



The

Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



Court's Historic Decision

See more coverage, pages 2-4, 7, 12, 14-16.

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



By Natalie Hoefler 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

See RULING, page 7

Photo: Pro-life demonstrators in Washington celebrate outside the U.S. Supreme Court on June 24 as the court overruled the landmark *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision in its ruling in the *Dobbs* case on a Mississippi law banning most abortions after 15 weeks. (CNS photo/Evelyn Hockstein, Reuters)

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



Fifteen newly ordained permanent deacons pose on June 25 in SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis moments after the Mass in which they were ordained for service in the archdiocese. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

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.

"So, we entrust these men to Mary's care to draw them ever closer to her son, our Savior Jesus Christ, as they serve in his name in his mission."

Although the 15 men from across central and southern Indiana faced challenges in their formation that couldn't have been imagined in the

See DEACONS, page 8

Dobbs ruling sets off seismic shift in law regarding abortion

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.

The *Dobbs* case focused on Jackson Women's Health Organization, an abortion center in Mississippi that challenged 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 majority 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.

Alito, 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 chiefly 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 stirs our thoughts, emotions and prayers."

"We pray that our elected officials will now enact 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.

"We give thanks to God for today's decision... This just decision will save countless innocent children simply waiting to be born," said the New York Catholic bishops in a statement shortly after the court's opinion was released.

Those on both sides of the issue were outside the court when the ruling came down and continued to gather in force throughout the afternoon with posters, bullhorns, hugging and shouting.

Crowds had been outside the court—blocked off by security fencing—for days, anticipating this decision, just as they were when a draft of the majority opinion was leaked in early May.

In remarks from the White House on June 24, President Joe Biden said the court's decision was "a sad day for the country in my view, but it doesn't mean the fight is over," and he urged Americans to respond with their votes in the upcoming elections.

He also urged demonstrators to "keep all protests peaceful," adding: "We must stand against violence in any form, regardless of your rationale."

The *Dobbs* opinion is very similar to the leaked draft that called *Roe* "egregiously wrong from the start."

Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan wrote a joint dissent that emphasized the significance of the court's previous decisions on this issue.

They added: "Whatever the exact scope of the coming laws, one result of today's decision is certain: the curtailment of women's rights, and of their status as free and equal citizens."

They also noted that their dissent was "with sorrow—for this court, but more, for the many millions of American women who have today lost a fundamental constitutional protection."

When the court announced last year that it would take this case, after considering it more than a dozen times since 2020, the justices said they would only review one of the three questions presented to them: "Whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional."

That point of viability—when a fetus is said to be able to survive on his or her own—was a key point in this case, because the Supreme Court had consistently ruled that states cannot restrict abortion before 24 weeks, or when a fetus could survive outside the womb.

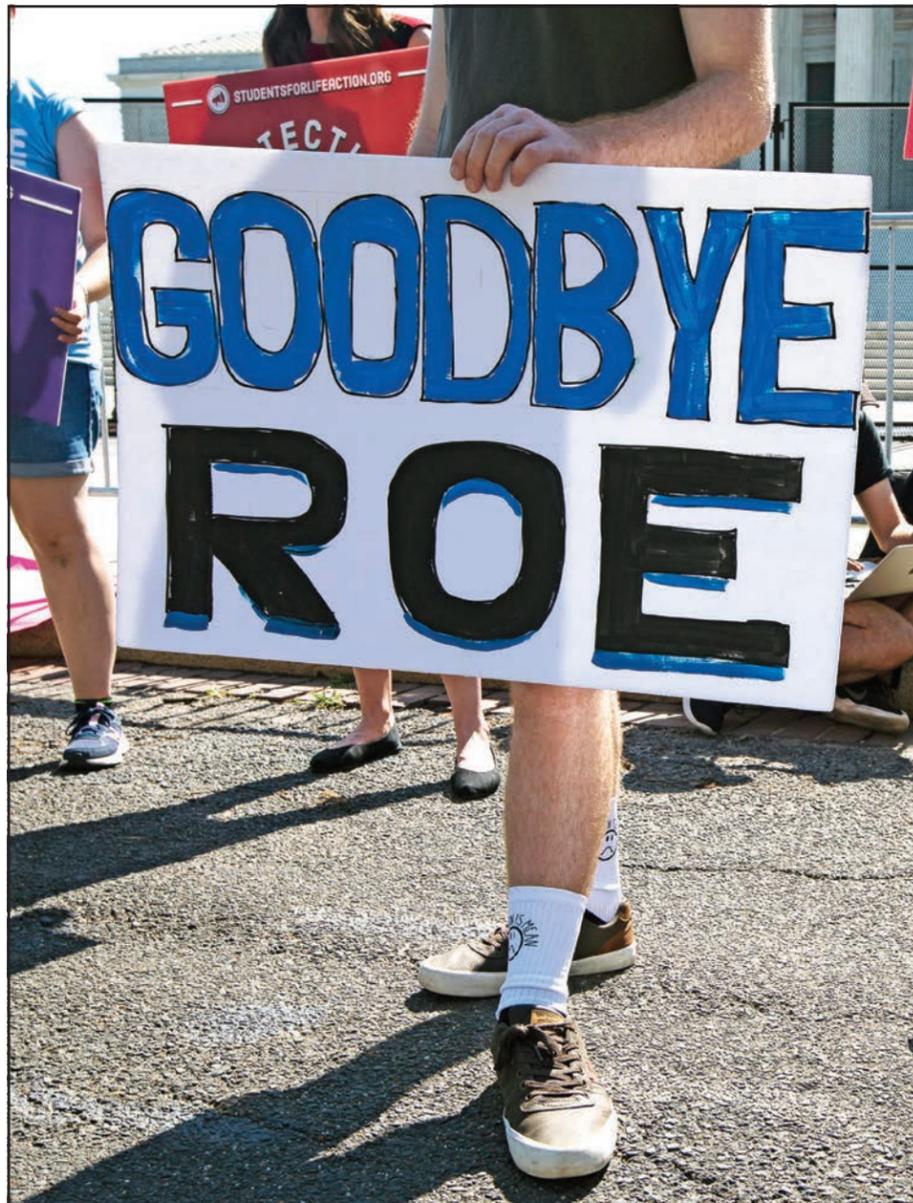
A friend-of-the-court brief submitted by the USCCB stressed that abortion is



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

July 1–15, 2022

There are no public events scheduled for these two weeks.



Pro-life demonstrators celebrate on June 24 the Supreme Court overruling the landmark *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision in its ruling in the *Dobbs* case on a Mississippi law banning most abortions after 15 weeks. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

not a right created by the Constitution and called it "inherently different from other types of personal decisions to which this court has accorded constitutional protection."

Referring to the court's major abortion

decisions, the brief also warned that if the Supreme Court "continues to treat abortion as a constitutional issue," it will face more questions in the future about "what sorts of abortion regulations are permissible." †

Welcome, New Catholics

In our June 10 edition, *The Criterion* listed the names of 607 souls who entered into the full communion of the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults at the April 16 Easter Vigil. We would like to welcome, in addition, these 12 people from

St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute: Chris Hahn, Abby Jones, Jon Jones, Kaycee Walker (catechumens); Mariah Adkins, Rylee Fritsch, Tayla Haas, Beth Jones, Christina Kester, Whitney Ramsey, Jillian Reese, Emilee Roush (candidates). †

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 Hoefler

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 Brie 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 hurting 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

“And the local Church has been a great prayer support and financial support to pregnancy care centers and pregnancy resource centers,” said Varick.

Parish inventories of local resources

There are plenty of other resources and ministries in the archdiocese’s 39-county region offering help to pregnant and parenting moms (see list on page 14). The challenge is identifying them.

Walking with Moms in Need is an initiative by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to help parishes find those resources and better serve moms who turn to them for help.

“The website [walkingwithmoms.com] gives you all the tools in order to do a



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

local inventory of the resources in your parish boundaries,” Varick explained. “It walks you step by step in how to assess the outreach to moms in need in your area, what might be missing, can your parish fill in that gap or can you find another resource nearby.”

Her vision is for any mom in need to be able to “walk into their local parish and everyone would know at least where to meet her needs.”

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

“And if that doesn’t work, my hope is they could point moms to an archdiocesan Human Life and Dignity Office website with resources for our whole archdiocese, grouped at least by deanery if not by parish.”

‘It can be the littlest things’

Personally accompanying moms in need may sound daunting, said Varick.

