Gifts of life, compassion and faith blend for people who bring Eucharist to others

Part one

By John Shaughnessy

For Marianne Warthan, life has always been about sharing the most special gifts. In her 40 years as a nurse, she worked in the labor-and-delivery unit of Bloomington Hospital, helping to bring newborns into the world, assisting parents in their care for their child and sharing in the joy of the gift of life.

Her four decades as a nurse also led her to offer the gifts of comfort and compassion to parents whose children died at birth. She gave them the opportunity to hold their child, shared in their sorrow, made memory boxes for the parents that included their child’s footprints, a lock of hair, the baby’s blanket and a photo of the infant—and later she would phone the parents at home to check on them.

And for the past five years, the member of St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington has shared what she believes is the most special gift of her Catholic faith. Warthan takes the Eucharist—the body of Christ—to people who are homebound, in nursing homes and at the hospital where she worked before retiring.

“No be able to bring Jesus himself to the sick and the needy is such a privilege,” she says. “I am able to share that God-given gift with others, and in return I am able to see God in others.”

That combination of gifts feeds Warthan and so many extraordinary ministers of holy Communion across the archdiocese—which is in the first year of a three-year National Parish Communion across the archdiocese—which is in the first year of a three-year National Parish

As an extraordinary minister of holy Communion, Marianne Warthan of St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington believes her ministry is “the most rewarding one in the Church.” She displays a pyx, which holds Communion taken to sick and homebound Catholics. (Submitted photo)

St. Mary of the Knobs students embrace nun’s missionary message, raise $16,000

By Natalie Hoeter

FLOYD COUNTY—Sister Loretto Emenogu quietly strolled through the cafeteria of St. Mary of the Knobs School in Floyd County on Oct. 5. As the students recognized her, their faces brightened. Choruses of “Sister! Hi, Sister!” spread from table to table like ripples of joy.

It had been a month since Daughters of Mary of Mercy Sister Loretto, archdiocesan mission educator for the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA), shows her astonishment as Tracy Jansen, principal of St. Mary of the Knobs School, presents her with a check for more than $16,000 the students raised to help children in need around the world. (Photo by Natalie Hoeter)

Pope announces a second session for Synod of Bishops assembly

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Saying he did not want to rush the process of discerning how the Holy Spirit is calling the Church to grow in “synodality,” Pope Francis announced that the next assembly of the Synod of Bishops would take place in two sessions.

Pope Francis made the announcement on Oct. 16 at the end of his Angelus address. He had met on Oct. 14 with the synod leadership. The pope and local bishops kicked off the listening and discernment process for the “synod on synodality” in October 2021, and by November the synod secretariat is expected to release a working document for continental assemblies.

With 112 of the 114 bishops’ conferences in the world having sent in a synthesis of what emerged in the listening sessions in their countries, Pope Francis said that “the fruits of the synodal process underway are many, but so that they might come to full maturity, it is necessary not to be in a rush.

“To have a more relaxed period of discernment,” the pope announced, “I have established that this synodal assembly will take place in two sessions” rather than the one originally planned.

“I trust that this decision will promote the understanding of synodality as a constitutive dimension of the Church and help everyone to live it as the journey of brothers and sisters who proclaim the joy of the Gospel,” Pope Francis told thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the Sunday Angelus prayer.

The website of the synod secretariat describes synodality as a style seen in the synod leadership.

“Pope announces a second session for Synod of Bishops assembly”

By Natalie Hoeter
We Were Made for More

The Bowman-Francis Ministry hosted the National Black Catholic Men’s Conference in Indianapolis on Oct. 13-16. It was the group’s first in-person national gathering since 2019 because of COVID-19. This year’s theme was “We Were Made for More.” Among the conference’s events was a youth rally on Oct. 13 at St. Rita Church in Indianapolis. Franciscan Friars of the Renewal Father Agustino Torres was the keynote speaker on that evening and is shown third from left praying with participants. Also pictured is a T-shirt that attendees wore during the gathering. Full coverage of the conference will be featured in the Oct. 28 Issue. (Photos by Mike Keckers and Natalie Hooler)

SYNOD

Church’s life and mission that reflects its nature as “the people of God journeying together and gathering in assembly, summoned by the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel.” A statement from the synod secretariat on Oct. 16 said Pope Francis’ decision to add a second assembly “steps from the desire that the theme of a ‘synodal Church’ because of its breadth and importance, might be the subject of prolonged discernment not only by the members of the synodal assembly, but by the whole Church.”

Although it did not feature the same widespread, grassroots listening sessions, the deliberations of the Synod of Bishops on challenges and joys facing families also met in two sessions. First, Pope Francis convoked in 2014 an “extraordinary general assembly” on “the pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelization.” Then, using the 2014 gathering’s final report as an outline, the ordinary general assembly of the Synod of Bishops met in 2015 to look at “the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and contemporary world.”

Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, then secretary-general of the synod, wrote that “the two synodal assemblies, sharing the same topic of the family, become part of a single synodal process, which includes not only the two celebrative phases but also the intervening time between synods, a time to reflect on the reaction to the first synod and to make a thorough theological examination of the Church’s pastoral activity in light of the succeeding one.”

Corrections

In the article about Archbishop O’Meara Pro-Life Award winner Dr. Michael Padilla in the Oct. 7 issue of The Criterion, his medical school was missidentified. He graduated from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine at Midwestern University. Also, registered nurse Marilyn Haywood helped him co-found the Franciscan FertilityCare Center in Indianapolis. †

What are the graces and blessings that you are grateful for, the ones that have touched and shaped your life?

One of the constant themes of Pope Francis’ papacy is his reminder to us to be people who live lives of gratitude. The pope has said, “Truly we have received much, so many graces, so many blessings, and we rejoice in this. It will do us good to think back on our lives with the grace of remembrance... Perhaps we need to ask ourselves: Are we good at counting our blessings?” As Thanksgiving approaches, The Criterion is inviting you, our readers, to tell us about the moments of your life, the parts of your life, the people in your life whom you are grateful for—and why.

Whether it’s a simple, everyday reason to be thankful or a life-changing one, we will look forward to learning about the graces and the blessings that have touched and shaped your life.

Send your notes and stories to John Shaughnessy at e-mail at ishaughnessy@archindy.org or by mail in care of The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202. Please include your parish and a daytime phone number where you can be reached.
VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Prayer is medicine for one’s faith and it reinvigorates the soul, Pope Francis said.

“We need the daily water of prayer, we need time dedicated to God, so that he can daily pour out on us love, peace, joy, strength, hope, thus nourishing our faith,” he said.

So often, people spend their day focused on many "urgent, but unnecessary things," neglecting what counts the most in life, he said. “We allow our love for God to grow cold” bit by bit.

Prayer, he said, is the remedy to rekindle this “ tepid faith.”

“Prayer is the medicine for faith; it is the restorative of the soul,” he said. Just as a patient must “faithfully and regularly” take his or her medication, Pope Francis said, prayer, too, needs to be consistent and constant, not practiced in fits and starts.

In the Gospel of Luke’s parable of the persistent widow, Jesus is showing people that they must “pray always without becoming weary,” he said.

When finding the time to pray is a real difficulty, he said, busy people should turn to an old but “wise spiritual practice” called “aspirations.” These are very short prayers in which the mind is directed to God, and “that can be repeated often throughout the day, in the course of various activities, to remain ‘in tune’ with the Lord” so that “our hearts remain connected to him.”

For example, he said, as soon as people wake up, “we can say, ‘Lord, I thank you and I offer this day to you,’” or before beginning an activity, “we can repeat, ‘Come, Holy Spirit,’” and throughout the day, people can pray, “Jesus, I trust in you. Jesus, I love you.”

“And let’s not forget to read his responses” in the Gospel, the pope added. “The Lord always responds,” he said, so people should open the Gospel “several times every day, to receive a word of life directed to us.”

Father William Ripperger served in parishes across the archdiocese

By Sean Gallagher

Father William Ripperger, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, died on Oct. 8 in Louisville, Ky., where he was living in retirement. He was 91.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 21 at St. Augustine Church, 315 E. Chestnut St., in Jeffersonville. Father Ripperger’s first pastoral assignment in the archdiocese was as associate pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Apostle Parish in Greencastle, where he ministered from 1969-72.

In 1972, he was appointed co-pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Jeffersonville.

The following year, Father Ripperger was granted a leave of absence from priestly ministry. That leave continued until 1991 when he was appointed associate pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Redwood, Calif.

Father Ripperger returned to the Church in central and southern Indiana beginning in 1995 when he was appointed pastor of St. Maurice Parish in Napoleon and southern Indiana beginning in 1995 when he was appointed pastor of St. Maurice Parish in Napoleon and sacramental minister of Immaculate Conception Parish in Millhouse and the former St. Denis Parish in Jennings County.

