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Special session offers ‘historic opportunity’ to protect unborn, support mothers and children

By Victoria Arthur

As lawmakers gathered this week at the Statehouse amid the clamor of competing voices over the future of abortion in Indiana, the Catholic Church called for a united effort to protect all human life and care for women, children and families.

Indiana is the first state to call a special session of its legislature following the June 24 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, which overturned the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that declared a constitutional right to an abortion and legalized the procedure nationwide.

The Dobbs decision returned the issue of abortion to the states, and on July 25 the Indiana General Assembly began considering legislation to restrict abortion and provide necessary support to mothers and children in need.

The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC)—the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana—hailed the special session as a pivotal moment for Indiana to promote a culture of life at all stages.

“We have a historic opportunity in Indiana to secure protections for unborn life,” said Angela Espada, executive director of the ICC, which represents the five Catholic bishops of Indiana. “We thank God for bringing us to this moment, and we recommit ourselves to lovingly and peacefully moving forward together to care for all mothers, families, pre-born and born children.”

See SESSION, page 7

Returning moccasins, pope apologizes for Church role in residential schools

By Natalie Hoefer

Angela Zim lives on the southside of Indianapolis, far from the Zomi (pronounced ZOH-mee) region in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, where she was raised in the Catholic faith.

The refugee is thankful for the Zomi Chin Catholic community at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. And she is grateful to worship at Mass there, mostly in English but twice a month in her native tongue.

But it is still not the same as worshipping at Mass in her native land, surrounded by Zomi customs and culture, and her home country feels every bit of its 8,200-mile distance away.

That distance was bridged on July 8-10. During that weekend, Zim was surrounded by more than 1,000 members of her native tribe. They gathered from around the United States for the third National Zomi American Eucharistic Congress, held at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

“When we go to English or other Chin Masses, we know [Jesus] is present,” she said. “But when so many Zomi (Zomi) sing and adore and worship in our own language, we feel most satisfied, like the feeling we have at home [in Myanmar]. We can express our prayers better.”

It was Zim’s first time participating in the national event, and the first time the event was held in Indianapolis.

“I am very, very happy!”

After an evening of fellowship and entertainment on Friday evening, the heart of the Eucharistic Congress began Saturday morning with Mass in Roncalli’s auxiliary gym. A quick look around the parking lot revealed license plates from at least 14 states, some as far as Minnesota, Texas, Maryland and Alabama.

As Mass began, a line of Zomi wearing their clan’s traditional attire sang as they processed down the aisle of the makeshift church in slow, forward-and-back steps to the beat of a lone drum.

See ZOMI, page 8

More than 1,000 Zomi Catholics gather in Indy for National Eucharistic Congress

A eucharistic procession is seen making its way around the campus of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis on July 9 as part of the National Zomi American Eucharistic Congress held at the school on July 8-10. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)
Effective July 6, 2022


Rev. Suresh Ganta, HGN, appointed parochial vicar of St. Louis Parish, Batesville, and sacramental minister to St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Morris.


Deacon Jerome Bessler appointed to ministry at St. Roch Parish, Indianapolis.

Deacon Kevin Daily appointed to ministry at St. Lawrence Parish, Lawrenceburg.

Deacon Timothy Elder appointed to ministry at St. Joan of Arc Parish, Indianapolis.

Deacon Mark Henry appointed to ministry at All Saints Parish, Dearborn County.

Deacon David Urbanowski appointed to ministry at St. Martin of Tours Parish, Martinsville.

Deacon James Wood appointed to ministry at St. Simon the Apostle Parish, Indianapolis.

Effective July 11, 2022

Rev. Cyprian Erasmus appointed temporary administrator of St. Gabriel the Archangel, Indianapolis.

Rev. Nicolas Ajpacajá Tzoc granted a temporary leave of absence from active ministry.

(Please see the full list of appointments online.)

The archdiocesan Office of Deacon Formation is beginning a period of inquiry and discernment for those interested in the permanent diaconate.

The archdiocese’s oldest active priest at 94, will deliver the homily. A relic of St. John Vianney will be present. After Mass, adoration will be offered at the cathedral until 4:30 p.m. Solemn Vespers will follow. All who wish to pray for priestly vocations and for the priests currently serving in the archdiocese are welcome to attend.

E-mail: criterion@archindy.org

1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis. The public is invited.

The sessions will begin at 2:30 p.m. and conclude by 4:30 p.m. No pre-registration is required for these sessions.

The following is a list of the dates and locations of the sessions:

• Jan. 15, St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 4050 E. 38th St., in Indianapolis.
• Oct. 16, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, 1752 Scheller Lane, in New Albany.
• Nov. 13, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 2322 N. 13 1/2 St., in Terre Haute.
• Dec. 11, St. Louis Parish, 13 S. Louis Place, in Batesville.
• Jan. 15, 21, St. Joseph the Apostle Parish, 1306 27th St., in Columbus.
• Mar. 12, St. Joseph Parish, 1875 S. County Road 700 W., in Vernon.

For more information, contact the archdiocesan Office of Deacon Formation at 800-382-9836, ext. 1492, 317-236-1492, or e-mail Deacon Kerry Blanford, archdiocesan director of deacon formation, at kidnort87@archindy.org.
Productions, LLC. women released this year by Stella Maris a documentary about these six men and Americans on the Path to Sainthood canonization.

by Natalie Hoefer

Currently there are 11 American saints. None of them are Black—but that could soon change. Six holy Black American men and women are on the path to canonization.

A Place at the Table: African Americans on the Path to Sainthood is a documentary about these six men and women released this year by Stella Maris Productions, LLC.

By Natalie Hoefer

Recently, the archdiocesan Office of Intercultural Ministry obtained a two-year license to distribute the film to parishes and schools in central and southern Indiana and Catholic organizations affiliated with the archdiocese.

“The film tells about these six people and gives a better idea of how ordinary people can live holy lives,” said Pearlette Springer, archdiocesan coordinator of Black Catholic Ministry.

“But it also gives the historical background of what was going on in the country and in the Church during their lives and how that affected their struggles.”

Learning of these struggles touched Deacon James Wood, archdiocesan coordinator of catechetical resources, who worked with Springer to create study guides for adults and youths to accompany the documentary.

“The history of each person the film talks about is very well done,” he said. “It kind of tugged at my heart because of the struggles they had with racism, even in the Church, like [Venerable] Father Augustus Tolton, who wasn’t allowed to go to seminary in the United States because he was Black.”

Six Blacks on the path to sainthood

Father Tolton is the only priest among the six potential Black saints. He was born into slavery in Missouri in 1854. Later, as a free man, he was turned down by every seminary he applied to. He ended up attending seminary in Rome, where he was ordained in 1886. Father Tolton became the first American-born Black Catholic priest.

Another former slave on the list is Venerable Pierre Toussaint. He was brought to New York City as a Haitian slave in 1787. He gained his freedom in 1807 and became a successful, wealthy hairdresser. Toussaint used his resources to serve the Church and the poor.

Venerable Henriette Delille, born in Louisiana in 1813, was not a slave. But her Black heritage through her mother, who was one-quarter Black, prevented Delille from joining a convent. She donated a makeshift habit, assumed a genteel poverty and dedicated her life to nursing, feeding and educating slaves and others forgotten by society.

She went on to found the Sisters of the Holy Family, the second-oldest surviving congregation of African-American sisters.

The oldest order of Black women in America, the Oblate Sisters of Providence, was founded by Servant of God Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange. Born in Cuba in 1789, she later moved to Baltimore where she founded her order—thus becoming the first Black mother superior in America.