“But 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 Gabriel Project 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

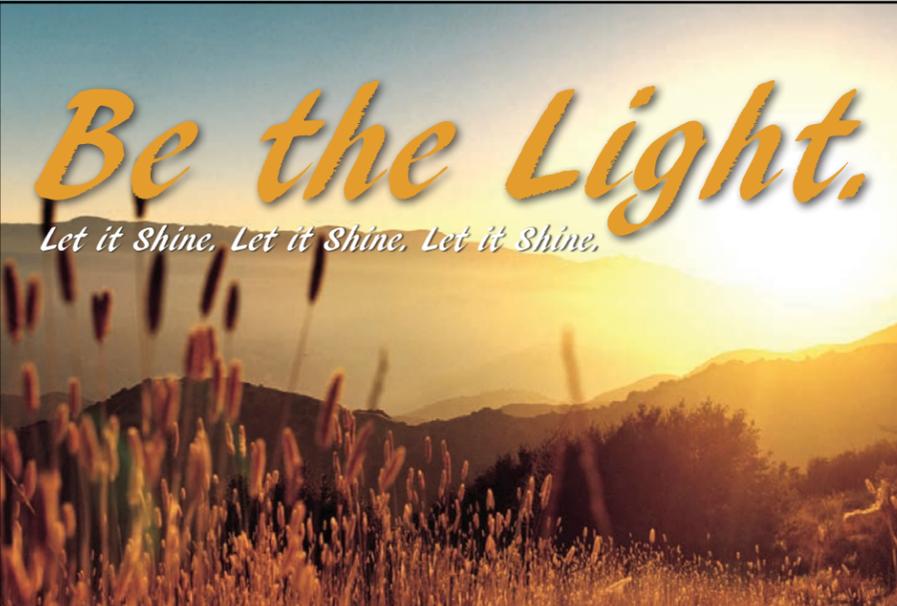
foster care and adoption.”

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

See MOMS, page 14

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The Criterion

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Editorial



Expecting their first child in two months, Benjamin and Rebekah Wortinger, center, and Maria Thomas show their support for the sanctity of life for all children as part of a prayer gathering of pro-life supporters on the grounds of the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis on June 25. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

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 of Southeastern Pennsylvania 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 reversal of decisions which resulted in the death of tens of millions of unborn children.

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 pray for women with unplanned pregnancies. We must advocate for laws at both the state and federal levels that will do everything possible to protect women and their unborn children. And we must engage in, and support financially, programs and activities that assist women in need.

As Archbishop Charles C. Thompson wrote in “We Are One in Christ: A Pastoral Letter on Christian Anthropology”:

“All life is sacred—especially those who feel unwanted or who have been rejected by unjust, unloving and inhuman laws, policies and social practices in this and every other age. Every person sincerely open to truth and goodness can come to recognize the sacred value of human life from the very beginning until its natural end, and can affirm the right of every human being to have this primary good respected to the highest degree.”

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 Constitution places the regulating of abortion 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.”

“We pray that our elected officials will now enact 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.

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 can 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 strived for the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling 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 that 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 in Indiana. That’s a key element of caring for babies and caring for moms that is critical at this moment.”

That glimmer of hope for some measure of potential unity was tested in reality a morning later when pro-life and pro-choice groups held separate rallies on different parts of the grounds of the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis.

As I headed there that morning, my wife was concerned and even fearful of what might happen as there was no doubt that the two groups would cross paths on their way to their respective rallies—the pro-life group to peacefully pray, the pro-choice group to peacefully protest.

And except for a smattering of heated verbal exchanges between individuals that ended quickly, the two camps mostly co-existed peacefully until a very small group of protestors—about 15 or so—disrupted the prayer gathering, some of them weaving through it with their protest signs while others tried to shout down some of the prayer gathering’s speakers.

Amid that tense situation, the microphone was passed to Father Rick Nagel, the pastor of nearby St. John the Evangelist Parish. As some pro-choice advocates continued to yell, the priest hid the fact that his heart was pounding in that moment by delivering a calm tribute to all the people—including his parents and grandparents—who “have peacefully

and prayerfully marched for life for nearly 50 years now,” thanking them for their courage.

At the same time, Father Nagel extended his final blessing toward both the protestors and the prayer group. As a few protestors continued to shout, he prayed, “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.”

After he gave the final blessing and a calmer atmosphere returned to the area, Father Nagel stood in the shadow of a large tree and talked about one of the most important points he wanted to convey in that tense moment.

“I just felt a real sense of making sure to tell people that God loves them. Sometimes people don’t know that—people who are so angry, so hurt, so broken—that there’s a God who loves them, too. There’s no reason to be combative. You want to speak the truth with charity. That’s all we can do these days. We have to love people through it.”

After saying goodbye to Father Nagel, I walked to my car, soon blending in with a sea of people who were leaving the protest rally. Their signs were at their sides and some of them talked quietly with a friend or loved one as we all waited together at a street corner for a traffic light to change. When it did, we moved together, all of us heading back to our homes, our lives.

As I walked, two images from that morning stayed in my mind. The first one involved two women—one pro-life, one pro-choice—talking softly with each other, sharing their views and their thoughts about motherhood in a conversation that included tears.

The other thought that stayed with me was a conversation I had with a grandmother at the prayer gathering. At one point, she talked about the gifts she has received in being a parent to her children, smiling as she said that being a parent never ends even when your children are grown with children of their own. She talked about learning the gifts of sacrifice, humility and love. And then she added another part of parenting, “loving when you think you can’t give anymore.”

Loving when you think you can’t give anymore.

It 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 humanity.

It will always be the bridge 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 responsible exchange of freely-held and expressed opinion among the People of God” (*Communio et Progressio*, 116).

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

The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to edit

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

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

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



Christ the Cornerstone

Worship of God in the Holy Mass unites us

In this life, there is no greater way to foster [an intimate] relationship to Christ and the Church than through the gift and mystery of the Most Holy Eucharist and the fruitful celebration of the Mass. ("Worship of God in the Holy Mass Unites Us," #3)

In my pastoral letter, "Worship of God in the Holy Mass Unites Us," published on Dec. 14, 2021, I observed that "the Eucharist is at the heart of our relationship with Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life." We foster this intimate relationship with the Lord of Life through our frequent and fervent participation in the Mass.

All Catholics who are able to attend Sunday Mass have an obligation to do so. This is a serious responsibility that we are invited to accept freely as missionary disciples gathered around the eucharistic table of our Lord's body and blood prior to being sent out "on mission."

Indeed, participation in the holy sacrifice of the Mass is an expression of our love and devotion, an act of profound adoration that is our solemn-but-joyful duty as sons and daughters of the Father, who so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son to

redeem us from sin and death (Jn 3:16).

We too often think of an "obligation" as something forced on us, something uncomfortable or distasteful, a limitation on our freedom. But many obligations are freely chosen, even liberating, as when a woman and a man bind themselves to one another in marriage; or when a priest makes vows that bind him to a special relationship with Jesus Christ and, therefore, accepts the demands (and rewards!) of priestly ministry; or when parents and grandparents give themselves unhesitatingly to the obligation to sacrifice their own desires for the good of their children and grandchildren.

In my pastoral letter, I wrote:

Everything that we do as members of Christ's body flows from and back to this our "source and summit" in the Eucharistic celebration. The effects of receiving Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament in our lives are many: including increasing our union with the Lord; forgiving our venial sins; preserving us from grave sins; reinforcing the unity of the Church as the mystical body of Christ; and enabling our Christian initiation. Finally, in our worship of God at Mass, we are called, equipped and sent to be

missionary disciples into the world!

Catholics accept the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days because we love God and we want to be close to him. Love compels us to cast off our isolation and seek communion (intimate union) with the One we love. Because of love, we make sacrifices and do things that may seem uncomfortable or inconvenient. Because of love, we set aside our own desires in order to be united with Christ, and with the other members of his Church, in an act of adoration and worship that we make wholeheartedly and without reservation.

Nothing in these reflections should give the impression that faithful participation in the Mass is easy. We have to work at it. We must come prepared. We must listen attentively to God's word. We must participate actively in the prayers and singing, not letting extraneous thoughts or worries distract us from the act of worship. And, of course, we must receive the body and blood of Christ in the state of grace, and we must open our minds and hearts to him, allowing him to dwell in us and empower us to do God's will.

Truly, as I state in the letter, "there is no greater way to foster [an intimate]

relationship to Christ and the Church than through the gift and mystery of the Most Holy Eucharist and the fruitful celebration of the Mass."

It is a great tragedy that so many Catholics today have chosen to neglect their obligation to participate fully in the Mass on Sundays and holy days. Now more than ever, we all need the graces offered by this profound expression of God's love, the Most Blessed Sacrament of Christ's gift of himself to us. What a missed opportunity to find peace, forgiveness and hope through the Lord who has sacrificed everything for us!

The Eucharistic Revival that we initiated last month is intended to help reawaken our longing and appreciation for this divine gift, the holy Mass. The goal of this National Eucharistic Revival is "to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the holy Eucharist." To be successful, we must all open our hearts to the truth of Christ's real presence among us in the Eucharist.

Please join me in praying that the Holy Spirit will enliven our hearts with the desire to worship God in the holy Mass! †



Cristo, la piedra angular

El culto a Dios en la Santa Misa nos une

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," #3)

En mi carta pastoral titulada "El culto a Dios en la Santa Misa nos une", publicada el 14 de diciembre de 2021, señalé 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 dominical tienen la obligación de hacerlo. Se trata de una gran responsabilidad que se nos invita a asumir libremente como discípulos misioneros reunidos en torno a la mesa eucarística del Cuerpo y la Sangre del Señor antes de que se nos envíe a "la misión".

En efecto, la participación en el Santo Sacrificio de la Misa es una expresión de nuestro amor y devoción, un acto de profunda adoración que es nuestro deber solemne pero gozoso como hijos e hijas del Padre que tanto amó al mundo que dio a su Hijo unigénito

para redimirnos del pecado y de la muerte (Jn 3,16).

