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Hubert and Eulalae Hagedorn hold hands while surrounded by many of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in St. Mark Church in Perry County on June 10, 75 years after they wed in the very same spot. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

Historic session advances cause of protecting life, provides economic relief for families

By Victoria Arthur

After Indiana became the first state in the nation to enact a new law extending legal protection to unborn babies, the Catholic Church in Indiana hailed the state legislature's efforts to protect life and support mothers and families while calling for more work to be done.

The state legislature's Aug. 5 vote to significantly limit abortions in Indiana was quickly signed into law by Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb and will go into effect on Sept 15.

The enactment of the law came after a special session of the state legislature, in response to the historic June 24 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The *Dobbs* decision overturned the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling that had declared a constitutional right to an abortion, returning the regulation of the procedure to the states.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson was among the state's bishops who hailed the new law as an important step forward in respecting the dignity of life, which is at the apex of Catholic social teaching.

"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," said Archbishop Thompson. "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."

"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," he continued, "regardless of creed, ethnicity or language, so that no woman ever feels alone."

The Indiana Statehouse was the epicenter of intense debate on all sides of the abortion issue beginning on July 25, when lawmakers returned to Indianapolis for the

See LEGISLATION, page 20

Faith, joy and family define 75 years of married life for a Perry County couple

By Natalie Hoefler

TELL CITY—It's June 10, 1947. A photographer captures the image of Eulalae and Hubert Hagedorn, ages 18 and 24, who had just said "I do" in St. Mark Church in Perry County.

Hubert stands proudly beside his bride. Eulalae glows in a long, white gown, simple and straightforward, much like the couple's approach to life.

Their smiles speak of joy and hope for a beautiful future.

It's June 10, 2022. On the same spot where they pledged their love in St. Mark Church 75 years prior, the Hagedorns, 93 and 99, sit in chairs surrounded by their many children, grandchildren

and great-grandchildren—the fulfillment of their joy and hope.

Their crowning pride is that "all seven of our children are wonderful, productive people, and all seven of our children are practicing Catholics," said Eulalae.

"That's a testament to the way our parents raised us," said their daughter, Becky Hubert.

But the faith that defined their lives was not always the faith of her mother. Her faith journey began when she danced one night with the man who would become her husband.

'It gave me more purpose in life'

Eulalae and Hubert grew up not far from each other in rolling, rural Perry County in the southwestern part of the state.

See COUPLE, page 14

See our Fall Marriage Supplement, pages 9-13.

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.

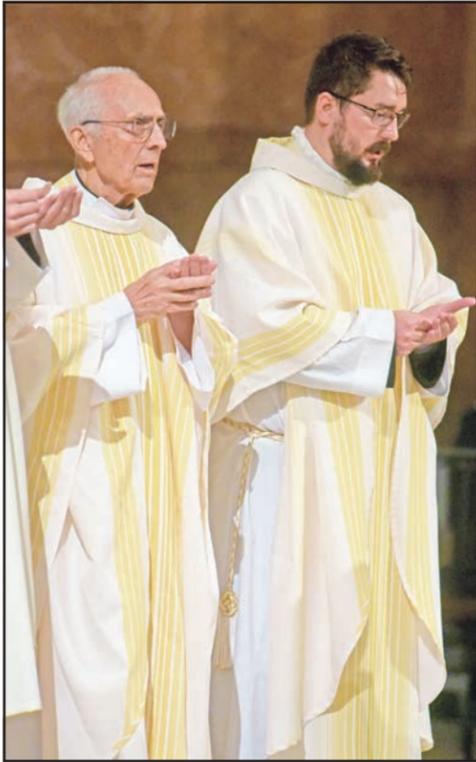
Pope Francis noted that the synod's theme, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission," offers an opportunity to help Catholics around the world—lay faithful, religious and clergy—to experience what it

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, dialoguing, 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

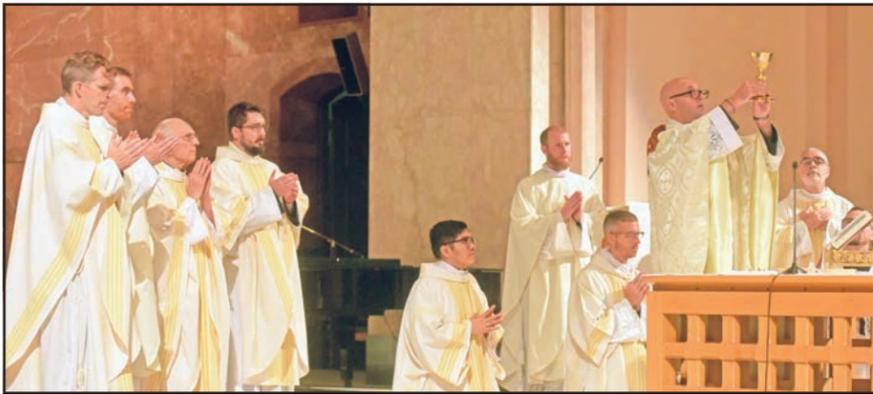
See SYNOD, page 14



A Day of Prayer with St. John Vianney

Left: Father Paul Landwerlen, left, currently the senior priest of the archdiocese, ordained in 1954, stands next to one of the co-most junior priests of the archdiocese, Father Michael Clawson, 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. (Photos 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 Hawm "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

Rev. Jayaraju Bandari, HGN, appointed parochial vicar of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Indianapolis.

Effective August 6, 2022

Sister Donna Prickel, OSF, appointed

parish life coordinator of Holy Trinity Parish, Edinburgh.

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

Effective immediately

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

Rev. Thawng Cem "Eustace" Thang, Diocese of Hahka, Myanmar, appointed sacramental minister to the Burmese community at St. Pius X Parish, Indianapolis, while remaining parochial vicar of St. Barnabas Parish, Indianapolis.

(These appointments 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 Bradford.

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. †



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

August 12–25, 2022

August 12 – 2 p.m.
Funeral Mass for Deacon Marc Kellams, St. Charles Borromeo Church, Bloomington

August 13 – 5 p.m.
Mass and picnic at St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Greencastle

August 14 – 2 p.m.
Archdiocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

August 15 – noon
Mass for the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

August 16 – 11 a.m.
College of Deans meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

August 16 – 4:30 p.m.
Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Commission meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

August 17 – 8:30 a.m.
Mass for students of St. Matthew the Apostle School, Indianapolis, at St. Matthew the Apostle Church

August 17 – 10 a.m.
Department Heads meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

August 17 – 6 p.m.
Dinner with Ascension St. Vincent Board of Directors, Indianapolis

August 18 – 7:30 a.m.
Mass and breakfast with Catholic Business Network at Primo's Banquet Hall, Indianapolis

August 18 – 3:30 p.m.
Catholic Community Foundation Pre-Board meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

August 19 – 7 a.m.
Catholic Business Exchange Mass and breakfast at Northside Events and Social Club, Indianapolis

August 19 – 2 p.m.
Virtual National Eucharistic Revival Bishops Advisory Group meeting

August 20 – noon
Lunch with ICAN Liaisons at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

August 20 – 5 p.m.
Confirmation for youths of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Indianapolis, at St. Luke the Evangelist Church

August 21 – 9:30 a.m.
Mass to Celebrate Opening of School Year at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, Indianapolis

August 21-25
Region VII Bishops' Retreat at Joseph and Mary Retreat House, Mundelein, Ill.

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.

In a series of tweets posted on Aug. 6 after meeting with the pope, Yurash said the people of Ukraine "have been waiting for the pope" since the start of the war and will "be happy to greet him before his trip to Kazakhstan."

"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.

"Moments of communication 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." †



Phone Numbers:
Main office: 317-236-1570
Advertising: 317-236-1585
Toll free: 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1570
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E-mail us: criterion@archindy.org

Staff:
Editor: Mike Krokos
Assistant Editor: John Shaughnessy
Reporter: Sean Gallagher
Reporter: Natalie Hofer
Graphic Designer / Online Editor: Brandon A. Evans
Executive Assistant: Ann Lewis



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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.



Deacon Marc Kellams

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 2 p.m. on Aug. 12 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 2222 E. 3rd St., in Bloomington. Visitation at the church, starting at 11 a.m., will precede the Mass. Burial will follow at a later date at Valhalla Memorial Gardens in Bloomington.

The principal celebrant will be Archbishop Charles C. Thompson. The homilist will be Father Joseph Moriarty, rector of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis.

Deacon Kellams was a member of the first group of permanent deacons in the Church in central and southern Indiana when Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein ordained them on June 28, 2008, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

But long before that historic day, Deacon Kellams gave himself in service to others like a deacon in the criminal courtroom in Bloomington where he had served as a circuit court judge since 1980.

While he sentenced thousands to prison over the course of his 38 years on the bench, Deacon Kellams always wanted the best for them, said Deacon David Henn, who was ordained with Deacon Kellams and who works as an attorney.

“Anyone who appeared before Judge Kellams, whether before or after Marc’s ordination, experienced the kindness and graciousness of Deacon Kellams as well,” said Deacon Henn. “Just as Deacon Marc was so gifted at recognizing and meeting people where they were, so too was Judge Kellams, who viewed his role as a judge as an extension of his diaconal life.”

“Seeking truth and justice in his work, Judge Kellams recognized the dignity of each person who came before the bench and worked to fashion a resolution that met the requirements of the law, but also served best the needs of the individual, as well as the greater community.”

In a 2018 *Criterion* article, Deacon Kellams reflected on the balance of human care and justice that he sought to maintain in his work as a judge.

“Few people know the hearts of a

person who has committed a crime better than a criminal court judge,” he said at the time. “I deal with them on probation and when they make mistakes. ... I congratulate them for successes, I let them know that I care about them as people, and I want them to be successful.”

After Deacon Kellams retired as a judge in 2018, he continued his care for incarcerated people by serving as the archdiocesan coordinator for corrections ministry.

That’s when David Liebel, director of religious services for the Indiana Department of Corrections, met Deacon Kellams and soon came to know that he stood out among those who work in the judicial system.

“It’s fairly easy in criminal justice to become cynical,” said Liebel. “But he always had an optimism. But it wasn’t pie in the sky. For him, it was that God reigns and there’s hope for people.”

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 heavily Democratic Monroe County.

Msgr. William F. Stumpf, archdiocesan vicar general, experienced how well-respected Deacon Kellams was in Bloomington when the two ministered together from 2007-11 when Msgr. Stumpf served as pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish.

“He was one of those people that everyone knew,” said Msgr. Stumpf. “You couldn’t go out to dinner or lunch with him where there wasn’t a number of people coming up to the table to speak to him. He was highly respected in the community and in the parish.”

Deacon Kellams’ ties to many people and his leadership abilities led him to reorganize ministry to the homebound at St. Charles.

“It really took off under his leadership,” Msgr. Stumpf said.

The deep faith that Deacon Kellams brought to the courtroom, to parish ministry and to leading corrections ministry in the archdiocese was put to the test in 2009 when his daughter Amy died of cancer at age 38.

He preached the homily at her funeral. “It was very moving and powerful,” recalled Msgr. Stumpf. “You sat there and

wondered how a dad could stand up and do this.

“It was a very uplifting homily. It drew on his faith and helped us to draw on our faith in the midst of something that you couldn’t explain and was extremely painful and tragic. God was there and our faith was something that we could lean on.”

At the same time, Msgr. Stumpf’s mind quickly turns to humor when he recalls Deacon Kellams.

“He loved to laugh and could make you laugh,” Msgr. Stumpf said. “He could see the humor in lots of difficult situations. One of things I remember most about him is that he was always smiling. It was a way of spreading joy.”

“Deacon Marc personified the best in diaconal ministry,” said Deacon Henn. “The peace and kindness he brought to all, in service to all, both

professionally 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 Lippman of Montclair, N.J., and Katherine Kellams of Bloomington, and eight grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (www.courts.in.gov/jlap), Saint Meinrad Archabbey (www.saintmeinrad.org), Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology (www.saintmeinrad.edu), St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington (www.stcharlesbloomington.org) or SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood (www.ss-fc.org). †

‘Just as Deacon Marc was so gifted at recognizing and meeting people where they were, so too was Judge Kellams, who viewed his role as a judge as an extension of his diaconal life.’

—Deacon David Henn

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Editorial



Dr. Cathy Wagner, left, and Dr. Elizabeth Wehlage, both Catholics from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, take part in a "Love Them Both" rally sponsored by Indiana Right to Life on July 26 at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

A culture of life in Indiana is strengthened in new legislation

For close to 50 years, dating back to Jan. 22, 1973, our faith has implored us 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 the 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 26 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. Legislators designated \$45 million to create the Hoosier Families First Fund, which aims to support pregnant women, postpartum mothers, babies and families. Lawmakers also are providing grant money for natural family planning education and increased the tax exemption to \$3,000 for those who are adopting, to name a few of the highlights in Senate Enrolled Act 2.

While we offer heartfelt prayers of thanksgiving for the dawning of a new day in the pro-life movement, our work is not finished.

As we've stated in the past, supporting pregnant and parenting mothers and their born and pre-born children has been a priority for our Church for decades and will continue to be one. In the archdiocese, programs like Birthline, Gabriel Project, Catholic Charities and pregnancy care centers are among the organizations that offer resources. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Walking with Moms in Need initiative (walkingwithmoms.com) offers resources, prayers, reflections and ideas for use on a personal and parish level.

As we continue our commitment to pro-life initiatives, these ministries need our prayers and support more than ever. For a developing list in English and Spanish of programs available in central and southern Indiana to help pregnant and parenting moms in need, go to cutt.ly/MomResources.

We pray we do all we can to build on this generational moment. Please Lord, may it be so.

—Mike Krokos

Be Our Guest/Robert Teipen

A call to honor life and overcome the culture of death

In 2022, we have seen a significant increase in the number of mass shootings. This phenomenon has created an outcry



from our political leaders and many citizens about the easy access to guns in our country.

While we need to do everything that we can to stop these shootings from taking place, I believe that we have not addressed

the underlying problem of "why does the shooter choose to kill as many people, even children, as possible?"

