Catholics’ ties to the dead are strengthened in annual Indulgence Walk in Indianapolis

Father C. Ryan McCarthy, pastor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis, leads Catholics on Nov. 5 in his parish’s eighth annual Indulgence Walk through Holy Cross and St. Joseph cemeteries in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

By Sean Gallagher

The overcast sky was a leaden gray. High winds blew autumn leaves through the air and around gravestones in Holy Cross and St. Joseph cemeteries in Indianapolis. Added to the scene on Nov. 5 were dozens of Catholics weaving their way through the adjacent cemeteries. They were there to pray for what are traditionally called the “poor souls” in purgatory during the eighth annual Indulgence Walk sponsored by Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis.

Part of the reason for this prayerful walk in the cemeteries was to obtain for souls in purgatory a plenary indulgence, which is a remission of all temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven. But there were other reasons as well for the people to gather at the cemeteries for the Indulgence Walk. In praying for the dead and learning more about them, they strengthened their ties in the communion of saints that stretch from Earth through purgatory to heaven, said Father C. Ryan McCarthy, pastor of Holy Rosary, who led the Indulgence Walk.

“A couple of years ago, Rome clarified that it’s appropriate to believe that the poor souls can pray for those who pray for them,” he said in an interview with The Criterion. “So, it also gains us their prayers and intercessions on our behalf.” He also noted that hearing these stories “puts flesh” on the need for the faithful to pray for the souls in purgatory.

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At Mass, outgoing USCCB president encourages renewal, self-examination

BALTIMORE (CNS)—In a Mass on Nov. 14 to mark the opening of the 2022 fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles called on his brother bishops to take time for self-examination and to renew their vocation and ministry.

Archbishop Gomez, who ended his three-year term as USCCB president at the close of the meeting on Nov. 17, was joined by seven cardinals and more than 220 archbishops and bishops in celebrating the Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore.

At the beginning of the Mass, Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori welcomed the bishops to the basilica, the first cathedral built after the establishment of the United States.

In his homily, Archbishop Gomez noted that the Church is nearing the end of the liturgical year and he reflected on the readings for the day’s liturgy, from Revelation and the Gospel of Luke.

“Today, the readings of the Mass are useful to examine ourselves and renew our vocation and ministry,” Archbishop Gomez said.

In the first reading, he noted, the Lord says, “I know your works, your labor. ... Moreover, you have endurance and have suffered for my name, and you have not grown weary” (Rv 2:2, 3).

The archbishop said that because God knows us so well—“better than we can ever know ourselves”—God understands that sometimes we can lose our enthusiasm and our sense of purpose; we start doing things more out of a sense of duty than out of a sense of love.

In Revelation, the Lord says, “You have lost the love you had at first” (Rv 2:4).

“Sadly, we recognize that sometimes
WASHINGTON (CNS)—Although Catholic leaders and state Catholic conferences had pushed for the defeat of ballot measures protecting legal abortion and urged voters to pass measures restricting abortions, state voters ultimately went the other way on Nov. 8.

Voters in California, Vermont and Michigan approved abortion protections, while Kentucky and Montana voters rejected abortion restrictions.

These ballot measures were the first time voters faced the opportunity to weigh in on abortion laws since the Supreme Court’s Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization decision in June that overturned Roe v. Wade, its 1973 case legalizing abortion nationwide.

Catholic bishops in states where these votes took place expressed disappointment, and renewed their commitment to keep up the fight to end abortion and provide support to women and families in need.

“Abortion is now legal in Michigan at an unprecedented level, and millions of lives are at stake,” wrote Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron in a letter to Catholics posted on the archdiocesan website on Nov. 9.

“We awake today to the news that Proposal 3 has passed, altering our state constitution to allow for unregulated and unsafe abortion on demand in Michigan,” he wrote, saying people are “deeply saddened by this grave assault on the dignity and sanctity of unborn, innocent human life.”

The archbishop called the measure an “unjust and perverse law” and pointed out that in the last several months an “unjust and perverse law” and innocent human life.”

He wrote, saying that people of faith are “unsafe abortion on demand in Michigan,” “Proposal 3 has passed, altering our state website on Nov. 9.

The archbishop called the measure “the epitome of infants “born alive at any state of development.”

It also said the measure was the first time in California when “voters are being asked to vote for unrestricted late-term abortion, ending any real chance for California to uphold unborn life in future laws.”

In Vermont, voters passed Article 22, also called the Reproductive Liberty Amendment, to protect “personal reproductive autonomy” for people of any age.

The measure came to the state’s voters after state legislators passed a law in 2019 guaranteeing “reproductive rights.” After the Dobbs decision, the measure’s supporters said the constitutional amendment was needed to provide more protections for abortion.

In September, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Burlington, Vt., wrote to Vermont’s constitution. The most problematic, however, may be the explicit intent of our state’s lawmakers by this amendment to create the strongest legal precedent for keeping abortion on demand for any stage of pregnancy, even late-term pregnancies, for any reason.”

In other state ballot measures, Kentucky voters rejected a constitutional amendment that said there was no right to abortion in the state, while Montana voters rejected a measure to approve the Born Alive Infants Protection Act requiring judges to try to save the life of infants “born alive at any state of development.”

In Montana, in urging voters to support the measure, the state’s Catholic conference issued a statement in September, saying it was “the epitome of commonsense legislation” and was needed to “safeguard those infants who, through no fault of their own, are born into some of the most difficult and challenging circumstances imaginable.”

Kentucky’s Catholic bishops, who urged voters to vote yes on Amendment 2, said in a Nov. 9 statement that they were disappointed by the measure’s rejection by state voters, but stressed that “this is not the end of the debate or of the need to work diligently to increase respect for the dignity of each and every human life.

We pray that the defeat of the amendment will not lead the courts to assume the role of determining public policy on abortion. The General Assembly is the proper venue to settle such deeply divisive issues,” the bishops added in the statement posted on the website of the Kentucky Catholic Conference.

They said that while the measure’s defeat “is cause for sadness,” they also saw the vote as a “call to redouble our efforts at ensuring that every Kentuckian has the support they need to thrive.”

The prelims pledged to renew their commitment “to work with legislators to pass laws that protect the unborn, support women and families, and respect human life and dignity in all stages of life.”

Clariﬁcation

In the Nov. 4 issue of The Criterion, an article about the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Carmelite Monastery of St. Joseph in Terre Haute listed the countries from which its members have come. Vietnam was not included in the list. Three of its members are from that country.

