In Bahrain, pope sees joy of Catholic minority, deepens ties with Muslims

AWALLI, Bahrain (CNS)—Traveling as a “sower of peace” to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Pope Francis further strengthened ties with the Muslim world and witnessed the joy and vitality of its minority and predominately expatriate Christian population.

His message promoting the peaceful coexistence of different cultures and ethnicities also included the wider Persian Gulf region, which is also increasingly more diverse due to growing communities of migrant workers, who constitute a significant percentage of the population.

The 85-year-old pope’s visit to Bahrain on Nov. 3-6 was his 39th international trip in nearly 10 years as pope and his 13th trip to a Muslim-majority nation, reflecting his deep commitment to interreligious dialogue and the need to work together to face today’s global challenges and moral crises.

The pope’s first stop in Awali on Nov. 3 was Sakhir Palace, home of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the royal family.

Meeting with authorities, members of the diplomatic corps and local representatives at the palace, the pope said, “The numerous national, ethnic and religious groups that coexist in Bahrain testify that we can and must live together in our world.”

He commended the kingdom’s efforts to promote mutual respect, tolerance and religious freedom. However, he said more should be done to offer equal opportunities to all groups and individuals; counter discrimination; protect immigrant workers; guarantee human rights; and abolish the death penalty.

The following day was the busiest for the pope, whose chronic knee pain had worsened, keeping him in a wheelchair when he needed to move around.

After being at the edge of life and death, deacon shares his thanks for God’s gift

(Founder’s note: As Thanksgiving approaches, The Criterion will be featuring stories of gratitude shared by our readers.)

By John Shaughnessy

In the days before his open heart surgery, Deacon Bill Reid gave his funeral plans to his wife. He also had his parish priest give him the sacrament of the anointing of the sick during a Sunday Mass.

At the same time, the father of four carried with him a special memory from years ago—the memory of one of the defining moments from his formation as a deacon for the Catholic Church.

That moment unfolded as he was given the yearlong chaplain’s assignment of trying to bring hope and comfort to people who had been rushed to a hospital’s emergency ward, including people who had been shot, had a heart attack or been seriously injured in a car accident.

Deacon Reid recalled that moment as the time “where I See DEACON, page 8
November 11-17 U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee and General meetings in Baltimore, Md.
November 19 – 10 a.m. Archdiocesan Pastoral Council meeting at St. Bartholomew Parish, Columbus
November 20 – 2 p.m. Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, Liberty; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Richmond; St. Elizabeth of Hungarian Parish, Cambridge City; St. Gabriel Parish, Connerville; St. Ann Parish, New Castle; and St. Mary Parish, Rushville, at St. Andrew Church, Richmond
November 22 – 1 p.m. Council of Priests meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis
November 29 – 11 a.m. College of Deans meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center
November 30 – Noon Indianapolis Eucharistic Revival Planning Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center
November 30 – 3 p.m. Finance Council meeting, Mass and dinner at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center
Catholic Radio Indy announces acquisition of two new stations

By Sean Gallagher

CARMEL, IND.—Catholic Radio Indy keeps growing and growing.

When it went on the air initially in 2004, it had one frequency (89.1 FM) that could be heard by 1.1 million people and about 150,000 Catholics on the west side of Indianapolis and in counties west of the city.

Through the years, two more frequencies were added that could be heard north of Indianapolis in Noblesville, Ind., and Anderson, Ind.

At its annual fundraising dinner on Oct. 18 in Carmel, Ind., Catholic Radio Indy general manager Gordon Smith announced that two new stations have been acquired by the radio apostolate: 89.5 FM in Franklin—formerly the radio station of Franklin College—and 94.3 FM in Lafayette, Ind.

“This is a huge deal,” said Smith in a press release about the acquisitions. “Catholic Radio Indy is positioned to become the premiere go-to Catholic media network in the state of Indiana. The Franklin station is now on the air with Catholic programming.

“Lafayette, Ind. has also been made to the FCC to expand 94.3 FM in Lafayette, Ind. At its annual fundraising dinner on Oct. 18 in Carmel, Ind., Catholic Radio Indy general manager Gordon Smith announced that a new station has been acquired by the radio apostolate: 89.5 FM in Franklin—formerly the radio station of Franklin College—and 94.3 FM in Lafayette, Ind."

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Is there a life better than bringing Jesus to people and talking to Jesus?

If you heard a homily centered on vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life this past weekend, you were not alone. Although statistics are not readily available, we believe there is a fair chance that pastors around central and southern Indiana and throughout the United States—and deacons who preached as well—used their homilies to highlight National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW), which was held on Nov. 6-12. The annual weeklong celebration of the Church in the United States is dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.

Which leads to a question. Do you pray for vocations every day? If not, do you consider one of these vocations, that other young people in your parish or family consider responding to God’s call with the courage to serve the Church?

Bishop James F. Checchio of Metuchen, N.J., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, noted in his NVAW message that NVAW is a time to foster vocations for young people to the faith,” he added. Many parishes pray for vocations at every Mass, but why not pray for them on your drive to or from work, or even better, including those prayers at home.

Just that for all of us who have followed a call of God? There’s a necessary mystery about our callings. Bishop Checchio said in a statement about the weeklong observance.

“But the accompaniment of the whole faith community is key for genuine vocational discernment—from one’s parents and family members, to the Catholic educators, as well as the vital role that youth ministers and fellow parishioners play as the early encounters for young people to the faith,” he added.

Look around central and southern Indiana. There are several parishes where seeds are being planted in spiritual soil and vocations are flourishing. With 29 men in formation for the priesthood at Bishop Simon Brunt College Seminary in Indianapolis and Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, and several women joining religious orders, we have examples of individuals allowing the Holy Spirit to move their hearts to discern whether God is calling them to that type of vocation. According to the USCCB’s website, NVAW began in 1976 when the U.S. bishops designated the 28th week in Ordinary Time for NVAW. In 1997, this celebration was moved to coincide with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Beginning in 2014, NVAW was moved to the first full week of November. The Criterion included a special 12-page section focusing on NVAW in our Nov. 4 issue, and in it we highlighted individuals and orders who have heard and answered God’s call to live out a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life.