Known as the “Angel of Charity” of Denver, Colo., Servant of God Julia Greeley was born a slave in Missouri and freed in 1865. She moved to Colorado and became Catholic in 1880. She was a daily communicant. She evangelized and delivered literature about the Blessed Sacrament in Denver. Greeley served as a secular Franciscan for the last 18 years of her life.

Another convert to Catholicism is Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman. She was born in 1937 and raised in a Methodist home. With her parents’ permission, she converted to Catholicism at the age of 9. At 15, she joined the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in La Crosse, Wis., and went on to establish the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana.

This documentary is “sorely needed” Springer said the film is best suited for those in fifth grade and older. By viewing the film and using the study guides she and Wood wrote, Springer hopes youths and adults gain three takeaways.

“First, I want folks to know there is always an opportunity for each of us to become saints,” she said. “Second is for them to know that becoming a saint is not an easy road. And third, I want them to gain a deeper sense of the Church’s call to social justice, that we’re here to serve God and God’s people. All six in the film have that in common.”

Wood said the documentary, which the archdiocese is licensed to distribute through April 30, 2024, is “sorely needed.”

“Until recently, I didn’t even know there were no Black saints in America or that there were Blacks on the path to sainthood,” he said. “I think it’s fantastic the archdiocese is making this documentary available.”

Those who want to will learn about the rampant racism of the 19th century and how awful it was. It’s important to understand the history of slavery, but also the accomplishments of Black Catholics and how important they are to the Church.”

(Springer said the film and study guides for use by an archdiocesan parish, school or affiliated organization, and for materials and prayer booklets regarding the six Black men and women on the path to sainthood, contact Pearlette Springer at pspringer@archindy.org or 317-236-1474.)

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The Criterion  Friday, July 29, 2022 Page 3
A couple’s unflinching courage in defense of life is a call to all

In a society where people in prominent positions are often viewed negatively when they use their platforms to profess strong, Christian values, it was affirming and inspiring to see Jim Harbaugh and his wife Sarah recently share those values so openly and publicly. Jim, who is the head football coach at the University of Michigan, and Sarah stepped to a podium recently to profess the pro-life values they embrace.

A longtime coach and former quarterback for the Indianapolis Colts, Jim Harbaugh has said in the past that “faith, then family, then football” are his priorities. And he shared his commitment to life as a keynote speaker on July 17 during the Plymouth Right to Life dinner and auction at the Inn at St. John’s in Plymouth, Mich. Sarah shared her pro-life testimony as well.

When the word “courageous” was the theme of the night. As was reported in the Detroit Catholic, the Harbaughs spoke about the courage it takes in today’s world to state one’s beliefs and let faith guide us in this challenging task.

Jim Harbaugh noted that being pro-life means supporting programs for mothers and families and reaching out to women who are expecting and need assistance. “In God’s plan, each unborn human truly has a future filled with potential, talent, dreams and joy,” he said. “I have living proof in my family, my children, and the many thousands that I’ve coached that the unborn are amazing gifts from God to make this world a better place. To me, the right choice is to have the courage to let the unborn be born.”

Supporting pregnant and parenting mothers and their born and pre-born children has been a priority for our Church for decades. In the archdiocese, programs like Birthline, Gabriel Project, Catholic Charities and crisis pregnancy centers are among the organizations that offer resources. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Walking with Moms in Need initiative (walkingwithmoms.org) offers resources, prayers, reflections and ideas for use on a personal and parish level.

These ministries need our prayers and support more than ever. For a developing list in English and Spanish of archdiocesan programs available to help pregnant and parenting moms in need throughout central and southern Indiana, go to: http://archindy.org/resources

As we move forward in our efforts to strengthen our country’s culture of life, we must remember there will continue to be roadblocks. Just as Jim and Sarah Harbaugh have, we must stay strong and let faith guide us in this challenging mission.

Mike Krokos

The beach at the end of the world

About 200 miles south of Perth, there is a tiny little nook of a beach where the gray-red rocks and brush of the Australian continent yield to the might of the Indian Ocean. It’s a spot known as ‘Peter’s Square’ at the Vatican on April 26, 2017. (CNS photo/Osservatore Romano)

At low tide, jagged tan islands crowned with white-green stand in gashes over shallow waters striped so brightly with sapphire and sky that they seem to be shining iridescent from the white sands below.

It’s quiet there most of the time, a seclusion broken only by the rumbling, rolling rhythmic of the surf. The beauty of the shore is held shyly by the steep walls that hug its northern side.

Like so many of the great places in the world, pictures can’t do justice. At least, that’s what I gather from the pictures I’ve never actually been there and very likely never will be. Its sands are not visible, nor its vistas for my straining eyes.

In truth, it’s a place born of a question: if I stood at my front door—right on the welcome mat—what would be the most distant place on Earth that I could reasonably go? At 11,202 miles, that little beach would be it. To get any farther, I’d have to wade out beyond my height into the sea.

It’s the kind of thing you’d wonder about after a long day when you just wanted to get away from work and phone calls and, well, pretty much everything else.

It’s nice to dream.

That’s what everyone says anyway, and what we say to ourselves: It’s nice to dream, but now I have to get back to the real world.

Think of it: me. In Australia! It’s laughable if you knew me. I’m a person who rarely steps outside routine, let alone leaves the house without a familiar path and destination in mind. What business do I have with traveling to the other side of the globe?

Still, it holds a place on the little bookshelf of dreams in my mind. Fantastical things like having a house with secret passageways and animal as pets.

To be sure, I’m not talking about the types of delusions that consume us—the kinds of ideas that make as much despair as does clinging to the regrets of an unchanged past.

But, since we don’t quite know the future, we can’t completely dismiss anything that could happen. We could be admitted that while our craziest ideas may not often be the greatest, the greatest ideas are always crazy. They are wild, inventive and unforeseen: wonders of love and art and science and stories.

Our world would be barren of its greatest treasures if some person hadn’t stuck to some silly idea. Just that way, we have a beach at the end of the world. So does everyone. A lot of them, in fact, of every kind and color.

Once, the paths we walk are not all primrose. Our share of sorrows is at times more than we can bear. Although a dream is not to prefer fantasy to honest suffering: it’s to defy it. To hold it back and keep cutting a way through it.

Those hopes of ours may become dulled and buried by cynical minds and the weight of time, but they cannot be broken.

It’s good to dream.

Just keep going. Smile at them. They are there for a reason.

And you never know: some dreams have a funny way of sneaking into the real world when we least expect it.

Kind of like the surprise of a sudden, salty breeze on a distant shore.

(Sight Unseen is an occasional column that explores God and the world. Brandon A. Evans is the online editor and graphic designer of The Criterion and a member of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield.)

Letter to the Editor

Sisters of Providence committed to following ‘consistent ethic of life’

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., describe our purpose as honoring Divine Providence and furthering God’s loving plans by devoting ourselves to works of love, mercy and justice in service among God’s people. These works are undertaken in service to all life and care for all creation.

Our recent proclamation to join Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’ action platform expresses the scope of life which we service: life of people, plants, animals and planet. It is a commitment to living an integrated life, including the ecology that calls us to use the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization as an opportunity to reflect on just what it means to stand in support of all life and all lives.

As a nation, we sorely need dialogue and action toward creating conditions under which all life can flourish. This requires a comprehensive view of supporting life: sound economic, political and social policies that address systemic racism and other correctional actions to bring the entire community of people and planet into balance and equity.