Catholic leaders vow to continue fight after state abortion measures pass
Father Jeyaseelan Sengolraj, administrator of St. Michael Parish in Charlestown and St. Francis Xavier Parish in Henryville, center, smiles with members of St. Michael after an outdoor, bilingual rosary procession held at the parish on Oct. 30. (Submitted photo)

By Natalie Hoefer

As Carol Combs recalls, southern Indiana “had been in a drought condition for several weeks. On Oct. 30, Mother Nature chose to end that dry weather.”

It was the day that outdoor rosary processions were held at her parish, St. Michael in Charlestown, and its neighboring parish, St. Francis Xavier in Henryville.

But the drizzle did not stop roughly 70 St. Michael parishioners and 50 St. Francis Xavier parishioners from joining in their respective parish’s rosary procession. The processions—including candle-bearing servers, a crucifix and a statue of Mary borne on a platform—were the culmination of a daily rosary devotion at each parish during the month of October.

“I wanted to start new things for the people” of St. Michael and St. Francis Xavier, says Father Jeyaseelan Sengolraj, administrator of both parishes. “They told me the October daily rosary and procession had never been done” in the parishes as far as they recalled.

“People told me they want this, they’re longing for the Catholic traditions,” he says. “That’s what people expressed to me, and I felt the power of God and a community spirit of [the] people as the monthlong devotion proceeded: ‘It’s kindling the fire of the faith in the people.’

The October devotion not only sparked the “fire of the faith” within each parish. It also drew together the English- and Spanish-speaking communities at St. Michael on Oct. 30.

“The rosary during the procession was bilingual, with one mystery of both parishes as far as they recalled.

Father Sengolraj “is working to bring the people together in faith and to bring the people together in faith and reconciliation to assist us in our spiritual journey.”

He is devoted to “giving the faithful opportunities for both private prayer and public worship,” says Combs. “He has scheduled days of prayer, adoration and reconciliation to assist us in our spiritual journey.”

Father Sengolraj says he is “really very happy” about the response of members of both parishes to the rosary devotion in October. “People are already excited to do this again in May.”

Meanwhile, he is enjoying celebrating with St. Michael parishioners the Hispanic Catholic tradition of praying the rosary during the 46 days prior to the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12.

“We’re doing it in houses of parishioners,” he explains. “We carry a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe to each house and then pray the rosary there.”

The feast will include.mañanitas—prayers and music—through the evening of Dec. 11 until midnight, then Mass and a procession on the evening of Dec. 12.

During the nine days before Christmas, St. Michael will also offer las posadas—a special novena of Hispanic Catholic tradition. And St. Francis Xavier will host a live Nativity on Dec. 22-23.

All of these traditions and devotions “bring the people together in faith and help them come to know each other,” says Father Sengolraj. “That’s the way we build the Church.”

Father Joseyfan Stengolraj, administrator of St. Michael Parish in Charlestown and St. Francis Xavier Parish in Henryville, center, smiles with members of St. Michael after an outdoor, bilingual rosary procession held at the parish on Oct. 30. (Submitted photo)
May our grace this Thanksgiving include using our blessings to help people in need

As we approach Thanksgiving on Nov. 24, now is an appropriate time to reflect on the blessings God has given us.

Family, friends and employment come to mind for many of us. A roof over our heads, food on the table and commodities like dependable transportation are on the list for the majority of us, too.

But what about our brothers and sisters in need who go without what many consider daily necessities?

Focusing on the Gospel reading for the day, Pope Francis reminded people of faith on the World Day of the Poor on Nov. 13 that we must “break through our sleepy indifference” and “return to the simplicity” in which we were taught to love one another.

As we approach the time of Thanksgiving, we’re asked to reflect on the blessings we enjoy and the needs we can address.

This Thanksgiving is a time when we’re asked to strive for more, to use our blessings to help others who are in need.

As Mike Krokos, Editor Emeritus of The Criterion, notes, “As we approach Thanksgiving, we’re asked to reflect on the blessings we enjoy and the needs we can address.”

“Don’t run away,” the pope continued. “Ask the question: What is the Lord saying to me and what can I do that is good?”

If we listen—and listening must be an integral part of our communication with our Creator—God is calling each of us to be the hands and feet of Christ to our brothers and sisters in need. We must see them with eyes of faith, remembering that Jesus is there, “in whose face, in whose history, in whose glorious Being, who is our Creator has bestowed on us and our service of that great and glorious Being.”

We must not be led astray, Pope Francis noted, by “prophets of doom or facile and hasty solutions … not follow the false messiahs” who, in the name of God, “areMontages of thanksgiving—let’s ask ourselves how we might pay it forward by sharing our blessings with others.

Our lives are in God’s hands and our every breath flows from his provident love. Let us thank him for our blessings, however small we may believe them to be.”

As believers, there is something else we can do this Thanksgiving—let’s ask ourselves how we might pay it forward by sharing our blessings with others.

Blessings with others.

Let us not be content, like the people in the Gospel, to admire the beautiful stones of the temple, while failing to recognize God’s true temple, our fellow men and women, especially the poor, in whose face, in whose history, in whose wounds, we encounter Jesus.

—Mike Krokos

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, Publisher
Mike Krokos, Editor
Greg A. Otolski, Associate Publisher
John F. Fink, Editor Emeritus

Thanksgiving is the perfect moment to the calendar to remember to return to a thankful posture.

(Little Sisters of the Poor Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.)

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In response to Washington’s 1789 proclamation, Seixas preached to his congregation, “Let me recommend to you a serious consideration of the several duties already set forth this day: to enter into a self-examination; to reconcile your ways against each other; to subdue your passions; to live, as Jews ought to do, in brotherhood and amity; to seek peace and pursue it. So shall it be well with you both here and hereafter.”

In this how we all ought to live?

Rabbis Seixas thus issues another challenge this Thanksgiving—to let go of our prejudices and pursue peace and amity, first with our brothers and sisters in the household of the faith, and then with all.

As we do so, let us offer our prayers, works, joys and sufferings to God so that he may use them, according to his will, as a lever to lift up this troubled world and restore life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to all.

(Little Sisters of the Poor Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.)

†
Millones de personas de todo el mundo observaron recientemente con gran atención el entierro de la reina Isabel II de Bélgica, la primera vez que un rey o reina nos resulta irresistible. Si bien la reina de los Estados Unidos de América, quien long ago rejected monarchy as its form of government, seemed to pay a secular form of homage to the British queen and her successor.