Father Michael Keucher, archdiocesan director of vocations, reminded readers all vocations are embarked with God’s mysterious grace and mercy.

“Isn’t that true for all of us who have followed a call of God? There’s a necessary mystery about our callings, our vocations,” he wrote. “We walk where God is leading simply because we are drawn there, and then we get there and pause from time to time, thinking, ‘I’m here, because—I don’t know why!’ ”

“Except, of course, we do know why: God’s grace! When it comes to vocations, all is grace and mercy,” Father Keucher continued. “None of us deserves a vocation, none of us is smart enough to know our vocation and none of us is strong enough to fulfill the demands of our vocation. It is all God’s grace and mercy, from start to finish.

While the Church has encouraged each of us to share our gifts of time, talent and treasure in living out our faith, the one constant we can all offer is prayer. Prayers to build up the kingdom of God, prayers to be the hands and feet of Christ to other brothers and sisters in need and prayers for more vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life, among other things.

Many parishes pray for vocations at every Mass, but why not pray for them on your drive to or from work, or even better, including those prayers at home with your family.

Pope St. John Paul II offered these words about vocations: “What will you do with your life? What are your plans? Have you thought of committing your existence totally to Christ? Do you think that there can be a greater honor than to bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus?”

Becoming Jesus to people and people to Jesus. Could there be more beautiful witness in living out your vocation?

Father John Fink, Editor Emeritus

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are published in The Criterion as part of the newspaper’s commitment to “the promotion of freely-held and expressed opinion among the People of God” (Comunicado y Programa, 116). Acceptable letters 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 necessary to space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content (including spelling and grammar). In order to encourage opinions from a variety of readers, frequent writers will ordinarily be limited to one letter every three months. Concise letters (usually less than 300 words) are more likely to be printed.

Letters may be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld.

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.
Cristo se revela tanto en el que da como en el que recibe el amor

“Que san Martín nos ayude a comprender que solo mediante un compromiso común de compartir es posible responder al gran desafío de nuestros tiempos: construir un mundo de paz, no violencia, y se hizo monje y fundó la abadía de Ligugé, el monasterio más antiguo de Europa. Su santidad, celo pastoral y la vida laboriosa fueron reconocidos por el pueblo cristiano de la ciudad francesa de Tours, que aclamó a Martín como su obispo.

Tras aceptar a regañadientes esta llamada al ministerio episcopal, se dedicó a la evangelización, al servicio generoso de su pueblo y a la formación del clero. Durante su discursó del Ángelus en el día de esta festividad en 2007, el papa emérito Benedicto XVI dijo que, aunque se atribuyen muchos milagros a san Martin de Tours en toda Europa, se reconoce que no puede dejar las cosas como están. Y en ese espíritu de cambio, nos llamamos a preparar para el renacimiento eucarístico y preparar para el Eucharístico Nacional en Indiánpolis desde el 17 al 21 de julio de 2024. El Renacimiento del Congreso Eucarístico Nacional son una respuesta directa al llamado del Papa Francisco a una "conversión pastoral y misionera, que no puede dejar las cosas como están para que la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos pueda estar "en estado permanente de misión" ("Evangelii Gaudium", #25).

Mientras nos comprometemos en este renacimiento eucarístico, y nos preparamos para el Congreso, hay mucho que podemos aprender del testimonio de San Martín de Tours, que el día de este vuelo de San Martín, se ha convertido en un signo supremo del amor de Dios, una piedra angular de un encuentro renovado con Jesús en la Eucaristía, el orgullo y el cumbre de nuestra fe católica.

El Renacimiento comenzó oficialmente en junio, y su evento más importante será un Congreso Eucarístico Nacional en Indiánpolis del 17 al 21 de julio de 2024. El Renacimiento del Congreso Eucarístico Nacional son una respuesta directa al llamado del Papa Francisco a una "conversión pastoral y misionera, que no puede dejar las cosas como están para que la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos pueda estar "en estado permanente de misión" ("Evangelii Gaudium", #25).

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November 14
St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oldamon Rd., Indianapolis. Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of God, 7 p.m. Dominican Sister Mary Michael Fox presenting, free. Information: 317-826-6000, ext. 159, or brooks@saintsimon.org.

November 15
The Arcium, 3143 W. Thompson Rd., Indianapolis. Gabriel Project: First Post- Roe Fundraising Dinner. 6:30 p.m., national speaker Pat Sennard presenting, free, register by Nov. 10. Information and registration: gpdinner2022@gmail.com or 317-213-4778.

November 16

November 17
Holy Cross Parish, 12239 State Road 62, St. Croix. Holy Cross Raffle. 9 a.m., 1st prize $2,500, 2nd-4th prizes $1,000, $20 per ticket, only 585 tickets available. Information: 812-843-5143.

December 3
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. O Come Let Us Adore Him! Advent Dinner and Concert. 6:30 p.m., dinner, performance by Francesca LaRosa, prayer, adoration, $50. Information, registration: fmm-retro@example.com or 317-545-7681 or kloem@ archindy.org.

December 5
Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center, 9220 W. State Road 48, Bloomington. Advent Day of Reflection: “Bethlehem: House of Bread,” 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate Gabriel Cortes presenting, includes Mass, confessions available, adoration, free will offering. Information, registration: 812-825-4642, ext. 1.

December 6
Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Emmanuel—God is With Us Advent Evening of Reflection, 6:30 p.m., Benedict Inn Spiritual Direction Intensives director Rev. Hansbrey presenting. 45 dollars includes dinner, information, registration/brochures: 317-788-7581, benedictin@benedictin.org.

December 7
Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guesthouse, 200 Hill Dr., Saint Meinrad. Soul Collage: Imagining Our Inner Life. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CT. Benedictine Sister Jean Velas presenting. $40 ticket, $50 for additional $30, must be scheduled in advance. Information, registration: soulcollage@archbenedictine.org.