As engaged Catholic citizens, we, the Harbaugh family, have a dream on behalf of all people, and especially our Catholic companions, to advocate for comprehensive legislative reform that supports the thriving of all life: all life on death row; life of families with children in dire poverty; the lives of differently abled persons, immigrants, persons with chronic mental illness, and so forth.

This is the work of honoring Divine Providence and forming the beloved community. Chicago Cardinal Joseph M. Bernardin articulated the consistent ethic of life during his 1983 Gaumont Lecture at Fordham University. He was “convinced that the pro-life position of the Church must be developed in terms of a comprehensive and consistent ethic of life.”

What steps can we take to defend the lives of all people, including unborn children, immigrant children and children at risk of gun violence, as well as women facing unintended pregnancies? We need policies that reduce discrimination and lack of social support and economic means to raise a child? An economy and policies that support the entire community brings Cardinal Bernardin’s desire for a “consistent ethic of life” to its front and center.

As people of Providence, we are committed to partnering with God and others on this journey toward the beloved community and a world that acts out of love, mercy and justice.

Sisters of Providence Leadership Team
Sister Dawn Tomaszewski
Sister Sarah Hagelkamp
Sister Laura Parker
Sister Anne Therese Falkenstein
Sister Carole Kimbrough
For the love of money is the root of all evils, and some people in their desire for it have strayed from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains. (1 Tm 6:10).

The Gospel reading for this Sunday, the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, contains a strong warning. “Take care to guard against all greed,” Jesus says, “for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions” (Lk 12:15).

This admonition to guard against greed comes in response to a request from “someone in the crowd” who said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me?” (Lk 12:13).

The Lord’s reaction, “Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?” (Lk 12:14), suggests that Jesus does not want to be caught in the middle of a family quarrel. So he uses this occasion to help the questioner (and all of us) reflect on the dangers of avarice, extreme greed for wealth or material possessions.

Most of us recall the saying attributed to St. Paul that “money is the root of all evil.” What we don’t realize is that this is not what the Apostle said. In his first letter to Timothy, Paul writes that the love of money, (1 Tm 6:10), not money itself, is the root of all evils. “The love of money is a disordered desire. It is what Jesus warns against—greed, the perverted desire for the power and influence associated with great wealth and abundant material possessions. Money and possessions are not perverse or evil. They are, or should be, neutral instruments that can be used either for good or for evil.”

To illustrate this point, Jesus tells the following parable: “There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, ‘What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?’ And he said, ‘This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, ‘Now as you have, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!’ ‘But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your life will be required of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?’ Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God’” (Lk 12:16-21).

Jesus is not anti-money or opposed to wealth. He is not asking us to give up all our assets. The key to understanding the Christian view of money and material things is the concept of stewardship. Everything we have, including life itself, is a gift from God. We are not owners of our material and spiritual gifts. We are stewards (guardians or caretakers) of what God has so generously entrusted to us. As the parable in this Sunday’s Gospel makes clear, we can’t take any of our possessions with us when we die. What we can do is make sure that all our gifts and talents are used wisely, and shared generously, for the good of all.

The quote from St. Paul’s First Letter to Timothy goes on to say that some people in their distorted desire for money “have strayed from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains.” (1 Tm 6:10). This recalls another popular notion—that money can buy pain, but it can’t buy happiness.

As responsible stewards of God’s bounty, including all of creation, let’s strive to become rich in the things that matter to God. Chief among these are selfless love, kindness (especially toward those who offend us), peacemaking, forgiveness, justice and equality for all, and the commitment to build a better world. These spiritual gifts make us rich in the eyes of God, and the more we give them away, the richer we become.

Let’s strive to become strong against greed and, for the grace of God, to become good and faithful stewards of all God’s gifts."
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 29-August 8

Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, 4321 E. Carmel-Dayton Rd., Suite 1 Providence, St. 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.

Aug. 3

MCL Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis. Solo Seniors.

August

5:30 p.m., Catholic, educational, charitable and social service—seminarians, novices, widowed or divorced—and 50 or older, new members welcome, also call about regular Friday night dinner events. Information: 317-796-8605.

Aug. 5

St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 507 E. 62nd 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: 317-485-1012.

Aug. 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. Alphonsus Liguori Church, 1780 W. Oak St., Zionsville. Location and other information: info@ztulzoo.com or 317-910-8169.

Aug. 9

Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of Providence, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Táié Préayer at the Woods, 7-8 p.m., simple prayers, spoken music, silence, virtual option available at taeTaise. Information: 812-535-2952, proverty@stpmw.org.

Aug. 10

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

Aug. 11


Aug. 12-13

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7252 Southeast Ave., Indianapolis. Augustawaganz, 4 p.m. midfield, raffle, festival food, children’s games, Silly Safari, church tours, bingo, beer tent, Monte Carlo, baby charitable racing, carnival rides, live music, 5:30 p.m., grand raffle, free admission. Information: 317-357-1200.

Aug. 13

Immaculate Conception Parish, 208 E. County Rd. 820 N., Millhousen. Consignment Auction, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., includes raffle and lunch, call in advance to drop off consignment items Aug. 12, free admission. Information: 812-591-2962.

India State Library History Reference Room, 315 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis. The Mystery of “The Darling Bible,” presented by Dr. David T. Gura, Notre Dame curator of ancient and Medieval manuscripts and professor of Classics and the Medieval Institute, registration required, free. Information and registration: gatt@urdh.edu or 317-442-1951.

Aug. 13-14

All Saints Parish, St. Paul Campus, 9788 N. Dearborn Rd., Guilford. Summer Festival, Sat. 5-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. live band Misty Creek, Sun. music by DJ Dean Morris, raffles, beer garden, lunch stand, kids’ zone, fireworks, children’s games, Silly Safari, chicken dinner served Sun. beginning at 11 a.m., free admission. Information: 812-576-4302.

Aug. 14

St. Mary Parish, 2500 St. Mary Dr., Lapelville, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). Information: vacation@tdom.org.

Aug. 15

St. Thea Bowman Black Catholic Women Monthly Prayer Gathering, 7-8 p.m., third Monday of each month, sponsored by archdiocesan Black Catholic Committee. Information: Fatima@archindy.org or 317-236-1474.

Aug. 17


Aug. 18


August 19-20

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 4625 N. Kenwood Ave., Indianapolis. Sausage Fest, 5:30 p.m.-midnight, Kincard’s sausages, Sun King beer, tees from Illinois Street Food Emporium, Byrne’s pizza, live music, wine, snack shack goodies, kids’ zone, teen zone with DJ, free admission. Information: 317-253-1461.

Wedding Anniversaries

Greg and Marilyn (Maxey) Harter, married at St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on July 8. They have three children: Kristy Nicole Bale, Wendy Harlow and Gregory Harter II. The couple also has six grandchildren.

Dan and Doris (Young) Shaw, members of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on June 24, 1967. They have one child: Andrea Holland. The couple also has five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Jim and Janet (Firsch) Wilmer, members of St. Mary-of-the-Woods Parish in Greensburg, will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on Aug. 5. They have two children: Lisa Kane and Bob Wilmer. The couple also has two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

David and Karen (Batta) Anderson, members of St. Peter Parish in Franklin County, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 5. They have two children: Lisa Kane and Bob Wilmer. The couple also has two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Kevin and Cheryl (Huffman) Freund, members of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 14. They have three children: Jill Dillion, Amy Schuh and Matthew Anderson. The couple also has five grandchildren.

