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

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 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 1973’s Roe v. Wade decision, 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 Hoeter

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.

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 1963. (submitted photo)

See EDWARDS. page 8
Use easy ICAN service to encourage legislators to enact pro-life laws

**Citation 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 indianaicancatholic.com/action-alerts and select “Encourage Legislators to Support Unborn Life in Special Session.” Add to the “Message Body” if desired. Next, add the required number(s), e-mail address and media sites.

To receive action alert e-mails in the future, go to “Settings” at the bottom of the page. Follow the “Receive action alert e-mails in the future” box and select which legislators to contact. 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.

For more information on the ICC, to view the latest ICAN action alerts and to listen to ICAN podcasts, go to indianaicancatholic.com.

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

**Citation 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. 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 bikingforbabies.com or by sending a check made out to Biking for Babies, Robert Newport in the memo line, to Biking for Babies, PO 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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**Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, former CRS CEO named Indiana Living Legends**

**Citation staff report**

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

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

**Citation 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 317-635-2300.

From 11-14.55 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.

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**Woo named Indiana Living Legends**

**Citation staff report**

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 5-30-9:30 p.m. on July 28. Tickets for the black-tie event are still available.

For more information, go to cutt.ly/INLivingLegends.
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 make friends, the paths they take together, and the ways we try to honor a treasured friend.

Ann Klein and Jenny Matthews have been friends ever since they met at Father Thomas Sciccia 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.

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 June 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 upcoming 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 St. 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 his 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 to go on this tour to see how much needs to be done. We want to get this in better shape.”

Klein 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 such a kind person. 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.”

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.

“You 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 317-796-6273, or Jenny Matthews at jmthougen@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 Reith 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 take part in the tuition program. 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 religious.”

This Munson-sense result reflects the essence of Catholic education,” they said. “In our pluralistic society, it is vital that all people be able to participate in publicly available programs and so to contribute to the common good,” the USCCB chairmen said.

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

“In Carson v. Malin, 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.”

Denver — A Colorado state Supreme Court judgeship will have two openings in January.

On July 13, Chief Justice Nathan D. Coats announced the court’s three-judge selection panel had determined that two justices — David H. Phillips and William A. Wilson — whose terms expire in January 2023, will not seek re-election.

“We thank Justice Phillips and Justice Wilson for their dedication and service,” Coats said.

Justice Phillips, who was appointed to the court in 2003 as a fill-in Justice by Chief Justice Watts for Justice J. E. Scheffel, served until 2007 as a justice of the court.

Justice Wilson was appointed to the court in 2004 by Chief Justice Corinne L. Farnham and served until 2006 as a justice of the court.

On the court, which consists of nine justices, Phillips and Wilson have served as a majority, along with Justice Richey L. Gates.

The vacancies leave two seats in the list of seats that will be chosen to fill in January. The court is to fill the seats.

The court is to select two judges to fill the seats.

For the judgeship that will be vacant when Justice Gates retires in January 2024, the court is to select a full-time justice.

Justice Gates’ term expires in January 2024. She was appointed to the court on Jan. 22, 2010, by Chief Justice Edward D. Wohlfiel, to fill the seat of Justice William C. Hallisey, who was appointed to the seat in 1983 by Chief Justice Ronald B. Zayas.

Justice Gates has served on the Colorado Court of Appeals for 13 years.

Decisions that will be rendered on the court are made by a majority of the justices. Each justice’s position is based on the preferences of the other justices.

Justice Gates was appointed by the court to replace Justice Richey L. Gates.

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Justice Gates was appointed by the court to replace Justice Richey L. Gates.
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. It was a deeply emotional and prayerful thanksgiving that the majority of justices had decided to take an important step in our decades-long fight to end abortion. A second aspect asked for cooler heads to prevail as I joined both pro-life and pro-abortion supporters 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 failures to instruct 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.

“We pray for our great nation is weaker, more vulnerable or less protected than the child in the womb,” he said. That sentiment was echoed in 1973, just as it does today, I thought.

The recent Supreme Court news reminds us that the national March for Life rally I attended in 1996, my first trip to our country’s capital to take part with thousands of others. As a Catholic who knows the pain of a life 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 fight to protect and preserve the sanctity of life. Their message that afternoon energized the sea of humanity that later marched toward the U.S. Supreme Court.