Yes, there was the pomp and circumstance of Palm Sunday, but it didn’t last even a week. In fact, it was succeeded almost immediately by abject humiliation, cruel torture and ignominious death.

And at no time during his brief life in Earth did Jesus assume anything like the style or demeanor we have come to associate with royalty. In fact, during his public ministry, our Lord and Savior explicitly rejected the attitudes and behavior of most earthly rulers.

“My kingdom is not of this world,” Jesus told Pontius Pilate (In 18:36). The title “King of the Jews” was not something he aspired to. It was a title imposed on him by the Romans out of pure malice, and it was bitterly opposed by the Jews as blasphemy.

So when we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King each year, we need to be clear about the kind of king that Jesus is. We know from his statement to Pilate that his kingdom transcends our earthly existence. We also know from this Sunday’s Gospel reading that Jesus has the power to grant admittance to his kingdom to those he deems worthy—earning the so-called Good Thief who acknowledged Jesus’s sovereignty while crucified.

What must we do to imitate Christ the King? The Gospels, and indeed the Scriptures in their entirety, answer this question by revealing God’s will for us, his faithful children, to teach us how to live. However, we can also point to certain spiritual principles that are drawn from the words and example of Jesus and that describe vividly why Christ’s kingship is unique and why we ought to imitate—and revere—this unearthly and uncommon king.

The first spiritual principle is humility. Christ the King never looks down on anyone or arbitrarily exercises his divine authority in any situation. He invites us, and tries to persuade us, to walk with him. But he values our freedom so highly that he allows us to choose—even when what we decide is clearly not in our best interests.

Secondly, our Lord is infinitely patient. He allows us plenty of time to experience his love and mercy, and to repent and follow him. When he says his kingdom is not of this world, he affirms that he has all the time in the world to forgive us and turn us way to eternal life with him.

Third, the mind and heart of our Divine King are pure, totally uncorrupted by earthly desires. As a result, we can trust him implicitly. Unlike many earthly rulers, Christ our King means what he says, and he will keep his word, no matter how heart-rending or doubt that Jesus walks with us, listens to us, and responds to our prayers. He wants only what is best for us—in conformity with God’s plan.

Finally, Christ the King is not an authoritarian ruler whose edicts are ill-considered or self-serving. Jesus only does the will of his Father, and his primary royal commands are that we love God and our neighbor as ourselves. We worship one who is close, not distant, and who rules exclusively by means of love and service. We acclaim him as Lord and King not because we fear his wrath but because we are in awe of his kindness and generosity to all.

When we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King this weekend, we proclaim our absolute conviction that Christ is Lord of heaven and Earth, and that his style of leadership—humility, patience, purity and obedience to God’s will—is the only form of governance that can hope to be truly effective in this world—“on Earth as it is in Heaven.”
Retreat centers in archdiocese offer Advent retreats, services—and gift certificates for stuffing stockings

There are six Catholic retreat centers in the archdiocese. Below is a list of upcoming events, days of reflection and services these centers are offering during Advent to help souls prepare for the celebration of Christ’s birth.

Also consider giving family and friends the gift of spiritual growth this Christmas by giving them a gift certificate for one of these retreat centers and/or their gift shop. Information on how to do so is included below.

**Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Indianapolis. Information: registration: cutt.ly/pre-study/522

• Dec. 5: Emmanuel: God is With Us Advent Evening of Reflection,” 6-9 p.m., Benedict Inn Spiritual Direction Internship director Rev. Hanshbery presenting, $45 includes dinner. Information:

• Dec. 6: Personal Day of Retreat, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., $40, includes private room for the day and lunch, spiritual direction available for additional $30, must be scheduled in advance. Information: gift certificates for retreats or Shop Inn-Spired Gift Shop. Contact Helen Kene at 317-788-7581 or benedictinetr.htm@gmail.com.

**Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center, 820 W. 56th St., Indianapolis. Information: registration: benedictinetr.htm.org/programs. 317-788-7581, benedictinetr.htm.org

• Dec. 5: “Emmanuel: God is With Us Advent Evening of Reflection.” 6-9 p.m., Benedict Inn Spiritual Direction Internship director Rev. Hanshbery presenting, $45 includes dinner.

• Dec. 6: Personal Day of Retreat, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., $40, includes private room for the day and lunch, spiritual direction available for additional $30, must be scheduled in advance. Information: gift certificates for retreats or Shop Inn-Spired Gift Shop. Contact Helen Kene at 317-788-7581 or benedictinetr.htm@gmail.com.

**Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Brownsburg. Information: mountstfrancisc.org or 828-923-8817

• Gift certificates for retreats:

Call 812-923-8817 or go to www.mountstfrancisc.org/gift-certificates.

**Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22433 MacArthur Dr., Oldenburg. Information and registration: 317-933-6437, oldenburgfranciscancenter.org.

• Dec. 13, 14, 15, 16: Advent Days of Silence, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., $40 per day, includes room, continental breakfast, lunch and use of common areas and grounds, overnight stays available for additional $30 per night, dinner additional $10 per meal. Information: gift certificates for: E-mail looms@archindy.org, call Lisa Borders at 317-788-7581 or maryclare@archindy.org.

Call 317-788-7581 or go to www.mountstfrancisc.org/gift-certificates.

**Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Information: registration: 317-545-7681 or lmcoen@archindy.org.

• Dec. 3: O Come Let Us Adore Him: Advent Dinner and Concert, 6-8:30 p.m., dinner performance by Francesca LaRosa, prayer, adoration, $50. Dec. 12: Sacrament of reconciliation, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., no appointment needed. Information:

Call 317-788-7581 or go to www.mountstfrancisc.org/gift-certificates.

**Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guesthouse and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. Information: 812-357-6611 or saintmeinrad.htm@gmail.com

• Dec. 17: Nutcracker. 6 p.m. Information:

Call 812-357-6611 or saintmeinrad.htm@gmail.com.

• Gift certificates for gifts for gift shop: Purchase in-person; if not possible, call 812-357-6611.

• Gift certificates for retreats:

Call 812-923-8817 or go to www.mountstfrancisc.org/gift-certificates.

**The Villages of Indiana Online Foster Parenting Winter Information Night, 6-8 p.m., for those interested in becoming a foster parent. Information on how to do so is included below. Information: registration: 317-775-6000 or cutt.ly/villagesindy/retreats.