Steve and Diane (Heeren) Keucher, members of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 1. The couple was married in St. Anne Church in Bloomington, Ill., on July 1, 1972. They have two children: John and Father Michael Keucher. The couple also has two grandchildren.

Larry and Helen (Kruer) Ott, members of St. Mary Parish in Lapelville, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 1. The couple was married in St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Church in Floyd County on July 1, 1972. They have six children: Judy, Brad and Kyle Ott. The couple also has eight grandchildren.
reaffirming the Church’s commitment to caring for women and families in need. Not the least of these is that protecting principles for proposed legislation, including preventing pre-born life to the greatest possible extent, is based on the belief that every pregnancy involves at least two individuals—two patients—with the goal of physicians and nurses to provide as much as possible for the needs of both.

The ICC is closely watching Senate Bill 21, which would prohibit abortion in Indiana with certain exceptions, preventing “a substantial permanent impairment of the health of the mother” and in cases of pregnancies resulting from rape or incest. The measure, authored by Senators James Merritt (R-Indianapolis) and Jeremy Van Hise (D-Bloomington), was introduced on Monday, was the subject of intense debate throughout the week and was defeated in a 40-10 vote by Friday. If passed, it would move to the Indiana House for consideration.

The House spent the first week of the special session focused on providing inflation relief to the people of Indiana, which was the original purpose of the session before the Dobbs decision changed its scope. In the next phase of the session, on Wednesday, July 21, through Aug. 5, the Senate will turn its focus to the efforts to help Hoosiers deal with inflation. The ICC will take up the proposed legislation.

While the Catholic Church supports some aspects of the Dobbs decision, others are aspects not in keeping with Church doctrine, explained Alexander Mingus, associate director of the Office for Pro-life Activities.

“We support the general prohibition of abortion and the exception for the life of the mother because there are two human persons involved—each with a distinct right to life,” Mingus said. “We are happy that the Indiana House is considering this issue. The Assembly is seriously considering this issue. But if the proposed pass legislation that protects pre-born children from elective abortion and preserves a doctor’s ability to provide painless life-affirming medical care, there are areas of concern that need more attention.”

Among the ICC’s concerns with Senate Bill 1 is a lack of clarity surrounding enforceable language surrounding the exceptions. That concern includes questions regarding what constitutes a “substantial permanent impairment of the health of the mother,” and the exemption of termination of a pregnancy due to a medical condition diagnosed before the child was born “with sustained life outside the womb.”

“If this exception stays in the law,” the ICC encourages, “at least to pass legislation ensuring that parents are adequately informed, as we know that fetal anomalies do not always predict as doctors predict,” Mingus said.

He said the ICC was also disappointed that the legislation aimed to protect surgical abortion, not medication abortion.

“The Church remains committed to advocating for the dignity of all pre-born human beings, accompanying moms in need and advocating for social supports that empower women and families to uphold a consistent ethic of life,” Mingus said.

Such social supports are a key component of Senate Bill 21, which would establish the Hoosier Families First Fund and provide $45 million from the state general fund to assist pregnant women, postpartum mothers and families in need.

The measure, authored by Sen. Ryan Mishler (R-Bremen) and Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), also increases the maximum Adoption Tax Credit from $1,000 to $1,400 for families that have raised a child from foster care.

“We are happy to see the House take up proposed legislation that affirms our values,” Mingus said.

Both productions tell the story of a mother (who now resides in south-central Indiana) who reaches out to the now-18-year-old son she offered for adoption, and the young man’s journey of discovery in meeting her, a journey that includes learning the truth surrounding his birth.

The movie is produced by Kirk Cameron and the Kendrick Brothers, creators of War Room and Fireproof.

In central and southern Indiana, the film will be shown in select theaters in Avon, Bedford, Bloomington, Greenwood, Hamilton Southeastern, New Albany, Richmond, Seymour and Terre Haute.

It will also be shown in cities near the archdiocese, including Cincinnati, Evansville and Louisville.

For a listing of theaters and showtimes and to purchase tickets, go to lifemarked.com.

Pro-life movie Lifemarked, based on the short documentary I Lived on Parker Avenue, in theaters on Sept. 9-16
**Catholic Charities Bloomington seeking to raise $6,000 by Aug. 12 to be eligible for $100,000 grant**

Catholic Charities Bloomington (CCB) is participating in a fundraising campaign called “A Community Thrives,” with a goal of raising $6,000 by Aug. 12. If successful, CCB will be eligible for a Gannett Foundation grant of up to $100,000 to recruit, hire, onboard and offer competitive wages for two new, clinically trained therapists to join the organization’s team. CCB offers counseling services in several Bloomington offices to make possible a comprehensive, integrated continuum of quality mental health care for children and adults struggling with a range of life issues.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, one in five adults in the U.S. are experiencing mental illnesses that include depression and anxiety. In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control reported that suicide was the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-34 in the U.S. CCB reports that in the past two years it has experienced a 29% rise in inquiries from individuals and families seeking mental health support. Its therapists are operating at maximum productivity, and the waitlist continues to accumulate with more frequent and urgent calls.

“This is such an exciting opportunity,” said Michael Strifling, a clinical director, mental health therapist and social worker for CCB. “It would be wonderful if we could get as many people as possible to make donations so we can reach our goal to be considered for the larger grant award.” He noted that only contributions made through Aug. 12 will count toward the $6,000 goal, and all donations must be made online via credit card, PayPal or Venmo at cutt.ly/ACommunityThrives.

For more information on the campaign, contact Cheri Bush at 317-236-1411. For more information on Catholic Charities Bloomington and their services, call 812-332-1262 or go to ccbin.org.

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**Social Concerns ministry will lead monthly virtual rosary for peace and justice**

The archdiocesan Catholic Social Concerns Ministry will begin offering a virtual scriptural rosary for justice and peace at 8 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, starting on Aug. 18.

The scriptural rosary for justice and peace that will be used was developed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (cutt.ly/prayerrosary) and is based on the Luminous Mysteries. To register, go to cutt.ly/scripturalrosary.

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**Bilingual Substance Abuse Ministry Healing Mass with Archbishop Thompson set for Aug. 11 at Columbus parish**

A healing Mass for those suffering from addiction, as well as for their loved ones and the community, will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 11 at St. Bartholomew Church, 1306 27th St., in Columbus. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson will serve as the principal celebrant.

Opportunities to receive an individual blessing from the archbishop and for individuals to participate in English and Spanish will be available after the Mass, as well as a simple reception.

For more information, contact Brie Anne Varick at 317-236-1543 or bvarick@archindy.org.
The morning had been filled with joy for the graduates, a time of celebration with family and friends—an occasion that also included the celebration of the Mass with Archbishop Charles C. Thompson. Before and after that liturgy on June 24, the archbishop had spent time informally talking with the 17 recent graduates of the archdiocesan Intercultural Pastoral Institute, which forms pastoral and spiritual leaders within the various ethnic communities in the archdiocese and the Lafayette Diocese.

Those informal moments had led to smiles and laughs between the archbishop and the graduate students. That connection continued during the Mass as the archbishop shared, in Spanish, his third homily in the archdiocese on the feast day of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. “May you never grow tired of trusting and celebrating God’s unconditional love and abounding mercy as made available to us through the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,” the archbishop said in his homily during the Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis. “May you be instruments of that divine love and mercy through your ministry in spiritual direction and as pastoral leaders, especially in seeking out those who have strayed or are lost. And may you never lose your way to the altar of the Lord, drawing strength and nourishment from the eucharistic banquet of the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ—to enable you to remain Christ-centered in your witness to the abundance that flows from his Sacred Heart for all people.”

