Archdiocese completes its synod report on how the faithful are called to help guide the Church

Criterion staff report

In preparation for the October 2023 meeting of the world Synod of Bishops at the Vatican, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis has completed its report on the local synod listening process. The report has been forwarded to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and is now available in English and Spanish at archindy.org/synod.

The USCCB will formulate a report based on input from dioceses across the country. This report, along with others from bishops’ conferences from around the world, will then be sent to the Vatican as it prepares for the 2023 Synod of Bishops, where synodality—how the faithful are called to contribute to the guiding of the life of the Church through prayerful listening and sharing their own thoughts—will be the topic of discussion.

Pope Francis noted that the synod’s theme, “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission,” offers an opportunity to help Catholics around the world—lay faithful, religious and clergy—to experience what it means to come together to discern with the help of the Holy Spirit how the Church is called to live out its mission in this time in history.

While the Synod on Synodality is a special moment for our Church, as are all synods, synodality has long been a part of the Church’s history and identity,” said Archbishop Charles C. Thompson. “The notion of synodality is about a process of praying, listening, dialogue, accompanying, encountering and discerning the movement of the Holy Spirit in the life and mission of the people of God. Each and every baptized member is called to missionary discipleship, participating in the life and mission of the Church.”

Through the synodal process, the archbishop continued, the Church “seeks mutual respect, understanding, reconciliation and a path forward as a pilgrim people in faith, hope and charity. This is a process for the Church locally, nationally and universally. The Church, the body of Christ, comprises a rich fabric of peoples, cultures, languages and customs. Remaining...
A Day of Prayer with St. John Vianney

Left: Father Paul Landwerlen, left, currently the senior priest of the archdiocese, ordained in 1964, stands next to one of the co-most junior priests of the archdiocese, Father Michael Clowson, who was ordained on June 4. The two were concelebrants at a Mass during a “Day of Prayer with St. John Vianney” on Aug. 4 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. For more photos visit www.CriterionOnline.com. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Below: With several priests concelebrating and two transitional deacons assisting, Father Michael Keucher, archdiocesan vocations director, elevates the Eucharist during the Mass.

Official Appointments

Effective June 5, 2022

Rev. Hau Haym “John” Mang, Diocese of Kalay, Myanmar, appointed parochial vicar of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, Indianapolis, and sacramental minister to the Burmese community at St. Pius X Parish, Indianapolis.

Effective July 11, 2022


Effective August 6, 2022

Sister Donna Pricket, OSF, appointed parish life coordinator of Holy Trinity Parish, Indianapolis.

Deacon Russell Woodard appointed parish life coordinator of St. Agnes Parish, Nashville.

Effective immediately

Rev. James Farrell appointed chaplain coordinator of Father Thomas Scocima Memorial High School, Indianapolis.


(Assignments are from the Office of the Most Rev. Charles C. Thompson, Archbishop of Indianapolis.)

Corrections

In the July 29 issue of The Criterion, we incorrectly listed where Deacon Christopher Rainbolt will be serving. He has been assigned to minister at St. Michael Parish in Indianapolis. Also in the July 29 issue, in the article about the National Zomi American Eucharistic Congress, we incorrectly misspelled the last name of Angela Dim.

Ambassador says pope will visit Ukraine before Kazakhstan trip

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis plans to make his long-awaited visit to Ukraine before his trip to Kazakhstan in September, said Andrii Yurash, Ukraine’s ambassador to the Holy See.

“I am very close to Ukraine and want to express this closeness [through] my visit to Ukraine,” the pope said, according to the Ukrainian ambassador.

“The pope expressed with [the] Holy Father are always inspirational,” he added, “especially when there is a chance to discuss and promote subjects that are on the table for a long time, like the pope’s visit to Ukraine.”

The pope expressed on several occasions his desire to not only visit Ukraine, but also Russia to plead for an end to the conflict.

In an interview with Catholic News Service (CNS), Yurash said that while Ukraine was ready for a visit, he doubted the pope would be able to visit Moscow.

Russian President Vladimir Putin “perfectly understands” what the pope’s main message should be, the ambassador said.

“It will be demanding; it will be very concrete, emphasizing that Russia is responsible for the war and has to do everything to stop the war,” Putin “will not be willing to answer positively. So, in this case, negotiations would not be successful for either side,” he told CNS.

Yurash said the war has strained relations between the Catholic Church and the Russian Orthodox Church, which he said is more aligned with the “interests of the Russian state.”

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Deacon Marc Kellams brought justice, care together as a judge and in ministry

By Sean Gallagher

Deacon Marc Kellams, a permanent deacon of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, died in a traffic accident on July 29 in Indianapolis. He was 73.

He was the first of his family to enter the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Diaconal Ministry Program in 2009 when his daughter Amy died of brain cancer.

After graduation from the University of Saint Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad and was a past president of the Indiana Judges Association.

In 2018, he continued his care for people, and I want them to be successful.”

“The care and professionalism with which Deacon Kellams approached his work as a judge in part led him, who was a Republican, to be re-elected several times in his career. Deacon Kellams served at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington and in ministry, as a servant offering himself to others in the name of Jesus Christ, is a shining example of authentic Catholicity. “We would all do well to learn from Marc’s example and try to emulate Marc in our daily lives.”

Marc Reed Kellams was born on May 4, 1949, in Bloomington to the late Armal and Frances Kellams. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Deacon Kellams also graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington with a bachelor’s degree in religious studies and a doctorate in jurisprudence from the Indiana University Maurer Law School.

In addition to serving as a circuit court judge in Bloomington, Deacon Kellams also taught a trial and advocacy class at the Indiana University Maurer Law School for 42 years.

Deacon Kellams served on the board of the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program of the Indiana State Bar Association and the Indiana Supreme Court, which aids lawyers, judges and law students struggling with mental illness, addiction and depression. He served as chair of the board of overseers of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad and was a past president of the Indiana Judges Association.

After being ordained a deacon in 2008, Deacon Kellams served at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington and in hospitals and nursing homes in Monroe County from 2008-2020. In 2019, he began service as archdiocesan coordinator of corrections ministry. A year later, he also began ministry at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood while continuing as coordinator of corrections ministry. He was serving in both of these ministries at the time of his death.

Surviving are his wife of 53 years, Christina (Fox) Kellams, his daughters Sarah Lipman of Montclair, N.J., and Katherine Kellams of Bloomington, and eight grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology (www.saintmeinrad.edu) or SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood (www.ss-fc.org).
Editorial

October, 2022

A culture of life in Indiana is strengthened in new legislation

For close to 50 years, dating back to Jan. 22, 1973, millions have united to storm the heavens with prayers to put an end to Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion on demand across the United States on that tragic day.

Nearly five decades later, the U.S. Supreme Court on June 24 overturned the Roe decision, stating that there was no constitutional right to abortion. That historic move came in the majority opinion in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, which ruled that the Constitution allows states to regulate abortion.

Six weeks later, the Indiana General Assembly during a special session passed comprehensive legislation, Senate Enrolled Act 1—quickly signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcomb—that extended legal protection to most unborn babies in the state. The new law will make abortion illegal in Indiana in most cases. It goes into effect on Sept. 15, barring any legal challenges. We thank the legislators and the governor for taking action to defend the dignity of every person and promote the common good.

The new law eliminates abortion centers in the state, requires abortions only be done in hospitals or ambulatory surgical centers owned by hospitals, and restricts abortion only to cases of rape, incest, where the life of the mother is in danger, or fatal fetal anomaly. (See a related article that begins on page 1.)

We believe the non-stop prayers offered throughout our state—by people of every race and creed—were paramount as many through the years embraced the call to be voices for the voiceless, including outside abortion centers.