In 2002, Father Ripperger was granted permission to retire. He returned to ministry in 2004, serving for the next two years before his permanent retirement as administrator of St. John the Baptist Parish in Starlight.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Alzheimer’s Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave. Floor 17, Chicago, IL 60001, or the Humane Society of the United States, 1255 23rd St. NW, Suite 450, Washington, DC 20037.

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United in the Eucharist

Being UNITED today helps bring others hope for tomorrow.

Your gift to the United Catholic Appeal helps support the work of Catholic Charities all across the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, including Bedford, Bloomington, Indianapolis, New Albany, Terre Haute, and Richmond (now part of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish there). Your gift to the United Catholic Appeal helps us meet people where they are at in their time of need.

…”You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind.”—Matthew 2:40

Scan the QR code above to see a story about St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in New Albany.

You can make your gift online at www.archindy.org/UCA.
Editorial
Tony Dungy shares a story about his relationship with his children during the 100th Dad’s Day breakfast at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis on Feb. 11, 2014. The former Indianapolis Colts head coach had been named All Pro Dad, an international organization that helps men become better fathers. (Photo by John Staugo/Muncie Star-Press)

We believe that we’re being obedient to God’s calling on our lives,” Lauren Dungy said in the CBN interview. “We both love children and are passionate about mentoring, supporting and encouraging children and actually people of all ages.”

While some may believe the work to help protect unborn children is no longer a major concern, that sentiment could not be further from the truth.

Here in the Hoosier State, the Indiana Supreme Court announced last week it will take jurisdiction over a lawsuit that put a temporary hold on the state’s new law that gives legal protection to nearly all unborn babies.

The court also denied an emergency request by the state to undo that hold, which the lower court placed on the new law that gives legal protection to nearly all unborn babies.

The court reminds the state’s new law to remain in effect pending the January hearing. We are deeply disappointed the Indiana Supreme Court will allow the injunction against Indiana’s new abortion law to remain in effect pending appeal. We estimate at least 3,000 unborn babies, whose lives otherwise might have been saved, will now needlessly die from abortion as the law remains blocked,” he said.

“Thousands more will die as we await a final ruling after the January hearing. Although we are confident the law will be upheld, it will be too late for those whose lives will be lost as this is argued in the courts.”

The Dungys’ decision to take part in the annual pro-life event comes of age, on Twitter he cited the Bible and said, “Not really. Just doing what the Lord asked us to do.

And he will answer, you tell me the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.” (Mt. 25:45).

Letters to the Editor
Spirit must transform us into the body of Christ to continue his mission, reader says

In a recent letter to The Criterion, a letter writer who suggests changing the acclamation during the eucharistic prayer to a doctrinal statement about the presence of Christ under the form of bread and wine misunderstands the purpose of the eucharistic celebration.

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Claude Geller

Greenwood

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When St. John Paul II introduced the luminous mysteries of the rosary in 2002, I remember the thrill of listening to The Proclamation of God (Kingdom of God) and the Call to Repentance.

If my memory serves me right, let’s do all we can to build a culture of life, reminding others that every child—born and unborn—is a gift from God.

—Mike Krokos

Opinion
Revisiting and relativating Vatican II

Since most Catholics alive today have no lived memory of the Second Vatican Council, it remains surprising that it is—at least for some—still debated, defended or despised with a passion one might wish reserved for more productive spiritual witness.

A variety of commentators of various stripes and even Pope Francis himself have weighed in to mark the council’s 60th anniversary, including Ross Douthat, a Catholic columnist for The New York Times.

Douthat takes his characteristically bleak view of the church’s contemporary state, opining that the council was (a) necessary, (b) a failure and (c) impossible to undo. Something there for every faction to zing on.

In assessing the council, it is difficult not to get caught up in the narratives that erupted simultaneously with the council itself.

Efforts to shape the agenda even before the council fathers gathered, efforts aiming to interpret what they intended even as they met and efforts to debate what next to do when it ended. These narratives are all still evident in the debates we are having today.

Most Catholics, of course, are blissfully unaware of these debates, but they are still fought almost as passionately as during the first years after the council itself.

The Francis pontificate is increasingly being shaped by this fight, as some call to pit St. John Paul II or retired Pope Benedict XVI against Francis, with the council as the particular battleground for waging a larger war.

How we remember or understand the past shapes many of what we see as the problems we are facing today.

We must remember the council fathers 60 years ago: “We stand before You, Holy Spirit / Teach us the way we must go / And how we are to pursue it.”

The “mystery of faith” is the paschal mystery, the life, death and resurrection of Christ in which we are called to participate. Jesus father Thomas Reese is correct in America magazine when he writes there is much ignorance among Catholics (including bishops and priests) about the Eucharist. Too many still fail to see the purpose of the Eucharist it to make Christ present on the altar so we can adore him.

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“Constant changes in society are needed to be brought about to build our society to this end” (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, “Gaudium et Spes,” #26).

Ten days ago, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council on Oct. 11, 1962. In full continuity with nearly 2,000 years of Church teaching and practice, this historic gathering set the agenda for our future. It called attention to the fundamental mission of the Church to transform human society in light of the Gospel.

During this time of preparation for national midterm elections, our Church urges Catholics, and all people of good will, to form their consciences and to vote accordingly. We don’t tell people who to vote for (or against). We trust that mature persons will make responsible decisions based on the dictates of their informed conscience.

But so much “hype” and “spin” are in the air these days that it’s sometimes hard to find the truth, let alone allow our consciences to be formed by it.

That’s why the Church has articulated

an extensive body of social teaching on nearly all the social, economic, and human rights issues facing people in every corner of the modern world.

You no longer have to look for our reflection on critical human issues of freedom, justice and peace. The council affirmed that the Gospel of Jesus Christ has important things to say on matters of political, economic and moral concern. Vatican II and subsequent Church teachings also challenged each of us to be faithful citizens of our respective communities and to be fully engaged in promoting the general welfare of all (the common good).

When it comes to applying the social teaching of the Church to the issues and concerns of today, it’s helpful to keep in mind seven key themes:

—The right to life from conception to natural death is absolute and inviolable. As Pope Francis and his predecessors have repeatedly taught, the sanctity of human life is the foundation for all efforts to build a future of liberty and justice for all.

—Marriage between a man and a woman safeguards human dignity and sustains family life.

—Human decency requires that we provide everyone with food and shelter, education and employment, health care and a place to live.

—Faithful citizens work for the good of all, but especially for those marginalized. “In the light of the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, migrants and refugees; the poor and marginalized deserve preferential concern.”

—Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, opportunities for legal status for immigrant workers, and the opportunity for all to participate in economic activity.

—Solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace and avoid the use of force (including gun violence) except in self-defense, which should only be used as a necessary last resort.

—Responsive stewardship of all God’s creation work to ensure a safe and bountiful environment for all God’s children—especially the most vulnerable—now and in the future.

—According to Vatican II’s “Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World,” “The common good refers to the actual conditions of human life, those conditions which promote in every way the full development of human potential.” Ideologies, social theories and political programs which ignore the common good. Concrete actions based on fundamental principles of human dignity and on the common good.

““And because each of us is a person with human dignity, there must be at least to be to each of us all things necessary for living a life that is really human: physical security, rights to free choice in family life, education, employment, [and] rights to respect, to information, to act according to conscience, to privacy and to religious freedom” (“Gaudium et Spes,” #26).

We seek to build a society that ensures peace, justice and equal dignity for all.

Especially in today’s post-pandemic economic, social and political climate, our society urgently needs a renewed political theory that focuses on moral principles, the defense of life, the needs of the weak, and the pursuit of the common good. This kind of political participation reflects the social teaching of our Church and the best traditions of our nation. Without it, our communities will degenerate into factions that are always at odds with each other.

As you prepare to vote next month, ask yourself what kind of a world you want, and what proposed initiatives on the ballot truly promote the common good? Then vote in accordance with your informed conscience.

Changes needed to transform society, achieve social justice

“Se necesitan cambios constantes en la sociedad y en las personas de ésta para estar en consonancia con la verdad, la justicia, el amor y la libertad. El Espíritu de Dios que guía, actuando a través de la voluntad, a formar su conciencia y a convertirse es una tarea que impone la Iglesia también a todos los que no son católicos, y a todas las personas de buena voluntad, a formar su conciencia y a votar en consecuencia. No le decimos a la gente para qué debe votar o (en contra de quién). Confiamos en que las personas maduren tomen decisiones responsables basadas en lo que les dicen la conciencia. Pero en estos días se está exaltando como un "bombardeo" y surgien tantos vericuetos que a veces resulta difícil elucidar la verdad, y mucho menos dejar que nuestras convicciones se formen un juicio claro ante todo esto. Por eso, la Iglesia ha articulado

un extenso cuerpo de enseñanza social sobre casi todas las cuestiones sociales, económicas y de derechos humanos a las que se enfrenta la gente en todos los rincones del mundo moderno. El Concilio Vaticano II contribuyó a establecer la agenda de nuestra reflexión sobre cuestiones humanas críticas de libertad, justicia y paz. El Concilio afirmó que el Evangelio de Jesucristo contiene enseñanzas importantes en asuntos de interés político, económico y moral. El Vaticano II y las enseñanzas posteriores de la Iglesia también nos desafían a ser ciudadanos fieles de nuestras respectivas comunidades y a comprometernos plenamente en la promoción del bienestar general de todos (el bien común).