An invitation from Christ

After the Mass, Archbishop Thompson posed for group and individual photos with the graduates. And the celebration at the retreat center continued with a graduation ceremony—a ceremony in which the graduates of the Intercultural Pastoral Institute shared her hopes for the 10th graduating class of the two-year formation program.

“The Church, our church, is walking with all of us as we are walking along with her,” said Carmen Hernandez to the graduates. “There are many important scenarios where the Church needs leaders like you, particularly in social emergencies and especially in the preferential option for the poor. She noted how she believes that Pope Francis’ homilies during the COVID-19 pandemic have intensified in their mentions of the poor. “In one of those homilies, he pointed out, ‘When Jesus says about the poor, ‘You will always have them with you,’ he means, ‘I am always with you in the poor.’”

This places the poor in a theological place—in a place of encounter with God. Then the active participation of you pastoral leaders, in the encounter with God through the poor, is fundamental to make our Church a visible sign of love, solidarity and justice.” Hernandez extended an invitation to the graduates in their royal blue caps and gowns. “I invite you to further deepen our relationship and commitment with the poor, and those most in need, becoming friends with them, close to them,” she said. “This requires that you become true missionary disciples, that all of you feel that you are learning for the first time Christ’s invitation to learn from him—from his heart, from his teaching, from his word. So that you too, can announce that word, and do it with an attitude of openness, dialogue, availability.”

“I am ready to serve our Church”

The graduates of this year’s class represent the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Lafayette Diocese. Angie Pitts—a mother of eight and a grandmother of 11 who graduated from the program with honors—was chosen to give a speech on behalf of her classmates. Later, Pitts spoke to The Criterion about how the entire day—the Mass, the ceremony and the lunch celebration—was “breathtaking.” “It was an awesome experience to be there with Archishop Thompson and to see my classmates, our families and friends gathered together to celebrate with us.”

She shared how she and her fellow students overcame car breakdowns, babysitting problems and COVID challenges to complete the program. She also praised the Intercultural Pastoral Institute, a ministry of the archdiocesan Office of Intercultural Ministry. “I fell in love with it. The teachers were awesome,” Pitts said. “Right now, I’m a lector and an [extraordinary] minister [of holy communion], but I wanted to know more about my faith with a deeper point of view. Christ wants us to spread the Good News. That’s why I’m here. I’m ready to serve our Church.”

Graduates celebrate and embrace Christ’s invitation to serve with love

By John Shaughnessy

El Arzobispo Charles C. Thompson posa con los graduados del Instituto Pastoral Intercultural de la Arquidiócesis el 24 de junio en la Casa de Retiro Nuestra Señora de Fátima en Indianápolis. (Foto de John Shaughnessy)

Los graduados del Instituto Pastoral Intercultural de la Arquidiócesis se llenan de sonrisas y alegría durante una conversación con el arzobispo Charles C. Thompson el 24 de junio. (Foto de John Shaughnessy)
What's so amazing about grace?

Grace really does change you
In last month’s installment of “Ken’s 12-Pack,” I emphasized that God always makes the first move. Grace provides a concrete example of this reality.

The preparation of the human person for the reception of grace is already a work of grace. Grace is God’s initiative, changing you in several key ways:

• You are introduced into the intimacy of trinitarian life. In other words, the love that flows between Father, Son and Holy Spirit becomes real and accessible for you in an entirely new, unique and irreplaceable way.

• God adopts you as his own child! You can rightfully call him not only Father, but also Dad! You become a participant in God’s life such that your closeness to him—and his to you—can accurately be called a real, intimate, personal relationship.

What about the sacraments?
Each of the seven sacraments has its own special grace—changing you in specific, concrete ways. Let’s take a new look at the sacrament of penance as one of seven potential examples.

Many Catholics think of confession as “that thing I need to do after I sin.” We half-jokingly say, after we do something that could be perceived as sinful, “Oops. I’d better go to confession!”

And while it’s true that the sacrament of penance addresses sins already committed, the special grace of this sacrament can help keep you from falling into grave sin in the first place!

This is one reason why frequently celebrating the sacrament of penance (monthly is a good pattern for many folks) is warmly recommended by so many spiritual directors, Church leaders and trusted pastors of souls.

If more adult Catholics took to heart the preventative power of grace experienced via the sacrament of penance, confessions would be more frequent, sin just might decrease and the world would truly be a better place.

Short-changing grace in the catechesis of the 1970s and 1980s dug us a little hole regarding this aspect of Catholic faith and life, thankfully we can and are digging out of it—in part due to the clarity offered by the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

It’s amazing because it changes you—
for the better!

Grace changes you. If you’re a wretch, it can help save you. If you’re lost, it can help you become found. If your spiritual blind spots trick you into feeling like a soul-sick orphan, grace helps you see how loved you are as an adopted child of almighty God.

Let God’s grace transform you. Let his life enfold you. Make the sacraments a priority. You’re guaranteed to find the results … amazing!

( Ken Ogorek, archdiocesan director of catechesis, has lost his six-pack abs. But his 12-part series, whose theme is: Things Most Catholics Wish They Knew Better, will run through December. He can be reached at his archdiocesan e-mail address kogorek@archindy.org or by using the contact information at kogorek@archindy.org.)
Pope Francis names three women to office that helps him choose bishops

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Ten days after saying he would name two women to the group that helps him choose bishops, Pope Francis appointed three women to office that helps him choose bishops.

Before Pope Francis’ reform of the Roman Curia took effect in June, members of the dicastery were only cardinals and a few bishops.

The other new members of the dicastery include: Cardinals Anders Arborelius of Stockholm; Jose F. Advincula of Manila, Philippines; José T tinder to vote on the names they recommend to the pope. Vatican nuncios about potential candidates for helping the pope choose bishops for the Roman Curia took effect in June, members of the dicastery were only cardinals and a few bishops.

The other new members of the dicastery include: Cardinals Anders Arborelius of Stockholm; Jose F. Advincula of Manila, Philippines; José Tito Camilleri of Malta; and Mario Grech, secretary-general of the Secretariat for Culture; and Benedictine Abbot Donato Oglia, abbott of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome and apostolic administrator of the Abbey of Montecassino, Italy.

The new members join existing members, including U.S. Cardinals Blase J. Cupich of Chicago and Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, N.J.

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. bishops’ annual report on compliance with the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” released July 12 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection shows that 2.930 victim survivors came forward with 3,103 allegations during the audit year of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

The number of allegations is 1,149 less than that reported in 2019-2020, according to the audit report released July 12 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection.

“This decrease is due in large part to the resolution of allegations received as a result of laws that have changed in recent years, and to vote on the names they recommend to the pope. Vatican nuncios about potential candidates for helping the pope choose bishops for the Roman Curia took effect in June, members of the dicastery were only cardinals and a few bishops.

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The full annual report on compliance with the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops can be found online at https://bit.ly/3AfXn59.

The NRB suggested a voluntary “mentorship” program between eparchies that do not participate in the audit and other eparchies that do, she said, and it also proposed there be one day when parishes in every diocese offer “a liturgy of lament for victims/survivors of clergy sexual abuse and their families.”

“The efforts of many individuals, both lay and ordained, the culture and attitudes surrounding the abuse of children has and will continue to change,” Deacon Bernie Mijajdza, director of the Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection, said in a letter to the archbishop in the report.

He has been blessed by the survivors he has come to know, he said, by them “sharing their stories and how they learned to forgive, to survive and in some cases, thrive. I am honored and humbled to be in the presence of such holy people.”

