Monumental ruling strikes down Roe, heightens call to help moms and children

By Natalie Hoefer and John Shaughnessy

The news that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on June 24 that there is no constitutional right to abortion in the United States was greeted across the archdiocese with joy for the ruling, hope for state legislation that will protect the lives of unborn children in Indiana, and a continuing commitment to care for women, children and families.

In response to the Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, which overturned Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson issued a statement that includes this emphasis on the ruling that ends nearly 50 years of national legalized abortion:

“The Archdiocese of Indianapolis remains vigilant in its efforts to do all that it can to provide loving support to women before and after the birth of their babies regardless of creed, ethnicity or language, so that no woman ever feels alone.

“We urge all people who care about human life and the common good to prioritize the well-being of women, children and families with both material resources and personal accompaniment so that no woman ever feels forced to choose between improving her circumstances and the life of her child.”

The statement from the archbishop also calls for providing “legal protection for unborn children, protection which the Catholic Church has advocated since abortion was legalized in 1973.”

“We pray that Indiana’s General Assembly will move to provide legal protection for unborn children, protection which the Catholic Church has advocated since abortion was legalized in 1973.”

Challenges in formation cannot dampen joy of 15 new deacons

By Sean Gallagher

The 15 men whom Archbishop Charles C. Thompson ordained on June 25 as permanent deacons for service in the archdiocese have faced many challenges during the past four years of their formation for ordained ministry. These hardships include the coronavirus pandemic, which forced the men to take formation classes online and limited their ability to do pastoral ministry in hospitals, nursing homes, jails and other settings.

Yet none of these hardships could keep joy from filling SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis during the ordination liturgy.

“It’s impossible to put into words,” said Deacon Mark Schmidl of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County after the ordination Mass. “It’s relief. It is joy. It’s beyond words.”

His wife Leah Schmidl agreed. “It was joyful,” she said. “It was so moving. It was tearful.”

Although happiness ruled the day, COVID-19 still affected the liturgy. Archbishop Thompson, who had tested positive for the virus about a week earlier, had cleared quarantine two days before the liturgy. But he was still advised to wear a face mask when close to other people. So he, the men he ordained, altar servers and others all wore masks at times during the Mass.

The liturgy also happened the day after the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization in which it struck down the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that had legalized abortion across the country.

“Yesterday it was said that the ruling from the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade was no coincidence, happening on [the feast] of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,” said Archbishop Thompson in opening remarks at the Mass. “Perhaps we can say likewise that it’s no coincidence that we ordain these men today on [the feast of] the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

Challenge in formation cannot dampen joy of 15 new deacons
Washington (CNS)—In a 5-4 decision on June 24, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned its nearly 50-year-old decision in Roe v. Wade that legalized abortion in this country.

The court’s 213-page ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization emphasizes that there is no constitutional right to abortion in the United States. Abortion cases have focused on the state’s law banning abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

The court’s reversal of its long-standing abortion ruling brings abortion policy decisions to the state level. At least half of the states plan to ban or restrict abortions with this decision in place, and 13 states had trigger laws put in place set to ban abortions right away upon Roe’s reversal.

“We hold that Roe and Casey must be overruled,” Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the court’s major opinion. Planned Parenthood v. Casey is the 1992 decision that affirmed Roe.

Alito was joined by Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett.

The vote to uphold Mississippi’s abortion restriction was 6-3, with Chief Justice John Roberts voting with the majority. In a separate opinion, he said he would not have overturned the court’s Roe decision.

All writing for the majority, said, “The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision, including the one on which the defenders of Roe and Casey now rely—the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment.”

U.S. Catholic bishops who have supported a reversal of Roe immediately reacted positively to the court’s decision that came at the end of this year’s term.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) called the decision a “historic day in the life of our country,” one that strives “our thoughts, emotions and prayers.”

“We pray that our elected officials will respect laws and policies that promote and protect the most vulnerable among us,” said the June 24 statement by Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, USCCB president, and Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities.


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.

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Accompanying moms is ‘where pro-life efforts need to go’ to help them choose life

By Natalie Hoefer

With the Supreme Court striking down Roe v. Wade, the 1973 decision that legalized abortion across the nation, a legal victory has been won. But the work of compassion continues, even intensifies.

“It’s been an important effort to get Roe overturned,” said Br. Anne Varick. “That needed to happen.” But the pro-life movement has been “so stretched in our efforts the last 50 years,” added Varick, coordinator of the archdiocesan Office of Human Life and Dignity. “Now we can focus our efforts on supporting pregnant and parenting women.”

It’s an effort the Catholic Church “has always offered,” said Varick. “The problem is a lot of people don’t know what we do.”

Now more than ever, said Varick, “We need everyone to be involved in building up our already great network of support for moms in need—whether family, friend or stranger—and sharing with others about all the resources we offer, from pregnancy care centers to food pantries, to post-abortion healing ministries, to adoption, to clothing, household items, shelter and more.

“We need to get the message out that we’re here for you, we won’t abandon you, we’re here to walk with you.’

‘Support in order to choose life’

Varick discussed a few of the resources offered by the archdiocese and parishes to help pregnant and parenting moms in need.

“Gabriel Project is a good example of how to accompany women,” she said. “They have volunteers called ‘angels’ who walk with women needing support in order to choose life, taking them to doctor appointments, being with them when they go to pregnancy care centers, having conversations with them, helping them find parenting classes and material supplies and resources.”

The archdiocese’s Birthline ministry in Indianapolis is one resource moms can turn to for baby items. Another is Marie’s Community Distribution Program, a service of St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities in New Albany.

The archdiocese also offers two adoption agencies that work with both birth parents and adoptive parents—St. Elizabeth/Coleman in Indianapolis and St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities’ Adoption Bridges of Kentuckiana in New Albany.

For women, men and their family and friends hurtling from an abortion experience, the archdiocese offers the Project Rachel healing ministry, Healing Hidden Hurts and Rachel’s Vineyard are other post-abortion healing ministries offered in the archdiocese.

Moms in need can find food and household items to start a new life throughout central and southern Indiana from Catholic Charities and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Parishes lacking the personnel or a pro-life committee to gather the information might consider working with other parishes, Varick suggested.

“It can be the littlest things,” she noted. “Even just watching her baby so she can take a shower! This is something you can do for your mom friends or family.”

Helping with or creating parish ministries is another way to help moms at the local level, said Varick.

