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Criterion

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Joyful Witness

Solution to conflicts is to place them in God's hands, page 12.

CriterionOnline.com

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Record number of youths open their hearts to the priesthood and the Eucharist at Bishop Bruté Days

By Sean Gallagher

GREENSBURG and SHELBYVILLE—A school bus packed with high school boys, driven by a priest on fire for Christ and the Eucharist, wound its way on July 6 on a kind of eucharistic procession from the north side of Indianapolis to the southeastern corner of the state.

Along the way, the boys stopped to pray in five eucharistic adoration chapels, worship at Mass and pray the Liturgy of the Hours, the rosary and the chaplet of Divine Mercy. They also went bowling and played basketball and gaga ball.

It was just another ordinary day during Bishop Bruté Days, the yearly vocations camp sponsored by the archdiocesan vocations office for middle school and high school age boys who are open to a calling to the priesthood. This year was the 17th installment of the summer retreat-like experience and took place from July 5-7 for high school participants. Middle schoolers took part in the camp on July 7.

Thoughts of a Bishop Bruté Days veteran

One corner of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville brought together much of what Bishop Bruté Days is about.

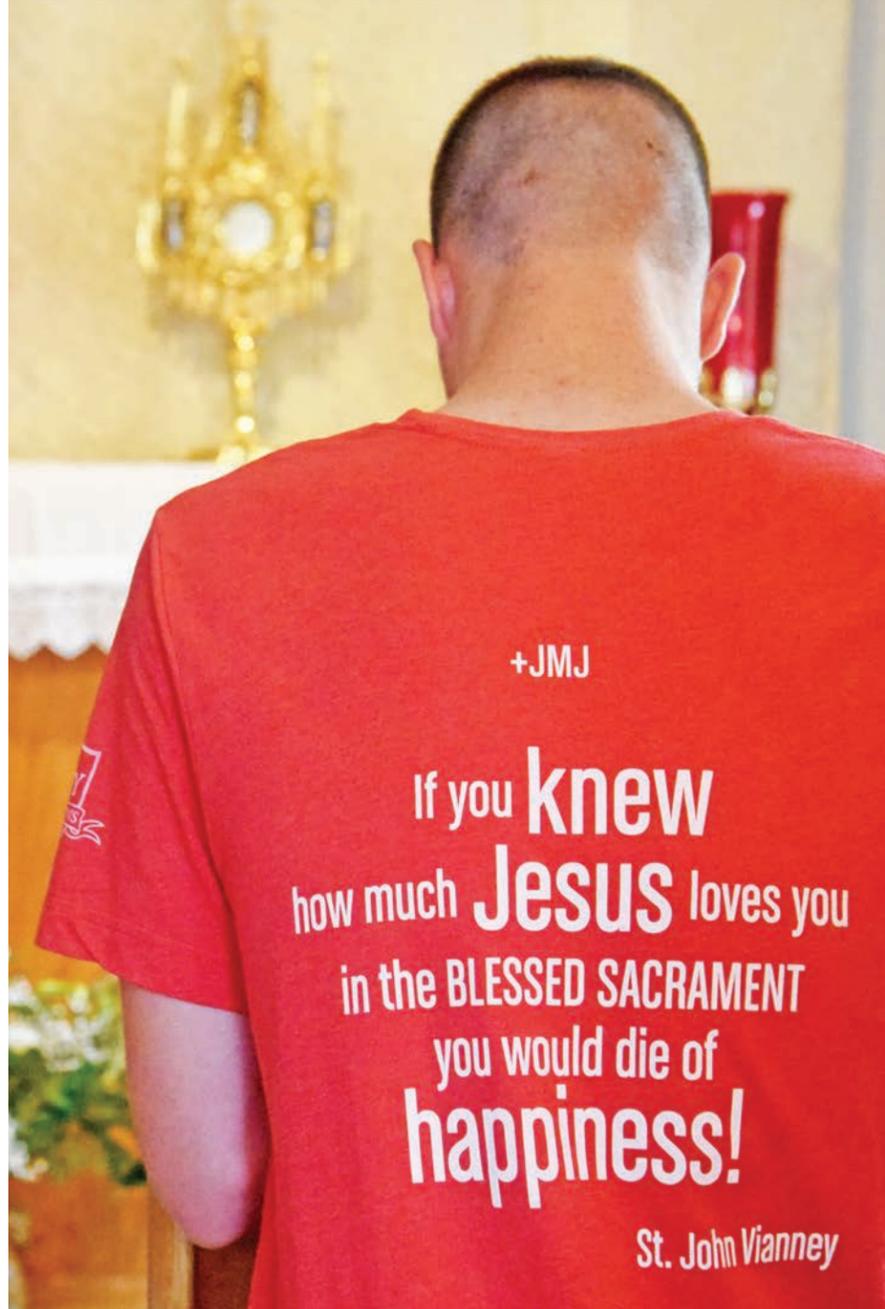
There was a gaga ball court where teenage boys threw themselves into a form of team dodgeball. Not far away was a basketball court where raucous boys cheered when their team scored a bucket.

And right in the middle of it all was a perpetual adoration chapel where boys took turns praying before Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Seminarian James Hentz stood nearby, taking it in.

"It's been really exciting to see all of the guys here, to see them interacting, to see them praying together," said Hentz, who

See BRUTÉ DAYS, page 9



A Bishop Bruté Days participant kneels in prayer on July 6 in the Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville. The annual archdiocesan-sponsored vocations camp drew 90 teenage boys from across central and southern Indiana (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Archbishop Lori calls Biden's order on abortion 'deeply disturbing, tragic'

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. bishops' pro-life chairman said it is "deeply disturbing and tragic" that President Joe Biden has chosen to use his power as



Archbishop William E. Lori

the nation's chief executive "to promote and facilitate abortion in our country" rather than support resources for pregnant women in need.

Biden is "seeking every possible avenue to deny unborn children their most basic human and civil right, the right to life," said Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"Rather than using the power of the executive branch to increase support and care to mothers and babies, the president's executive order seeks only to facilitate the destruction of defenseless, voiceless human beings," he said in a July 9 statement.

A day earlier, Biden signed an executive order to safeguard access to medication abortion and emergency contraception; protect patient privacy; launch public education efforts; and strengthen "the security of and the legal options available to those seeking and providing abortion services."

Before signing his executive order, Biden condemned what he called the "extreme" Supreme Court majority for overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

The court's June 24 ruling came in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, a challenge to a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks.

In affirming the law 6-3, the high court also voted 5-4 to overturn 1973's *Roe v. Wade* ruling, which legalized abortion nationwide, and 1992's *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* ruling, which affirmed *Roe*.

The ruling sends the issue of abortion back to the states.

"In response to the *Dobbs* decision,"

See ABORTION, page 8

Ryves director offered youths 40 years of 'support, positive memories' and love

By Natalie Hoefler

TERRE HAUTE—Through the course of an interview, Jim Edwards says the word 18 times: love.

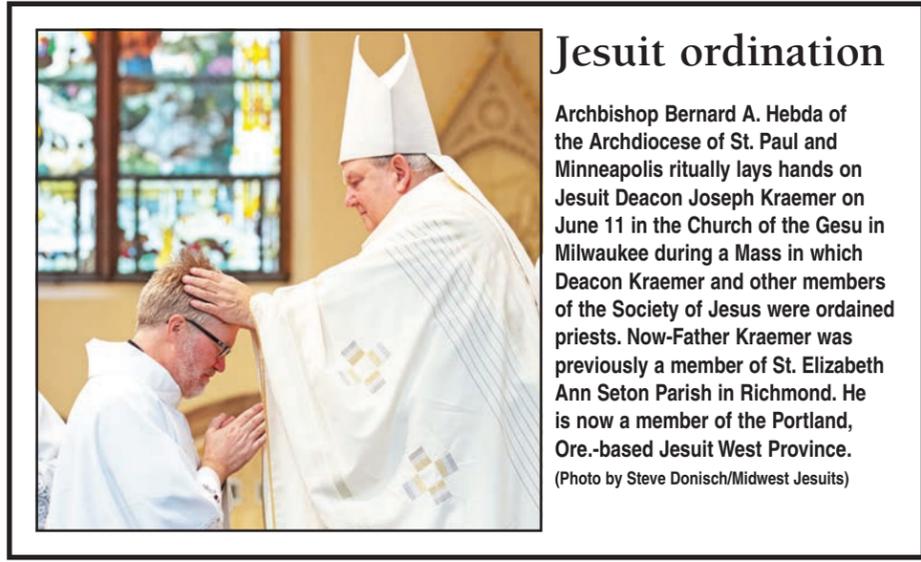
It's the word he uses for his ministerial job of the last 40 years. It's the word he uses for what so many young people are hungry for. And it's the word he uses to describe his feelings for the poverty-level children of Ryves Youth Center in Terre Haute he has served for four decades.

"I'm a big proponent of Maslow's hierarchy of needs," said Edwards, 66. "We need to give [children] safety and shelter, and we do that when they walk through our doors."

See EDWARDS, page 8



Jim Edwards smiles with his wife Diana after receiving an award from Catholic Charities Terre Haute for his 40 years as director of Ryves Youth Center in Terre Haute. Edwards, who retired on May 31, met Diana when she started volunteering at Ryves in 1983. (Submitted photo)



Jesuit ordination

Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis ritually lays hands on Jesuit Deacon Joseph Kraemer on June 11 in the Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee during a Mass in which Deacon Kraemer and other members of the Society of Jesus were ordained priests. Now-Father Kraemer was previously a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond. He is now a member of the Portland, Ore.-based Jesuit West Province. (Photo by Steve Donisch/Midwest Jesuits)

Use easy ICAN service to encourage legislators to enact pro-life laws

Criterion staff report

As the Indiana General Assembly gears up for the special session starting on July 25 to discuss abortion legislation, among other topics, all Catholics are encouraged to reach out to their legislators and encourage them to promote pro-life legislation.

The Indiana Catholic Action Network service (ICAN) of the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC)—the public policy voice for the Church in Indiana—has made this imperative task simple, including finding your specific legislators based on your ZIP code and providing draft messages that can be modified and sent to those legislators.

To send a message or to call your legislators asking them to protect the life of the unborn and promote services that help women and children, go to indianacc.org/action-alerts and select “Encourage Legislators to Support Unborn Life in Special Session.” Add to the “Message Body” if desired. Next, add the required information under “Enter Your Info” (home address is required to identify the appropriate legislators to contact). To receive action alert e-mails in the future regarding legislation of importance to the Church’s values and teachings, select

“Send me e-mail alerts.”

If you wish to contact your legislators by e-mail, click on “Send Message.” If you wish to call your legislators, click on the telephone “Call” button, select which legislator to call, and a screen will appear with their phone number and the text of the drafted message.

ICAN also lets you find and contact your legislators about non-action alert legislation. Go to indianacc.org/action-alerts and choose “Elected Officials” under “Find Officials.” Enter your ZIP code, click on the arrow then enter your street address. Click the arrow again, then a list of federal and state officials specific to your location will appear.

To contact a specific official, click on their name for their address, phone number(s), e-mail address and media sites.

To send an e-mail message to multiple officials simultaneously, check the box next to each person’s name then click on the “Compose Message” button at the bottom of the page.

On the next page, enter the requested information and your message, then click “Send Message” at the bottom of the page.

For more information on the ICC, to view the latest ICAN action alerts and to listen to ICAN podcasts, go to indianacc.org. †



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

July 15–28, 2022

July 20-21 – Time TBA
National Eucharistic Congress Board
of Directors meeting in Indianapolis

Prayer and rally events to promote pro-life legislation set for July 21 and 26 in Indy

Criterion staff report

The Indiana General Assembly will begin its special session to address abortion-related legislation, among other items, on July 25. As *The Criterion* was going press, two events to encourage legislation protecting the unborn and helping moms and children were reported to *The Criterion*.

From 7-9 p.m. on July 21, two consecutive holy hours will be offered at St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., in Indianapolis.

These hours will be a time of adoration and prayer for legislators as they develop and vote on legislation to protect all human life. All are invited to come and pray for one or both hours. For more information, call the parish office at 317-635-2021.

From 11-11:45 a.m. on July 26, Indiana Right to Life will hold a rally inside the south atrium of the Indiana Statehouse, 200 W. Washington St., in Indianapolis. The event will include a welcome by Indiana Right to Life president and CEO Mike Fichter,

prayer, a speaker and a legislative update. Attendees will then be dismissed to visit the offices of their legislators.

There is no cost for the event. Those who register in advance will receive a free “Love Them Both” T-shirt.

A large turnout is expected. It is suggested to arrive early to allow time to pass through Statehouse security. The statehouse will open its doors, located on the east side of the building facing Capitol Avenue and on the west side facing Senate Avenue (which is ADA accessible), at 9 a.m. Buses and vans should drop off participants by the east side entrance. Those with disabilities may be dropped off at the west side entrance.

Metered street parking and public parking garages are available, but early arrival is suggested to ensure finding a place to park.

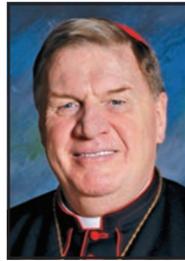
Participants are asked not to bring their own signs. Signs will be provided at the rally site.

For more information or to register for the rally, go to www.lovethebothrally.com. †

Cardinal Tobin, former CRS CEO Woo named Indiana Living Legends

Criterion staff report

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, former archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and Dr. Carolyn Yau Yan Woo, a retired administrator at Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame and former CEO of Catholic Relief Services, are two of six recipients this year of the Indiana Historical Society’s annual Indiana Living Legends award. The honor recognizes extraordinary



Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin

Hoosiers for their local, statewide and national accomplishments in a variety of areas and disciplines.

The awards will be presented during the 2022 Indiana Living Legends Gala at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio St., in Indianapolis, from 5:30-9:00 p.m. on July 28. Tickets for the black-tie event are still available.

For more information, go to cutt.ly/INLivingLegends. †



Dr. Carolyn Yau Yan Woo

Support Catholic cyclist in raising funds for pregnancy centers through Biking for Babies

Criterion staff report

From July 11-16, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral parishioner Robert Newport will ride his bicycle 580 miles from Columbus, Ohio, to St. Louis to raise money for pregnancy care centers through the Biking for Babies initiative. Contributions to help him raise his goal of \$4,000 (or more) can be made either online at cutt.ly/BikingforBabies or by sending a check made out to Biking for Babies, with Robert Newport in the memo line, to Biking for Babies, P.O. Box 644, Saint Charles, MO, 63302. The deadline for donations is Sept. 30. For more information about the Biking for Babies initiative, go to bikingforbabies.com. †



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Friends to honor man who did 'God's work' in event to raise funds for Cathedral Soup Kitchen in Indianapolis

By John Shaughnessy

It's a story of friendship—the ways people become friends, the paths they take together, and the ways we try to honor a treasured friend.