There are some common traits among the shooters. They are typically young males who come from difficult family lives. They are mostly growing up in an environment where the father is not an active or positive influence in their lives.

I have thought about the underlying causes of why the shooters hold so little value for human life. The thought that keeps coming to me is a quote from the late Pope John Paul II, where he made a reference to "the culture of death," that is, a culture that supports abortion and euthanasia. In his papal encyclical, "*Evangelium Vitae*," promulgated in 1995, he reaffirmed the Catholic Church's long held position warning against the evils of abortion and euthanasia. The promotion of these intrinsic evils violates the natural moral law and divine law.

Contrast this with partisan approach by *The Indianapolis Star*, which has published numerous articles concerning the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* by the U.S. Supreme Court since the decision was leaked in May. These articles have been overwhelming in their support for abortion as a women's right, while remaining mostly silent concerning that in every abortion a baby dies.

Let's turn to our founding documents; the preamble to the Declaration of Independence states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed 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 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 not locate in the U.S. Constitution nor the Bill of Rights as well as other amendments, with the "right to life." 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 disturbed individuals to be careless in taking their own lives and those of innocent people.

As a country we need to return to belief in God and his commandment, "thou shall not kill."

Fifty years of a supposed legal right to abortion will not be reversed overnight, but if we as a country change our mindset to respect all life then I foresee the incidents of mass shootings will decrease in number over time.

The argument has been made that pro-life individuals do not care about women. 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 Radio Indy and a member of 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 response after the consecration, could our response be something like: "I believe that the bread and wine consecrated on this altar is now the body, blood, soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ!"

As we pray so we 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 that the Eucharist is the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus, let us start by confessing it in one voice at Mass.

While I know it will only reach those in the pews, it is the first step in saying what we mean and meaning what we say!

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 and representing as many viewpoints as possible. Letters should be informed, relevant, well-expressed and temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect.

The editors reserve the right to select

the letters that will be published and to edit letters from readers as necessary based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content (including spelling and grammar). Send letters to "Letters to the Editor," The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org. †



Christ the Cornerstone

Fire of God's love is meant to heal and unite us

"I have come to set the Earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the Earth? No, I tell you, but rather division" (Lk 12:49-51).

The Gospel reading that we will hear this weekend, the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, is disturbing. Jesus, normally the meek and mild teacher who has told us that "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Mt 5:9), reveals that he has not come to establish peace on Earth but division.

Division is something that we know well. Here in the United States, we seem to be hopelessly divided on practically every substantive political, social and economic issue.

In the Church, too, there are great divisions over the way we worship, over matters of social justice and pastoral care, and over what we understand to be the fundamentals of Christian faith and practice.

The Prince of Peace says he comes not to bring peace, but division. What's more, he has come to set the Earth on

fire, and he longs to see it blazing! How can we reconcile this bold contradiction? How are we supposed to understand what the Lord is telling us in this provocative passage from St. Luke's Gospel?

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has written that the fire Jesus is speaking about is his own passion of love, "a fire that is to be handed on. Whoever comes close to him must be prepared to be burned. This is a fire that makes things bright and pure and free and grand. Being a Christian, then, is daring to entrust oneself to this burning fire." And, we might add, anyone who dares to approach the fire of God's love, separates himself or herself from the crowd of bystanders who hesitate at first, and then refuse to get involved.

A contemporary image we might use to help us understand what Jesus is telling us is that of first responders daring to rush in as others are fleeing from a burning building. The fire of divine love is purifying. It separates us from our sins, certainly, but it can also divide us from those who don't see things the way we do—and even from family members and close friends

whose opinions and beliefs run contrary to the Gospel message.

There are many great paradoxes in our Christian faith. For example: The same Jesus whose teaching divides us can also unify us. The fire of God's love can burn us, but God's tender mercy 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 of all. 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's 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. †



Cristo, la piedra angular

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 haya cumplido. ¿Creen ustedes que he venido a traer paz al mundo? Les digo que no, sino que he venido a traer división" (Lc 12:49-51).

La lectura del Evangelio que escucharemos este fin de semana, el vigésimo domingo del tiempo ordinario, resulta inquietante. Jesús, que en general se muestra como un maestro manso y apacible que nos ha dicho "felices los que trabajan en favor de la paz" (Mt 5:9), revela que no ha venido a establecer la paz en la Tierra, sino la división.

El concepto de división es algo que conocemos bien. Aquí en Estados Unidos pareciera que estamos irremediablemente divididos en prácticamente todas las cuestiones políticas, sociales y económicas importantes.

También en la Iglesia hay grandes divisiones en cuanto al modo de celebrar el culto, sobre cuestiones de justicia social y atención pastoral, y sobre lo que entendemos que son los fundamentos de la fe y la práctica cristianas.

El Príncipe de la Paz dice que no viene a traer la paz, sino la división;

y es más, ha venido a traer fuego al mundo ¡y anhela verlo arder! ¿Cómo podemos conciliar esta marcada contradicción? ¿Cómo debemos entender lo que nos dice el Señor en este provocador pasaje del Evangelio según san Lucas?

El Papa emérito Benedicto XVI ha escrito que el fuego del que habla Jesús es su propia pasión de amor, "un fuego que se debe transmitir. Quien se acerque a él debe estar preparado para quemarse. Se trata de un fuego que hace que las cosas sean brillantes y puras, libres y grandiosas. Ser cristiano, pues, es atreverse a encomendarse a este fuego abrasador." Y podríamos añadir que cualquiera que se atreva a acercarse al fuego del amor de Dios, se separa de la multitud de espectadores que dudan al principio, y luego se niegan a involucrarse.

Una imagen contemporánea que nos puede ayudar a entender lo que nos dice Jesús es la de los bomberos que se atreven a adentrarse en un edificio en llamas mientras otros huyen. El fuego del amor divino es purificador ya que nos separa de nuestros pecados, claro, pero también puede dividirnos de quienes no ven las cosas como nosotros, e incluso de familiares y amigos cercanos cuyas opiniones y creencias son contrarias al mensaje del Evangelio.

Nuestra fe cristiana encierra enormes paradojas. Por ejemplo: El mismo Jesús, cuyas enseñanzas nos dividen, también nos unifica. El fuego del amor de Dios puede quemarnos, pero la tierna misericordia de Dios también puede curarnos. El Señor nos exige cosas que pueden parecer imposibles de cumplir, pero nos entrega su amor de manera incondicional.

En su encíclica "*Fratelli Tutti: Sobre la fraternidad y la amistad social*," el Papa Francisco nos recuerda que la verdadera paz no carece de conflictos. Para lograr una paz verdadera y duradera, los enemigos deben reconocer sus diferencias y trabajar en ellas. Deben perdonarse mutuamente los agravios legítimos de ambas partes, y deben buscar realmente un terreno común y el bien de todos. Tal como nos enseña el Santo Padre:

Los que han estado duramente enfrentados conversan desde la verdad, clara y desnuda. Les hace falta aprender a cultivar una memoria penitencial, capaz de asumir el pasado para liberar el futuro de las propias insatisfacciones, confusiones o proyecciones (#226).

Únicamente por la gracia de Dios, que nos da el poder del Espíritu Santo, podemos aceptar el pasado y

reconciliarnos, a pesar de las heridas (reales e imaginarias) que nos separan entre nosotros y de Dios.

Sí, la paz de Cristo puede ser divisiva; quizá sus exigencias parezcan poco razonables. Y su amor nos exige el mismo tipo de sacrificio, sufrimiento y entrega que demostró nuestro Señor cuando dio su vida por nosotros en la Cruz. Y sin embargo, creemos que Jesús es realmente el Príncipe de la Paz, y el tierno y misericordioso Señor del amor, cuyo toque sanador nos unifica y nos salva de nuestros pecados.

La segunda lectura de este domingo (Heb 12:1-4) nos pide que coloquemos todo esto bajo el cariz adecuado: "Hagámoslo con los ojos puestos en Jesús, origen y plenitud de nuestra fe. Jesús, que, renunciando a una vida placentera, afrontó sin acobardarse la ignominia de la cruz y ahora está sentado junto al trono de Dios. Tengan, por tanto, en cuenta a quien soportó una oposición tan fuerte de parte de los pecadores. Si lo hacen así, el desaliento no se apoderará de ustedes" (Heb 12:2-3).

Recemos para recibir la paz de Cristo; el fuego ardiente del amor de Dios puede causar alteraciones y divisiones pero, en definitiva, estas están destinadas a sanarnos y unirnos. †

Events Calendar

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

August 15

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

August 17

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

August 18

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

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

August 19

Northside Events and Social Club, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson presenting, rosary 6:35 a.m., Mass 7 a.m., buffet breakfast and program following, \$18 members, \$24 non-members. Register by 4 p.m. on Aug. 16. Information and registration: cutt.ly/CBE-Reg.

August 19-20

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 4625 N. Kenwood Ave., Indianapolis. **SausageFest**, 5:30 p.m.-midnight, Kincaid's sausages, Sun King beer, sides 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.

August 20

St. Pius X Parish, 7200 Sarto Dr., Indianapolis. **Feast Day Celebration**, 6-10 p.m., food trucks, bar, music, kids' games, free admission. Information: 317-255-4534.

August 22

St. Simon the Apostle Parish, St. Benedict Room, 8155 Oaklandon Rd., Indianapolis. **SHIP (Singles Hoping for Involved Partnership)**, 6:30 p.m. (Mass 6 p.m.), fellowship ministry for singles ages 45-65, summer food pitch-in and Euchre, free. Information: martinlow8@cs.com or 317-826-6000.

August 24

Group Lectio via Zoom, 7 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, Benedictine Sister Jill Marie

Reuber, facilitator, sponsored by Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). Information: vocation@thedome.org.

August 25-27

St. Ann Parish, 6350 S. Mooresville Rd., Indianapolis. **Summer Festival**, Thur. 5-11 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, food, midway rides and games, silent auction, homemade sweets, gambling, beer garden, free admission. Information: 317-821-2909.

August 27

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

St. Mary Parish, 1331 E. Hunter Robbins Way, Greensburg. **On Eagles Wings 5K Run/Walk**, 8 a.m. registration, 9 a.m. race, \$25 adults, \$20 children. Information and registration: 812-663-8427 or oneagleswings5k.com.

Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **Celebrate Marriage Annual Conference**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., featured speaker Catholic radio and TV host Dr. Ray Guarendi, live music by St. Jam Band, breakout sessions, lunch included, \$75 per couple, register by Aug. 21. Information and registration: 317-489-1557 or celebratemarriageministry.com.

Northside Events and Social Club, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Love Your**

Neighbor Gala, 5:30-9 p.m., fundraiser benefiting Indianapolis St. Vincent de Paul Society, cocktails, dinner, silent and live auction, \$100, registration available through day of event. Information and registration: 317-921-1405 or events@svdpindy.org.

August 27-28

St. Mary Parish, 1331 E. Hunter Robbins Way, Greensburg. **Parish Festival**, Sat. 5:30-11 p.m. adult night, games, beer garden, live music by Nuttin' Fancy, pork burger, pork chop or pulled pork dinners, basket silent auction, concessions; Sun. 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Family Day, kids' games, live music by Keith Swinney Band, fried chicken and pulled pork dinners, free admission both days. Information: 812-663-8427.

August 28

St. Patrick Parish, 950 Prospect St., Indianapolis. **Festival '22**, 10:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m., food, games, music, St. Patrick King and Queen contest, dance, free admission. Information: 317-631-5824 or office@stpatrickindy.com.

August 29

Holy Spirit Parish, 7243 E. 10th St., Indianapolis. **Encountering God in the Eucharist**, talk in Spanish by Dr. Marlon De La Torre, light refreshments, freewill offering. Information: Saul Llacsas, 317-236-1443, sllacsas@archindy.org.

The Villages of Indiana online Foster Parenting Virtual Information Night, 6-8 p.m., for those interested in becoming a foster parent, free. Information and

registration: 317-775-6500 or cutt.ly/villagesindyreg.

September 1

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 5333 E. Washington St., Indianapolis. **World Day of Prayer for Creation**, 7 p.m., prayer service in English and Spanish, also available by livestream, free. Information: 317-956-6453.

September 2

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

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

September 2-4

St. Joseph Parish, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. **Fall Festival**, Fri. and Sat. 5-11 p.m., Sun. 3-11 p.m., rides, food, blackjack, free admission. Information: 317-244-9002.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 9995 E. Base Rd., Greensburg. **Parish Picnic**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., dine-in Fireside Inn fried chicken dinners and roast beef dinners 11 a.m.-4 p.m. or carryout 11 a.m.-5 p.m., \$15 ages 12 and older, \$7 ages 11 and younger; beer garden noon-5 p.m., games, basket booth, country store, raffles, mock turtle soup, pies. Information: 812-934-2880, stcatherine47240@gmail.com.

Wedding Anniversaries

THOMAS AND PATRICIA (HAIGERTY) CATTON, members of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Aug. 17.

The couple was married in St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis on Aug. 17, 1957.

They have six children: Betsy Babcock, Teresa Hill, Carolyn White, Chris, Phil and Tim Catton.

The couple also has 20 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Martin and Emily (Freschman) Baker, members of St. Michael Parish in Greenfield, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 19.

The couple was married in Our Lady of Fatima Church in Alcoa, Tenn., on Aug. 19, 1972.

They have one child: Amy Allen-Foddrill.

The couple also has two grandchildren.

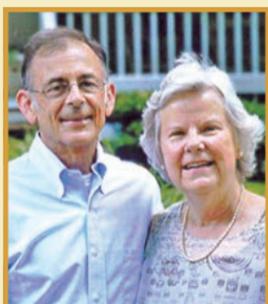


Alejandro and Barbara (Gemmer) de Gortari, members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 12.

They received a dispensation to marry in Broad Ripple Methodist Church in Indianapolis on Aug. 12, 1972, with the wedding officiated by a priest.

They have three children: Cristy McKinney, Alex and Andy de Gortari.

The couple also has seven grandchildren.

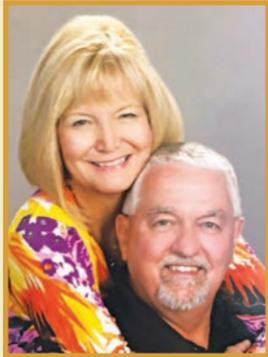


Edward and Sue Ellen (Battrell) Mears, members of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 18.