Many of us are familiar with the proverb “God does not choose the equipped, he equips those he chooses.” And our Creator equipped a plethora of his people in the mission of building a culture of life. On blistering hot, summer days and through bone-chilling wintry temperatures, sidewalk counselors and other faithful stood outside abortion centers around our state, praying for pregnant mothers considering abortion and, in love, offering them help to choose life for their unborn babies.

While there were only a few weeks between the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe and the start of the General Assembly’s special session that began on July 25 in Indianapolis, many heeded the advice offered by Indiana Catholic Conference executive director Angela Espada, who encouraged Catholics to do three things: “Advocate, advocate, advocate.”

A rally in an atrium of the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis on July 25, only six weeks later, showed many took Espada’s words to heart: the “Love Them Both” rally sponsored by Indiana Right to Life drew a sea of 1,200 pro-life Hoosiers clad in blue, standing in solidarity with unborn children and their pregnant mothers.

Lisa Everett, who ministers as the director for marriage and family ministry in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese, was glad to stand alongside so many faith-filled pro-life advocates at the rally. “We know that every life is created in God’s image and likeness,” she said. “That gives us even more motivation to stand up and protect those lives, and the life and dignity of women. We want our laws to offer robust support for women in crisis pregnancies.”

While much of the media attention focused on the outlawing of abortion, another piece of legislation signed into law by the governor offers more hope in the pro-life movement. Legislation designed to create the Hoosier Families First Fund, which aims to support pregnant women and their families, is one of the many pieces of new law allowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The Declaration of Independence was written in 1776 and expresses the ideals upon which the United States was founded.

The twin evils of abortion and euthanasia send the not-so-subtle message that the human life is not valued. If we make abortion legal, then we send the message that human life is of no value. This message is not lost on those members of our society that have succumbed to despair.

I remember in my college years in the late 1960s the national debate concerning abortion. I remember that I was at times swayed by the arguments of those who advocated for the “right to abortion.”

After thinking the matter through, I could not reconcile this “right,” which I could see in no way benefited other than the “right” to abortion. I was convinced that the Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade was wrong from the beginning and was rightly overturned by the current Supreme Court on June 24.

I am convinced that the establishment of a “right to abortion” by the Roe v. Wade decision has set the stage for cheapening human life, which has opened the door to the killing of our babies and the elderly directly and set the tone for women and their children to be indoctrinated from an early age to accept these crimes. This false narrative fails to consider that there are about 2,300 crisis pregnancy centers in the U.S. The operators of these clinics are oftentimes volunteers who reach out to assist those women in need.

I find it very sad that there are those who wish to close down these crisis pregnancy centers and promote abortion instead. This tells me that they have no intention to help women but to kill babies.

Robert Teipen is chairman and co-founder of Catholic Eucharistic Revival, and is a Catholic priest at St. John Vianney Parish in Fishers, Ind., in the Diocese of Lafayette.

Letter to the Editor

Let’s confess in one voice the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist

I found your editorial “What can we expect from a National Eucharistic Revival” in the July 15 issue of The Criterion very interesting.

You correctly state that we are actually receiving the body and blood of Christ in the form of bread and wine. It truly is the sum and summit of our faith. As I reflected on your editorial, I would like to offer the following. At the mystery of faith, when we read the consecration, could our response be something like: “I believe that the bread and wine consecrated on this altar are the body, blood, soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ?”

We as a people believe, and today (unfortunately) the majority of Catholics are not as catechized as in previous generations. What we learn of our faith is what we experience on Sundays (and Saturdays) at our parishes. If we really want to confess in our hearts and express it to the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus, let us start by confessing it in one voice at Mass.

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Joe O’Neil
Carmel, Ind.

Letters Policy

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

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El fuego del amor de Dios nos sana y nos une

“Yo he venido para traer fuego al mundo, y ¿cómo me gustaría que ya estuviera ardiendo? Tengo que pasar la prueba de un bautismo y me embarga la ansiedad hasta que se pase la prueba de un bautismo y me viene a traer la paz, sino la división; cristianas.

Fundamentos de la fe y la práctica social y económico. En el pensamiento de los primeros cristianos, la justicia social y la atención pastoral fueron aspectos esenciales del ministerio eclesial. En la práctica, esto implicaba la creación de comunidades que respondieran a las necesidades de las personas, particularmente a las más vulnerables. La justicia social se entendía como un deber de los cristianos para con los demás y para con la comunidad como un todo.

En la Iglesia de hoy, esta práctica sigue siendo relevante. Los cristianos son invitados a buscar la paz y la reconciliación a través de la justicia social y la atención pastoral. Esto puede ser visto en la atención pastoral a los marginados, la promoción de derechos humanos y la lucha contra la pobreza. La justicia social, entonces, es una práctica que integra la fe cristiana y la ciencia política.

Ese fuego, que es de la misma especie que el de la Iglesia, nos enseña que el amor de Dios es un fuego que nos sana y nos une. El fuego de Dios se consume en la cruz de la fe y en la muerte de Cristo. Pero el fuego de la fe no es un fuego destructor; es un fuego de amor que nos une.


There are many great paradoxes in our Christian faith. For example: The same Jesus whose teachings divide us can also unify us. The fire of God’s love can burn us, but God’s tender love can also heal us. The Lord makes demands on us that can seem impossible to fulfill, but God’s love is given to us unconditionally.

In his encyclical, “Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship,” Pope Francis reminds us that true peace is not conflict free. To achieve a true, lasting peace, enemies must acknowledge their differences and work through them. They must forgive each other for the legitimate grievances on both sides, and they must genuinely seek common ground and the common good. As the Holy Father teaches: “Those who were fierce enemies have to speak from the stark and clear truth. They have to learn how to cultivate a penitential memory, one that can accept the past in order not to cloud the future with their own regrets, problems and plans (#226).” It’s only by the grace of God, given to us by the power of the Holy Spirit, that we can accept the past and reconcile with one another in spite of the wounds (real and imagined) that divide us from one another and from God.

Yes, Christ’s peace can be divisive. His demands can seem unreasonable. And his love requires us to make the same kind of sacrifice, suffering and surrender that our Lord had to make when he gave his life for us on the Cross. And yet, we believe that Jesus truly is the Prince of Peace, and the tender and merciful Lord of love, whose healing touch unifies us and saves us from our sins.

The second reading for this Sunday (Heb 12:1-4) asks us to place these things in the proper perspective: “For the sake of the joy that lay before him [Christ] endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God. Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart” (Heb 12:2-3).

Let us pray for the peace of Christ. The burning fire of God’s love can be disturbing, but the division it causes is meant ultimately to heal and unite us.
**August 18**  
St. Joseph Church, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis.  
**Third Thursday Adoration**  
5:30 p.m. Information: 317-744-9002.
Educators share advice about making the most of new school year

By John Shaughnessy

It may be the best piece of advice for tenacious high schoolers: As another school year begins, a piece of advice that could lead to a year of tremendous growth as a student, as a person, as a follower of Christ.

The advice comes from Joe Hansen, an assistant superintendent for Catholic schools in the archdiocese who previously served as a principal at a St. Roch School and Bishop Chadaptar High School, both in Indianapolis.

“I’ve said this before and I’ll say it again. This advice is to not calling you to disrespect your parents. He’s not calling you to be the most popular person on Instagram. He’s calling you to something greater.”

Hansen shared that advice during a conversation with the school archdiocese’s office of Catholic schools. He was one of the best ways for students, parents and teachers to approach the new school year, a conversation that also included archdiocesan superintendent Brian Disney and assistant superintendents Michelle Radomsky and Sarah Jean Watson.

Here are some of their tips and insights:

“‘It’s all about grace’

One of the main bonds that connect students, parents and educators at the beginning of a school year is that they have all been out of the routine of having their lives revolve around school. So Watson emphasizes that everyone should share a common approach to each other.

“‘It’s all about grace,’” she said. “We all have to understand that we are all moving into a new school year, most of us are out of a routine. And it takes a while for us to adjust back into being in a school environment. We all need to have grace and understanding toward one another.