“Maybe creating or getting involved in a parish mom’s support group can help, especially for single moms,” she said. “Meal trains to help moms in a parish is another idea. Or maybe taking the initiative to start Project Rachel or Walking with Moms in your parish. A lot of parishes do baby showers or diaper drives for moms in need and take the donations to local pregnancy centers or ministries that provide layettes, diapers, formula and basic needs for babies.”

Pregnancy care centers and archdiocesan ministries helping moms in need are always seeking volunteers, said Varick.

One easy effort Varick said a friend of hers does is to “scour all sorts of places like yard sales and look for baby items to donate to Birthline. Or you could go to second-hand baby stores and ask if you can have all the clothes they don’t sell when they’re turning over seasons.”

Prayer is also an important way to help pregnant and parenting moms, she noted.

“You can do [Archbishop] Fulton Sheen’s spiritual adoption of an unborn child,” said Varick. “Have a holy hour praying for moms, our state legislators and officials, for all those who are working to help serve moms in need and for more workers in the vineyard to do that. Pray for an openness to foster care and adoption.”

For those who want to learn more about accompanying moms in need, Varick recommends the Sisters of Life’s “Into Life” video series (intolifeseries.com) as a “good formation opportunity.”

See MOMS, page 14

Baby items fill a resource room at the Women’s Care Center in Indianapolis. (File photo by Natalie Hoefer)

United Catholic Appeal

The United Catholic Appeal provides support for the five regional Catholic Charities agencies and their programs and services. More than 200,000 people benefit annually. Your support helps us provide the following services:

- family counseling
- caregiver support
- adult day services
- school social work
- hot meals
- community mental health training
- child, individual and family counseling
- emergency shelter and transitional housing
- household budgeting
- food bank and food pantries

Experience the Real Joy Together. We Can Make a Difference. Give Today!
After ‘a great victory,’ work still needs to be done

On Friday, June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States announced its decision on the question of whether individual states have the authority to limit abortion or ban the practice altogether. In its decision, authored by Justice Samuel Alito, the Court concluded:

“The Constitution does not prohibit the citizens of each state from regulating or prohibiting abortion. Roe and Casey arrogated that authority. We now overrule those decisions and return that authority to the people and their elected representatives.”

This ruling came in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, which centered on a Mississippi law that banned abortion after 15 weeks. The decision explicitly overturned Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, stating that the rulings in these earlier cases erroneously recognized a right to abortion in the U.S. Constitution.

This is a great victory for those of us who believe that abortion is the unjustified taking of a human life. We are right to rejoice and be grateful for the Court’s decision. But what do we do now? Clearly, we still have work to do. The fight to defend human life continues—now more than ever. We must fight for women with unplanned pregnancies. We must advocate for laws at both the state and federal levels that will put an end to abortion in the U.S. Constitution.

It is our serious responsibility, as citizens and as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, to work together to ensure that human life is protected at all stages. This means that we can never be indifferent to acts of violence—whether performed in a surgical room or carried out in the streets—that take away the God-given right to life. And it’s why we must take personal responsibility for what happens now that the Supreme Court ruled that the outcome of the abortion question lies in the hands of “the people and their elected representatives.”

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) called the ruling a “historic day in the life of our country.” They urged all of us to pray that our elected officials will now enact laws and policies that promote and protect the most vulnerable among us, including women, families, neighborhoods, and local communities.

Unquestionably, emotions will be extremely strong in the wake of this historic decision. While we applaud the Court’s decision, we dare not forget that many Americans—including, perhaps, family members, neighbors and local fellow citizens—will disagree with us and will work tirelessly to see laws enacted on the state and federal levels that ensure that “abortion rights” are restored.

With this in mind, all of us need to redouble our efforts to accompany women and couples who are facing difficult questions about pregnancy. Only if we are present to them and accompany them in adverse circumstances will we truly succeed in defending the human life and dignity of all.

Whatever the reactions are to this Supreme Court decision, prayer, advocacy, and assistance for those who need our support will continue to be critical to the success of the pro-life movement now and in the future. Thanks be to God, our faith assures us that the Church will never cease to do what it has always done—to pray, to work, and to serve—until the day when every human life is protected in law and welcomed in love.

—Daniel Conway

Reflection/John Shaughnessy

In a time of division, can there be a bridge that connects us?

It may be the only point that people on both sides agreed with after the Supreme Court’s decision on June 24 to end national legalized abortion in the United States.

In describing the decision, Indiana Right to Life President Mike Fichter called it a “monumentally historic ruling.”

For people who have long waited and passionately strove for the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision to be overturned, it is a time to celebrate, to give thanks, to solemnly remember the millions of lives that have been lost in the past nearly 50 years.

For people who have long believed that choosing to have an abortion is a woman’s constitutional right, it is a time of anger and mourning.

It is also a time when the increasing division in the United States is ramped up to an even more heated level, leading me to wonder if there will ever come a time when the divisions in our society can be bridged in some way.

A glimmer of hope came in another statement that Fichter made after the Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, a statement that both sides of the issue seemingly embrace.

Fichter said: “At the same time, and this is critical, we must be a state that shows support and care for pregnant mothers choosing life for their babies. That’s a key element of caring for babies and caring for moms that is critical at this moment.”

Loving when you think you can’t give anymore is the challenge of parenting. It is the challenge of this time in the United States, the continuing challenge to create a society where we all want every child to be embraced, supported and loved.

Loving when you think you can’t give anymore is also the example that Christ offered us when he suffered and died on the cross for all of us.

Loving when you think you can’t give anymore is the challenge that connects every one of us.

(John Shaughnessy is the assistant editor of The Criterion.)

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are published in The Criterion as part of the newspaper’s commitment to “the patient cultivation of a virtue of the heart: the habit of prayerfully and prayerfully, laboriously and patiently, weighing up the words and deeds of others.” In light of this and in order to encourage encouragement to our readers, frequent writers will ordinarily be asked to send letters that are more concise than 300 words. However, letters (usually less than 300 words) are more likely to be printed.

Letters are subject to editing for brevity and clarity of expression. Letters, once submitted, cannot be revoked. Letters authors retain all rights to their work. Letters should be offers that express a personal perspective and be, by nature, subject to editorial decision. Authors must offer their opinion and think their work makes a specific point.

Letters that seem to be written by someone who is a significant and deserves a response of a serious, reasons, names may be withheld. Send letters to “Letters to the Editor,” The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.