Events and retreats can be submitted to The Criterion by logging on to www.archindy.org/events/submission, or by mailing us at 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202, ATTN: Ann Lewis, or by fax at 317-236-1193.

**Wedding Anniversaries

KEITHN AND MARY JO (THRINE) RENNEKAMP, members of St. Mary Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their wedding anniversary on December 22.

The couple was married in St. Mary Church in Indianapolis on November 25, 1972. They reside in Broad Ripple with their daughter, Ashley Clark, Joanie Martin, and Steve Rennekamp. The couple has also two grandchildren.

December 22


• Dec. 17: Nutcracker. 6 p.m. Information:

Call 812-357-6611 or saintmeinrad.htm@gmail.com.

• Gift certificates for gifts for gift shop: Purchase in-person; if not possible, call 812-357-6611.

• Gift certificates for retreats:

Call 812-923-8817 or go to www.mountstfrancisc.org/gift-certificates.

**December 13

Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of Providence, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Laizy Prayer at the Woods. 7-8 p.m, silent and spoken prayers, simple music, virtual option available at cutt.ly/Pazjaze. Information: 812-355-2922, pazjaze.htm.org

**December 14


**December 15

Virtual Scriptural Rosary for Advent Prayer service Friday, 8 p.m. every third Thursday, sponsored by the archdiocesan Catholic Charities-Social Concerns Ministry. Information, registration: bit.ly/scripturalrosary

**December 16


**December 17


• Dec. 17: Nutcracker. 6 p.m. Information:

Call 812-357-6611 or saintmeinrad.htm@gmail.com.

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"Jesús les contó una parábola para enseñarles que debían orar en cualquier circunstancia, sin jamás desanimarse." (Lk 18:1)

En su discurso del Ángel del 16 de octubre, el Papa Francisco abordó el tema recurrente de vida dirigida a nosotros. "En todo en la vida—¿encontraré un poco de fe en el Hijo del hombre vengo, ¿encontraría en mí, en mi vida, en mi corazón? ¿Qué prioridades de mi vida vería?"}

"Hemos hecho de la conversación con Dios una prioridad? How often do we open our hearts to our loving Father, to Jesus our brother, and to the Holy Spirit who is our advocate and guide throughout life’s journey? How often do we turn to Mary and the saints to encourage us and give us hope?"

"May the Virgin Mary, faithful listener, teach us the art of praying always," the pope says. May she help us to pray constantly “without losing heart!”

(Daniel Conway is a member of The Criterion’s editorial committee.)

El rostro de la misericordia/Daniel Conway

El Papa Francisco nos enseña a orar siempre

"Y prosigue: “Jesús nos ofrece el remedio para calentar una fe fría. Ese remedio es la oración, la medicina de la fe y el reconstituyente del alma. Pero tiene que ser una oración constante, no apenar recitar oraciones formales de manera ocasional o intermitente.

Según nos explica el Sumo Pontífice: “Si tenemos que seguir una cura para estar mejor, es importarle cumplir bien, tomar los medicamentos en la forma correcta y a su debido tiempo, con constancia y regularidad. En todo en la vida hay necesidad de esto.”

Reflexionando sobre la línea final de esta lectura del Evangelio en particular, en la que Jesús pregunta: “¿Cuántas veces acudimos a María y a los santos para que nos animen y nos den fe, en lugar del camino de la vida? ¿Cuántas veces acudimos a María y a los santos para que nos animen y nos den esperanza?"

"Que la Virgen María, fiel en la escucha, nos enseñe el arte de rezar siempre,” dice el Papa. Que nos ayude a rezar constantemente “sin cansarnos.”

(Daniel Conway es integrante del comité editorial de The Criterion.)

El rostro de la misericordia

Daniel Conway

"Jesús nos enseña a orar siempre"
Amid the pain, woman savors the joys and surprises of life

By John Shaughnessy

Some memories have a way of making our spirits soar in gratitude.

Pat Browne has that feeling whenever she recalls the uplifting surprise that her husband Larry gave her for her birthday.

“He loved to surprise me,” says Browne, a member of Our Lady of Loretto Church in Indianapolis. “He once told me when to be ready, but he refused to say where we were going.”

On that day, Larry drove her to a location in an open field north of Indianapolis where she suddenly saw one of her dreams rising before her—the inflating of a hot air balloon that would take them on a ride above the countryside.

“On the takeoff, he said, ‘We’re going to do this!’ and the balloon filled with blue, this whole idea came to me,” said Pat, “I felt eight years ago, though it’s important to look back on my life with the grace of St. David Walden. “Every one of us has something to tell. We all have a story. We all have people who loved us. We all have people we’re loved by.”

The walk includes stopping at specific graves of those buried in the cemeteries. A member of the RCIA group is given and those taking part in the walk are invited to pray for them and those who have died who were like them.

This year’s event highlighted stories of people from various walks of life: a Black Catholic woman from the East Side, a noted ragtime pianist, orchestra leader and composer; a firefighter who died in the line of duty in 1948 in Terre Haute; a businessman involved in politics a century ago in Indianapolis; and a woman who was born in Beirn, Lebanon, who later emigrated to Indianapolis and owned a grocer’s store in the city’s east side.

Holy Rosary parishioner Jeanne Carr has helped with the research of those buried in the cemeteries and assisting with the research and then taking apart each year in the walk has affected her faith.

“Everybody buried here has a similar story to those who are alive now,” she said. “They grew up with some kind of education, jobs, a family. And everyone dies. Everyone alive today will go through what they have been through.”

That fact crossed Amy Kempf’s mind when she and her family took part in this year’s walk. It led her to wonder about her legacy for her children when she eventually dies.

For me, it helps me focus more on doing good. “What will they remember about me? What kind of person do I want them to remember me as?”

Walden credited the prayers of the poor souls for making this year’s walk possible after rain in Indianapolis earlier that day stopped before the planned start of the walk.

“I’m grateful for faith in the world to come. Life is full of good things even in the face of pain and loss. Thank you, Lord, for opening my heart to receive all this and more.”

A mother’s love blesses the life of her daughter in a lasting way

By John Shaughnessy

For anyone who has lost a mother or father, the desire strikes at some point—often unexpectedly—to be able to hear their voice on the phone or to have a face-to-face conversation.

Sandy Fillenwarth often has that feeling about her mom, Marilyn Fillenwarth, who died a year ago.

“It broke my heart because she was my best friend,” says Fillenwarth, a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis.

She remembers their ritual of going to Mass together on Labor Day.