December 9
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. A Day of Quiet Renewal. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., $20, $70 with spiritual direction. Information and registration: 812-933-6437, www.oldenburgosf.com.

December 13-14, 15
Our Lady of Peace Cemetery, 1071 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. 5K Walk/Run and St. Vincent de Paul, 5 K Walk/Race. 5:30 a.m., local concerts and bands benefitting Catholic Charities, $25, all ages. Information, registration: ly/pre-tday5k22.

December 16-18
Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guesthouse, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. Benedictine Spirituality as Live in Marriage, for married couples. Directions, $425 double, $225 single. Registration: archindy.org or 317-785-7081 or benzoni@archindy.org.

December 27
Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guesthouse, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. Benedictine Spirituality as Live in Marriage, for married couples. Directions, $425 double, $225 single. Registration: archindy.org or 317-785-7081 or benzoni@archindy.org.

St. Teresa of Calcutta Retreat Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. New Year’s Eve 2023. 9 p.m. – 1 a.m., $80, includes dinner and tickets, reserved seating. www.oldenburgosf.com or 810-356-1068 or dial-in at 1-317-785-8995.

For a complete list of retreats as reported to The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/retreats.

Events Calendar
For a list of events for the next four weeks as reported to The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/events.
Prince of Peace pastor in historic Madison invites visitors ‘anytime’

By Natalie Hofer

Prince of Peace Parish in Madison might be just shy of 30 years old, but its roots reach back to the 1830s.

Four parishes founded between 1837-1861 were joined in 1993 to form Prince of Peace: St. Michael the Archangel, St. Mary and St. Patrick, all in Madison, and St. Anthony in nearby China. In 2013, St. Mary Madgalene Parish in New Marion was merged into Prince of Peace as well.

The former St. Mary Church is now Prince of Peace Church, and the former Divine Mercy grotto, located behind St. Patrick Chapel. Built with stone from a local creek and featuring an altarpiece made Divine Mercy statue, the grotto was completed in 2016. (Go to cutt.ly/DMGrotto for an article on The Criterion about the grotto.)

There’s always something going on in Madison,” says Father Craig. The parish and school hold an annual festival in the second weekend in September. And Madison has several large annual events, including a regatta on the Ohio River, a Chautauqua arts festival and several music festivals.

“Madison has really become a tourist destination,” he says. “Visitors are welcome anytime.”

For Mass times, go to www.poppeace.org or call the parish at 812-265-4166.

Fast boats, historic homes and a 2-for-1 deal

Madison is teeming with sites to see and things to do. The Madison Regatta takes place around the Fourth of July weekend, the Chautauqua Festival of Arts occurs around the end of September and several music festivals take place during the summer. Additional events can be found at visitmadisonindiana.com.

According to that site, the city contains one of the country’s last National Historic Landmark Districts, including the Lauer Mansion overlooking the Ohio River. Go to visitmadison.org or for a list of historic sites and museums.

Among the historic sites available for touring is the former St. Michael the Archangel Church, completed in 1859. Tours must be arranged at least two weeks in advance. For more information or to schedule a tour, go to www.historicmadison.com or call 812-265-2697 on weekdays.

The Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes offers one way to see some of Madison’s historic homes up close. The 2022 tour will take place from 5-9 p.m. on Fridays and 3-9 p.m. on Saturdays on Nov. 25-26 and Dec. 2-3. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to cutt.ly/MadisonChristmas.

While in Madison, be sure to visit or even stay at Clifty Falls State Park. The park offers many trails, and in November provides beautiful views of the Ohio River. Clifty Falls Inn (and most state park inns) offers a winter special: from Nov. 27-Mar. 2 (except on Dec. 25, 2022-Jan. 5, 2023), stay two consecutive nights Sunday-Thursday for the price of one night. For more information or to make a reservation, go to cutt.ly/CliftyNight.

(Mass Excursions is a feature highlighting an archdiocesan parish and local attractions, encouraging a trip to the area that includes Mass with the members of that parish.)

U.S. bishops launch new approach to teaching the faith in today’s world

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Catholic Church leaders are taking a new approach to passing on the faith, saying they recognize a pressing need to do this in a way that adapts to the modern world.

This new outreach, called the Institute on the Catechism, is not a place but instead a new springboard for faith formation developed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Subcommittee on the Catechism.

It will involve catechetical publishers working directly with the USCCB subcommittee on new ways to pass on the faith using digital tools and aiming to reach a more diverse Church. It will also provide resources to dioceses and parish resources to facilitate this. One of the hopes is that these youths will in turn reinvigorate the Church.

In a previous interview with CNS about this project, catechetical consultants said the institute has the potential to change the fundamental relationship between publishers and bishops into something that’s less reactive to a finished product and more collaborative.

Mike Rafios, vice president director of sales for Pflaum Publishing Group and the president of the Association of Catholic Publishers, said leading people to a meaningful encounter with Christ through catechesis and an understanding of their role in the mission of the Church is something many catechetical materials attempt.

“But we must admit our own limitations.” he added. “Any person’s faith development is a lifelong journey. That journey, even for young people, includes so many more variables than catechetical texts can be expected to provide,” he said.

Similarly, Sabrina Magnuson, a catechetical consultant for Loyola Press, said the institute’s aim of forming leaders who will in turn inspire and form parents, teachers and catechists in their home diocese is a daunting prospect.

“At the end of the day, the textbook is a resource, a tool,” she said. “Encounter is so much more than that.”

Bishop Caggiano said about 17 bishops plan to attend the institute’s launch, committing to using this new model in their dioceses, and he hopes more dioceses will join in next year.

In the meantime, he said, participating dioceses will get the support they need to get this work started. It will also be a learning experience for all participating dioceses and a time to come to a deeper understanding of what priests really need to make this work.

“It has to be the work of the Holy Spirit,” he added, and he also said it will need financial support that he hopes to get from those who want to be partners in this effort.

By Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the bishops’ Subcommittee on the Catechism, sees it: Catholic parishes need to re-create a “Catholic culture that recognizes we’re in the 21st century. We can’t go back to 1950, it’s gone.”