“Setting expectations for ourselves at home and setting expectations for ourselves at school will make that transition smoother. Something like this is typical in the morning for a parent to pray with a child on the way to school. And make sure they say, “I love you, as you get out of the car. Because if the last thing you say to your child is something that puts them in a bad mood, they carry that with them all day. But if it’s something positive, they carry that with them too.”

Start with a foundation of love

A central theme echoed through a pre-school meeting for teachers that the archdiocese’s office of Catholic schools held a few weeks ago at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in St. Mary-of-the-Woods.

“An important suggestion,” Theodore Guérin saying, “Love the children first. Then teach them,” Radomsky recalled. “That’s important for parents and for teachers to remember. Love them first, and then the teaching comes along after that.”

Share and live Christ’s teaching

Disney emphasizes that Catholic schools “are really guided by Jesus Christ and his teachings. He’s the foundation. Then teach them,” Radomsky recalled. “Theodore Guérin saying, ‘Love the children first. Then teach them,’ “ Radomsky recalled. “That’s important for parents and for teachers to remember. Love them first, and then the teaching comes along after that.”

“Family game night might not be the most part.”

“I think our kids take that seriously for the most part.”

“Truth to be told, I came kicking and screaming into the anti-racism movement from the part 1

When Pearelle Springer was recently named an Ambassador of Peace by Pax Christi USA, the honor recognized her for her determined efforts to fight racism—a battle she initially resisted.

“Truth be told, I came kicking and screaming into the anti-racism efforts beginning in 2000,” says Springer, director of Black Catholic outreach for the archdiocese.

“The beginning efforts centered around the transforming of minds,” Springer said. “We want the civil rights movement to be a part of the history of African Americans was not violent. The violence was being done to them, not vice versa. It was important to me then and now for white Catholics to understand that—to understand that racism is real, and African, African Americans, Asians, Hispanics/Latinos and Native Americans navigate those waters on a daily basis.”

Springer is one of 20 Ambassadors of Peace recently chosen by Pax Christi USA, a national Catholic peace organization that is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The ambassadors were honored during the organization’s national conference on Aug. 5-7 in Washington, D.C.

“In announcing the ambassadors, Pax Christi USA president honors ‘extraordinary Catholic and experienced leaders within the Pax Christi USA community who serve as living embodiments to our students and all of what it means to live a life rooted in the “peace of Christ.” They are chosen for the contributions they made in preaching, teaching and practicing Gospel values through peace, peacemaking, anti-racism, reconciliation and justice.”

Springer says she was both surprised and grateful for the honor from Pax Christi USA, which has served her in different ways since 2001—including being the leader of its anti-racism team and serve as the chairperson of its board of directors.

In that commitment, she says, she has always strived for one goal: peace.

“For me, to arrive at authentic peace or to make a situation peaceful, the injustices or wrongs must be addressed and removed,” she says. “And to remove those injustices and wrongs, structures and sometimes people need to be challenged.”

“And I have challenged Catholics in general, Pax Christi USA membership in particular, because of my membership and involvement.”

That goal continues for her as an Ambassador of Peace.

“I will continue to be me and carry the same message found in the Gospels,” she says. “The same message is found in Catholic social teachings. The same message is found in Catholic doctrine. It is about love. Love of God and love of God’s people.”

“We are all created in the image and likeness of God. There is only one race, the human race. And as Catholics, we are called to be the Eucharist, the one body of Christ.”

Springer named Ambassador of Peace for anti-racism commitment

By John Shaughnessy

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As another school year begins, upper class students at Bishop Chadaptar High School in Indianapolis welcome first-year students into their school family on Aug. 9. (Submitted photo)

Keep the lines of communication open, part 2

“When I was a dean of students at a high school, I used to tell parents that every day in high school for a freshman isn’t going to be perfect. There are going to be some hard days,” Radomsky said.

“When they’re starting to string together three, four, five hard days together, that’s when to make contact with the school. ‘Let the school know what you’re seeing. Because that’s important to us. We need that relationship with the parents to do our jobs at the high school level.’

A reminder about forgiveness

“None of us are perfect. We’re all human. We’re all growing.” Disney said.

“Many things are going to go wrong at some point this year. We’ve got to be willing to forgive ourselves and forgive others because mistakes are going to happen.”

“An awesome opportunity”

“Parents to take advantage of parent-teacher conferences, back-to-school nights and other opportunities that schools offer to meet with teachers, principals and other parents.

“I think some people feel if they go to those, they’re going to find out bad news. But what I’ve seen over the years is an awesome opportunity to connect with teachers, support staff, other parents.”

Two main thoughts to keep in mind through the school year

Watson encourages students, teachers and educators to consider two main points as a new school year begins.

“Just remember that a new year allows for a fresh beginning, but also every new day allows for a new beginning.”

“We want our schools to be an extension of our church. Our long-term goal for our students is for them to become citizens of heaven and Earth.”

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As another school year begins, upper class students at Bishop Chadaptar High School in Indianapolis welcome first-year students into their school family on Aug. 9. (Submitted photo)
Black Catholic Men’s Conference set for Oct. 13-16 in Indy

By Natalie Hoefer

For 18 years, the National Black Catholic Men’s Conference has been held annually in cities around the country. Like so many other annual conferences, the last two were held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year’s conference, set for Oct. 13-16, is returning to an in-person format. It is also returning to the city where it was created and launched in 2004: Indianapolis.

This year’s theme is “We Were Made for More,” based on Joshua 1:9. “I lost a lot of family in the last few years, including my twin,” said Society of the Divine Word Father Charles Smith. He and his twin brother Chester; also a priest of the same order, were two of the founders of the order’s Indianapolis-based Bowman-Francis Ministry, which developed the conference.

“I saw a lot of people dying, the suicide rate going up, an increase in violence, more people needing food, more homelessness. "That verse, ‘we were made for more,’ just kept on hitting my head and heart. We need to reaffirm our spiritual connections. We need to find that connection with God again. We were made for more than just trying to connect through computers and mass media. We were made for love, made as social beings, made to connect with one another. God is calling us to do something more than just living day to day: the way we’re living.”

The theme will be carried through in the conference’s keynote addresses—including one by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson—and numerous adult and youth workshops, including some offered in French.

“Some workshop topics he mentioned include PTSD and suicidal thoughts, and spirituality and sports. The latter workshop will be offered by Father Douglas Hunter. He is pastor of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis and chaplain of the city’s NFL Colts football team. Another local speaker is Tanzania native Father John Kamwendo, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis. He will speak on pastoral do’s and don’ts when ministering to Africans and African-Americans.

The event will also include a youth rally at St. Rita Parish in Indianapolis on the evening of Oct. 13. Youth track talks on rites of passage, vocations and more, as well as a health fair, vendor booths, Mass and time for praise and worship.

Other keynote speakers are Society of the Divine Word Father Kenneth Hamilton, co-founder of Bowman-Francis Ministry, Franciscan Friars of the Renewal Father Agustino Torres, founder of the Hispanic youth ministry Conexión Puer, Society of the Divine Word Father George Kimbua of the poverty relief organization Cross Catholic Outreach; and Dr. Levi Funches, a clinical pediatrcian and an assistant professor at the Indiana University School of Medicine.

The annual conference helps carry out the mission of the Bowman-Francis Ministry, named for two Society of the Divine Word priests and Servant of God Sister Thae Bowman.

In the mid-1990s, Father Charles was ministering in California and his twin was a pastoral associate in Chicago.

“We were comparing notes and seeing that children of our generation of African American Catholics coming in the early 1970s were leaving the Church in droves, even the adults—especially men,” Father Charles recalled.

When the brothers were both transferred to Indianapolis in 1995, they told their superiors they wanted to start a ministry “to evangelize and revive our people, Black Catholic men in particular, to take leadership and ownership in the Catholic Church,” said Father Charles.

