and us today,

that blindly yielding to our instincts is not in any way true freedom. While alluring, it is actually slavery. We are attracted to following our instincts. We are fascinated by sin and selfishness.

God's strength fortifies us. It is given in the Holy Spirit and in being identified with Jesus. God's revelation, proclaimed by Jesus, instructs us. In Christ, God frees us from slavery.

St. Luke's Gospel furnishes the last reading. For Luke, the Lord's coming to Jerusalem was momentous for Jesus personally and also for the world. Thus, this Evangelist was dramatic in detailing the movement of Jesus toward the Holy City.

Passing to Jerusalem, the Lord went through Samaria. For devout Jews, Samaritans were a disgusting lot. Long ago Samaritans, although Jews and believers, had compromised themselves by accepting foreign invasion and then, more terribly, by consorting with pagans. All this happened centuries before Jesus, but in the first century, Jews still scorned Samaritans.

Understandably, the Apostles asked Jesus for a harsh rebuke when people in a Samaritan village rejected the Gospel. Jesus reprimanded the Apostles for making their request.

Someone else loudly cried out loyalty to Christ. The Lord tells this person that true faith means a commitment so strong that nothing can divert it.

Reflection

The Lord in Luke's Gospel calls us to a high ideal by saying that no one who looks back after commitment to God can receive the gift of eternal life. Turning to God is not momentary or half-hearted.

The Church bluntly proclaims this fact, but it is encouraging and reassuring. God sent prophets to guide the people. God sent us Jesus.

We must resolve to follow Jesus. Without God, we are apt to be slaves, chained to our sins. Our culture tricks us into seeing slavery as freedom. It has completely reversed the meaning of freedom. We are slaves if we sin. We have no control. Christ gives us freedom, but we must choose to be free. †

Daily Readings

Monday, June 27

St. Cyril of Alexandria, bishop and doctor of the Church
Amos 2:6-10, 13-16
Psalm 50:16bc-23
Matthew 8:18-22

Tuesday, June 28

St. Irenaeus, bishop, martyr and doctor of the Church
Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12
Psalm 5:4b-8
Matthew 8:23-27

Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of SS. Peter and Paul
Acts 3:1-10
Psalm 19:2-5
Galatians 1:11-20
John 21:15-19

Wednesday, June 29

St. Peter, Apostle
St. Paul, Apostle
Acts 12:1-11
Psalm 34:2-9
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
Matthew 16:13-19

Thursday, June 30

The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
Amos 7:10-17
Psalm 19:8-11
Matthew 9:1-8

Friday, July 1

St. Junipero Serra, priest
Amos 8:4-6, 9-12
Psalm 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131
Matthew 9:9-13

Saturday, July 2

Amos 9:11-15
Psalm 85:9ab, 10-14
Matthew 9:14-17

Sunday, July 3

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 66:10-14c
Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20
Galatians 6:14-18
Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 or Luke 10:1-9

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Distribution of relics of saints is carefully regulated by the Church

(Editor's note: This column by Father Kenneth Doyle was originally published in 2014.)



Q Why is it so hard to obtain first-class relics? Also, do I need permission from my bishop to obtain them?

I am now 65 and virtually bedridden, a convert to the Catholic Church in my teens.

There are two saints to whom I have special devotion, and to have relics of them would be a great comfort to me. They are St. Rita of Cascia and St. John Mary Vianney. I appreciate any advice you might offer. (Indiana)

A First, a primer on the three classes of relics. As explained

by Catholic News Service: "A first-class relic is the physical bodily remains of a saint or blessed like bones, blood and hair. A second-class relic is a personal possession, such as clothing, devotional objects, handwritten letters or even furniture. A third-class relic is an object that has touched a first-class relic. These—usually small snips of cloth that have touched a blessed or saint's tomb—often end up in public distribution fixed onto prayer cards."

Relics have been venerated in the Church since the earliest centuries of its history because they evoke the memory of the person honored and are thought to put one in closer contact with the virtues of that saint.

The largest collection of relics belongs to the Vatican and is kept at a convent adjacent to the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome. The practice of making relics generally available to the public, particularly first-class relics, ended about 20 years ago at the insistence of the Vatican.

