Archbishop issues statement on gun violence

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

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.
Seeking 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, 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 sustaining action of the Lord.”

“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, 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.”

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 4.5 million people 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.

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’s 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. Malachi 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 could’nt 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 littlefloraldevotions.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)

The monks, students, faculty and Permanent Deacon Formation Office of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology congratulate the new permanent deacons of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Helping with your formation has been a blessing to us.

United in the Eucharist

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07/08/22 07/08/22

The Criterion Friday, June 24, 2022  Page 3
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 Catholicnews.com)

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.

Be Our Guests/Greg Erlandon

Appreciating good homilies

Here’s an answer to that should 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 meeting that evaluates Catholic priests practicing Catholic has probably thought about, usually while listening to a sermon.

Talking to a group of Sicilian clergy once, 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 addressed a need for better 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 interview with the media. Without the anointing of the Spirit, it impoverishes the word of God and descends to moralistic and abstract concepts; it presents the Gospel with detachment, as if it were outside time, far from humanity.”

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 a homily that is grist for the mill. But what makes a good homily?

One of the first things to look for in a homily is the ‘art of prayer,’ not simply the words said. It’s about when, how and in what spirit the Gospel is proclaimed and the message is shared.

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El Sagrado Corazón de Jesús nos alimenta con la Eucaristía

“Los planes del Señor quedan firmes para siempre; los desigualches de su mente son eternos. Él los libera 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 hermanos y hermanas.

Uno de los pasajes más conocidos y citados del Nuevo Testamento es: “Porque de tal manera amó 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 profusamente generoso surge la misericordia, la compasión, la curación y el tipo de paz que no es temporal ni intermitente, sino permanente y profundo” (Lc 15:4-7).

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 vivo 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, reíne 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 en el cielo por un solo pecador que se arrepiente 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 y hermanas, y en la Eucaristía.

San Pablo nos recuerda que “esta esperanza no es defraudada, 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). Podamos 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 su mismo en la Sagrada Eucaristía.
June 27

The Villages of Indiana online.

Virtual Information Night, 6-8 p.m., for those interested in becoming a foster parent. Free. Information and registration: 317-775-6508 or cutti.hivessuburg.org.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5831 E. Circle Drive, Indianapolis. 30 Years in Uganda: An Evening of Stories and Blessings with Sherry Meyer, 6-9 p.m., prayers, songs, stories, handcrafts to purchase, free will donation. Information and registration: 317-432-0056, sherry.m.arua@gmail.com.

June 30

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7225 Southeast Ave. 30 Years in Uganda: An Evening of Stories and Blessings with Sherry Meyer, 6-9 p.m., prayers, songs, stories, handcrafts to purchase, free will donation. Information and registration: 317-775-7039, marss11@hotmail.com.

July

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 5-5:45 p.m. followed by adoration until 9 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation available. Information: 317-750-7369, marss11@hotmail.com.

July 2-3

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

July 4

Fishers Park (near fishing dock), 1100 Girl Scout Ln., Terre Haute. Wabash Valley Rubber Duck Regatta, 7 p.m., benefiting 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@brace.com.

July 6

MCi, Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis. Solo Seniors, 5:30 p.m., Catholic, educational, charitible 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, raffle, parking shuttle available at 7140 E. Washington St., free wrist bands provided to parishioners after 5:30 p.m., non-parishioners $10 in festival ticket admissions, children younger than 12 free. Information: holyspiritfestival.org, festival@holyspiritindy.com or 317-535-9404.

July 12

Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1st of Providence, Saint Mary of the Woods, Taizé Prayer at the Woods, 7-8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence, virtual option available at calvitr.net. Information: 812-552-9642, rosser@smw.org.

July 13


July 14-16

St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, 535 E. Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis. FunFest, Thurs. 6-11 p.m. Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 11 p.m.-midnight, rides, $5,000 cash raffle, live music, beer garden, bingo, Monte Carlo, raffle raffles. Sat. fried chicken dinner, free for children.