Re-creating what he describes as a “radically different model” for teaching the faith is something he has been working on with this subcommittee for the past several years.

The bishop announced the proposal to create the institute at the bishops’ spring meeting last June. It will officially launch on Nov. 10-12 just ahead of the bishops’ annual fall meeting in Baltimore.

This new approach starting on the 30th anniversary of the issuing of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, draws inspiration from Pope Francis’ 2021 apostolic letter “Antiquum Ministerium” (“Ancient Ministry”) that described catechesis as an official Church ministry. It also builds on the Vatican’s Directory for Catechesis, issued in 2020, that gives guidelines for catechists and pastors particularly in the role of evangelization.

The most frequently used description for the Institute is “evangelizing catechesis.”

In explaining this phrase to Catholic News Service (CNS) on Oct. 19, Bishop Caggiano said this new method will emphasize truth, beauty and goodness, and that it “recognizes that the passing on of the faith is no longer in a Catholic culture, but in a secular and hostile culture toward Christian faith.”

He said the institute’s mandate is to “create multiple opportunities where a young person can encounter Christ in an ongoing way and have the ‘leadership of the Church and their parents accompany them.”

In other words, it’s not just religious education through textbook learning or even service projects, but a more concentrated effort to engage young people with the Church and provide role models for them with diocesan and parish resources to facilitate this. One of the hopes is that these youths will in turn reinvigorate the Church.

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In the meantime, he said, participating dioceses will get the support they need to get this work started. It will also be a learning experience for all participating dioceses and a time to come to a deeper understanding of what priests really need to make this work.

“It has to be the work of the Holy Spirit,” he added, and he also said it will need financial support that he hopes to get from those who want to be partners in this effort.

By Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Conn., is seen in this Oct. 1, 2020, file photo. He is chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Subcommittee on the Catechism, (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)
I learned to pray really well. I’d stop outside the room and pray to Mary. My prayer went something like this, ‘You said yes not knowing what you were getting into. I don’t know what’s on the other side of this door. Help me to be effective to help them in their time of need.’ And then I’d go in. The Virgin Mary helped me through it. That’s where I learned to face big issues where I don’t know what the outcome is going to be."

So as Deacon Reid prepared to face the unknown outcome of his upcoming heart surgery, he turned to prayer again, this time telling God, “If this is my time, it’s my time. I’m in your hands. I trust you.” During the surgery that took place at Ascension St. Vincent Heart Center in Carmel, Ind., Dr. Peter Walts stopped Deacon Reid’s heart, opened up his aorta and trimmed a thick muscle between the right and left ventricles of his heart before reversing the process and trying to restart his heart. When the surgery was ended, the prayers of Deacon Reid and so many other people were answered. “As I woke up, I thought, ‘I’m alive!’” Deacon Reid recalls. It was a moment of great gratitude. A moment that has allowed Deacon Reid to continue as a husband, a father, a grandfather, a friend, a deacon—the ministry that has blessed his life for the past 14 years. "The biggest thing for me is payback," says Deacon Reid, who is 74. "I’ve had an absolutely blessed life. My dedicated and devoted wife of 52 years, Mary. Four wonderful children, nine grandchildren. It’s been an opportunity for me to pay back for all these blessings God has given me. To know you’re helping other people get closer to God, that’s where the payback is.”

"That’s a gift from God!” As Deacon Reid talks on this autumn morning, he’s back at Ascension St. Vincent Heart Center. Three years have passed since his heart surgery. He’s sitting in the heart center’s chapel, sharing his story of gratitude and giving back. Part of that giving back includes visiting people who come to the heart center for surgery. "I’ve been a patient of some serious medical care," he says. "When I come in here to see somebody who has a heart condition, I feel like I can give them some inspiration and hope—to say, ‘Hey, I made it through this. I’ve been through this.’” While that outreach is close to his heart, even more so is one of his ministries as a deacon at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Carmel in the Lafayette Diocese—being part of the parish’s Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program that prepares non-Catholics to enter into full communion with the Church. "It’s one of my absolute favorite things to do, to help these people,” he says. "Their response to the spark of faith that God has put into them ignites my own faith.”

His own faith journey to becoming a deacon began after he retired from Eli Lilly & Co. in Indianapolis, where he spent most of his 31-year career there in information technology. Still, his determination to live his faith began much earlier than his ordination as a deacon in 2008. "I remember a time in my early working life,” he says. "We worked in cubicles. I remember someone coming into an office next to mine and saying, ‘Tom, I didn’t realize you were Catholic?’ I heard that and thought, I don’t want anyone to ever be surprised that I’m Catholic. I want to live my life in such a way that they say, ‘Well, I figure you probably were.’ That became a driving force for me throughout all my life. And now I hope that even for people who don’t know me they see God working through me. You can’t buy that. That’s a gift from God. But it’s only a gift if you open it. I feel that God has given me these gifts. Having that surgery was a gift. I didn’t recognize it as a gift at the time. Then it seemed a burden. But it was a gift in terms of what I’m able to do afterward.”

A sharing of smiles and gratitude A few minutes after sharing that thought, someone enters the chapel where Deacon Reid is sharing his story. The person is Walts, the heart surgeon who did Deacon Reid’s surgery three years ago. Learning that Deacon Reid is in the heart center, the surgeon took time to visit his former patient. Their shared smiles reflect pure delight in seeing each other. "I love to see patients down the road,” Walts says. "This particular case is very gratifying. It’s always worth it for me to step out to see a patient, to see an old friend.”

Deacon Reid still beams as he thanks his surgeon again and says, "To be able to say thank you to someone who has saved your life is just wonderful!” After Walts leaves, Deacon Reid returns to sharing his gratitude toward God. "I feel so blessed,” he says. "At times, I feel guilty because I’ve been so lucky. I worked the first half of my life for success. The second half of my life is for significance. A lot of significance for me is to make a difference in people’s lives. To help them grow closer to God.”

"I have gotten so much closer to God through my life and my diaconate ministry. To be able to help other people to get an inch or a mile closer to God is so very gratifying for me. I’m now able to do what God has always wanted me to do.”