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Worship of God in the Holy Mass unites us

En esta vida, no hay mejor manera de fomentar una relación íntima con Cristo y con la Iglesia que a través del don y el misterio de la Santísima Eucaristía y de la fructífera celebración de la Misa. ("El culto a Dios en la Santa Misa nos une,")

En mi carta pastoral titulada "El culto a Dios en la Santa Misa nos une", publicada el 14 de diciembre de 2021, estableció que "la Eucaristía es el corazón de nuestra relación con Jesús, que es el Camino, la Verdad y la Vida". Fomentamos esta relación íntima con el Señor de la Vida a través de nuestra participación frecuente y ferviente en la misa. Todos los católicos que puedan asistir a la misa doméstica tienen la obligación de hacerlo. Se trata de una gran responsabilidad que se nos invita a asumir libremente como discípulos de Cristo y como miembros de la Iglesia.

En efecto, en la participación en el Santísimo Sacramento de la Misa está unida nuestra vida y el objetivo de nuestra existencia. Nuestro compromiso de estar unidos a Cristo, al Eucaristía y a nuestra parroquia signifique que somos fieles a la Iglesia como cuerpo místico de Cristo, y que incorporemos en nuestras vidas los valores de Cristo en nuestra vida diaria. Por eso, en nuestra adoración a Dios en la misa, nos llamamos a nos equipsa y se nos guía para ser discípulos misioneros en el mundo.

Los católicos aceptamos la obligación de asistir a misa los domingos y fiestas de guardar porque amamos a Dios y queremos estar cerca de El. El amor nos obliga a abandonar nuestro aislamiento y a buscar la comunión (unión íntima) con Aquel a quien amamos. Por amor, hacemos sacrificios y cosas que pueden parecer incómodas o inconvenientes. Por amor, dejamos de lado nuestros propios deseos para unirnos a Cristo, y a los demás miembros de su Iglesia, en un acto de adoración y culto que realizamos de todo corazón y sin reservas. Nada en estas reflexiones debe dar la impresión de que la participación fiel en la misa es algo fácil. Tenemos que esforzarnos en ello. Debemos ir preparados. Debemos escuchar atentamente la Palabra de Dios. Debemos participar activamente en las oraciones y en los cantos, sin dejar que pensamientos extraños nos interrumpan el acto de adoración. Y, por supuesto, debemos recibir el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo en estado de gracia y debe abrirlas nuestras mentes y corazon, permitiéndole habitar en nosotros y callamos para cumplir la voluntad de Dios.

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El culto a Dios en la Santa Misa nos une
July 4
Fairbanks Park (near fishing dock), 1100 Golf Scout Ln., Terre Haute. Washash Valley Rubber Duck Regatta, 7 p.m., benefiting Catholic Charities, $5 per duck, owner of winning duck wins $10,000 cash and chance to win $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 always, 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, live music, midway rides, festival food, beer and wine. Monte Carlo, Texas Hold ‘Em, silent auction, rummage sale, parking shuttle available at 7140 E. Washington St., free wrist bands provided to parishioners after 7 p.m., non-parishioners $10 in festival tickets admission, children younger than 12 free. Information: belovefest@indy.net or 317-353-9404.

July 12

July 13
Group Leslie 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@theobone.com

July 14-16
St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, 535 E. Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis. Funfest, Thurs. 6-11 p.m., Fri. and Sat., 11 a.m., riders, $5,000 cash raffle, live music, beer garden, bingo and Monte Carlo. Basket raffles, Sat. fried chicken dinner, free admission. Information: festival@holyspirit.cc or Information: 317-784-4439 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

July 15

July 16-17
All Saints Parish, St. John the Baptist Campus, 25743 S State Route 1, Guiford. Summer Festival, Sat. midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat., music by Yorkridge Boys, Sun., music by DD Dan Morris, raffles, beer garden, lunch stand, kiddy 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
St. 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/5CTzPrayer, meeting ID 810 5367 0684 or dial in at 301-715-8952. Information: Paulette Springer, pspringer@archindy.org or 317-236-1474.

July 20

July 24

July 26
All Saints Parish St. Martin Campus, 8044 Yorkridge Rd., Guiford. 5K Run, Sat. 9:30 a.m., register by July 19 to receive a t-shirt, $22 34 with t-shirt, $17.02 without t-shirt, register at cutt.ly/StMartin5K22. Information: 317-236-1474.

July 27

July 29
The Villages of Indiana online Foster Parenting Virtual Information Night, 6-8 p.m., register by July 26 in becoming a foster parent, free. Information and registration: Life Choices, 775-6500 or cutt.ly/villageinfo.

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

Retreats and Programs

Wedding Anniversaries

David and Jeanne (Moorman) Moran, members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 29. The couple was married in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Indianapolis on June 29, 1957. They have six children: Carol Falvy, Patty Gibson, Kate Pille, Jeanine Stanley, Susan Weber and Larry Moran. The couple also has 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Phillip and Rosie (Firsich) Daeger, members of St. Ann Parish in Jennings County, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 30. The couple was married in St. Mary Church in Greensburg on June 30, 1962. They have three children: Laurie Blackburn, Brian and the late John Daeger. The couple has seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

James, Sr., and Joan (Wisner) Tannous, members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford, will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on July 7. The couple was married in the Episcopal Church of the Mediator in Allentown, Pa. on July 7, 1962, and later had their marriage convalidated at St. Paul Church in Allentown, Pa. They have two children: Anita Parsch and James Tannous, Jr. The couple also has three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Marvin and Carol (Rosenberger) Ferkhinoff, members of St. Michael Parish in Brookville, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 15. The couple was married in St. Michael Church in Brookville on July 15, 1972. They have three children: Carrie DeFossett, Aaron and Adam Ferkhinoff. The couple also has six grandchildren.

Rodney and Sherry (Noel) Geis, members of St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 24. The couple was married in St. Mary Church in Rushville on June 24, 1972. They have two children: Shannon Barnes and John Geis. The couple also has eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Jim and Terrie (Tillar) Reinhart, members of Holy Family Parish in Clarksville, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 14. The couple was married in Ursuline Academy Chapel in Louisville on July 14, 1972. They have three children: Kelly Rhea, Bryan and Scott Reinhart. The couple also has five grandchildren.

John and Theresa (Sinar) Zimnawoda, members of St. Agnes Parish in Nashville, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 24. The couple was married in St. Mark Church in Gary, Ind. (Diocese), on June 24, 1972. They have three children: Sarah, John, Valerie Karamanis and Mary Wener. The couple also has eight grandchildren.
quickly to pass legislation to protect the God-given dignity and humanity of all unborn babies, and to prevent them from one state, and we support all efforts to legally protect human life from the moment of conception to natural death. It that it can to provide loving support to women and the life of her child.†

For decades, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis remains vigilant in its efforts to do all the things that we can to provide loving support to women before and after the birth of their babies regardless of creed, any effort, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis remains vigilant in its efforts to provide loving support to women before and after the birth of their babies regardless of creed, ethnicity or language, so that no woman ever feels alone. We urge all women who care about human life and the common good to pray about the well-being of children for babies and caring for moms that is...
three previous groups of men ordained as permanent deacons for the archdiocese, one of them said after the Mass that the hardships brought them closer together.