A la hora de aplicar la doctrina social de la Iglesia a los problemas y preocupaciones de hoy, resulta útil tener en cuenta siete temas clave:

—El derecho a la vida desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural es absoluto e inviolable. Tal como lo han enseñado repetidamente el Papa Francisco y sus predecesores, la dignidad de la vida humana es el fundamento de todos los esfuerzos para construir un futuro de libertad y justicia para todos.

—El matrimonio entre un hombre y una mujer es el núcleo de la familia y el fundamento de la vida familiar.

—La decencia humana exige que protegiémos a todos alimento y refugio, educación y empleo, atención médica y vivienda.

—Los ciudadanos fieles trabajan por el bien de todos, pero especialmente por los más necesitados, como los bebés en gestación, los discapacitados o los enfermos terminales, los emigrantes y los refugiados, los pobres y los marginados merecen una atención preferente.

—La justicia económica exige la existencia de trabajadores decentes con salarios justos y dignos, oportunidades de obtener un estatus legal para los trabajadores inmigrantes y la posibilidad de que todos participen en la economía activa.

—La solidaridad requiere que busquemos la justicia, eliminemos el racismo, acabe con la trata de personas, protejamos a los derechos humanos, busquemos las paz y evitemos el uso de la fuerza (incluida la violencia armada), excepto en defensa propia, que solamente debe utilizarse como último recurso necesario.

—Los administradores responsables de toda la creación de Dios trabajan para garantizar un entorno seguro y saludable para todos los hijos de Dios—especialmente los más vulnerables—ahora y en el futuro.

Según la Constitución Pastoral del Vaticano II sobre la Iglesia en el mundo actual: “Todo grupo social debe tener en cuenta las necesidades y aspiraciones de los demás grupos; más aún, debe tener muy en cuenta el bien común de toda la familia humana. Las ideologías, las teorías sociales y las agendas políticas no alcanzan el bien común; para ello se requieren acciones concretas basadas en los principios fundamentales de la dignidad humana. "Es, pues, necesario que se facilite al hombre todo lo que éste necesita para vivir una vida verdaderamente humana, como son el alimento, el vestido, la vivienda, el derecho a la libre elección de estadio, a la educación, a la participación en la vida política, ya fundar una familia, su protección, la justa libertad también en materia religiosa." (“Gaudium et Spes,” #26).

Deseamos construir una sociedad que garantice la paz, la justicia y la igualdad de la dignidad para todos. Especialmente en el actual clima económico, social y político pospandémico, nuestra sociedad necesita urgentemente una política renovada que se centre en los principios morales, la defensa de la vida, la igualdad de género y la búsqueda del bien común. Este tipo de participación política refleja la enseñanza social de nuestra Iglesia y las tradiciones más bellas de nuestro país. Sin ella, nuestras comunidades degenerarán en facciones permanentes.

A medida que se prepara para votar el próximo 8 de noviembre, los fieles, los candidatos y qué iniciativas propuestas en la papeleta electoral promueven realmente el bien común? Luego, vote de acuerdo con lo que le dicte su conciencia.
Conferences concern professor and director of the Poverty Studies interdisciplinary program at University of Notre Dame, and Uniti Indy founder Nancy Conboy. For information, registration: 317-775-6500 or chad@villainews.org. Planned Parenthood, 8500 Goddard Road. Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. 40 Days for Life Midpoint Prayer Rally, 10 a.m., in specialty church near to end abortion. Information, registration: info@40daysforlife.org.

October 26, November 9 Group Lectio via Zoom. 7 p.m., no church in specialty church. Wednesdays of each month, Benedictine Sister Jennifer Marie Reuber, facilitator, sponsored by Sisters of St. Benedict. Indianapolis, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). Information, registration: vocatio@theodore.org.

October 27 Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 5692 Central Ave., Indianapolis. “Living Poverty through Education, Connection, and Empowerment,” 6-8 p.m., presented by Dr. Connie Snyder, Mk. Center for Social Concerns professor and director of the Poverty Studies interdisciplinary program at University of Notre Dame, and Uniti Indy founder Nancy Conboy. For information, registration: 317-775-6500 or chad@villainews.org. Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, 1 Sisters of Mercy property, Southport, Ind. “Living Poverty through Education, Connection, and Empowerment,” 6-8 p.m., presented by Dr. Connie Snyder, Mk. Center for Social Concerns professor and director of the Poverty Studies interdisciplinary program at University of Notre Dame, and Uniti Indy founder Nancy Conboy. For information, registration: 317-775-6500 or chad@villainews.org.

November 4 Calvary Malakosum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave, Indianapolis. All Souls Day Mass, 6 p.m., optional tour of center to follow. Information, registration: 812-525-3922, liveat gospmyu.org or gospmyu.org/events. Catholic Malakosum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave, Indianapolis. All Souls Day Mass, 7:30 p.m., optional tour of center to follow. Information, registration: 812-525-3922, liveat gospmyu.org or gospmyu.org/events.

November 6 Providence Spirituality and Conference Center Foley Room, 1 Sisters of Mercy property, Southport, Ind. “Living Poverty through Education, Connection, and Empowerment,” 6-8 p.m., presented by Dr. Connie Snyder, Mk. Center for Social Concerns professor and director of the Poverty Studies interdisciplinary program at University of Notre Dame, and Uniti Indy founder Nancy Conboy. For information, registration: 317-775-6500 or chad@villainews.org.

November 9 Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guesthouse, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. Growing in Friendship with the Lord: A Retreat for Women, 6-9 p.m. CT, Kimberly Baker presenting, $35 includes lunch and refreshments. Registration, information, retreats@smmc.edu.

Virtual Addressing Racism Series, 7-8:30 p.m., sponsored by Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center in Bresch Grove, six of six stand-alone Zoom sessions, led by Presbyterian Elder Dr. Mary Beth Riner, $25, registration required. Information, registration: bethriner@archindy.org, retreats@benedictinn.org, program@benedictinn.org, 317-788-7581, benedictinn@benedictinn.org.

Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. Owl Prowl and Migratory Bird Day, 8-11 a.m., $30 includes early and late morning hikes and breakfast. Information, registration: mountainsanfranciscos@gmail.com or owl-prowl or 812-923-8837. St. Meinrad. Lectio Divina: Praying with the Bible. Registration, information: retreats@smmc.edu.

Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. Owl Prowl and Migratory Bird Day, 8-11 a.m., $30 includes dinner, owl presentation by representative from Dwight Champion Raspberry grove, owl hike. Information, registration: mountainsanfranciscos@gmail.com or owl-prowl or 812-923-8837.


MCAF, Catholic Energy Network, Indianapolis. Soul Seniors, 5-30 p.m., Catholic. Education and valuable single-sheets—aged and widowed or divorced—age 50 and older are welcome, also call about regular Friday night dinner events. Information, registration: 317-796-8605.


Our Lady of the Greenwood Chapel, 355 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. First Friday liturgical celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mass 5-30 p.m. followed by adoration until 9 p.m. Information of reconciliation available. Information, registration: 317-750-7309, monstf@hotmail.com.

St. Agnes Parish, 1008 McRary Rd., Lafayette. Children and Craft Bazaar, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. both days, crafts, Christmas decor and gifts, silent auction of gift baskets and trees, home baked goods, youth group boutique, quilt raffle. Information, registration: 317-988-2778, StAgNashville@gmail.com.

Holy Cross and St. Joseph Cemetery, 2446 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Indulgences Walk: 12-301-45 p.m., sponsored by Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis, meet at Pleasant Run Parkway Gate, a-plenary indulgence for the poor souls is possible with the completion of other conditions, free. Information, registration: 317-636-4478 or info@holycrossindy.org.

St. Malachy School, 7410 N. County Rd. 1000 E., Broad Ripple. Children’s Christmas Bazaar and Craft show 9 a.m.-3 p.m., more than 50 vendors. Christmas baskets, candles, woodworking, jewelry, lunch, desserts and drinks available, free admission. Information: 317-852-8802, 4400 E 26th St, Indianapolis. Our Lady of Fatima Retreat, 5533 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Day of Silence, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. $40 per day, includes room, continental breakfast, lunch and use of the common areas and grounds, overnight stays available for additional $30 per person, dinner additional $10. Registration: pm. retreatportal.com/events/ 317-545-7681 or loiscon@archindy.org.

December 3 Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5533 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. O.C.R.C. Women’s Retreat, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Us Adore Him: Advent Dinner and Concert, 6-8:30 p.m. Information, registration: Francesca LaRosa, prayer, adoration, $50. Information, registration: francela@gmail.com or 317-636-4478 or info@holycrossindy.org.