“After Mass, we would go to St. Patrick Church in Indianapolis, where her parents were married in 1949. And how, after Mass, they went to a nearby drive-in restaurant for dinner, enjoying a tenderloin sandwich and a lemonade while listening to Elvis Presley belt out a song on the jukebox. “ ‘Ah, the good old days,’ she notes. Still, the sadness that Fillenwarth feels is balanced by the memory of how her mother loved her life with joy. There is also the realization of all the ways she mother blessed her, all the gifts her mother shared with her.

“As I reflect on this amazing woman, I realize that because of her I have so much more to be blessed by,” says Fillenwarth. “My family has five children, 11 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and many in-laws. We loved all of us and always made sure we got together as much as possible. And when we got together, all our friends were invited. She made sure everyone had fun and ate well. She wanted us to have peace, love and joy in our hearts.”

Fillenwarth views her mother’s life as one of gratitude. As her daughter, she strives to do the same.

“I am forever grateful to have the best son, daughter-in-law, grandson and granddaughter in the world!” she says. “My son is so good to me. “As Pope Francis advised. I will think back on my life with the grace of remembrance and count my blessings.”

She credits the parish’s pastor at the time, Fathur Guy Roberts, for helping her set aside her fears, “to believe in a new life in heaven, and to always more love of Jesus.”

“She also saw how that love of Jesus was the foundation on which she built her life,” says Fillenwarth. “She received from the archdiocese’s Catholic Charities and the St. Joan of Arc’s women’s ministry led by Melinda Rivelli, ministerial aide, just before she died. “It was a gift given me to say, ‘I’m grateful for the love of Jesus.’”

The walk is a gift that still fills Pat with joy, one of the many gifts she has received from her late husband Larry. “My life changed abruptly when my husband of 56 years died after a difficult battle with cancer,” she says. “The grief I feel in this loss lingers, but the joy I feel for his release from suffering is its counterbalance. Because he loved Jesus so much, I know where he is. The veil between us is thinnest when I receive Communion and know that Jesus is with me. I am most thankful for this blessed assurance.”

She is also thankful for all the support she has received during these past five years—from their three children, from other people, from God.

“When I go out to the cemetery now, it’s not just going to a cemetery,” she said. “To me, it’s going to visit friends. I have a lot of friends out there now.”

(For ordinary requirements for a plentiful indulgence, go to cunt/FrNedRudy5.)

It’s all part of the journey that Montieth has traveled in her life.

“Everything I feel is balanced by the memory of how, after Mass, they went to a nearby drive-in restaurant for dinner, enjoying a tenderloin sandwich and a lemonade while listening to Elvis Presley belt out a song on the jukebox. “ ‘Ah, the good old days,’ she notes. Still, the sadness that Fillenwarth feels is balanced by the memory of how her mother loved her life with joy. There is also the realization of all the ways she mother blessed her, all the gifts her mother shared with her.

“As I reflect on this amazing woman, I realize that because of her I have so much more to be blessed by,” says Fillenwarth. “My family has five children, 11 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and many in-laws. We loved all of us and always made sure we got together as much as possible. And when we got together, all our friends were invited. She made sure everyone had fun and ate well. She wanted us to have peace, love and joy in our hearts.”

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Sandy Fillenwarth, left, and her mother, Marilyn Fillenwarth, share one of the many moments that brought joy to their relationship. (Submitted photo)

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(For ordinary requirements for a plentiful indulgence, go to cunt/FrNedRudy5.)
Five monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey celebrate their jubilees

Citation report

50-year jubilarians

Benedictine Brother Benjamin Brown, born in Dubuque, Iowa, made his first profession of vows on Aug. 24, 1972, and was professed on Sept. 20, 1986. Father Harry earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Saint Meinrad College, a master’s degree in divinity from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, a master’s degree in arts in religious studies from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, and a doctorate in sacred Scripture from Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome.

Father Brown has served as novice master and junior master in the seminary’s president-rector. He also served as associate dean of students, dean of Faith and Formation, and an adjunct instructor in systematic theology in the seminary. He also served as executive assistant to the seminary’s president-rector.

Benedictine Father Harry Hagan is a native of Bardstown, Ky. He made his first profession of vows on Aug. 24, 1972, and was professed on Sept. 20, 1986. Father Hagan earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Saint Meinrad College, a master’s degree in divinity from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, a master's degree in arts in religious studies from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, and a doctorate in sacred Scripture from Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome.

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Annual National Prayer Vigil for Life will take place in Washington Jan. 19-20

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Prayer Vigil for Life held each January will continue even with the Supreme Court’s reversal of Roe v. Wade because there is “still a great need for prayer and advocacy” to end abortion and protect the unborn and their mothers, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) said on Nov. 11.

The vigil is hosted in Washington by the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and The Catholic University of America’s Office of Campus Ministry.

Scheduled for Jan. 19-20 at the national shrine, the vigil has always coincided with the eve of the March for Life, which marks the date of 1973 decision of the court’s Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion nationwide.

The 2023 March for Life is Jan. 20.

“The National Prayer Vigil is a time to praise God for the great gift of the recent Supreme Court Dobbs decision, turning over the tragic Roe v. Wade decision made almost a half-century ago,” said Kat Talalas, assistant director of pro-life communications at the USCCB.

“State and federal legislators are now free to embrace policies that protect preborn children and their mothers,” she said in a statement. “Yet, there is still a great need for prayer and advocacy from the faithful, as there will be unresolved and inevitable efforts to decline in legislation and policies at the state and federal levels.”

She added that “many prayers and sacrifices are needed to truly and effectively counter the effects of the legal abortion law on human life, including the gift of human life and offer life-giving support to vulnerable women, children, and families.”

The opening Mass for the vigil will take place at 5 p.m. (EST) on Jan. 19 with Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities, as the principal celebrant and homilist.

“The Mass will be immediately followed by a Holy Hour for life. This will start a series of off-nationwide holy hours throughout the night from dioceses across the country, which will be broadcast on the USCCB’s website,” www.usccb.org.

That evening, the nationwide vigil concludes at 8 a.m. (EST) on Jan. 20 with a closing Mass to be celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Joseph L. Coffer of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services.

A live television broadcast of the vigil will be provided by the Eternal Word Televisión EWTN and will be available via livestream on the national shrine’s website, www.nationalshrine.org/mass.

The USCCB pro-life secretariat also is encouraging Catholics across the country to observe a national prayer vigil from Jan. 14 to Jan. 20 to pray for an end to abortion and “a greater respect for all human life.”