“It really helped us to build fraternity,” said Deacon Jorge Leanos of Holy Trinity Parish in Edinburgh. “It’s absolutely stronger than we would have expected. The circumstances actually made it a better and stronger.”

The others placed on Deacon Leanos and the others and ordained with him on pastoral ministry during their four years of formation make him even more excited to begin to serve others in the broader community.

“That was a setback in our formation,” recalled Deacon Thomas Hosty, who was ordained in 2008. “That was a setback in our formation. It really helped us to build fraternity,” he said. “One of them said in ministry for a long time. He loves being a servant.”

Archbishop Thompson paid tribute to his memory to the close connection between the new deacons, their wives and families.

“It was just holy. I felt his support.”

Deacon O’Connell is especially proud of the group ordained on June 25 because of the many challenges they faced during their formation.

“Deacon Blandford is especially proud of the group ordained on June 25 because of the many challenges they faced during their formation. "It speaks to their perseverance and resilience."

Deacon Thomas Hosty is especially proud of the group ordained on June 25 because of the many challenges they faced during their formation. "It speaks to their perseverance and resilience."

Thoughts of COVID and other challenges were far from his mind during the liturgy itself, especially when Archbishop Thompson ritually laid hands on Deacon O’Connell, placed his hands on the archbishop’s while promising obedience to him and his successors.

Charles C. Thompson

Deacon O’Connell said. “For him to say ‘yes’ to obedience to me, knowing me that well—that’s a great act of obedience and faith.”

Louise O’Connell has for decades seen her husband Deacon O’Connell give his life in service to others as a school counselor and, more recently, as a hospital chaplain. “This is what he was born to do,” she said. “It’s been in ministry for a long time. He loves being a servant.”

Archbishop Thomas said in ministry for a long time. He loves being a servant.”

Grateful in ministry for a long time. He loves being a servant.”

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Called to serve

Deacon candidate Thomas Hosty enters the Church at the start of the Mass in which he was ordained as a permanent deacon for the archdiocese. (Photos by Ben Galagine)

Deacon William Jones, ordained in 2006, gives a sign of peace to newly ordained Deacon James Martin. (Photos by Ben Galagine)

Deacon candidate James O’Connell, right, places his hands ritually into the hands of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson during the June 25 ordination Mass. (Photos by Ben Galagine)

Deacon candidate James Stanley of All Saints Parish in Dobbin County inside the ordination Mass. Deacon Martin is a member of St. Mark's.

Newly ordained Deacon Mark Schmidl of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County holds his granddaughter Claire Schmidl after the June 25 ordination Mass in which he was ordained as a permanent deacon for the archdiocese. (Photos by Ben Galagine)

Newly ordained Deacon Mark Schmidl of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County, right, promulgates the ordainment of the newly ordained deacon James Martin during the June 25 ordination Mass. Deacon Martin is a member of St. Mark's.

Newly ordained Deacon Mark Schmidl, center, and Julie Legassick, right, ritually receive a Book of the Gospels from Archbishop Charles C. Thompson during the June 25 ordination Mass. (Photos by Ben Galagine)

Deacon candidate James O’Connell, right, places his hands ritually into the hands of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson while promising obedience to the archbishop and his successors. Seminarian Samuel Rosiek, center, assists in the liturgy.

Newly ordained Deacon James Wood. (Photos by Ben Galagine)

Deacon candidate James O’Connell, right, places his hands ritually into the hands of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson while promising obedience to the archbishop and his successors. Seminarian Samuel Rosiek, center, assists in the liturgy.

Newly ordained Deacon James Wood. (Photos by Ben Galagine)

A litany of the saints is prayed on June 25 in SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis while 15 deacon candidates lay prostrate in prayer moments before they were ordained permanent deacons for the archdiocese.
Archbishop salutes CYO volunteers ‘for giving of themselves’

By John Shaughnessy

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson spoke one extra word and thanked the women, youth and men who were honored during the Volunteer Awards Ceremony of the archdiocese’s Catholic Youth Organization on May 3.

At the beginning of his homily, the archbishop turned toward the altar of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis where the awards ceremony was held and said, “I always remind people that the center of our universe in any parish is this altar,” the place where the Eucharist is celebrated during every Mass.

“The center of the universe isn’t our school. The center of the universe isn’t the basketball field. The center of the universe isn’t the basketball gym,” the archbishop said. “This is our universe. All the gifts and talents that we recognize tonight, all the energy, all the devotion, all that people do, we remember that we are the most effective when we don’t let our ego get in the way, but when we are Christ-centric.”

He saluted the award-winning volunteers for reflecting that “eucharistic-centered” approach, thanking them “for giving of themselves, for their dedication, for their hard work, for all the things that they do.” He also encouraged them to continue to be “people who have gratitude for the gift of giving themselves to others.”

“As we gather tonight, let’s remind ourselves—whether we’re on the field or the court or wherever—we might find ourselves in any way helping each other to develop minds and bodies and spirits—to keep Christ at the center of all that we do.

“Remember that all our talents and gifts are from God to better ourselves and others—and to give glory to God.”

CYO recognition highlights volunteer efforts of adults and youths

St. Barnabas Parish—Victoria Meierding and Clayton Willis
St. Christopher Parish—Annie Endres
St. Lawrence Parish—Greg Stephens
St. Louis de Montfort Parish, Fishers, in the Lafayette Diocese—Laura Klee
St. Mark the Evangelist Parish—Ed Keller and Jaci Keller
St. Pius X Parish—Steve Kavanough and Bob Koers
St. Simon the Apostle Parish—Jon Grant and Sue Knoop
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish—Michael Bennett and Duane Marks

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson poses for a photo with many of the teens who received 2022 Spirit of Youth Awards from the archdiocese’s Catholic Youth Organization on May 3. (Photo by Michaela Ward of the CYO)

2022 St. John Bosco Award recipients

Christ the King Parish—Jennifer Wood-Thompson
St. Barnabas Parish—Aaron Irwin
SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish, Greenwood—Tina Dubuque
St. Lawrence Parish—Keith Misch
St. Michael Parish, Greenfield—Ty Hays
St. Pius X Parish—Steve Thompson (Little Flower)
Parish—James Hayes, Jr.