The couple was married in St. Barnabas Church in Indianapolis on Aug. 18, 1972.

They have two children: Lori Johnson and Anthony Mears.

The couple also has 11 grandchildren.



Bill and Sharon (Gutzwiller) Schoentrup, members of St. Louis Parish in Batesville, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 5.

The couple was married in St. Louis Church in Batesville on Aug. 5, 1972.

They have three children: Amy Bernhart, Sarah and Nick Schoentrup.

The couple also has four grandchildren.



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

Cyclists, people praying, donors needed for Biking for Babies event on Sept. 9-11

The Indiana portion of the annual Biking for Babies national event will take place on Sept. 9-11. The effort raises awareness and funds for pregnancy resource centers to assist women and families experiencing crisis pregnancies.

Participants are needed to bike for long or short distances; to pray for the bikers and the effort; and to sponsor local riders through donations.

A prayer rally will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 5333 E. Washington St., in Indianapolis, at 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 10. Speakers will include riders; Jenny Hubbard, director of the Women's Care Center in Indianapolis; and Mary Carmen Zakrajsek, Indiana regional coordinator of Students for Life.

Later on Sept. 10, a Mass will be celebrated at 6 p.m. at Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy, 10892 N. State Road 140, in Knightstown. A free dinner and a talk by Right to Life of Indianapolis executive director Marc Tuttle, will follow.

The Indiana portion of the national event is sponsored by the Indiana Knights of Columbus. Donations raised by local participants will go toward the Indiana Knights' Ultrasound fund, with a goal of \$17,500. That amount will be matched to purchase a \$35,000 ultrasound machine for an Indiana pregnancy resource center.

For more information, to donate or to register to ride, go to cutt.ly/bike4babies.

Hunger Bust Fun Run/Walk on Sept. 10 will benefit Providence Food Pantry in West Terre Haute

A Hunger Bust Fun Run/Walk will take place on the grounds of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, 1 Providence Way, in St. Mary-of-the-Woods on the morning of Sept. 10.

The 2-mile path is accessible for wheelchairs and strollers. All proceeds will benefit the Providence Food Pantry in West Terre Haute.

The event will take place rain or shine. Registration/check-in is from 9-9:45 a.m., and the run/walk will begin at 10 a.m.

The cost is \$15. Register by Aug. 18 to receive a free T-shirt. Walk-ups are also welcome.

For more information or advance registration, email jrichy75@gmail.com or call or text 812-208-6157.

Educators share advice about making the most of new school year

By John Shaughnessy

It may be the best piece of advice for teenagers and children as another school year begins, a piece of advice that could lead to a year of tremendous growth as a student, a young person and 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 St. Roch School and Bishop Chatard High School, both in Indianapolis.

"I've said this for 18 years as the leader of a school," Hansen said. "I would tell the kids, 'God is calling you to something great. He's not calling you to be a bully. He's 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 great.'"

Hansen shared that advice during a conversation with *The Criterion* about 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 as we transition back into a new school year, most of us are out of a routine. And it takes a while for us to adjust back into that routine. We all have 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. Setting basic things, like 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 they 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.

"We were reminded of St. Mother 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 in the archdiocese are "really guided by Jesus Christ and his teachings. He's the reason we have our schools. He's the role

model we want to be as educators."

While that faith emphasis is complemented by prayers and Masses throughout the school week, Disney advises parents to also make that emphasis a priority at home.

"A prayer routine is the first step. Praying the Our Father as we go to school. Praying together before and after meals. Praying before going to bed. The second thing is to celebrate the sacraments as a family. Attending Mass together weekly, going to confession together once a month as a family—where we're experiencing Jesus' love and mercy in special ways. And many of our families do service things together."

Disney and Hansen both stressed the importance of parents having conversations with their children about their faith lives.

"To have a conversation about faith, you don't have to be an expert. Just talk about what God means in your life," Disney said. "I love the question, 'Where did you see God in your life today?'"

Hansen noted, "Simple questions like, 'Where are you in your faith? How's your prayer life? What are you praying for?' It's a conversation."

A recipe for success

In her five years as a teacher and 14 years as a principal, Watson recognized several key ingredients for creating a successful school year for students, parents and educators.

"For me, it was always about everyone being there to learn, whether you were the adult or the student. And being open to that. My first thing was always to build a relationship. We all give a little. At school and at home, this is a partnership. Our role is developing the whole child with the family. If we don't work together, our expectations fail, no matter what they are. That partnership is essential. That's what makes us successful for the students."

So is the strong influence of family.

"The students who have a lot of success have that strong family unit behind them, and they know it. And they have that time with the sacraments, in prayer, which helps the family grow. That family doesn't have to be the traditional, nuclear family. They just have to have a family unit."

Encourage students to get involved in an activity that interests them

"The sooner you get a kid connected with something, they've got some social currency, they've got friends, they've got someone they can sit with at lunch," Hansen noted.

Disney added, "In elementary school, our students' primary community is their home. In high school, their primary community is their peers. We want their community to be other like-minded, strong Christian, Catholic people. They have great mentors and role models with our high school teachers and coaches."

Keep the lines of communication open, part 1

"If you're a parent, keep the lines of communication open with your student," Radomsky advised. "And if you're a student,



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

keep the lines of communication open with your parents. Talk about what's going on in the day. It is not easy to raise teenagers, especially in this day and age where we as parents don't know exactly what they're going through because we did not have social media to deal with when we were in high school."

Build community as a family

In a world where adults and their children are too often absorbed in their phones and electronic devices, Disney stresses the need for a different approach this school year.

"In our families, there's so much wisdom, so much we can learn from each other from being together in community. From an educator's side, we see how social media, our phones and constant messaging have caused our kids to lose some of that community. Put the social media away for a time and spend time together."

"Family game night might not be faith-based, but when a family is growing together, when community is growing together, God is there. Things that build community are essential to our children's development as people."

Cultivate strong student leaders

Hansen encourages principals to stress to their eighth-grade students in elementary schools and their seniors in high school the great influence they can have on other students.

"I met with some principals and told them to leverage their eighth graders. A strong eighth grade can have a tremendous effect, positively and negatively, on a whole school. As educators, we can spew the rules and tell the students they're part of the family, but if they see it modeled and lived by the upperclassmen—the eighth graders and the seniors—it has a tremendous impact on the culture of our schools. And I think our kids take that seriously for the most part."

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 humans. 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'

Hansen advises 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 new beginning, but also every new day allows for a new beginning."

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

Springer named Ambassador of Peace for anti-racism commitment

By John Shaughnessy

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



Pearllette Springer

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

"The beginning efforts centered around the transforming of minds. The civil rights movement on the parts 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 noted that their recognition honors "extraordinary and experienced leaders within the Pax Christi USA community who serve as living embodiments to our community and beyond of what it means to live a life rooted in the 'peace of Christ.' They are chosen for the contributions they have made in preaching, teaching and practicing Gospel nonviolence, peacemaking, anti-racism, reconciliation and justice."

Springer says she was both surprised and grateful for the honor from Pax Christi USA, which she has served in different ways since 2001—including being the leader of its anti-racism team and serving 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." †

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.



Fr. Charles Smith, S.V.D.

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 homeless.

"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 five keynote addresses—including one by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson—and numerous adult and youth workshops, including some offered in French.

"We'll look at how we were made for more through a holistic approach—in terms of spiritual, physical, emotional, psychological," said Father Charles, who is a chaplain at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Indianapolis.

Some workshop topics he mentioned include spirituality and mental health, the psychological effects of 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 *Corazon Puro*; Society of the Divine Word Father George Kintiba of the poverty relief organization Cross Catholic Outreach; and Dr. Levi Funches, a clinical pediatrician 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 Thea 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 Pearlette Springer, coordinator of the archdiocesan Black Catholic Ministry, at 317-236-1474 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 bvarick@archindy.org or 317-236-1543.

- St. Malachy Parish, 9833 E. County Road 750 N., Brownsburg, 7-8:30 p.m. on Thursdays Sept. 1-Oct. 13, register at cutt.ly/ProjectHope or contact Patrick Hoekstra at hoekstrapd41616@gmail.com.

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

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

By Natalie Hoefler

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 maybe don’t 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

See COURSES, page 12

Los cursos de planificación familiar natural en español responden a una ‘enorme necesidad’ y ‘construyen la cultura de la vida en español’

Por Natalie Hoefler

Hasta hace poco, el centro y el sur de Indiana eran lo que Gabriela Ross denominó un “desierto,” lo cual no tiene nada que ver con la falta de lluvia, sino con la ausencia de facilitadores de habla hispana con la que se topó mientras buscaba instructores que pudieran impartir cursos de planificación familiar natural (PFN) en español en la Arquidiócesis.

“Solamente había tres,” afirmó Ross, directora de la Oficina de Matrimonio y Vida Familiar de la Arquidiócesis. “Y apenas había otro más, quizá dos, en el resto del estado.

“Llamamos a otras diócesis y también tenían una gran necesidad de instructores de PFN en español. Había un vacío tremendo en la planificación familiar natural en español.”

Claudia Corona, coordinadora de la oficina de Ross, aseguró que existían cursos en línea en español.

“Pero las parejas hispanas quizás no tienen computadoras, o trabajan mucho y sus horarios no coinciden con los de las clases,” comentó.

Corona también señaló la falta de conocimiento sobre la planificación familiar natural entre los católicos hispanos.

“No se predica en las homilias, por lo que muchos católicos hispanos no saben qué es, cómo funciona, qué enseña la Iglesia al respecto,” aseveró.

“Prácticamente lo único que conocen son los métodos anticonceptivos y la esterilización. Los médicos las presionan para que tomen la píldora [anticonceptiva], y luego, cuando llegan a cierta edad o tienen muchos hijos, las presionan para que se hagan una histerectomía.”

Según comenta Ross, las nuevas estadísticas respaldan la necesidad de contar con instructores de PFN de habla hispana. Citó un estudio reciente que identificaba a Indianápolis como la segunda ciudad con mayor crecimiento de población hispana

católica en la región episcopal que abarca Illinois, Indiana y Wisconsin.

“Para responder a las necesidades de la Iglesia, debemos ser más proactivos,” aseguró. “Y en verdad no estamos siendo proactivos, porque [los católicos hispanos] ya están aquí.”

Las necesidades de la Iglesia también incluyen ofrecer clases de PFN en español para las parejas de

novios hispanos.

“La planificación familiar natural generalmente forma parte de la preparación para el matrimonio,” afirma el padre Todd Goodson, párroco de la parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Greenwood. “Si seguimos las directrices, estos cursos deben ofrecerse en español para los novios hispanohablantes.”

Ross y Corona idearon un plan para hacer frente a la situación. El primer paso fue encontrar parejas hispanas familiarizadas con la PFN que estuvieran dispuestas a impartir clases a otras.

Ross explicó que “no solo buscamos parejas que se sientan cómodas presentando la información, sino que además tengan experiencia usando el método y que sepan lo que la Iglesia enseña. Tienen que ser testigos vivos de la cultura de la vida en el matrimonio.”

En la búsqueda realizada identificaron cinco parejas quienes aceptaron realizar un curso a través de la Couple to Couple League (CCL) para convertirse en instructores certificados del método sintotérmico de planificación familiar natural. Se certificaron en diciembre de 2021, y actualmente hay otras 12 parejas

Mira PFN, página 12



Gabriela Ross



Claudia Corona

Wedding ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Dina and Michael Barron, Jr. The groom is the son of Robert and Loretta Naylor.

Chan-Elam



Leanna Victoria Chan and Cory Jeffrey Elam were married on May 14 at Christ the King Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Bobby and Elena Chan. The groom is the son of Jeff and Kecia Elam.

Behr-Goff



Jessica Lynn Behr and Eric Kyle Goff were married on Feb. 12 at St. Paul Chapel in Clear Lake, Ind. (Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend). The bride is the daughter of Charles and Lara Behr. The groom is the son of Charles and Keira Goff.

Chapleau-Martin



Abigail Katherine Chapleau and Jarryd Kyle Martin will be married on Sept. 10 at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Thomas and Nancy Chapleau. The groom is the son of Joel and Noemi Martin.

Bordenkecher-Weber



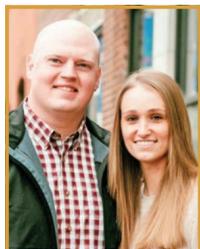
Millie Bordenkecher and Chris Weber were married on Feb. 26 at Marian University's Bishop Chartrand Memorial Chapel in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Ann and the late Joseph Bordenkecher. The groom is the son of the late Charles and L. Ann Weber.

Courtney-Small



Kelcie Marie Courtney and Samuel Pierce Small will be married on Aug. 27 at St. Malachy Church in Brownsburg. The bride is the daughter of Clay and Patricia Courtney. The groom is the son of Jeffrey and Sally Small.

Borger-Foster



Mackenzie Caitlyn Borger and Drew Edward Foster were married on July 9 at St. Agnes Church in Nashville. The bride is the daughter of Mike and Carmen Borger. The groom is the son of Kevin and Holly Foster.

Crowe-Hutt



Lauren Elizabeth-Joy Crowe and Tanner James Brown Hutt will be married on Nov. 19 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in New Albany. The bride is the daughter of Jerry Doyle and Theresa Crowe. The groom is the son of Donnie Hutt and Jenny Fugate.

Buchheit-Blaszczyk



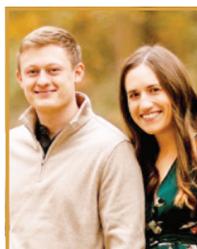
Kathryn Elizabeth Buchheit and Zachary Ronald Blaszczyk will be married on Sept. 24 at St. Matthew the Apostle Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Kevin and Grace Buchheit. The groom is the son of Stan and Adela Blaszczyk.

DiSano-Atkinson



Abigail 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 Keith and Mary DiSano. The groom is the son of Thomas and Joy Atkinson.