Today, you can apply to the Vatican for a specific relic only with a letter of permission from your bishop and only if the relic will be used for a church altar or other public purpose. The private ownership, especially of first-class relics, is highly discouraged since it is seen as limiting the evangelizing effect of the saint's memory.

Occasionally, second- or third-class relics can be obtained by contacting the religious order or shrine of a particular saint. The national shrine of St. Rita of Cascia is in Philadelphia, and the shrine of St. John Mary Vianney is in Ars-sur-Formans in France. If these shrines are unable to provide you with relics, they can at least offer you devotional material on the saints and information about their lives.

The Church's Code of Canon Law says specifically and strongly that "it is absolutely forbidden to sell sacred relics" (#1190). When relics are obtained, there is often a charge for the metal container encasing the relic and for mailing costs, but not for the relic itself. †

Poem submissions—including name, address, parish and a telephone number—may be mailed to "My Journey to God," The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367, or e-mailed to nhoefer@archindy.org

My Journey to God

Live in The Light

By Gayle Schrank

Be careful what you look for
That is what you will become
Our helping hands have become fearful
America's focus is more than guns

We are a nation with big hearts
Perhaps we have lost our way
We must have confidence in one another
If we are going to have better days

Look for the good around you
Splendor and beauty are everywhere
Let us lift the hearts of one another
Serve in love and grow in care

Laws will not change our hearts
Trusting in goodness is how we heal
Do not let your heart become hardened
God's love is gentle, merciful and real

We are each part of history
Our great land is bursting with life
The power of love should be our focus
Freed from darkness, let's live in the light

(Gayle Schrank is a member of St. Mary Parish in Navilleton. Photo: A lantern containing a flame transferred from the International Peace Light is seen during a welcoming ceremony at John F. Kennedy International Airport in Jamaica, N.Y., from Vienna on Dec. 11, 2021.) (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)



Rest in peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in *The Criterion*. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.

ARTEAGA, Jr., Santiago, 49, St. Anthony, Indianapolis, June 10. Husband of Maria Arteaga. Father of Sophia, Aidan, Jacob and Santiago Arteaga III. Son of Santiago and Ignacia Arteaga. Brother of Manuela Christner, Noemi Pinkston, Yolanda and Raudel Arteaga.

BEAGLE, Ray F., 89, St. Mary, Greensburg, June 12. Father of Karen Meyer, Kathy Porter, Chris and Rick Beagle. Brother of Trudy Martin. Grandfather of 11. Great-grandfather of seven.

BEECHLER, Thomas A., 61, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, June 5. Husband of Chris Beechler. Father of Brent and Brian Beechler. Son of Ron Beechler. Brother of Bruce and David Beechler. Grandfather of three.

BURKE, John J., 90, St. Jude, Indianapolis, June 1. Husband of Nancy Burke. Father of Benedictine Father Adrian, Christopher, James, Patrick and William Burke. Grandfather of seven. Great-grandfather of three.

CHAMBERLIN, Michael, 68, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, June 5. Father of Abigail and Mary Chamberlin, Melissa Gussak, Amber Stephon and Michelle Winegar. Brother of Teresa

Holm, Julie Kimberly, Jamie Pate, Becky Ryles and Art Chamberlin. Grandfather of 11.

FERRIELL, Joseph, 95, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, May 22. Husband of Jeannine Ferriell. Father of Rae Ferriell-Woolpy, Jane Risinger, Mike and Philip Ferriell. Brother of Johnny Ferriell. Grandfather of 11. Great-grandfather of 17.

FISHER, John, 79, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, June 6. Husband of Carolyn Fisher. Father of David and Mark Fisher. Brother of Bob Fisher. Grandfather of seven.

FLOOD, Kenneth, 91, Holy Family, New Albany, June 6. Father of Dolores Carpenter, Robin Crimm, Theresa, Kenneth, Jr., and Patrick Flood. Grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather of several.

HUBLAR, David M., 79, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, May 29. Brother of Joyce Hatfield, Margaret Sand and Alfred Hublar, Jr. Uncle and great-uncle of several.