Mary Ann Klein and Jenny Matthews have been friends ever since they met at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis as members of the class of 1964. In recent years, their friendship has led to a lot of volunteer work together, including leading a fundraiser for the past four years for the Indianapolis chapter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, to help individuals and families in need.



Kenny Schutt

Their volunteer work also led to a friendship with Kenny Schutt, who assisted them at every turn in those fundraisers.

So when Schutt approached them in late January about spearheading a fundraising event to make needed improvements at the Cathedral Soup Kitchen in Indianapolis, they quickly told him yes—an agreement that Schutt regarded as an early gift for his approaching 50th birthday on Feb. 7.

Six days after his birthday, Schutt died of a heart attack.

Ever since then, Klein and Matthews have been planning the fundraiser as a tribute to Schutt, who was also a longtime volunteer at the soup kitchen that serves more than 3,200 meals and provides food pantry items to about 1,100 people each month.

The event will be on Aug. 5, starting with a Mass at 5:15 p.m. at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis, followed by a tour of the adjacent soup kitchen, and ending with a dinner across the street in the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center.

"It's a one-time event," Klein says. "They do so much there. They welcome everybody and treat everybody like they are a special person."

Klein and Matthews feel the same way about Schutt, who had gone through some

tough times before finding his footing in life.

"He just had a good heart and soul for people who needed help," Matthews says. "He devoted his life to helping people. We wanted to do this in memory of him."

Klein shares a story from Christmas of 2021 to show the heart of Schutt, a story that took place in the gym of Holy Cross Central School in Indianapolis.

"On Christmas Eve, Joe and I went down to Holy Cross to set up a dinner for the homeless," Klein says, referring to her husband. "Kenny came down to help. Then he went down on Christmas day to help with the dinner. And he was there the next day when they gave the extra food to people who needed it. I don't know if he did anything to celebrate Christmas for himself."

When Schutt met for lunch with Matthews and Klein in January, he gave them a tour of the Cathedral Soup Kitchen, wanting to give them a firsthand look at the improvements that need to be made, including updates to the flooring, wiring and plumbing. His friends are hoping to raise \$100,000, and they're also looking for in-kind donations from people who could do the work.

"We're trying to do this fundraiser as low-cost as we can, so all the money goes to the soup kitchen," Klein says. "We want people to go on the tour to see how much needs to be done. We want to get this in better shape."

While Matthews is a member of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, Klein is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis. So is Linda Eichholtz, the director of the Cathedral Soup Kitchen for the past five years.

Eichholtz says that the soup kitchen has been blessed by generous donors in the past, but this is the first fundraiser.

"The fundraiser was Kenny's idea," she says as she sits on a stool in the soup kitchen. "He was always willing to do whatever was needed."

With a smile, she added, "He did all the painting. Painting wasn't really his forte, but it worked. He was great at demolition. He'd be here all night sometimes. His heart was always in the right place."



Jenny Matthews, left, and Mary Ann Klein are leading a fundraiser for Cathedral Soup Kitchen in Indianapolis to make desperately-needed improvements at the facility and to honor their late friend, Kenny Schutt, a longtime volunteer there. In this photo, they are volunteering for a sale at Mission 27, a retail store that benefits the efforts of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. (Submitted photo)

His heart was focused on creating a better facility for the people who rely on the soup kitchen for providing a hot meal at breakfast and a sacked lunch to get them through the day—a number that has nearly doubled since the start of the COVID pandemic, Eichholtz says.

"We desperately need some electrical work and smoke alarms and new floors everywhere," she says. "And we have plumbing issues with our old pipes here."

Her smile returns as she adds, "The volunteers are what make it work. They're incredible people. I know we're doing good things because I can tell by the people who come—our guests. We do a prayer every morning. There are a lot of mental issues here, but they settle down when we say the Lord's Prayer. There's a calm."

The impact on Eichholtz has been huge.

"Your heart just gets big," she says about serving the people who rely on the soup kitchen. "You realize how blessed

you are."

For Eichholtz, Klein and Matthews, that blessing includes getting to know Schutt. The fundraiser gives them one more opportunity to remember and honor him as a friend who was always there for them and others.

"He would be humbled by this," Matthews says. "He just touched so many lives. He was doing God's work."

(Tickets for the Aug. 5 fundraiser are \$50 a person and must be purchased by July 27. For information about the fundraiser, contact Mary Ann Klein at klein.j@sbcglobal.net or at 317-796-6325, or Jenny Matthews at jmattbogey@gmail.com or 317-289-3324. For anyone who can't attend and wants to contribute, send a check, made out to SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Soup Kitchen, to: Jenny Matthews, 424 Bent Tree Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46260.) †

Court rules tuition program excluding religious schools is unconstitutional

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In a 6-3 ruling on June 21, the U.S. Supreme Court said a Maine tuition aid program that excluded religious schools violated the free exercise clause of the Constitution's First Amendment.

The opinion, written by Chief Justice John Roberts, said: "A state need not subsidize private education but once a state decides to do so, it cannot disqualify some private schools solely because they are religious."

He also said the court's decision in *Carson v. Makin* stemmed from a principle in its two previous decisions, particularly the 2020 opinion in *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue*. In that case, the court said the state of Montana could not exclude religious schools from receiving tax credit-funded scholarships under its school choice program.

The Maine case went a step further by asking if the state can prevent students from using state funds to attend schools that provide religious instruction.

Roberts stressed that a neutral benefit program that gives public funds to religious organizations through the independent choices of the recipients of those benefits does not violate the First Amendment's establishment clause.

During oral arguments last December, several of the justices found fault with the state's decision process in determining just how religious a school was in order to decide if the school could participate or not in the program specifically for rural communities.

Schools deemed as ones that could potentially "infuse" religion in classes were excluded while other schools deemed by the state's board of education to be the "rough equivalent" of public schools—or religiously neutral—could take part in the tuition program.

"That's discrimination based on doctrine. That's unconstitutional," Roberts said at the time, which he essentially reiterated in his opinion.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee for Religious Liberty, and Bishop Thomas A. Daly of Spokane, Wash., chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Catholic Education, said the high court "rightly ruled that the Constitution protects not just the right to be religious but also to act religiously."

"This common-sense result reflects the essence of Catholic education," they said.

"In our pluralistic society, it is vital that all people of faith be able to participate in publicly available programs and so to contribute to the common good," the USCCB chairmen added.

John Elcesser, executive director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association in Indianapolis, praised the ruling as a victory for families.

"In *Carson v. Makin*, the U.S. Supreme Court again affirmed the parental right to determine where best to educate their children; not only academically, but it also ensures that they can choose

a school that aligns with their family's values," he said. "It also further cements the constitutionality of religious-based schools' participation in parental school

choice programs.

"This is not only a huge victory for school choice. It's a huge victory for families as well." †

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Editorial



Father Patrick Beidelman, right, rector of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis, leads Benediction on June 19 at St. John the Evangelist Church, also in Indianapolis. A holy hour and Benediction concluded an afternoon of events to kick off the National Eucharistic Revival in the archdiocese. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

What can we expect from a National Eucharistic Revival?

The three-year National Eucharistic Revival launched here in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and in dioceses throughout the United States on June 19 is intended to be a time of spiritual renewal with a particular focus on the holy Eucharist.

For decades now, Mass attendance on Sundays and holy days of obligation in the U.S. has been declining. Thanks to the recent pandemic, which closed churches for a significant period of time, Masses had to be livestreamed and participation in the holy Eucharist was limited to making a “spiritual communion” rather than actually receiving the body and blood of Christ in the form of bread and wine that has been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Added to this undisputed reality of a decline in physical participation in the Mass is the fact that studies show that many Catholics in the U.S. do not understand the most fundamental teaching about the Eucharist.

To make matters worse, the reception of holy Communion has become a political issue. Should political figures or celebrities who identify as Catholics but who defy Church teaching in ways that are considered scandalous be denied holy Communion? Or does using the Blessed Sacrament in this way further diminish the reverence and respect due to the body and blood of Christ who came to save sinners and righteous people alike?

Confronted with these overwhelming issues, the bishops of the United States have decided that what we need now is a eucharistic revival. The stated purpose of this revival is to “renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.”

To accomplish this, the bishops said the revival seeks “to inspire a movement of Catholics across the United States who are healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist—and who are then sent out on mission for the life of the world.”

To heal, convert, form and unify people who are deeply divided on fundamental issues of social, economic and political life will require nothing less than a miracle: the grace of God acting through the minds, hearts and actions of people. These are the same people who are being challenged to return to a Church that seems

increasingly irrelevant to their daily lives, so God’s grace is essential!

This is not the first time that we have faced these kinds of challenges. God’s grace is sufficient to overcome every obstacle we face yesterday, today and always. Thank God, in the midst of these troubled times, Jesus is present, reminding us that he is more powerful than any storm. He desires to heal, renew and unify the Church and the world, and he has given us two irreplaceable gifts to help us open our hearts and cooperate with him. These two priceless gifts are the Eucharist and the Holy Spirit.

By means of increased spiritual interest and renewal in our devotion to the holy Eucharist, we can allow Christ to draw close to us in the most intimate way imaginable. We can welcome him into our souls by receiving him with reverence and joy into our bodies during holy Communion. And we can adore him in the Blessed Sacrament, the real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ available to us always in the tabernacle.

This is the work of the Holy Spirit accomplished in us if we allow it. By uniting us around the source and summit of our faith—the holy Eucharist, the Holy Spirit achieves the unthinkable. God’s grace experienced in and through the Eucharist brings us the healing and hope that seem so far removed from our daily lives when we have lapsed in our observance of this great mystery of our faith.

The National Eucharistic Revival will culminate in the National Eucharistic Congress, which will be held on July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis. The American bishops hope that this revival will occasion a joyful, expectant, grassroots response from the entire Catholic community in the U.S. to the Holy Spirit’s invitation to overcome the sins of doubt, despair and indifference that have caused the current decline in participation in the life of our Church.

The question is: Will we be open to the working of the Holy Spirit, who seeks to enkindle a missionary fire in the heart of our nation as we reconsecrate ourselves to the holy Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith? And will we cooperate fully with God’s grace so that this eucharistic revival can really take place among divided, disinterested and actively resistant people?

—Daniel Conway

Reflection/Mike Krokos

Despite Supreme Court’s decision, our prayers and work must continue

I was in a hotel room on vacation when I learned the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* last month.

I immediately offered a prayer of thanksgiving that the majority of justices had decided to take an important step in our decades-long fight to end abortion. A second prayer asked for cooler heads to prevail as I saw on television both pro-life and pro-abortion supporters coming together



outside the court building in Washington to share their joy or displeasure at the announcement.

I was dismayed as I witnessed a confrontation where words and body language suggested people on opposite sides of the issue could not have a civil conversation. It again confirmed how divisive this life-and-death issue had become for many.

I thought of the nearly 63 million unborn children in the U.S. who died from abortion, and how their existence was seen by some as a problem. Our faith instructs us nothing could be further from the truth. We are taught to value and protect all human life, from conception to natural death.

I later reflected on words shared in May of 2021 by Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., then-chairman of the U.S. Conference of

Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities—words, in my view, that define who we are as a society.

“No member of our great nation is weaker, more vulnerable or less protected than the child in the womb,” he said. That sentiment applied in 1973, just as it does today, I thought.

The recent Supreme Court news reminded me of a National March for Life rally I attended in 1996, my first trip to our nation’s capital to take part with thousands of others in letting society know we felt abortion was a grave injustice that was unworthy of our great nation.

Twenty-six years later, I marched again in D.C. on a frigid January day—this time with my teenage daughter Elizabeth and thousands more—as we listened to Father Mike Schmitz, a priest of the Diocese of Duluth, Minn., who hosts the “Bible in a Year” podcast, actor Kirk Cameron of “Growing Pains” fame and several others remind us we needed to continue our prayers and efforts to build a culture of life. Their message that afternoon energized the sea of humanity that later marched toward the Supreme Court.

Despite the justices’ recent decision, our work is not done—far from it.

The question of abortion access is returning to states, and here in Indiana, our legislators will begin a special session on July 25 to discuss the future of abortion in the Hoosier state. They need our prayers.

“We pray,” Indianapolis Archbishop

See KROKOS, page 14

Reflection/Sean Gallagher

Pro-life Hoosiers need to be strong advocates for legislation in the coming weeks

As the Indiana General Assembly prepares to gather for a special session that will begin on July 25, pro-life



Hoosiers need to keep clearly in mind what happened at the Statehouse in 2015.

In March of that year, the General Assembly passed Indiana’s version of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). The

federal version of the law was passed easily by Congress and signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1993. Many other states across the country eventually followed suit. The law more clearly defines the freedom of the exercise of religion enshrined in the First Amendment.

But by the time that Indiana legislators considered RFRA, the political winds had changed decidedly. A law which had strong bipartisan support in Congress in 1993 was now seen—inaccurately—as a cover for bigotry as the move to legally redefine marriage to include couples of the same sex gained strength.

Soon after the General Assembly passed Indiana’s RFRA bill in March 2015, corporate business leaders throughout the state and across the country voiced their strong disapproval. Several boycotts of the state, led by corporations and state and local governments across the country, were launched.

About a week later, the General Assembly passed what was called “a fix” to the RFRA bill, with the result being that the firestorm of criticism of the state soon disappeared.

Might such a scenario happen again as the legislature considers the legal protection of unborn children and assistance to mothers in need?

Don’t be surprised if it does. Shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court overruled

Roe v. Wade in its June 24 ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, large companies across the country lined up to proclaim that they would pay for female employees to travel to states to have the procedure where abortion remains legal.

Such a move is a triple win for big business. They maintain the productivity of their workers instead of giving them maternity leave. The financial cost-benefit analysis of abortion versus giving birth is definitely in favor of the former. It’s much less expensive for companies to pay for an abortion than to support prenatal, labor and delivery care through its health insurance plans. And, to top it off, companies publicly declaring their support for abortion rights is a political and cultural win for them.

With the possibility in the coming weeks of corporate opposition to potential legislation restricting abortion in Indiana, pro-life Hoosiers need to let their voices be heard in the Statehouse.

State legislators need to know that legally protecting unborn children and assisting mothers in need is in the best interests of all Hoosiers—including those who lead businesses here.