Dunn-Kramer



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

Etchason-Webb



Emma Kathryn Etchason and Nathan Julius Webb will be married on Sept. 10 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Chicago, Ill. The bride is the daughter of Marc and Lisa Etchason. The groom is the son of William Webb and Dr. Diana Brawka.

Fernkas-Adams



Sara Louise Fernkas and Patrick Michael Adams were married on June 4 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Eric and Ann Fernkas. The groom is the son of Michael and Beth Adams.

Kincaid-Smith



Maureen McIntyre Kincaid and Mitchell Ryan Smith will be married on Nov. 12 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Brian and Janet Kincaid. The groom is the son of Scott and Teresa Smith.

Kirk-Hamlin



Kerry Anne Kirk and Zachrey Lee Hamlin will be married on Aug. 27 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Michael and Lisa Kirk. The groom is the son of Marshall Hamlin and Lori Rolph.

Knorr-Zander



Mary Kate Knorr and William Roarke Zander will be married on Aug. 20 at St. Mary of the Angels Church in Chicago, Ill. The bride is the daughter of Thomas and Marie Knorr. The groom is the son of Anthony and Jean Zander.

Lamping-Hogg



Ella Grace Lamping and Tyler Gerard Hogg will be married on Aug. 27 at Sisters of St. Francis Chapel in Oldenburg. The bride is the daughter of Scott and Sarah Lamping. The groom is the son of John and Rhonda Hogg.

Maloof-Smith



Malorie A. Maloof and Boyd Keith Smith were married on Feb. 26 at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Mark and Aliceann Maloof. The groom is the son of Keith and Kathy Smith.

Mazer-Hublar



Kyleigh Erin Mazer and Joshua Daniel Hublar will be married on Oct. 22 at St. Mary Church in Lanesville. The bride is the daughter of Mark Mazer and Cynthia Weaver-Mazer. The groom is the son of Robert and Donna Hublar.

Molter-Avery



Rose Mary Molter and John Scott Avery II will be married on Oct. 22 at St. Malachy Church in Brownsburg. The bride is the daughter of Andrew and Mary Lu Molter. The groom is the son of John Scott Avery and Suzanne Avery Lee.

Pachciarz-James



Mary Catherine Pachciarz and Connor Joseph James will be married on Oct. 15 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Barry and Jamie Pachciarz. The groom is the son of Daniel James and Lonna Williams.

Pangburn-Minnick



Elizabeth Pangburn and Connor Minnick will be married on Oct. 22 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jeffery and Lynn Pangburn. The groom is the son of Tim and Jill Minnick.

Poliskey-Fehribach



Samantha Kate Poliskey and Joseph Fehribach were married on April 30 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jeffery Poliskey and the late Tammy Jessup. The groom is the son of Steve and Lauri Fehribach.

Ritman-Hawkins



Mallory Paige Ritman and Zachary Allen Hawkins will be married on Oct. 29 at Christ the King Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Thomas and Kathryn Ritman. The groom is the son of Troy and Gretchen Hawkins.

Settles-Burnside



Katie Marie Settles and Levi Walter Burnside were married on July 30 at St. Mary Church in Greensburg. The bride is the daughter of Matthew and Angela Settles. The groom is the son of Jason Burnside and Chastity Harley.

Steele-Pollard



Maggie Steele and Jacob Pollard will be married on Aug. 13 at St. Jude Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Tom and Patty Steele. The groom is the son of Louie and Jane Pollard.

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 Karen Stoll. The groom is the son of Shawn and Sue Long.

Thibault-Davis



Genevieve Marie Thibault and Gregory Allen Davis, Jr. will be married on Aug. 20 at St. Monica Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Lisa and the late Mike Thibault. The groom is the son of Greg Davis and Angel Mooney.

Wood-Neari



Marie Iaria Wood and Anthony Vincent Neari will be married on Aug. 27 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Brett Wood and Santina Iaria. The groom is the son of Paul and Debra Neari.

Wood-Sullivan



Sarah Rachel Wood and Drew Howard Sullivan were married on July 30 at St. Simon the Apostle Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of James and Andrea Wood. The groom is the son of Blake and Mary Sullivan.

Marriage retreat events set for Aug. 27 in Greenwood and Sept. 24 in Guilford

Criterion staff report

Two marriage-enrichment events 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 Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., in Greenwood, from 9 a.m.-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 content editor for the USCCB website on marriage; Father Daniel Bedel, director of spiritual formation at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis; Keith and Kathy Syberg, married 44 years and parents of seven, including Fathers Andrew and Benjamin Syberg; and Kelly and Eric Moster, 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. For questions, contact Marcy and Tom Renken at 317-489-1557 or info@celebratemarriageministry.com.

The second marriage-enrichment event is **"Laughter: the Sanity of the Family"** for married and engaged couples. It will take place at the St. John the Baptist Campus of All Saints Parish, 25743 State Route 1, in Guilford, from 7-9 p.m. on 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 812-576-4302 or email clairceck.asp@gmail.com.

Dr. Ray Guarendi

COURSES

continued from page 9

better to get to know other couples who are learning.

“And if they can’t find a class at a time that works for them, they can meet with an instructor one-on-one.”

A course has also been held at St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, and another will be offered at Our Lady of the Greenwood in October. Ross said her office is actively working with St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus to make the course available.

“Our gaze is on the whole archdiocese, and I’m so excited to build the culture of life in Spanish,” said Ross. “But for now, we want to make sure we’re well-planted and able to support what we have, 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.”

It’s that same culture that makes the need for NFP so important, especially with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, Ross observed.

“Abortion is at the forefront of the state, and we want to be part of that conversation in terms of NFP as an alternative to birth control,” she said.

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

“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.”

(For more information on natural family planning, go to www.archindy.org/nfp or www.archindy.org/nfp-espanol. The next four-session NFP course in Spanish will be held at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., in Greenwood, from 7-9:30 p.m. on Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25. The cost is \$75 per couple. To register, call or text Claudia Corona at 317-800-9306 or e-mail her at ccorona@archindy.org.) †

NaPro: managing fertility based on principles of *Humanae Vitae*

Criterion staff report

Natural Procreative Technology, or NaPro Technology, is an approach to understanding women’s reproductive health and regulating fertility by identifying and treating the underlying causes of problems, not just symptoms.

It was developed on the principals of Pope Paul VI’s 1968 encyclical, “*Humanae Vitae*” (“On Human Life”). NaPro Technology uses natural methods and surgery to treat underlying problems with the help of information gathered using the Creighton Model of natural family planning.

The method provides solutions to infertility, menstrual cramps, premenstrual syndrome, ovarian cysts, irregular bleeding, polycystic ovarian disease, repetitive miscarriage, postpartum depression,

prematurity prevention, hormonal abnormalities and more.

Local providers include:

- Dr. Casey Delcoco, Magnificat Family Medicine, LLC, Indianapolis, 317-306-5588
- Dr. Michael Padilla, Franciscan FertilityCare Center, 610 E. Southport Road, Suite 205, Indianapolis, 317-781-7370
- Dr. Holly N. Smith, Ascension Medical Group, Fishers, Ind., 317-415-6110, holly.smith4@ascension.org
- Dr. Bill Blanke, Integrity Family Physicians, Evansville, 812-491-3236
- Dr. Jason Mattingly, Mercy Health-West Hospital, Cincinnati, 513-981-5922

For more about NaPro Technology, go to naprotechnology.com. †

PFN

continúa de la página 9

inscritas en el curso de certificación de la CCL para convertirse en instructores de PFN en español en la Arquidiócesis.

“Estas parejas ya colaboraban activamente en sus parroquias y en el ministerio,” expresó Ross. “Son líderes, y les reconozco el mérito de ser misioneros en sus parroquias para transmitir el mensaje de que esta [la PFN] es una expresión del amor conyugal. Gracias a esta cambió mi vida y mi matrimonio; y sin duda podemos ayudarles.”

El primer curso de PFN patrocinado por la Arquidiócesis se celebró en Nuestra Señora de Greenwood en abril.

Las parejas estaban “muy agradecidas” de conocer el método

sintotérmico en español, dijo Corona.

“Los comentarios de las evaluaciones decían que el curso estaba bien organizado, que el tema se trataba con respeto, que los facilitadores eran amables y simpáticos, y que la instrucción era clara,” afirmó.

El padre Goodson estuvo de acuerdo y señaló que las parejas estaban “gratamente sorprendidas al descubrir que [la PFN] es beneficiosa y útil.”

El curso consta de cuatro sesiones una vez por semana, materiales, un libro, un termómetro, tres sesiones personales con el instructor y una suscripción de un año a la aplicación de CCL. El precio del curso es \$75; el mismo curso en línea en español cuesta actualmente \$135.

“Es mejor hacer el curso en grupo,” apuntó Corona con respecto a la ventaja de las sesiones presenciales. “Es positivo

conocer a otras parejas que están aprendiendo. Y si no encuentran una clase en un horario que les convenga, pueden reunirse individualmente con un instructor.”

También se ha impartido un curso en la Parroquia de Santa Mónica de Indianápolis, y se ofrecerá otro en Nuestra Señora de Greenwood en octubre. Ross dijo que su oficina está trabajando activamente con la Parroquia de San José en Shelbyville y la Parroquia de San Bartolomé en Columbus para poner el curso a disposición de estas comunidades.

“Nuestra mirada está puesta en toda la Arquidiócesis, y me hace mucha ilusión construir la cultura de la vida en español,” aseguró Ross. “Pero por ahora, queremos asegurarnos de que estamos bien plantados y somos capaces de

mantener lo que tenemos, ver cómo va y crecer a partir de ahí.”

Aun así, anima a quien esté interesado en que su comunidad de fe ofrezca un curso de PFN en español a que “hable con su párroco y vea si puede invitarnos a llevar las clases a la parroquia, y colaborar con ellos para llevarlas a la práctica.”

El padre Goodson se siente agradecido de que él y sus hermanos sacerdotes tengan ahora un recurso para que las parejas hispanas (comprometidas o casadas) aprendan sobre la planificación familiar natural.

“La enseñanza de la Iglesia es que las parejas casadas deben estar abiertas a la vida y no usar anticonceptivos,” afirmó. “En una cultura en la que los métodos anticonceptivos son la norma, las parejas deben recibir información sobre la enseñanza de la Iglesia para que puedan tomar las decisiones adecuadas.”

Es esa misma cultura la que refuerza la necesidad de la planificación familiar natural, especialmente ante la anulación del caso *Roe v. Wade*, observó Ross.

“El tema del aborto está en primera plana en el estado, y deseamos formar parte de la mesa de diálogo y plantear la PFN como alternativa para el control de la natalidad,” expresó.

“La perspectiva de los legisladores es que si el aborto ya no es una opción, entonces se debe brindar más acceso a los métodos anticonceptivos.

“Ahora es muy buen momento para hablar de la planificación familiar natural en Indiana y en la Iglesia. Así como también para difundir el mensaje de que el curso existe, que es accesible y que tenemos opciones en inglés y en español.

“Debemos cambiar la narrativa y demostrar que ya no existe un vacío en cuanto a la planificación familiar natural en español.”

(Para más información sobre la planificación familiar natural, visite www.archindy.org/nfp o www.archindy.org/nfp-espanol. El próximo curso de cuatro sesiones de PFN en español se llevará a cabo en la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Greenwood, 335 S. Meridian St., en Greenwood, de 7:00 a 9:30 p.m. los días 4, 11, 18 y 25 de octubre. El precio es \$75 por pareja. Para inscribirse, llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a Claudia Corona al 317-800-9306 o envíe un correo electrónico a ccorona@archindy.org.) †



Detrás de sus alumnos, los facilitadores del curso de planificación familiar natural (PFN), Georgina Villaseñor (izquierda), Ernesto Villaseñor y Mireya Ramírez, instruyen a José Pérez (izquierda), Carolina Pérez, María García y Alberto Ambrosio durante el primer curso de planificación familiar natural en español de la Arquidiócesis en la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Greenwood en abril. (Foto enviada)

God calls married couples to be more than just roommates

By Marcy Renken

Special to *The Criterion*

Have you ever heard the phrase “living like roommates?” Specifically, I’m referring to this phrase used to describe the way my husband and I were living earlier in our marriage.



Tom had his first job as a software engineer after college, and I was finishing my degree in economics. Our closest family was 900 miles away. We were busy with our toddler, college, work, home remodeling, church choir, and I was playing trumpet in three music groups. We were too busy to live our marriage as one, the way

God intended in Genesis 2:24.

We kept track of who did more and when. “I’m not doing the laundry one more time until I see Tom put his own clothes in the hamper.” It’s supposed to be fair, right? We would each give our 50% and it would all work out. We treated our marriage like a contract.

A big life change was just what we needed to have a better marriage, a better life.

After we had been married for about five years, we moved closer to my family. We became angry more often and bitter toward each other. Relocating seemed

to highlight our challenges even more and brought in new tensions we had never experienced.

We had been married in the Catholic Church, had a sponsor couple and attended a Tobit weekend. But we still missed the point. We had a relationship, but we weren’t being vulnerable to each other. We couldn’t even have a conversation about faith or money without being at odds, so we rarely tried. We either weren’t comfortable sharing all our struggles or we didn’t quite remember how to share in a healthy way, the way we were shown during marriage prep.

I grew tired of the tension and stumbled upon a weekend retreat called Worldwide Marriage Encounter. During that weekend, Tom shared his flaws and weaknesses and allowed me to accept all of him. I took off my disguises and he accepted me, too.

In the moments of our own weakness, we were each accepted and loved completely for being our broken selves—the way Christ loves. This is the *agape* love mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13 and read aloud at many weddings. It’s a selfless love, the love that gives and doesn’t keep score.

The secrets, loneliness, struggles, depression and excuses we had been carrying were exposed. We found a healthy way to communicate through dialogue. We began to heal from wounds that many couples end their marriage over. God was very clearly calling us to put HIM at the center, to live our marriage as one, to live

the covenant he created with us.

The transformation in our marriage lit a spark within us. We began to understand our marriage as a vocation which impacts others around us. In our marriage, we can bring others to Christ.

Pope Francis once said, “Few human joys are as deep and thrilling as those experienced by two people who love one another and have achieved something as a result of a great, shared effort.”