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**Prayer of gratitude guides a woman’s life**

By John Shaughnessy

Joanne McKinley begins every morning with this simple prayer of gratitude: "Thank you, God, for my eyes that see. Thank you for my legs that I can take care of me. Thank you for my heart that filled with love. Thank you for all the blessings you have sent me from above.”

At 90, McKinley focuses on her family when she counts her blessings, "I’m now able to do what I want. To help others is a way that they say, ‘Well, I figure you probably were.’ That became a driving force for me throughout all my life. And now I hope that even for people who don’t know me they see God working through me. You can’t buy that. That’s a gift from God. But it’s only a gift if you open it. I feel that God has given me these gifts. Having that surgery was a gift. I didn’t recognize it as a gift at the time. Then it seemed a burden. But it was a gift in terms of what I’m able to do afterward.”

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Prayer, elections and ‘Faithful Citizenship’ discussion are on agenda for bishops’ fall meeting

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will find the bishops voting on a new president and vice president and how to proceed in disseminating their quadrennial document on Catholic participation in public life.

The agenda for the Nov. 14-17 gathering also incorporates more time for prayer and reflection with opportunities for small group engagement and interaction with each other to build fraternity.

Public sessions are scheduled for the afternoon of Nov. 15 and on Nov. 16. USCCB leaders will be elected from a slate of 10 candidates nominated by their fellow bishops.

In addition, the bishops will vote on chairmen-elect for six standing USCCB committees.

The candidates for president and vice president are, in alphabetical order:

• Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services.
• Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Adelphi, Va.
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Archbishop Charles C. Thompson of Indianapolis and Archbishop William D. Byrne of Springfield, Mass., are the two nominees to head the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis.

The six bishops elected will serve for one year as chairmen-elect of their respective committee before beginning a three-year term as chairman at the conclusion of the bishops’ 2023 fall general assembly.

Also on tap is a discussion on “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” the USCCB’s document developed to help Catholics form their consciences in voting and other areas of public life. The bishops will decide what steps to take regarding whether to begin a routine update or significantly revise the document.

The document was last updated in 2019 and remained unchanged except for the addition of an introductory letter addressed to the issues of importance to the Catholic Church.

Archbishop Lori, who chairs the bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, will provide an overview of how the Catholic Church can respond following the nationwide eucharistic revival initiative, and the planned 2024 National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis.

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VATICAN CITY (CNS)—As Christians await their death and the final judgment of God, the Gospel tells them what they must do to be welcomed into heaven: love others because God is love, Pope Francis said.

In life “we are in the waiting room of the world,” hoping to hear Jesus say, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father,” the pope said during a Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica on Nov. 2, the feast of All Souls.

Pope Francis celebrated the Mass with special prayers for the nine cardinals and 148 archbishops and bishops from around the world who died between Oct. 30, 2021, and Oct. 17 this year, including 14 bishops from the United States.

The Gospel reading at the Mass was St. Matthew’s description of the last judgment when those who fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger and visited the prisoner are welcomed into God’s kingdom, and those who neglected to care for others are sent into “the eternal fire” (Mt 25:41).

While praying for those who have died, he said, the feast day also is a call to “nurture our expectation of heaven” and question whether one’s strongest desires are for union with God or for earthly status and pleasures that will pass away.

“The best careers, the greatest achievements, the most prestigious titles and accolades, the accumulated riches and earthly gains—all will vanish in a moment,” the pope said.

But the Gospel of Matthew makes clear what will last, he said: love and care for others, especially the poor and those usually discarded by society.

And, he said, the Gospel also explains that God’s final judgment is not like a civil court where the judge or jury sifts through every piece of evidence and weighs them. In the divine tribunal, the only thing that counts “is mercy toward the poor and discarded: ‘Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me,’” (Mt 25:40) the pope said. “The Most High is in the least, he who inhabits the heavens dwells among the most insignificant to the world.”

Showing love, mercy are key to entering heaven, pope says on All Souls’ Day

On Oct. 8, 22 women and men deepened their relationships with the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, and to live out the order’s mission of love, mercy and justice by becoming Providence Associates.

Of the 22, 10 are Catholics from cities within central and southern Indiana, including Bloomington, Greenwood, Indianapolis, Terre Haute and West Terre Haute. Other new Providence Associates hail from Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. Providence Associates are women and men of faith who choose to have an intentional relationship with the Sisters of Providence. They commit to sharing their own unique gifts and talents with others while walking with the Sisters of Providence. More than 300 Providence Associates live out Providence spirituality in their daily lives across the United States and in Taiwan. Learn more at ProvidenceAssociates.org or call Providence Sister Sue Paweski at 312-909-7492 or Providence Associate Debbie Dillow at 317-250-3294. (Submitted photo)

Providence Associates welcome 22 new members

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There are many ways parishes, dioceses can care for creation

By Effie Calderola

The environmental crisis facing our world can overwhelm us. In light of the challenges, what can one person do? Plenty, say Catholics who are joyfully working to bring Pope Francis’ encyclical, “Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home,” to life in parishes around the country.

“The Catholic Church can be a change agent,” Susan Varlamoff said. “We’re creating momentum, creating a movement. We can show the value of this work and make it a fun thing to do.”

Varlamoff has been instrumental in writing the “Laudato Si’” Action Plan for the Archdiocese of Atlanta. It’s a colorful and accessible roadmap for parishes.

Her own parish, St. John Neumann, has gone all-in in effecting change. Their environmental activities fill several pages.

And some of the most important revolve around energy efficiency.

First was conducting an energy audit, and action proceeded from there. Lights in the chapel and restrooms have motion sensors. Air conditioning units were upgraded to energy efficient models and put on a programmed schedule.

Temperatures were set at levels to minimize energy use. Volunteers created an eco-friendly landscape, with less than 40% lawn.

Volunteers even started washing dishes at small parish events when, Varlamoff said, “they were sick of seeing so much garbage.”