It should not take much convincing to pass laws that promote justice for unborn children, the most vulnerable members of our society, and to protect them from lethal violence, as well as to assist their mothers before and after their children are born.

But if protecting religious liberty was so difficult in Indiana in 2015, then pro-life Hoosiers need to stand strong as ardent and untiring witnesses of the Gospel of life in the coming weeks.

To take action, see the articles on page 2 about two upcoming events and on how to use the ICAN service to contact legislators with pre-drafted, modifiable messages.

(Sean Gallagher is a reporter for The Criterion.) †



Christ the Cornerstone

Under her many titles, Mary smiles on us always

“Mary was the first, in a way which can never be equaled, to believe and experience that Jesus, the incarnate Word, is the summit, the peak of man’s encounter with God” (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI).

Tomorrow, July 16, our Church honors the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This is the title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary in her role as patroness of the Carmelite order.

The first Carmelites were Christian hermits living on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land during the late 12th and early to mid-13th century. They built in the midst of their hermitages a chapel which they dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. For many centuries, this shrine has been a place where pilgrims journeying to the Holy Land honor Mary and seek to imitate her in a contemplative union with Jesus.

Tomorrow is also the titular feast of Our Lady of Einsiedeln Archabbey Church at Saint Meinrad in southern Indiana. The name Einsiedeln is German for “hermitage,” and is named after the Abbey of Maria Einsiedeln in Switzerland, which established Saint Meinrad Archabbey here in the

United States in 1854. The monastery church in Switzerland is built over the hermitage site where the monk St. Meinrad was martyred in the ninth century.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is revered under hundreds of different titles. These represent diverse ways of seeing the mother of Jesus and our mother. In recent months, since Russian troops invaded Ukraine, we have frequently prayed to Mary, Queen of Peace. When the COVID-19 pandemic was raging, we joined Pope Francis in imploring the assistance of Mary, Health of the Sick. Earlier this month, we turned to Mary Immaculate, patroness of the United States of America, to protect us as a nation from internal divisions and foreign threats against our cherished freedoms, especially the right to life.

Under the title Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mary is the patron saint of the Americas. She is the one who watches over all of us in Central, North and South America, helping us to be generous, peace-loving people who are enriched by our diversity and who strive to support one another in our efforts to build communities that are just and equitable for all.

In 1931, on the 400th anniversary of the Virgin Mary’s appearance to the peasant Juan Diego on a hillside on the outskirts of Mexico City, Luis Maria Martinez, then Archbishop of Mexico City, offered the following reflection:

At the radiant dawn, on the immortal hill, we see a man covered with a course tilma [cloak] and a lady of heavenly beauty: very pure, because she is a Virgin; sweet, because she is a Mother; majestic, because she has a glimmer of God. The man, Juan Diego, represents Mexico, Spanish America, covered with the tilma of his miseries. The Lady is Mary who comes to tell us that she loves us—who comes to infuse the breath of life in us with her lips. ... Mary smiles at us as no one has ever smiled on Earth and looks at us with a look so clean, so soft, and so deep that through her we gaze at heaven.

These beautiful words about the Lady of Guadalupe might just as easily be spoken about the Lady who is honored in southern Indiana, in Switzerland, on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land and in shrines throughout the world. Devotion to her is not limited to any place or title. She is the Mother of all. She comes

to tell us that she loves us all, and with her radiant smile and her gentle kisses, she inspires everyone who has an open heart with “a glimmer of God,” the grace of the Holy Spirit indwelling in her now and for all eternity.

Tomorrow, let’s join the monks of Saint Meinrad and Christians everywhere in praying these words:

O, God, you have blessed us with the loving protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through her intercession under the titles of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Our Lady of Einsiedeln, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and many more, hear our prayers and keep us in your constant care.

When we turn to Mary and ask for her protection and care, she never hesitates to respond, as she did to St. Juan Diego nearly 500 years ago, “Am I not your mother?”

Of course, she will help us. Of course, she will smile on us and keep us under her constant care. That’s what mothers do for their children.

Smile on us, Blessed Mother, and inspire us with your kindness and generosity. Show us, gracious Lady, the way to find the healing power and peace of Christ your Son. Amen. †



Cristo, la piedra angular

Bajo sus muchas advocaciones, María nos sonríe siempre

“María fue la primera, de un modo que nunca podrá ser igualado, en creer y experimentar que Jesús, el Verbo encarnado, es la cumbre, la cima del encuentro del hombre con Dios” (Papa emérito Benedicto XVI).

Mañana, 16 de julio, nuestra Iglesia honra a la Santísima Virgen María bajo la advocación de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, el título que se le confirió en su papel de patrona de los carmelitas.

Los primeros carmelitas eran ermitaños cristianos que vivían en el Monte Carmelo, en Tierra Santa, a finales del siglo XII y a principios y mediados del siglo XIII. En el seno de sus ermitas construyeron una capilla que dedicaron a la Santísima Virgen. Durante muchos siglos este santuario ha sido un destino para los peregrinos que viajan a Tierra Santa para honrar a María y que buscan imitarla en una unión contemplativa con Jesús.

Mañana es también la fiesta patronal de la Iglesia de la Archiabadía de Nuestra Señora de Einsiedeln, en Saint Meinrad, en el sur de Indiana. El nombre Einsiedeln significa “ermita” en alemán, y se debe a la abadía de María Einsiedeln, en Suiza, fundadora de la archiabadía de san Meinrad aquí en Estados Unidos, en 1854. La iglesia del

monasterio en Suiza está construida sobre el lugar de la ermita donde el monje San Meinrad fue martirizado en el siglo IX.

La Santísima Virgen María es venerada bajo cientos de advocaciones que representan las diversas formas de ver a la madre de Jesús y a nuestra madre. En los últimos meses, desde que las tropas rusas invadieron Ucrania, hemos rezado con frecuencia a María, Reina de la Paz. Cuando la pandemia de la COVID-19 hacía estragos, nos unimos al Papa Francisco para implorar la asistencia de María, Salud de los Enfermos. A principios de este mes, acudimos a María Inmaculada, patrona de Estados Unidos de América, para que nos proteja como país contra las divisiones internas y de las amenazas extranjeras contra nuestras apreciadas libertades, especialmente el derecho a la vida.

Bajo el título de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, María es la patrona de las Américas. Ella es la que vela por todos nosotros en Centro, Norte y Sudamérica ayudándonos a ser personas generosas y amantes de la paz que se enriquecen con nuestra diversidad y que se esfuerzan por apoyarse mutuamente en nuestros esfuerzos por construir comunidades justas y equitativas para todos.

En 1931, en el 400.º aniversario

de la aparición de la Virgen María al campesino Juan Diego en una ladera de las afueras de la Ciudad de México, Luis María Martínez, entonces arzobispo de la Ciudad de México, ofreció la siguiente reflexión:

En el amanecer radiante, en la colina inmortal, vemos a un hombre cubierto con una tilma ordinaria y a una dama de belleza celestial: muy pura, porque es una Virgen; dulce, porque es una Madre; majestuosa, porque tiene un destello de Dios. El hombre, Juan Diego, representa a México, a la América española, cubierto con la tilma de sus miseries. La Señora es María que viene a decirnos que nos ama, que viene a infundirnos el aliento de vida con sus labios. [...] María nos sonríe como nadie lo ha hecho en la Tierra y nos mira con una mirada tan limpia, tan suave y tan profunda que a través de ella contemplamos el cielo.

Estas hermosas palabras sobre la Señora de Guadalupe podrían referirse también a la Señora que se honra en el sur de Indiana, en Suiza, en el Monte Carmelo de Tierra Santa y en los santuarios de todo el mundo. La devoción a ella no se limita a ningún lugar o advocación específica; ella es la madre de todos. Viene a decirnos que nos ama y

con su sonrisa radiante y sus suaves besos, inspira a todos los que tienen un corazón abierto con “un destello de Dios,” la gracia del Espíritu Santo que habita en ella ahora y por toda la eternidad.

Unámonos mañana a los monjes de San Meinrad, y a los cristianos de todo el mundo, para rezar estas palabras:

Oh, Dios, nos has bendecido con la amorosa protección de la Santísima Virgen María. Por su intercesión bajo las advocaciones de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, Nuestra Señora de Einsiedeln, la Virgen de Guadalupe, y muchas más, escucha nuestras oraciones y guárdanos en tu constante cuidado.

Cuando nos dirigimos a María y le pedimos su protección y cuidado, ella nunca duda en responder, como lo hizo a san Juan Diego hace casi 500 años: “¿Acaso no estoy yo aquí, que soy yo tu madre?”

Por supuesto que nos ayudará. Por supuesto que nos sonreirá y nos mantendrá bajo su constante cuidado. Eso es lo que hacen las madres por sus hijos.

Sonríenos, Madre Santa, e inspíranos con tu bondad y generosidad. Muéstranos, bondadosa Señora, el camino para encontrar el poder sanador y la paz de Cristo tu Hijo. Amén. †

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 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: Pearllette Springer, pspringer@archindy.org or 317-236-1474.

July 20
 Calvary Mausoleum

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

July 21
 St. Joseph Church, 1401

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

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

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

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

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

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. Information: 812-576-4302.

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 27, August 10
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 29-August 8
 Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, Foley Room, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Used Book Sale**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, free will donation accepted for all books. Information: 866-996-2947 or lindenleafgifts@spsmw.org.

July 31
 St. Augustine Parish, 18020 Lafayette St., Leopold. **Parish Picnic**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. CT, drive-through chicken dinners with outdoor dining available, cash and gift certificate raffles, quilt raffle, half pot drawing, dinners \$12, free admission. Information: 812-843-5143.

August 3
 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.

August 5
 Women's Care Center, 4901 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. **First Friday Mass**, 5 p.m., optional tour of center to follow. Information: 317-829-6800, www.womenscarecenter.org.

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

August 5-6
 St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 523 S. Merrill St., Fortville. **Summer Festival**, Fri. 7-11 p.m. Monte Carlo Night; Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; children's games, food, raffle, bingo, silent auction, free admission. Information: 317-485-5102.

August 6
Zionsville Cursillo Ultreya, 5:30-8:30 p.m., outdoor Cursillo fellowship program, bring side dish and lawn chair, free, optional Mass at St. Alphonsis Liguori Church, 1780 W. Oak St., Zionsville. Location and other information: intoy2006@gmail.com or 317-910-8169.

August 9
 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. †

Wedding Anniversaries

Paul and Frances (Gasper) Richart, members of St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 29. The couple was married in St. Ann Church in Jennings County on June 29, 1957. They have four children: Diane Hundley, David, Michael and the late Karen Ann Richart. The couple also has nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



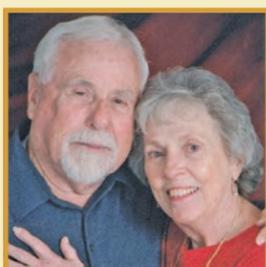
Robert and Margaret (Harmening) Hillan, members of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 16. The couple was married at St. Roch Church in Indianapolis on June 16, 1962. They have 10 children: Megan Amick, Beth Hillan-Bearsch, Sue Langdon, Drue Proffer, Clare Trumble, Erin Skartvedt, Audra Will, Jeff, Nick and Vince Hillan. The couple has 32 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



Bob and Pat (Wiseman) Hubler, members of St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish in Floyd County, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 30. The couple was married in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in New Albany on June 30, 1962. They have three children: Kathy Jones, Bob, Jr., and the late Michael Hubler. The couple has seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Daniel and Rosemarie (Gehaich) Warren, members of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Danville, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 30. The couple was married in the former St. Bernadette Church in Indianapolis on June 30, 1962. They have three children: Donna Garner, Susan Gregory and Dan Warren. The couple has five grandchildren.



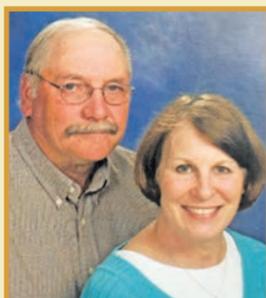
Stuart and Vicki (White) DuBois, members of St. Bernard Parish in Frenchtown, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 16. The couple was married in Christian Church in Milltown on July 16, 1972, and had their marriage convalidated at St. Bernard Church in Frenchtown on July 10 of this year. They have two children: Joshua and the late Scott DuBois. The couple also has one grandchild.



Robert and Marilyn (Hanus) Haerr, members of St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 10. The couple was married in St. Richard Church in Omaha, Neb., on June 10, 1972. They have two children: Krisanne Curtis and Scott Haerr. The couple also has four grandchildren.



Fred and Alison (Moster) Wolber, members of St. Michael Parish in Brookville, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 22. The couple was married in St. Michael Church in Brookville on July 22, 1972. They have four children: Cara Jacobs, Dough, Mark and Philip Wolber. The couple also has six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and five step-great-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.

Learn about, view 14th-century Bible in Indianapolis on Aug. 13

A free presentation called "The Mystery of 'The Darlington Bible'" and viewing of this 14th-century Bible will take place in the History Reference Room at the Indiana State Library (ISL), 315 W. Ohio St., in Indianapolis, from 1-3 p.m. on Aug. 13. This lecture will investigate the origin of this Bible, production techniques and the manuscript's movements from Medieval Spain to Indiana. In particular, the manuscript's rich, decorative program and beautiful

illuminations will be examined in the larger context of Medieval Bibles. The presentation will be delivered by Dr. David T. Gura, curator of ancient and Medieval manuscripts at the University of Notre Dame and concurrent professor of Classics and the Medieval Institute; Marcia Caudell, ISL supervisor of reference and government services; and Seth Irwin, ISL conservator. For more information or to register, go to cutt.ly/DarlingtonBible or contact Seth Irwin at 317-447-1951. †

Annulment support group will meet at Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis on July 26

An annulment support group will meet in the rose garden behind Holy Spirit Church, 7243 E. 10th St., in Indianapolis, from 7-8:30 p.m. on July 26. The group is for anyone considering seeking a declaration of nullity (annulment) of their marriage in the Catholic Church. Several associates from the archdiocesan

Marriage Tribunal and individuals who have gone through the annulment process will share information and answer questions in a safe environment. The group meets every other month. For more information, contact the Holy Spirit Parish office at 317-353-9404 or email katehalter@comcast.net. †

Pastor will live 'bucket list' dream: singing national anthem at Indians' game

By John Shaughnessy

A year after driving a Mustang on a racetrack at more than 100 miles per hour, Father Rick Ginther will get to cross off another dream from his bucket list when he strides onto Victory Field before the start of the Indianapolis Indians' game on Aug. 4.