We’ve now been married 20 years and have five wonderful children, so far. Do we still have struggles? Absolutely, and that’s OK! “I can do all things in him who strengthens me” (Phil 4:13). God continues to transform us.

When he was associate pastor at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, Father Michael Keucher said in one of his homilies, “If you’re not growing, you’re dying.”

Take time to nurture your marriage and watch it grow! Attend a marriage retreat or conference. Start a couples’ Bible study. Do something to enrich your marriage. If you need more suggestions, let Tom and me know. We are on fire for marriage!

(Marcy Renken, a parishioner of Our Lady of the Greenwood in Greenwood, leads the Celebrate Marriage ministry with her husband Tom. The annual Celebrate Marriage Conference the ministry presents will be held on Aug. 27. Learn more at CelebrateMarriageMinistry.com.) †

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 also submit an announcement if their engagement announcement was not published in *The Criterion*.

The wedding announcement form is available online at www.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 e-mail to alewis@archindy.org. Digital 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. †

Retreats prepare engaged couples for marriage, website helps with planning Catholic weddings

Three marriage preparation programs offered in the archdiocese—the Pre-Cana Conference, Tobit Weekend and One in Christ—help prepare engaged couples for the sacrament of marriage as well as the challenges of married life.

Early registration is recommended for all programs, as each fills up quickly.

Pre-Cana Conferences cover skills for marriage, a catechesis on the sacrament of marriage and an introduction to the science and morals behind natural family planning. Except for in the New Albany Deanery, Pre-Cana Conferences are ordinarily offered in English and Spanish and take place on two consecutive Saturdays from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. each day on the campus of a host parish. The cost is \$135 per couple. Register at www.archindy.org/precana. The schedule for 2022-2023 outside of the New Albany Deanery is:

- Sept. 17 and 24, 2022, in English, at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 89 N. 17th St., Beech Grove.

- April 15 and 22, 2023, in English, at Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7225 Southeastern Ave., Indianapolis.

In the New Albany Deanery, Pre-Cana Conferences are one Saturday from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 100 St. Anthony Dr., in Mt. St. Francis. The cost is \$125 per couple. Register at catalystcatholic.org/precana. The schedule for 2022-2023 is Oct. 22, 2022; Feb. 4, 2023; and Oct. 21, 2023.

For more information about the program, call the archdiocesan Marriage and Family Life Office at 317-236-1521.

Tobit Weekend retreats take place at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, and

are offered in English. The cost is \$298, which includes program materials, meals, snacks and two rooms for two nights.

The next retreat is on Sept. 16-18. The 2023 schedule is Jan. 13-15, April 28-30, June 23-25 and Sept. 15-17.

To register, go to cutt.ly/TobitRetreat. For questions about registering, contact Jennifer Burger at jburger@archindy.org or 317-545-7681. For more information about the program and its contents, contact Cheryl McSweeney at cmcsweeney@archindy.org or 317-545-7681, ext. 106.

One in Christ marriage preparation, which includes a medical panel to address questions on reproduction and fertility, is a three-day program spanning a weekend and the following Saturday. The first day of the program is 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., the second day is 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and the third day is 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The cost is \$250 per couple, which covers meals and materials.

The next retreat is scheduled for Oct. 8, 9 and 15 at St. Malachy Parish, 7410 N. County Road 1000 East, in Brownsburg.

To register, go to oicindy.com/seminar-registration. For more information call 317-600-5629, e-mail info@OICIndy.com or go to www.OICIndy.com.

To help engaged couples marrying in the Catholic Church, the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life website offers links in English and Spanish to a site that answers questions and offers tips for planning a Catholic wedding.

From budgeting advice to ideas for keeping a wedding faith-focused, the site helps engaged couples marrying in the Church to plan a wedding that keeps God, faith and love at the center of the big day.

To access the site, go to cutt.ly/CatholicWeddings. †

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 7243 E. 10th St., en Indianápolis, de 7 a 9 p.m. el 29 de agosto.

De La Torre es un consumado orador, escritor y líder de la Iglesia que actualmente trabaja en evangelización y discipulado para la Arquidiócesis de Detroit. La ponencia se centrará en la experiencia de la presencia de Jesús en la Sagrada Eucaristía.

El evento, patrocinado por el Ministerio Hispano de la Arquidiócesis y la Oficina de Catequesis, incluirá un refrigerio liviano. Los asistentes también tendrán la oportunidad de recibir una medalla bendecida y un catecismo actual.

La presentación es gratuita, pero se aceptan donaciones voluntarias.

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Saúl Llaesa, coordinador arquidiocesano del Ministerio Hispano, en el 317-236-1443 o en sllacsa@archindy.org. †

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

Dr. Marlon De La Torre will present on “Encountering God in the Eucharist” in Spanish at Holy Spirit Parish, 7243 E. 10th St., in Indianapolis, from 7-9 p.m. on Aug. 29.

De La Torre is an accomplished speaker, writer and Church leader currently working in evangelization and discipleship for the Archdiocese of Detroit. She will focus on experiencing Jesus in the holy Eucharist.

The event, sponsored by the archdiocese’s Hispanic Ministry and Office of Catechesis, will include light refreshments. Attendees will also have an opportunity to receive a blessed medal and a current catechism.

There is no cost for the presentation; but a freewill offering will be accepted.

For more information, contact Saul Llaesa at 317-236-1443 or sllacsa@archindy.org. †

Hispanic young adult retreat will take place in Beech Grove on Aug. 26-28

A retreat for Hispanic young adults ages 18-35 will take place at the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., in Beech Grove, from 6 p.m. on Aug. 26 through 6 p.m. on Aug. 28.

The retreat will be lead by Iskali, 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 Llaesa, archdiocesan coordinator of Hispanic Ministry, at 347-997-2474 or sllacsa@archindy.org. †

La Arquidiócesis finaliza el informe del sínodo

Reportaje del personal del *The Criterion*

Como preparación para la reunión del Sínodo mundial de los Obispos de octubre de 2023 en el Vaticano, la Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis ha completado su informe sobre el proceso de escucha del sínodo 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 de todo el mundo, como preparación para el Sínodo de los Obispos de 2023. El tema de debate de dicho Sínodo será la sinodalidad misma, es decir, de qué manera los fieles están llamados a contribuir a guiar la vida de la Iglesia mediante la escucha atenta en la oración y compartir sus propios pensamientos.

El Papa Francisco señaló que el tema del sínodo, “Por una Iglesia sinodal: comunión, participación y misión” brinda la oportunidad de ayudar a los católicos de todo el mundo—fieles laicos, religiosos y clérigos—a experimentar lo que significa reunirse para discernir, con la ayuda del Espíritu Santo, cómo la Iglesia está llamada a vivir su misión en

este momento de la historia.

“Aunque el Sínodo sobre la sinodalidad es un momento especial para nuestra Iglesia, como lo son todos los sínodos, este tema forma parte de la historia y la identidad de la Iglesia desde hace mucho tiempo,” expresó el arzobispo Charles C. Thompson. “La noción de sinodalidad tiene que ver con un proceso de oración, escucha, diálogo, acompañamiento, encuentro y discernimiento del movimiento del Espíritu Santo en la vida y la misión del pueblo de Dios. Todos y cada uno de los miembros bautizados de la Iglesia están llamados al discipulado misionero, a participar en la vida y la misión de la Iglesia.”



Arzobispo Charles C. Thompson

A través del proceso sinodal, continuó el Arzobispo, la Iglesia “busca el respeto mutuo, la comprensión, la reconciliación y un camino hacia el futuro como pueblo peregrino en la fe, la esperanza y la caridad». Este es un proceso para la Iglesia a nivel local, nacional y universal. La Iglesia, el cuerpo de Cristo, abarca un mosaico variopinto de pueblos, culturas,

lenguas y costumbres. Al tiempo que permanecemos vigilantes, debemos estar abiertos a la revelación divina a través de la palabra, los sacramentos y el servicio.”

Como parte de la preparación del sínodo, se encuestó a los católicos del centro y sur de Indiana para que respondieran preguntas sobre la vida de la Iglesia local. Los aportes se recibieron de diversas fuentes: una encuesta en línea de la Arquidiócesis, el consejo pastoral arquidiocesano, los consejos pastorales de las parroquias, los jóvenes adultos, los católicos hispanos, los que participan en las escuelas católicas y los líderes de las comunidades cristianas y de otras comunidades de fe del centro y el sur de Indiana.

“En mis más de 25 años de trabajo relacionado con la Iglesia, he comprobado que somos una Iglesia que escucha mucho más de lo que mucha gente cree,” comentó el director de catequesis de la Arquidiócesis, Ken Ogorek, quien coordinó el proceso sinodal arquidiocesano. “Eso no significa que todas las ideas lleguen a buen puerto. Este último proceso de preparación para el sínodo es un gran ejemplo de que el pueblo de Dios escucha, discierne, informa y aguarda, como nuestra Santísima Madre, el siguiente paso de Dios.”

El arzobispo Thompson estuvo de acuerdo.

“La eficacia del proceso de sinodalidad depende de la participación de quienes están dispuestos a entablar una relación de oración y sincera entre ellos,” aseguró. “La Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis ha sido bendecida con increíbles clérigos, religiosos y laicos en todo el centro y sur de Indiana. Es una mesa donde todos tienen cabida. Que Dios siga renovando nuestros corazones y nuestras mentes, llevando a término el bien que se ha iniciado en el camino de la salvación.”

A continuación, una sinopsis de los aspectos más destacados del informe:

- Nosotros, (la Arquidiócesis) pedimos, y recibimos, muchos pensamientos y sentimientos sinceros sobre la Iglesia, tanto a nivel local como en todo el mundo.

- El informe de síntesis es un punto de partida, no el final. En él se resume una gran cantidad de información y ahora puede utilizarse para la planificación pastoral en una variedad de entornos.

- Escuchar a los demás mientras caminamos con Cristo hacia una manifestación más plena del reino de Dios es un proceso continuo. Nuestra experiencia de preparación para el sínodo local se basa en esfuerzos anteriores y sienta las bases para un diálogo, un acompañamiento y una colaboración adicionales. †

SYNOD

continued from page 1

vigilant, we must remain open to divine revelation through word, sacrament and service.”

As part of the synod preparation, Catholics across central and southern Indiana were surveyed to answer questions about the life of the local Church. Input was collected from multiple sources: an archdiocesan online survey, the archdiocesan pastoral council, parish pastoral councils, young adults, Hispanic Catholics, those involved in Catholic schools and leaders of Christian and other faith communities in central and southern Indiana.

“In my 25-plus years of Church-related work, I’ve

found that we’re much more of a listening Church than many folks realize,” said archdiocesan director of catechesis Ken Ogorek, who coordinated the archdiocese’s synodal process. “That doesn’t mean that every idea comes to fruition. This most recent synod preparation process is a great example of God’s people listening, discerning, reporting and waiting—like our Blessed Mother—for God’s next step.”

Archbishop Thompson agreed.

“The process of synodality is only as effective as the participation of those willing to engage in prayerful, sincere relationship with one another,” he said. “The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is blessed with incredible clergy, religious and laity throughout central and southern Indiana. There is a place at the table for everyone. May

God continue to renew our hearts and minds, bringing to completion the good that has begun in the journey of salvation.”

Here is a synopsis of the highlights of the report:

- We (the archdiocese) asked for, and received, many heartfelt thoughts and feelings about the Church locally as well as throughout the world.

- The synthesis report is a beginning, not an end. It summarizes a large amount of input and can now be used for pastoral planning in a variety of settings.

- Listening to each other while journeying with Christ toward a fuller manifestation of God’s kingdom is an ongoing process. Our local synod preparation experience builds on prior efforts and sets the stage for additional dialogue, accompaniment and collaboration. †

COUPLE

continued from page 1

“We’d known each other almost all our lives,” she said.

But one night, something changed.

“It was about a week or so after Hubert got out of the army” after World War II, Eulalae recalled. “We met at a country dance hall.

“It was almost love at first sight when I saw him. He came up and asked me to dance, and oh boy, that’s all she wrote!”

Hubert recalled being attracted to her personality “and too many other things to count.”

The couple dated about nine months before Hubert finally popped the question.

“He asked me to join the Church so he could marry me. I decided that was my

proposal,” Eulalae said with a laugh.

But she didn’t become Catholic just to marry Hubert. Rather, she fully embraced the faith.

“I thought it was something to be really proud of and help you live the way you should,” said Eulalae. “I think it gave me more purpose in life.”

That life began each day with the Huberts offering prayers and saying the rosary in the morning.

From there, it was non-stop work. Hubert was a welder in a shipyard in Tell City along the Ohio River, while Eulalae raised the children—cooking and cleaning for nine. After the last of their seven children started school, she worked in a production factory.

‘The fondest memory’

But the labor the Hagedorns loved most was working their 190-acre farm as

a family. There were crops to plant and harvest. They cultivated a garden to feed a family of nine with fresh or canned produce year-round and raised “every kind of animal you can think of,” said Eulalae.

“We’re very simple people,” she said. “I think the fondest memory we share was working together on the farm. There was plenty of work for everyone, and everyone had their responsibilities.

“That work ethic taught our children that you don’t get anything handed to you. You have to work for it.”

Becky recalled her mom being “probably one of the best cooks in Perry County,” and a wonderful seamstress as well.

“I made my kids’ clothes,” said Eulalae. “One thing I sewed that I’m most proud of was when my daughter was prom queen and I made her prom dress.”

When Hubert and Eulalae weren’t busy with work, the farm or the children, they could be found volunteering at St. Mark.

“Dad served on the parish council. He was on the cemetery committee for more than 20 years, and he was in the Holy Name Men’s Society,” said Becky.

“My mom was a member of the Ladies’ Altar Society. She was always contributing for funeral meals and did her fair share of serving them.”

It wasn’t until the pandemic hit that Eulalae gave up her role as head cook for the parish’s annual chili supper, said Becky.

“I don’t know how long she did that—a long time,” she said. “She took half her kitchen to the church in September, and weeks before that she would start gathering utensils and prepping for the supper.

“I never knew a time when Mom and Dad weren’t active.”