Despite the justices’ recent decision, our work is not done—far from it. We must always return to the task of abortion, 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 Seán Gallagher

Reflection/Seán 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 strongly bipartisan support in Congress in 1993 was now seen as a cover for bigotry as the move to legally extend marriage to cover same-sex unions became much less expensive for companies to pay for an abortion than to support pre-natal, 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 those who need it is in the best interests of all Hoosiers—including those who lead businesses here.

It is not convincing to pass laws that promote justice for unborn children, the most vulnerable members of our society, and likewise against racial violence, as well as to assist their mothers before and after their children are born.

If we find ourselves in a situation as was so difficult in Indiana in 2015, then pro-life Hoosiers need to stand strong as advocates against the pro-choice language and the Gospel of life in the coming weeks.

To take action, see the articles on page 14 for information on upcoming events and on how to use the ICAN service to contact legislators with pre-drafted, modifiable messages.

(Seán Gallagher is a reporter for The Criterion.)
Under her many titles, Mary smiles on us always

Bajo sus muchas advocaciones, María nos sonrie siempre

"Mary was the first, in a way which can never be equalled, to believe and experience that Jesus, the incarnate Word, is present, 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, a monastery named in 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 strong and holy. These people are enriched by our diversity and who strive to support one another in our efforts to realize the promises that are just and equitable for all.

In 1931, on the 400th anniversary of the apparition of the Virgin Mary to the peasant Juan Diego on a hillside on the outskirts of Mexico City, Luis María Martínez, then archbishop of Mexico City, offered the following reflection:

At the radiant dawn, on the immortal hill, we see a man covered with a cloak of light 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 light. 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, over the shrine built in the Holy Land and in shrines throughout the world. Devotion to her is not limited to a particular 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 felt the presence of God’s grace, the holy 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.

Mañana, 16 de julio, nuestra Iglesia honra a la Santísima Virgen María bajo la advocación de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, el título que le se contó 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 Archicátedra de Nuestra Señora de Einsiedeln, en Saint Meinrad, en el estado de Indiana. El nombre Einsiedeln significa “ermita” en alemán, y se debe a la abadía de María Einsiedeln, en Suiza, fundadora de la archicátedra 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 Dios 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, Reina 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, que a su vez nos protegen. Por supuesto que nos ayudará. Of course, she will help us.

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 miserias. La Señora es María que viene a decírnos 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 Indiana, en el Monte Carmelo del sur de Indiana 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. Venimos a decírnos 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.

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

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**Wedding Anniversaries**

Paul and Frances (Gasper) Richart, members of St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 29.

Robert and Margaret (Harming) 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 four children: Diane Hundley, David, Michael and the late Karen Ann Richart.

The couple also has nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Bob and Pat (Wiseman) Huhler, 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 Huhler.

The couple has seven grandchildren and 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 and Maureen Warren.

The couple also has seven grandchildren and great-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 consecrated 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 16.

The couple was married in St. Richard Church in Ogden on June 10, 1972.

They have two children: Kriasne 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: Laura Jacobs, Dough, Mark and Philip Wolber.

The couple also has six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and five step-grandchildren.

**Sponsored by Archdiocesan**

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:

call 812-535-2952, provctr@providencecc.org, or dial-in ID: 810 3567 0684 or dial-in 317-750-7309, mass1x@hotmail.com.

**July 20**


**July 21**

St. Joseph Church, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. Third Thursday Adoration, includes renewing of vows and certificates for milestone anniversaries. All attendance provided, including outdoor dining available, diners $12, free admission. Information: 317-485-5102. Providence Spirituality and Vocation, 1 Sisters of Providence, 8044 Yorkridge Rd., Indianapolis. Book Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, free will donation accepted for all books. Information: 317-866-9947 or lindaleigh@fpscc.org.

**July 23-24**

All Saints Parish St. Martin Campus, 8804 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, kidde lady, quilts, country store, religious exhibit on eucharistic miracles, chicken dinners served Sun beginning at 11 a.m., free admission. Information: 317-586-1430.

**July 24**


**July 25**

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

**July 27, August 10**

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

**July 29-August 9**

Provider Spirituality and Conference Center, Foley Road, Sisters of Providence, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Used Book Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, will freely, donation accepted for all books. Information: 317-750-7309, msross1@womenscarecenter.org.