As he stands near home plate and looks up into a crowd of thousands of baseball fans, the 71-year-old pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis will then begin singing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

"I was a little surprised and flattered to be chosen," he says before sharing what he thinks he'll be feeling in that moment when he sings the national anthem of the United States *a cappella*.

"Oh, my gosh, this is really happening! OK, breathe, breathe. Remember support, support. Plant your feet where you want them. Hold the microphone and just relax and do it. That's what I'll be thinking. I'll get into performance mode and just totally focus on what I'm doing."

He shares the story of how he's about to live this dream—"when you're a singer, you have your bucket list, and this is one of mine"—using one of his other gifts, storytelling.

"I have a parishioner named Chris Swinefurth who we spent a number of days with last summer, out in Las Vegas. I never thought I'd go to Las Vegas because I have no interest in gambling. I'm the kind of guy who goes to a poker game, and I'm the first one out because I have no poker sense.

"So we went out there, and I got to do some things I've never done. Driving a Shelby GT Mustang on a track. Big muscle car. I got up to 115 [miles per hour] on the track.

"During a conversation, Chris said, 'This is so out of character for you, driving a sports car with a helmet on, on a track.' I said, 'Oh, yeah, there's a part of me that's always wanted to do these kinds of things.' He said, 'Well, what are some of the other things you'd like to do someday?'"

Father Ginther told his friend that he has always wanted to sing the national anthem before a game, in front of a crowd. Swinefurth started thinking about possibilities and asked Father Ginther earlier this year, "How about the Indians?" Father Ginther said, "Really?" Swinefurth said, "Yeah," and he began to set his plan in motion.

"He took my singing voice off of one of our Masses that we livestream and record, made a demo tape, took



Victory Field in Indianapolis will be the backdrop for Father Rick Ginther as he sings the National Anthem before the Indianapolis Indians' game on August 4. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

it down there or sent it to them and they said yes," the priest says with a smile. "So suddenly I'm singing the national anthem at Victory Field. I'm not a big baseball fan, but it's one of the best parks in the country. It's just fun to be there.

"I said, 'I'll tell my family about it.' He said, 'Oh, no, no, no, we're going to invite the archdiocese!' That's when I thought, 'What have I let him do?' But that's how I got into it."

'This is really cool!'

The stories continue, focusing on some of the bucket list items Father Ginther has done: traveling recently to Germany to witness the Passion Play in Oberammergau, visiting Rome for the first time in 2006, graduating from the University of Notre Dame in 2001 with a master's degree in liturgical theology.

"I walked right to the bookstore and ordered my ring, and then spent an entire year paying for it," he says.

There's also the memory of being on the Great Wall of China in 1989.

"Oh, my gosh, I'm standing on the Great Wall! This is really cool!" he recalls. "That was an amazing moment, to stand on the Great Wall and realize it's a man-made artifact that can be seen from space, and also that it's over 3,000 miles long."

What made it even more special to him is that he had read about the Great Wall when he was an eighth-grade student at the former St. Andrew School in Indianapolis, and he had wondered what it would be like to see it in person.

He also thinks about his eighth-grade year in

terms of music—singing with several thousand Catholic school children during the Catholic Youth Organization's Songfest in the Butler University fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

The lure of singing and performing also led him to the leading role of Harold Hill in *The Music Man* when he was a senior at the former Latin School in Indianapolis. And there were the vocal lessons he took and the choirs he sang in while he was in the seminary at the Athenaeum of Ohio in Cincinnati.

"I like to sing songs that move the soul and move the heart," he says. "If it has a connection to classical music, I really like it, but I also like really upbeat music. I still sing some of the songs from the '50s and '60s in my head."

As he prepares for singing at the Indians' game, the national anthem will be a constant in his head. Before he steps onto the field, he will do something else that is a constant in his life. He will pray.

"I'll just say, 'OK, Lord, let me do this well, and let it stir the people.'"

He smiles again at the thought of being at Victory Field, singing before the crowd.

"I'm definitely looking forward to this."

(For ticket information about Archdiocese of Indianapolis Night at Victory Field, visit the website, baseball.ollindy.org. The Indians' game starts at 7:05 p.m. on Aug. 4. Father Ginther will perform the National Anthem at 7 p.m. The gates to Victory Field open at 6 p.m.) †

Bishops say U.S. mass shootings have become 'shockingly commonplace'

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A July 4 mass shooting brought devastation to yet another community in the U.S. and such a tragic situation "has become shockingly commonplace in our country," said the chairmen of three committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

During a Fourth of July parade in the Chicago suburb of Highland Park, seven people died and 30 others were injured when a gunman perched on a rooftop fired on people lining the parade route. Five people died at the scene and two died later in the hospital.

Law enforcement authorities apprehended Robert E. Crimo III, 21, some hours after the shooting and charged him with seven counts of murder on July 5. More charges against him were expected.

"One of the many horrors that emerged from this shooting was the orphaning of a 2-year-old boy," the USCCB committee chairs said in a joint statement on July 6. "He was found underneath his father, who died shielding him from gunfire. Our prayers are with this child, and all those who grieve in the face of this tragedy.

"It seems there are no days of the year when our nation is not grieving the latest

mass shooting. It has not always been this way, and it is getting worse," the bishops said.

"That the Highland Park shooting took place on a day when we celebrate all that is good about America and America's freedoms is a devastating reminder that mass shootings do not happen with the same relentless and brutal frequency

in other places in the world," they added.

The statement was issued by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the

USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities; and Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

"It can be hard to find hope now, though we know our hope is in Jesus who is always near to us in suffering," the prelates said. "We are grateful that Congress recently passed its first major

gun legislation in nearly 30 years."

On June 25, President Joe Biden signed into law major bipartisan gun safety legislation passed by Congress.

Among its provisions, the new law expands criminal background checks for some gun buyers; blocks more domestic violence offenders from purchasing firearms; funds programs for local authorities to confiscate guns from troubled individuals; and provides \$15 billion for mental health services and school security measures.

In a June 23 letter to all members of the Senate and House, the three committee chairmen—joined by a fourth, Bishop

Thomas A. Daly of Spokane, Wash., head chairman of the USCCB Committee on Catholic Education—endorsed the gun safety measure. It was a follow-up letter to a June 3 letter endorsing gun safety legislation.

But "in the face of these repeated acts of violence," putting into place a new law on gun safety "cannot be all we do," the bishops said.

"We call on Catholics, lawmakers, community leaders, health care and social service providers, law enforcement and families to keep pushing for change and offer prayers, support and generous assistance to victims," they said.

"For years, the Catholic bishops of the United States have supported policies to strengthen gun laws, as well as emphasized mental health, family, and cultural factors, aimed at curbing gun violence," they continued. "We support a total ban on assault weapons and limitations on civilian access to high-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines."

They called it "sobering" to think "that as horrible as mass shootings are, they are but a sliver of total annual homicides committed with guns; and gun homicides, in turn, are far outnumbered by gun suicides.

"May we live to see an America that can celebrate its freedoms without orphaning its children," the prelates said. "May the pursuit of liberty one day be a faithful guardian to the pursuit of life.

"May the light of God's compassion shine on us and guide our feet out of darkness and the shadow of death, and into the way of peace." †



Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone



Archbishop William E. Lori



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

EDWARDS

continued from page 1

“And then you need to give them some direction and some love and acceptance so they grow into children that feel a sense of self efficacy.

“That’s why I’ve been here for 40 years.”

Edwards, who has been the only director of the Catholic Charities ministry in Terre Haute since it was founded in 1982, retired on May 31.

They were 40 years of managing, labor, long hours and, of course, love—including meeting his wife of almost 38 years.

Edwards “has been an anchor of Ryves,” said John C. Etling, agency director of Catholic Charities Terre Haute, which offers the youth center as one of its many services. “He’s certainly made it a great place for a lot of kids with very little options in life. I think that’s an extension of his heart and soul.”

That extension began with resistance when young Edwards told an exploratory committee on three separate occasions that he had no spare time to help.

‘I’ve already got a job’

In 1982, Edwards was a police officer at Indiana State University (ISU) in Terre Haute who also “spent a lot of time volunteering in the community.”

He recalled being approached one day by a group hoping to start a program to help runaway youths and teens. He told them he worked full time and was too busy to help.

“They came back,” said Edwards. “I said, ‘Look, I’m tellin’ ya, I’m tired and too busy.’”

“The third time they came back, I said, ‘I’ll go to a meeting. But I’m not going to say anything, I’m just going to show up.’”

Something was said at the meeting that caught Edwards’ attention, a comment that the kids to be served “wouldn’t have head lice.”

“I said, ‘Hold on. If you don’t have kids with head lice, you’re not going to be serving the right kids,’” he recalled.

And just like that, he joined the group that would go on to create Ryves Youth Center.

He helped prepare the building owned by Catholic Charities in an area he calls “the epicenter of poverty in Terre Haute.” The center was set to open that September.

As September drew near, John E. Etling, father of John C. Etling and then-director of Catholic Charities Terre Haute, approached Edwards about serving as program director. Once again, Edwards resisted, saying, “No. I’ve already got a job, and there’s no money here.”

Etling persisted, asking him how much money he wanted. Edwards softened a little, telling Etling he would volunteer

as a part-time director “until you get someone full time, then I’m outta here.”

By June the following year, Edwards was still working at ISU while being paid as the full-time director of Ryves Youth Center.

“I was taking care of things [for Ryves] at all hours of the day and night,” he recalled.

Eventually his work schedule at ISU included Tuesdays and Wednesdays off, and by working double shifts he was able to get one Saturday off a month.

“I did that for eight years,” said Edwards. “I look back when I said I was too busy, and I didn’t know what busy was.”

He retired from the ISU police force in 1990 to work full time as the youth center’s director.

“I felt God really wanted me there,” he said.

‘They feel included and loved’

Ryves serves as a place for children to go after school until evening time. Completely free of charge, the youths—currently about 1,000—are fed a meal.

There are games, crafts, sports, a computer lab, tutoring and more.

“We have a big emphasis on education,” said Edwards. Ryves also offers trauma-informed mentors and a homeless preschool program.

But he noted that “those are things. What’s more important is [the children] walk in and they feel included and loved, and they need to feel those things.”

The children Ryves serves come from poverty-level homes. Edwards said about 10% of the current youths who come to Ryves are children of alcoholics, drug addicts or some other situation that puts them at high risk.

Edwards said he’s learned a lot about poverty and its effect on children in the last 40 years.

“The one thing I wish I could change is people’s understanding about poverty,” he said. “Of course, there are those who want to push their kids off. But most of our families love their children.

“Some fall short on what they can offer their children because they never grew up with proper parenting in the first place. But that doesn’t mean they don’t love their children.

“The big thing for [Ryves] is to offer enough support that our children can grow and hopefully get out of poverty one day, or at least learn skills that will benefit them to have a better life, to do better parenting.”

Among the youths who spent time at Ryves, there have been a few great success stories—a chef on the presidential plane Air Force One, a regional union training director, a woman who earned a Ph.D.

But it’s the ones who simply went on to have a good life that especially warm Edwards’ heart.

He recalled running into a man who had been a “Ryves child,” the son of

an alcoholic single mother.

“He said he was married, has two sons almost ready to go to college,” Edwards recalled. “He worked at the same factory job for the last 15 years and his family went to church.

“He invited me to dinner and said, ‘I want to show you I got out.’ Now that’s the type of story that touches my heart.”

‘I feel really blessed when I help people’

The children are not the only ones who have benefited from Ryves. Edwards said the youth center “has blessed me as much as I’ve helped them.”

Perhaps the most life-impacting blessing was meeting his wife Diana.

In 1983, a year after the ministry opened, a student at ISU started volunteering at the center.

“The kids came to me and said, ‘We like Diana.’ I said, ‘Me too,’” Edwards recalled.

But he said the children persisted, saying, “No, we *really* like her! You need to ask her out on a date!”

So he did.

The couple dated for a while before Edwards said the kids approached him again, saying, “We love Diana! You need to ask her to marry you!”

Edwards agreed. He and Diana were married in August of 1984.

“We got married in a park so all the kids could come,” he said.

The additional blessings of his 40 years as director of Ryves run deep, said Edwards. But before he could name them, some children walked by his office.

He paused the interview to greet them, saying, “Hi, kids. Go on back and have some pizza. I love you.”

“That’s it right there,” he said of the children he greeted. “I walk in and kids come and let me know that I’m important in their life, and I’m able to share in their life.

“I’ve worked hard to create a sense of family here so it’s not just a place for kids to come to, not just a place to work or anything else. Everybody that comes here is part of the Ryves family.

“I benefit from helping others. I feel really blessed when I help people. It feels good.”

‘I truly feel that God put me here’

It’s that good feeling that shaped Edwards’ plans for the next chapter in his life.

“I’m not going to slow down yet,” he said. “I still think that there’s a way I can help our community, so that’s what I want to do.”



Terre Haute mayor Duke Bennett, left, poses with Jim Edwards at Ryves Youth Center in Terre Haute during a celebration marking Edwards’ retirement after 40 years of serving as the youth center’s director. (Submitted photo)

Edwards made good on his words. After retiring from Ryves, he took a vacation—for one day. The next day, he started his new job as executive director of Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity in Terre Haute, a non-profit organization that helps those in need revitalize their home or work to build and purchase a new home.

The foundation for Edwards’ plans began not long ago when he took a week of vacation to help the organization.

“The more I did, the more it spoke to me that I could make a difference in a different way with the same type of people that I’ve been working with all along,” he said.

Edwards still plans to volunteer as a tutor at Ryves.

“I made sure everyone knows I’m not planning on running away,” he said. “I’ll be looking at ways for Habitat [for Humanity] to collaborate with Catholic Charities.”

John C. Etling said Edwards has made himself “a student of the role that poverty plays in our community and has been dedicated to finding better evidence-based strategies for helping people find a path out of that situation or status.”

Reflecting on Edwards’ impact at Ryves, he noted that “some people leave their mark on the world, and when they’re gone, they leave a void.

“I think Jim’s definitely left his mark on our agency and community. But there’s no void here. It’s all been filled with love, hope, kindness, and that’s what Jim was here for.

“He’ll certainly be missed, but not forgotten.”

Reflecting on his four decades at Ryves, Edwards said he’s most proud of being “able to provide support and positive memories, even for children that have not been successful by another’s standards.

“I’ve just got a lot of kids that have fond memories and look at Ryves as a place of safety and love, a place that helped them.