2022 Msgr. Albert Basuald Award recipients

Chris the King Parish—Pete Bustamente and Sarah Bustamente
Good Shepherd Parish—Ben Konz
Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Beech Grove—Jason Prendergast
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish—David Gunt

Coach shows girls ‘what a strong woman can do in this world’

By John Shaughnessy

Jennifer Wood-Thompson

The tributes from parents touched Jennifer Wood-Thompson. They also affirmed the approach that the mother of three has taken as a basketball coach for more than 25 years.

The tributes helped lead her to select the following for the 2022 St. John Bosco Award, the highest honor given by the archdiocese’s Catholic Youth Organization.

A parent of two daughters wrote, “She has been a terrific example for them, always modeling good sportsmanship, Christ-like behavior and a good work ethic. She shows them daily what a strong woman can do in this world.”

The award-winning volunteer has a quiet, personal religious observance, like they should participate. Some justices emphasized that private prayer on the field also could seem coercive because players might imagine separating protected private expression from impermissible government coercion.

New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee for Religious Liberty, said the court’s decision “to prevent the forced desecration of voluntary prayer from public life is a major victory.”

Kelly Shackelford, president, CEO and chief counsel for First Liberty Institute, the Texas law firm that represented Kennedy, called the ruling a “tremendous victory for Coach Kennedy and religious liberty for all Americans.”

For Richard Garnett, University of Notre Dame professor of law and director of the Notre Dame Program on Church, State and Society, the ruling affirmed that public employees do not lose their right to religious expression in the public square.

Garnett, who filed an amicus brief in this case, said the court’s ruling “will provide much needed clarity and consistency to an area of law that has been notoriously confused and inconsistent.”

This case was the fourth religious rights case for the court this term. It also allowed spiritual advisers to pray with death-row inmates during executions; a related case was for not being allowed to fly its flag in a Boston plaza, and ruled parents in Maine could use public tuition grants to send their children to religious schools.

Supreme Court sides with coach in public school prayer case

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In a 6-3 vote on June 27, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a former high school football coach had the right to pray on the football field after games because his prayers were private speech and did not represent the public’s endorsement of religion.

“The Constitution and the best of our traditions counsel mutual respect and tolerance, not censorship and suppression, for religious and nonreligious views alike,” said Justice Samuel Alito in the majority opinion, written by Justice Neil Gorsuch.

Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Justice Clarence Thomas dissented. The court’s majority opinion also emphasized that “respect for religious expression is essential to a free and diverse republic—whether those expressions take place in a sanctuary or on a field.”

It said the case focused on a government entity seeking to “punish an individual for engaging in a brief, quiet, personal religious observance supposedly protected by the free exercise and free speech clauses of the First Amendment” and that the “Constitution neither mandates nor tolerates that kind of discrimination.”

Justice Joseph Kennedy, former assistant coach at Bremerton High School, outside of Seattle, said his postgame prayers on the field cost him his job.

The coach had been told by school district officials he was saying these prayers on the 50-yard line, and he refused. When his contract was not renewed, he sued the school for violating his First Amendment rights.

In its ruling, the court sided with Kennedy in his case. It said the court’s decision “to prevent the forced desecration of voluntary prayer from public life is a major victory.”

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Coach runs the good race to bring others closer to God

By John Shaughnessy

If one story can sometimes capture the essence of a person, this may be the one that defines Matt Dafforn. A parent shared this story about the impact that Matt Dafforn makes as the track and cross-country coach at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood:

“Other than my dad, I’ve never had a father figure in my life. I’ve never come across as a police officer are children and adults who don’t have structure in their lives,” says Minch, who is also a veteran of the U.S. Marines Corps. “There’s a lot of good you can do by being involved in the lives of kids at a young age—giving them structure and a sense of purpose. And as a coach in the CYO, you can also instill faith in them.”

In his 24 years as a police officer in Indianapolis, Keith Minch has seen enough tragedy to know that lives can be changed for the better by the positive influence of people who care.

For nearly 20 years, Minch has strived to be that person as a coach in the archdiocese’s CYO and the archdiocese’s CYO. (CYO) is that it gives children at all levels of athletic ability the opportunity to play a sport, not just the best players.

“Some of them may never play sports on their own—other than with their family. That’s how they get to be a good sport,” he says.

“You can teach Catholic values through coaching. It’s all about being part of your community and giving back where you live.”

With the heart of a champion, coach makes a lasting impression

By John Shaughnessy

When he considers his 22nd year of coaching girls in basketball, Jim Hayes hopes he has made a lasting impression on them. He knows they have made a lasting impression on him.

In fact, Hayes has a tattoo imprinted on his left forearm that reminds him of the championship team he coached in 2012—a group of six, sixth-grade girls from Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis who went undefeated.

“I made a promise to the girls that if we ever won any championships I’d get a tattoo,” says the 62-year-old Hayes, who has 15 tattoos commemorating memorable parts of his life. “I couldn’t see it, they couldn’t believe it. He actually did it!” They gave me something, and I showed them how much I appreciated it.

Still, the tattooed image of a basketball with the nickname of that team is just the tip of the appreciation he has for all the players he has coached at Nativity and St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish in Indianapolis.

That appreciation flows back to Hayes, a 2022 recipient of the St. John Bosco Award, the highest honor given by the archdiocese’s Catholic Youth Organization (CYO).

“Catholic kids get something out of it physically and spiritually,” he says. “I like to see that in their eyes. I like to see the joy and the fun along the way, a healthy way to live once they get beyond high school and college. It’s like going to church. You want your kid to continue to be a believer in their lives.”

That focus on faith has been there since Dafforn started the cross-country program at his parish in 2010—a time when 10 other coaches were on the team. Now, close to 80 run in both cross-country and track.

On the day after Dafforn received the St. John Bosco Award, the track team had a surprise party for him at the end of the season. Former and current student athletes were there to express their appreciation of the impact Dafforn has made as the coach of the girls’ track team.

“I think kids learn so much from sports—how to work with other people, how to get along with them, how to strive for a goal together, how to be a good sport.”

“The biggest thing I want them to learn is to always give your best.”

For Ty Hayes, one of the things he appreciates most about the archdiocese’s Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) is that it gives children at all levels of athletic ability the opportunity to play a sport, not just the best players.

“Some of them may never play sports on their own—other than with their family. That’s how they get to be a good sport,” he says.

“You can teach Catholic values through coaching. It’s all about being part of your community and giving back where you live.”

Longtime coach strives to let players see God in my heart

By John Shaughnessy

In helping with Maggie’s team in baseball, Irish has learned another valuable principle of coaching.