(See more details on the National Prayer Vigil for Life in Washington can be found at https://www.usccb.org/prolife/annual-pro-life-events.)
Lenten penance services are scheduled at archdiocesan parishes

Parishes throughout the archdiocese have scheduled communal penance services for Advent. The following is a list of services that have been reported to The Criterion.

**Batesville Deanery**
- Dec. 29, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Greensburg
- Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at All Saints Parish, St. Martin-campus, Dearborn County
- Dec. 6, 7 p.m. at Holy Family, Oldenburg
- Dec. 7, 6:45-7:45 p.m. at St. Peter, Franklin County
- Dec. 9, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Aurora
- Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena, Enochsburg Campus
- Dec. 14, 6-8 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Osgood
- Dec. 14, 6-8 p.m. at Immaculate Conception, Millhousen
- Dec. 14, 6:15 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County
- Dec. 15, 7 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes, Bedford
- Dec. 14, 6-8 p.m. at St. Gabriel of the Infant Jesus, Osgood
- Dec. 14, 6-8 p.m. at Immaculate Conception, Millhousen
- Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m. at Holy Family, Richmond
- Dec. 19, 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel, Connersville
- Dec. 15, 6 p.m. at St. Mary, Rushville

**Indianapolis East Deanery**
- Dec. 1, 7 p.m. for Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus
- Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at Holy Spirit

**Indianapolis North Deanery**
- Dec. 18, 2 p.m. at St. Lawrence
- Dec. 19, 7 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Dec. 20, 7 p.m. at St. Simon the Apostle

**Indianapolis South Deanery**
- Dec. 10, 8:30 a.m. at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood
- Dec. 14, 7 p.m. for St. Jude and St. Mark the Apostle at St. Jude
- Dec. 15, 7 p.m. for Holy Name of Jesus, Beech Grove, and Good Shepherd at Holy Name of Jesus

**Indianapolis West Deanery**
- Nov. 29, 7 p.m. at St. Thomas, Lawrenceburg
- Nov. 30, 7 p.m. at St. Malachy, Brownsburg
- Dec. 1, 7 p.m. for Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower)

**Bloomington Deanery**
- Dec. 7, 6-9 p.m. for St. Charles Borromeo, St. John the Apostle and St. Paul Catholic Center, Bloomington, and St. Jude the Apostle, Spencer, at St. Paul Catholic Center
- Dec. 11, 7 p.m. for St. Mary, Mitchell, and St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, at St. Vincent de Paul
- Dec. 14, 6 p.m. at St. Martin of Tours, Martinsville
- Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at St. Agnes, Nashville
- Dec. 20, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Livermore

**Connersville Deanery**
- Dec. 9, 5-30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Holy Family Church, Richmond
- Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel, Connersville
- Dec. 15, 6 p.m. at St. Mary, Rushville
- Dec. 21, 4 p.m. at St. Jude, Terre Haute

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- Dec. 10, 8:30 a.m. at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood
- Dec. 14, 7 p.m. for St. Jude and St. Mark the Apostle at St. Jude
- Dec. 15, 7 p.m. for Holy Name of Jesus, Beech Grove, and Good Shepherd at Holy Name of Jesus

**New Albany Deanery**
- Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m. at St. John Paul II, Sellersburg
- Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m. at St. Michael, Bradford
- Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m. at St. Michael, Charlestown (bilingual)
- Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier, Henryville
- Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
- Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Navilleton
- Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at St. Mary of the Knobs, Floyd County
- Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville
- Dec. 19, 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Starlight
- Dec. 20, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Lanesville

**Terre Haute Deanery**
- Dec. 3, 10 a.m. at Annunciation, Brazil
- Dec. 4, noon-3 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle, Greencastle
- Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Terre Haute
- Dec. 14, 6 p.m. for Sacred Heart of Jesus, Clinton, and St. Joseph, Rockville, at Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Dec. 16, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., for St. Margaret Mary and St. Patrick, Terre Haute, at St. Margaret Mary
- Dec. 19, 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Benedict, Terre Haute

A priest hears confession from a World Youth Day pilgrim in 2016 at Park Jordana in Krakow, Poland. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

**Seymour Deanery**
- Dec. 12, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., no appointment needed

**Tell City Deanery**
- Dec. 11, 1-3 p.m. at St. Paul, Tell City
- Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m. at St. Boniface, Fulda

**Terre Haute Deanery**
- Dec. 18, 2 p.m. at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood
- Dec. 19, 7 p.m. at St. Simon the Apostle, Terre Haute
- Dec. 20, 7 p.m. at St. Benedict, Terre Haute

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Your efforts helped raised $151,000 for Marian University.
Catholic press has played vital role in forming the faith of readers

By Sam Lucero

In July, I retired from a 39-year career as a journalist in the Catholic press. Those years were spent writing, editing, photographing and laying out pages at five diocesan newspapers. While recently rummaging through boxes of mementos I acquired through the years (newspaper clippings, workshop notes and correspondence from colleagues and readers), I came across a letter written by a woman I had interviewed long ago. Anne Borchardt was a choir member at her parish in River Falls, Wis., when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. The story, which was published in the Superior Catholic Herald during Holy Week in 1999, recounted her cancer journey and how it strengthened her faith.

After the story was published, Anne sent a card offering thanks. “You have become an important part of my faith journey by helping me to get this story out,” she wrote, “because it was a bold step for me and ever since the article, my faith convictions have increased tremendously—which is the greatest thing that could ever happen to me. … I am eternally grateful.” Anne died of cancer a year after her story was published. Yet even today, her words resonate clearly to me the important value of Catholic journalism.

Journalists in the Catholic press, both writers and photographers, know the important role they play in helping people in the pews to live out their faith. Telling inspirational stories such as Anne’s cancer journey is just one way Catholic publications help readers not only connect to their faith, but grow in it.

Sadly, Catholic journalism is in crisis, as news outlets—diocesan newspapers and even the domestic offices of the century-old Catholic News Service—face closure. In the past seven years, at least 11 diocesan newspapers have been shuttered or converted to online publications. In today’s world, where Catholic identity has greatly succumbed to secular values, heralding the good news is an epic challenge for the Church. To use a nautical term, Church leaders need “all hands on deck” to communicate news and information.

Yet, when the Church’s communication structures continue a downward spiral, with diocesan newspapers closing, cutting back on publication schedules or moving to online-only versions, who is left to proclaim the message?