The ministry has expanded in the last 27 years. According to its website, Bowman-Francis Ministry’s mission now is to “minister to the total Black Catholic: spiritually, physically and intellectually [and] … to offer many gainful avenues to meet the needs of Black people everywhere.

“Our programs and ministries are designed to empower men, women, young adults and youth to instill in them the tools needed to thrive in their personal lives and help them grow in their faith.

“But ministering to Black Catholic men is still one of the ministry’s primary goals. We want to help them grow spiritually and elevate them to transform their lives,” said Father Charles. “It’s not just a ministry but a movement calling Black Catholic men to true Catholicism and to create strong and faithful families, which creates better communities, which makes our nation better.”

(The National Black Catholic Men’s Conference will be held at JW Marriott, 10 S. West St., in Indianapolis, on Oct. 14-16, with an opening youth rally at St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., in Indianapolis, at 7 p.m. on Oct. 13. Registration for youths ages 13-17 is $65. Adult early bird registration is $100 before Sept. 1 and $150 after. The registration fee includes lunch on Saturday and a conference T-shirt. To register or for more information, go to www.bowmanfrancis.org. For questions, contact Pearllette Springer, coordinator of the archdiocesan Black Catholic Ministry, at 317-296-1474 or pspringer@archindy.org. †

Project Hope offers faith-based mental health support groups

Project Hope is part of the archdiocesan Mental Health Ministry. It is a faith-based mental health support group where people can encounter Jesus through community, support and Scripture.

Participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences and process challenges through the lens of Scripture and Catholic teaching. A group consists of 8-10 adults, including a facilitator who is a mental health professional.

Project Hope groups meet weekly for six weeks. Each meeting includes time for checking in and sharing, prayer, reflection on Scripture and fellowship.

Upcoming Project Hope groups are as follows:

• St. Jude Parish, 5353 McFarland Ave., Indianapolis, 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays Sept. 6-Oct. 18 (no meeting Oct. 4), register at cutt.ly/ProjectHope or contact Brie Anne Varick at bvearick@archindy.org or contact Brie Anne Varick at bvearick@archindy.org or contact Brie Anne Varick at bvearick@archindy.org or contact Brie Anne Varick at bvearick@archindy.org or contact Brie Anne Varick at bvearick@archindy.org.

• St. Malachi Parish, 9833 E. County Road 750 N., Brownsburg, 7:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursdays Sept. 1-Oct. 13, register at cutt.ly/ProjectHope or contact Patrick Hoekstra at hoekstrad165@hotmail.com.

Learn More about Project Hope and register for upcoming groups at cutt.ly/ArchIndyHope. †

PROUD TO CELEBRATE NFP AWARENESS WEEK

At Franciscan FertilityCare Center, our specially trained RNs provide education for the Creighton Model FertilityCare System, a method of NFP that teaches single, engaged and married women how to better understand their reproductive cycles and identify potential health problems.

Married couples can use the system to achieve or avoid a pregnancy in a way that respects the vocation of marriage. The system is backed by 40+ years of scientific research and was created in response to Pope Paul VI’s encyclical, Humanae Vitae.

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Franciscan FertilityCare CENTER
NFP courses in Spanish meet ‘great need’ and ‘build the culture of life in Spanish’

By Natalie Hoeter

Until recently, central and southern Indiana were what Gabriela Ross called a “desert”—and it has nothing to do with a lack of rain.

She discovered the “desert” while looking for natural family planning (NFP) facilitators in the archdiocese who could instruct in Spanish.

“There were only three,” said Ross, director of the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life. “And there was only one other, maybe two, in the rest of the state.

“We called other dioceses, and they had a great need for NFP instructors in Spanish, too. There was a Spanish NFP desert.”

Online courses were available in Spanish, said Claudia Corona, who works as coordinator for Ross’ office.

“But Hispanic couples may not have computers, or they work a lot and aren’t available when the classes are offered,” she said.

Corona also noted a lack of knowledge about NFP among Hispanic Catholics.

“It is not preached in homilies, so many Hispanic Catholics don’t know what it is, how it works, what the Church teaches about it,” she said.

“All they mostly know is contraception and sterilization, Doctors push the [birth control] pill on [women], and then when they reach a certain age or have so many children, doctors push getting a hysterectomy.”

New statistics support the need for Spanish-speaking NFP instructors, said Ross. She cited a recent study that identified Indianapolis as having the second-fastest-growing population of Hispanic Catholics in the episcopal region of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

“To respond to the needs of the Church, we need to be more proactive,” she said. “And we’re not really being proactive, because [Hispanic Catholics] are already here.”

The needs of the Church also include Spanish natural family planning classes being available for Hispanic engaged couples.

“NFP is usually part of marriage preparation,” said Father Todd Goodson, pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood. “If we’re following the guidelines, it needs to be available in Spanish for Spanish-speaking engaged couples.”

Ross and Corona devised a plan to address the situation. The first step was to find Hispanic couples familiar with NFP who would be willing to teach others.

“We looked for couples who are not just comfortable presenting the information,” said Ross. “They have to have experience using NFP and they have to know what the Church teaches. They have to be living witnesses to the culture of life in marriage.”

Five couples were identified. They agreed to take a course through the Couple to Couple League (CCL) to become certified instructors of the sympto-thermal NFP method. They were certified in December 2021, and 12 more couples are currently enrolled in the CCL certification course to become Spanish NFP instructors in the archdiocese.

“These couples were already active in their parishes and in ministry,” said Ross. “They are leaders, and I give them credit for being missionaries in their parishes that [NFP] is what married love looks like, that it changed my life and my marriage, and we can help you.”

The first archdiocesan-sponsored Spanish-speaking NFP course was held at Our Lady of the Greenwood in April. The couples were “very grateful” to learn about the sympto-thermal method in Spanish, said Corona.

“Comments on the evaluations said the course is well-organized, the topic was treated respectfully, the facilitators were kind and friendly, the instruction was clear,” she said.

Father Goodson agreed, noting that couples were “pleasantly surprised to find [NFP] is beneficial and helpful.”

A course consists of four weekly sessions, materials, a book, a thermometer, three personal sessions with the instructor and a one-year subscription for the CCL app. The cost is $75. The same course online in Spanish is currently $135.

“It is better to do the course in a group,” said Corona regarding the advantage of in-person sessions. “It is treated respectfully, the facilitators were kind and friendly, the instruction was clear,” she said.

Father Goodson agreed, noting that couples were “pleasantly surprised to find [NFP] is beneficial and helpful.”

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“It is better to do the course in a group,” said Corona regarding the advantage of in-person sessions. “It is...
Announcements

Bordenkecher-Weber
Mildie Bordenkecher and Chris Weber were engaged on Feb. 26 at Marian University’s Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary. The engagement is the daughter of Ann Scott and the late Joseph Bordenkecher. The engagement is the son of the late Charles and L. Ann Weber.

Bukieht-Blaszczyk
Katheryn Elizabeth Bukieht and Zachary Ronald Bukieht will be married on Sept. 24 at St. Matthew the Apostle Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Kevin and Holly Bukieht. The groom is the son of Staw and Anika Blaszczyk.

Burr-Naylor
Monica Chiara Burr and Blake Andrew Naylor will be married on Nov. 19 at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Diane and Michael Naylor. Jr. The groom is the son of Robert and Lorinda Naylor.

Barron-Naylor
Monica Chiara Barron and Blake Andrew Naylor will be married on Nov. 19 at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Diane and Michael Naylor. Jr. The groom is the son of Robert and Lorinda Naylor.

Buchheit-Blaszczyk
Katheryn Elizabeth Bukieht and Zachary Ronald Bukieht will be married on Sept. 24 at St. Matthew the Apostle Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Kevin and Holly Bukieht. The groom is the son of Stan and Anika Blaszczyk.