“I didn’t let grass grow under my feet,” Eulalae admitted. “And Hubert was a hard-working man.”

‘Follow the Golden Rule’

Little has changed for the Hagedorns. They have lived in the same home for

75 years—“with a few additions,” Becky added. They still have a vegetable garden, but just for two now instead of nine.

And they still start each day with prayer—“morning prayers for all the family, and a rosary for the good of the family,” said Eulalae. “It’s just part of our life.”

With the Hagedorn’s love for their family and faith, nothing else suited them more for celebrating their 75th anniversary than gathering with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren for Mass and a party at St. Mark. Family came from as far as North Carolina and Washington, D.C.

“I’m very proud of what they’ve done for us all and what they made out of us,” said their oldest son Edward Hagedorn, who served at the Mass honoring his parents’ anniversary. “They taught us the right way to do things, and with seven kids that’s hard to do. The work ethic we were taught was to do your share of the load. I still live by that.”

Becky agreed.

“They have taught us to help people without expecting anything in return,” she said. “I saw them do that at church, with Mom’s devotion to the auxiliary and Dad serving so long on the cemetery committee.”

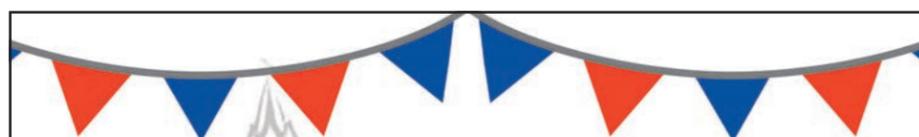
Even the third generation of Hagedorns see the generosity of their grandparents.

“They are amazing and just so special, very selfless and giving,” said the Hagedorn’s granddaughter, Leslie Miles. “They love all of their family—Grandma knows about what’s going on with all of us! It’s just so heartwarming, seeing them together for 75 years.”

How has the couple succeeded in their three-quarters-of-a-century marriage?

“Faith and love for each other is what kept us going,” said Eulalae. “And you have to give and take. It’s not ‘I want all’ or ‘you do all.’”

For Hubert, the answer is simple: “Follow the Golden Rule—treat each other like you want to be treated.” †



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The Criterion honored as nation's best weekly Catholic newspaper

Criterion staff report

For the first time in its history, *The Criterion* won the highest award presented by the Catholic Media Association of the United States and Canada (CMA) for its work in 2021.

Judges honored the archdiocesan publication with the first-place national award for the "Best Weekly Newspaper with a staff of six or more" people during the annual CMA conference on July 7 in Portland, Ore.

"I like the vibrant, youthful feel of this newspaper! Even aside from the special coverage of NCYC [the National Catholic Youth Conference] there is a lot of coverage of youth and young families, and the cover photos exude youthfulness and energy—very positive!" judges wrote. "The format is welcoming [portable]. There is a good variety of news and opinion."

Staff members cited for their work by the CMA include Mike Krokos, John Shaughnessy, Sean Gallagher, Natalie Hoefler, Brandon A. Evans and Ann Lewis.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, who is the publisher of *The Criterion*, congratulated the staff for winning the best newspaper award and noted the work of the Catholic press is needed now more than ever.

"Our culture needs the voice provided by our staff and other Catholic journalists. Their mission includes spreading the good news of the Gospel, and these powerful and transforming stories are often overlooked by the secular media," said Archbishop Thompson. "We're grateful to be able to serve the people of central and southern Indiana by reporting on the local Church, as well as bringing them news of the Church from around the world."

All told, *The Criterion* won 20 press awards from the CMA, Woman's Press Club of Indiana (WPCI) and National Federation of Press Women (NFPW) for the 2021 calendar year.

CMA awards

Staff writer Natalie Hoefler 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 New Albany, who is a motivational speaker advocating for employment of those with disabilities.

"The writer does an excellent job of conveying their subject's humility and

grace," judges wrote. "Employing the perfect amount of secondary sources gives the personality profile added dimension."

Assistant editor John Shaughnessy won a first-place award for "Best Sports Journalism—Sports Feature or Column" for his story, "Faith, family and Seton community help small school star live his NBA dream."

The article profiled Desmond Bane, a Richmond native and graduate of Seton Catholic High School in Richmond, and his journey to playing professional basketball for the Memphis Grizzlies.

"Very compelling story and well-written profile. Great work by the writer of capturing Bane's humility, faith and focus and dedication to his family," judges noted. "Especially enjoyed the anecdote of Bane returning to his old neighborhood to play hoops with neighborhood kids. These moments are defining."

In the same category, Shaughnessy also captured second place for his sports column, "A special Father's Day gift comes with a catch—from God."

The piece reflected on the gift of a baseball glove given to the author by his children on Father's Day and the lifetime of memories it brought back.

"Absolutely loved this column," a judge wrote. "The descriptive personal writing brought out an array of emotions in me, the reader. The simple baseball glove and how it can create memories that last a lifetime. Kudos, Mr. Shaughnessy, for the trip down memory lane."

Hoefler was awarded third place for Best Reporting of Social Justice Issues—Call to Family, Community and Participation, for her story "Hispanic Family Camp offers 'a chance to encounter Jesus' and improve families," which focused on a camping event in Brown County for Spanish-speaking Catholics.

"The story was unique and well written," judges said. "I enjoyed reading about the camp and the participants' faith formation."

Shaughnessy received third place recognition in the "Best Personality Profile—weekly newspaper with a staff of six or more," for his story, "Even a frightening threat didn't stop Joan Hess from sharing God's light in people's darkness." It highlighted the outreach the retiring director of Catholic Charities Tell City provided to residents of the southwestern Indiana town for many years.

"This is a well-drawn portrayal of how one woman made a specific difference," judges noted. "The writer's use of significant detail about the ways God moved in this woman's work help build the picture of her attitude toward helping others."

Shaughnessy also earned a third place award in the "Best Reporting on a Special Age-Group—Senior Citizen" category for his story "Bill Farney refuses to slow down, setting a pace to make the most of his life."

The piece profiled the 90-year-old volunteer, a member of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis, who continues to give back to the community.

"This is a beautifully written piece that captures the subject's dedication to service and zest for life and sharing his life with others," judges noted. "This piece is informative and fun to read while revealing the subject's dedication to service and zest for life and sharing his life with others."

Shaughnessy also received third place recognition for "Best Reporting on a Special-Age Group—Young adults ages 18-40" category for his series, "Finding a Home, Living the Faith."

The stories included: "The coolest thing": 'In a life of adventures, a young woman finds the best place to savor her great joys,' a feature on the faith journey of Tekla Bidwell, a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis; "I could trust everything with him": 'A mother's advice and the eyes of faith help a young adult find his path to God,' a profile of Saul Llasca, who leads the archdiocese's Office of Hispanic Ministry; and "Why are You Catholic?": A question leads a couple to a deeper bond with Christ, the Church and each other," an article about Sean and Paige Hussey and how faith has become the centerpiece of their marriage.

"Beautiful stories that show the importance of knowing why you are Catholic and how your faith plays a part in your life," judges said.

Editor Mike Krokos received a third-place award in the "Best Editorial on a National or International Issue—weekly newspaper with a staff of six or more," for "Words and our response to ongoing civil rest," which reflected on the Jan. 6, 2021, storming of the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

"While occasionally given over to cliché," the judges wrote, "this ethos-driven appeal to civility makes an insightful case for personal conversion as one solution to the broad problems of American partisanship."

In the same category, editorial writer Daniel Conway received honorable mention recognition for his piece "The path to unity, one step at a time." The editorial reflected on how deeply divided the Church in the U.S. was at the beginning of 2021 and how it needed to work to find the common ground that Catholics—and all Americans—could build on in troubled times.

Hoefler received honorable mention recognition in the "Best Regular Column—Spiritual Life" category for her monthly column "Love's Litmus."

Freelancer Katie Rutter, who is a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington and does work for *The Criterion* and other Catholic organizations, received Honorable Mention for "Best Reporting on Vocations to Priesthood, Religious Life



The Criterion received the first-place national award for the Best Weekly Newspaper with a staff of six or more people from the Catholic Media Association of the United States and Canada during its annual conference on July 7 in Portland.

or Diaconate—Series" with Catholic News Service staffer Carol Zimmerman for their package on vocations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WPCI awards

The recognition for work completed during the 2021 calendar year began in June when Hoefler was honored by the Woman'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—Religion:** "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 resentful;"
- **Photographer-writer:** contributed five articles and 10 photos to team coverage of 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.

Hoefler's second-place WPCI entry was:

- **Personality Profile:** "Advocate with Down syndrome promotes employment for 'friends like me.'" "

NFPW awards

Hoefler'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 resentful."
- **Honorable Mention—Photographer-writer:** contributed five articles and 10 photos to team coverage of National Catholic Youth Conference.
- **Honorable Mention—Specialty Articles, History:** "One-room Navilleton schoolhouse museum brings memories of the past to life." †

Staff of The Criterion



Mike Krokos



John Shaughnessy



Sean Gallagher



Natalie Hoefler



Brandon A. Evans



Ann Lewis



Daniel Conway (Editorial Board)



Katie Rutter (Freelancer)

Pastoral Ministries/Pearlette Springer

Eucharistic humanity: We are the one body of Christ

In June, we kicked off a three-year National Eucharistic Revival in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis with Masses at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral and a eucharistic procession from the cathedral to St. John the Evangelist Church. This public display of our faith took place across the United States. Catholics and non-



Catholics alike stood witnessing as the Eucharist traveled through the streets of our country.

In his Second Letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul reminds us, "... we hold this treasure earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body" (2 Cor 4:7-10).

In other words, the Eucharist is more than the consecrated host, more than the real presence of Christ. It consumes the person who partakes at the table. St. Paul implies that there is another public display of the Eucharist that we see every day: He speaks of us and to us as members and followers of Christ—members and partakers of the body of Christ.

We are the Eucharist, broken and shared in community and within our society. But how do we live out this call to 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 live our faith through prayer, study and action.

If we look at our society today through the lens of our Catholic faith, there is no shortage of issues that need action, no shortage of minds that need to be transformed and no shortage of hearts that need to be healed.

Through the years, I have found that the best way to live the faith and be the Eucharist is through the lens of Catholic social teaching. The basic themes are interwoven, carrying the same message that leads us to live a moral life that is inclusive of all of God's creation. Each of the themes carry the message of life and dignity of every human person. The message is that human life is sacred and is the foundation of our society. We are not a society without the human person, the sacred human life.

As St. Paul explains in his First Letter to the Corinthians, "As a body is one though it has many parts ... if one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it" (1 Cor 12:12, 26).

In our call to family, community and participation, the family is the core foundation of the Church and society. The community is the extension of the core. As members of this one family, we are called to fully participate in its survival.

As a community, we have the collective rights and responsibilities for the parts of the body that are weaker.

We are also called to the solidarity of humanity. Are we not all a creation of the one God, along with the other creatures that roam the Earth, the sky, and the waters? And the plants and the trees that nourish the air in which we breathe?

In our eucharistic humanity, as creatures of the Creator, our call is to work in solidarity, to stand up for those who live on the margins of our society and of our Church. As St. Paul states in his First Letter to the Corinthians, "Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another" (1 Cor 12:22-25).

As a eucharistic community, let us move forward collectively and work toward caring for those considered the weakest part of the body, caring for those considered the less honorable parts.

Let us live out our faith where we live, work, pray and play and move forward collectively, addressing the needs of our brothers and sisters, remembering we are the one body of Christ.

(Pearlette Springer is the coordinator of Black Catholic Ministry in the archdiocese. She can be reached at pspringer@archindy.org.) †

Twenty Something/

Christina Capecchi

Following the path of inspiration

During his down time at work, a Minnesota surgeon often browses the *New Yorker* in the hospital library. One day, he spotted its famed cartoon caption contest—a caption-less cartoon that calls on readers to submit captions and then vote on their favorites, to be published in the following issue of the magazine.



The fun is trying to explain an oddity or the juxtaposition of two disparate elements in a single sentence. The contest generates some 5,000 to 10,000 entries a week. And this doctor was intrigued by the cartoon he saw: a husband and wife lying in bed behind prison bars.

"I stared at the cartoon for several minutes and typed a few duds," he wrote. "Then I was called to start a surgery and, literally, in those few seconds before I logged off, the caption came to me."

He typed: "How about we just stay in tonight?" The caption won the contest.

What happened in the span of those three or four seconds? Inspiration struck.

As a Catholic journalist, I have always been fascinated by that Eureka moment. I often ask people to describe the scene in detail: room, time of day, beverage at hand, music in the background. There's something satisfying about painting a picture, pinning down the elements when the elusive experience occurred.

A prosecutor told me he sets his alarm for 4 a.m. and makes Cuban coffee so he can write fiction before his kids wake up. His preferred method: paper and pen.

"This morning, right after my prayer, this story I've been thinking about for 18 months just kind of came together," he said. What made it click?

"Who knows?" he said. "I like to think it was grace and a bit of the Holy Spirit."

The late novelist John Hassler found it helpful to read his old journals. "Between novels," he said, "I will browse through my 30 years of journal entries looking for topics to write about, and this, together with my memory and imagination, produces the fiction."

A chemist described the central role of his Catholic faith when he's stuck in a science experiment. "Then I turn to God for guidance and I am amazed," he said. "Things start to click in my head and problems are solved."

Movement can shake out a new idea, getting outside your head or your office.

"I get some of my best ideas in the morning when I'm thinking in the shower, rubbing my scalp," an artistic director told me.

Unloading the dishwasher helps me. My fingers are free from the keyboard, but my mind keeps turning an idea.

Undertaking a different creative endeavor—especially one that doesn't involve a deadline or any degree of mastery—can get the juices flowing. Einstein called this tactic "combinatory play"—the act of opening up one mental channel by experimenting in another. That's why he'd play the violin when he was struggling to solve a mathematical puzzle. It worked.

This underscores the Catholic belief that the body, mind and soul are intimately connected. We can spark one by tapping into another. And the health of one dimension often leads to the health of another. A long walk, a clearer mind. An active prayer life, lower blood pressure.