“I truly feel that God put me here.” †

ABORTION

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Archbishop Lori said in his statement, “I called for the healing of wounds and repairing of social divisions, for reasoned reflection and civil dialogue, and for coming together to build a society and economy that supports marriages and families, and where every woman has the support and resources she needs to bring her child into this world in love.

“And as religious leaders, we pledged ourselves to continue our service to God’s great plan of love for the human person, and to work with our fellow citizens to fulfill America’s promise to guarantee the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all people,” he added.

“I implore the president to abandon this path that leads to death and destruction and to choose life,” Archbishop Lori said. “As always, the Catholic Church stands ready to work with this administration and all elected officials to protect the right to life of every human being and to ensure that pregnant and parenting mothers are fully supported in the care of their children before and after birth.”

Biden called the *Dobbs* decision an “exercise in raw political power,” but in writing for the majority, Justice Samuel Alito said: “The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision.”

“It’s outrageous. I don’t care what your position is [on abortion], it’s outrageous and it’s dangerous,” said Biden,

a Catholic who supports legal abortion. He said his executive order was a necessary response to the ruling.

Biden urged Americans upset by the decision to “vote, vote, vote” in November to elect lawmakers who will back a law codifying *Roe*.

Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life, said Biden’s executive order “confirmed the White House is working to appease the abortion lobby to the detriment of women and their unborn children.

“On no other issue, from inflation to high gas prices, have President Biden and pro-abortion Democrats put forward so much effort as they have on abortion,” she said in a July 8 statement.

Biden “seems to think that Americans’ problems can only be solved by killing [the nation’s] children by abortion,” she said.

“The Biden administration and congressional Democrats continue to promote abortion up until birth,” said Tobias. “Despite the rhetoric, nothing this administration does is going to help women and their unborn children.”

She also took issue with a scenario Biden laid out in remarks he made before signing the executive order. He said a woman facing “a life-threatening miscarriage” who goes to the emergency room will be denied care because doctors and hospital lawyers will fear they will be penalized for helping her now that *Roe* has been overturned.

“Misinformation and deceptive statements permeated the president’s speech today,” said Tobias, noting that

pro-life legislation “explicitly makes clear that treatment for miscarriages does not fall under the legal meaning of abortion.”

In addition, she said, no law exists that outlaws the treatment of ectopic pregnancies.

She added that “the pro-life movement is vehemently opposed to women being prosecuted for having or seeking an abortion. An open letter to state legislators stating the opposition of the movement to the prosecution of women was signed by over 70 pro-life groups.”

To underscore what he said was the need for his order, before signing it Biden repeated a news story first reported on July 1 by *The Indianapolis Star* and carried by a number of news outlets, that a 10-year-old girl in Ohio who became pregnant as the result of a rape allegedly had to travel across state lines to Indiana get an abortion. Ohio has banned abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy.

But hours after his remarks, *The Washington Post* reported what others were already saying, that the story “is highly dubious.”

During his years in the U.S. Senate, Biden was considered a moderate on abortion. In 2006, ahead of his 2008 run for the presidency, he described himself as being an “odd man out” with Democrats on abortion.

In 2019, he confirmed his longtime support for the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits federal tax dollars being used to pay for abortion except in cases of rape or incest and to save the life of the mother. But when he was criticized for this position, he reversed it. †

BRUTÉ DAYS

continued from page 1

helped oversee this year's Bishop Bruté Days. "They're starting to form relationships that will last throughout their priesthood—if they're called to it."

Hentz should know. He took part in Bishop Bruté Days six times as a middle school and high school student from St. Michael Parish in Greenfield. This was his fourth year to assist as a seminarian.

In August, he will begin his final year of formation at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, where Bishop Bruté Days primarily takes place.

Hentz first met some of his fellow seminarians when they all took part in the vocations camp.

"I remember having some late-night conversations with them when we were at Bishop Bruté Days," he recalled.

Not far away, cheers went up from a gaga ball court filled with teenage boys from across central and southern Indiana.

"They're starting to get to know the guys who, God willing, they'll be brother priests with in the future," Hentz said.

'A real shot in the arm'

If the number of participants in this year's Bishop Bruté Days is any indication, that brotherhood may be on the increase in the years to come.

There were 65 high school participants and 25 middle schoolers from 23 archdiocesan parishes and four in other dioceses. The combined 90 participants smashed the previous combined record of 64 participants, which had occurred twice, including last year.

Archdiocesan vocations director Father Michael Keucher named various potential reasons for the increase in numbers.

"It might be word of mouth," he said. "I think there are more vocations groups going on now around the archdiocese. A lot of them are here."

"It may be a fruit of a revival in families, parishes and schools, a renewed focus on vocations across the archdiocese. I hope it is."

Father Joseph Moriarty was encouraged by the increased number of young men filling for a few days the seminary he leads.

"It's a real shot in the arm," he said.

Father Moriarty also had a more direct explanation for the growth in the vocations camp.

"I attribute the lion's share of it to the zeal of Father Mike," Father Moriarty said. "He's on fire for God. And it seems to me that that's contagious."

Renovated entrance of seminary features new statue of Bishop Bruté

By Sean Gallagher

When participants in this year's Bishop Bruté Days arrived at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis on July 5, they were met by a renovated back entrance to the archdiocesan-operated seminary.

During the past 10 months, a \$300,000 project created a large gate in the seminary's enclosure wall and installed a decorative sidewalk that leads to Bishop Bruté's now-prominent back entrance.

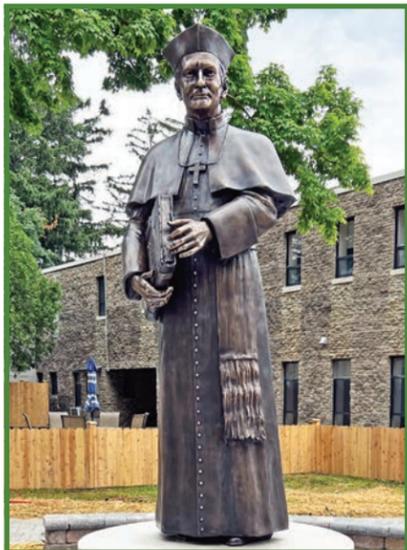
On June 26, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson blessed the new entrance, including a new bronze statue of the Servant of God Bishop Simon Bruté that serves as the centerpiece of the project.

"It was already our entrance," said Father Joseph Moriarty, Bishop Bruté's rector. "We just wanted to dress it up so that when people came, they would know that they enter the building there. Now we think we've accomplished that, especially with the break in the wall."

The life-size statue of Bishop Bruté is the creation of sculptor Gianfranco Tassara of Milwaukee. The commission of the statue and other work on the seminary's new entrance was made possible by a generous gift of the late Virginia Marten. Another anonymous donor funded work done to the bells of the seminary's chapel.

Father Moriarty foresees seminarians walking by the statue of the seminary's namesake as they go to and from classes at nearby Marian University.

The priest said Bishop Bruté "gave himself to a noble purpose" when he



A newly created bronze statue of the Servant of God Bishop Simon Bruté is featured at the recently renovated back entrance of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)

answered the call to the priesthood, when he came to America as a missionary and when he was called to Indiana to serve as the state's first bishop.

"That's what I see these boys doing," said Father Moriarty. "They don't know if God is calling them yet. But they're willing to come together for a noble purpose, namely God's will for their lives. This is exemplified by the life and history of Simon Bruté."

(For more information on Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, visit www.bishopbrute.org.) †



Nearly 100 teenage boys from across and beyond the archdiocese kneel in prayer on July 7 during a Mass in the chapel of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. The teenagers were taking part in Bishop Bruté Days, an annual vocations camp sponsored by the archdiocesan vocations office. (Photos by Sean Gallagher)

'You can look right at God'

The spirit of faith and hope that started with Father Keucher was like a virus that soon spread like wildfire among the boys taking part in Bishop Bruté Days.

Adam Hermes, a member of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County, signed up for this year's camp after taking part in it for the first time last year. He came back in large part because of the joy of spending time with other faith-filled young men his age.

"I have no idea of their background or anything, but I can go up to them and talk with them about Jesus," said Adam. "It's so awesome meeting other guys like that. We go to adoration and everyone is silent and loving God. It's amazing."

"I can look to them for wisdom or moral support. I can go up and talk with anyone of them and say that I need help with whatever it might be and they'll help me willingly right then and there."

Like Adam, Zachary Branham, a member of St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington, took part in Bishop Bruté Days this year after attending for the first time last year.

"I really enjoyed the seminarians' talks and the socializing and the sports," Zachary said. "It's great to see such a great event attracting a bigger crowd. If it's an enjoyable event, it's going to get bigger."

Zachary ultimately pointed to eucharistic adoration as the powerhouse for Bishop Bruté Days.

"A lot of the energy in the Church is coming from the youth," he said. "Seeing a lot of guys going to adoration is meaningful. It's a great place to be. It's quiet. You can hear God talking to you. You can look right at God."

'Allow the Eucharist to transform your hearts'

It was easy for Father Keucher to hone in on the Eucharist as the theme for this year's gathering. Just weeks before, the archdiocese and dioceses across the country began the three-year National Eucharistic Revival.

Father Keucher said there's a powerful tie between discerning vocations and the Eucharist.

"The more that young men fall in love with the Eucharist, the more they'll be in tune with God's will and the more that they'll want to give their lives over to Christ in whatever way that Christ is calling them," Father Keucher said. "The more that we can help our young generation to fall in love with the Eucharist, the more that they'll fall in love with Jesus. It's awesome."

Transitional Deacon Jose Neri knows this from experience. Scheduled to be ordained a priest for the archdiocese in 2023, he assisted at this year's Bishop Bruté Days.



With other Bishop Bruté Days participants looking on, John Tiplick, left, and Patrick Taber play a game of gaga ball, a form of team dodgeball, on July 6 at St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville. John is a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese. Patrick is a member of St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington.

"I personally can trace my calling back to the Eucharist, spending time in adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament and going to Mass," he said. "My faith is really rooted in that. I can definitely see how God can guide them and talk with them [in the Eucharist]."

After the busload of participants had stopped at four adoration chapels from Indianapolis to the town of Dover in southeastern Indiana, the teenage boys sat down for Mass at St. John the Baptist Church, which is on a campus of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County.

Father Jonathan Meyer, pastor *in solidum* of the parish with Father Daniel Mahan, spoke to the boys in his homily about the power of the words Christ spoke, "This is my body given up for you," at the Last Supper when he began the Eucharist.

"My life as a priest is transformed by those words," said Father Meyer. "I give up my life every single day to my bride, which is the Church. And I will tell you that it is awesome. I love being a priest. I give my body every single day to my bride."

"I hope that some of you have felt the Holy Spirit and know that the Holy Spirit is calling you to marry ... the Church."

At Mass on the last day back at the seminary, Father James Brockmeier invited his young listeners to "allow the Eucharist to transform your hearts."

"If Jesus is calling you to be his priest, he will certainly do this in drawing you into a love for the Eucharist," he said. "He'll also do it by drawing you into a love for his people. Jesus sends us out as he sent out the disciples to love the sick, to love the broken, to love the sinner."

"Allow the Eucharist to transform your hearts today, so that all of us may love with the heart of Jesus Christ."

Sitting at a table in the courtyard of the seminary just before he left for home, Charlie Kaufman spoke about the care given in homilies and presentations on the Eucharist during Bishop Bruté Days.

"Everyone spoke of it so lovingly," said Charlie, a member of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis. "Whenever anyone gave a talk about the Eucharist, they meant what they said. It wasn't just them giving a speech."

As he looked forward to going home, Charlie imagined how Bishop Bruté Days might change him.

"I might try to do a holy hour more often," he said. "I'll think about the priesthood more."

(For more photos from Bishop Bruté Days, visit www.CriterionOnline.com. For more information on a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, visit www.HearGodsCall.com.) †

Summer staycation



Lilly Bedel, left, Elaina Nuffer, Will Renken, John Curd and Chris Soto store baby blankets on June 9 at St. Elizabeth Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services in Indianapolis. The youths are members of Indianapolis South Deanery parishes that collaborated in a "Staycation Service Week" on June 6-9. The youths assisted in service projects at St. Elizabeth, Holy Family Shelter and Calvary Cemetery, all in Indianapolis, and at nursing homes and at the homes of elderly parishioners. (Submitted photo)



Gabe Ruiz, left, Santiago Bautista, Dulce Pena and Will Renken do yard work on June 8 at the home of an elderly member of an Indianapolis South Deanery parish as part of the deanery's "Staycation Service Week," which took place on June 6-9. (Submitted photo)



Altar server soccer tourney

Father Michael Keucher, archdiocesan vocations director, poses on June 18 with a soccer team from St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis that won on that day an inaugural Altar Server Soccer Tournament. Five teams of high school and middle-school age altar servers from three parishes, plus a team of archdiocesan seminarians, took part in the contest that was held at St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis. It was sponsored by the archdiocesan Vocations Office. (Submitted photo)

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. †

Marriage ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be a part of our Fall Marriage Edition
Aug. 12 issue of *The Criterion*

Couples who are planning to be married between July 23 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 22, 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 Aug. 12 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.

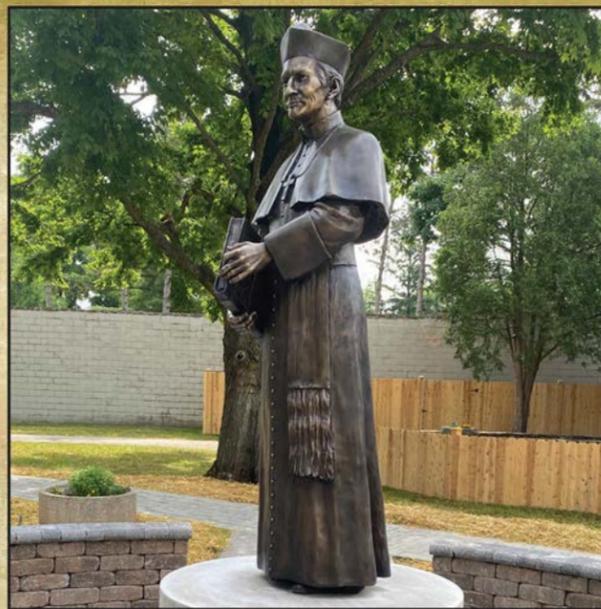
Deadline

All announcements and photos must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 29. (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 29 at 5 p.m. Please print or type:

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



Our thanks to the Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary College for the opportunity to enhance their vision and mission through art.