MANUEL DESALES, Melissa, 35, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, May 14. Mother of Bafret, Darsaekt and Yuritzi. Daughter of Blanca Flor Desales Rios. Sister of Darsaekt and Edwin Manuel Desales.

MCDONALD, Mary F., 87, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, June 6. Mother of Kathleen Kuhn, Nancy Steadham, Judy Zied, Eddie, Jimmy and Sean McDonald. Sister of Judy Siegener and Pat O'Donnell. Grandmother of 19. Great-grandmother of one.

PEAK, Gertrude, 93, St. Mary, New Albany, June 5. Mother of Michele Lewallen, Louis, Jr., and Wilber Peak. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of 13.

RUIZ JIMENEZ, Maribel, 43, St. Mary, New Albany, May 26. Mother of Anahi, Elizabeth, Guadalupe and Jahir Cruz, Arizbeth, Emely, Gabriel and Oscar Gutierrez. Sister of Jaime Ruiz Jimenez. Grandmother of three.

SCHAEFER, Eileen, 88, St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, May 26. Mother of Diane Hoffman, Janice Welp, Brian, Kent and Randall Schaefer. Sister of Betty Hanselman. Grandmother of 16. Great-grandmother of 10.

SCHAFER, Mary M., 62, Prince of Peace, Madison, June 5. Daughter of Mary Schafer. Sister of Benedictine Sister Mary Francis, Rose Marie and Carl Schafer. Aunt of several.

SMITH, Mildred C., 94, St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, May 16. Mother of Patricia Hutton, Larry and Tim Smith. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of 15. Great-great-grandmother of one.

SMITH, Samuel, 79, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, May 18. Husband of Helen Smith. Father of Samuel Smith, Jr. Brother of Don Smith. Grandfather of three.

SNELZ, Elizabeth, 96, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, June 6. Mother of Janet Haddix, Angela, Joan, Edward and Eric Snelz. Sister of Robert Hinch. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of five. Great-great-grandmother of one.

VOGEL, John A., 73, St. Ambrose, Seymour, June 9. Husband of Joyce Vogel. Father of Jennifer, James and John Vogel. Brother of Nicholas Vogel.

WATERS, Jeffrey M., 59, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, June 8. Husband of Tammy Waters. Father of Cortney Fulcher and Jennifer Harmon. Stepfather of Sydney Nowakowski. Brother of Debbie Fulcher. Grandfather of six.

WAUGH, Jr., Robert, 72, St. Jude, Indianapolis, June 6. Husband of Jean Waugh. Father of Angie DiDicco, Bob, Dan, Pat and T.J. Waugh. Brother of Mary Burke, Jim, Joe, Larry Mike and Steve Waugh. Grandfather of 17. Great-grandfather of seven.

WILSON, Kevin A., 71, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood, June 1. Husband of Sue Wilson. Father of Jacqueline, Jeremy and Joshua Wilson. Grandfather of seven. †

Honoring St. Bernadette



Chris Berner holds up prayer cards on June 14 against a glass case containing first-class relics of St. Bernadette Soubirous at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in De Pere, Wis. St. Bernadette (1844-1879) was the Marian visionary of Lourdes, France. In 1858, she experienced 18 visions of Mary, who called herself the Immaculate Conception. (CNS photo/Sam Lucero, *The Compass*)

Catholic school in Uvalde is reaching out to help community heal

WASHINGTON (CNS)—When schools close for the summer, their websites and Facebook pages often get pretty quiet too.

That's not the case for Sacred Heart School in Uvalde, Texas, established in 1913 by the Teresian Sisters.

The first image on the school's website is a map of Texas with children's handprints and the message "Uvalde Strong" with a moving banner underneath that

says: "Pray for Uvalde."

Since the last day of school in late May, the school's Facebook page has had frequent posts. These posts—without directly mentioning the May 24 mass shooting that occurred just a few miles away at Robb Elementary School—tell the story of how this school is reaching out to the local community while dealing with its own loss and heartbreak.