December 5 Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Mt. St. Francis Ave., 8:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m., includes light breakfast and lunch, $45 includes dinner. Information, registration: retreats@benedictinn.org, program@benedictinn.org, 317-788-7581, benedictinn@benedictinn.org.

December 6 Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Mt. St. Francis Ave., 8:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m., includes light breakfast and lunch, spiritual direction is available for additional $30, must be scheduled in advance. Information, registration: retreats@benedictinn.org, program@benedictinn.org, 317-788-7581, benedictinn@benedictinn.org.

Events Calendar

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

November 4-5 St. Agnes Parish, 1008 McRary Rd., Lafayette. Children and Craft Bazaar, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. both days, crafts, Christmas decor and gifts, silent auction of gift baskets and trees, home baked goods, youth group boutique, quilt raffle. Information, registration: 317-988-2778, StAgNashville@gmail.com.

St. John the Apostle Parish, 4607 W. State Rd. 46, Bloomington. Holiday Craft Show, 12-301-45 p.m. Lunch served 11 a.m.-1 p.m., more than 50 local crafters/artisans, kids’ craft stall, bake sale performed by Trieste, free admission. Information, registration: 812-821-1152 and jsgnashville@gmail.com.


November 7 Marian University Chartrand Memorial Chapel, 3200 Cold Spring Rd. 101, Indianapolis. Memorial Mass with Requiem Mass by Marian University, Taizé style music by archdiocese’s schola cantorum Vox Sacra and full orchestra, free admission. Information, registration: voxsacra.com, requiem.

November 8 Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary—All—The-Woods, St. Mary of the Mound. Taizé Prayer at the Woods, 7:8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence, virtual option available at cantlmusic.org. Information, registration: 812-535-2925, provctr@ archindy.org.

November 9 St. Simon the Apostle School, 8155 Oakland Rd. Indianapolis School Open House, Fri., 6-8 p.m. Sat.-Nov. 9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 3-year-old preschool through seventh grade, event registration requested. Information, registration: 317-266-6000, ext. 175, or school@simonton.org.

November 9 St. Mary Cathedral Parish, 1207 Columbus St., Lafayette, Ind. (Lafayette Diocese). Indianapolis Province of Catholic Women Retreat, 8:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m., includes light breakfast and lunch, $10, register by Nov. 1. Information, registration: 765-714-8524 or.opengirls@archindy.org.

November 9-10 St. Simon the Apostle School, 8155 Oakland Rd. Indianapolis School Open House, Fri., 6-8 p.m. Sat.-Nov. 9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 3-year-old preschool through seventh grade, event registration requested. Information, registration: 317-266-6000, ext. 175, or school@simonton.org.

November 9 Indianapolis Province of Catholic Women Retreat. 8:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m., includes light breakfast and lunch, $10, register by Nov. 1. Information, registration: 765-714-8524 or.opengirls@archindy.org.
United Catholic Appeal focuses on unity in the Eucharist

By Leslie Lynch

FLOYD COUNTY—The annual archdiocesan United Catholic Appeal (UCA) offers members of the Church in central and southern Indiana an opportunity to serve their neighbors. And it is through those actions that the faithful are the hands and feet of Christ to those in need, noted Archbishop Charles C. Thompson.

Celebrating the annual UCA Mass for Miter Society members in southern Indiana at St. Mary of the Knobs Church on Oct. 6, the archbishop began his homily by quoting Pope Francis: “Those who pray are never alone.”

Archbishop Thompson urged those present to pray, seek, knock and persist. “Let us remain intentional in our unity: one in Christ, one in love, one in our service to our neighbor,” he said. “Let us be persistent in faith and bold in our witness.”

The Miter Society Mass and dinner acknowledge those who donated at least $1,500 to the annual United Catholic Appeal, which has a goal of $6.3 million this year. This year’s theme is “United in Christ, one in love, one in our service to our neighbor,” he said. “Let us be persistent in faith and bold in our witness.”

“Everything we need to understand about stewardship is found in the Eucharist,” Archbishop Thompson said in remarks after the dinner. “Christ freely gives his heart and life for his people. If we can be Christ to our neighbors, we can be Christ to the world.”

He referenced a prayer attributed to St. Teresa of Ávila: “Christ has no body but yours; yours are the feet with which he walks toward sinners; yours are the hands with which he blesses and heals; yours are the hands with which he blesses and heals; yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world …,” as he spoke of the outreach the UCA provides.

It provides veterans and people with disabilities, food, shelter and clothing and shelters homeless families. It serves hot meals and provides food through pantries. The appeal supports Catholic education in schools as well as catechetical training. Financial support is given to seminarians in schools as well as catechetical training. Meals and provides food through pantries. Disabilities food, shelter and clothing and this year. This year’s theme is “United in

Every dollar raised for the United Catholic Appeal goes to ministry,” the archbishop noted. “Ministries supported by the UCA make it possible to address the needs and concerns of life and dignity of so many people throughout the archdiocese.

Jolinda Moore, executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development, said, “We conduct the appeal for the sole purpose of serving others.”

She spoke of the relief a mother feels when she has ample food for her children or of a child who doesn’t have to sleep in a van, thanks to assistance made possible by the UCA.

She also highlighted the ministry of St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities in New Albany. This nine-building campus serves women of southern Indiana and nearby Louisville, Ky., with residential and non-residential programs around maternity, adoption, parenting, domestic violence, education, interim housing and material needs such as diapers, cribs and other necessities.

In a video shown during a reception following the Mass, archdiocesan chancellor Christopher Walsh said St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities “speaks to how we speak the Christian message to others through our actions.”

Andi Byrne, a member of St. Mary of the Knobs Parish, said, “I didn’t realize the extent of the outreach of the United Catholic Appeal. I am grateful for gifts given to me through the Church, and for the witness of other people. I want to share what I can.”

Tyler Huber is an archdiocesan seminarian from St. Mary of the Knobs Parish in his third year of formation at Saint Meinrad.

“This is my pastoral year, and I’m assigned to St. Mary [Parish] in Rushville,” he said. “By providing for tuition for seminarians, the United Catholic Appeal frees us from worry about [tuition] and allows us to discern the answer to the question God has placed before us. It’s crucial to be free of distraction and anxiety as we discern.”

He smiled, nodded toward several retired priests in attendance, and added, “Of course, providing for our priests in retirement is the least we can do.”

Harriet Neill, a member of St. Paul Parish in Tell City, attended the liturgy and dinner with her sister, Sarajane Duman.

“We support all the work of Catholic Charities in caring for those in need,” Neill said. “There are so many people in our area who need food and shelter. We are honored to be able to help.”

Archbishop Thompson noted in his homily, “No catechisis means anything until one encounters the person of Jesus, until there is a relationship.” He said those relationships begin when “we are Christ’s hands and feet” to those around us.

At the dinner following the Mass, Archbishop Thompson noted that the Eucharist “isn’t something we experience just at Mass. We respond to the Eucharist every day by going out into the world to gratefully share God’s gifts to us,” “a mosaic made possible through the United Catholic Appeal.

(Submitted photo by Leslie Lynch)

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By Natalie Hofer

On Oct. 12, the Indiana Supreme Court agreed to take jurisdiction of a legal challenge by Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers operating in the state was filed in Bloomington in Monroe County on Aug. 30, claiming the law violated the Indiana State Constitution.

On Sept. 22, the judge hearing the case placed a temporary injunction on the law until a decision was made. Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita requested on Sept. 24 that the Indiana Supreme Court bypass the state’s Court of Appeals and take up the case itself. Rokita also asked the court to strike down the temporary injunction.

The court will begin hearing oral arguments on the case on Jan. 12, 2023.

In a statement released on Oct. 12, Right to Life of Indiana CEO Mike Fichter called the decision to leave the temporary injunction in place “deeply” disappointing.

“We are deeply disappointed the Indiana Supreme Court will allow the injunction against Indiana’s new abortion law to remain in effect,” he said. “We estimate at least 3,000 unborn babies, whose lives otherwise might have been saved, will now needlessly die from abortion as the law remains blocked. Thousands more will die as we await a final ruling after the January hearing.”

“This year’s theme is "United in Christ, one in love, one in our service to our neighbor," he said. "Let us be persistent in faith and bold in our witness."

Sarajane Duman, left, and her sister Harriet Neill, second from left, both members of St. Paul Parish in Tell City, and Jane and Tom Huber of St. Michael Parish in Cannanough, smile as they prepare to listen to remarks from Archbishop Charles C. Thompson at the Oct. 6 United Catholic Appeal dinner.

United Catholic Supreme Court takes up challenge to law protecting unborn children

Indian Supreme Court takes up challenge to law protecting unborn children
Eucharist
continued from page 1

Eucharistic Revival that will culminate in July of 2024 when the first National Eucharistic Congress in nearly 50 years is held in Indianapolis. Warthan describes this ministry of bringing the Eucharist to others as "the most rewarding one in the Church." "You see the joy in their hearts when they receive Jesus," Warthan says. "And you meet such wonderful people. My favorite times are when I take Communion to people in their homes or the nursing homes because you establish a relationship with them. You get to know them."