Muy a menudo pensamos que una "obligación" es algo que se nos impone, algo incómodo o desagradable, una limitación de nuestra libertad. Pero muchas obligaciones se eligen libremente e incluso resultan liberadoras, como cuando una mujer y un hombre se unen en matrimonio; o cuando un sacerdote hace votos que lo vinculan a una relación especial con Jesucristo y, por tanto, acepta las exigencias (¡y recompensas!) del ministerio sacerdotal; o cuando los padres y los abuelos se entregan sin vacilar a la obligación de sacrificar sus propios deseos por el bien de sus hijos y nietos.

En mi carta pastoral, escribí:

Todo lo que hacemos como miembros del cuerpo de Cristo fluye desde y hacia esta nuestra «fuente y ápice» en la celebración eucarística. Los efectos de recibir a Jesús en el Santísimo Sacramento en nuestras vidas son muchos: aumentar nuestra unión con el Señor; perdonar nuestros pecados veniales; preservarnos de los pecados graves; reforzar la unidad de la Iglesia como cuerpo místico de Cristo; y facilitar nuestra iniciación cristiana. Finalmente, en nuestra adoración a Dios en la misa, se nos llama, se nos equipa y se nos guía

a 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 Él. 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 o preocupaciones nos distraigan del acto de adoración. Y, por supuesto, debemos recibir el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo en estado de gracia, y debemos abrirle nuestras mentes y corazones, permitiéndole habitar en nosotros y capacitarnos para cumplir la voluntad de Dios.

En verdad, "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".

Resulta trágico que tantos católicos de hoy hayan optado por descuidar su obligación de participar plenamente en la misa los domingos y fiestas de guardar. Ahora más que nunca todos necesitamos las gracias que nos ofrece esta profunda expresión del amor de Dios, el Santísimo Sacramento en el que Cristo se entregó a nosotros como regalo. ¡Estamos desperdiciando la oportunidad para encontrar la paz, el perdón y la esperanza a través del Señor que lo ha sacrificado todo por nosotros!

El Renacimiento Eucarístico que iniciamos el mes pasado pretende despertar nuestro anhelo y aprecio por este don divino, la Santa Misa. El objetivo de este Renacimiento Eucarístico Nacional es "renovar la Iglesia encendiendo la llama de una relación viva con el Señor Jesucristo en la sagrada Eucaristía". Para lograrlo, todos debemos abrir nuestros corazones a la verdad de la presencia real de Cristo entre nosotros en la Eucaristía.

Únanse a mí en la oración para que el Espíritu Santo anime nuestros corazones con el deseo de adorar a Dios en la Santa Misa. †

Events Calendar

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

July 4

Fairbanks Park (near fishing dock), 1100 Girl Scout Ln., Terre Haute. **Wabash Valley Rubber Duck Regatta**, 7 p.m., benefitting Catholic Charities,

\$5 per duck, owner of winning duck wins \$10,000 cash and 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 welcome, also call about regular Friday night dinner events. Information: 317-796-8605.

July 15

Northside Events and Social Club, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, Kevin Lennon, VP of NCAA Division One Governance presenting “Order, Disorder, Reorder—What it Means for Sports ... and You,” rosary 6:35 a.m., Mass 7 a.m., buffet breakfast and program following, \$18 members, \$24 non-members. Register by 4 p.m. on July 12. Information and registration: cutt.ly/CBE-Reg.

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

July 23

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

July 7-9

Holy Spirit Parish, 7243 E. 10th St., Indianapolis. **Holy Spirit Festival**, Thurs. 6-11 p.m., Fri. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 1 p.m.-midnight, live music, midway rides, festival food, beer and wine, bingo, Monte Carlo, Texas Hold ‘Em, silent auction, rummage sale, parking shuttle available at 7140 E. Washington St., free wrist bands provided to parishioners after Masses, non-parishioners \$10 in festival tickets admission, children younger than 12 free. Information: holyspiritfestival.org, festival@holyspirit.cc or 317-353-9404.

July 16-17

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

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

July 23-24

All Saints Parish St. Martin Campus, 8044 Yorkridge Rd., Guilford. **Summer Festival**, Sat. 5-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. live music by Austin Tyler Lee Band, Sun. music by Rick and Randy, raffles, beer garden, lunch stand, kiddie land, quilts, country store, religious exhibit on Eucharistic miracles, chicken dinner served Sun. beginning at 11 a.m., free admission. Sun. Information: 812-576-4302.

July 18

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

July 20

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

July 21

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

July 24

All Saints Parish St. Martin Campus, 8044 Yorkridge Rd., Guilford. **5K Country Run**, Sun. 9:30 a.m., register by July 19 to receive t-shirt, \$22.34 with t-shirt, \$17.02 without t-shirt, register at cutt.ly/StMartin5K22. Information: 812-576-4302.

July 25

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

July 12

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

July 13

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

July 14-16

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

Retreats and Programs

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

July 6, 7

Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Art

and Soul Creation Guild, choose between 9:30 a.m.-noon first Wednesday of the month or 6-8:30 p.m. first Thursday of the month, Providence Sister Rosemary Schmalz presenting,

\$30 membership fee to join group, \$5 per session after. Information and registration: Jeanne Frost, 812-535-2952, jfrost@spsmw.org or spsmw.org/events. †

Wedding Anniversaries

David and Jeanne (Moorman) Moran, members of Holy Spirit 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 Chris Daeger.

The couple has seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



James, Sr., and Joan (Wiesner) Tannous, members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford, will celebrate their 60th 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) Ferkinhoff, 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 Ferkinhoff.

The couple also has six grandchildren.



Rodney and Sherry (Noel) Geis, members of St. Gabriel Parish in Connsville, 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 Jason Geis.

The couple also has eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Jim and Terrie (Tillar) Reinhart, members of Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 14.

The couple was married in Ursuline Academy Chapel in Cincinnati 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. (Gary Diocese), on June 24, 1972.

They have three children: Sarah Bachman, Valerie Karamanis and Mary Werner.

The couple also has eight grandchildren.



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

Wedding Anniversary Mass with Archbishop Thompson is set for Aug. 14

The archdiocesan Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass, to be celebrated by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, will take place at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, at 2 p.m. on Aug. 14. A reception will follow across the street at the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., from 3-5 p.m.

The Mass is for all couples of the archdiocese married sacramentally in the Catholic Church. Certificates will be awarded to couples celebrating the following anniversaries: first year; every fifth year between 5-60 years of marriage; and every

anniversary after 60 years.

The reception will include food, music, dancing and time to meet the archbishop.

American Sign Language interpretation will be available.

The Mass and reception are sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life.

The event is free, but space is limited, and registration is required by July 23.

To register or for more information, go to cutt.ly/AnniversaryMass.

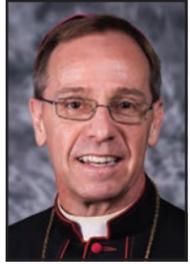
For additional questions, contact Claudia Corona at 317-236-7310 or ccorona@archindy.org. †

RULING

continued from page 1

quickly to pass legislation to protect the God-given dignity and humanity of all unborn babies and their mothers in our state, and we support all efforts to legally protect human life from the moment of conception until natural death,” the statement notes. (Read the entire statement in English and *en Español* below.)

In comments given to *The Criterion*, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson expressed the Church’s gratitude for the ruling. But he noted that “we also hold



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

in prayer all those who struggle with life choices, unplanned pregnancies and painful regrets.”

He said the Church “advocates for the dignity of every person, the sacredness of all life, from the moment of conception to natural death,” noting that

such advocacy “includes mother and child, before and after birth, families and individuals.

“The ministries of our Church’s accompaniment encompass support, defense, healing and reconciliation in Jesus Christ. No one is beyond the scope of God’s mercy.”

‘We’re here for you’

In the archdiocese’s response to the Supreme Court’s ruling, Archbishop Thompson listed numerous ministries offered by the archdiocese to help moms in need.

Brie Anne Varick oversees some of those efforts as coordinator of the archdiocesan Office of Human Life and Dignity.

“I can’t believe it’s actually happening,” she said of the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. “You work and pray for something for so long—I’m just in awe to see God working in our country and answering the prayers of those who prayed for so long.

“But I also know this is not the end,” she added. “The Church does a lot of great ministry, but a lot of people don’t know what we do. 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.”

Catholic Charities is another office of the archdiocese that offers help to pregnant and parenting moms, with locations in Bloomington, Indianapolis, New Albany, Tell City and Terre Haute.

“The pro-life call to care for the poor is the cornerstone of who Catholic Charities is,” said Bill Bickel, associate director of the archdiocese’s Catholic Charities. “Caring for the poor pregnant mother, low-income married couple, vulnerable elderly and homeless parent with children is

not just a pro-life value for Catholic Charities, it is who we are.”

‘It’s the very beginning’

During the reign of *Roe v. Wade*, myriad prayers were offered for its elimination.

Many of those prayers were said by sidewalk counselors as they offered life-affirming information and compassion to women approaching abortion centers.

“I’m overjoyed that this country has finally come to a point that they see life needs to be protected,” said Sheryl Dye, co-coordinator of Sidewalk Advocates for Life on the north side of Indianapolis. “It’s a time of prayer and thanksgiving.

“I also recognize we have a long way to go,” she added. “It doesn’t end abortion.”

As Dye and other sidewalk counselors continue their ministry, they do so with a heightened awareness of the risk of threats from those opposed to their efforts.