Dunn-Kramer
Cheryna Lynn Dunn and Jordan Lee Kramer were married on Aug. 6 at St. Bartholomew Church in Columbus. The bride is the daughter of Tony and Amy Dunn. The groom is the son of Ken and Tina Kramer.

Lamping-Hogg
Eliz Grace Lamping and Tyler Gerard Hogg will be married on Aug. 7 at Saints of St. Francis Church in Oldenburg. The bride is the daughter of Scott and Sarah Lamping. The groom is the son of John and Rhonda Hogg.

Mallof-Smith
Malcolm A. Mallof and Kyle Chad Smith were married on Feb. 26 at St. Thomas of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Eric and Ann Mallof. The groom is the son of Michael and Beth Adams.

Etchason-Webb
Emma Kathryn Etchason and Nathan Julian Webb were married on Sept. 10 at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of David and Nancy Chapleau. The groom is the son of Joel and Suzanne Martin.

Etchason-Webb
Emma Kathryn Etchason and Nathan Julian Webb were married on Sept. 10 at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of David and Nancy Chapleau. The groom is the son of Joel and Suzanne Martin.

Buchheit-Blaszczyk
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Knorr-Zander
Mary Kate Knorr and William Reuver Zander were married on Aug. 20 at St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Thomas and Mary Knorr. The groom is the son of Anthony and Jean Zander.

Buchheit-Blaszczyk
Katheryn Elizabeth Bukieht and Zachary Ronald Bukieht will be married on Sept. 24 at St. Matthew the Apostle Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Kevin and Grace Bukieht. The groom is the son of Stan and Anika Blaszczyk.

DiSano-Atkinson
Alvijar Marie DiSano and Marshall Evan Atkinson were married on June 25 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Staw and Anika Blaszczyk. The groom is the son of Thomas and Joy Atkinson.

Lamping-Hogg
Eliz Grace Lamping and Tyler Gerard Hogg will be married on Aug. 7 at Saints of St. Francis Church in Oldenburg. The bride is the daughter of Scott and Sarah Lamping. The groom is the son of John and Rhonda Hogg.

Polisey-Fehribach
Somewhere Kate Polisey and Joseph Fehribach were married on April 30 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Lawrenceburg. The bride is the daughter of Scott Polisey and the late Tammy Jessop. The groom is the son of Steve and Lauren Fehribach.

Stoll-Long
Rachel Elizabeth Stoll and Matthew Allen Long will be married on Oct. 22 at St. Lawrence Church in Lawrenceburg. The bride is the daughter of Albert and Syd Stoll. The groom is the son of Shawn and Sue Long.

Thibault-Davis
Genevieve Marie Thibault and Ryan Anthony Davis, Jr. will be married on Aug. 20 at St. Monica Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Lisa and Mike Thibault. The groom is the son of Greg Davis and Angela Mosley.

Stoll-Long
Rachel Elizabeth Stoll and Matthew Allen Long will be married on Oct. 22 at St. Lawrence Church in Lawrenceburg. The bride is the daughter of Albert and Syd Stoll. The groom is the son of Shawn and Sue Long.

Thibault-Davis
Genevieve Marie Thibault and Ryan Anthony Davis, Jr. will be married on Aug. 20 at St. Monica Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Lisa and Mike Thibault. The groom is the son of Greg Davis and Angela Mosley.

Wood-Neari
Marie Jo Ann Wood and Anthony Vincent Neari were engaged on Aug. 27 at St. John the Baptist Church in Indianapolis. The engagement is the daughter of Brett Wood and Lisa Neari. The engagement is the son of Paul and Debbie Neari.

Wolfgang
Sarah Rachel Wood and Drew Howard Sullivan were engaged on July 11 at St. Simon the Apostle Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of James and Andrea Wood. The groom is the son of Staw and Anika Blaszczyk.

Marriage retreats set for Aug. 27 in Greenwood and Sept. 24 in Guilford
Catholic Communications

Two marriage enrichment retreats will take place in the archdiocese in August and September. The Celebrate Marriage Annual Conference, sponsored by the Celebrate Marriage Ministry, will take place at Our Lady of the Greenwood Park, 535 S. Meridian St., in Greenwood, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 27.

A keynote address will be offered by Dr. Ray Guarendi, a Catholic father of ten adopted children, clinical psychologist, author, professional speaker and national radio and television host.

The day includes breakout sessions by Susan Vogt, former co-host of the USCCB website on marriage; Father Daniel Reddell, director of spiritual formation at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis; Keith and Kathy Sybert, married 44 years and parents of seven, including Fathers Andrew and Benjamin Sybert; and Kelly and Eric Mosier, core team members of the Celebrate Marriage Ministry.

The cost is $75 per couple, which includes lunch and materials. Registration is required by Aug. 20. For more information or to register, go to cutt.ly/MarriageConference.

The second marriage enrichment event is “Laughter the Sanity of the Family” for married and engaged couples. It will take place at St. John the Baptist Campus of All Saints Parish, 25743 State Route 1, in Guilford, from 9:30 a.m. to Sept. 24.

The event will also feature Dr. Ray Guarendi, who will address widespread myths, cultural influence and the daily challenges of family life and parenting.

The event, which is free, includes dinner. Registration is required by Sept. 23. For more information or to register, call the parish office at 812-758-4302 or email claretian@sbcglobal.net.
important, especially with the overturning of Roe v. Wade, she said.

"Now is a very good time to talk about NFP in Indiana and in the Church. Now is a very good time to spread the word that we have NFP, that it’s accessible, and we have options in English and Spanish.

“We need to change the narrative, that it’s no longer a Spanish NFP desert here.”

The thought of legislators is that if abortion is no longer available, then there’s a need to provide more access to birth control.

“It’s that same culture that makes the need for NFP so important, especially with the overturning of Roe v. Wade, she said. "But for now, we want to make sure we’re well-prepared and able to support what we have, to see how it goes and grow from there.”

Still, she encourages anyone interested in having their faith community offer an NFP course in Spanish to “ask their pastor and see if he can invite us to bring classes to the parish, and we can work to make that happen.”

Father Goodson is grateful that he and his brother priests now have a resource for Hispanic couples—engaged or married—to learn about NFP.

“It’s the Church’s teaching that married couples need to be open to life and not using contraception,” he said. "In a culture where contraception is accepted, these couples need to be informed on Church teaching so they can make the right decisions.”

Father Goodson is grateful that he and his brother priests now have a resource for Hispanic couples—engaged or married—to learn about NFP. "It’s the Church’s teaching that married couples need to be open to life and not using contraception,” he said. "In a culture where contraception is accepted, these couples need to be informed on Church teaching so they can make the right decisions.”

The next four-session NFP course in Spanish will be held at the Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., in Greenwood, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. on Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25. The cost is $75 per couple, register, call or text Claudia Corona at 317-800-9306 or e-mail her at ccorona@archindy.org.†
Couples may announce engagement or marriage next spring in *The Criterion*

Engagement announcements will be published in a February 2023 issue of *The Criterion* for couples who are planning to wed between Feb. 1 and July 14, 2023, in a marriage that is recognized by the Church as a valid sacramental or valid natural marriage.

Couples who wed between July 1, 2022, and Jan. 30, 2023, in a marriage that is recognized by the Church as a valid sacramental or valid natural marriage may submit an announcement if their engagement announcement was not published in *The Criterion*.

The wedding announcement form is available online at go.criteriononline.com by selecting “Send Us Information” from the menu on the left side of the screen, then choosing “Wedding Announcements.”

An engagement or wedding photo may be submitted by email to photos@archindy.org. Any photos must be clear, high-resolution images with the couple close together. Photos can also be mailed to Ann Lewis, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202. To receive the photo back, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Due to print quality, Xerox copies of photos will not be accepted.

Un conocido líder de la evangelización ofrecerá una charla en español en Indianápolis el 29 de agosto

El Dr. Marlon De La Torre presentará el tema “Encontrando a Dios en la Eucaristía” en español en la Parroquia del Espíritu Santo ubicada en 7423 E. 10th St., en Indianápolis, de 7 a 9 p.m. el 29 de agosto.