“The Church will be successful in her journey toward conversion, reconciliation, healing and hope through the relationships of victims/survivors,” he said.

The report shows that dioceses and eparchies participate in the audit, but also audit every single parish in their ordinances.

The report was based on the audit findings of Stonebridge Business Partners, a special committee from Rochester, N.Y. Also included in the report are results of a survey on allegations continued after saying he would name two women to the Roman Curia took effect in June, members of the dicastery were only cardinals and a few bishops.

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“In 2021, the Church conducted 1,961 background checks on clergy, employees and volunteers. In addition, more than 2 million adults and more than 2 million children and youths were trained in how to identify the warning signs of abuse and how to report those signs.

Data from CARA said the costs related to allegations for fiscal year 2020 were $218,816,493; other payments to victims $13,103,280; support for offenders, $9,130,567; attorneys’ fees $45,597,100; and other costs, $6,930,931.

The grand total of costs was $117,860,448—less than the charter audit process conducted by Stonebridge Business Partners, were not altered.

Seventy dioceses/eparchies were visited either in person or via remote technology and data was collected from 122 others.

There were four instances of noncompliance due to the inactivity of their review boards: the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas; the Diocese of Lafayette, La.; the Diocese of New Ulm, Minn.; and the Eparchy of Newton were found noncompliant with Article 2 of the charter.

Article 2 requires they have a lay-run review board that functions as a confidential consultative body to the bishop/eparch.

Subsequent convening of the review boards of the dioceses and the eparch brought each of them into compliance with Article 2.

Three eparchies and one diocese did not participate in the audit: the Chaldean Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle, the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, and the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

“May the Lord bless and preserve our efforts to make good on our promise to protect and pledge to hear,” Suzanne Healy, who chairs the National Review Board (NRB), said in a letter to Archbishop Gomez included in the report.

She said the NRB “continues to recommend that all dioceses and eparchies participate in the audit, but also audit every single parish in their ordinances.

Parishes and school audits provide the most effective evaluation tool for diocesan/ eparchial safe environment efforts.”

The board also noted “the examination of the efficacy of safe environment programs for both adults and children to ensure the training is working toward our promise to protect,” she added.

She said the board recommends enhancing the audit process with “possible expansion of the audit scope to include measures” in Pope Francis’ 2019 “motu proprio” Vos Estis Lac Mundi—which established procedures for reporting allegations of sexual abuse and for holding accountable bishops, eparchies and religious superiors who protect abusers.

The process could also include, she said, a new section of the Code of Canon Law dealing with crimes and punishments in Canon Law, “Book VI: Penal Sanctions in the Church.”

“On behalf of my brother bishops, I want to express our sorrow and apologies to every person who has suffered abuse in the Church,” he said.

“Six-tenths of the payments made to victims/survivors were for reporting allegations of sexual abuse and for holding accountable bishops, eparchies and religious superiors who protect abusers.”

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Grief, which can be defined as a complex response to loss, is a universal human experience that affects us throughout our life. From losing a pet, to the loss of a job, to shattered expectations of how we thought life would be, grief is a normal response. For a person in grief, it is important to be able to have a sacred space to express their grief, tears, regrets, fears and hopes.

The wide range of the grieving experience can be shared with the assurance of confidentiality and tenderness. The reality is that, as spiritual director and author Nicholas Collier states, “grief longs for an outward expression and and love, and it is within the intentional about it or not.”

For those new to the ministry of spiritual direction, it is basically forming spiritual companionship. It is a one-on-one relationship between a trained spiritual director and the directee, with the director serving as a guide and friend. There is an affirmation of the validity of personal experience and the director will always proceed with a heart full of love.

For those coping with grief, it’s important to understand that spiritual direction will not offer solutions. Through compassionate listening, a spiritual director can assist in the discernment of meaning and what life might be moving forward—all with the lens of divine presence.

Grief is even a safe space to openly speak about the experience of loss, clarity and even a joyful sorrow can surface. It is helpful to remember that God is always communicating with us through the circumstances of our lives—in both abundance and in loss. It also needs to be understood that spiritual direction is not grief counseling or trauma therapy. Counseling is performed for complicated grief, when traumas of the past surface.

Spiritual direction primarily focuses on the movements of the Holy Spirit in the present moment, and a spiritual director might even seek the assistance of spiritual counseling if warranted. William Shakespeare wrote in Macbeth, “Give sorrow words; the grief that does not speak up the o’er-wrought heart and bids it break.”

Spiritual direction is a helpful tool in navigating grief. For a person experiencing loss, the loving presence of a spiritual director can offer a sacred space to express anger, tensions, regrets, fears and hopes.

In the June Corrections Corner column, we considered the process of the arrest of a person, the filing of charges and their initial hearing in court. This month, we will move on to understand the trial by plea agreement and sentencing.

The defendant initially sets a pretrial conference. Sometimes their cases are set a trial date. For misdemeanor cases, if an initial trial date is set, it is before the bench trial, i.e., a trial heard before a judge. The defendant must ask for a jury trial in writing at least 30 days before the bench trial date, or it is waived. For felony cases, the case is automatically set for a jury trial, but only if both sides the judge agree. Several things can happen at this point. If the defendant believes that the judge has a reason to be biased, a motion to change venue from the judge may be filed. These are rare motions, but if more rare, granted, because the reason must be based on cause. If the judge knows the defendant personally or has some personal opinion that he or she cannot fairly handle the case, the judge normally “recuses,” i.e., removes themselves from the case. The fact that the judge has dealt with the defendant in prior cases is not considered cause.

The defendant may also ask for a change of venue from the county if there is sufficient pre-trial publicity, and there is no reason that a fair and impartial jury cannot be selected. If the judge agrees, there are two possible results. One is that the case is transferred to another county. The second is that when there is a trial, the parties go to another court to select the jury. The evidence is transported to and from their home county for the trial. If any venue problems are resolved, the prosecutor and defense attorney begin their preparations for an eventual trial. This includes such things as analyzing the evidence that was collected, which often includes having the evidence analyzed for fingerprints, or in the case of controlled substances, having the substances transported to the Indiana State Police Laboratory in Indianapolis for analysis. Pretrial conferences periodically occur to make sure that the case is proceeding as it should.

In preliminary cases is called a “speedy” trial, the case must be disposed of within 70 days of the date it is requested. This has been extended when the defendant asks for a continuance. It is often asked why it takes so long for a criminal case to resolve. There are many reasons, including the number of cases the judiciary and law enforcement have, witnesses have the evidence analyzed, discuss trial strategy, and most often, negotiate a plea agreement. More to come in future columns.

In a bench trial, i.e., a trial heard by a judge, the defendant must ask for a trial to be held before a judge. The defendant may also ask for a pretrial conference. The prosecutor and defense attorney begin their preparations for an eventual trial. This includes such things as analyzing the evidence that was collected, which often includes having the evidence analyzed for fingerprints, or in the case of controlled substances, having the substances transported to the Indiana State Police Laboratory in Indianapolis for analysis. Pretrial conferences periodically occur to make sure that the case is proceeding as it should. In preliminary cases is called a “speedy” trial, the case must be disposed of within 70 days of the date it is requested. This has been extended when the defendant asks for a continuance. It is often asked why it takes so long for a criminal case to resolve. There are many reasons, including the number of cases the judiciary and law enforcement have, witnesses have the evidence analyzed, discuss trial strategy, and most often, negotiate a plea agreement. More to come in future columns.