On May 20, the pre-K through seventh-grade school posted photos of its own graduates, followed by a post three days later of local graduating high school seniors who came back to visit their former elementary school dressed in graduation caps and gowns.

The images of visiting graduates and current students, along with accompanying words of encouragement for them, were posted just a day before the mass shooting by a teenage gunman, who killed 19 children and two teachers at the nearby public elementary school.

Sacred Heart's Facebook posts in the days since that shooting are somber reminders that everything has changed. There were no pictures from the last day of school or notes about keeping up with summer reading.

Instead, the school has posted information on the availability of counselors at the school and free child care services for families attending a funeral Mass. It also posted reminders of "Wellness Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic School" with games, art and counseling services for children and families.

"This will be a space of grace for healing hearts," one post said.

The school also announced it would have a rock painting table at a "Uvalde Strong Wellness and Resource Fair" taking place at a local junior college.

And on June 16, the school posted photos of the installation of a comprehensive security system at the school—donated by the security company Covergint

Technologies—with security cameras, magnetic locks, a key card system and wiring and hardware throughout the school.

Several families, including those with students from Robb Elementary, have said they would like their children to attend Sacred Heart School in the fall. Six families have already enrolled their children as of early June, according to the San Antonio Archdiocese, and dozens more have picked up enrollment packets or scheduled tours.

The main questions they have are about security measures in place, help for tuition cost and availability of counselors.

There are currently 55 elementary school students at Sacred Heart School, but the school has room for 170.

"Additional funds will allow us to ease the anxiety our families will face coming back to school this fall," said Joseph Olan, Sacred Heart's principal.

"With a more secure facility, tuition support and counseling staff, we can more fully embrace additional children and their families who have experienced this horrific tragedy," he said in a statement.

Convergent Technologies, with its donated \$42,000 security package, was an initial contributor.

"We have a corporate culture of service, but this project was an incredibly special mission. It was a humbling experience, and a very special day of giving back for our team," said Rick Alexander, the company's general manager.

The San Antonio Archdiocese is seeking additional funding for safety and security measures, tuition assistance and counseling services for Uvalde families in need of immediate care and a commitment for long-term support. To help in this effort go to www.givecentral.org/SacredHeartUvalde or text the word "Uvalde" to 210-750-6712. †

Online Lay Ministry Formation

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has partnered with the University of Notre Dame and Catholic Distance University (CDU) to offer not-for-credit online theology classes:

- Earn certificate in Lay Ministry
- Complete 12 courses online with ND STEP program
- CDU offers classes on Catechism of the Catholic Church
- 20% discount for all employees, volunteers, and parishioners

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



REPORT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT NOW

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct by a person ministering on behalf of the Church, or if you know of anyone who has been a victim of such misconduct, please contact the archdiocesan victim assistance coordinator. There are two ways to make a report:

- 1 Ethics Point**
Confidential, Online Reporting
www.archdioceseofindianapolis.ethicspoint.com or 888-393-6810
- 2 Victim Assistance Coordinator**, Archdiocese of Indianapolis
P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410
317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548
victimassistance@archindy.org

Investing with Faith/Kimberly Pohovey

Communicate with charity when considering a gift of property

Stocks, real estate, grain, vehicles, treasured jewelry and works of art—through the years people have made all kinds of gifts to charity. And while such donations can be a source of valuable support, it's also important to recognize that not every charitable organization can benefit from gifts of property—or even be able to accept them.



The Archdiocese of Indianapolis and all our agencies and entities are governed by a gift acceptance policy, which provides requirements for appraising the value of potential donations and ensures that a donor's generosity will provide the intended recipient with a genuine benefit.

That almost always means that the archdiocese will work to liquidate gifts of property as expeditiously as possible, so that much-needed support can reach the people we serve.

Some property gifts are more complicated than others, especially in terms of tax regulations and reporting.

Recently, a generous donor gave \$30,000 of gold coins to a parish. During the process of liquidating this gift, the archdiocese and parish had to follow IRS requirements in reporting the gift, and it was incumbent on the donor to claim the tax deduction with the IRS as well. On the other hand, a farmer's gift of grain through a liquidating distributor is relatively simple. And yes, sometimes a used vehicle can find its way to an agency that needs one.