Dr. De La Torre es un consumado orador, escritor y líder de la Iglesia que actualmente trabaja en evangelización y discipulación para el arzobispado de Detroit. La ponencia se centrará en la experiencia de la presencia de Jesus en la Sagrada Eucaristía.

El evento, patrocinado por el Ministerio Hispánico de la Arquidiócesis y la Oficina de catequesis, incluirá un refrigerio liviano. Los asistentes tendrán la oportunidad de recibir una medalla bendita y un catecismo actualizado. La participación es gratuita, pero se aceptan donaciones voluntarias.

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Saúl Llaca, coordinador arquidiocesano del Ministerio Hispánico, en el 317-236-1443 o en sslacca@archindy.org.

Well-known evangelization leader will offer talk in Spanish in Indy on Aug. 29

El dr. Marlon De La Torre presentará el tema “Encontrando a Dios en la Eucaristía” en español en Indianápolis.

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**Hispanic young adult retreat will take place in Beech Grove on Aug. 16-28**

A retreat for Hispanic young adults ages 18-35 will take place at the Benedict Im Retirement and Conference Center, 1402 Southaven Ave., in Beech Grove, from 6 p.m. Aug. 16 through 6 p.m. Aug. 28.

The retreat will be lead by Isakli, a national organization that seeks to help Hispanic young adults grow in faith and encounter God in community.

The bilingual retreat is open to all Hispanic young adults ages 18-35, whether single, married, divorced, widowed or single-parenting.

The cost is $75, which includes lodging for two nights and meals. The deadline to register is Aug. 24. To register, contact Saul Llaca, archdiocesan coordinator of Hispanic Ministry, at 317-997-2474 or sslacca@archindy.org.
La Arquidiócesis finaliza el informe del síndico

Reportaje del personal de The Criterion

Como preparación para la reunión del Sínodo General de los Obispos de octubre de 2023 en el Vaticano, la Arquidiócesis de Indianapolis ha completado su informe sobre el proceso de escucha del síndico local. El informe ha sido remitido a la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB) y ya está disponible en inglés y español en archindy.org/synod.

La USCCB formulará un informe basado en los aportes de las diócesis de todo el país, el cual se enviará al Vaticano, junto con los informes de las demás conferencias episcopales católicas en preparación para el Sínodo de los Obispos de 2023. El tema de debate de dicho Sínodo será la sinodalidad local. El informe de la Arquidiócesis ha sido bendecido con increíbles clérigos, religiosos y laicos—un ejemplo de la participación de partes interesadas y la escucha sincera sobre la Iglesia, tanto a nivel local como en todo el mundo. "Es un momento especial para nuestra diócesis, camino hacia el futuro como pueblo católico," comentó el arzobispo Thompson.

"La eficacia del proceso de sinodalidad depende de la participación de quienes están dispuestos a entablar una relación de diálogo y escucha profunda", comentó el arzobispo Thompson.

"La Arquidiócesis de Indianapolis ha sido bendecida con increíbles clérigos, religiosos y laicos. Es un momento especial para nuestra diócesis, camino hacia el futuro como pueblo católico," comentó el arzobispo Thompson.

Aunque el Sínodo sobre la sinodalidad per se está en marcha, "la preparación para el sínodo es un gran ejemplo de que el proceso de escucha, conversación y preparación es un proceso continuo. Nuestra experiencia en esta preparación para el proceso de escucha sínodal local se basa en esfuerzos anteriores y sienta las bases para un diálogo, acompañamiento y una colaboración adicionales."

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**Arzobispo Charles C. Thompson**

El proceso sínodal, continuó el Arzobispo, "es un proceso de escucha, conversación y preparación para el sínodo local. Es una mesa donde todos pueden participar."

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**Anónimo**

The process of synodality is only as effective as the participation of those willing to engage in prayerful, sincere dialogue. "This is what we've called the process of synodality," said Eulalae. "It's a process of synodality that is ongoing.'

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**Arzobispo Thompson**

"The synthesis report is a beginning, not an end. It summarizes a large volume of data collected from multiple sources: an archdiocesan online survey, the archdiocesan pastoral council, parish pastoral councils, young adult groups, one-to-one conversations with Catholic clergy, and the archdiocesan synod commission.

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**Arzobispo Thompson**

"Ligual, we must remain open to divine revelation through word, sacrament and service." Vigilant, we must remain open to divine revelation through word, sacrament and service. "We'd known each other almost all our lives," said Hubert. "We'd known each other since we were young."

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**Arzobispo Thompson**

"This is a place where everyone is welcome. This is a place where everyone can participate."

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**Arzobispo Thompson**

"The process of synodality is only as effective as the participation of those willing to engage in prayerful, sincere dialogue. "This is what we've called the process of synodality," said Eulalae. "It's a process of synodality that is ongoing.'

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**Arzobispo Thompson**

"The process of synodality is only as effective as the participation of those willing to engage in prayerful, sincere dialogue. "This is what we've called the process of synodality," said Eulalae. "It's a process of synodality that is ongoing.'"
The Criterion, the nation's best weekly Catholic newspaper, honored its staff for its work in 2021.

**CMA awards**

Staff writer Natalie Hoefer was awarded first place in the “Best Personality Profile—weekly newspaper with a staff of six or more,” for her article, “Advocate with Down syndrome promotes employment for ‘friends like me.’” The story focused on Mark Hublar, a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Bloomington, Indiana, who is a motivational speaker advocating for employment of those with disabilities. Hoefer received honorable mention for her piece on NFPW awards.

**WPCI awards**

The recognition for work completed during the 2021 calendar year began in June when Hoefer was honored by the Women’s Press Club of Indiana (WPCI). She garnered five first-place awards and a second-place award in the state competition. The first-place winners were:

- **Special Articles—History:** “One-room Navilleton schoolhouse museum brings memories of the past to life.”
- **Special Articles—Religious:** “Parish secretaries across the archdiocese serve people of God as ‘ministers of presence’”
- **Columns—Informational:** “Love’s Litmus,” two entries: “Acts of kindness offer hope in sorrow,” and “Couple’s actions and attitude show love is not resilient.”
- **Photographer—writer:** contributed five articles and 10 photos to team coverage of the National Catholic Youth Conference.
- **Special Articles—Education:** “Schools ‘find grace to tackle, move forward’ from pandemic challenges.”

All of her WPCI first-place entries advanced to the NFPW national competition. Hoefer’s second-place WPCI entry was: “Personality Profile: ‘Advocate with Down syndrome promotes employment for ‘friends like me.’”

**NFPW awards**

Hoefer’s recognition from this national organization were:

- **Third Place—Columns, Informational:** “Love’s Litmus,” two entries: “Acts of kindness offer hope in sorrow,” and “Couple’s actions and attitude show love is not resilient.”
- **Honorable Mention—Photographer—writer:** contributed five articles and 10 photos to team coverage of the National Catholic Youth Conference.
- **Honorable Mention—Specialty Articles, History:** “One-room Navilleton schoolhouse museum brings memories of the past to life.”
Celebrating older family members and the vital role they play

The fact that we have an aging population and that people are living longer than ever before should be celebrated. However, much of the talk in the media centers around the challenges of an aging population, and the negative changes that come with that age. At Catholic Charities, we celebrate the contributions of older members of the family and how important it is to continue to make them an integral part of family life.

More and more older persons are choosing home care services in order to age at home and continue playing their vital role in the family well into their 80’s and beyond—teacher, mentor, hero, friend and relative. Not only to their parents and grandparents, but to their own adult children, their extended family and their community. Grandparents are remarkable and emphasizing the importance of intergenerational diversity, setting up programs to bring older employees, even retired and past employees back into the fold to offer a unique perspective. We often think of diversity only in cultural terms, but intergenerational diversity offers similar rewards and results for those involved. Our parents, grandparents and older relative’s knowledge can help us understand the evolution of an idea across time and bring a greater depth to seeing your work,” he said.