“It’s something we’ve discussed,” she admitted. “But we’ve always known it’s a possibility, and we’ve seen it before. It’s something we can’t dwell on. We put our trust in God, watch our surroundings and keep our phones ready.”

The members of Students for Life of America take the same approach, said Mary Carmen Zakrajsek, the organization’s Indiana regional director. She was attacked from behind at a recent peaceful protest.

“When this happens, we must continue to respond with courage,” she said.

As for the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, Zakrajsek knew the decision was not an “if,” but “when.”

Students for Life “was founded as a post-Roe organization,” she said. “Even when no one believed it was possible for *Roe* to fall, we knew that such a great injustice could not continue to stand.”

But the need to protect moms and the unborn is not over, Zakrajsek added.

“It’s the very beginning as we dedicate ourselves to protecting life in law and in service,” she said. “We will most likely see a plethora of lawsuits attacking state pro-life legislation, so our efforts to change public opinion on the issue of abortion is needed now more than ever.”

‘Advocate, advocate, advocate’

Angela Espada, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference—the Church’s lobbying arm in the state—expects the state General Assembly to take up pro-life legislation when they begin a special session on July 6 that Gov. Eric Holcomb announced on June 22. Legislators sent a letter to the governor in early March requesting a special session should *Roe v. Wade* be overturned in whole or in part.

With laws on the issue now handled at the state level, there are three things Catholics need to do, said Espada: “Advocate, advocate, advocate.”

“Advocate [to legislators] for true Catholic social teaching on pro-life laws, respecting life from natural conception to natural death.

“Advocate for all things that will allow someone to be born healthy and have access to all things they need to be raised to their full potential—including education and medical care.”

Eric Slaughter is grateful that abortion-related legislation will now be handled at the state level. As one who knows the pain and regret associated with losing a child to abortion, he is an active pro-life advocate.

“I feel gratitude, joy, happiness and surprise” at the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, said the member of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis. “To be honest, I wasn’t hopeful it would be entirely overturned.”

With laws made at the state level, “We’ll have more of an opportunity to vote for and support pro-life legislation in Indiana,” said Slaughter. “It takes control out of the hands of a small number of individuals who’ve encouraged abortion for the last 50 years.”

Indiana attorney general Todd Rokita has begun the process of asking courts to lift injunctions against several Indiana abortion laws following the *Dobbs* ruling.



Pro-life demonstrators in Washington celebrate outside the Supreme Court on June 24 as the court overruled the landmark *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision. (CNS photo/Evelyn Hockstein, Reuters)

According to a statement from Rokita’s office, those laws include a ban on discriminatory abortions sought specifically because of the unborn child’s race, sex or disability, and a requirement that parents be notified when a court approves an abortion for a minor child without parental consent (barring extenuating circumstances such as reason to believe such notification could endanger the child.)

“Indiana has a long history of defending life, and the Supreme Court has recognized these contributions,” Rokita said in the statement. “Indeed, the *Dobbs* decision expressly cited multiple Indiana cases—such as our battles to outlaw discriminatory abortion and require respectful disposition of the bodies of aborted babies.”

‘A great opportunity’

Calling the *Dobbs* ruling “a tremendous victory,” Indiana Right to Life president Mike Fichter noted, “It really gives the potential for saving millions of innocent lives across the country. And it also points to the fact that we’ve come really such a long way from the old days of 1973.

“Wrapped into today’s court ruling is the acknowledgment that we know more about unborn babies in the womb than at any other time in human history. And, quite frankly, there are many more services available that weren’t available in states like Indiana back in 1973.

“Thanks to this monumentally historic ruling that we’ve seen today, we now have the opportunity as a state to come together as a loving, compassionate state to really revisit Indiana’s abortion laws and take a look at them.”

Fichter believes the Indiana state legislature will take up the issue as part of the upcoming special session

“We believe there’s a great opportunity to come together collectively and to affirm that every life has value, including every unborn child’s life,” he said. “But at the same time, and this is critical, we must be a state that shows support and care for pregnant mothers choosing life in Indiana. That’s a key element of caring for babies and caring for moms that is critical at this moment.”

Marc Tuttle echoed that sentiment on the morning of June 25 as he coordinated a prayer gathering of pro-life supporters on the grounds of the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis.

“We’re here to thank God,” said Tuttle, the president of Right to Life of Indianapolis. “We’re also here to pray for strength, and we’re here to pray for God’s providence to watch over us in this process as we go forth.

“This is a tremendous responsibility. God has turned this back to us, and now it’s up to us to come together as Hoosiers to do everything that we can to protect life and to support and be there for pregnant moms.”

(To stay on top of proposed pro-life legislation and to easily identify and contact legislators, sign up for Indiana Catholic Action Network [ICAN] alerts and updates at indianacc.org.) †

Statement on the *Dobbs* decision from Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

The U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* restores the ability of states to provide 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 quickly to pass legislation to protect the God-given dignity and humanity of all unborn babies and their mothers in our state, and we support all efforts to legally protect human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

For decades, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis has worked diligently to provide material and emotional support to women and families facing unplanned or difficult pregnancies across central and southern Indiana through its ministries such as Birthline, St. Elizabeth/Coleman Pregnancy & Adoption Services, Adoption Bridges of Kentuckiana, Lifeline for Families,

Holy Family Shelter, Bethany House and Project Rachel, which offers Christ-like compassion and hope to women and men after an abortion. In addition to these archdiocesan ministries, many parishes throughout the Archdiocese also operate individual parish-based ministries to support pregnant women and women with young children.

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. †

Declaración sobre la decisión *Dobbs* del Arzobispo Charles C. Thompson

El fallo del Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos que anula el caso *Roe contra Wade* restablece la capacidad de los estados de brindar protección legal a los niños no nacidos, protección que la Iglesia Católica ha defendido desde que se legalizó el aborto en 1973. Rezamos para que la Asamblea General de Indiana sancione rápidamente una legislación que proteja la dignidad y la humanidad conferidas por Dios a todos los bebés no nacidos y a sus madres en nuestro estado, y apoyamos todos los esfuerzos para proteger legalmente la vida humana desde el momento de la concepción hasta la muerte natural.

Durante décadas, la Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis ha trabajado arduamente para proporcionar apoyo material y emocional a las mujeres y familias que se enfrentan a embarazos no planificados o difíciles en todo el centro y el sur de Indiana mediante ministerios como Birthline, St. Elizabeth/Coleman Pregnancy & Adoption Services, Adoption Bridges of Kentuckiana, Lifeline for Families,

Holy Family Shelter, Bethany House y Project Rachel, que infunden compasión y esperanza a mujeres y hombres tras un aborto, siguiendo el ejemplo de Cristo. Además de estos ministerios arquidiocesanos, muchas parroquias de toda la Arquidiócesis también administran ministerios parroquiales para apoyar a las mujeres embarazadas y a aquellas con niños pequeños.

La Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis se mantiene alerta en su labor de hacer todo lo posible para proporcionar un apoyo afectuoso a las mujeres antes y después del nacimiento de sus bebés, independientemente de su credo, origen étnico o idioma, para que ninguna mujer se sienta sola. Instamos a todas las personas que se preocupan por la vida humana y el bien común a que den prioridad al bienestar de las mujeres, los niños y las familias, tanto con recursos materiales como con acompañamiento personal, para que ninguna mujer se vea obligada a elegir entre mejorar su situación y la vida de su bebé. †

Called to serve



Newly ordained deacons kneel in prayer during the June 25 Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis in which they were ordained for service in the archdiocese. (Photos by Sean Gallagher)



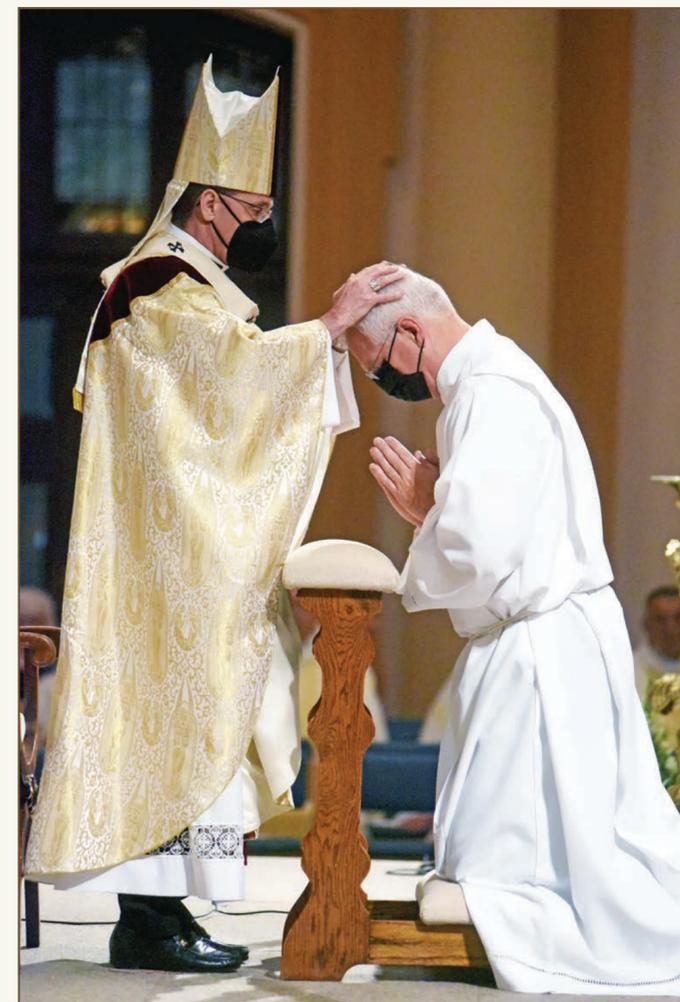
Archbishop Charles C. Thompson elevates the Eucharist during the June 25 deacon ordination Mass.