July 15

Northside Event and Social Club, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. Catholic Business Exchange, presenter TB, rosary 6:45 a.m., Mass 7 a.m., buffet breakfast and program following, $18 members, $20 non-members. Register by 4 p.m. on July 4. Information and registration: call@CBE-REE.org.

July 16-17

All Saints Parish, St. John the Baptist Campus, 25734 State Route 1, Guildford. Summer Festival, Sat. 5-11 p.m., Sun. by music by Yorkville Boys, Sun. music by Mary Morris, raffles, beer garden, lunch stand, kidlet food, stalls, country store, face-painting experience. Eucharistic miracles, chicken dinner served Sun. beginning at 11 a.m., free admission. Information: 812-576-4302.

July 18

St. Theodore Bowman Black Catholic Women Monthly Prayer Gathering, via Zoom, third Monday of each month, sponsored by archdiocese Black Catholic Mass, 7 p.m. Join meeting calvitr.net/ThesPrayerMeeting. Meeting ID: 510 3567 0664 or dial in 301-715-8592. Information: Pealle Green, pagreening@archindy.org or 317-236-1474.

July 20

Calvary Mausoleum Church, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. Monthly Mass, 2 p.m. Information: 317-784-4491 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

July 21

St. Joseph Church, 1401 S. McCleary Ave., Indianapolis. Third Thursday Adoration, interceding for women and family during pregnancy, Mass 11 a.m.-7 p.m., with Mass at 5:45 p.m. Information: 317-244-9902. Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 3001 Haverstock Road, Indianapolis. Monthly Mass, 2 p.m. Information: 317-784-8988 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, 5 p.m. reception at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, 1401 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Free. Information and registration: cemons.archindy.org or call/tell@archindy.net.

July 24

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 520 S. Stevens St., Indianapolis. Faithful Citizens Rosary Walk, 10-11 a.m., meet in front of church. Information: faithfulcitizens2016@gmail.com.

July 30

Little Flower School cafeteria, 1-817 S. Michigan St., Indianapolis. St. Francis de Sales Parish/School Reunion, 1-5 p.m., food and fellowship, $20 advance or $25 at door. Information: 317-432-2887, pamelas_courts@yahoo.com.

August

August 7

Newspaper ads for this week and next.

For a list of events for the next four weeks as reported to The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/events.
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 suffering and dying in a way that glorifies God.”

“I feel I have a purpose after I die—that I’ll be home with God always makes the first move—inspiring us to lovingly reveal about himself) can do 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 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 for God to 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 and Mary.”

Her tears flow again.

“I told you I was prone to crying.”

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, or by using the contact information at

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Becoming better

The grandmas of one child also hold a special place in her heart—Christ Renews His Parish retreat at Holy Family in 2001. Shaw was among the 100 or so that attended an intergenerational retreat, “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.

“At some point in 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.”

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Ken Ogorak, 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 Hoefer

As Archbishop Charles C. Thompson steered the archdiocese through the most challenging times of the pandemic, giving through various appeals and foundations helped keep the ministries and mission of our archdiocese moving forward. In 2022, we celebrated the Catholic Community Foundation and devotion to the annual United Catholic Appeal with a Circle of Giving event to celebrate the good work we all do in the name of Jesus Christ.

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, principals, and teachers on issues as they arise. We assist our schools with Choice Scholarships and other government programs and regulations.

“One of the great things that we live through the Catholic Community Foundation is the Teacher Catechetical 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 cross-discipline 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

“Ours 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 engaged in the spiritual and moral education of children and youth in the archdiocese. They are supported by the archdiocesan Catechetical Department headed by Msgr. F. Stumpf, who provide training and support.

“Archbishop Thompson prays that the next generation of catechists will be well-trained, properly supported, and fully equipped to pass on the Catholic faith to young people. That is our mission as catechetical leaders in the archdiocese, and the TCE grant helps us in that effort.”

Ellen Sanders, director of mission advancement for archdiocesan education initiatives

“Donations to the United Catholic Appeal and the Catholic Community Foundation help us support the formation of future priests and provide funding for other archdiocesan initiatives.