“We’ve cut greenhouse gas emissions by 40%, cut water usage by 70%, and our waste is down by 50%,” Varlamoff said. Small changes include repairing leaks and installing low flush toilets.

There’s a well-kept secret to this efficiency: St. John Neumann is saving $9,000 a year on energy because of this green commitment.

Of the 103 parishes in the archdiocese, 40 have created creation care teams, with more scheduled to form. Many, like St. John Neumann, are raising fresh produce to benefit food pantries.

Kat Doyle is the director of justice and peace ministries for the Archdiocese of Atlanta. Implementing “Laudato Si’” falls under her department, and she said Atlanta was the first U.S. diocese to put together an action plan, focusing on 10 areas, including energy, water, waste and recycling.

Doyle will be the U.S. representative to the Vatican’s working group forming a “Laudato Si’” Action Platform for dioceses throughout the world.

Atlanta’s green commitment began under Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, now the cardinal archbishop of Washington, and has continued under Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmayer.

That commitment includes, said Doyle, “a $100,000 donation from the annual appeal.”

Even if you can’t make big changes in your parish’s energy commitments, you can take smaller steps. Some parishes host webinars on using sustainable wrapping paper, how to start recycling projects or encourage using cloth bags to replace plastic and order compostable garbage bags for church and school.

And even in dioceses where the green commitment is not as well-organized as Atlanta, individual parishes are doing great things.

Take St. John Parish on the Creighton University campus in Omaha, Neb. Mary Ruth Stegman has been leading the creation care team there since 2017 with a focus on the major social events that the parish hosts.

“Our goal is zero waste,” said Stegman, and her team attempts that by having stations available at events directing people on where they can put recyclables, like pop cans, and what can be put into composting.

“We contract with a commercial composting company,” Stegman explains. “They bring a container, we fill it during an event with things like paper plates, napkins, leftover food, anything compostable. On Monday morning, they pick up the container.”

The group has another station for plastic that isn’t recyclable. This goes into Hefty orange bags, which can be purchased at local groceries. The plastics are processed at a plant in Omaha, then shipped to a facility in Lincoln, the state’s capital, where it’s turned into items like plastic furniture or decking.

“About the only things we have to send to the landfill are aluminum food containers,” Stegman said.

The campus church hosts several large social events, and one of the largest is a Wednesday night Thanksgiving feast for students who remain on campus for the holiday.

“When we started, the kids would say, “This composting is great—why isn’t the whole university doing this?”” Stegman said.

It wasn’t long before suggestions from students resulted in a campus-wide program, with composting containers throughout the university.

Education is a prime goal of all creation care teams. Varlamoff’s team sponsors lectures, videos and a green Zoom retreat. Stegman’s team writes environmental prayers of the faithful.

To begin a parish creation care team or to become more involved individually, visit catholicclimatecovenant.org, a project launched in 2006 by the U.S. Catholic bishops along with other Catholic organizations.

Their website offers a wealth of suggestions, and their monthly newsletter provides tips on how to contact your legislators or how to make green changes at home.

The Creation Care Ministry of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is a partner with the Catholic Climate Covenant. More information on it can be found at ourcommonhome.org.

Catholic teaching has always promoted care for the environment. From St. Francis of Assisi to Pope Benedict XVI, who introduced solar energy to the Vatican, Catholics have been at the forefront of environmental concern for centuries.

Varlamoff points out that there are more than 1 billion Catholics in the world. If we each do our part, imagine what we can achieve.

(© Effie Calderola is a columnist for Catholic News Service.)
Joyful Witness/Kimberly Pohovey

On light and dark days, God is always our blue sky

As I gazed the falling leaves in my front yard, I took a brief break and looked up through the trees branches and viewed the vibrant orange leaves juxtaposed against the cloudy sky. If I had ever questioned the brilliance of nature as I gazed up, I found my immediate thought was, “God!”. Next to my family and faith, I find what the light makes thanksgiving in me is the brilliance of nature. As I gazed up, I found my immediate thought was, “Nature.”

Conversely, I woke up the following day to a gray sky and clouds that foretold of the coming rain. The air temperature had chilled. I felt lethargic and tired the whole day. The gloom of the environment plunged my mood, leaving me with a definite lack of energy. I can easily see why some people suffer from seasonal affective disorder. But I would wager that most of us deal with some sort of seasonal slump as the weather turns from fall to winter. The long stretch of dark skies and colder weather can easily catch us off guard in our mood and outlook. It made me wonder what could combat these feelings.

I turned back to the bluest sky I had ever witnessed the day before. If only we had a brilliant blue sky to look at every day of the darkest days. I can’t help but think we would remain positive and hopeful.

It reminded me of a remark in a book I read years ago. A young couple had recently lived. They lived in the South in a sunny, warm climate. The wife gave birth in her new husband that she has long since lived from suffering depression and living with a stormy outlook. It made me wonder what could combat these feelings.

It is an annual program where people come together across the country to draw attention to these two problems that affect too many Hoosiers who live in poverty and homelessness.

Catholic parishes and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul help by providing food to pantries, meal programs and homeless shelters cannot be overstated. In many lives and families.

No one makes it alone; everyone has help in some way. Our people in a way that allows them to live in dignity and can achieve their goals for a better life.

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is Nov. 12-20. It is an annual program where people come together across the country to draw attention to these two problems that affect too many Hoosiers who live in poverty and homelessness.

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The struggle to fulfill basic needs can be difficult for many Hoosiers who live paycheck to paycheck. An illness, injury or job loss can easily lead to poverty, hunger, and homelessness.

David Bethuram

For decades, the movement has put its money where its mouth is, by providing food to pantries, meal programs and homeless shelters cannot be overstated. In many lives and families.

Christie said that hunger, poverty and homelessness stole her childhood dream of being a lawyer, but there are so many millions of people who continue to struggle like my family struggled.

Christie is one of the hundreds of thousands of people who has worked hard and had the support of her family, especially her wonderful grandmother, but without charity and the social safety net she would not have been able to make her dreams.

She needed school lunches, welfare, health benefits, food stamps, Section 8 housing, subsidized applications for college, financial aid and more.