Father Timothy Wyciskalla, right, pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, places a dalmatic on newly ordained deacon James Martin during the June 25 ordination Mass. Deacon Martin is a member of St. Mark.



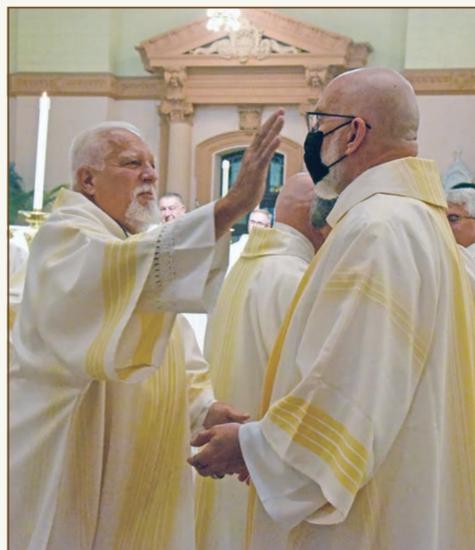
Newly ordained Deacons James Wood, center, and Jorge Leanos, right, ritually receive a Book of the Gospels from Archbishop Charles C. Thompson during the June 25 ordination Mass.



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson ritually lays hands on deacon candidate David Urbanowski, a member of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville, during a June 25 Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis during which Urbanowski and 14 other men were ordained permanent deacons. (Photos by Sean Gallagher)



Deacon candidate Thomas Hosty and his wife Julie process into SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral at the start of the Mass in which Thomas was ordained a permanent deacon.



Deacon William Jones, ordained in 2008, gives a sign of peace to newly ordained Deacon James Martin.



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



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 Rosko, center, assists in the liturgy.

DEACONS

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three previous groups of men ordained as permanent deacons for the archdiocese, one of them said after the Mass that those 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 better and stronger."

The limits placed on Deacon Leanos and the others 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," Deacon Leanos said. "However, it puts me in the position of looking even more forward to go and take the word of God to our friends who cannot come to church." Thoughts of COVID and other challenges were far from his mind during the liturgy itself, especially when Archbishop Thompson ritually laid hands on his head, a ritual used in ordinations from the earliest days of the Church.

"I could feel that I was transported into a different dimension," Deacon Leanos

recalled. "I could feel the Holy Spirit. That will be a memorable moment for the rest of my life."

Deacon James O'Connell of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King Parish in Paoli and Archbishop Thompson shared a moment more than 40 years in the making during the ordination.

In the early 1980s, Deacon O'Connell was a seminarian for the Diocese of Evansville, Ind., at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad. Archbishop Thompson was a seminarian at the time a year behind Deacon O'Connell.

The archbishop laughed about the two coming back together face to face during the ordination when Deacon O'Connell placed his hands in the archbishop's while promising to be obedient to him and his successors.

"God works in mysterious ways," Archbishop Thompson humorously said. "For him to say 'yes' to obedience to me, knowing me that well—that's a great act of obedience and faith."

"That was so powerful for me, knowing that we went all the way back to 1981," said Deacon O'Connell after the Mass. "It was just holy. I felt his support. The way he touched my hands and looked me in the eye—there was a really connectedness."

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. "He's been in ministry for a long time. He loves being a servant."

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

"No one gets to this point without the support and assistance of others," he said. "In a special way, we thank your wives, children and parents for the great gift you are to the Church because of their support and nurturing. Most importantly, of course, we rely upon the grace of God."

In the Church's worship, it is believed that certain sacraments—baptism, confirmation and holy orders—make a permanent change in the person who receives them.

Archbishop Thompson reflected on that belief in his homily, noting that the change the deacon candidates were to experience will expand beyond themselves.

"They will be transformed and, in a certain way, their families will be transformed," he said. "The transforming grace of holy orders effects a new

creation. You will not leave here the same as you came in.

"Embracing this grace, those to be ordained deacon are sent to preach the word of God, serve at the altar, baptize, distribute holy Communion, visit the sick and serve the poor."

The 15 new deacons join those ordained in 2008, 2012 and 2017, as well as deacons ordained elsewhere who have moved to the archdiocese. There are now 70 permanent deacons ministering across central and southern Indiana.

Deacon Kerry Blandford, who was ordained in 2008, has served as archdiocesan director of deacon formation since 2011.

"It doesn't get old," he said. "Each group is different. You sit through the formation. This was my fourth time through. I've jokingly said that the archbishop keeps sending me back for remedial work."

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 their answering of a true call," he said.

(For more photos from the June 25 ordination Mass, read this story at www.CriterionOnline.com.) †



Andrea Wood proclaims the first reading during the June 25 deacon ordination Mass. Wood is the wife of newly ordained Deacon James Wood.



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 stressed one extra point as he praised and thanked the youths, women 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 schools. The center of the universe isn’t the football 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-centered.”

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 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 that God has given us are to better ourselves and others—and to give glory to God.” †



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)

CYO recognition highlights volunteer efforts of adults and youths

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—Matt Dafforn
 St. Lawrence Parish—Keith Minch
 St. Michael Parish, Greenfield—Ty Hays
 St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish—James Hayes, Jr.

2022 Msgr. Albert Busald Award recipients

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

St. Barnabas Parish—Victoria Meinerding 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 Kavanaugh and Bob Koers
 St. Simon the Apostle Parish—Jon Grant and Sue Knoop
 St. Thomas Aquinas Parish—Michael Bennett and Duane Marks

2022 Spirit of Youth Award recipients

Good Shepherd Parish—Carlos Garcia, Adan Maya and Annalise O’Daniel
 Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Beech Grove—Joseph Curd

and Hannah Taylor
 Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish—Alejandro Gomez
 Providence Cristo Rey High School—Florgisel Garcia, Cassie Mitchell, Jose Sanchez and Ja’ Diah Smith
 St. Roch Parish—Eli Littell, Mikey Riedeman and Evan Schaub
 St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish—Maria Nevins



2022 Edward J. Tinder CYO Official of the Year Award recipient

Mike LaGrave—St. Christopher Parish

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

By John Shaughnessy

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.



Jennifer Wood-Thompson

The tributes helped lead to her selection 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.”

Another parent described her approach to her teams at Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis this way: “She always looks out for the child’s needs first, then the needs of the team, then the chance to win.”

These and more tributes all connect to one of Wood-Thompson’s favorite memories from coaching.

“There was a girl I coached. It’s been a while. Her younger sister was a better athlete and made the ‘A’ team, and she was on the ‘B’ team. I knew how hard that was for her. I told her I needed her to be a leader, and she was. I saw her not that long ago. You could tell she had an appreciation for me.”

At Christ the King, Wood-Thompson has been the girls’ basketball coordinator, the gym scheduler and the sports website administrator. She has also coached boys and girls in a variety of sports. Still, she has a special place in her heart for the girls’ basketball teams she coaches.

She strives to give them an experience similar to the one she had when she played multiple sports at Washington Catholic High School in Washington, Ind., in the 1980s.

“I learned to compete. I learned camaraderie. They say that girls are more self-confident and have greater success if they’ve played a sport. They learn to be on a team, to count on each other, to be strong independent women.

“I always make a special point that I don’t want them saying anything negative about their teammates. There’s a strong bond between teammates.”

She also works to help them create a strong bond to their faith, by having them go to Mass together at times, stressing sportsmanship, and praying before games and practices.

“You want them to be the person who lives their faith, who lives like a Christian. If you look out for people in your life, you’ll come out OK.” †

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 school’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 the court’s majority opinion, written by Justice Neil Gorsuch.

Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan dissented.

The court’s majority opinion also emphasized that “respect for religious expressions is indispensable to life in 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 doubly 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.”

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 to stop 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.

During oral arguments in late April, several justices emphasized that private speech is still private, and protected by the First Amendment, even if it takes place on public grounds.

But others pointed out that this private prayer on the field also could

seem coercive because players could feel like they should participate.

An attorney for the school district argued that the coach’s prayers violated the Constitution’s establishment clause, which is often cited to prohibit prayer in public schools, but the court’s majority didn’t see it that way.

They said the coach’s actions “did not come close to crossing any line one 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 expulsion 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; said a Christian group was discriminated 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. †

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 Dafforn makes as the track and cross-country coach at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood: “A few years ago, Matt invited a student who transferred mid-year in seventh grade to come out for track. It wasn’t surprising because Matt invites everyone, but it was exactly what this student needed. He was going through a rough time with the move, personal issues at home and a natural shyness.



Matt Dafforn

“That track season changed the young man’s life, giving him new friends and a positive, supportive role model in Matt. The student is now in college and comes back to help coach as much as he can because he believes in what Matt does for others.”

What Dafforn primarily tries to do for others is summed up in a tribute from another parent: “He is just as happy for the last-place finisher improving their time as a first-place finisher winning the race. Matt also talks with the team about the most important thing we all have in common—our faith in Jesus. It is apparent that running is the vehicle Matt uses to bring others closer to Christ.”