**August 3**

MCC, Case, 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 friends, call about regular Friday night dinner events. Information: 317-786-8605.

**August 5**


**August 6**

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 525 S. 40th St., Plainfield. Firework Celebration, 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: 317-483-5102.

**August 7**

Zionsville, 235 N. Main St., Ferdinand, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). Information: zionsvilleinfocenter@dioceseofevansville.org.

**August 9**


**August 10**


**August 11**

St. Martha Parish, 3522 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. Annual Parish BBQ, 5 to 9 p.m., $10 per person. Information: 317-924-1240, stmartha.parishoffice@gmail.com.

**August 18**

Felicity's, 2545 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis. Summer Festival, 5-11 p.m., silent and outdoor dining available. Information: 317-475-4559, info@felicitysindy.com.

**August 20**


**August 21**

Loretto Church, 1347 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, 7 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Benedictine Sister Jill Marie Reiter is facilitator, sponsored by Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). Information: vocation@stbenedict.org.

**August 23**

St. Ann Church, 7243 E. 10th St., in Indianapolis, 10:30 a.m. Mass, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. with Archbishop N. Meridian St., free. Information: 317-236-1474. Catholic Cemeteries, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. Book Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, free will donation accepted for all books. Information: 317-750-7309, msross1@hotmail.com.

**August 24**

Good Shepherd Church, 8044 Yorkridge Rd., Indianapolis. Book Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, free will donation accepted for all books. Information: 317-750-7309.

**August 25**

Benedictine Sister Jill Marie Reiter is facilitator, sponsored by Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). Information: vocation@stbenedict.org.

**August 27**

St. Ann Church, 7243 E. 10th St., in Indianapolis, 10:30 a.m. Mass, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. with Archbishop N. Meridian St., free. Information: 317-236-1474. Catholic Cemeteries, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. Book Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, free will donation accepted for all books. Information: 317-750-7309, msross1@hotmail.com.

**August 29**

St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ferdinand, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). Information: stmaryofthewoodscc@gmail.com.

**August 30**

St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ferdinand, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). Information: stmaryofthewoodscc@gmail.com.

**August 31**

St. Martha Parish, 3522 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. Annual Parish BBQ, 5 to 9 p.m., $10 per person. Information: 317-924-1240, stmartha.parishoffice@gmail.com.
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 of America.

“Oh, my gosh, this is really happening! OK, 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 and this is one of mine”—using one of his other gifts, music—“but I have no poker sense. I was a little surprised and flattered to be chosen.”

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.”

“It’s 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.

“Dream: 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, baseballindy.org. The Indians’ game starts at 7:05 p.m. on Aug. 4. Fans can 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 38 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, 28, some hours after the shooting and charged him with seven counts of murder on July 5. More than 700 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 chairmen said in a joint statement July 5. “He was wounded 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 stated. “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 “sobbing” 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 stated.

“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.”
ARCHITECT 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 mothers and children. Every woman and girl has support and resources she needs to bring her child into this world in love.”

Archbishop Lori said, “It’s time to stop”, “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. “I’ll certainly be missed, but not forgotten.”

Reflecting on Edwards’ impact at Ryves, he noted that “some people leave their mark on the world, and when they’re gone, they’re left alone. I’m 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. “I’ll certainly be missed, but not forgotten.”

Reflecting on his four decades at Ryves, Edwards said he’s proud of being “able to provide support and possibilities for children and young people who have not been successful by another’s standards.”

Of the lobbyists, Edwards noted that “I bet they 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,” he said. “I still think that there’s a way I can help our community, so that’s what I want to do.”

ABORTION

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“I truly feel that God put me here,” he said. “I still think that there’s a way I can help our community, so that’s what I want to do.”
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 while in middle school and high school, including last year. “I can go up and talk with anyone of them and say that I know them when we were at Bishop Bruté Days,” he recalled.

“I really enjoyed the seminarians’ talks and the socializing and the sports,” Zachary said. “It’s great to see such a great event attract 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. “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 home in on the Eucharist as the theme for this year’s gathering. Just weeks before, the archdiocese and dioceses 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 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 in tune with God’s will and the more 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 attend for Bishop Bruté Days this year, he assisted at this year’s Bishop Bruté Days.