Encouraging your children, especially as they grow into young adults, to spend time with older relatives exposes them to individuals with diverse backgrounds, people who have likely grown up with different values and ways of thinking. We are the Eucharist, broken and called to fully participate in its survival. As members of this one family, we are called to fully participate in its survival. As members of this one family, we are called to fully participate in its survival.

Joyful Witness/Kimberly Pohovey

Nudge reminds us we are not the sum total of our mistakes

I was already seated in the waiting room when I saw the young man enter. He was walking towards me, his head down on his face, he was ill-fitting clothes, and when he went to check in, I saw the ankle monitor bracelet around his leg. He looked like a man who was about to lose someone who partakes at the table. St. Paul implies that there is another public display of the Eucharist throughout the day. He speaks of us and to us as members and followers of Christ—men and women of all ages.

We are the Eucharist, broken and shared in community and within our society. How do we face the future and what call be the Eucharist in today’s world?

The Church teaches us that being Catholic is a way of life. It forms us to think as a person of faith in everything we do or say. It forms us to act in a way that expresses our Catholic faith. The Church teaches and forms us to love our faith through prayer, study and action. If we look at our society today through the eyes of the Church, where would you see a call to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; living through the streets of our country.

The National Eucharistic Revival in the United States and the fact that we have an aging population, and that people are living longer than ever before should be celebrated. However, much of the talk in the media centers around the challenges of an aging population, and the negative changes that come with that age. At Catholic Charities, we celebrate the contributions of older members of the family and how important it is to continue to make them an integral part of family life.
The Book of Jeremiah is the source of the first reading for Mass this weekend. Jeremiah is regarded as one of the most important prophets. In fact, four prophets—Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Daniel—are called major prophets. Jeremiah was active as a prophet during the reign of Josiah (r. 640–609 B.C.). Generally, Josiah was seen as a reformer. It says in Jeremiah 31:1-2 that the law of God was obeyed. It says that Christians must be obedient to the law of God, which is the Bible, and thus, they are expected to follow the teachings of Jesus in their daily lives.

As the Epistle to the Hebrews provides the second reading, written for an audience of Jewish converts to Christianity, eloquent and persuasive, Jeremiah was a key figure in challenging the prevailing culture. The hostility was to be expected. The Roman rulers had begun to form a policy against Christians. This being the case, it is easy to see why Luke selected words spoken by Jesus to apply to conditions meaningful to his audience. Luke 12:49-53

Hebrews 12:1-4

The Sunday Readings
Sunday, August 14, 2022

• Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
• Hebrews 12:1-4
• Luke 12:49-53

It should always be remembered in reading the Gospels that they were written many years after Jesus ascended to heaven. This Gospel, for instance, was probably written 40 years after Jesus.

By the time this Gospel was composed, hostility to Christians already had begun to form in the Roman Empire. In a short time, this hostility would erupt into a full-fledged persecution. The hostility was to be expected. The Christian ethic and philosophy stood utterly opposite the prevailing culture.

This Gospel, for instance, was probably written 40 years after Jesus. This being the case, it is easy to see why Luke selected words spoken by Jesus to apply to conditions meaningful to his audience.

The Church is always inviting us to follow the Lord. Indeed, the Word of God is most magnificent liturgical moments in Holy Week when it tells us so brilliantly the Lord’s identity as the Son of God, of the Lord’s love for us, given in the Eucharist and on Calvary, and of the Lord’s identity as the Son of God, affirmed by the resurrection.


The Criterion
Friday, August 12, 2022

Times of eucharistic adoration can include periods of silent and vocal prayers

(Edited note: This column by Father Kenneth Doyle was originally published in 2017.)

As the Criterion will not have an issue next week due to its new summer schedule, the reflection of Msgr. Campion for Sunday, August 21, will be posted at www.archbishops.org/campion.

The Sunday Readings

Monday, August 15

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
Psalm 45:10-12, 16
1 Corinthians 15:20-27
Luke 1:39-56

Tuesday, August 16

St. Stephen of Hungary

Ezekiel 28:1-10
(Responsorial) Deuteronomy 32:26-28, 30, 35c-36b
Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday, August 17

Ezekiel 34:1-11
Psalm 23:1-6
Matthew 20:1-16

Thursday, August 18

Ezekiel 36:25-28
Psalm 51, 12:15-18, 19b
Matthew 22:1-14

Friday, August 19

St. John Eudes, priest

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 107:2-9
Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday, August 20

St. Bernard, abbot and doctor of the Church

Ezekiel 43:1-7b
Psalm 85:9a-10b, 14
Matthew 23:1-12

Sunday, August 21

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 66:18-21
Psalm 117:1-2
Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
Luke 15:22-30

Monday, August 22

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12
Psalm 96:1-5
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday, August 23

St. Bakhita of Sudan, slave

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a, 14-17
Psalm 96:10-13
Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday, August 24

St. Elizabeth of Hungary

Revelation 21:9b-14
Psalm 145:10-13, 17-18
John 1:45-51

Thursday, August 25

St. Joseph Calasanz, priest

1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Psalm 145:2-7
Matthew 24:42-51

Friday, August 26

1 Corinthians 1:17-25
Psalm 3:1-2, 4-5, 10-11
Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday, August 27

St. Monica

1 Corinthians 12:3-5
Psalm 33:12-13, 18-21
Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, August 28

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
Psalm 44:1-7
Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
Luke 14:1-7, 14

Question Corner

Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Times of eucharistic adoration can include periods of silent and vocal prayers

Is it appropriate for people to say prayers out loud during adoration of the Blessed Sacrament? I have always cherished this silent time with the Lord, in the bush or I go to, when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, people start praying the chaplet of Divine Mercy even before the priest has let it to the faithful.

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My Journey to God

Endure

By Ron Lewis

I know not of tomorrow, I walk by faith today.

Tomorrow’s in my Lord’s hands

And He will lead the way.

If I should slip or struggle,

My Lord’s hand is there,

To steady me along the way.

And even if I trip and fall,

There is One who carries me.

So why should I worry.

When One loves me so much as He?

I know not of tomorrow,

But of this I know for sure,

My Lord is there and He does care,

And with Him I will endure.

(Ron Lewis is a member of St. Charles Borromeos Parish in Bloomington and an oblate of Saint Meinrad Archabbey. Photo: This image shows a closeup of God’s Blessing on the ceiling of the Sixtine Chapel in Rome) (Michelangelo, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)
different values and let them experience a broader range of society, provide them with the skills they need for when they leave home. For all of us, spending time with a grandparent can be an opportunity to remain socially active and to remain connected to family and friends. Talking and interacting with people keeps the brain active, which in turn has been shown to slow down the onset of cognitive decline.

Older members of a family bring unconditional love that frame the views of the broader family and shape the future of people keeps the brain active, which in turn has been shown to slow down the onset of cognitive decline.

Older members of a family bring unconditional love that frame the views of the broader family and shape the future of
There were roadblocks to making the film as well, she says. The pandemic caused delays, and the producers struggled to find a company to distribute the film because Kirk Cameron and the Kendricks don’t support abortion, says Coles.

But those same pro-life values permeated the project, leading to the saving of one unborn baby before Lifemark was even released.

A pregnant woman on her way to an abortion center stopped to investigate a large crowd she saw gathered near the studio, says Coles.

“Raphael [Ruggiero], the actor playing David, was giving a talk,” she explains. “She was invited to be an extra in the movie. She decided not to go through with the abortion.”

“It increases my healing”

That story alone fulfilled Coles’ conviction that if the movie helped just “one person,” it would be worth the time and sacrifice.

“Still, she hopes for more. “I hope the film will help more people see the beauty of adoption and understand how important adoption is,” says Coles.