The combination of these qualities led Dafforn to be chosen for the 2022 St. John Bosco Award, the highest award given by the archdiocese’s Catholic Youth Organization (CYO).

“CYO sports need to be fun and God-centered, so the kids get something out of it physically and spiritually,” he says. “I like to see them running because it’s a lifelong sport, a healthy way to live once they get beyond high school and college. It’s like going to church. You want God to continue to be a big focus 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 16 children 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 practice. During the celebration, many of the runners gave him hand-written cards and pictures they had drawn.

“When I sat down and read them, 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.” †

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

By John Shaughnessy

When he considers his 22 years 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.



Jim Hayes

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 won the championship, I’d get a tattoo,” says the 62-year-old Hayes, who has 15 tattoos celebrating memorable parts of his life. “When they saw 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 at 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. “At the Nativity festival, all these young women come up to me and say, ‘Hi, Coach.’ To me, it shows the impact I must have had when I coached them. It’s not only the love of the game for me but getting to know the girls. I try to teach them life lessons from playing basketball—to work hard, that there are consequences to their actions, and there’s a responsibility on their end when they commit to playing.”

His 16 years of leading teams at Nativity and six years at Little Flower have reaffirmed one of the best gifts he’s gained from coaching.

“The relationships I’ve developed not only with the girls, but the parents,” he says. “They belong to part of my family, and I belong to their families.”

One other memory came back to Hayes when he was presented with the St. John Bosco Award.

“When I was 50, I had a heart attack. When I woke up from that, my daughter told me I should have been dead. My faith grew stronger after that. I was searching for a purpose in my life. *Why did God spare me?* When I got the award that night, I think I got my answer.” †

Longtime coach strives to let players ‘see God in my heart’

By John Shaughnessy

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



Ty Hays

“Some of them may never play a sport otherwise,” he says. “And 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.”

Hays believes so much in the positive influence of sports that whenever there’s a team at his parish—St. Michael in Greenfield—that doesn’t have a coach, he steps up to lead it. And he’s been making that gift possible for more than 25 years in a variety of sports—kickball, volleyball, track, and girls’ and boys’ basketball.

It’s part of the reason he was selected for a 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.

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 the kids to know 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, to let them see God in my heart.”

It’s an approach that seems to connect with the young people he coaches as he often receives several invitations to high school graduation parties. Former players also come back to help him coach or demonstrate a drill.

“It makes me feel I’ve really touched a kid, that I’ve helped him in some way.”

There are also the surprises along the way. One involved a fifth-and sixth-grade boys’ basketball team that he stepped up to coach when no one else did—a team of supposedly less-talented players who went on to be runners-up in an end-of-the-year tournament.

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

“I didn’t know who put my name in.”

His pastor, Father Aaron Jenkins, did, summing up Hays’ impact with this tribute, “Ty never hesitates to lend a hand wherever needed. He is truly worthy and deserving of this award.” †

Coach looks to his past to prepare his players for the future

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.



Aaron Irwin

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 sports experience, they shaped his life.

He has even borrowed many of the principles that guided their coaching: Do the right thing, work together as a team, outwork the competition, live your life so you can get to heaven.

“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 girls’ basketball at St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. “It kind of gets me choked up thinking about all those coaches.”

That circle of life is making another rotation now, as some of his players have returned to coach with him. Others have given him one of his greatest honors—asking him to be their sponsor for the sacrament of confirmation. “That means the world to me,” he says.

So does the opportunity to coach the children that he and his wife Jill brought into the world: Jake, Maggie and Drew.

In coaching Jake and Drew and their classmates in football, Irwin has tried to instill the knowledge and values he learned from playing the sport at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis and at Hanover College in Madison.

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

“I learned that the girls all need something different. It’s helped me to become a better football 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 from 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

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



Keith Minch

For nearly 20 years, Minch has strived to be that person as a coach in the archdiocese’s Catholic Youth Organization (CYO).

“A large percentage of what you 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 belonging. And as a coach in the CYO, you can also instill faith in them.”

A father of four, Minch has not only helped to provide that foundation for his own children, but for the numerous boys and girls he has coached in sports at St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis—football, kickball, basketball and baseball.

That dedication has led to his selection as a recipient of the 2022 St. John Bosco Award, the highest honor of the archdiocese’s CYO.

In nominating him for the award, Sarah Watson has seen the incredible difference that Minch has made.

“There is no greater advocate for our children, nor better role model as he is always making sure students are scholars first,” says Watson, a former St. Lawrence principal and current assistant superintendent of schools for

the archdiocese. “On many occasions, Keith has acted as a father figure for our students who have no father at home.”

As a coach, Minch works to help his players understand that beyond their physical abilities, it’s their mental approach in sports—and in life—that will make the biggest difference.

“The biggest thing I want them to learn is to always give your best. If you’re giving me 50%, you’re probably doing that in the classroom, too. What you learn in sports you’ll carry with you the rest of your life. I try to get them to work hard, be a good teammate, be a better student, a better Catholic.”

He views his coaching—and his past 11 years as athletic director for the parish—as his ways 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 can.” †

Pastoral Ministries/Gabriela Ross

Pope Francis calls for renewal of marriage preparation

On June 15, there was an exciting announcement from the Vatican regarding the future of marriage preparation in the Catholic Church. New guidelines were issued for a “marriage catechumenate” which will transform 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 Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life has been hard at work creating the new pastoral 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 “preface” 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 important themes from the apostolic exhortation, and encourage the whole Church to joyfully recommit to evangelization for families and with families.

Just like the catechumenate is key for

adults preparing for the sacrament of baptism, so should marriage preparation become a catechumenal process in preparation for the sacrament of marriage.

It is very worrisome that marriage preparation has become so watered down. Couples run the risk of celebrating a null matrimony or having such a fragile commitment to their sacrament that it cannot withstand even the very earliest conflicts and crises that are inevitable. These situations bring great suffering and leave deep wounds. People become discouraged, bitter, and in the most painful cases, they stop believing in the vocation to love, written by God in the heart of every person. We have a duty as a Church to accompany those who seek marriage, so they can persevere 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 priesthood or religious life: years. But for those preparing for matrimony, 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. They are “guardians of life” not only through begetting children, educating them, and helping them to grow, but also in their care for the elderly, the disabled and the poor. It is within these families that grow 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 dedicate time and energy to adequately prepare those whom the Lord has called to so great a mission as the family.

I ask, 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 Holy Spirit is entrusting 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.

Note: The full document “*Itinerari Catecumenali per la vita matrimoniale a cura del Dicastero per i Laici, la Famiglia e la Vita*” is available at cutt.ly/marriageprep in Italian and Spanish. Future translations are forthcoming. The summary provided above is intended for personal reflection and is not an official translation from the Vatican.

(Gabriela Ross is the director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life and may be reached at gross@archindy.org or 317-592-4007.) †

Reflection/Sean Gallagher

Build on the ‘strong foundation of life and love’ laid by pro-life advocates gone before us

On the morning of June 24, I was at home before my computer when the U.S. Supreme Court began releasing rulings in cases at its usual time of 10 a.m..

It usually does not release rulings on Fridays, but that day had been added earlier in the week.



So, I had a bit of a gut feeling that the long-awaited ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health* might just 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* had been overturned.

My two youngest sons, Philip and Colin, were with me and we rejoiced together, soon praying an English translation of the “*Te Deum*,” an ancient prayer of praise to God often prayed on occasions of great joy.

Philip may have been the happiest of us all. He jumped up and down, his joy bursting forth in cries of happiness.

“We. Are. The pro-life generation!” is often chanted by great crowds of young people at pro-life rallies like the national March for Life in Washington and in the past few years in the Indiana March for Life in Indianapolis.

I saw that beautiful, hopeful truth in Philip’s rejoicing on the morning of June 24. I’ve seen it in young people who wear pro-life shirts that say, “Survivor of ‘73.” They know that their lives could have been legally snuffed out in the womb in the blink of an eye.

But young people like Philip weren’t the only people on my mind on June 24. So was Bob Rust. I thought of him often that day.

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 and businessman, Bob was a stalwart pro-life advocate.

That’s how I got to know him about 20 years ago when my wife Cindy and I did sidewalk counselling outside abortion centers in Indianapolis for a few years.

I’ve known a lot of pro-life people over the years, but no one as dedicated to and convicted in his pro-life principles as Bob.

Rain, snow, hot weather and cold could not keep Bob well into his retirement years from driving from his home in Greensburg to Indianapolis multiple times each week for decades in his frontline pro-life work.

He would not be dissuaded by the sometimes hostile reaction to the offers of love and help he made to mothers arriving at abortion centers. And through it all, he prayed. He was always praying.

Seeing Bob so dedicated, no matter how difficult the circumstances, inspired newcomers like me to join him. I felt blessed and privileged to stand alongside him in furthering the gospel of life.

How I wished on June 24 that Bob could have lived to see the day when *Roe* was overturned. But knowing how fierce a prayer warrior he was in this life, I can’t help but think that his prayers in heaven may have helped to bring this day about.

Bob Rust. My wife Cindy and I. Our son Philip. Three generations of pro-life people who have lived in a country stained by legalized abortion.