Of course, donors may also benefit from a gift of property.

For example, when it comes to marketable securities like stock, donors receive an income tax charitable deduction that is based on the full market value of the gift, not on the original investment. The deduction for long-term appreciated securities cannot exceed 30% of adjusted gross income, but any additional value can be carried over and deducted for up to five years. In addition, a charitable gift is not subject to capital gains tax.

If you are considering giving something you own to benefit your favorite parish, school, agency or archdiocesan ministry, it is always best to contact that organization first to determine whether what you intend to give can be accepted. And you should always contact your own financial advisor to determine which available tax benefits may be best for you.

Of course, the Catholic Community Foundation is happy to provide information and guidance about how your gift can be most effective for those you want to support. Contact ccf@archindy.org to learn more.

(Kimberly Pohovey is the director of major and planned gifts for the archdiocese. Tax or legal information provided herein is not intended as tax or legal advice. Always consult with your legal, tax or financial advisors before implementing any gift plan. If you would like to learn more about including your parish in your estate plans, please contact us any time. We exist to exclusively serve you and your parish in planned giving. For more information on the CCF, visit www.archindy.org/CCF, e-mail ccf@archindy.org, or call 317-236-1482.) †

Schneck, former CUA professor, named to religious freedom commission

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Stephen Schneck, a Catholic activist and retired professor, was appointed on June 15 by President Joe Biden to serve on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, an independent federal watchdog group that monitors religious freedom violations.

In a tweet that day announcing his new role, Schneck said he was "honored by the appointment to engage in this critical work."

He also told Catholic News Service (CNS) in a June 15 e-mail that he was grateful to be appointed to this work and said that as a Catholic, his understanding of Church teaching on "social justice, solidarity, the common good and peace building can only help in better understanding" ongoing challenges to religious freedom in today's world.

"Let me stress that the work of the commission is nonpartisan," he said, adding that its "clients" are the persecuted religious believers of the world."

Schneck said the commission's job is to "plead the case of these persecuted to the president and Congress. And, at this moment, the situation for religious freedom is very much jeopardized in dozens of nations by war, ethnic strife

and by a spreading political attitude that demonizes those who are deemed 'different.'"

The commission was formed in 1998 to monitor religious freedom violations worldwide and make recommendations to the president, State Department and Congress, which it does in annual reports.

This year's report, documenting religious freedom violations in several countries in 2021, highlighted 15 countries of particular concern: Myanmar, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, Syria and Vietnam.

It also put another 12 countries on a watch list, urging the U.S. government to respond with sanctions and other tools to hold perpetrators accountable.

Schneck was described in the White House biography material as a "political philosopher by training." He retired from The Catholic University of America in 2017, after more than 30 years as a professor, department chair and dean. He also was the founder and longtime director of the university's Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies.

He currently serves on the governing boards of the Catholic Climate Covenant,

which advocates for environmental justice and care for creation, and the Catholic Mobilizing Network, an organization that seeks an end to the death penalty and promotes restorative justice.

Previously, he was executive director of Franciscan Action Network, advocating on justice issues for Franciscan communities in the U.S.

When he retired from Catholic University, Schneck told CNS that he wanted to find new ways to emphasize that politics must be a moral endeavor working for the common good, stressing

that he hoped to bridge the polarizing gaps across political party lines and within the Church.

"If we can't figure out a way to achieve solidarity or find a way of healing this rift, then I worry profoundly about both American political life and our Church," he said.

"This I think is the biggest task, the biggest challenge facing us. There are lots of challenges, but none of those challenges can be addressed until we address this and find a way to work together with one another." †

Employment

Coordinator of Young Adult & Youth Ministry (CYM)

St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour, IN is seeking a creative and energetic individual to serve as a Coordinator of Young Adult & Youth Ministry (CYM). This is a full-time position requiring office hours, evening, and occasional weekend hours.

The coordinator of youth ministry (CYM) will be responsible for evaluating, planning, implementing, and administering St. Ambrose's ministry to young people from 9th through 12th grades as well as young adults (18-30). This includes high school sessions (weekly or bi-weekly gatherings), monthly activities, catechesis and sacramental preparation (confirmation).