(Deacon Marc Kerralls is the Coordinator of Corrections Ministry for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He can be reached at mkellams@archindy.org or call 317-592-4012.)

For years, Catherine Huss’ twin passions were evident: faith and fashion.

The 30-year-old Catholic never felt that her faith was at odds with her penchant for apparel. But the Catholic Church, like many other faiths, has a strong stance against the way women dress in public. For certain Catholics, the Church teaches that women must cultivate modesty and avoid dressing in a way that suggests immodesty. But the Church is not alone in its stance on women’s fashion. In recent years, there has been a growing concern about ethical clothing production and the dignity of the human person.

Worship and Evangelization Outreach/Teresa Venatta

Spiritual direction offers sacred space for those who are grieving...
The Sunday Readings
Sunday, July 31, 2022

- Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
- Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

The first reading for Mass this weekend is from the Book of Ecclesiastes, which appears only rarely in the readings at Mass. It is among the works in the Bible collectively called the wisdom literature. It provides genuine wisdom, saying that the heart of God and of God's law, which is at the heart of the Hebrew tradition, is not unreasonable or farfetched. On the contrary, the understandings drawn from divine revelation correspond with the best of human logic.

This weekend’s reading shares a basic conviction of the authors of the wisdom literature as well as of the prophets, the conviction that human creatures are inherently fallible for themselves, even their doom, from wandering from the path set down by God’s revelation. In other words, people dig their own graves.

Essentially, the Book of Ecclesiastes is framing the setting of the chapter, ultimately exposing human recklessness in making decisions without God. For the second reading this weekend, the Church offers us a passage from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Colossians. As was the case in so many cities and places in the Roman Empire of the last quarter of the first century, Colossae was a pagan city. Most of the population was pagan. The culture was pagan. Christians were considered odd at best and a threat at worst.

Paul wrote this letter to the Christians in Colossae. The first part of the passage, which is our reading, is called the first part of St. Paul’s Epistle to the Colossians. As the Church offers us a passage from this letter today, we see the mission of the Church as it moves forward in its mission.

Reflection
A modern French aircraft carrier was the “Richelieu,” named for one of the most effective architects of French glory and the “Richelieu,” named for one of the most effective architects of French glory and strength. His administrative brilliance led to the development of the French fleet, which was his only purpose in life. He was a symbol of the person’s baptism. During the Mass itself, a white ribbon is often worn by the priest and used to indicate that the deceased wished to be buried with an emblem or insignia of associations to which the deceased belonged. The body of the deceased should be entombed or buried in a church's vestibule. Underlying that suggestion is the fact that Catholics belong to a universal faith community. In the Church, this is left to the judgment of the diocesan bishop, who most often leaves it to the discretion of the local pastor.

My Journey to God
When you look in the mirror, do you like what you see? Imagine Jesus looking back at you; would you feel ashamed or happy?

If ashamed is your current emotion, then change the way you live. Jesus is patiently waiting for you; arms opened wide, wanting to forgive. If ashamed is your current emotion, then change the way you live. Jesus is patiently waiting for you; arms opened wide, wanting to forgive. If ashamed is your current emotion, then change the way you live. Jesus is patiently waiting for you; arms opened wide, wanting to forgive. If ashamed is your current emotion, then change the way you live. Jesus is patiently waiting for you; arms opened wide, wanting to forgive.

Living in Grace
Stephanie Jackson

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Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle
Catholics can donate their remains to science under certain conditions

(EDITOR’S NOTE: THIS COLUMN BY FATHER KENNETH DOYLE WAS ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN 2018.)

Q I would like to donate my remains to medical science. Does the Catholic Church approve or disapprove of this action? (Virginia)

A The Catholic Church not only allows this but encourages it. Your donation could enable doctors, nurses and medical researchers to understand the human body better and save lives in the future.

The Catholic bishops in the U.S. in their policy document “Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Healthcare Services” state that Catholic health care facilities should provide the means for those who wish to donate organs and body tissue both for transplant and for research (663).

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TURNER, Charlotte, 84, St. Simon the Apostle, Indianapolis, June 24. Wife of Sharon Canfield, Dan, Paul and Steve Turner. Great-grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of two.


Franciscan Sister Maureen Mahon was a missionary for 29 years in Papua New Guinea, served as educator

Franciscan Sister Maureen Mahon, formerly Sister Zita, died on June 20 at the motherhouse of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in Oldenburg. She was 86.

TheClass of Christian Burial was celebrated on June 28 at the Motherhouse Chapel in Oldenburg. Burial followed at the sisters’ cemetery.

Sister Maureen was born on Jan. 28, 1936, in Cincinnati. She joined the Sisters of St. Francis on Sept. 8, 1955, and professed final vows on Aug. 12, 1961.

Sister Maureen graduated from a bachelor’s degree in education at Mariann University in Indianapolis and pursued education through numerous workshops and courses while serving as a missionary in Papua New Guinea.

During 67 years as a member of the Sisters of St. Francis, Sister Maureen ministered in Catholic education for nine years in Missouri and Ohio. In 1966, she began service as a missionary in Papua New Guinea, ministering there for 29 years for different periods as a teacher, catechist and in pastoral ministry.

After returning to the U.S., Sister Maureen served in parish ministry in Missouri and Ohio as well as at St. Anthony Mescongray in Cincinnati. She retired to the motherhouse in 2014.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of St. Francis, P.O. Box 100, Oldenburg, IN 47036-0100.

Franciscan Sister Maureen Mahon was a missionary for 29 years in Papua New Guinea, served as educator
Investing with Faith/Kimberly Pohovey

Gratitude is at the heart of why we, as Catholics, share our gifts

In times of economic uncertainty and rising expenses, it can be hard to maintain our commitments to charitable giving. But even harder to consider increasing our generosity. For many, why from time to time, it’s important to re-frame how we think about why we give. All kinds of things motivate us to give. We may donate in memory of someone we love or in memory of the positive influence of contributing positively to the world around us.

Our understanding of charitable endeavors because we welcome the opportunity to share what we’ve earned or received with others whose needs aren’t always met. Others may like how giving from the heart can make them feel or see it as a way to express their values and priorities. And sometimes, we choose to support a particular community, organization or effect that has touched our lives in a personal way.

All of these are worthy reasons to give, but as Catholics, we have at least one more: gratitude.

In speaking to what it means that everything we have comes from God, we also know that giving to others is more than that. This, he said, is “part of the way we love our faith. Giving is the primary way we express our gratitude, not only to God, but also to those in our communities of faith who work so hard to reach out with much-needed assistance.”

As Marianne Price, a longtime supporter of the archdiocese’s outreach, put it, “We are grateful for the good work being done for members of our community by the ministries of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.”

And because Price appreciates what is already being done, she wants to sustain these efforts now and assure that they will continue in the years ahead.

The “Holy Family Shelter and the Notre Dame ACE Academy in particular, focus on families and children, helping build better futures,” she notes.

Our giving transforms the Church is more able to bring the compassion of Jesus to the world in effective ways. For Price, that means doing what she can to support the formation of priests.

“We’ve impressed with the wonderful work being done at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary [in Indianapolis] to instruct and guide young men desiring a vocation to the priesthood,” she says. “It’s important because we urgently need more priests, strong and faith-filled men to help guide us on our long and winding journey to heaven.”

“After all, it is what we hope to be headed. That’s why we choose to support initiatives that build the kingdom of God here.”

Heaven, after all, is where we hope to be headed. That’s why we choose to support initiatives that build the kingdom of God here.