Abortion may become illegal—or at least significantly restricted—in many states, hopefully soon including Indiana.

But for it to become unthinkable, we who were blessed to live to see June 24 will have to form the next generation of pro-life advocates to build on the strong foundation of life and love laid by people like Bob Rust.

Let’s get to work. †

Window Seat Wisdom/Katie Prejean McGrady

After tragedies, we must remember Jesus has conquered all

We went to Hobby Lobby.

It just opened up, you see. Brand new store. Because back in August 2020, the old one was blown away in Hurricane Laura. And so for nearly two years we’ve waited, sometimes not so patiently, for the store with wooden signs with pithy phrases to reopen.



Earlier, as I sat at home watching the horrific headlines cross my TV screen yet again, “19 children dead in school shooting,” I asked my nearly 5-year-old daughter if she wanted to go to Hobby Lobby.

Because it felt like something normal that we could do. And nothing else felt normal. Nothing else felt right. Nothing else felt OK. Let’s just go to the new store and buy some craft supplies and a sign that says, “Live, Love, Laugh,” and try to not think about the tragedy of tiny children being killed in their classrooms two days before summer vacation.

We bought some kites. They have Elsa from *Frozen* on them.

Then we got back in the car, turned on the Disney station on Sirius XM and “Shiny” from *Moana* began.

“Oh this one’s my favorite, Mom! Can you turn it loud!”

And we drove home, the songs from *Moana* making my minivan shake.

Just one tiny normal excursion, to remind me of the gift my child is, to help me stay grounded in a moment of deep grief at the thought that 19 children will never go to Hobby Lobby or get buckled into the minivan ever again.

I hopped over to AP News to look at more news about the tragic shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas. A quick rundown of “What We Know So Far” was top of the website, and as I scrolled through the story, a tiny detail jumped out.

Some students at the school, after the awards ceremony that morning, were sitting in their classroom watching *Moana*, enjoying that first taste of summer break while still at school for just a couple more days.

And that’s when they heard the pop of the AR-15, ran to take cover, hide, escape.

I lost it.

Tears flooded my eyes. My heart began to pound. The room seemed to spin.

Minutes before, we’d listened to *Moana* songs, the same songs those little kids heard that day, moments before they were shot at—killed.

I wept. We all seem to be at this moment.

As we should.

In moments of tragedy, as the horror of violence and evil become more obvious as the story unfolds, we sometimes run to “fix it” so it never happens again. And we should fix it, and we must try to make sure it never happens again.

But first we must sit and lament. First we must sit and cry. First we must sit and grieve. First we must sit, still as can be, and look at the tragedy.

And then, stand up, and remind ourselves this is not the end.

The tragedy is not the end. The tears are not the end. The horror is not the end.

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.

We sit, so that we can then stand. We weep, so that we can perhaps dance once again.

The tragedy of mass shootings—in a grocery store in Buffalo, N.Y., and a school in Texas in less than two weeks—is not one to move on from anytime soon. We must sit in this grief and feel this pain.

And then, we must cling to the words of Jesus, who we know told us there will be trouble in this world, but to take heart, for he has conquered all.

(Katie Prejean McGrady is an author, speaker and host of “The Katie McGrady Show” on The Catholic Channel on Sirius XM. She lives in Lake Charles, La., with her family.) †

‘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’

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

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, July 3, 2022

- Isaiah 66:10-14
- Galatians 6:14-18
- Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

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 influenced what was written.



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 how arduous a trip 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 relief. They struggled.

The prophets, such as the author of the third section of Isaiah, reassured them. God would protect them. He had promised to protect them. They would not die. If they were true to God, they would live. God would give them life.

A passage from St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians is given to us as the second reading.

This letter is a virtual treasure trove of deep and compelling revelation into the reality of salvation, which is found in and happens through Jesus. Christians are given salvation by their bond with Jesus, the Savior.

Thus, this reading calls upon Christians to rejoice in the fact that salvation is within their grasp. It tells believers to boast of nothing except that they have been redeemed by the cross of Christ. It also reminds them forcefully that they must tie themselves to the redemption won by Jesus in his sacrificial crucifixion. They must crucify their own instincts and sins and live in the model of the Lord.

Paul says that no one is excluded from

God's plan for human salvation, but each person must voluntarily ratify a personal place in this plan by turning to God humbly and without qualification.

St. Luke's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is a story about the Lord's commissioning of 72 disciples, whom he sent to prepare for the spread of the Gospel.

Important to the story is the fact that the Lord methodically and carefully instructed these disciples in what they should do as they fulfilled the commission given them. They did not just simply go out on their own.

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.

He also promised them that they themselves would not succumb to whatever destructive forces evil may rise 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 cannot withstand sin, nor should we. Humans must surrender to instincts and selfishness.

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 readings 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.

Daily Readings

Monday, July 4

Hosea 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22
Psalm 145:2-9
Matthew 9:18-26

Tuesday, July 5

St. Anthony Zaccaria, priest
St. Elizabeth of Portugal
Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13
Psalm 115:3-6, 7ab-8, 9-10
Matthew 9:32-38

Wednesday, July 6

St. Maria Goretti, virgin and martyr
Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12
Psalm 105:2-7
Matthew 10:1-7

Thursday, July 7

Hosea 11:1-4, 8c-9
Psalm 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16
Matthew 10:7-15

Friday, July 8

Hosea 14:2-10
Psalm 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-14, 17
Matthew 10:16-23

Saturday, July 9

St. Augustine Zhao Rong, priest and martyr, and companions, martyrs
Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 93:1-2, 5
Matthew 10:24-33

Sunday, July 10

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Deuteronomy 30:10-14
Psalm 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37
or Psalm 19:8-11
Colossians 1:15-20
Luke 10:25-37

Monday, July 11

St. Benedict, abbot
Isaiah 1:10-17
Psalm 50:8-9, 16b-17, 21, 23
Matthew 10:34-11:1

Tuesday, July 12

Isaiah 7:1-9
Psalm 48:2-8
Matthew 11:20-24

Wednesday, July 13

St. Henry
Isaiah 10:5-7, 13b-16
Psalm 94:5-10, 14-15
Matthew 11:25-27

Thursday, July 14

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, virgin
Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19
Psalm 102:13-14ab, 15-21
Matthew 11:28-30

Friday, July 15

St. Bonaventure, bishop and doctor of the Church
Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8
(Response) Isaiah 38:10-12, 16
Matthew 12:1-8

Saturday, July 16

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Micah 2:1-5
Psalm 10:1-4, 7-8, 14
Matthew 12:14-21

Sunday, July 17

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15:2-5
Colossians 1:24-28
Luke 10:38-42

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Masses can be offered for the repose of the souls of non-Catholic people

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



QI lost a close friend of mine 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)

AYes, 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" (#901). 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 believe 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 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."

QPreviously 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. (Indiana)

AThat, I think, is a very good idea. You didn't say when the homilies are distributed, and there might be different views on that. Some would decide to have the copies available at the beginning of Mass, so that the congregation can follow along as the priest is speaking.

Others might prefer that attention during Mass be devoted to the spoken word and that the printed homily be available as people are leaving church. Practically speaking, I'm not sure how many parishioners would take it home and read it.

There is a larger issue here, though. Aren't the other prayers the priest says aloud during the Mass just as important as the homily—or more so? And what's being done to help with that? I would think that any diocese that recruits a foreign priest has a responsibility to help that priest with his language skills. Surely there is an academic institution within reach that offers courses in English as a second language. †

My Journey to God

Moonlight Magic

By M. Lynell Chamberlain

A tuft 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 sky,
Casts its spell upon the earth
Where the Whip-or-wills cry.

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

(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 Provo, Utah.) (CNS photo/George Frey)



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, 317-787-3412, givingbirthtohope.org
- New Albany, Adoption Bridges of Kentuckiana, 502-468-4290, stecharities.org/adoption-bridges

After-school Care: Terre Haute, Catholic Charities Ryves Youth Center, 812-235-1265, cutt.ly/Ryves

Anonymous Infant Surrender: Safe Haven Baby Boxes, 866-99Baby1 (hotline), shbb.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 irtl.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/MonroeCountyResources
- Brown County, St. Vincent de Paul, 812-988-8821, stvincentdepaulbrowncounty.com
- Greenwood, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish, Greenwood, 317-859-4673, cutt.ly/SSFCFoodPantry
- Indianapolis
 - Catholic Charities Crisis Office, 317-236-1512, cutt.ly/CrisisOffice
 - 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, 812-238-8171

Foster parenting:

- The Villages, villageskids.org
 - Bloomington, 812-332-1245
 - Indianapolis, 317-775-6500

Material Resources

- Parish Respect Life ministries (contact your parish office)
- Parish 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 website for more information. City/county councils are listed below.
- Bloomington/Monroe County, St. Vincent de Paul, 812-961-1510, svdpbloomington.org
- Brown County, St. Vincent de Paul, 812-988-8821, stvincentdepaulbrowncounty.com
- Fayette, Union and Wayne counties, Tri-County Good Samaritans St. Vincent de Paul, 765-220-1572, cutt.ly/TriCountySVDP
- Indianapolis
 - Birthline, 317-236-1433, cutt.ly/Birthline
 - Catholic Charities Christmas Store, 317-236-1556, cutt.ly/ChristmasIndy
 - Catholic Charities Indianapolis Crisis Office, 317-236-1512, cutt.ly/CrisisOffice
 - Gabriel Project, 833-937-4968 (English), 317-946-3813 (Spanish), goangels.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
- Shelby County, St. Vincent de Paul, 317-395-7027, svdpshelby.org
- Tell City, Catholic Charities Lifeline for Families, 812-547-0903, cutt.ly/LifelineForFamilies
- Terre Haute, Catholic Charities Christmas Store, 812-232-1447, cutt.ly/ChristmasTH

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, 833-937-4968 (English), 317-946-3813 (Spanish), goangels.com
 - Women's Care Center, 317-829-6800, 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
- Hearts Restored: Healing After Abortion, 812-567-3150, cutt.ly/HeartsRestored
- 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 not-for-credit online theology classes:

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

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



REPORT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT NOW

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

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

MOMS

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'Where our pro-life efforts need to go'

Whether through donating goods or money, volunteering or praying, whether getting involved at the personal or parish level, now is the time for everyone to help support pregnant or parenting moms in need, said Varick.