“I learned that the girls all need something different. It’s helped me become a better baseball coach, too—to not coach everyone the same way.”

Beyond coaching, he stays in touch with his players by being a chaperone on school field trips, joining them once a month for lunch, and attending their school Masses—“just a chance to pray and thank God for all he’s given us.”

It’s all part of what led him to be chosen for the 2022 St. John Bosco Award, the highest honor given by the archdiocese’s CYO. The award also reflects the extensive commitment he has made in serving as the parish’s athletic director and gym manager for the past 17 years.

Another surprise was receiving the St. John Bosco Award because Hayes usually is the one who nominates people.

“I didn’t know who put my name in.”

His past 11 years as athletic director and his past 17 years as gym manager have given the archdiocese’s CYO. It’s all part of his focus on faith and family.

“After a prayer at the end of practice, the last thing I tell them before they go to their parents’ cars is to tell their parents they love them.”

It’s another principle to live by.

‘There is no greater advocate for our children, nor better role model’

By John Shaughnessy

While the reality is that many people start coaching in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) because of their children, Aaron Irwin bucked that trend.

He dedicated 15 years to coaching other children before he started roaming the sidelines for his three children in the past five years—because he wanted to honor all the coaches who did more than shape his children’s lives.

“When I do get to focus on the parents,” he says. “I was amazed at what they wrote, the nice things they said. It meant I’m touching these kids’ lives in a positive way. It was touching.”

“The reason I coach is to honor God and all those coaches who were great role models for me and helped me along the way,” says Irwin, who coaches football and baseball at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish in Indianapolis.

“I want the kids to know that if we won the championship, I’d do it for the parents and kids I coached.”

The football coach also is a parish volunteer, serving as a sacristan at his parish—St. Michael in Greenfield—that doesn’t have a full-time parish employee.

“Some of them may never play again,” he says. “I want to know that the parents are still there for them.”

The father of three grown children views all his efforts as a reflection of the support of his wife Peggy and the way he strives to live his Catholic faith.

“I want to put God first in their lives—that no matter what you do in life, we’re all striving to get to heaven. I want them to see how I act when I coach, how I get along with people in the stands, how I search for a purpose in my life.”

Another surprise was receiving the St. John Bosco Award because Hayes usually is the one who nominates people.

“I didn’t know who put my name in.”

He actually did it! Ty Hayes, who was named the 2022 St. John Bosco Award winner, thanks his coaches who were great role models for him and helped him in some way.

He views his coaching—and his past 11 years as athletic director for the parish—as his way of living his faith.

“You can teach Catholic values through coaching. It’s all about being part of your community and giving back where you live.”
On June 15, there was an exciting announcement from the Vatican regarding the future of the catechumenal process preparation in the Catholic Church. New guidelines were issued for a “marriage catechumenate” which will form how we prepare couples for the sacrament of marriage. The announcement came as part of the “Year for the Family” which commemorates the fifth anniversary of the apostolic exhortation “Amoris Laetitia” (The Joy of Love). The Vatican Diocesan for Laity, Family and Life has been hard at work creating and revising these guidelines for marriage preparation, which have now been released in Italian and Spanish, with future translations forthcoming.

While it will take some time to digest the new guidelines and discern the pastoral implications in our archdiocese and parishes when an English translation becomes available, I am excited to share some highlights gleaned from the Spanish translation of the document, specifically the “precepts” to the guidelines which was written by Pope Francis.

The pope writes:

> Five years after “Amoris Laetitia,” we once again place the family at the center, reflect on the牧的 presence in the apostolic exhortation, and encourage the whole Church to joyfully reconnect to the catechumenal process to accompany those who seek marriage, so they may understand, through difficulty and never lose faith in love.

> There is also a sense of justice that should motivate us. The Church is a mother, and a mother does not have favorites among her children. She gives all of them the same care, attention and time. To give someone time is a sign of love: when we don’t take time with someone, it is a sign that we do not cherish them. This is what comes to mind when I think about how much time the Church dedicates to the preparation of candidates for marriage or religious life. It is a requirement for those preparing for marriage, only a few weeks.

> Yet just like priests and consecrated religious, married couples are also children of mother Church, and it is not just to have such a disparity in their formation. The majority of the faithful are married couples. They are pillars in their parishes, volunteer groups, associations and movements. The Church cannot ignore them as she carries out her mission through begetting children, educating them, and helping them to grow, but also in their care, in their elderly, the disabled and the poor. It is within these families that great vocations to the priesthood and religious life. In light of all of this, it is a matter of justice and a duty for mother Church to devote the time and resources needed to adequately prepare those whom the Lord has called to so great a mission as the family.

> Therefore, the openness, zeal and creativity of the pastors of the Church and their collaborators, to make more fruitful this vital and indispensable work of formation, evangelization and accompaniment of families, which the Lord entrusts to us at this present time.

> Let us take the first steps! Let us begin this process of pastoral renewal! Let us put our minds and hearts at the service of future families. I assure you, the Lord will sustain us, granting us wisdom and fortitude, and will multiply our zeal to announce the Gospel of the family to new generations.

> The pope writes: “We lament, and we sit in pain, and we grieve and mourn and cry, and enter a tomb of darkness, and cling to the seemingly impossible hope that the stone will roll away, the sun will rise, the tears will dry, and the tragedy is not the end to the story.”

> So, I had a bit of a gut feeling that the long-anticipated Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization decision would be released. And then, at about 10:15, the Dobbs ruling was released, and I quickly learned that Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey are both gone.

> Bob, a lifelong Decatur County Catholic, was 89 when he died of COVID-19 in the early days of the pandemic in March 2020. In addition to being a faith-filled husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, Bob was a stalwart pro-life advocate.

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The Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit, but its various individual authors addressed human concerns, conditions of their own times, and they had their contemporaries in mind.

When this third part of Isaiah was written, God’s chosen people were not living a life of ease and plenty. Their kingdoms had been destroyed. They had survived exile in Babylon. Somehow, given what arduous a journey on foot across the desert that is now Iraq, Jordan and Syria was, they had managed to return home. What they found was not a great country, but a promised land that would not have an issue of survival. They would visit of evil. Demolishing evil is an ability belonging only to God. The Lord gave them this ability.

Equally important is the fact that Jesus empowered them to rid the places that they would visit of evil. Demolishing evil is an ability belonging only to God. The Lord gave them this ability.

They also promised them that they themselves would not succumb to whatever destructive forces evil may rise to against them.

Reflection
A mindset prevailing in our culture is curious in light of modern achievements in science. We can control many things. Being in control is an ideal. But our culture broadcasts the notion that we humans must surrender to instincts and self-interest.