“We will continue to need the written word to inform us, to help form our attitudes in a Christian way: to help us to ‘put on’ the Lord Jesus in the modern world, to provide us with ideas and models for putting into practice—in our daily lives and in society—the teaching of Christ and of his Church.”

As it was in 1822, when Bishop John England of Charleston, S.C., founded the Catholic Miscellany, the first Catholic publication in the United States, the mission of the Catholic press, according to Cardinal Foley, is “to inform, form, inspire, educate and strengthen the religious identity of Catholics.”

This mission is sacred for Catholic journalists who see their work as a vocation. Yet there is a gap created when fewer Catholic publications are delivered to parishioners’ homes and online publications, while easily accessible, lack the same shelf life.

Can the Church count on secular publications to tell the story of local Catholic Charities agencies assisting incoming refugees in our communities? Or Catholic Relief Services supporting families displaced by the war in Ukraine?

Catholic journalism’s future is at a critical juncture. How can it survive when Catholic newspapers face extinction due to postage and printing costs? How do digital publications reach people in the pews who lack access, loyalty, trust or interest in online news?

Telling the story from a faith perspective is imperative for the Church. Whether it’s offering analysis on the latest papal document, updating parishioners on Church finances or sharing a catechumen’s story of conversion, journalists in the Catholic press form and inform their readers in a way the secular press cannot.

The value of Catholic journalism is really about impacting people’s lives, helping them see the world through the lens of faith. Thanks to Catholic publications, they know that their stories are important and that they are part of a community that is connected.

I believe Anne Borchardt, who witnessed the role of Catholic journalism in her faith journey, would agree with this assessment. It’s up to our Church, its leaders and the entire body of Christ, to ensure that future generations of Catholics can tell their stories in Catholic publications.

(Sam Lucero served as news and information manager of The Compass, newspaper for the Diocese of Green Bay, Wis., from August 2007 to July 2022.)
Loving Well/Maureen Pratt

We’re in the season for thankfulness, and this year at this time, I would like to focus this column on how grateful I am for each of you, readers and editors, who have been a part of my Life Well project. “Loving Well” through its nearly 17 years of publication. With regret, but much gratitude in my heart, I announce that this column will be my last, as Catholic News Service (CNS) closes this final chapter.

I am going to miss my editors and readers, especially those of you who have reached out to me through this column over the years, to ask questions, comments, even challenges! You each will have a place in my heart and gut for the rest of my days.

But I am deeply thankful, too, for this opportunity, that started from a simple question asked just “to see if…”

“Loving Well” began as what we called a “cold call.” I telephoned CNS in early spring 2006 and asked if there might be a need for some work on the intersection of spirituality and faith, medicine and health care. I had just finished the book Meditations on Chronic Pain and Illness, had just published it, and was eager to continue to write, through experience and faith, about the many ways God’s presence makes all the difference in suffering, illness, disability, medical matters and more.

There is wisdom in the phrase, “It does no good to ask.” I do not mean to suggest that I was offered the opportunity to write a piece as a sort of trial. I wrote about the RuLaughter program at UCL, how laughter can be “good medicine” and comes from our marvellous Creator. From that first article, a regular column was born.

Throughout the years, I have had the honor to mentor many amazing, faith-filled people, from physicians and chaplains to heroic parents and patients. As I know, sometimes it is not easy to talk about personal challenges. Yet, openness has brought light to some very dark places. Thank you for your courage and faithfulness.

As a Catholic journalist, I have been grateful for the professional opportunity to witness the unique ways God works in sometimes very challenging health situations. But also, I have been personally blessed and bolstered by this ongoing work, especially during the inevitable challenges that come with our health and losses—a “bonus” that cannot be captured on a paycheck!

But I do not mean for this column to be only about the past tense. I carry with me a grateful heart for what has been an amazing journey through these nearly 17 years, I am thankfully energized for what lies ahead! I am especially excited for the work (which is really a ministry or vocation or love of labor) is not finished yet. Not by a long shot.

The world still feels the effects of the pandemic, and there is an acute need for spirituality in healing. “A just and God in living “well,” a recommitment to care for the soul as integral to care for the body. And we people of faith can fill this need by using our unique gifts and talents to bring about hope when it is needed most.

I am right there with you! New projects are already in the works, including one that brings full circle the starting point of “Loving Well” and my book, Peace in the Storm. More on this next column. I still want, you thank you for your support, fellowship and faith.

Blessings for a truly grace-filled, wonderful Thanksgiving and Advent ahead. May our Lord’s peace blossom in your hearts like never before!

(Maureen Pratt’s website is www.maurerpratt.com)
The Second Book of Samuel furnishes the first reading for today, marking the close of the Church’s liturgical year. The two books of Samuel record major events of the reign of King David in Israel, which was from 1004 to 971 BC. In this week’s reading, David becomes the king of Israel. He was more than a governmental authority or political figure. His task as king was to strengthen the union between God and the people, but the people had free will allowing them to choose their actions.

David’s task was to give good example and to inspire the people to acknowledge God. Such recognition, David insisted, was the key to prosperity, peace, and life.

For its second reading, the Church presents a passage from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Colossians. This epistle was written to the Christians of Colossae, a moderately important city of the Roman Empire. It recounts the trial and execution of the apostle Paul. The Church supplies the last reading. It recounts the trial and execution of Jesus.

St. Luke’s Gospel supplies the last reading. It recounts the trial and execution of Jesus.

Question Corner

Sr. Kathleen Doyle

Divorce, remarriage outside the Church affect ability to receive Communion

(EDITOR’S NOTE: THIS COLUMN BY FATHER KENNETH DOYLE WAS ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN 2011.)

If a Catholic gets married by a priest, later gets divorced, then gets married by a judge, can that person still receive the Eucharist?

The short answer is “no,” but there is so much more to it than that.

First, to explain the rule: The Church is a communion of persons linked by a shared set of religious beliefs and practices. Reception of the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist, is an indication that an individual accepts the beliefs of the Church and its teaching.

One of those teachings is that a Catholic should marry in a Catholic Church and in a manner recognized by the Church with the permission of the Church. Assuming, as seems to be indicated, that you have not obtained a declaration of nullity (commonly called an annulment) regarding the first marriage, that marriage is still considered by the Church as valid. As such, the second marriage would not be recognized by the Church. I don’t think this should be seen as the Church’s presuming to render a judgment on the state of a person’s soul before God (for only God can do that). It should be seen simply as an indication that the Church, like any organization of human beings, has rules that govern membership and regulate behavior. I would suggest that you continue to attend Mass regularly.