Reflecting on creativity fills me with hope. We are creative beings, made in the image and likeness of the Creator. We are capable of beautiful things. And a brilliant new idea may arrive any second.

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

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. His curly hair flopped down in his face, he wore ill-fitting clothing, and when he went to check in, I saw the ankle monitor bracelet around his leg. He plopped down in a seat just a few away from where I was seated. He looked so dejected and alone. I studied his face which hung low, eyes focused on the floor. He didn't look like a bad kid really. He just looked to me like someone who made a bad mistake and is now paying for it.

Little by little, I started feeling this nagging inkling that I should say something to him. But that was absurd. I didn't know

him, and I was pretty sure he wouldn't be interested in what some middle-aged suburban mom had to say.

For the next 10-15 minutes, an internal struggle raged in my brain. Should I say something encouraging to him? What would I say? How would he take it? I imagined he would think I was crazy, or worse, butting into his business. I tried to subdue that nagging voice in my head. But every few minutes, I would glance his way and feel such an overwhelming need to encourage him. It was probably just the mom in me.

As the minutes ticked away, I felt my opportunity fading. Surely, the nurse would soon call my name. If I was going to say something to him, I needed to conjure the words now.

Silently, I asked God to give me the courage to speak up, along with the right words. The nurse opened the door and called my name. I started walking to her, and all at once, I asked her to wait a minute. I turned back to the young man,

looked in eyes peeking through his curly hair, and I said, "I don't know why you have to wear that ankle bracelet, but I want you to know that you are not the sum total of your mistakes. You have the opportunity to wake up each morning and make a better life for yourself." His eyes were trained on mine as he lifted his mop-head. Teary-eyed, he sincerely said, "thank you." I walked on to my appointment.

Honestly, I was a little shocked at the words that sprung forth from me, so I know without a doubt that the words weren't mine, but from Jesus. I have no idea what effect my words will have on him. I doubt I'll ever lay eyes on him again. But I left that day thanking the Lord for nudging me to speak up, and I couldn't help but wonder how many times I have felt nudged, only to cower or ignore God's urging.

It also got me to pondering mistakes, mistakes I have made in my past and how I responded to them. Mistakes my own kids have made and how my husband and I have tried to parent them through the consequences of their actions.

Even when I made poor choices in my past, I never felt God loved me less. And when it came to my children making mistakes, I always wanted them to know how much God and I loved them despite their actions.

Personally, I'm a sucker for a good redemption story. It made me once again grateful for God's unending mercy. I thought back to the words I shared with that young man—we are not the sum total of our mistakes. God gives us the opportunity every day to better ourselves and our lives.

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

Our Works of Charity/David Bethuram

Celebrate 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 burden of our aging population, and the negative changes we face as we age.

At Catholic Charities, we celebrate families and value the distinct roles each

member of the family plays. Of course, it is not surprising that we focus on

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 guide, not just to their grandchildren but to their own adult children, their extended family and their community.

Businesses are recognizing and embracing the importance of intergenerational diversity, setting up programs to bring older employees or

even retired and past employees back into the fold to offer a unique perspective. We often think of diversity only in cultural terms, yet 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 why we are where we are today.

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

See BETHURAM, page 18

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

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, August 14, 2022

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

The Book of Jeremiah is the source of the first reading for Mass this weekend. Jeremiah is regarded as one of the



more 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 King Josiah of Judah between 640 and

609 B.C. Generally, Josiah was seen as a good and upright king, loyal to God.

It is important to remember that kingship in the eyes of the devout ancient Hebrews was not primarily a matter of governing the country, conducting foreign affairs or commanding the military.

Instead, the king's responsibility was to see that the law of God was obeyed.

Very often, this view meant that prophets placed themselves in conflict with the powerful.

Jeremiah in this reading certainly involved himself in politics, which can be controversial. So, Jeremiah made enemies. Indeed, enemies gathered to plot his death. The reading speaks of their wish to annihilate this annoying prophet.

Despite this threat, despite the scheming of his enemies, Jeremiah still spoke with determination that God deserved obedience. The covenant had to be honored. It was that simple.

The Epistle to the Hebrews provides the second reading.

Written for an audience of Jewish converts to Christianity, eloquent and majestic, with strong references to Hebrew history and symbols, this epistle splendidly proclaims the Lord Jesus to be the Redeemer, the Lamb of God and the High Priest.

The passage from the epistle proclaimed this weekend says that Jesus was shameless even when dying the ignoble death of crucifixion. Regardless of the insults and scorn of others, Jesus rose to sit at the right hand of the Father in glory.

For its last reading on this weekend, the Church offers us a passage from St. Luke's Gospel.

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 stood utterly opposite the prevailing culture.

So, Luke selected words spoken by Jesus to apply to conditions meaningful to his audience.

This being the case, it is easy to see why the Gospel in this reading quotes Jesus as saying that there would be no peace on the Earth. Jesus brought fire. It can be a chilling thought, seeming to us even a contradiction of the Gospel of peace.

It says that Christians must be prepared to withstand many strong pressures rather than forsake the one true message of Christ.

Reflection

The Church is always inviting us to follow the Lord. Indeed, its most magnificent liturgical moments are in Holy Week when it tells us so brilliantly 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.

Nevertheless, in inviting us to discipleship, the Church never leads us down a primrose path. It is very frank and blunt.

It is being frank in these readings. Following Christ may often cause us to swim against the tide. Pushing against us will be the setting in which we live, those among whom we love, or ourselves.

As did Jeremiah, as did Christ, we must with the help of God's grace withstand all that is contrary to the Gospel. †

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.archindy.org/campion.

Daily Readings

Monday, August 15

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
Psalms 45:10-12, 16
1 Corinthians 15:20-27
Luke 1:39-56

Tuesday, August 16

St. Stephen of Hungary
Ezekiel 28:1-10
(Response) *Deuteronomy 32:26-28, 30, 35cd-36b*
Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday, August 17

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

Thursday, August 18

Ezekiel 36:23-28
Psalms 51:12-15, 18-19
Matthew 22:1-14

Friday, August 19

St. John Eudes, priest
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalms 107:2-9
Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday, August 20

St. Bernard, abbot and doctor of the Church
Ezekiel 43:1-7b
Psalms 85:9ab, 10-14
Matthew 23:1-12

Sunday, August 21

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 66:18-21
Psalms 117:1-2
Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
Luke 13:22-30

Monday, August 22

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12
Psalms 96:1-5
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday, August 23

St. Rose of Lima, virgin
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a, 14-17
Psalms 96:10-13
Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday, August 24

St. Bartholomew, Apostle
Revelation 21:9b-14
Psalms 145:10-13, 17-18
John 1:45-51

Thursday, August 25

St. Louis
St. Joseph Calasanz, priest
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Psalms 145:2-7
Matthew 24:42-51

Friday, August 26

1 Corinthians 1:17-25
Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11
Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday, August 27

St. Monica
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Psalms 33:12-13, 18-21
Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, August 28

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
Psalms 68:4-7, 10-11
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

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



Q 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, but in the parish I go to, when the Blessed Sacrament is

exposed, people start praying the chaplet of Divine Mercy even before the priest has left the sanctuary. (Oregon)

A To my knowledge, there is no norm that prohibits public prayers during the exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. That having been said, the main goal of such a devotion is to foster private prayer and meditation.

On the feast of *Corpus Christi* in 1967, the Vatican, in an "Instruction on Eucharistic Worship," said that "it is desirable that there should be periods of silence at suitable times" and notes that "during the exposition everything should be so arranged that the faithful can devote themselves attentively in prayer to Christ our Lord."

A more recent relevant Vatican document, the *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*, issued in 2001, recommends in #164-165 a balance between periods of silent prayer and vocal or sung prayer that is based on Scripture, the Liturgy of the Hours and Christ-centered devotions such as the Rosary.

Q When Jesus was dying on the cross, according to the Gospel of St. Matthew, he cried out, "My God, why

have you abandoned me?" (Mt 27:46. Why was he saying this? Did he really feel that his Father had abandoned him? (Kentucky)

A Half a century ago, when I first began to think about the meaning of scriptural verses, the conventional explanation was this: The passage you quote is only the first verse of Psalm 22, a prayer well-known to Jews of Christ's time. That psalm, which begins as a cry of abandonment, actually ends up to be a prayer of hope and praise, a vote of confidence in God's saving love.

Verse 25 of that psalm, for example, reads: "For [God] has not spurned or disdained the misery of this poor wretch, did not turn away from me, but heard me when I cried out."

For me, to be honest, that explanation never rang true. Jesus did not "pretend" to be a human being. How could he not have felt isolated, even abandoned by God? In the midst of his excruciating torture, all but one of his friends had fled in fear, their leader had denied even knowing Jesus, and Judas had betrayed him to his captors.

Fortunately, more than 20 years ago, Scripture scholarship caught up with what our instinct was telling us to be true. In the 1990s, Father Raymond Brown, then the world's most noted Catholic New Testament scholar, argued that Jesus did truly feel abandoned as he hung on the cross.

Father Brown pointed to the fact that in Garden of Gethsemane Jesus had addressed his Father with the Aramaic word "Abba," a term of filial intimacy similar to "Daddy." But on the cross Jesus uses the word "Eloi," a much more formal term for "Lord," indicating a greater sense of separation.

Personally, I feel much more attracted to this very real human being—and much more confident that he understands us in our own moments of loneliness. †

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
If life gets hard to bear.

And even if I trip and fall
There is One who carries me.
So why then should I worry
When One loves me such 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 Borromeo Parish in Bloomington and is an oblate of Saint Meinrad Archabbey. Photo: This image shows a closeup of God's hand reaching for Adam's from Michelangelo's "Creation of Adam" painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome.) (Michelangelo, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

Rest in peace

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

BOWMAN, Ronald L., 81, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, July 14. Husband of Elizabeth Bowman. Father of Bill, Jeff, Matt and Rick Bowman. Grandfather of 15. Great-grandfather of six.

CONDON, Mary Ann, 87, St. Roch, Indianapolis, July 8. Mother of Paula Reiss, Nickolas and Robert Condon. Grandmother of 16. Great-grandmother of five. Great-great-grandmother of two.

DAVIS, Sean C., 38, St. Paul, Tell City, July 15. Son of Randy and Barbara Davis. Grandson of Betty Hess.

DEGITZ, Robert, 84, St. Jude, Indianapolis, July 13. Husband of Sue Degitz. Father of Cheryl Cherry, Julie Newell, Andy, Mark and Tim Degitz. Brother of Mary Gibbs and Jerry Degitz. Grandfather of eight.

DIGENOVA, Aaron, 85, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, July 8. Husband of Gerri DiGenova. Father of Sherry Pardo and Andy DiGenova. Brother of MonaLee Rance, Danny and Null DiGenova. Grandfather of six.

DIVISH, Patricia A. (Dolan), 80, American Martyrs, Scottsburg, Nov. 15, 2021. Mother of Julie McClellan, Margaret McMillan, Carolyn Wanager, Barbara, Bill, Chris and Edward Divish. Sister of Gene, Paul and Tom Doland.

BETHURAM

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different values and lets them experience a broader cross-section of society, preparing them for when they leave home. For all of us, spending time with a grandparent or elderly friend or relative allows us to reflect on our own values and judge our behavior by different standards rather than those of our immediate peers.

Older members of our family have often lived through wars or seen harder times and can be a source of inspiration for younger family members. Their stories of adversity, or simply of navigating life over a long time, help children to realize that challenges can be tackled through determination and hard work. Just as important, an older family member can often be a mentor, encouraging and inspiring a younger child to chase their dreams. At times when a parent-child relationship is challenging, a grandparent can become an extension of the unconditional love provided by family.

On the other side, one of the best things you can offer an elderly parent or loved one is the opportunity to remain socially

Grandmother of 16. Great-grandmother of two.

DIXON, Ruby M. (Riat), 90, St. Paul, Tell City, July 12. Mother of Lena Harper, Barbara and Michael Dixon. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of several. Great-great-grandmother of one.

EDWARDS, Linda P., 73, St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, June 30. Mother of Ashea Williams. Sister of Jo Ann McPherson, Shari Mundy and William Folmer III. Grandmother of two.

FICHT, Marialane, 76, American Martyrs, Scottsburg, Dec. 20, 2021. Wife of William Ficht.

FOLEY, Tim, 81, St. Simon the Apostle, Indianapolis, July 5. Husband of Patricia Foley. Father of Allison, Jennifer, Isaac and Michael Foley. Grandfather of 13.

FOX, William F., 87, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, July 6. Father of Andrew, James and William Fox. Grandfather of six.

FOY, David B., 90, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, July 13. Husband of Gayle Foy. Father of Colleen Foy-Gudgel, Catherine Foy-Roussos, Maureen Foy-Tornay, Mary Ann Foy-Wang, Margaret Meinhart, Christine Purich, Karen Semler, Brian, Christopher and Kevin Foy. Grandfather of 29.

GARRY, Kathlyn M., 84, Holy Family, New Albany, July 13. Mother of John Garry and Joe Prestigiaco. Grandmother of three.

GERVASIO, William E., 90, St. Jude, Indianapolis, July 13. Father of Jane, David and John Gervasio. Brother of Joseph Gervasio. Grandfather of four.

GOOTEE, Judith, 78, St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, June 19. Mother of Emily Eagan and Scott Gootee. Sister of Gene, Jerry and Rusty Abel. Grandmother of eight.

KOLB, Edward P., 92, St. Michael, Brookville, July 6. Father of Donna Talbert, Dennis, Mark and Randy Kolb. Brother of Clara Jordan and Liz Stenger. Grandfather of 21. Great-grandfather of 17.

KOORS, Joan M., 91, St. Mary, Greensburg, July 6.

Mother of Mary Kay Dinn. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of 11.

MCGROTTY, Sean P., 54, Mary, Queen of Peace, Danville, July 14. Father of Ashley Mobley, Collin and Sean McGrotty. Son of Carole McGrotty. Brother of Erin Dotson, Heather Shade and Kevin McGrotty. Grandfather of two.

MILLER, William E., 93, Christ the King, Indianapolis, June 30. Husband of Mary Katherine Miller. Father of Susan Hoff, Andy, Joe and Steve Miller. Brother of Jim Miller. Grandfather of 10. Great-grandfather of 15.