She talks about a woman who initially didn’t think she was worthy of receiving Communion. Warthan convinced her of God’s love for her, and the woman’s face showed her joy when she did receive Christ’s body.

Warthan’s voice also fills with delight when she mentions the retired professor in a nursing home who would detail the lives of the saints, talk about the angels, and pray the Our Father in French when Warthan brought her Communion.

She also shares the story of a woman who had a stroke. "She would cry, and her eyes would light up when I came into the room. She was so excited to have Jesus." Her voice becomes touched with emotion as she adds, "You get attached to people. After a while, you’re telling them, ‘Jesus loves you, and so do I.’ It makes it really hard when you lose someone. I go to the funeral Mass and talk to the family.”

The special gifts of life, compassion and faith all blend in this ministry for her. "It’s such a gift from God to be able to see how much people love him—that I can bring Communion to them, bring some comfort to them. It’s not a gift I’m giving. And it makes me feel I’m doing something good for God.”

‘I will never forget you’

Like many people, Lynn Lineback finds inspiration in certain quotes and sayings to help guide her approach to her life and her faith.

One of her favorite quotes comes from the last five words of a Bible verse in Isaiah, which expresses this reminder from God: "I will never forget you" (Is 49:15). Lineback caries those five words in her heart every week as she takes Communion to a 99-year-old Catholic woman in a nursing home in Richmond.

She has no family. No one comes to see her, says Lineback, a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond. "When I take her Communion once a week, every single week she says, ‘Oh, you didn’t forget me!’ " Just as touching to Lineback is the way that the 99-year-old woman embraces the opportunity to receive the Eucharist. "She hasn’t forgotten the Lord." For Lineback, that weekly encounter defines the gifts she has received as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion, as one of nine people in her parish who brings the sacrament to about 60 people in 11 facilities in the Richmond area and to Reid Memorial Hospital. There’s the gift of sharing the Eucharist, and there’s the gift of seeing the power it has in people’s lives. "Not only has God made it possible for me to be an instrument to all these older folks, but I get to see their great witness and testimony to Christ. Their belief that Jesus is truly coming to them in the Eucharist grounds me and helps preserve my faith.”

—Lynn Lineback

Prayer for Eucharistic Revival

June 19, 2022 - Pentecost 2025


Let us pray:

God our Father, it is through the perfect sacrifice of your Son that you offer to all abundance of new life in this present age. We pray that where we experience loss in the life of grace, you would pour out upon our Archdiocese the saving gifts conveyed through the most holy Body and Blood of your Son. May His Eucharistic life consume us all and renew each of us into His own body and singular mission, welling up to eternal life. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

https://eucharistrevival.org/

Archind 2022 Eucharistic 2025 Revival
Being a missionary ‘starts in your home’
MCA, operating in the rest of the world as the Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood (or simply the Holy Childhood Association, or HCA), was founded in 1843 by Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson in France. While visiting the United States in 1839, he had been struck by the poverty he saw.

He was convinced that, though weak and needing care, children rich in faith and love were capable of playing their own part in the Church’s mission—and of even stirring adults to the same generous missionary spirit. “According to www.archindy.org/mca.html.”

His idea of children helping children spread. According to cutt.ly/MCAinfo, MCA/HCA now supports missions in over 1,100 mission territories as they minister to children under 14 in need of education, health care, nutritional help, and other programs that protect young lives.

Sister Loretto sees the association as “a way of making our children understand what mission is.”

“When she speaks with the kids, their eyes are open to a whole different reality that they’ve never seen or thought of,” she said, noting that Sister Loretto has spoken with the students of St. Mary of the Knobs numerous times in Jansen’s nine years as principal there.

“Once a child is baptized, that child is a missionary,” she explained, noting that this is a lifetime role. “Every little thing you do is mission. Mission is not just an hour or an hour and a half. Nobody is exempted, and that’s the essence of the Missionary Childhood Association—to help children understand this from a very young age.”

Sister Loretto explains to the children that they don’t need to go far to be a missionary.

“It starts in your home first, with your prayers and you make sacrifices, when you respect Mom and Dad,” she said when she tells the students she instructs. “If you have made God happy, you have made you able to share your blessings with poor children around the world. You have made God so happy!”

Raising funds to assist impoverished children is one of Sister Loretto’s goals when she meets with children in Catholic schools, parish catechetical programs and vacation Bible schools throughout central and southern Indiana.

But two other goals are equally important, she told The Criterion: “Raising seeds for vocations and showing how every child—no matter how small—is a missionary.”

‘Kind of like a chain reaction’
St. Mary of the Knobs School sponsors four fundraisers a year. For this year’s first quarter, the leadership chose to help children in need around the world by raising money for the MCA.

Part of the endeavor involved a walkathon held on Sept. 23.

But the real form of raising funds came by putting Sister Loretto’s message into action.

“We encouraged the students to perform acts of service for their family, neighbors and friends in order to earn pledges or money,” Jansen explained.

The students performed so many acts of service that they more than tripled the original goal of $5,000.

Second-grader Quinn Kerr said she and her brother Daniel, a kindergartner at the school, earned money by picking potatoes.

She recalled Sister Loretto talking about “kids helping kids, and that we should help the kids that don’t have anything.”

That message also stuck with fifth-grader Madelyn Naville.

“Sister talked about all the children that didn’t have what we have and are less fortunate, like some don’t have homes or parents,” she said. “It’s a blessing to them that we can give them more.”

She and her younger siblings—third-grader Harper and first-grader Christian—helped earn money for the MCA. For their acts of service, Madelyn cleaned her great-grandmother’s bathroom and dusted while Harper and Christian “kept [their great-grandmother] entertained by playing cards and games,” then helped their grandmother in her garden.

“It made me happy to know that I’m helping someone,” Madelyn said. “That doing something to help someone can help someone else, kind of like a chain reaction.”

‘So nice to have her presence in the school’
Jansen is grateful for Sister Loretto’s role in helping her accomplish the Catholic school mission of forming children in the faith.

For instance, the generous check was a surprise for Sister Loretto and helped in her mission of raising funds for the MCA.

But her true reason for visiting St. Mary of the Knobs School was to talk about the rosary with the students and to pray it with them in adoration in honor of the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7.

“Our kids don’t get enough examples of vocations,” Jansen admitted. “So, to have her visit, to see an example of a real Catholic sister, is a rare treat.”

Sister Loretto is likewise grateful for the opportunity to plant seeds of vocation as part of her role with the MCA.

“We have a need for vocations to the priesthood, the religious life, parenthood,” she said. “This is the time you catch the children because their hearts, their love is so open.

“This gives them a way of thinking about, ‘Why did God bring you here on Earth? God has a reason, and he has plans for you.’ I incorporate that [message] here in the school, so there are also mission.”

Sister Loretto has heard from a few former students who later entered the priesthood or religious life. But equally important to her are stories of children and families who changed for the better because of her talks.

“One child wrote me, ‘When you were talking to us, you were looking at me with your brown, chocolate eyes, and it was like Jesus was talking to me.’ Sister Loretto recalled, “After my talk, she said she turned her life around.”

Sister Loretto shared about another child who said her parents didn’t pray. She encouraged the girl to ask her parents to say a prayer before the meal that evening.

A chance encounter with the girl’s mother years later revealed the child had acted on the advice, “and our home has changed 180 degrees,” the woman said.

Sister Loretto’s eyes light up when she talks about the children she instructs throughout the archdiocese.

“I just love my little precious ones,” she said. Jansen said the feeling is mutual.

“You know, she just has such a presence,” said Jansen. “The children are drawn to her, and they embrace her message. It’s just so nice to have her presence in the school.”

(For more information about the Missionary Childhood Association or to invite Sister Loretto to speak with children at a school, parish catechetical program, vacation Bible school or homeschool class, contact her at 317-236-1484. To donate to the international association, send a check made out to “MCA” to Sister Loretto Emmenu, Missionary Childhood Association, 1400 N. Meridian, Indianapolis, IN 46202.)

Students of St. Mary of the Knobs School in Floyd County raise their hands to answer a question posed by Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy Sister Loretto Emmenu, archdiocesan mission educator for the Missionary Childhood Association, in the school cafeteria on Oct. 5.
Proposed Jennings County maternity home will ‘walk with expecting mothers’

By Natalie Hoeter

The statistic is sobering: Jennings County has the second highest teen pregnancy rate in the state, according to Indiana’s 2017 Natality Report. Peggy Dyer-Blind’s story is tragic: Pregnant at 15 after being raped by a trusted family friend in 1968, she surrendered the baby girl for adoption.

But those two elements have merged into a story of hope. In a 1960s farming community at the edge of Jennings County, Missy’s Hope Maternity Home, for which Dyer-Blind is executive director and visionary, is the name of a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization caring for counseling, housing and preparing that space to support young women ages 15 and older experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. It is named for the daughter she offered for adoption, named Melissa Dawn by the adoptive parents.