When we make a commitment to giving, we discover that we don’t have to be rich to be generous. Giving makes us active participants in God’s blessings, and witnesses to the amazing things God can do with what we place in his hands. Even, as the saying goes, “God will never be outdone in generosity.”

In fact, he seems to operate according to a different kind of math: one that never subtracts or divides.

What we give multiplies God’s goodness, his care and his work. It also has the potential to affect ways we don’t expect—and sometimes can’t even imagine. As the Apostle John writes, “From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace” (1:16).

And we know that there’s always more than enough grace to share.

(‘Kimberly Pohovey is the director of major and planned gifts for the archdiocese. Tax or legal information provided herein is not intended as tax or legal advice consult your legal, tax or financial advisors before implementing any gift plan. If you would like to learn more about including your parish in your estate plans, please contact us any time. We exist to serve you and your parish in planned giving. For more information on the CPF, visit www.archindy.org/CPF, e-mail ccf@archindy.org or call 317-236-1482.)”

Catholics need better understanding of the Mass, Pope Francis says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The “sense of mystery” and awe Catholics should experience at Mass is not one prompted by Latin or by “creative” elements added to the rite but by an awareness of sacrifice of Christ and his presence in the Eucharist, Pope Francis said.

“If we talk about mystery, just like truth, always engenders wonder, and if these are referred to the mystery of God, they lead to adoration,” he wrote in an apostolic letter “on the liturgical formation of the people of God.”

The letter, “Deus gentlyt” (“I have earnestly desired”), was released on June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. The title comes from the Gospel of Luke when, before the Last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer” (Lk 22:25).

In the letter, Pope Francis insisted that Catholics need to better understand the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council and its goal of promoting the “full, conscious, active and fruitful celebration” of the Mass.

“The liturgy does not say ‘I’ but ‘we,’” the pope wrote. “The liturgy does not leave us alone but brings us together as a subject that is larger than any of us. The whole Church of the Roman rite, the whole Church of the East, the whole Church of the West.”

The liturgy is “the exact opposite of spiritual abstractions: bread, wine, oil, water, fragrances, fire, ashes, rock, fabrics, colors, body, words, sounds, silences, gesture, space, movement, action, order, time, light,” he said. Those concrete things proclaim that “the whole of creation is a manifestation of the love of God, and from when that same love was manifested in its fullness in the cross of Jesus, all of creation was drawn toward it.”

However, Pope Francis wrote, the words and gestures and symbols to be used are only those approved by the Church.

“Let us be clear here: every aspect of the celebration must be carefully tended to—space, time, gestures, words, objects, vestments, song, music—and every rubric must be observed. It is not enough to consult the celebrant or ministers ‘robbing from the assembly what is owed to it; namely, the liturgical mystery celebrated according to the ritual that the Church sets down.”

Pope Francis said “the non-acceptance of the liturgical reform” of Vatican II, as well as “a superficial understanding of it” distracts us from the obligation of finding responses to the question that I come back to: repeating? How can we grow in our capacity to live in full the liturgical action? How do we continue to let ourselves be amazed at what happens in the celebration under our very eyes?”

“We are in need of a serious and dynamic liturgical formation,” he said.
Three women receive Sisters of St. Benedict’s Angels of Grace awards

By Natalie Hoefer

Throughout the Bible, three archangels are listed by name: Gabriel, messenger of good news to Mary and Zechariah; Michael, defender of heaven who cast the devil into hell; and Raphael, the traveling companion of Tobias.

The Sisters of St. Benedict of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove have annually identified three women who have heroically served in the roles of messenger, defender and companion, and recognized their service with an “Angels of Grace” award.

The 2022 winners are: Seeds of Hope Indy executive director Marvetta Grimes for the “companionship” Angel Raphael Award; Face-to-Face Fine Art Commemorative Expressions Inc. founder and artist D. Anne Jones for the “messenger” Angel Gabriel Award; and One Net Coalition founder Linda Hirsch for the “defender” Angel Michael Award.

The recipients will receive their awards at the Angels of Grace Awards Luncheon at Primo Banquet Hall in Indianapolis on Sept. 24.

Following is background on the 2022 messenger, defender and companion as listed at benedictinn.org/angels-of-grace.

Marvetta Grimes, Angel Raphael Award

Marvetta Grimes will receive the Angel Raphael Award for being a companion to those in need of help and assistance.

Grimes began her journey with Seeds of Hope Indy, a transitional housing facility for women who are recovering from drug or alcohol addiction. A non-profit organization, Seeds of Hope was founded in 1999 with the purpose of providing a structured, loving environment to enable its residents to successfully work through an individualized program of recovery, and to be able to begin a new way of life free from addiction. Grimes began her journey with Seeds of Hope as a resident of their recovery program. As a graduate of this program, she began working as an overnight supervisor and house manager. In 2005, she was promoted to executive director.

She says she is honored to help other women through her experience, inspiring them with her strength and hope.

To read a Sept. 10, 2021, Criterion article on Seeds of Hope Indy, go to cutt.ly/SeedsOfHope.

For more information on the organization, go to www.seedsofhopeindy.org.

D. Anne Jones, Angel Gabriel Award

D. Anne Jones will receive the Angel Gabriel Award as a messenger of hope and cheer.

She is the artist behind Face-to-Face Fine Art Commemorative Expressions Inc. According to the non-profit organization’s website, its mission is to “provide free hand-painted portraits for families or individuals who have lost a loved one to a sudden, unexpected, or tragic death,” with the hope of helping to “aid in the [recipient’s] grieving process and to commemorate and honor the deceased by creating a lasting memory of their life.”

Jones was inspired to create Face-to-Face after losing her sister, mother and husband, all within a 60-day period. Since she has founded Face-to-Face, she has also lost her daughter.

Jones has been practicing portraiture for more than 40 years. She attended John Herron School of Art at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, and also studied under internationally known Viennese artist Alice Schlessinger.

To honor the memories of her husband, sister, mother and daughter, Jones reaches out to others suffering a sudden, unexpected or tragic loss. Having a memorial portrait can help offer relief in the grieving process and keeps the memory of the deceased loved one alive.

Jones works with survivors to choose a photo that will help capture the likeness and spirit of each individual subject and is especially interested in making each portrait a unique statement of the individual person.

She is a member of St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Zionsville, Ind., and in the Lafayette Diocese.

Linda Hirsch, Angel Michael Award

Linda Hirsch will receive the Angel Michael Award as a defender of the dignity and goodness of others.

When she first walked into the Indiana Women’s Prison in Indianapolis as a prison ministry faith-sharing group volunteer in 1993, Hirsch soon came to love the women, its dedicated staff and other volunteers. She developed lasting relationships and a commitment to helping the women there with re-entry into society. All are woven into the fabric of the prison.

In 2016, Linda called together a group of volunteers and founded One Net Coalition, a non-profit organization whose mission is to walk with women as they create a new path home.

The organization’s 20-week program, served entirely by volunteers, prepares women to overcome obstacles to re-entry and establish a new beginning.

Today, their program is expanding beyond prison to women who have been released but are still struggling.

For more information on One Net Coalition, go to www.onenetcoalition.org.

The Angels of Grace Luncheon will be held at Primo Banquet Hall, 2615 National Ave., in Indianapolis, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sept. 24. Tickets are $40 per person or $320 for a table of eight. Proceeds benefit women’s re-entry and establish a new beginning.

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To read a Jan. 14 Criterion article about Jones and Face-to-Face, go to cutt.ly/Face-to-Face.

For more information on the organization, go to face2facefineart.org.