Then, in a twist, the culture bids us to overestimate ourselves, suggesting to us that we are much wiser than we are. True, much is known today. But much remains unknown, and we still are subject to hurt and to death.

These teachings tell us that eternal life, peace and joy in this life are the products of salvation in God, awaiting us in Jesus.

The love of God in Jesus and given to us by him is our strength and hope. He gives us special teachers and leaders in the Church to guide us. They have the authority, conferred by God, to lead us to true and everlasting life.

As The Criterion will not have an issue next week due to its new summer schedule, the reflection of Msgr. Campion for Sunday, July 10, will be posted at www.archindy.org/campion.

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The catechism in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer states: “We pray for [the dead] because we still hold them in our love, and because we trust that in God’s presence those who have chosen to serve him will grow in his love, until they see him as he is.”

Previously you answered a reader’s question regarding their pastor, an African priest who is difficult to understand and who gives 30-minute homilies, the result being that Mass attendance in the parish is dropping. You suggested asking a parish council member to speak to the priest, voicing parishioners’ concerns.

Here’s another suggestion. In our diocese, we have several priests whose primary language is not English. One of these priests realized that the congregation had difficulty with his accent; so now he has his sermons typed out and distributed.

Song Question
Fr. Kenneth Doyle
Masses can be offered for the repose of the souls of non-Catholic people.

(Author’s note: This column by Father Kenneth Doyle was originally published in 2020.)

What a close friend of mine was in an accident. He was an Anglican. I don’t know his views about the Catholic teaching on purgatory, but I’ve been praying for him. I want to offer a Mass for him, just in case he is not yet in heaven. Will he benefit from that? (Uganda, Africa)

Yes, he will certainly benefit. And if he’s already in heaven, the limitless fruits of the Mass will be applied to someone else who needs it. So, you are right—and generous—to request a Mass for his intentions.

The Church’s Code of Canon Law says that “a priest is free to apply the Mass for anyone, living or dead” (#990). That means a Mass can be requested for a person of any religion or none at all. And my own experience has been that people of many faiths are grateful when a Mass is celebrated for a deceased member of their family.

Anglicans—along with most Protestants—generally do not prefer In purgatory as a place of waiting and punishment for our sins. They feel this would mean that the sacrifice of Jesus was insufficient and inadequate for salvation. But many Anglicans do believe in a continuing process of growth and development after death.

The Episcopal Church’s 1979 Book of Common Prayer includes prayer for the dead, and the prayers during the Sunday liturgy include intercessions for the repose of the faithful departed. The Episcopal Church, based in the United States, is a branch of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The Book of Isaiah is the source of the first reading for Mass this weekend. In reading any Scripture, it is important to take note of the context in which the work originally was composed. The events, attitudes and personalities within these contexts in very significant measure influence what was written.

In the magic of moonlight.

My Journey to God
Light Magic
By M. Lynell Chamberlain
A raft of golden yellow light Clings to the valley wall, Then fades into nothingness As I watch the evening fall.

The moon, fully risen now, In the dark night’s sky, Casts its spell upon the earth Where the whispering wind cries.

God speaks to me in the quiet and The darkness of the night, Whispering of his love In the magic of moonlight.

(Indiana)
(M. Lynell Chamberlain is a member of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg. Photo: As the evening sun sets on Y Mountain, the moon rises above the tree line near Prow, Utah.) (CNS photo/George Frey)

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Resources for moms in need in central and southern Indiana

Abortion Pill Reversal: National help line: 877-558-0333, abortionpillreversal.com (Translation services are available.)

Adoption services for birth parents and adoptive parents:
- Indianapolis, St. Elizabeth/Coleman, 731-787-3412, givingforthefuture.org
- New Albany, Adoption Bridges of Kentuckiana, 502-468-4290, stecharities.org/adoption-bridges

After-school Care: Terre Haute, Catholic Charities Ryves Youth Center, 812-123-2655, cutt.ly/Ryves

Anonymous Infant Surrender: Safe Haven Baby Boxes, 866-999-Baby1 (hotline), aibb.org

Education/Awareness:
- Right to Life Indiana lists the following counties/regions as having chapters: Bartholomew, Dearborn/Ohio, Fayette/Union, Hancock, Indianapolis, Johnson/Morgan, Lawrence, Rush, Scott, Southeastern Indiana, Southern Indiana, Wabash Valley and Wayne. Go to irrl.org/about-us/county-affiliation for contact information.

Food Pantries/Food education:
- Brazil, Annunciation Parish/St. Vincent de Paul, 812-448-1901
- Bloomington/Monroe County, cutt.ly/MonroeCountyFood
- Brown County, St. Vincent de Paul, 812-788-8821, svdp@browncountyfood.org
- Indianapolis
  - St. Vincent de Paul, www.svdpindy.org, Boulevard Place, 317-924-3461, Pratt-Quigley Center, 317-924-5769
  - Tell City/Perry County, Catholic Charities Martin’s Cloak, Perry County Food Coalition, 812-547-0903, archindy.org/cc/tellcity
- Terre Haute
  - Emergency Food Assistance in West Central Indiana, cutt.ly/WestCentralFood
  - Maternal Health Food Prescription Program, 812-238-8771

Foster parenting:
- The Villages, villagerskids.org
- Bloomington, 812-332-1245
- Indianapolis, 317-775-6050

Material Resources
- Parish Respect Life ministries (contact your parish office)
- Parishes of St. Vincent de Paul conferences: Many parishes or parish groupings have a St. Vincent de Paul conference with various offerings. Call your parish office or visit your parish’s website for more information. City/country councils are listed below.
- Bloomington/Monroe County, St. Vincent de Paul, 812-961-1510, svdpbloomington.org
- Brown County, St. Vincent de Paul, 812-788-8821, svdpbrowncountyfood.org
- Fayette, Union and Wayne counties, Tri-County Good Samaritan St. Vincent de Paul, 765-220-1572, cutt.ly/TriCountySVDP
- Indianapolis
  - Catholic Charities Christmas Store, 317-236-1556, cutt.ly/ChristmasIndy
  - Gabriel Project, 831-937-4968 (English), 831-946-3813 (Spanish), gspindy.org
  - St. Vincent de Paul, 317-687-0167 (help line), 924-5769 (general line), svdpindy.org
- New Albany, St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities Marie’s Community Distribution Program, 812-949-7008, stecharities.org/maries
- Shirley Catholic, St. Vincent de Paul, 317-395-7077, svdpwabashvalley.org
- Tell City, Catholic Charities Lifeline for Families, 812-547-0903, cutt.ly/LifelineForFamilies