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'Band of brothers' grow closer in faith during Spain pilgrimage

By Sean Gallagher

A group of men walk together along a historic pilgrimage path in northern Spain.

Many of them don't know each other, coming in small groups from different archdiocesan parishes.

They think the only things that link them together is their Catholic faith and their common relationship with the priest who joined them on the pilgrimage, Father John Meyer, who has ministered at each of their parishes.

But as they walk along this path trod by saints and sinners for more than 1,000 years, many discover that something else binds them together—a shared experience of profound loss in their lives and the healing that comes from their relationship with Christ and the Church.

So, as they walk along the "Camino," the way of St. James the Apostle that leads to the shrine named for him in Santiago de Compostela in the northwest corner of Spain, they grow by God's grace into a community of shared support and faith.

'Anything is possible with God'

Father Meyer, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg, went against his own inclinations when he organized the pilgrimage that took place about a year ago.

"I'm not a walker or a hiker," he said. "I like to jet ski and to snow ski. My feet pounding the ground wasn't for me."

But after learning about the *Camino* and the positive spiritual transformation it can work in pilgrims' lives, Father Meyer was open to it—at least to a relatively short version of it.

He and the men he invited to join him—most of them from archdiocesan parishes he's ministered at from the early 1980s to the present—walked about 70 miles during five days to Santiago de Compostela. The trip overall was 10 days.

"Doing something that I've never enjoyed and doing something that I thought I never could achieve really reminds me that anything is possible with God," said Father Meyer.

He knew that fact not just from himself completing the pilgrimage, but from seeing the men around him do the same.

"The guys on the trip worked diligently," Father Meyer said. "They give it their all physically, emotionally and mentally."

One of the pilgrims was Dr. Eric Weigel, 36, an optometrist and member of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg. He said he wasn't daunted by the prospect of walking at least 15 miles per day.

"I thought I was in pretty decent shape," he recalled. "But you definitely felt muscles you never knew you had before. You had aches and pains that you had never really thought of."

'A band of brothers'

The pilgrims also discovered that walking along the *Camino* worked, in a sense, spiritual muscles in ways that were new to them.

"With a heavy backpack on, there were times when I wondered how Jesus carried his cross to Calvary," said Eric. "I was only carrying my backpack because I chose to."

His exploration of his faith was deepened on the pilgrimage because he did it with his father, Dr. David Weigel, also an optometrist and St. Mary parishioner. The father and son work together in the same practice.

"It was a blessing to do that with him," said Eric. "I love seeing him every day at work and with my family. I guess I've taken him for granted because he's always there."

"So, it was nice to see our vulnerabilities and work together to reach our common goal. We talked about things we've never talked about before, about life, him being a dad to me and me being a dad to my kids."

The time was meaningful for David as well.

"We shared some of our deeper feelings, and I let him know how much I respected him, how great of a young man he is," said David. "Sometimes in everyday life in working or on weekends when the kids are around, you

can't have too deep of a conversation. There we had all the time we needed."

Deep conversations between a father and son might be expected on a pilgrimage like this. They also took place among pilgrims who didn't know each other before setting off on it.

Pilgrim Brian Wenning, a member of St. Mary Parish and a firefighter in the Greensburg Fire Department, didn't know any of his fellow pilgrims from the other parishes that Father Meyer had ministered at. But it didn't take him long to build a strong bond with them.

"The depth you can have through week or 10 days of staying together is amazing," he said. "We got to share a lot with each other. We got to know each other. After that 10 days was up, I felt like those guys were lifelong friends."

"We were like a band of brothers. I get to enjoy that in some ways at the firehouse. I felt a bond within 10 days of shared misery, pain, spiritual moments. It was a fantastic connection that all of us experienced."

Finding joy in the challenges

That bond gave strength and renewed hope to many of the pilgrims who had experienced losses in their lives.

Two of Father Meyer's brothers died when they were in the prime of their lives, and his parents have both died, too.

Wenning's wife Patti died of breast cancer in 2018 after they had been married for 30 years.

Eric Weigel at the time of the pilgrimage was struggling after he and his wife Emily had experienced three miscarriages in seven months from late 2020 into early 2021.

When Father Meyer invited Eric to take part in the pilgrimage in the spring of 2021, Eric didn't think he could do it because Emily was pregnant at the time.

Then she came home from a doctor's appointment and told him that he could go because she had learned that she was no longer pregnant, that they had lost a child in yet another miscarriage.

"I was really mad and didn't want to go because of the miscarriage," Eric said. "I was mad at God for providing me the opportunity to go on the pilgrimage."

Eventually, though, he changed his mind, knowing that Emily wanted him to go and that she had support there from family members.

"Thankfully, I just decided to go, and I'm happy now that I did," Eric said.

Wenning had worked through much of his grief at losing Patti by the time the pilgrimage took place. But he found that the *Camino* only deepened his faith that helped him cope with her death.

"Whatever you're working through in your life, ... it's going to be hard," Wenning said. "The *Camino* was challenging. But I choose to find joy in the challenge. I choose to find the good in those hard times."

"My focus in life is to choose joy, to choose the good times and memories, all the good things that I got to share with Patti."

Father Meyer also knew that sorrow had marked the lives of so many men on the trail with him.



Dr. David Weigel, left, and his son Dr. Eric Weigel, members of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg, pose on July 20, 2021, by a milestone on the *Camino* pilgrimage path in Spain. They joined men from across the archdiocese in journeying to the historic shrine of St. James in Santiago de Compostela. (Submitted photo)



Pilgrims congregate in front of the historic shrine of St. James in Santiago de Compostela in Spain. (Submitted photo)

"Every hurt, ache or blister—sometimes every step—I would be reminded not to complain or whine, but instead to offer it up for those who had been through worse," he reflected. "I included them in my prayers, in our Mass prayers."

Father Meyer aided the healing also by hearing his fellow pilgrims' confessions as they walked along the *Camino*.

"We were on a path and he was there helping us along and guiding us along the right way," said David Weigel.

"It began as a conversation," said Eric. "That broke down any concern or worry. It was a wonderful experience."

A 'sense of calm and relief'

The pilgrims journeying with Father Meyer were on the trail with others who had come to Spain from around the world.

"We met people who were definitely on a spiritual journey," Wenning said. "We met people who were doing it for fun in a group. It was no spiritual journey at all for them. As our ways intersected, we shared our faith with them."

As the pilgrims with Father Meyer and others on the *Camino* arrived at their goal, the shrine in Santiago de Compostela, joy overflowed in them.

"It was very overwhelming," said David. "There were thousands of people in the square around the church. It was just beautiful."

The chance for Eric to be hit by emotions came when he arrived home in Greensburg to learn that Emily had another unborn baby growing within her.

"It was exciting," he said. "But there was also guarded optimism, too, because we had lost so many. We didn't tell anyone for a long time. There was doubt at the back of my mind."

"But there was also this sense of calm and relief that God got me through the pilgrimage. There were reasons behind the pilgrimage and behind her being pregnant then."

Emily gave birth to Gabriel Weigel in March. Both mother and baby are doing well.

Eric said that while the pilgrimage didn't increase his appreciation of Gabriel's birth, it did help him see that "God is in control and has a plan regardless of how much we may think that we are in control." †



A pilgrimage group led by Father John Meyer, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg, poses on July 23, 2021, while journeying along the historic *Camino* pilgrimage path in Spain. (Submitted photo)

Joyful Witness/Kimberly Pohovey

Solution to conflicts is to place them in God's hands

Several times while I was on my recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I found myself contemplating the dichotomy of sacredness with hostility, peace with conflict. If the Holy Land were a photo, it would display a perfect juxtaposition.



Juxtaposition means the act or an instance of placing two or more things side by side often to compare or contrast or to create an interesting effect.

I first learned about juxtaposition during a photography class in college. Our assignment was to capture juxtaposition within a photo frame. I had trouble finding content to shoot until I spied a sad-looking little boy sitting on a park bench. He appeared in the foreground, while I also captured in the background beyond him two men exchanging money. The subjects weren't even remotely related to one another, but the distance and angle my camera captured led you to believe a totally different story.

Gazing out our bus windows on our Holy Land travels, I saw great beauty, especially in the Sea of Galilee region which was lush with gorgeous flora, crystal blue water and a tropical feel. Conversely, I also saw the dry, dusty

and impoverished area of the West Bank littered with garbage and abandoned appliances because this occupied Palestinian territory is not eligible for the same sanitation resources as Israel. I'm not making a political statement here, but I found it a paradox that Israel was created to provide a home for oppressed Jews; however, they in turn have oppressed Palestinians. Seemed like an interesting juxtaposition to me.

In Jerusalem, we visited the Wailing Wall, the most religious site in the world for the Jewish people. Located in the Old City of Jerusalem, it is the remaining western support wall of the Temple Mount. Thousands come there to pray each year. However, when you approach the area, you must go through metal detectors only to be greeted by dozens of Israeli soldiers carrying what looked to be AK-40s. The competing claims to the site lie at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I could not help but take note that at this "place of weeping" there is a palpable threat of violence amidst the holiness of the site.

One evening on our journey, we were blessed to have adoration at the All the Nations Church located at the Garden of Gethsemane. This hallowed Christian ground is believed to be the site of Christ's agony while hoping his Father would let the cup pass him by.

As we were lost in prayer, song and meditation, we increasingly heard the sounds of honking horns, sirens and police dogs. At the completion of the holy hour, we were whisked to our bus and led the long way around the city to return to our hotel, carefully avoiding the protests and violence that erupted in Jerusalem. Apparently, while we were in prayer, a funeral was being held for a Palestinian journalist who allegedly died at the hands of Israeli police. Protests ignited throughout the city while fireworks lit the night sky.

Attempting to focus in prayer while listening to the sounds of hostility outside, I experienced the most powerful juxtaposition of hostility among the sacred.

It makes me think of our local communities, nation and world where we daily experience a juxtaposition of peace and protest, good and evil, divine and human—we are in a constant state of conflict as we coexist in this crazy, chaotic world. And I have come to the conclusion that there is no way to resolve these conflicts save to put the entire world in God's hands.

(Kimberly Pohovey is a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis. She is the director of major and planned gifts for the archdiocese.) †

Twenty Something/

Christina Capecchi

The duty of delight

Here we are, in the thick of summer, this deep and gentle place.

The world is still broken, but we are given a season of delight. Sweet corn and watermelon, birdsong and bare feet and the nostalgic sensation of endless summer



stretching out before us like a million tufts of cloud roaming the big blue sky.

What are we to do with it?

It feels like we need summer more this year—for all the kids who worked so hard at school, for all

the teacher-heroes who kept at it, for all the parents who juggled work and home, for all of us who are weary. The divisions of politics and the pandemic and the politics of the pandemic still cut sharp, leaving empty chairs at kitchen tables and open wounds in mothers' hearts. It calls to mind the shortest verse in the Bible: "Jesus wept" (Jn 11:35).

But Scripture also promises beauty from the ashes. "Behold," God says, "I make all things new (Rv 21:5)." That's how this summer feels after a late, timid spring—a whiplash from snowpants to swimsuits, the great surprise of heat.

Ahh, yes, I remember this.

Asking about summer plans is go-to small talk, a question that always trips me up. Are we to make up for COVID's lost time, shuttling between camps, doing all the things with all the people?

"Not much," is my meager answer.

The truth is, nary a recital or tournament marks our calendar. We're swimming as much as possible. Our goal is to eat any meal outside that we can. We're pouring over Shel Silverstein poetry and a book of illustrated maps that has us imagining distant lands. Our most formal endeavor is The Popsicle Project, an attempt to sample as many popsicles as we can and rank our favorites.

Summer brings us back to childhood. It invites us not to do more but to go deeper, not to race ahead but to slow down.

It takes courage to do this: to resist cultural norms, to risk falling behind—a notion that haunts me even though I know it is more perceived than real.

In the end, the delights of slow living are too sweet to pass up. This morning I've been writing thank-you notes in our screened-in porch. Pen, stamps, hand to heart. A meditation in gratitude.

The shortest rain just fell—a tiny sip, not a dousing, for the thirsty earth. It fell with precision, contentment: *That is enough.* Now the woodpecker is tapping away, and a breeze rustles the leaves.

I'll stick with our simple summer and trust that is enough.

I'm putting stock in the quiet wisdom of women religious, whose simplicity allows for a vibrant spiritual life. St. Paul writer Patricia Hampl once asked a cloistered nun for "the core of contemplative life."

The nun's answer surprised her: "Leisure."

I'm also taking cues from Dorothy Day, a woman of action and leisure. She didn't see them as adversaries but companions. She felt an urgency to serve the poor and an imperative to savor each day. Dorothy described "the duty of delight"—the idea that leisure isn't wasted time, that there is a duty to relish God's creation, slowing down long enough to soak up the beauty and blessings in our midst.

"Mass at 8. Most beautiful surroundings. Low tide and I collected shells, very large mussels," Dorothy wrote in a 1962 diary entry.

"Up at six," she wrote the next day. "A still foggy day, very close. Great clamor for crows, great murmurings among starlings, laughing gulls."

Listening to the birds powered her, making her a more faith-filled Catholic and a more effective activist. Duty and delight. That's the secret to summer.

(Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.) †

Our Works of Charity/David Bethuram

Addressing the impact of poverty on children and families

Living in poverty can lead to long-term detriments in child development and family life.

With mothers playing such a critical role in family structure and children's growth, it's important to know more about the potential long-term hardships associated with poverty in children and families.



Poverty can contribute to parental relationship conflict, stress and parental depression, which plays a critical role in family dynamics and can lead to negative child outcomes. Economic pressures may also give rise to relationship tension between the parent and child, such as

resentment toward the parent for not spending enough time with them because of work.

Research shows that kids growing up in poverty have poorer health outcomes, putting them at a higher risk of developing health problems such as asthma and impairment of functional health (e.g. vision, hearing, speech, mobility). They may also have higher rates of childhood injuries and mental health problems (e.g., hyperactivity, lack of attention, depression). Children living in poverty also have a stronger association with poorer social relationships and lower academic achievement.

Holly's story is heartbreaking, but it is not unique. She is among the 776,000 Hoosiers who are poor. She is 24 years old and the mother of three little girls—ages 6, 4 and 2. They all have different fathers.

Holly got married two years ago to a man who isn't the father of any of her children, but he recently left her for someone else. "I just feel like I get one piece of good news that makes me [think] life isn't gonna be that bad, and then here comes 30 things to basically push me right back down in this hole that I feel like I've been trying to dig myself out of for the last probably 15 years," she says.