“I was lucky—my parents kept me at home and they raised me. I was a lot of girls my age back then weren’t so lucky. So it’s been a dream of mine for a long time to open a maternity home in Jennings County where the girls can come, stay and be loved, cared for and helped.”

Dyer-Blind began plans for a four-resident maternity home in January 2020. Since then, a 501(c)3 license has been obtained, a business plan is in place and a board has been established to help drive the mission.

Two main tasks now remain: raising the funds to build, buy or rent space, then acquiring and preparing that space and hiring staff to make Missy’s Hope Maternity Home a reality.

‘We’re going to love and care for these girls’

Peggy Dyer-Blind’s vision is to provide women from Jennings and its surrounding counties experiencing an unplanned pregnancy with much more than a place to live.

“We’re going to love and care for these girls,” she said. “When I was younger, a pregnant (unwed) girl got sent away. They were not treated nice at all. I don’t want that for these girls.”

She expressed the increased urgency for the need, given the overturning of Roe v. Wade this summer.

“They may have a temporary ban now” on Indiana’s law, Dyer-Blind said. “But we really need to walk with these expecting mothers now more than ever.”

Her words echo the Missy’s Hope motto: “We believe no woman should have to walk the path of an unplanned pregnancy alone.

The organization’s website (supportmissyshope.org) explains many of the services the maternity home will offer the women it serves:

“Our goal is to assist [residents] in setting and achieving personal goals in the four areas of wellness: physical, spiritual, intellectual, emotional and vocational. While at Missy’s Hope, women will learn valuable life skills like budgeting, managing money, preparing for job interviews and continuing their education while pregnant or parenting. Counselors will help women with their emotional and physical needs for pregnancy, but also other problems or issues they might need to process.

Additionally offered will be spiritual guidance to help decide whether to keep their baby or put their baby up for adoption. They’ll learn to take better care of themselves and love themselves, so they can provide a better future and not necessarily depend on a man or the welfare system.

And it’s an opportunity for them to receive counseling and spiritual guidance to help decide whether to keep their baby or put their baby up for adoption.

The member of First Baptist Church in North Vernon emphasized that many of the women are all faiths—or no faith—will be welcome.

“We want this faith openness is already in action on the Missy’s Hope Maternity Home board, which includes two members of St. Mary Parish in North Vernon.

‘A place to focus on themselves and their baby’

With Jennings County Pro-Life adoption promotion event in January 2020—she was one of the speakers,” said St. Mary parishioner Kelly Elkins. She serves on the secretariat of the Mission Possible board and is a member of Jennings County Pro-Life.

“We have a great need in this county to help break the cycle of unwed teen motherhood and to help in tenuous or temporary circumstances,” she said. “Having a maternity home here will give them all a place to focus on themselves and their baby and improve their self-respect. They’ll learn to take better care of themselves and love themselves, so they can provide a better future and not necessarily depend on a man or the welfare system.

And it’s an opportunity for them to receive counseling and spiritual guidance to help decide whether to keep their baby or put their baby up for adoption.”

Elkins said the board president and Missy’s Hope board president John Webster agrees.

“If one is a loving home, they will teach women how to become the parent we know they can be.”

(Missy’s Hope Fundraiser Banquet will be held at St. Mary Parish, 212 Washington St., in North Vernon, starting at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 3. Dozens open and a silent auction begin at 6 p.m. Tickets are $35. Tickets are $25. Reservations by Oct. 30 are strongly encouraged for planning purposes, although walk-ins are welcome. For more information or to reserve tickets, contact missyshope4dc@gmail.com or visit Facebook at Missy’s Hope Maternity Home. For more information on Missy’s Hope Maternity Home, go to supportmissyshope.org.$$}}
Lay associations help Catholics live out their baptismal call

By Susan Timoney

“To speak in general terms, we may say that the Christian is to the world what the soul is to the body. Rather than a contemporary summary of the Second Vatican Council’s idea of the renewal of the vocation of the laity, this was a reflection offered by a second- or third-century Christian teacher in a letter to a seeker named Diognetus. The question of the role of the layperson in the world arises not from a particular point in time, but rather from the meaning of baptism and how the baptized share in the priestly, prophetic and royal mission of Jesus in the missionary life of the Church. Pope Francis writes in his 2013 apostolic exhortation “Evangelii Gaudium” (“The Joy of the Gospel”), “Every Christian is a missionary to the world.”

Missionary discipleship can take many forms. One form is the presence of associations of lay faithful at work in the world. Associations have grown out of groups of lay Catholics coming together out of a desire to address a specific spiritual or social need. Associations have taken different forms in different centuries, but all share a common example of the impact for good that missionary discipleship can bring to the mission of the Church.

At three times in the 20th century in three cities in Italy, Catholic men and women came together to be agents of evangelization at home, on the job and in the world.

Following the devastating effects of World War II in Europe, a laywoman, Chiara Lubich, and a small group of friends decided to take up works of spiritual and social renewal. Their desire was to create unity within the community, to learn the “art of loving,” in Lubich’s words. The group’s name, Focolare, means hearth and seemed to define the familial spirit of these small communities.

Today, Focolare hosts communities in 182 countries. Some Focolare members take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and others are single and married. All members work in grassroots programs as diverse as creating small business opportunities in struggling economies to aiding the cause of peace in countries embroiled in war.

In 1954, also in northern Italy, a priest-educator, Luigi Giussani, desired to encourage laypeople to think of education in the faith as the work of a lifetime. He designed a formation experience to train people for life in faith, forming “schools of community.” Members began to experience the liberation that comes in the encounter with the Gospel and living out that encounter in communion.

Rooted in a weekly commitment to study, reflection and discussion, groups then work to apply what has been learned to the deepest needs of the community in which they live. Response can take the form of charitable educational and artistic activities that foster the spread of the Gospel. Today, about 60,000 Communion and Liberation members live in 182 countries.

A third Italian movement, born out of the vision of the council for greater participation of the laity in the Church’s mission, is the Sant’Egidio Community. Founded by Andrea Riccardi, it began with a group of young adults gathering for prayer and moving out into the community to care for the poor and vulnerable in the streets of Rome.

Today, it embodies Pope Francis’ call to serve at the peripheries in more than 70 countries, numbering some 50,000 members. Members, both single and married, work in all types of industries and professions and commit some time every week to come together for prayer and service.

These three associations, and many more like them that have emerged following the council, raise the question of the place of a parish and its ministry and the ministry of the associations. Some pastors and pastoral leaders feel that associations take people away from parish life and deprive parishes of potential leaders. Others, interested in parish life, say that if parishes provided more by way of prayer, education and small group experiences, people would not look for something more outside of the parish.

The reality is that associations are an authentic expression of the baptismal vocation and an important part of the way the Church fulfills her mission and ought to foster a commitment of their members to parish life.

Parishes indeed have something to learn from the commitment that is asked of members and how the formation provided bears fruit in intentional discipleship. One could say parishes and associations need one another.

Parishes ought to be the spiritual home of every Catholic, the primary place one gathers with the community for the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist and other celebrations throughout the Church year. Members of lay associations can be a leaven for the spiritual life of the parish, sharing their knowledge, gifts and charism in and through parish ministries.

In a time in which many Catholics do not live out a vocational expression of their faith beyond participation in the Sunday liturgy, the associations offer a guide for nurturing in lay women and men a commitment to live more intentional lives of missionary discipleship.

(Susan Timoney is an associate professor of practice in pastoral studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and has 30 years of parish and diocesan leadership experience.)
Worship and Evangelization Outreach
Jennifer Burger

Have the courage to cross into the threshold of Jesus’ arms

Every day, guests walk through our doors at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis.

Many times when I greet someone, I see knots in their face or their body language change when they enter. Something more than crossing the threshold of living in a static home, seems to be happening here—something deeper. I don’t always know the stories of our guests or the reasons they come, but what I do see is peace and transformation—if only in that brief moment.

I don’t need to know their stories, but I’ve often pondered the meaning of “threshold” and have found it to be a meaningful one to me and all who walk in faith. I’m not talking about thresholds as a point of limitation (such as pain) but as a point where two things—ideas, experiences, feelings—converge and present us with a choice: do we enter? Or do we not enter?

Threshold can be a place of mystery where we meet God and God meets us. There is an invitation to begin, to step out or step into the unknown or uncomfortable. If we do, our path and perhaps even the course of another’s life can change.

The threshold moments can become defining moments for us in our faith journey. In these moments, we have a sense of who we are and our purpose, as well as who God is and God’s purpose for us. There is a sense of fulfillment.

Sometimes the threshold is a moment of pain or loss and we can change the course and life of another. Our response can also change the course of our own life to be a point of grace and a graceful response to God or allowing others to be healed, to be loved. Do we open the door or close the door to life as well as for others. When Mary says, “let it be done to me according to thy word” (Lk 1:38), she is crossing the threshold from a young Jewish girl to the mother of Our Lord. When Mary says, “Do whatever he tells you” (Jn 2:5), she is crossing the threshold from being a mother to a son to being a mother for all of us as Jesus is launched into public ministry and she, along with him, to cross, crossing the threshold is an act of love, following it to where it leads her.