Now she is giving back to the community, helping others in need so they too have a future.

No one makes it alone; everyone has help in some way.

The Church and Catholic Charities will continue to invest in our people in a way that allows them to live in dignity and can achieve their goals for a better life.

(Christina Capecchi in Indianapolis. She is the director of major and planned gifts for the archdiocese.)

A More Human Society/Richard Doerflinger

‘Why not love them both?’ should be at center of life discussion

We have a choice. We can either love our neighbors and our spouses or we can love our neighbors but hate our spouses. Why not love them both?

As I read years ago, a young couple had recently lived. They lived in the South in a sunny, warm climate. The wife gave birth in her new husband that she has long since lived from suffering depression and living with a stormy outlook. It made me wonder what could combat these feelings.

It is an annual program where people come together across the country to draw attention to these two problems that affect too many Hoosiers who live in poverty and homelessness.

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Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is Nov. 12-20. It is an annual program where people come together across the country to draw attention to these two problems that affect too many Hoosiers who live in poverty and homelessness.

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The struggle to fulfill basic needs can be difficult for many Hoosiers who live paycheck to paycheck. An illness, injury or job loss can easily lead to poverty, hunger, and homelessness.

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The Sunday Readings
Sunday, November 13, 2022

• Malachi 3:19-20a
• 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
• Luke 21:3-19

The Book of Malachi is the source of the first reading for Mass this weekend. Malachi was not a proper name for a person in ancient Israel. Rather, it was an abbreviation of an inferior title, “Messenger of God.” This prophet is thoroughly in step with all the other prophets—whose names are not in the Bible—writing in a last-century BC setting. His prophecy addresses the sinfulness or indifference to God leads to misery and disappointment in life. Their sinfulness or indifference to God leads

Reflection
The Church is concluding its liturgical year. Next weekend, it will rejoin that God’s reign and mercy have broken forth on the world in and through Christ the King. So, the Church’s last statement of this year is a clear proclamation that, despite all the negative forces in the world, despite the attacks of the devil, even all the sin, Christ is king, standing as a rock of security on the edge of a raging sea. For years now, Americans and others in the world have lived in unceaseful fear if not fear. The sights of the crashing towers in New York, the bleeding victims of warfare in Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine haunt us. These grim realities should teach us. As the prophets warned, as Paul emphatically declared, sin brings us death. We are vulnerable. None of us can forecast the future, including our own personal future, with exactitude. Our deaths may not come as the result of violence, as in a war, such as we see in Ukraine, but we die nevertheless. Come what may, if we are in Christ if we are committed to love, we shall live. In Christ, we will live forever.

My Journey to God

Today is Yesterday's Tomorrow

By Ron Lewis

Today is yesterday’s tomorrow. Make the most of it if you can. For soon it will be a memory. As the hourglass fills with sand. Don’t waste yet another moment. Nursing grudges from the past, or carry guilt from days gone by. Or walk with eyes downcast. Forgive, forget, unlock the chains. That wrap around your heart.

For life’s too short, days quickly pass—Make today a brand new start. Each day’s a chance to right the wrongs. To make amends, it’s true. A chance to heal wounds and hurts. And let love rule in your heart. The time is here, the time is now. For tomorrow may be too late. Let love and forgiveness be your guide. And cleanse your heart of hate. Today is yesterday’s tomorrow. Your chance to discover. A chance for you to discover. The miracle of love in you.

The Criterion  Friday, November 11, 2022

Daily Readings

Monday, November 14
Revolution 1:1-4, 21-15
Psalm 1:3-4, 9
Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday, November 15
St. Albert the Great, bishop and doctor of the Church
Revolution 3:1-6, 14-22
Psalm 5:2-4b, 5
Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday, November 16
St. Margaret of Scotland
Psalm 150:1b-6
Luke 19:11-28

Thursday, November 17
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, religious
Revolution 5:1-10
Psalm 149:1b-6a, 96
Luke 19:41-44

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle
The Eucharist is Christ’s enduring gift to the Church amid its many troubles

(EDITOR’S note: Father Kenneth Doyle, who had retired as a Catholic News Service columnist earlier this year, died on Oct. 26. The following is his final column, published in the March 11, 2022, issue of The Criterion.)

B low, in good conscience, can I maintain that the Church is Christ’s enduring gift to the Church amid its many troubles?

A fter my mother-in-law’s Alzheimer’s disease and has not gone to confession in five or six months. She wants to receive the Eucharist, but my sister-in-law will soon let her go up to receive. My mother-in-law is a very religious person and loves our Lord. In her right mind, she was a God-fearing woman; now, in her unstable mind, she is always talking to the Lord, and fearing woman; now, in her unstable mind, she is always talking to the Lord, and

Q my mother-in-law is in the first stages of Alzheimer’s disease and has not gone to confession in five or six months. She wants to receive the Eucharist, but my sister-in-law will soon let her go up to receive. My mother-in-law is a very religious person and loves our Lord. In her right mind, she was a God-fearing woman; now, in her unstable mind, she is always talking to the Lord, and receiving Communion is the only thing that she wants to do on Sundays. Can they let her go to Communion? (Texas)

A s a Catholic, you are bound to believe in the Holy Communion, and she should be allowed to. From your question, I’m not sure why your sister-in-law is unwilling to let her receive. Is it because she hasn’t been to confession in several months? But one is obligated to confess before Communion only if someone is in serious sin—and I doubt very much that’s the case. The precepts of the Church (see the Catechism of the Catholic Church 2294-43) also require Catholics to confess their sins in the sacrament of penance at least once a year. On the other hand, if your sister-in-law is worried that she doesn’t understand what the Eucharist is and won’t fully appreciate it. Or is it that your mother-in-law has been declared a laicized just because she hasn’t been to confession in several months?"
Benedictine Brother Giels Michaei served a volunteer firefighter for many years

In the early 1970s, Brother Giels was installed as a lector and assisted for several years the pastors of the former St. Martin of Tours Parish in Siberia and the former St. John Chrysostom Parish in New Boston, Ind., in the Evansville Diocese.