Holly did not just become poor. A lot of bad things happened to get her there. Like many others who are poor, she doesn't have just one or two problems, but a whole pile of them. She was raised by a single mother, who was also poor. Holly says they didn't always get along. And things came to a head when she was 12.

"My mom and I got in a fight, and she told me she was going to kill me," Holly recalls. "And I wrapped a belt around my neck and told her I would do it for her. I ended up in a psychiatric hospital, and from there I went to foster care."

That meant moving from home to home to home. Holly attended 26 different schools.

Holly admits she's been responsible for some of her own problems. She says she used to be an alcoholic and was into self-harm, which means she cut herself to feel pain. Today she has tattoos on her arms to cover the scars.

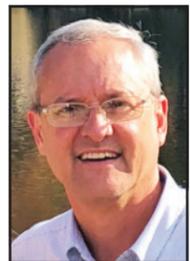
Like others, she carried her poverty into adulthood, doing odd jobs with periods of homelessness and hunger. But more disturbing is that poverty is now starting to take its toll on her children, especially her eldest daughter. Holly says the girl recently tried to run away from home in the middle of the night.

See BETHURAM, page 15

Guest Column/Richard Etienne

Our faith teaches us God will not be outdone in generosity

I am not a development director. But I have been influenced by finance consultant Dave Ramsey in my understanding of



personal finance, and I was always known to be quite frugal with my spending.

Many years ago I decided to tithe. I don't share this to brag, but to tell of my personal experience. My mother always said, "God will not

be outdone in generosity." And I feel personally that it is true.

I have been very blessed with income throughout my professional career, and when it first began to flow I could not imagine giving 10% away.

Our family was not blessed with financial riches when I was born. My parents, who at a very young age lived through the Depression, taught us early

in life about "the value of a dollar." Thus, it was not easy for me to imagine "giving up" 10%. (Yes, I understand all I have belongs to God and that I am a temporary steward of the assets with which I am blessed.)

But I have been surprised throughout my life as I have tithed—to my parish, diocese and various charities—that I didn't experience a feeling of poverty when I gave things away but, rather, the polar opposite.

I have been blessed to a point that I could never have dreamed—God's gifts continue to pour back upon me and my family! This has allowed me to continue to give generously after my career ended.

In St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians we read, "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:8). And in the Gospel of Luke we see, "Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and

overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you" (Lk 6:38). Lastly, we read in Psalms, "May we be filled with the good things of your house, your holy temple" (Ps 65:5).

This is what I have experienced again and again—an overflowing of gifts back to me and my family. An image that continually stays with me is of a cornucopia—often seen at Thanksgiving—with gourds, corn, fruits and the like tumbling out of it.

It is my experience that our God won't be outdone in generosity. Now is a wonderful time to review your "spirit of giving" and decide if there is further room to pass along more of what the Lord has given you.

(Richard Etienne has a degree in theology from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad and resides in Newburgh, Ind.) †

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

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, July 17, 2022

- Genesis 18:1-10a
- Colossians 1:24-28
- Luke 10:38-42

The Book of Genesis provides us with the first reading for Mass this weekend. For the last century or more, Genesis



has carried the heavy burden of being considered almost totally in terms of its creation narratives, but Genesis offers other important lessons.

For example, it tells us about Abraham, as is the

case with this weekend's reading.

Three men stand before Abraham, who receives them hospitably. He offers them drink and food as well as shelter from the hot sun and predators roaming for prey during the night. He tells his wife Sarah to prepare the best of foods.

Then, one of the men tells Abraham that within the year Sarah will give birth to a child. In the ancient Hebrew culture, nothing was more important than the arrival of a newborn. A child continued the life of his or her parents and humanity. Any infant, therefore, was a sign of unending life.

The man acknowledged Abraham's devotion to God, seen in his hospitality.

For its second reading, the Church gives us a passage from St. Paul's Epistle to the Colossians, written when the Apostle was imprisoned, which happened regularly during his work of proclaiming the Gospel.

Yet, Paul still called the Christians in Colossae to fidelity. He insisted that he was commissioned by God to preach the Gospel. It was no task that he simply took upon himself. Rather, God called him to be an Apostle so that the world would know Christ. In Christ is God's love. In Christ is God's truth.

St. Luke's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is a familiar story. Jesus is in the home of Mary and Martha. He is their guest. Mary wants only to listen to Jesus. Martha is concerned about the details of being the Lord's hostess.

Jesus counsels Martha not to worry about these details, but instead to listen—with Mary—to the words of salvation.

Reflection

At times, this passage from Luke is used to suggest that Martha was either shortsighted or wanting in faith, whereas Mary was a true disciple.

It should be recalled that Martha, in another reading, rushed to Jesus after the death of her brother Lazarus to express her faith in the Lord's power to resurrect him.

Martha was hardly lacking in faith. In this story, Martha was human, confined by human concerns and limitations.

These three readings altogether teach us. We humans have our problems, and they may be legitimate problems. Sarah was unable to conceive a child. She was human. Her human age created problems.

People made no allowance for this natural circumstance. They ridiculed her, unable to have a child when childbearing was so important.

Paul was held captive by powerful but ignorant authorities, the enemies of God and true justice. Martha just was caught up in normal everyday demands of life.

Despite these problems, God entered the picture with salvation and hope. Nothing is impossible for God. Constraints of nature were not able to prevent Sarah's motherhood. The mighty Roman Empire could not contain the power of Paul the Apostle. The hard and fast rules of the culture at

Daily Readings

Monday, July 18

St. Camillus de Lellis, priest
Micah 6:1-4, 6-8
Psalm 50:5-6, 8-9, 16b-17, 21, 23
Matthew 12:38-42

Tuesday, July 19

Micah 7:14-15, 18-20
Psalm 85:2-8
Matthew 12:46-50

Wednesday, July 20

St. Apollinaris, bishop and martyr
Jeremiah 1:1, 4-10
Psalm 71:1-4a, 5-6b, 15, 17
Matthew 13:1-9

Thursday, July 21

St. Lawrence of Brindisi, priest and doctor of the Church
Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13
Psalm 36:6-7b, 8-11
Matthew 13:10-17

Friday, July 22

St. Mary Magdalene
Song of Songs 3:1-4a
or 2 Corinthians 5:14-17
Psalm 63:2-6, 8-9
John 20:1-2, 11-18

Saturday, July 23

St. Bridget, religious
Jeremiah 7:1-11
Psalm 84:3-6a, 8a, 11
Matthew 13:24-30

Sunday, July 24

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138:1-3, 6-8
Colossians 2:12-14
Luke 11:1-13

Monday, July 25

St. James, Apostle
2 Corinthians 4:7-15
Psalm 126:1b-6
Matthew 20:20-28

Tuesday, July 26

St. Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Jeremiah 14:17-22
Psalm 79:8-9, 11, 13
Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday, July 27

Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21
Psalm 59:2-4, 10-11, 17-18
Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday, July 28

Jeremiah 18:1-6
Psalm 146:1b-6b
Matthew 13:47-53

Friday, July 29

Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Jeremiah 26:1-9
Psalm 69:5, 8-10, 14
John 11:19-27
or Luke 10:38-42

Saturday, July 30

St. Peter Chrysologus, bishop and doctor of the Church
Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24
Psalm 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34
Matthew 14:1-12

Sunday, July 31

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
Psalm 90:3-6, 12-14, 17
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
Luke 12:13-21

the time could not restrain Jesus.

Important to the story in Luke is the Lord's utter disregard for the taboo that a single man should never enter the home of a woman or women, or never take a meal with a woman.

The readings are about our need for God and about God's will to be with us despite our limitations. He will come to

us, with mercy and strength, if simply we are loyal, as was Abraham. †

As The Criterion will not have an issue next week due to its new summer schedule, the reflection of Msgr. Campion for Sunday, July 24, will be posted at www.archindy.org/campion.

My Journey to God

Glory

By Charlie Miller

I watched as night descended

O'er the dying day

Like death over life

Yet in the pitch three lights

Burned brightly

Tis the glory of the

Holy Trinity

Promising salvation for

One and all

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Why God allows innocent people to suffer is a deep mystery we enter into with faith

(Editor's note: This column by Father Kenneth Doyle was originally published in 2016.)



QI have several very devout and pious friends who believe that God creates children with birth defects to become his "victim souls" because God needs suffering in order to make up for what was lacking

in the suffering of Christ in the work of redemption.

They quote to me the account of the man born blind in John 9:3 and Mother Teresa, who once said that suffering is the kiss of Jesus. Does God really do this? Ever? (New Jersey)

AI do not support your friends' explanation. God can do anything he wants. He doesn't need human suffering to complete the work of redemption. If God decided that what Jesus did was sufficient in itself, that would surely be within the divine prerogative.

Having said that, I do not claim to know why the Lord allows children to be born with birth defects. That is one aspect of the problem of evil which has triggered theological discussion and debate since the dawn of creation—and without a solution that totally satisfies.

One need only look at the Book of Job in the Old Testament. Though Job had lost nearly everything he valued in life—family and friends, health and crops—and still failing to understand, he chose simply to continue to trust in God. "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Jb 1:21).

So, the ultimate and honest answer to the question is: "We don't know." For as long as we remain on this side of heaven, we simply do not know how to reconcile God's goodness with the fact that much of his creation is wounded and broken. But we trust that the reasons will be revealed once we enter the peace of God's presence.

Part of the explanation, theologically, is that sickness and imperfection, disease and death were not part of God's original plan but came about through the disobedience of the earliest human beings.

To me, though, the most helpful thought is that human beings move forward on the path of goodness and work out their salvation with the help of God's grace through their special kindness to those who are vulnerable. I have seen it in my own family with my parents' tender care for my sister, who died of multiple sclerosis at the age of 28.

I believe this is part of what is meant in the Gospel of John, when Jesus says that the man was born blind not through his parents' sins or his own, but that "the works of God might be made visible through him" (Jn 9:3). †

(Charlie Miller is a member of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis. Photo: This image from NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has an unusual edge-on galaxy, revealing remarkable details of its warped dusty disc and showing how colliding galaxies trigger the birth of new stars.) (CNS photo/NASA)

Rest in peace

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

AGUIRRE, Albert R., 48, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, June 11. Husband of Annette Mirasol. Father of Ava, Adan, Angel and Ashton Aguirre. Son of Esperanza Aguirre. Brother of Margarita Aguirre-Moreno, Brenda Ramirez, Hector Aguirre and Juan Carlos Aguirre Heras.

ANDERSON, Joel, 62, St. Michael the Archangel, Indianapolis, June 18. Husband of Barbara Anderson. Father of Hilary Adkins, Angel Thomas, Barbara Thompson, Tracy, Donald and Joshua Anderson. Brother of Maria Lee, Carla and William Anderson. Grandfather of 16. Great-grandfather of two.

ATKINS, Martha M., 85, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, June 17. Mother of Theresa Harpenau. Grandmother of one.

COZART, Patrick, 31, American Martyrs, Scottsburg, June 11. Son of Richard and Patricia Cozart. Grandson of Earl and Judy Cozart and Howard and Janice Nowlin.

GALOFARO, Anita E. (Wernz), 100, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, June 17. Mother of Julie Galofaro-Moore. Grandmother of two. Great-grandmother of two.

GERLACH, Mark, 67, St. Michael, Cannelton, June 8. Father of Emily Klein, Maria Shouse and Eli Gerlach. Brother of Vickie Deom and Paul Gerlach. Grandfather of eight.

GRAF, Alvin L., 76, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, June 13. Husband of Linda Graf. Father of Alissa Graf-Schad, Jeff and Scott Graf. Brother of Alice, Benedictine Sister Dorothy, Cletus, Elmer and Larry Graf. Grandfather of two.

GRAY, Rosa T., 82, American Martyrs, Scottsburg, May 23. Mother of Christine Napier and Tom Gray. Sister of Matilda Putman and Franz Teusel. Grandmother of two.

HALAS, James J., 92, St. Mary, Navilleton, June 16. Father of Victoria Dickinson and James Halas. Grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of five.

HARBESON, Roger A., 62, St. Michael, Bradford, June 23. Husband of Karen Harbeson. Father of Audrey Andres, David and Patrick Harbeson. Brother of Mary Smith, Donald, Kevin, Neil and Thomas Harbeson. Grandfather of four.

HOFER, Terence G., 58, St. Ambrose, Seymour, June 14. Husband of Linda Hofer. Father of Alex, Anna and Emily Hofer. Son of LaVerne Hofer. Brother of Tifanee Johnson, Tracee Wuestewald, Tami and Trisha Voegeli.

KACZMARSKI, George L., 77, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, June 9. Husband of Judith Kaczmariski. Father of Kathleen Bradley, Jake, Michael and Paul Kaczmariski. Brother of Cathy Starosta, John and Sandy Kaczmariski. Grandfather of five.

KAVATHAS, Mary, 89, St. Mary, New Albany, June 10. Mother of Debbie Dougherty and two other daughters. Sister of Betty Threlkel. Grandmother of six. Great-grandmother of six.

KIESLER, Kenny, 68, American Martyrs, Scottsburg, April 13. Husband of Linda Kiesler. Father of Tammy Grubbs, Tracy Howard and Larry Golden. Brother of Janet Arbuckle and Teresa Wheat. Grandfather of five.

KIRCH, Gwendolyn R., 73, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, June 14. Mother of Andrew and Thomas Kirch. Grandmother of two.

LUGAR, Teresa R., 57, Christ the King, Indianapolis, June 9. Wife of Scott Lugar. Mother of Ben and Megan Lugar. Sister of Susan Hill, Ann, Ellen and Patrick O'Connor.

MADDOX, Charles W., 82, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, June 12. Husband of Elizabeth Maddox. Father of Angela Dudas, Lisa Oliver, Maria Pipenger, Jim and John Maddox. Brother of Tom Maddox. Grandfather of nine.

MCKAY, Susie, 92, Prince of Peace, Madison, June 14. Mother of Chuck, David, Kevin, Michael and Steven McKay. Sister of Mary Ann Bear, Joan Tucker, Joe and Tony Hertz. Grandmother of 13. Great-grandmother of 21. Great-great-grandmother of one.

MCMAHON, Gerard V., 66, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, May 28. Husband of Anna McMahon. Father of Kevin, Michael and Patrick McMahon. Brother of Kelle Hall, Jeff, Larry, Pat and Robert McMahon, Jr. Grandfather of four.

MEAGHER, Lois, 96, American Martyrs, Scottsburg, June 11. Mother of Jim, Mike and Paul Meagher. Sister of Joanne Pelle. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of 17. Great-great-grandmother of two.