Every day, we have opportunities to cross the threshold in simple acts of love.

Sometimes we are called to a deeper response of love and what it requires of us. Given free will, we are always faced with a decision—our “yes” or our “no.” How do we respond when we feel the Holy Spirit speaking to someone about God and Jesus or to help someone in need?

Our response can also change the course of our own life to be a moment of grace and a graceful response to God. (Lk 1:38) she is crossing the threshold when Jerusalem fell to Nebuchadnezzar’s army in 587 B.C.E., she begins with the simple word, “How.” We might understand that expression today, in the wake of Hurricane Ian, asking, “How could this happen?” or simply saying, as we see what has happened, “How terrible.” And with this simple word, the emotion-laced words might fall like tears.

Yet, as much as it expresses bare and raw grief, the Book of Lamentations does not end there. It rises and falls and rises again in lament. But nestled within the verses, especially in Lamentations 3:22-24, there is hope in God’s mercy and ultimate saving hand.

It is almost as if the flood of tears, the release of sorrow, enables those who mourn to find comfort and strength from above.

The second example from Scripture shows another response to surviving a very real and very serious crisis. In Exodus 14 and 15, Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt, but they are not clear of danger. Pharaoh’s army is behind them; he will not let them go.

It must have been terrifying to think that this powerful force was gaining ground, aiming to not only take the Israelites back, but probably exact heavy punishment on those who fled. Yet God did not abandon the Israelites. In an act mightier than any pharanoic army could ever devise, God parts the waters of the Red Sea for the Israelites to pass safely to the other side, then drowns Pharaoh’s forces as they attempt to follow. In the aftermath, Moses makes a sacrifice to God and leads the Israelites in psalms of praise and thanksgiving. His sister Miriam leads the women in song, too, thanking God in joyful worship.

Grief, pause, moments of joyful outburst: the Book of Exodus shows us how we might draw energy and hope out of a horrible ordeal.

Lamentations is also a place to find support in the aftermath of a crisis. In Acts, after Jesus’ crucifixion, the Apostles and the women of Jerusalem have no idea what was going to happen next.

Persecution, imprisonment, loss and death—these were their dangers too.

In Acts, Jesus tells his disciples not to lose heart. He reassures them of the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4-5), and they did.

Saying close, sharing their faith and breaking bread together, the cluster of Jesus’ followers received the gift of the Holy Spirit

Jennifer Burger is program and marketing manager at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis.

PERSPECTIVES

For the Journey/Effie Caldera

The Letter: A Message For Our Earth inspires faithful to action

When you think about the Vatican, great filmmaking isn’t the first thing that comes to mind.

But a documentary released by the Vatican on Oct. 14—Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis.

The Letter: A Message For Our Earth is directed by award-winning filmmaker Maureen Pratt.

For our Lord.

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The Book of Sirach, one of those books classified by scholars collectively as the wisdom literature of the Old Testament, provides the first reading for Mass this weekend. The wisdom literature began when devout Jews and conscientious Jewish parents realized that, amid the pagan societies to which they had emigrated, they needed to convince their children of the worth of the ancient Hebrew religion.

The paganism amid which they lived had Greek origins. It elevated human reasoning almost to the status of the divine. So, the authors of this literature sought to persuade their audiences that the Hebrew religion in itself was the summit of human logic. Even with this overall pattern, each of the wisdom books was composed in its own time and in the face of its own circumstances. Thus, it is important always to know the context in which a book was written, even though a similar purpose was the driving force and paganism was the common concern.

The Book of Sirach was composed when, in the best and brightest minds of most people who lived around the Jews, Greek mythology was the accepted way of thought. This mythology presented gods and goddesses who were often selfish, petty and outright cruel—godless mortals who were often more than God, as the Pharisee sought other ends in the story told by Luke, chases after phantoms. The humble man in the Gospel story was truly wise. His wisdom caused him to be humble. He received the reward. He succeeded. He achieved.

Reflection

The Book of Sirach suggests an age and a condition very long ago, but quite like circumstances met in life today or in any day. Humans always exaggerate their ability. It is a byproduct of original sin. Despite contradictions and missteps among humans, the fact remains that God alone is altogether and truly wise. God alone is the model of perfection. God alone provides the only reward. God is everything. Humility is an essential Christian virtue. It is not a denial of who and what we are. Rather, it expresses in the deepest insight of who and what we are. It sees us as we are, but its very frankness unseals us so often.

A

Q

Catholics can revere and seek the intercession of Old Testament figures

(EDITOR’S NOTE: This column by Father Kenneth Doyle was originally published in 2015.)

Q

A

With all due respect to my Catholic friends, there is one thing that I question. Many, many devout Catholics have contributed over the years to special collections for the benefit of retired priests. After all these collections and all the beautiful retirement homes for priests that now exist, shouldn’t we be doing more instead for the poor?

The very ones who have contributed to build these homes cannot afford the comfort and the luxury that priests now enjoy. (Louisiana)

As a diocesan priest for 49 years who will soon face retirement, I took a particular interest in your question and I almost wish that things were as you describe them. In fact, most dioceses do not have retirement homes for their priests, and following retirement (in our diocese; it has been optional at 70, mandatory at 75) a priest is on his own financially.

Some priests may have inherited a fair home but that is by far the exception. Most retirees wind up renting an apartment. (Retired priests generally decline to remain in the rectory where they served as pastor even if it’s offered; they do not want to compromise the work of a pastor by dividing the lavatories of parishioners.)

The monthly retirement stipend from our diocese (for those retiring at 75) is $1,900. If a priest has contributed to Social Security over the years (some opted not to), he is eligible for a second monthly check—but since his lifetime earnings were minimal, that check is generally not substantial. Retirees, if their health is good, might also help with Masses at a parish, for which they would receive a nominal stipend. From this, general expenses—rent, food, transportation, etc.—and contributions to the poor, who may not have enough to live anywhere at all.

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

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, October 23, 2022

• Strach 35:12-14, 16-18
• 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
• Luke 18:9-14

My Journey to God

AUTUMN

By M. Lynell Chamberlain

Sudden leaves pave my path
This early autumn morn,
As I silently wind my way
Through fields of bronzing corn.
Rain tans a rhythmic song
On the leaves of holly trees,
And wispy curls of mist float up
To say hello to me.

Flocks of geese trumpet by,
Departing from the lake
Echoing through the valley
As dawn begins to break.
God lives in the valley,
As surely as I do.
For who but he could make this beauty
That I’m privileged to view!

(M. Lynell Chamberlain is a member of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg. Photo: A field of corn covers the landscape in front of St. James Catholic Church in Cooperstown, Wis., in this Oct. 10 photo. (CNS photo/Sam Lucero))

Daily Readings

Monday, October 24
St. Anthony Mary Claret, bishop
Ephesians 4:25-28
Psalm 11:1-4, 6
Luke 13:10-17

Tuesday, October 25
Ephesians 5:21-33
Psalm 128:1-5
Luke 13:18-21

Wednesday, October 26
Ephesians 6:1-9
Psalm 145:10-14

Thursday, October 27
Ephesians 6:10-20
Psalm 144:1b, 2, 9-10

Question Corner

Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Catholics can revere and seek the intercession of Old Testament figures

(Q: Figures from the Old Testament are never referred to as saints. Were there no saints in those days? (New York)

A

Q

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These figures would tend to show that most retired diocesan priests, while not living in poverty, don’t live in luxury either. And yes, I would agree with you that our primary fundraising efforts should be on behalf of the truly poor, who may not have enough to live anywhere at all.

The Criteria Citation, Friday, October 21, 2022

Page 13
Bistate eucharistic procession

Benedictine Sister Alice Marie Gronotte served as a missionary, in schools and parishes

Benedictine Sister Alice Marie Gronotte, a founding member of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Brech Grove, died on Sept. 25 at the St. Paul Hermitage in Brech Grove. She was 84.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Oct. 3 at the Monastery Chapel at Our Lady of Grace. Burial followed at the sisters’ cemetery.

Sister Alice Marie was born on June 29, 1938, in Evansville, Ind. She entered Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Ind., in 1956 and professed first vows on June 13, 1958, while still a member of Monastery Immaculate Conception. She professed perpetual vows on July 24, 1983, as a member of Our Lady of Grace Monastery.

Sister Alice Marie earned a bachelor’s degree in education at the former St. Benedict College in Ferdinand, and a master’s degree in education at Indiana University Southeast in New Albany and Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.

During her 64 years of vowed religious life, Sister Alice Marie lived in Catholic education for 11 years. In the archdiocese, she served at the former St. Paul School in Tull City from 1960-65 and 1972-73, at the former St. Michael School in Bradford from 1965-68 and at St. Anthony of Padua School in Clarksville in 1971.