He was appointed Saint Meinrad’s director of sanitation in 1973, and in 1976, was certified by Purdue University as a licensed pesticide operator and applicator. He served on the board of directors of the Indiana Pest Control Association for eight years, including a term as its president.

Brother Giels also enjoyed directing traffic at the May and October Marian pilgrimages at Saint Meinrad’s Our Lady of Monte Cassino Shrine and serving as a cooperative observer for the central region of the National Weather Service.

He was especially fond of trains and through the years assembled an elaborate model railroad display, complete with landscapes, road crossings and villages, which he eventually donated to the Dubois County Museum in Jasper, Ind.

Surviving are four sisters: Marcella Johnson of Port Byron, Ill.; Kathleen Kelly of Bloomington; Mary, Dr. Patricia Mahers of Stow, Ohio; Susan Polton of Davenport, Iowa, and a brother, Lawrence Mahieu of Stow, Ohio; Susan Polton of Davenport, Iowa; and a brother, Lawrence Mahieu of Stow, Ohio; and a brother, Lawrence Mahieu of Stow, Ohio.

Memorial gifts may be sent to Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577.
State champion overcomes the pain and strides toward a certain peace

By John Shaughnessy

The pain kept surging through Lily Cridge’s petite body, challenging her, testing her, letting her know that this was the price to pay for going out too fast in the race, trying to match one of her toughest competitors.

That runner had faded, and Lily was still in last place, but as she fought the pain while running this final straightaway of the Indiana girls’ high school cross-country state championship race on Oct. 29, the roar of the crowd let her know that another challenger was closing in on her.

Last year, Lily had won this race in stunning fashion as a junior, finishing more than 30 seconds in front of her nearest competitors on a rainy day when the course in Terre Haute was marked by mud and puddles. Now, the 17-year-old senior wanted to repeat as champion on a day filled with sunshine and more tough challengers than a year ago.

As she prepared for both races, the student at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis had prayed to God throughout the week—“just asking him to take away my worries, to save me from the stresses and anxieties I’m feeling.”

Yet while she felt the pressure from herself to defend her title, she also believed she had gained a different perspective for this particular year’s race.

“This year, I had a better handle on the pressure,” Lily, a member of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, said. “It was experience. And I have no mindset that that God will give me everything, everything will be OK. And I’ve already shown what I can do with my special abilities that God has given me. And so, no matter what happens during this race, everything will work out. And even if I do get passed, in my heart, I’ve changed for her in the final straightaway, and as the crowd roared about the heart-pounding, tightening race to the finish line, Lily made her own surge through her pain. With her one-word, inspirational motto, ‘DRIVE’, written on her left leg, Lily found the gear she needed.

“The girl who was second behind me was closing in on me pretty hard, and so I just had to remember I needed to drive it home one last time. I was definitely pumping my arms and moving my legs pretty fast in that last straightaway.”

Lily crossed the finish line first, three seconds ahead of the second-place runner, and collapsed to the ground, exhausted and exhilarated.

“It was so amazing,” she says about her feeling at the finish. “Just seeing everybody—my family and friends. It was indescribable. It’s one of my favorite feelings.

Getting up from the ground quickly, she turned toward the finish line where she started greeting and congratulating the other runners, especially praising the ones who had passed her.

“I think I need to give back and congratulate them because they’re amazing runners, too. I just wanted to give my respect to them.

As she talks about her back-to-back state championships a few days after the race, Lily also offers praise to her high school coach these past four years, Dan Kinghorn.

“He’s like my second dad,” says the daughter of Matt and Jill Cridge. “I tell him everything. I’ve seen him at his lowest. He’s seen me at my highest. He gets up at 5:15 in the morning and bikes with me when I run. He sacrifices as much as I sacrifice for the sport. The one thing I’ll remember is him being so supportive, no matter what’s going on with me.”

She has a similar feeling about her relationship with God.

“It’s definitely a very strong bond,” she says. “When I went to church the day after the race, I thanked him for everything he has done for me.”

Lily made that prayer of thanks even as she has felt that God has tested her more than any competitor, especially when she has dealt with challenges that have limited her at times during her high school running career.

“The battle for me in the past has just been with my health, just asking God, ‘Why would you have this happen to me if I have such a bright future? Why would you want to take away from me when it’s so much of my life—just such a pure joy?’

“Even though he has definitely put me through a battle, I always say God gives his toughest battles to his strongest soldiers. I think he definitely gave me a tough battle, but together I’ve come back stronger. I’ve found those lowest of lows make me the strong person I am, and it makes me appreciate the highs and wins even more.

‘You’re going to have highs and lows in life. That’s just part of God’s plan for you.’

In this moment, the pain she felt during the race and the pain from her health issues are behind her. Lily soon flashes a smile that beams with pure joy.

“I’m the type of person who knows she has so much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to, including knowing God will be there with her through it all.

(Stories about the state championship victories of the boys’ soccer team of Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis and the girls’ volleyball team of Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville will be featured in upcoming issues.)

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By Christina Capeschi, a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Motivations for romantic relationships.

There’s a common saying: ‘Love is a powerful motivating force.’ By this, people mean that love can inspire us to do things we might not otherwise do. Love can motivate us to make sacrifices, to work hard, to overcome challenges.

But what about the other side of the coin? Does love also motivate us to do things that are harmful or hurtful to ourselves or others? Can love be a force for harm?

According to research, there is evidence that in certain cases, love can indeed lead to negative outcomes. For example, research has shown that people who are in love may be more likely to engage in risky behaviors, such as taking drugs or driving recklessly.

In addition, love can also contribute to feelings of jealousy, which can lead to infidelity or other forms of betrayal. Jealousy can also cause people to become irrational and aggressive.

On the other hand, love can also have positive effects. For example, research has shown that people who are in love tend to have better physical and mental health. Love can also provide a sense of security and a feeling of belonging.

In conclusion, while love can be a powerful and motivating force, it is important to be aware of its potential for both positive and negative outcomes. We must learn to balance the benefits of love with the potential harms it can cause.
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