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

Bishop Simon Brute College Seminary in Indianapolis is a flagship Catholic seminary serving the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, visit www.HearGodsCall.com

When participants in this year’s Bishop Bruté Days arrived at Bishop Simon Brute 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 Michael Keucher, the rector. “We just wanted to dress it up and make it more that they’ll fall in love with the Eucharist, 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.”

Bruté Days.

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

“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 Hermesch, 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 Brehmey, 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 attract 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.”

“He’s on fire for God. And for the growth in the vocations camp.”

Mike,” Father Moriarty said. “He’s on fire for God. And for the growth in the vocations camp.

These comments were made at the annual vocation camp sponsored by the archdiocesan vocation office. The teenagers were taking part in Bishop Bruté Days, an annual vocation camp sponsored by the archdiocesan vocation office.

If the number of participants in this year’s Bishop Bruté Days is any indication, that brotherhood may be a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, visit www.HearGodsCall.com. (For more information on Bishop Simon Brute College Seminary in Indianapolis, visit www.bishopsimonbrute.org)

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

Lilly Bedel, left, Elaina Nufher, 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,” which took place on June 6-8. (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, contact Claudia Corona at 317-236-7310 or ccorona@archindy.org.

Marriage

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 of the form. Please no photocopies or laser prints. To have the photo returned, please include the information in the form located below.

Deadline

All announcements and photos must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 29.

SetonFest
July 28-30

Live Entertainment Nightly
Thursday — My Yellow Rickshaw
Friday — Tastes Like Chicken
Saturday — Woombles Rock Orchestra

RIDE NIGHT THURSDAY ($20 to ride all night)

Fireworks Friday and Saturday
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.

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 all their 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 bamboozled by the prospect of walking at least 15 miles per day.

“I thought that I was in pretty decent shape,” he recalled.

“But you definitely felt muscles you never knew you had before you. 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 Eric 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,” said Eric. “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 learn 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.

Willem’s wife Putti 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,” said Eric. “It was a huge help 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.

“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.”

“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.”

The Criterion Friday, July 15, 2022
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 of hospitality, peace with confrontations. When the land was a photo, it would display a peaceful 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 boy sitting on a park bench. He appeared in the foreground, while I also captured in the background beyond the two men, talking at a distance. The subjects weren’t even remotely related to one another, but the distance and the angle my camera framed the photo led you to believe a totally different story.

Gazing out tour bus windows on our Holy Land travels, I found my thoughts, especially in the Sea of Galilee region which was lush with gorgeous flora, crystal blue water, and, oddly, lava. Conversely, I also saw the dry, dusty deserts of Gethsemane. This hallowed Christian ground is believed to be the site of Jesus’ prayer before his arrest. His Father would let the cup pass him by.

David Bethuram

Our family was not blessed with financial riches when I was born. My parents, who were very young at the age of 16, had different fathers. My mother always said, “God will in return be measured out to you.” For the measure with which you measure (Luke 6:38). Lastly, we read in Psalms, “May we be filled with the good things of your house, and be satisfied with your delights.” (Psalm 36:9). This is what I have experienced again and again—and an overflowing of gifts, and of joy, and of gratitude—that image that continually stays with me is of a cornucopia—often seen at Thanksgiving—when we sit down, collect the gifts, and the likeness and tumbling out of it.

Our faith teaches us that God will not be outdone in generosity. But I have been surprised throughout my life as I have tilted—to my pasture, downed, and at the highest time. I didn’t experience a feeling of poverty when I gave things away but rather, the polar opposite.

I have been blessed with a point that I could never have dreamed—God’s gifts continue to pour back upon me. An overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure, the same will in return be measured out to you. (Luke 6:38). Lastly, we read in Psalms, “May we be filled with the good things of your house, and be satisfied with your delights.” (Psalm 36:9). This is what I have experienced again and again—and an overflowing of gifts, and of joy, and of gratitude—that image that continually stays with me is of a cornucopia—often seen at Thanksgiving—when we sit down, collect the gifts, and the likeness and tumbling out of it.

It is my experience that God’s gift is not making a political statement here, but to put the entire world at peace and protest, good and evil, divine and human—we are in a constant state of conflict as we exist in this crazy, chaotic world. And I have come to the conclusion that the right way is 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 University of St. Meinrad and resides in Newburgh, Ind.)