“And I hope it encourages people in a similar situation—an unplanned pregnancy, a forced abortion—that they have plenty of options. I know the documentary saved at least 11 babies from abortion—that’s 11 lives and 11 generations that will continue. If the documentary did that, how much more will the film do?”

Coles also looks forward to the film “expanding the platform” for her pro-life efforts. In addition to speaking nationally in support of adoption, Coles works with women in unplanned pregnancies, has finished one unpublished book and is writing another as well as a script “dipping my feet in acting.”

She also hopes to create a non-profit organization. Its mission would be to help fund education for students—both women and men—who choose life for their unexpected, unborn child.

Helping others choose life is Coles’ driving force.

“I still feel the void of losing David,” she says. “But I think my heart is healing. When I see how I help others by letting God use me as his tool, it increases my healing.”

“Lifemark will show from Sept. 9-16 in select theaters around the country. In the archdiocese, the movie will show in select theaters in Avon, Bedford, Bloomington, Greenwood, Indianapolis, New Albany, Richmond, Union City and Terre Haute. For more information about Lifemark, to find a local theater running the film or to purchase tickets or the novel, go to www.lifemarkmovie.com. To invite Coles to speak at an event, go to cutt.ly/MelissaColes.”

EDINBURGH—Melissa Coles received a call one late summer of 2019. She didn’t listen long before she figured it was a prank call and hung up. When the person called back, she hung up again.

“On the third call, they had all the producers on the line—Kirk Cameron and the Kendricks brothers,” she says, referring to Alex, Shayn and Stephen Kendrick, producers of Christian films such as Fireproof, War Room and Courageous.

“They said they wanted to make [the documentary] I Lived on Parker Avenue into a movie.”

Melissa Coles

Coles knew the 2018 YouTube documentary well—she was one of its subjects.

“It’s three powerful stories wrapped into one,” says Coles: the story of her decision against abortion; the story of the son she shivered for adoption; and the story of the couple who adopted him.

Cameron told Coles he saw the documentary and wanted to “work with it.” He told the Kendricks about the documentary and asked their thoughts on having it made into a film.

“They said, ‘Not only do we like it, we love it, and we want to be part of it,’” says Coles.

Three years after that call, their vision had become reality. The film, Lifemark, will show in select theaters throughout the country on Sept. 9-16. A novel of the same name will be available sometime in August.

Coles calls Lifemark a “meaningful, faith-based film that reclaim[s] the beauty of adoption. You’re going to laugh; you’re going to cry; there will be four-wheel driving and skydiving—I’m an adrenaline junkie,” she admits.

But then she considers her son’s life.

“Even though I knew I was doing the right thing for David—not me, but David—I’m always going to miss him. There’s always going to be this void.”

But then she considers her son’s life.

“He is now 29, a law school graduate and David—I’m always going to miss him. Being in touch with her son for 10 years.

She doesn’t deny the pain of giving a child for adoption.

“It’s still,” she says, “even after being in touch with her son for 10 years. I think, ‘If I’d been better off when I had him, I’d still be with me today.’

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“The next day, says Coles, the mail came earlier than usual—with a surprise check for $400.

“We weren’t expecting it—it was for an over-payment on some bill,” she says. “They’re just how you do it.

“It was Shaw who encouraged his wife to say “yes” to the Lifemark film. “I had a whole routine—I was going to read the script and make changes and suggestions,”

They even sought her input on the cast, sending her a list of names and Coles’ reactions: “I don’t want people to see me at my peak. I didn’t want to be used. ‘Are you sure this is just one person? So, I agreed to do it.”

“We could see the Holy Spirit at work”

Working with Cameron and the Kendricks was “just amazing,” says Coles.

“They allowed me to be involved in the script and make changes and suggestions.

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“We could see the Holy Spirit at work.”

Through a private adoption agency, she was paired with the Smiths.

Coles and her husband were invited to spend a week on set at the studio in Georgia so she could offer support while the production was filmed.

Kendricks was “just amazing,” says Coles.

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“It increases my healing”

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As seen in the June 15, 2022 edition of the Criterion
special legislative session that originally had been intended to focus solely on providing inflation relief for Hoosiers from soaring inflation.

The two-week effort culminated in a marathon session on Aug. 5 resulting in the passage of groundbreaking legislation including Senate Enrolled Act 1, a measure significantly limiting abortion in Indiana.

“Following the overturning of Roe, I stated clearly that I would be willing to support legislation that made progress in protecting life,” Holcomb said. “In my view, Senate Enrolled Act 1 accomplishes this goal following its passage in both chambers of the Indiana General Assembly with a solid majority of support.

“These actions followed long days of hearings filled with sobering and personal testimony from citizens and elected representatives on this emotional and complex topic. Ultimately, those voices shaped and informed the final contents of the legislation and its carefully negotiated exceptions to address some of the unthinkable circumstances a woman or unborn child might face.”

The law will ban both surgical and chemical abortions with some exceptions. Those include pregnancies resulting from rape or incest (within 10 weeks of fertilization), and in cases of lethal fetal anomalies or to save the life of the mother because there are two human persons involved—each with a distinct right to life,” said Alexander Mingus, associate director of the ICC, during testimony before a House committee.

The two-week special session, which garnered national media attention, was marked by protests outside and inside the Statehouse, with shouts from activists often reaching inside the chambers.

“The atmosphere was tense but mostly respectful,” said Angela Espada, executive director of the ICC. “Both sides acknowledged that they felt much was at stake. I believe that most just wanted to be heard even if they didn’t change any hearts or minds.

“From our standpoint, while this legislation doesn’t completely line up with Catholic social teaching, it does get us much closer to protecting more lives,” Espada added. “It was a difficult two weeks, and many people turned to prayer and searched their hearts regarding this matter. This was evident in the testimonies from the public and the statements of the legislators. I appreciate the honesty and civility of all those involved.”

Although not as contentious or emotionally charged, debate surrounding the other key objective of the special session—providing inflation relief for the people of Indiana—was also keenly interested in the ICC. Senate Enrolled Act 2, which was also signed into law on Aug. 5, includes a $230 tax refund to Hoosiers, along with $45 million to support pregnant women, postpartum mothers, babies and families.

The governor added that he appreciates the “long overdue increased funding to support the health of our Hoosier mothers and babies.”

An amendment to the legislation allows for funds for natural family planning education, which is encouraged by the Church.

“The ICC has long advocated for a comprehensive approach to upholding the dignity of life—from protecting the unborn to providing adequate support for mothers, children and families. In recent years, for example, the ICC has supported legislative efforts to expand reasonable accommodations for pregnant women in the workplace and increase monthly payments in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which has not seen a meaningful update in more than three decades.

Looking ahead to the regular legislative session that will begin in January, the ICC vows to redouble its efforts to promote a culture of life and help mothers and children in need.

“Mothers and babies will need our support like never before,” Espada said. “As always, the Catholic Church will be at the forefront of those endeavors.”

For more information and ways to get involved with the ICC and its mission, visit www.indianacch.org.

(Victoria Arthur, a member of St. Malachi Parish in Brownsburg, is a correspondent for The Criterion.)

With Senate Enrolled Act 1 passed and signed into law by Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb, we remain steadfast in our efforts to build a culture of life and to protect the God-given dignity and humanity of all unborn babies and their mothers in our state. Our faith calls us to be voices for the voiceless, and we will continue to support all efforts to legally protect human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis will continue to work diligently to provide material and emotional support to women and families facing unplanned or difficult pregnancies across central and southern Indiana through its ministries such as Birthline, St. Elizabeth/Coleman Pregnancy & Adoption Services, Adoption Bridges of Kentuckiana, Lifeline for Families, Holy Family Shelter, Bethany House and Project Rachel, which offers Christ-like compassion and hope to women and men after an abortion. In addition to these archdiocesan ministries, we know many of our parishes will continue operating individual parish-based ministries to support pregnant women and women with young children.

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