MEYER, Connie J., 88, St. Mary, Greensburg, June 13. Mother of Kathy Campbell and David Meyer. Sister of

Historic feast



People are seen during the opening procession of the 135th annual feast honoring Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Paulinus at the Shrine Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, N.Y., on July 6. (CNS photo/Ed Wilkinson, *The Tablet*)

Robert Navarra. Grandmother of four.

O'DROBINAK, Patricia, 90, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, June 14. Wife of Charles O'Drobinak. Mother of Nancy Links, Susan Wright, Charles III and Richard O'Drobinak. Grandmother of five.

OVERBECK, Steven S., 79, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, June 13. Husband of Mary Kay Overbeck. Father of Mary Lynn Lesnick, Kassy McPherson, Dan and Scott Overbeck. Grandfather of 10.

PIERCE, Dan J., 68, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, June 6. Husband of Kathleen Pierce. Father of Rebecca Toney and Andrew Pierce. Brother of seven. Grandfather of six. Great-grandfather of five.

PORTER, W. Thomas, 82, St. Mary, Greensburg, June 22. Husband of Glenda Porter. Father of Diana Arnold, Cindy Reed and Mike Porter. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of six.

ROGERS, Basilla J., 92, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, June 16. Mother of Randy Rogers. Sister of Ethel Knies, Ruth and William Schuetter. Grandmother of two.

ROGERS, Bruce, 82, St. Paul, Tell City, June 2. Husband of Judith Rogers. Father of Sheri Miller, Sheila Thompson and Kent Rogers. Stepfather of Bryon Lee. Grandfather of 10. Great-grandfather of four.

SCHIPPER, Doris A. (Gutzwiller), 79, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Aurora, June 15. Mother of Angela Barrett. Sister of William Gutzwiller. Grandmother of one.

SCHNEIDER, Lawrence R., 83, St. Anthony of Padua, Morris, June 16. Brother of Joan Amrhein, Lill Ley,

Franciscan Sister Laurina, Paul and Quirn Schneider. Uncle and great-uncle of several.

SITZMAN, Bonita S. (Meyers), 77, St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, June 17. Mother of Debra Dauby and Stephanie Dilger. Sister of Judy Seifrig, Gary and Michael VanWinkle. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of four.

SMITH, Robert F., 94, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, June 2. Father of Sandra Ellis, Pat Horne, Debra Kinnick and Andrew Smith. Grandfather and great-grandfather of several.

SPAULDING, Dorothy, 92, St. Gabriel, Connersville, June 13. Mother of Marti and Ronald Spaulding. Sister of Richard Ramey. Grandmother of three.

STOUT, Ellen S. (Buckles), 72, American Martyrs, Scottsburg, Jan. 23. Wife of Larry Stout. Mother of Nancy, Jason and Larry Stout. Sister of Mary Proffitt, Gwendolyn Wright, Charles and Donald Buckles. Grandmother of four.

WEIMER, Mildred L., 98, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, June 4. Mother of Karen Thomas. Grandmother of two. Great-grandmother of one. †

Providence Sister Catherine Buster served a variety of ministries for 66 years

Providence Sister Catherine Buster (formerly Sister Joseph Norine), a member of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, died on June 26 at Mother Theodore Hall on the campus her religious community's motherhouse. She was 85.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 9 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

Sister Catherine was born on Nov. 3, 1936, in Chicago. She entered the Sisters of Providence on Feb. 2, 1956, and professed final vows on Aug. 15, 1963.

During her 66 years as a member of the Sisters of Providence, Sister Catherine ministered in food service, maintenance and in service to senior citizens, the disabled, the poor and migrants in Florida, Indiana and Missouri. In the archdiocese, she served as a cook at the former Ladywood Academy in Indianapolis from 1960-67 and in maintenance and food services at the motherhouse from 1967-86.

Sister Catherine is survived by a brother, Thomas Buster of Hollister, Mo.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876. †

KROKOS

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Charles C. Thompson said in a statement after the June 24 ruling, "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."

Not surprisingly, a wall of opposition is

forming to convince politicians on both the state and federal levels that protecting access to abortion and even codifying *Roe v. Wade* is what many Americans want. Suffice to say: we must let them know they are not speaking for us, and we do not support their efforts.

President Joe Biden on July 8 signed an executive order to safeguard access to medication abortion and emergency contraception; protect patient privacy; launch public education efforts; and strengthen "the security of and the legal options available to those seeking and providing abortion services."

The president is "seeking every possible avenue to deny unborn children their most basic human and civil right, the right to life," said Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"Rather than using the power of the executive branch to increase support and care to mothers and babies, the president's executive order seeks only to facilitate the destruction of defenseless, voiceless human beings," he said in a July 9 statement.

A few weeks before the justices'

decision, an archdiocesan priest in a homily touched on the ongoing abortion debate and reminded his listeners "charity" needed to be at the heart of their discussions. He also said our mission should not be to "conquer our opponents," but to "pray for their conversion."

As we move forward in our mission of building and strengthening a culture of life, those prayers are needed more than ever.

(Mike Krokos is editor of *The Criterion*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.) †

SERRA Club Vocations Essay

Teenager draws friends to share in life-changing effects of adoration

(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 12th grade. Please note this year there were no entries from the 11th grade.)



By Celia Boring
Special to *The Criterion*

The chapel doors are propped open.

Upon entering, feelings of reverence come over me. I genuflect, kneel and begin to pray. The Blessed Sacrament is beautifully displayed amid pews full of students. The words "one with God the Lord most high" are sung. At this moment, I feel closer to Christ than ever. This is an illustration of

the incredible experience I am blessed to be a part of as a Roncalli student—the opportunity to be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament through adoration.

Adoration has been life-changing for me and has helped me grow in my faith in more ways than I could have ever imagined.

Time spent in Christ's presence in adoration allows us to respond to God's call and to live out our faith as we are able to exalt his divinity and offer gratitude for his unconditional love.

At the beginning of my senior year, I challenged myself to deepen my relationship with Christ by beginning each Wednesday in adoration. The time I spent in Christ's presence was life-altering, as I have seen firsthand how even a few minutes spent in adoration can bring peace amidst the chaos of our everyday lives. Whatever anxieties, concerns or hardships I have instantly disappear as I am able to fully place my focus on God through the consecrated Eucharist.

It is easy to ignore the ways Christ reveals himself to us through the little things in life, but given the chance to thank him for everything he has given me has led me to be more receptive to his presence in my life.

I felt called by the Holy Spirit to extend an invitation to attend weekly adoration to my friends and peers because I wanted them to experience the same life-changing power of prayer in Christ's presence.

I began to reach out to my peers, inviting them to attend adoration in hopes that they, too, would be as impacted as I was. Attendance in the chapel quickly grew from only three students to more than 60.

The overwhelming feeling of joy that comes from adoration is only amplified when the experience is shared, and it is more impactful to know you are surrounded by others who share in the same unbreakable and unwavering faith that is strengthened through the Eucharist.

As I prepare to leave for college in the fall, I am confident that my strengthened faith as a result of adoration will continue to grow as my experience with the Eucharist has built a strong foundation for what it means to live out your faith.

By making the conscious decision to spend time before Christ, I have taken ownership of my faith and have grown to deepen my relationship with God.

Adoration has directed me to live the life God has planned for me rather than the life I have planned for myself. I am beyond thankful for the impact time spent before the Blessed Sacrament has had in my life.

(Celia and her parents, Jay and Denise Boring, are members of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Franklin. She recently graduated from Roncalli High School in Indianapolis and is the 12th-grade division winner in the Indianapolis Serra Club's 2022 John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest.) †

Following Christ means seeing, helping the suffering, Pope Francis says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Christians are called to follow the example of the good Samaritan and not just look with compassion at those who suffer, but also draw near to them, Pope Francis said.



Pope Francis

Like the priest and the Levite in Jesus' parable, who pass by the injured man along the road and look the other way, Christians can sometimes be tempted to "take refuge behind dogmatism to defend themselves from reality," the pope said on July 10 during his Sunday *Angelus* address.

Nevertheless, the Gospel "teaches us to follow Jesus, because following Jesus teaches us to have compassion—to see and to have compassion—to become aware of others, especially those who suffer, those who are in need, and

to intervene like the Samaritan, not to pass by but to stop," he said.

Before praying the *Angelus* prayer with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square, the pope reflected on the Sunday Gospel reading from St. Luke.

The pope noted that St. Luke specifies the Samaritan was on a journey, meaning that "even though he had his own plans," he did not "come up with an excuse" to not help the injured man.

"Let us think about this," the pope said. "Isn't the Lord teaching us to do just that? To look off into the distance, to our final destination, while paying close attention to the steps to take here and now in order to get there."

Those who truly follow in Jesus' footsteps, he continued, learn "to see and to have compassion" for others and do not spend their time "pointing fingers at others, comparing them to the priest or the Levite."

Christians should not only "recognize when we have been indifferent and have justified ourselves," but also pray and ask God "to help us overcome our selfish indifference" to become true followers of Christ, he added.

"This is the prayer that I suggest to you today," the pope said: "Lord, that I might see and have compassion just like you see me and have compassion on me."

Pope Francis concluded his address by encouraging Christians not only to give alms to the poor, but also to look in their eyes and truly empathize with them.

"If you give alms without touching the reality, without looking into the eyes of the person in need, those alms are for you, not for that person," the pope said.

"Think about this. Do I touch misery, even the misery that I am helping? Do I look into the eyes of the people who suffer, of the people that I help? I leave you with this thought—to see and to have compassion," he said. †

BETHURAM

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The unfortunate reality for many lone, working mothers like Holly is that there is a trade-off between time with their child or children and work. The unpredictable and inflexible schedules often associated with low-wage jobs can pose difficulties for working parents to secure stable child care, obtain education necessary to find better paying jobs, or hold multiple jobs (which are often necessary to make ends meet in lower-wage jobs). These scheduling challenges not only pose a threat to economic security for single moms but also negatively impact child

development as some moms are unable to be fully present for their children.

Catholic Charities strives to address poverty's impact on child development and family life by providing comprehensive, direct support to mothers and their children. We are committed to fostering the positive capacities of parents through programs and services that build stronger support networks.

Supporting moms facing the dual challenges of poverty and lone parenting is a proven and effective way to improve the lives of vulnerable children.

(David Bethuram is executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Catholic Charities. You can contact him at dbethuram@archindy.org.) †

Employment



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After fires set, pastor reminds faithful ‘we are the Church’

BETHESDA, Md. (CNS)—A Catholic church in the Washington suburb of Bethesda was one of three houses of worship along the same road to be victimized by vandalism on the weekend of July 9-10.

Firefighters responded at around 2 a.m. on July 10 to multiple fires set inside St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church, which also was vandalized. Twenty-four hours earlier, firefighters responded to multiple fires set outside North Bethesda United Methodist Church a few blocks away.

Pete Piringer of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service said in a statement that firefighters found a “significant active fire” inside St. Jane Frances de Chantal, which is in the Archdiocese of Washington.

Piringer added after firefighters extinguished the blaze, investigators determined the fire was arson, with multiple areas set on fire or attempted to be set on fire there.

In a tweet, Piringer noted investigators also found damaged headstones and broken wood pieces scattered near Wildwood Baptist Church, a few blocks beyond the Methodist church.

Piringer said an open investigation was underway involving the two fires and noted the similar circumstances, locations and apparent times of the vandalism. No motives or suspects were immediately announced by investigators.

The fires and vandalism at St. Jane Frances de Chantal caused Sunday Masses to be shifted to the school gymnasium. Two vans and cleanup crews could be seen outside the church that afternoon.

“Last night, our church was vandalized. Statues were thrown down, books shredded, the Stations of the Cross pulled off the walls, the tabernacle desecrated. It is a horrific event for us as a church,” Father Samuel Giese, the pastor, said at a noon Mass.

“The individual or individuals also attempted to burn the church. They set fire to a number of pews, but apparently the fire detection system kicked in, the fire companies came, and the fire was put out,” the priest said. “There’s an investigation, and it is still going on.”

Father Giese added that there was quite a bit of water “and other mess in the church that will need to be cleaned up, some pews removed, and things like that. So it’s obviously a distressing moment for us here at the church.

“However, what is important to remember especially now is that we are the Church,” he continued. “We are the living stones. We are the body of Christ. And as long as our faith is strong and we are faithful, then we are fine, we

are absolutely fine.”

Father Giese then read a passage from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans, in which St. Paul noted that no hardship or distress or persecution “will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

“And that is true for us here today,” the pastor said. “No vandalism, no fire, no mess in the church can separate us from the love of Jesus Christ. And I want you to keep that in your hearts today. We are strong because God is with us.”

Father Giese added, “We pray for those who persecute us. That’s the measure of our Christian faith.”

Parishioner Peter Williamson noted that during the Easter season, a protester supporting abortion rights was outside the church, and parishioners brought him juice and an Easter handout every week. “We respond to hatred with love,” he said.

At a Mass in the school gym on July 10, Father Andrew Clyne, who began serving as parochial vicar at St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish that week, noted in his homily, “One doesn’t expect to wake up the first Sunday at a new parish, picking up the Son of God [in the Eucharist] from the floor [of the church] before the sun has risen.”

He said the person or persons who committed the vandalism “didn’t know the One who was there loved them. This person doesn’t know they are loved. Our task, the mission we have laid out in the Gospel, is to manifest this love in the world. ... That’s the only thing that will transform the world, to bring the light of Christ to it.”

Father Clyne also encouraged parishioners to pray for whoever committed the vandalism at the church, “so they will know the love they don’t know, and the peace they are missing.”

Also on July 10, in the Archdiocese of Kansas City,



Catholics worship at Mass in the school gym next to St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church in Bethesda, Md., on July 10. Masses were shifted there after several fires were extinguished in the church earlier that day. (CNS photo/Mark Zimmermann, Catholic Standard)

Kan., the Church of the Ascension in Overland Park fell victim to “an overt act of hatred and incivility” at 1 a.m. local time, an archdiocesan statement said.

Parish buildings, including a statue of Mary, were extensively defaced with red spray paint, and law enforcement was notified.

“This attack and others targeting Catholic churches in Kansas and across the country are not only vulgar but un-American,” said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City. “The intention is clearly meant to intimidate and threaten the Church’s pro-life beliefs and position of support for the Value Them Both amendment [to the Kansas state Constitution]. We will not be deterred.”

The amendment, which is expected to be on the ballot in November, would add a new section to the Kansas Constitution’s Bill of Rights stating there is no constitutional right to abortion and reserving the right of the people “to regulate abortion through the elected members of the Legislature.” †

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