Guest Column/Richard Etienne

Twenty Something/Christina Capecchi

Our faith teaches us that God will not be outdone in generosity.

As we were lost in prayer, song and meditation, we increasingly heard the sound of hoinking, squealing, and barking police dogs. At the completion of the holy hour, we were whisked to our bus and led the way around the city to return to our hotel, carefully avoiding the protests and violence that erupted in Jerusalem. Around the walls of Jerusalem while we were there, a funeral was being held for a Palestinian journalist who allegedly died at the hands of Israeli police. You could see the light streaming through the whole city while fireworks lit the sky.

Attempting to focus in prayer while listening to the sounds of hostility outside, I experienced the most powerful justification 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 exist in this crazy, chaotic world. And I have come to the conclusion that the right way is 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 University of St. Meinrad and resides in Newburgh, Ind.)
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, 10-11
Matthew 12:46-50

Wednesday, July 20
St. Apollinaris, bishop and martyr
Jeremiah 1:1, 4-10
Psalm 71:1-4a, 5-8b, 15, 17
Matthew 13:1-9

Thursday, July 21
St. Lawrence of Brindisi, priest and doctor of the Church
Jeremiah 2:11-13, 12-13
Psalm 36:6-7b, 8-11
Matthew 13:10-17

Friday, July 22
St. Mary Magdalene
Song of Songs 1:1-4a 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, 8b, 11
Matthew 13:24-30

Sunday, July 24
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138:1-3, 6-8
Colossians 2:12-14
Luke 11:4-13

Monday, July 25
St. James, Apostle
Psalm 126:1-2, 6-7
Psalm 126:5-6, 7-8
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 15:10-12
Psalm 59:2-4, 10-11, 17-18
Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday, July 28
Jeremiah 18:1-6
Psalm 46:1-6
Matthew 13:47-53

Friday, July 29
Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Jeremiah 2:1-9
Psalm 69:5-9, 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, 21-23
Psalm 90:3-6, 12-14, 17
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
Luke 12:13-21

The Sunday Readings

• Luke 10:38-42
• Colossians 1:24-28

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 narrative, 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 that 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 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 people. Constraints of nature were not sufficient in itself, that would surely be something better than my death. What is the explanation? God can do anything he wants. He doesn’t need human suffering or death 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.” (Job 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 a 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 20.

I believe this is part of what is meant in the Gospel of John, when Jesus says that the man who was born blind not through his parents’ sins or his own, but that “the works of God might be made visible through him” (John 9:3).
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. Kinds are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it, so are separate obituaries on this page.

Please be sure to inform the president of the DFW Life Coalition 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.

Rest in peace


Not surprisingly, a wall of opposition is forming to convince politicians on both the executive branch to increase support and build and strengthen a culture of life, and the legislative branch to protect the rights of the unborn. “Charity” needed to be at the heart of their debate and reminded his listeners that 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 is survived by a brother, Thomas Butler of Hollister, Mo.

The president is “seeking every possible avenue to deny the 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.

As we move forward in the process 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.)
Teenager draws friends to share in life-changing effects of adoration

(Editors’ note: The Indianapolis Serra Club’s annual John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest ordinarily awards prizes each spring to winning entrants in grades 7-12 in the archdiocese. This week, we continue with the winning entry in the 11th 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, of Noblesville, 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.)

BETHURAM

continued from page 12

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 labor 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 re 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 Betheram is executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Catholic Charities. You can contact him at dbethuram@archindy.org)

For nearly two centuries, St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf (SJI) has delivered exceptional listening and speaking language services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, reflecting the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ).

SJI is currently seeking an Indiana-based Human Resources & Mission Integration Manager to oversee all HR and formation activities across the organization from recruitment to performance reviews, staff and board formation, wage reviews, disciplinary action, and learning and development. This position is an essential part to the fabric of SJI reporting to the President and working closely with the Executive Directors in Indiana and Missouri. The HR & Mission Integration Manager will develop and implement the human resource strategies, ensuring the Catholicity and charism of the CSJs flourish within the organization.

For more information, interested individuals can visit www.sjid.org/careers or email stjjobs@sjid.org

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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.

“The 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 inside the church and the church was “mopped because it was wet.”

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, Kansas, 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.”

For matters of the heart, you’re in good company

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