“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 ministries relevant and successful.”

Women Advenit Reflection. They also help us to inspire Black Catholic men to live a life of prayer and ministry to the needs of others. The events they participate in are designed to help Black Catholic men and women learn more about their faith and the church’s mission. Additionally, we are working to provide resources and support to Black Catholic schools in the archdiocese.

Ken Ogorek, director of education initiatives

“Archbishop Thompson strongly encourages us to support the Black Catholic Ministry and the work they do.

“With your support, we can continue to provide the Black Catholic Ministry with the resources they need to continue to serve our community.”

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

Compiled by Natalie Hoefer

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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.

“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 Todd Goodson, pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 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.”

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)

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.”

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 Merit Sahayam, center, and Minh Quang Duong. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

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)

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)

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

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)

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)

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

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)

Father Patrick Beidelman gives Communion to Tammy 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)

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)

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)

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)

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

continued from page 1

Take this gift into your heart and your soul.
Take it 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 worked 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 Archdiocese of Indianapolis' 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 Tominson 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, Javeena 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 love 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 gloved 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 looking 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 Sacamamboy 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 me 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.”

Sacamamboy 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, 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.”

Nearly 1,000 worshipers 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)
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 arrebatabado cruelmente vidas inocentes, incluidas las de niños pequeños. Estas tragedias inescrutables 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.”

Como ciudadanos responsables procedentes de diversas comunidades del centro y sur de Indiana, compartimos el grave 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 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—in 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 acceso 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 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: “Aqui 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. Asimismo, 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 tiene 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.

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

ARCHBISHOP
continued from page 1

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 inured to 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

• 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.

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.
If it is not possible to e-mail a photo, a photo can be mailed with the bottom line: alewis@archindy.org. Subject line: Fall Marriage (Last name). In the e-mail, please include your phone number and daytime phone number. 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:

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:

All announcements and photos must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 15, 2022. No announcements or photos will be accepted after this date.

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 July 31, 2022, in a marriage that is recognized as a valid sacramental or valid natural marriage, are invited to submit the information for the upcoming July 29 Fall Marriage Edition.

Marriage Announcements

Use this form to furnish information by mail:

City and mail to: BEYOND, Suite 900, 124 N. Capitol Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Contact person furnishing information:

Relationship:

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

By Mary DeTurris 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 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 the answers to all the questions—that is the uncertainty, then this is not good. For me, 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 heaven, there is such convicting 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.

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)

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.
From start to finish, criminal cases have several steps themselves at any hearing or trial. Reasonable doubt means, in simple
terms, that a judge or jury must find a
guilty of a crime unless they are
"firmly convinced" of the
defendant’s guilt. The person
cannot be convicted; and the right to remain
silent and not be forced to testify against

Interest: who is your prison supervisor?

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

Richard Hoving, a member of
St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville,
has taken over the coordinator’s role for
volunteers at the prison.

To contact Hoving, call 731-723-7856
or e-mail him at thoving@indy.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
garbled, the more we lose the ability to hear and speak at all. A
colleague speaks from the back of the room, and the silence of
its presence, and the silence of probable cause to believe that
the person committed the crime, then the person will be
brought into custody. Probable cause is defined as a reasonable
ground for belief that the offense has been committed.

That police agency prepares a report, which
is then sent the following day to the prosecutor.
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 the defendant, can make a
probable cause determination must be
made to issue a warrant for the 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. If the accused is arrested on a
warrant, they are brought before
the court in the next day or two for an
initial hearing. At this hearing, if 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 jury
trial; 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
court must state the reason for
their arrest beyond a reasonable doubt before they
can be convicted; and the right to remain
silent and not be forced to testify against

...Pushed by hurtful conversation and anger into a desert of solitude, might we receive as a gift another kind of solitude?

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 the silence of this moment as the Church’s renewal.