Pregnancy Care Centers (including free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and counseling that does not include abortion):
- Bloomington, Women’s Care Center, 812-330-7021, www.womenscarecenter.org
- Clarity (Columbus, Greensburg, Nashville, North Vernon, Seymour, Shelbyville), claritycares.org
- Indianapolis
  - 1st Choice for Women, Indianapolis, 831-937-4968 (English), 831-946-3813 (Spanish), gspindy.org
  - Women’s Care Center, 812-829-6800, www.womenscarecenter.org
- Lawrenceburg, Pregnancy Care Center of Southeastern Indiana, 812-537-4357, pregnancylawrenceburg.com
- Terre Haute, Crisis Pregnancy Center of the Wabash Valley, 812-405-4463, www.wabashvalleypregnancy.com

Post-abortion Healing:
- Healing Hidden Hurts, 317-490-1267, healinghiddenhurts.org
- Project Rachel, 317-452-0054, cutt.ly/ProjectRachel
- Rachel’s Vineyard, 877-467-3463, rachelsvineyard.org

Shelters:
- Bedford, Becky’s Place (Catholic Charities Bloomington), 812-275-5773, beckysplacebedford.org
- Indianapolis, Holy Family Shelter (Catholic Charities Indianapolis), 317-635-7830, cutt.ly/HolyFamilyShelter
- New Albany, St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities: maternity home program, women and children shelter, affordable supportive housing, domestic violence transitional program, 812-949-7305, stecharities.org
- Terre Haute, Catholic Charities Bethany House, 812-232-4978, option 1, cutt.ly/BethanyHouse

With the overturning of Roe v. Wade, it is the call of every Catholic now more than ever to help women in crisis pregnancies choose life for their children, to assist moms in need and to support the ministries, organizations and agencies that provide services for these women. The following is a non-exhaustive list of such organizations in central and southern Indiana. Please consider supporting them financially, by volunteering or by donating goods according to their needs. This list also serves as a tool for individuals and parishes to keep on hand for directing moms in need to helpful resources. If you know of a life-affirming resource in the archdiocese that walks with moms in need (and in the case of pregnancy care centers, that does not advise on abortion) that is not listed here, please share that resource with Brie Anne Varick, coordinator of the archdiocesan Office of Human Life and Dignity, at bvarick@archindy.org, so the archdiocese can continue to build its database of resources to serve moms better. The Criterion will announce the resource list site once it has been created.

Online Lay Ministry Formation
The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has partnered with the University of Notre Dame and Catholic Distance University (CDU) to offer non-credit online theology classes:
- Earn certificate in Lay Ministry
- Complete 12 classes online with ND STEP program
- CDU offers classes in 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 Archdiocese of Indianapolis or any other person who has been a victim of such misconduct, please contact the archdiocesan victim assistance coordinator. There are two ways to make a report:

- Diocesan Point
- Confidential, Online Reporting

Victim Assistance Coordinator, Archdiocese of Indianapolis
317-327-1400, Indianapolis, IN 46206
317-327-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548
victimassistance@archindy.org

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“In the life-saving work of saving lives,” Varick continued, “we can and must work together.”

“Irorobeje Owhoso-Maddox of Sacred Heart Parish in Indianapolis smiles with her son River in St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis on Jan. 22, 2021.” (File photo by Natalie Hueter)
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Priest

“...We ask that we have hearts that reflect you, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, at this time. That we may be peaceful and prayerful in moving forward as a people that can really reflect the goodness, the beauty and truth of you in our lives, in this context, in the state of Indiana and across the nation. And may Almighty God bless you all in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us go in peace. Thanks be to God.

The blessing from Father Nagel received a roar of applause and cheers from the people who came for the prayer gathering, which was without any physical confrontations.

Before the tense situation, the gathering had been marked by an air of peace and quiet thanksgiving for the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade; the 1973 decision that legalized abortion in the United States. The gathering had also been marked by groups of church members and organizations who have long been involved in the pro-life movement in Indianapolis. Yet, perhaps most powerful of all was the presence of many young people in the crowd.

I am just so proud to be part of the pro-life generation, and that our country is finally acknowledging how much abortion hurts women. We have 20-year-old Linna Nagel, a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese. Women deserve so much more than abortion.”

At 16, Maria Thomas is a member of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis and the co-president and co-founder of a right to life group at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis.

Holding a sign that noted, “Pray for Life and Love;” she said, “I think it’s really important for young women to be here to break the stereotype that it’s only a ‘white man’s’ church of churches and organizations who have long been involved in the pro-life movement in Indianapolis. Yet, perhaps most powerful of all was the presence of many young people in the crowd.

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‘God’s love’ and a priest’s calm prevail in tense moments at pro-life prayer gathering at the Indiana Statehouse

By John Shaughnessy

Father Rick Nagel admitted his heart was pounding in that moment.

He had been quickly called upon to give a final blessing during a June 25 prayer gathering on the grounds of the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis, a prayer gathering that had suddenly turned so tense and confrontational that it drew the presence of at least five Indiana State Police officers.

For most of the nearly hour-long, morning prayer gathering—sponsored by Right to Life of Indianapolis, Indiana Family Institute and Students for Life of America—about 200 pro-life supporters had come together in response to the Supreme Court’s June 24 decision to end national legalized abortion. They had come together to pray “for protection for the preborn, for pregnant moms, for our state leaders and for all those affected by abortion,” according to the gathering’s organizers.

At the same time, in a different part of the state capitol grounds, thousands of people had assembled to protest the Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization.

As some pro-choice advocates continued to yell, a line of pro-life youths and young adults stood behind Father Nagel as he began, “Thank you all for being here today. We love everybody who’s on this lawn. Every single person—we love all of you. So, thank you for being here. Thank you for expressing your opinions. And thank you for praying.

“This is for you who have prayed today in thanksgiving to the Lord, we thank you for your courage for being here today. My parents were great warriors in the front end of this in 1973, so I’m blessed because I had parents who taught me about the dignity of all human life, made in the image of God.”

As a few protestors continued shouting, Father Nagel also continued, “So we thank God for parents and grandparents and all the faithful who have been on the front line, who have peacefully and prayerfully marched for life for nearly 50 years now. Thank you for all the courage for all these years.”

As the shouting from the small group of protestors grew louder, Father Nagel prayed, “Lord, bless us as we continue to seek to defend the dignity of all human life. Bless all of my brothers and sisters who gather here today, some who feel differently, who believe differently than we do. We love them, we care for them, we bless them this day in your name.”