Candidates must be a fully initiated practicing Roman Catholic. Preference will be given to candidates with an academic degree in theology or a related field. A longer job description may be found on the parish website, stambroseseymour.org.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, with a resume and any other relevant documentation via email to:

office@stambroseseymour.org.

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.

Classified Directory

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Roncalli's softball team is state champion, No. 1 in the nation

By John Shaughnessy

The achievements are staggering for the softball team of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

The Royals are ranked No. 1 in the nation.

Their star pitcher, Keagan Rothrock, is the national high school player of the year in the sport.

And on June 11, the team earned its second straight Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 4A state championship, capping off a perfect season of winning all of its 33 games by beating the team from Harrison High School 16-0.

Yet, to understand the true essence of the team, head coach David Lauck offers a defining and touching moment from the last inning of the state championship game.

As the Royals came to bat, Keagan was scheduled as the leadoff hitter. But Lauck told her he was putting in senior Ally Walesky as a pinch-hitter for her. And Keagan couldn't have been more thrilled.

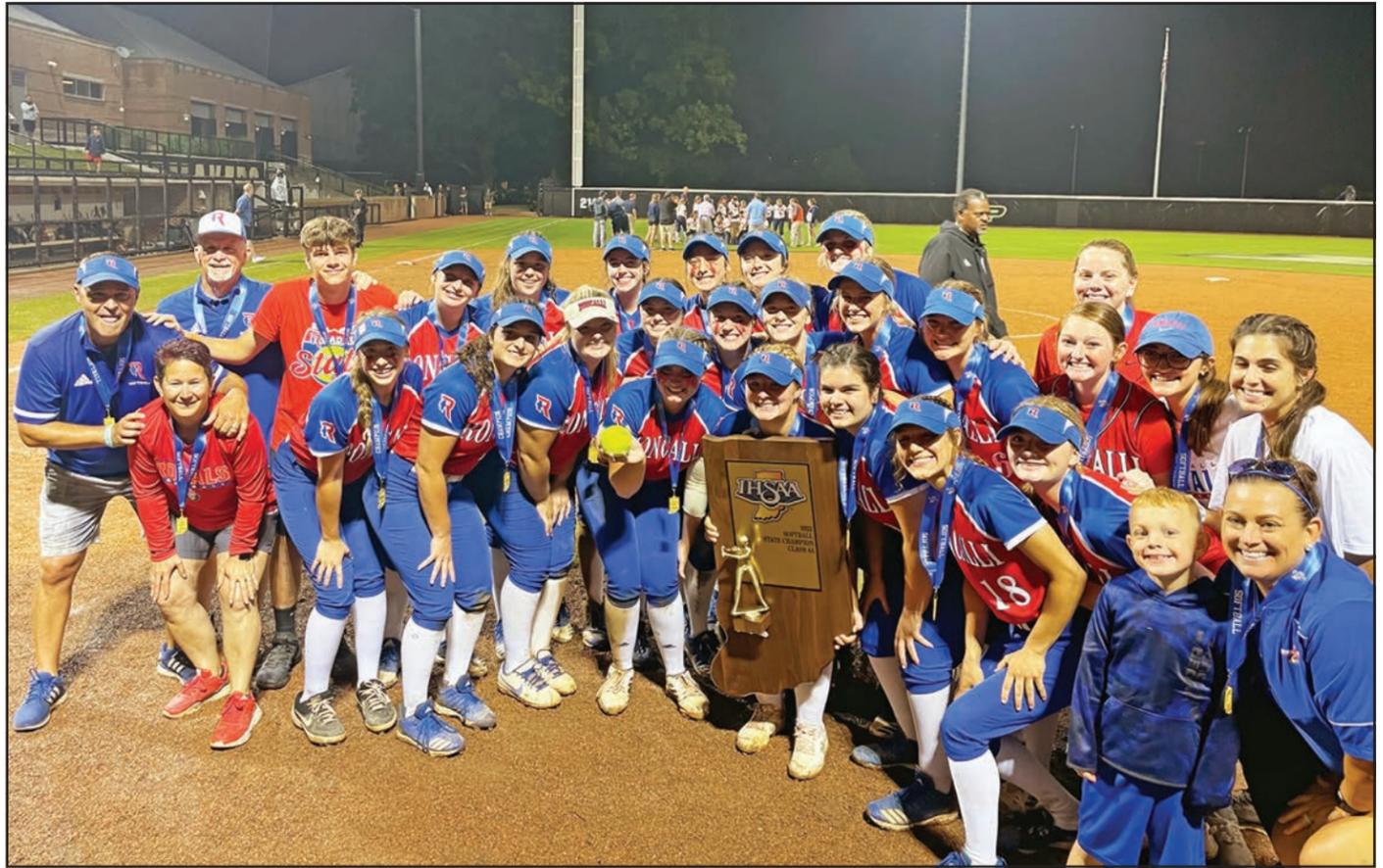
Last year, Keagan and Ally formed a close bond as the team's main pitcher and catcher, and Ally was the hero of the 2021 state championship game, hitting two home runs to lead the Royals. But after one game this year, Ally tore a knee ligament and she has spent the rest of her senior season watching others play the game she loves—until Lauck told her she was pinch-hitting.