From 1968-70, 1973-86 and 1987-90, Sister Alice Marie served as a missionary in countries in Colombia.

In 1990, she returned to the U.S. and served Hispanic migrant workers for a year at St. John the Baptist Parish in Starlight. From 1991-2013, Sister Alice Marie served as a pastoral associate at Prince of Peace Parish in Madison before retiring from ministry and residing at the monastery.

She is survived by a sister, Benedictine Sister Phyllis Gronotte, a member of Our Lady of Grace Monastery.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Retired Sisters’ Fund, in care of Our Lady of Grace Parish Monastery, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove, IN 46107 or online at www.benedictine.com.

Online Lay Ministry Formation

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has partnered with the University of Notre Dame and Catholic University of America (CUC) to offer not-for-credit online theology classes:

- Earn certificate in Lay Ministry
- Complete 12 courses online with ND STP program
- CDU offers courses on Catechesis of the Catholic Church
- 20% discount for all employees, volunteers, and parishioners

For more information, please log onto www.archindy.org/layministry

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 invited to submit obituaries so that they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.

Bishop Thomas R. Zinkula of Davenport, Iowa, and Bishop Louis Tallia of Peoria, Ill., participate in a bistate eucharistic procession on Oct. 8 following Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport. Such regional eucharistic events are encouraged to take place during the National Eucharistic Revival that was launched in June. (CNS photo/Aska Zinkula, The Catholic Messenger)

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REPORT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT NOW

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct by a person ministering on behalf of the archdiocese, or if you know of anyone who has been a victim of such misconduct, please contact the archdiocesan victim assistance coordinator. There are many ways to make a report:

- Ethics Point
- Catholic Online Reporting
- www.archindy.org/ethicspoint
- 317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548

Victim Assistance Coordinator, Archdiocese of Indianapolis
317-236-1419, Indianapolis, IN 46226-1419

Honest tears for what has happened, praise for light after the storm and gratitude for fellowship that helps us grow—these gifts from Scripture are support for today and in the days to come.

(Maureen Pratt writes for Catholic News Service. Her e-mail is maureen@maureenpratt.com) 

Once you know, you cannot look away,” says Lorna Gold, a scientist in the film who works with the worldwide Laudato Si’ Movement and who has an irrepressible smile and a soft Scottish accent.

Pope Francis wrapped this documentary around his favorite themes—the poor and marginalized, Indigenous people, youths and nature itself. He wants us to question economic growth before the good of all.

This film is a call to action, and once you watch it, you can’t help but ask, how can I help? What attitudes toward consumption, food waste, plastic use, can I change? There are so many ways one person or one family can make a difference.

Jesus Father Daniel Berrigan once wrote, “One cannot level one’s moral lance at every evil in the universe. . . . But you can do something, and the difference between doing something and nothing is everything.”

(Eliffe Caldarola writes for Catholic News Service) 


HUBERT, Jr., Clayton, 59, St. Augustine, Lepold, Sept. 29. Brother of Mary Tanner, John and Paul Hubert. Uncle of several.


PFAFF, James B., 70, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenfield, Sept. 27. Brother of Mary Jane Strange, Marilyn Wright, Gerald, Joseph and Thomas Pfaff. Uncle of several.


Carollo recalled the beginnings of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima. At 4 p.m. East Coast time, with Bishop Imbarrato, a nationally known priest and radio personality, the crowd gathered for the National Rosary Rally in Washington on Oct. 9.

“Praying for conversion is the duty of every believer,” he said. “We must always testify to the truth no matter the cost. To do anything less will simply undo the unicity of our calling as Catholics, as Christians. ‘Never be afraid to tell the truth, to help admonish sinners not out of judgment but out of love,’ he added.

Carollo is executive director of the New Jersey-based World Apostolate of Fatima USA, which was founded in 1946 as the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima. He was one of several people who led prayers and spoke at the rally. Others included Auxiliary Bishop Joseph L. Coffey of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services; Sister Deirdre Byrne, L.C., the Little Workers of the Sacred Heart superior for her community, the Sisters of Life, the Religious Congregation of Marianist Sisters; Auxiliary Bishop Joseph C. Baez of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, N.M., who now lives in Florida.

In his remarks, Carollo led the crowd in a prayer to St. Joseph “as father, protector and consort.” As head of Holy Family, bless the world and all its inhabitants,” he prayed. “Help us in restoring marriage and family to the right order of God. With your spiritual carpenter skills, rebuild our Church, guide those who have strayed back to the eschatological Lord [and strengthen the Church.

“The power of this rosary coast to coast is really impossible to fully know,” Carollo told the crowd, referring to the wider part of the event involving people across the country.

In Washington and around the U.S., rosaries were being prayed for the respect for life at all stages of development, especially the unborn; the sanctity of marriage and families “based upon God’s creation of man and woman”; upholding constitutionally protected religious freedom; “the return of our nation to God and holiness”, and other intentions.

At 4 p.m. East Coast time, with Bishop Coffey leading them, all participants prayed the glorious mysteries of the rosary.

Carollo recalled the beginnings of Our Lady’s Blue Army, saying that “our founders got together and brought an army [of people] to its knees in front of the Blessed Mother to promote Our Lady of Fatima.” They were charged with spreading her message that the faithful pray the rosary daily to bring peace to the world, pray for the conversion of Russia, do penance and have a devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

“(This) army has as its main weapon a rosary, contrary to all these crazy assertions that the rosary is part of the right-wing thug culture and part of a hateful attack on people who do not agree,” Carollo said, noting that such assertions were put forward by a secular publication recently.

“What a sad thing,” he commented.

He was referring to an Aug. 14 article in The Atlantic magazine by Daniel Penston that ran under the headline: “How the Rosary Became an Extremist Symbol.”

“The AR-15 is a sacred object among ‘traditional’ Catholics are bringing a sacrament of their own to the movement,” the article began.

After an outcry by critics over the description of the rosary as an “extremist symbol,” the magazine’s editors changed the headline to: “How Extremist Gun Culture Is Trying to Co-opt the Rosary.”

“How are sacramental beads suddenly showing up next to AR-15s online?” said the new lead of the article.

“Calling out sin and praying for the conversion of people is not an act of hatred toward sinners, but it is an act of compassion and love,” Carollo said.

“That’s why we do it. It is an act of love—praying for conversion is the duty of every believer.”

The National Rosary Rally was sponsored by the Holy League, a Catholic men’s movement, and concluded the organization’s 54-day “Novena for Our Nation.” It also came on the last day of the 30th International Week of Prayer and Fasting.
The West Deanery Unified Catholic Schools are Roman Catholic schools that provide an academically rigorous education for our diverse student population. Students are challenged to grow in Mind, Body, & Soul and to engage in charitable stewardship of their unique talents and abilities.

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**CR**

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PEACE & JUSTICE
RECONCILIATION
RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

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**Celebrating St. Vincent de Paul**

Bishop Antonyam Savarinithu of the Diocese of Palayamkottai in India, center, celebrates Mass in St. Vincent de Paul Church in Bedford on Sept. 26, the eve of St. Vincent de Paul’s feast day. Concelebrating with him are Father Christopher Wedelton, standing at left, and Father Jegan Peter, the parish’s administrator, standing at right. Assisting at the Mass were Deacon Thomas Scarlett, kneeling at left, and Deacon David Reising, kneeling at right, as well as numerous altar servers, kneeling at front. Father Peter is a priest of the Diocese of Palayamkottai serving in the archdiocese. (Submitted photo by April Lyle)

**Sharing stories of faith revives faith of others, pope tells magazine staff**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)—**Catholic media are called to break through ideological barriers and help believers get to know the faith and struggles of their brothers and sisters around the world, Pope Francis said.

“In a world where communications have apparently shortened distances,” he said, “ideological border controls have multiplied,” keeping the voices, the faith and the stories of many people out of the mainstream media.

Meeting on Oct. 13 with the staff of “Mondo e Missione,” the 150-year-old magazine of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions, Pope Francis said the challenge is to go to communities ignored by most of the world and share with readers “the beauty and richness of differences, but also the many distortions and injustices of societies that are increasingly interconnected and at the same time marked by heavy inequalities.

“The magazine was born in response to a need of God’s people: so many wanted to read the stories of missionaries—heroic—to feel close to them and their work, to accompany them with prayer,” the pope said. But they also wanted “to learn about countries and cultures in a different way from what was common then, which was steeped in a colonial mentality.”

The readers 150 years ago tried to look at the world “with a Christian gaze, respectful and attentive to the ‘seeds’ of truth and good scattered throughout the world,” he said.

In fact, the pope said, when missionaries go to those far-off lands, “it often happens that they discover that the Holy Spirit arrived before they did. The one who left home to evangelize finds himself or herself receiving the Good News.”

And when one encounters the joy of the Gospel alive in a community, one should not keep it to oneself, the pope said. Sharing it with others helps revive their faith as well, which is another function of Catholic media. †