MOONEY, Shiela (Moynihan), 82, St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis, July 2. Mother of Kathleen Jeffers, Patricia Lautenbach, Maura Lee, Bridget McIntyre, Eileen Walthall, Erin Young, Robert and William Mooney. Sister of Maura Brogan and Mary Louise Turner. Grandmother of 28.

MONSOUR, David, 90, American Martyrs, Scottsburg, Oct. 27, 2021. Uncle of several.

NANCE, Steven L., 64, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, July 7. Husband of Sandy Nance. Father of Jamie Thomassen, Brian and Craig Nance. Brother of Carol Coulter and Dottie Kraft. Grandfather of eight.

NIEHOFF, Mildred (Andres), 90, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, July 7. Mother of Janice Schneider, Diana Traub and Leo Niehoff, Jr. Sister of Ann Andres, Judith Bowe, Rita Nolot, Elmer and Melford Andres. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of 13.

NOEL, Larry D., 79, St. Mary, Rushville, July 11. Father of Carol Clement and Annette Snoddy. Brother of Sherry Geis, Frances Marshall and Mark Noel. Grandfather of eight. Great-grandfather of 17.

NOLL, Gerald, 91, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, June 30. Husband of Joycelyn Noll. Father of Dina Floyd, Denise and Donna McCandless, Denise McNary, Debbie Popp, Doug Coffman and Ronald Noll. Brother of Clifford

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 wisdom, calm, dependability and unconditional love that frame the views of the broader family and shape the future of younger generations. And while more and more people in their 60's, 70's and beyond are choosing to remain in the workforce in one capacity or another, the contribution of older persons to society cannot be denied.

Whether volunteering in hospitals, libraries or schools, providing care for grandchildren so their own children can return to the workforce, or simply teaching and mentoring younger family members and filling them with a sense of fun and adventure, it is important to recognize the valuable contribution and vital role older members play in our immediate family and the broader community.

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

Honoring St. Anne



People gather in a plaza after a procession to Santa Ana Ixtlahuatzingo Catholic Church in Tenancingo, Mexico, on July 25. They gathered for the next day's feast of the church's patron saint, St. Anne, grandmother of Jesus. (CNS photo/David Maung)

Noll. Grandfather and great-grandfather of several.

RADER, Richard, 80, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood, July 11. Husband of Mary Rader. Father of Laura Rader and Gina Sylvester. Brother of Ros Ida Peel.

RUNGE, Charlene M. (Gualdoni), 87, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, April 7. Mother of Jody Hall, Jill Miller, Julie and Thomas Runge. Sister of Charles Gualdoni. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of seven.

SCHROEDER, Marilyn, 84, St. Mary, Rushville, July 16. Mother of Sally Adams, Andrew, Greg and Ken Schroeder. Sister of Marlene Wolter. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of four.

SHABER, Mark E., 81, St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, June 26. Father of Melissa Shaber.

SHEEHAN, Joan L., 95, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, June 15. Mother of Mary Sheehan Horton, Genny Sheehan-Short, Maggie, Kevin and Tony Sheehan. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of 19. Great-great-grandmother of two.

SMITH, Norma J., 90, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, July 12. Wife of John Smith. Mother of Debra Doggett and Timothy Smith. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of five.

STEINER, Vincent P., 60, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, July 9. Son of Robert Steiner. Brother of Mary Beth Medford, Becky, David and Mark Steiner.

TREVINO, Isabel, 60, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, June 22. Mother of Daniel and Fernando Trevino and James Wayne. Sister of several.

VREELAND, Nichole J., 46, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, July 11. Wife of Richard Vreeland. Mother of Tora, Cole and Dakota Vreeland. Daughter of Frank and Vicki Ganley. Sister of Jacqui Eberhart, Charity and Chaz Ganley.

WEHDER, Dr. Haley R., 29, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, July 11. Daughter of Kyle and Beverly Wehder. Granddaughter of Margie Wehder.

WELSH, Michael A., 63, St. Gabriel, Connersville, July 7. Son of Mary Ann Snyder. Brother of Douglas, Eric, Patrick and Paul Welsh. †

Ramona Pfaff, mother of Father Aaron Pfaff, died on July 14 in Jasper, Ind.

Ramona K. (Seng) Pfaff, the mother of Father Aaron Pfaff, pastor of St. Bernard Parish in Frenchtown, St. Joseph Parish in Crawford County and St. Michael Parish in Bradford, died on July 14 at Northwood Good Samaritan Retirement Community in Jasper, Ind. She was 77.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Aug. 4 at St. Raphael Church in Dubois, Ind. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Pfaff was born on June 6, 1945, in Huntingburg, Ind., to Ben and Henrietta (Dischinger) Seng. She worked for German American Bank for more than 30 years and was

a member of Holy Family Parish in Jasper.

A generous person, Pfaff had a passion for cooking, baking and her family, friends and neighbors. She enjoyed hosting gatherings at her home, where she lived for 52 years.

She is survived by her children, Renee Vincel of Bloomfield, Ind., Father Aaron Pfaff and Ross Pfaff of Fort Worth, Texas, her sisters, Jane Benda, Marilyn Seng, Benedictine Sister Paulette Seng and Mike Seng and three grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be sent to Monastery Immaculate Conception, 802 E 10th St, Ferdinand, IN 47532, or to a favorite charity. †

Franciscan Sister Dominica Doyle served at St. Michael School in Brookville for 40 years

Franciscan Sister Dominica Doyle died on July 23 at the motherhouse of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in Oldenburg. She was 97.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Aug. 1 at the Motherhouse Chapel in Oldenburg. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

Sister Dominica was born on May 22, 1925, in Indianapolis, where she grew up as a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. She joined the Sisters of St. Francis on Sept. 8, 1942, and professed final vows in on Aug. 12, 1948. Sister Dominica earned a bachelor's degree in education at Marian University in Indianapolis, a master's degree at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., and continued her education later at Wheeling University in Wheeling, W.V., and

in Cincinnati at the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University.

During 79 years as a member of the Sisters of St. Francis, Sister Dominica ministered in Catholic education for 61 years in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio before retiring to the motherhouse in 2010.

In the archdiocese, she served at the former St. Mary School in New Albany from 1956-59. Beginning in 1965, Sister Dominica began 40 years of ministry at St. Michael School in Brookville, returning to live at the motherhouse in 2005. There, she served in the finance office of the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception until 2015.

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

Film based on local woman's true story 'reclaims beauty of adoption'

By Natalie Hoefler

EDINBURGH—Melissa Coles received a call in the 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 Kendrick brothers," she says, referring



Melissa Coles

to Alex, Shannon 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."

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 offered for adoption; and the story of the couple who adopted him.

Cameron told Coles he saw the documentary and "fell in love with it." He told the Kendrick brothers about the documentary and asked their thoughts on him making it into a movie.

"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 has 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 reclaims the beauty of adoption. You're going to laugh, you're going to cry, there's drama, there's four-wheel driving and skydiving—I'm an adrenaline junkie," she admits.

But Coles, born and raised in Columbus, was hesitant to say "yes" to the film at first—unlike her instant "yes" in 1993 when something told her to get up from an abortion table.

'I was doing the right thing for him'

Coles was 18 when she experienced an unplanned pregnancy. As revealed in *I Lived on Parker Avenue*, she and her boyfriend knew they did not have the means to raise a child. They decided to abort the baby.

Soon, Coles was on a table in an abortion facility in Indianapolis with a doctor seated in front of her. As he was selecting a tool to start the abortion, an extraordinary thing happened: she heard a voice.

"It said, 'Get up, get up. It's not too late,'" she recalls. "I said, 'I can't do this,' and I literally ran out the door."

Through a private adoption agency, she selected a couple from Louisiana, Susan and Jimmy Scotton, to raise her son, whom they named David.

The documentary records the emotions of Coles, David and the Scotttons in 2013 as they all meet for the first time nearly 20 years after David's birth. It was the first time Coles held her son since the day he was born.

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

"It's still hard," 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, he'd still be with me today.'"

"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 newlywed who works as an attorney in Louisiana.

"You can't look at David's life and think the alternative would be better," says Coles. "He was five seconds away from becoming a person non-existent."

'That's just how God works'

Coles eventually had another child,

Courtney. She loves her daughter with all her heart and loves being a mom.

Despite that joy, Coles says she was "angry with God, bitter. My whole life has been a struggle. Why did I have to give up my son? Why didn't [God] give me what I needed to keep him?"

Then she met Shawn Coles, her husband now of 16 years.

"On date number one he called me out on where I stood with the Lord," says Coles, a non-denominational Christian. "I realized I wasn't living for God. I just needed something to wake me up—hence my husband. I didn't give my life to God until I met Shawn."

He helped her learn to trust God. She recalls one Sunday when she felt a call to put all they had in the basket at church—\$40, with nothing in savings—and Shawn supported her, saying, "If God is calling you, we have to do it."

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. "That's just how God works."

It was Shawn who encouraged his wife to say "yes" to the *Lifemark* film.

"I had a whole list of reasons not to do it," she says. "I didn't want people to see me at my weakest. I didn't want to be used."

"Then my husband said, 'What if it helps 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, read the script and make changes and suggestions."

They even sought her input on the cast, sending her paperwork for the women who applied to play young Melissa and "current" Melissa—"I just don't like saying 'old Melissa,'" she jokes.

When she saw Dawn Long's picture, "I knew she was the one" to play "current Melissa," says Coles. "We had one call, and that led to thousands of calls. She really got to know my real character, my heart."

"She totally nailed my character [in the film], even some of my gestures and nervous habits."

"And I loved Marissa Hampton as 'young Melissa.' All the individuals did an absolutely outstanding job connecting with the characters."

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

"When you approach the studio building, you feel the Holy Spirit hit heavy and hard," Coles recalls. "It's even more powerful when you go inside. When we were with them, we could see the Holy Spirit at work."

'Not your typical, everyday things'

Other forces were at work during the project, too, says Coles.

"Accidents happened that couldn't be explained by the cast or crew, so many health issues, and different things happened to different people—not your typical, everyday things," she says.

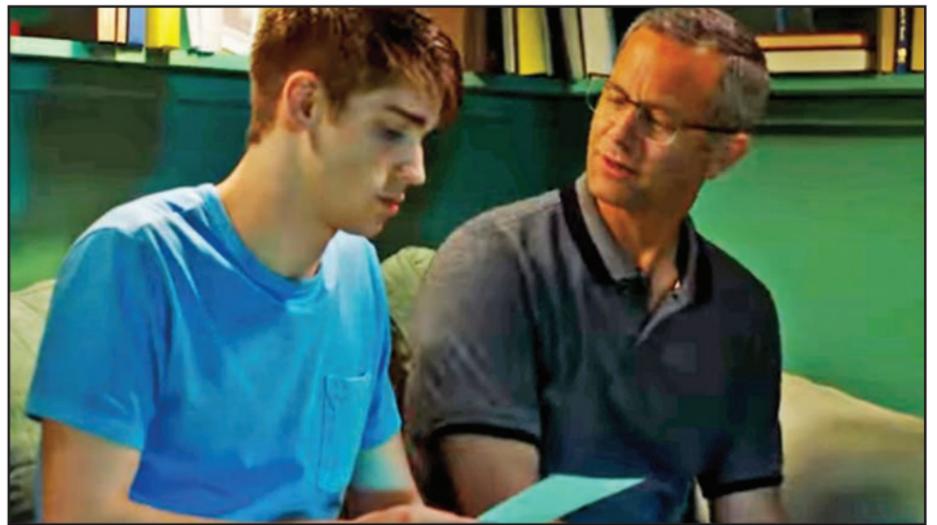
Coles was no exception. She shares two incidents that occurred one day while running an errand.

"I came to a train crossing in Columbus," she recalls. "I've crossed those tracks my entire life, and not one time have I ever seen a train on the tracks."

"But all of a sudden, I came just inches from getting hit by a train. I didn't see it coming. I didn't hear it coming, there were no flashing lights, no arms went down."

"The next thing I knew, I opened my eyes, and I was on a road nowhere near the train tracks. I didn't even know where I was. It was like someone just picked up my Jeep and put me there."

As she was driving home, says Coles, "Out of the blue, a monster limb fell out of a tree, and I had to swerve to stop it from hitting my windshield. It was a beautiful, sunny day, there was no wind—nothing I could see that would have made it fall."



In this scene from the *Lifemark* movie trailer, Raphael Ruggero as David Scotton and Kirk Cameron as David's father Jimmy Scotton share a deep conversation. (Photo courtesy of Lifemark Movie; lifemarkmovie.com)

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 [Ruggero], 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 while "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, Seymour 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.) †

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LEGISLATION

continued from page 1

special legislative session that originally had been intended to focus solely on providing 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 (up to 20 weeks post-fertilization).

In addition, the law will terminate the licensure of all abortion centers and will require abortions to be performed in hospitals or surgical centers owned by hospitals. Currently, nearly all abortions in Indiana take place in abortion centers.

Leaders of the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), which represents the state’s Catholic bishops and serves as the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana, were among those to offer testimony during the special session.

While praising lawmakers for their “difficult work,” the ICC had called for additional clarification on certain aspects of the legislation—including stronger definitions for the exceptions.

“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,” 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 regular 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 of keen interest to the ICC. Senate Enrolled Act 2, which was also signed into law on Aug. 5, includes a \$200 tax refund to Hoosiers, along with \$45 million to support pregnant women, postpartum mothers, babies and families.

The ICC had testified on the similar House Bill 1001, which was ultimately absorbed into Senate Bill 2. The legislation includes other provisions to

Statement from Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

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. †

support families, including increasing the adoption tax credit, suspending the sales tax on diapers, and extending postpartum care under Medicaid to 12 months.

“Today, I proudly signed Senate Enrolled Act 2 to return \$1 billion back to Hoosier taxpayers,” Holcomb said in a statement on Aug. 5. “This fulfills what I set out to accomplish when calling the General Assembly into special session in order to help Hoosiers hurting from historically high inflation.”

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 to 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.indianacc.org.

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



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