"She comes up, and everyone in the dugout is crying, and she gets a standing ovation from our fans," Lauck recalls.

There would be no fairytale ending to the at-bat as Ally scorched a line drive into center field that was caught, but her return to the dugout was magical.

"When she came back to the dugout, everyone hugged her and embraced her," Lauck says. "It showed how beloved she is. That was a special moment. To celebrate her and see her teammates rally around her is what this team is all about."

As close as the Royals are, they are also dominant. In the seven games they played in the state tournament, they outscored their opponents 60-5. Part of that dominance is a reflection of the team's talent, drive and leadership—qualities that the Royals' five seniors have in abundance, Lauck says. Besides Ally, the group includes Tori Candler, Kylie Freije, Courtney Keller and Cate Lehner.



The members of the softball team of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis celebrate their state championship on June 11, after beating the team from Harrison High School, 16-0. (Submitted photo)

"Just a hard-working, fun group of leaders that really bought in—early in their high school careers—of doing whatever we needed," their coach says. "They're the leaders of the program that have won 46 straight games."

Lauck also praises his star pitcher, describing Keagan, a junior, as "a dream to coach."

"When your best player is your hardest worker and your best leader, it goes a long way."

Still, there's always the challenge as a coach to keep a team motivated and focused, especially when the team is ranked No. 1 in the nation and every opponent is motivated and focused to ruin that ranking. Lauck adopted two main strategies to keep the Royals from getting complacent.

"As the No. 1 team in the country with an undefeated record, you have a target on your back," he says. "We worked a lot on trying to maintain an 'underdog' mentality. That was one of our mottos—to

work and play as an underdog."

Another part of the success equation was the coaching staff's efforts to keep the joy in the game, an approach that came into play again three days before the state championship.

That's when Lauck invited all the people who have supported the team—Roncalli students, administrators, family members, friends and grade school children who view the players as their heroes—to come to a practice to celebrate with the girls.

"It was our way to give back," says Lauck, a 1994 Roncalli graduate who has won 330 of the 400 games he has coached for his alma mater. "It was standing-room only. After 30 minutes of practicing, our players started taking pictures and signing autographs. We opened up the field. We opened up the dugout, and we turned on the music and celebrated with the community. This team has captured the hearts of our school and our community."

Three days later, the team captured

its second straight state championship.

In doing so, they made Lauck just the fourth coach in Indiana's high school softball history to win at least three state championships, including Roncalli's 2012 team.

Deflecting the attention from himself, Lauck views the success as a combination of the commitment of the coaches, players and the families of the players, plus the support of the administration, the student body and the community.

"Mostly it's about the belief of building a team and playing for the team instead of for themselves," he says. "Being united has always been one of the key things we talk about."