Pregnant and parenting moms in need "really need to be accompanied to the point they know they're loved and supported," she said. "Then they can choose life because they know they are loved by God, supported by the community and can give their child a good life or have the courage to give their child to a family who can give them a good life.

"This is where our pro-life efforts need to go. Walk with moms in need, love them into life and help them choose life." †



Irorobeje Owghoso-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 Hoefer)

SERRA CLUB VOCATIONS ESSAY

Teenager hopes revival will open people's eyes to Christ in the Eucharist

(Editor's note: The Indianapolis Serra Club's annual John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest ordinarily awards prizes each spring to winning essayists in grades 7-12 in the archdiocese. This week, we continue with the winning entry in the 10th grade. Please note this year there were no entries from the 11th grade.)



By Lilly Schebler
Special to The Criterion

The Catholic faith is spectacular. One of its most beautiful

treasures is the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. We have the privilege of spending time before Jesus through adoration and the Mass.

I have been raised a Catholic, but I simply ran through the motions. I never realized the true meaning of the Eucharist until this year when I received the gift

of feeling and seeing the presence of God while worshipping him with dozens around me.

Growing up as a Catholic, I was surrounded with friends who expressed that they actually felt different after receiving the Eucharist. I stood with my friends talking about how good it felt to me also. However, little did they know, I was lying.

Recently, with these same friends, I was convinced to attend an overnight retreat. I signed up knowing I could easily come up with an excuse about how I couldn't attend due to a "conflict."

I later discovered through adoration that the devil knew something good was about to happen, so he was trying to get in my way.

I ended up going to the retreat, sitting through talks and waiting for the good food that I was promised.

It wasn't until the last night that I truly experienced the presence of Jesus through outside adoration. As I knelt in the grass

with my friends around me praying, apparently Jesus was going to be walking through the crowd as the priest processed holding Jesus in a monstrance.

The speakers kept going on about how some people may cry and others may laugh. I was paying no attention until a set of words was spoken: "Faith is a choice; you will not feel the presence of Jesus unless you are welcoming him."

Those words flew through my body, and the next thing I knew, I was not only crying, but sobbing. I was kneeling on the hard ground, as I reached out my hand and felt the priest's vestments. This action reassured me that it was all real.

That night, something clicked when I truly welcomed Jesus in the Eucharist into my heart.

The Eucharist is now at the center of my life. I have been on multiple retreats and a mission trip as I continue to deepen my faith. The gift of Jesus in the Eucharist led me to some of the greatest

friends and experiences in life. I continue to feel a peace and calmness when I receive Jesus at Mass.

Additionally, I have changed my routine to allow adoration time in order to truly feel his presence and allow Jesus to lead my life. When I look around, I see the Eucharist guiding others as they evangelize and as they discern their vocations.

In fact, the bishops in the U.S. have announced a 3-year eucharistic revival to start this year. The Eucharist is truly an indescribable gift. I hope the revival will help others see the true presence of Christ in our world.

(Lilly and her parents, Ryan and Jennifer Schebler, are members of St. Louis Parish in Batesville. She recently completed the 10th grade at the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg and is the 10th-grade division winner in the Indianapolis Serra Club's 2022 John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest.) †

PRIEST

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"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 community, in the state of Indiana and across the nation. And may Almighty God bless you all in the name of the Father, the 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 ended without any physical confrontations.

Before the tense situation, the gathering had been marked with 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 prayers from leaders 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.

"I'm just so proud to be part of the pro-life generation, and that our country is finally acknowledging how much abortion hurts women," said 20-year-old Larisa Tuttle, 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 all white men. Pro-life people are a very diverse group of all ages. It's been amazing meeting people from a number of different schools and so many different backgrounds and experiences. If you believe in equal human rights, you should be supporting the pro-life moment."

Maria invited her friends, Rebekah and Benjamin Wortinger, to the prayer gathering. They have been married eight months, and the members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Indianapolis are expecting their first child in two months.

Rebekah held a sign showing a picture of a baby with the message, "Wanted? You bet!"

"I'm glad our baby will be born in a post *Roe v. Wade* generation," said Rebekah, who is 18. "But there's still a lot of work to be done so that other babies get a chance for life."

Benjamin, who is 20, added, "We believe children are a gift from God. Everywhere in the Bible it says children are a blessing from God always. We're just glad to experience this as another example of how God loves us."

Father Nagel shared his emphasis on God's love later as the prayer gathering came to a challenging close. After he gave the final blessing and a calmer atmosphere returned to the area, Father Nagel stood in the shadow of a large tree and talked about one of the most important points he wanted to convey in that tense moment.

"I just felt a real sense of making sure to tell people that God loves them. Sometimes people don't know that—people who are so angry, so hurt, so broken—that there's a God who loves them, too. There's no reason to be combative. You want to speak the truth with charity. That's all we can do these days. We have to love people through it." †

Look to the future, not to the past, pope tells families gathered at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Christian families are called to embark on a journey of love and service that will lead them to joy and hope for the future, Pope Francis said.

In marriage and family life, those who follow Jesus' call will see that "he always precedes us in love and service. And those who follow him will not be disappointed," the pope said June 25 in his homily at Mass with thousands of pilgrims participating in the World Meeting of Families.

"Dear families, you, too, have been asked not to have other priorities, not to 'look back,' to miss your former life, your former freedom, with its deceptive illusions. Life becomes 'fossilized' when it is not open to the newness of God's call and pines for the past," he said.

The pope participated in the outdoor Mass in St. Peter's Square but was unable to preside over the liturgy due to problems with his knee. Instead, U.S. Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, presided.

Before concluding the Mass, Cardinal Farrell announced that a "Jubilee of Families" will be celebrated in Rome during the Holy Year 2025. The cardinal said the next World Meeting of Families will take place in 2028.

Pope Francis arrived in St. Peter's Square and, with several children aboard his popemobile, drove around to greet the families and pilgrims. He also stopped several times along the way to kiss babies that were brought to him.

In his homily, the pope noted that while freedom remains "one of the most

cherished ideals and goals of the people of our time," many "lack the greatest freedom of all, which is interior freedom."

"All of us are born with many forms of interior and exterior conditioning, and especially with a tendency to selfishness, to making ourselves the center of everything and being concerned only with our own interests," he said.

Within the context of the family, he said, Christians are called to be a "place of encounter, of sharing, of going forth from ourselves in order to welcome others and stand beside them."

"The family is the first place where we learn to love," the pope said. "Let us not allow the family to be poisoned by the toxins of selfishness, individualism, today's culture of indifference and waste, and as a result lose its very DNA, which is the spirit of acceptance and service."

Pope Francis encouraged families to take up their calling "with renewed conviction" and urged them to make sure the love they share is "always open, directed outward, capable of 'touching' the weak and wounded, the frail in body and the frail in spirit, and all whom you meet along the way."

The pope urged the families to remember their importance for society and for the Church, because "the Church was born of a family, the Holy Family of Nazareth, and is made up mostly of families.

"May the Lord help you each day to persevere in unity, peace and joy, and to show to everyone you meet that God is love and communion of life." †

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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*.

For the most part, the prayer gathering and the protest rally kept their distance from each other until a group of about 15 or so protestors disrupted the prayer gathering, some of them weaving through it with their protest signs while others tried to shout down some of the prayer gathering's speakers.

Amid that tense situation, the microphone was passed to Father Nagel, the pastor of nearby St. John the Evangelist Parish.

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.

"For all of 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



Pro-life youths and young adults stand behind Father Rick Nagel as he offers a prayer of thanksgiving for the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision during a June 25 prayer gathering on the grounds of the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis. A small group of pro-choice protestors shouted as Father Nagel offered his comments and a blessing to both the protestors and the 200 pro-life supporters at the gathering. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

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.

See PRIEST, page 15

Marriage ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be a part of our Fall Marriage Edition

July 29 issue of *The Criterion*

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

E-mailed photos

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

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

Deadline

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

— Use this form to furnish information by mail —

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

Please print or type:

Name of Bride (first, middle, last)		Daytime Phone	
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code
Name of Bride's Parents (first, last)			
City		State	
Name of Bridegroom (first, middle, last)			
Name of Bridegroom's Parents (first, last)			
City		State	
Wedding Date	Church	City	State
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Signature of person furnishing information		Relationship	Daytime Phone

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~Saint John Paul II, *The Gospel Life*