When I did take up that new
ministry, a fellow worker turned to me and said, "You’re 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, Christians have made processions and pilgrimages a
deep part of their public worship.

Indeed, in the Acts of the Apostles, the church of Damascus is described simply as “the Way” when St. Mary Magdalen received her conversion, was authorized to help the first Christians in Damascus (Acts 9:2).

Christians from the beginning until now have placed their lives of faith as one more step in their pilgrimage toward heaven, a solemn procession in which they make an ascent with other believers to the heavenly Father.

So why do 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 St. 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 historic St. Joseph Church.

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.

We may ask perhaps why or when might
the blossoms of faith planted in the
hearts of people walking on the sidewalks of downtown Indianapolis
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 orderly happen in more hidden ways in the lives of families, which are the fundamental building blocks of the Church.

Parents were carrying 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. Parents show their children innocence and youthful vigor, re-energize 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
our faith, form a loving household together according to Gospel principles, they can plant seeds of faith in the hearts of their neighbors, friends, students, family and co-workers.

Such a procession of faith might not be dramatic and solitary as our eucharistic procession that went through downtown Indianapolis on June 19, but it’s crucial to the successful pilgrimage of faith for the Church from one generation to the next.

So, families come 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 along.
The Sunday Readings

Sunday, June 26, 2022

- 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21
- Galatians 5:1, 13-18

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 are 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 their focus is so 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 conferment 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. Elijah to anoint Elisha. Anointings with olive oil continue in Christian liturgies.

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Summer, their websites and Facebook pages often get Catholic school in Uvalde is reaching out to help community heal. These posts—says: “Pray for Uvalde.”

Fr. Joseph Kirk, Conventual Augustinian, the principal of Robb Elementary, has said they would like their children to attend Sacred Heart School in the fall. Several 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.”

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

“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 tragic horror,” 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.

For more information, visit www.archdioceseofindiana.org/layministry/ and search for “SPRINT: Sexual Misconduct...”
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, and may come in terms of tax regulations and reporting.

Recently, a generous donor gave the Archdiocese of Indianapolis $300,000 worth of gold bullion. 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. Otherwise, the donor’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 at 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 317-268-1482.)

Schneck, former CUA professor, named to religious freedom commission

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Stephan 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 “looked forward to 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.” Schneck was described in the White House biography material as a “political philosopher by training.”

He retired from The Catholic University of America in 2018 after serving for 16 years as a professor, department chair and dean. He also was the founder and longstanding director of the university’s Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies.

He currently serves on the governing board of the Catholic Community Foundation, which advocates for environmental justice and care for creation, and the Catholic Mobilizing Network, an organization that seeks to end the death penalty and promotes restorative justice.

Previously, he was executive director of Franciscan Action Network, which advocates for 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.

“[I want to] work 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 we face. 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, evenings 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.

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

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis Technical Maintenance

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is always on the lookout for good, competent and committed maintenance technicians. We have regular turnover of maintenance personnel at the archdiocesan level as well as 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, painting and 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.

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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 Rothern, 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 Walsky as a pinch-hitter for her. And Keagan couldn’t have been more thrilled.

Lauck, a 1994 Roncalli graduate who has won 330 of the 400 games he has coached,120 of which have been state championship games,2 felt it was time to reward the team’s seniors for their hard work.

“As the No. 1 team in the country with a undefeated record, you have a target on your back,” he says. “We worked a lot 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 the last 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,” Lauck says.

“It was our way to give back,” says Lauck. A 1994 Roncalli graduate who has won 330 of the 400 games he has coached, Lauck has always been one of the key things we wang as a coach to keep a team motivated and focused, especially when the team was 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.

“At the last, the team in the country with an undefeated record, you have a target on your back,” he says. “We worked a lot trying to maintain an ‘underdog’ mentality. That was one of our mottos—to just a hard-working, fun group of players that really bought in early in their high school careers—if doing whatever we needed,” their coach says. “They’re the leaders of the program that have won 46 games.”

Lauck also praises his star pitcher, describing Keagan, a junior, as “a dream 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.

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