"What stands out the most about this team is the camaraderie and the togetherness they have. There's also their toughness, and their skill and ability level were exceptional. And they were just a fun-loving group. You combine having fun and add in some love there, and that's a recipe for a successful season." †

Justice Department urged to address violent attacks on pro-life centers

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The Biden administration's "relative silence" over a growing number of attacks on churches, pregnancy resource centers and pro-life organizations over the abortion issue "endangers Americans even more," said a coalition of pro-life and faith leaders.

In a letter released on June 16, the leaders called on the U.S. Department of Justice to publicly condemn the attacks, "commit to vigorous efforts to prevent them, and to investigate and prosecute them."

The letter to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland and Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke was signed by about 30 leaders "representing millions of Americans."

The pro-life leaders acknowledged the FBI was "assisting at least one affected religious organization on this matter," and they said they were aware "through media reports" the agency was "at least investigating the firebombing" of a pro-life center in Madison, Wis.

"However, the severity of the situation calls for your leadership," they wrote Garland and Clarke. "This continued assault on religious and pro-life groups because of their beliefs is a manifest injustice that requires prompt, comprehensive and public response."

They urged the Justice Department "to proactively engage with the affected faith communities to ensure their concerns and security needs are being met," and they requested a meeting with Garland's office as well as the department's Civil Rights Division "to discuss what plans are in the likelihood these attacks will intensify."

A day before the pro-life coalition released its letter, more than 100 House Republicans sent a similar letter to Garland, calling on the Justice Department to investigate these incidents "as acts of domestic terrorism."

In a response to the lawmakers' letter, the FBI issued a statement to news outlets on June 16 saying the agency

is investigating "a series of attacks and threats targeting pregnancy resource centers and faith-based organizations across the country."

"The FBI takes all threats seriously, and we continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners and will remain vigilant to protect our communities," a spokesperson for the FBI's national press office told the *Washington Examiner*.

The coalition of pro-life leaders who wrote to Garland and Clarke was organized by CatholicVote, a political advocacy group.

Among the letter's signatories were Greg Schlessenbach, associate director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities; Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund; Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life Action; and Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America.

Citing a tally by the USCCB's Committee for Religious Liberty, their letter noted that from May 2020 to October 2021, there were at least 100 incidents of arson, vandalism and other destruction at Catholic sites across the United States.

"In December of last year, the Department of Justice was asked how it was investigating the repeated attacks on churches in the United States," the letter said. "The attorney general was also asked to investigate those complaints and take appropriate action as is your duty. Since that request there has been public silence."

The pace of attacks has been stepped up to include pro-life centers as targets, it noted, since the May 2 publication of a leaked draft version of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito's opinion in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case.

The draft suggested the Supreme Court could overturn

Roe v. Wade, the court's 1973 decision which legalized abortion nationwide, in its ruling in the *Dobbs* case concerning a Mississippi ban on most abortions after 15 weeks.

As *The Criterion* went to press on June 21, the *Dobbs* ruling had not yet been handed down. But one group in particular has declared "open season" on pro-life pregnancy centers: Jane's Revenge, described as a "radical pro-abortion" organization.

On June 13, the chairmen of the U.S. bishops' religious liberty and pro-life committees pleaded for an end to attacks on pro-life centers and churches.

In their June 16 letter, the coalition of pro-life leaders highlighted some of these recent attacks.

Like the Wisconsin pro-life center, a Keizer, Ore., pro-life center has been firebombed "as well as a pregnancy care center [near] Buffalo, N.Y.," they said. "Seventeen churches or pro-life organizations have been vandalized with pro-abortion or anti-religious slogans."

"Among those, a tiny Black Baptist church in rural Mississippi was spray-painted with depictions of rape, and four churches in Olympia, Wash., were vandalized on the same day with phrases like 'abort the church,'" it continued. "A recurring slogan has been: 'If abortions aren't safe, then neither are you.'"

"Religious liberty is a foundational principle of enduring importance in America, enshrined in our Constitution and other sources of federal law," the letter continued. "It is a precondition of a flourishing civil society where citizens of shared beliefs or convictions freely come together to meet their communities' needs, as through the efforts of pregnancy help centers to support expecting moms."

"And it has no more basic embodiment than the right to worship free from fear." †