Too often, people in a situation like this conclude that Mass attendance is pointless since they have rendered themselves ineligible for full participation through not conforming to the Church’s laws.

That is unfortunate, because usually the person still shares in the core beliefs of the Church and would derive spiritual satisfaction and helpful guidance by continuing to attend Mass.

I would also urge that you sit down with a priest of your choosing and discuss the circumstances of the first marriage and the reasons for its breakup. It could well be that, even if that marriage lasted several years, there might be grounds for the Church to consider an annulment—serious immaturity, for example, or emotional instability (on the part of one or both) going back to the time of the marriage.

It seems obvious that reception of the Eucharist is excluded in this situation, but it would certainly be worth the effort to open that possibility.

It should also be noted that too often Catholics who are separated or divorced but who have never remarried refrain from receiving Communion because they feel that they have “broken a big rule” and are therefore ineligible to receive.

The truth is this: The Church believes that, in fidelity to the teaching of Jesus, marriage is forever, and that spouses should always enter a marriage with this understanding and do their best to make it last.

In those situations (domestic abuse is a clear-cut one, but there are certainly others) where, for the good of everyone involved, separation is advisable.

When the rift is irreparable, divorce is necessary, and so is the Church’s recognition of that fact.

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When the rift is irreparable, divorce is necessary, and so is the Church’s recognition of that fact.
Carmelite Sister Martha Hall lived 62 years of contemplative life in Terre Haute monastery.

Discerning a call to contemplative life as a Carmelite nun, Sister Martha entered the monastery of St. Joseph in October of 1960, and received her habit on Oct. 7, 1961, at which time she received the religious name Sister Martha of Jesus. She professed first vows on Oct. 15, 1965, and perpetual vows on Oct. 15, 1965.

In the monastic community, Sister Martha assisted with landscaping, printing, cooking, gardening, carpentry and maintenance. Her beautiful singing voice also added to the beauty of the sacred music in the community’s liturgies.

Surviving are sisters Elaine Boone and Mary Jo Keene, and brothers Greg, Jim and Larry Hall.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the monastery of St. Joseph, 59 Allendale, Terre Haute, IN 47802.

New Ascension yearlong podcast starts on Jan. 1, will present the entire catechism

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Beginning on Jan. 1, Ascension Press will launch “The Catechism in a Year,” taking listeners through the four parts of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and “providing explanation, insight and encouragement along the way.”

Through the course of 365 daily podcast episodes, Father Mike Schmitz will read the entire catechism. Throughout 2022, the priest has hosted the popular “The Bible in a Year” podcast with Scripture scholar Jeff Cavins.

Father Schmitz read every verse of the Catholic Bible in 365 days, using a reading plan based on the Reading Bible Timeline. The reading plan organizes the 14 narrative books of the Bible into 12 periods to help readers understand how they relate to one another and to God’s plan for salvation.

A priest of the Diocese of Duluth, Minn., Father Schmitz is a popular Catholic speaker and author. He and Cavins created the Bible podcast with the backing of Ascension.

“We don’t think it’s an accident that after ‘Bible in a Year,’ the No. 1 requested thing from our audience was ‘a Catechism of the Year,’” said Lauren Joyce, communications and public relations specialist at Ascension, a multimedia Catholic publisher based in West Chester, Pa.

“Helping the faithful understand and read the Bible with Cavins’ timeline learning system and the podcast format ‘made such a big difference for accessibility,’” she said at a Nov. 2 news conference via Zoom.

“Our audience is saying do the same thing for the catechism: ‘We know we should like it, we know we should read it [and] struggle to do so, so help us out.’”

In the 30 days before the news conference, the Bible podcast had reached an audience of 1.5 million people via various electronic devices, such as a cellphone, a tablet with downloaded episodes or YouTube.

According to Chartable Global Reach, a podcast measurement company, “The Bible in a Year” was No. 1 in 2022 in the religious/spiritual category.

The catechism recognizes “that what God is doing in this world didn’t end” with Chapter 28 of the Acts of the Apostles in the Bible, Father Schmitz said. The fifth book of the New Testament tells of the founding of the Church. “God continues to reach out to his people. … [With the catechism] we get to love him more,” he added.

“What we did with the Bible, we’re going to do with the catechism,” the priest said about the podcast. “For 365 days, we are going to take a little section of the catechism every single day.”

“The Catechism in a Year” podcast will be available for free on all major podcast platforms as well as the Hallow app. Ascension also is providing Catholic schools and parishes free materials promoting the podcast, including flyers, posters, media graphics and bulletin announcements.

(More information about “The Catechism in a Year,” the new catechism edition and resources available to parishes and schools can be found at ascensionpress.com)
Archbishop Thompson offers priceless reminder to high school seniors

By John Shaughnessy

BROWNSBURG—For high school seniors, this last year can be a time to shine, to lead, to make the most of the friendships and experiences that are at the heart of this pivotal point in their lives. It can also be a year when seniors can be overwhelmed by questions and doubts about their future, the increased demands on their time, and the struggles and challenges that can come with being a teenager.

Knowing both these realities, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson offered a timely reminder to nearly 1,200 seniors from across the archdiocese on Oct. 26—a reminder of just how extremely valued they are.

Speaking to the seniors during his annual Mass with them, the archbishop shared that this was the point in his life when he learned the importance of staying rooted in Christ. "If we keep Jesus at the center of our lives, everything else will fall into place," said Will, a senior at Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Providence.

"That's something I try to realize there's a lot more people in that community in Indiana than you think. You don't have meaning. You have purpose." †

Before the seniors returned to their schools, Archbishop Thompson had one more reminder for them as the Mass ended. "What you do in day and day out is sacred because you are sacred," the archbishop said. "No matter how sometimes you get down on yourself, don't let anybody make you ever forget that you are indeed priceless, that you have been bought at a great price. You have meaning. You have purpose." †
By John Shaughnessy

When Carlos Zavaleta boarded the bus with his players after the state championship game, a wealth of memories from the day filled the thoughts of the head coach of the boys’ soccer team of Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis.

Before the game on Oct. 29 in the Michael A. Carroll Track and Soccer Stadium in Indianapolis, Zavaleta had shared a succinct message to his team, telling them, “I believe in you, and you need to believe in yourselves. And if we do our best, we can beat anybody.”

Zavaleta’s belief was forged in the stunning reality that the Brebeuf team had won its first six games in the Class 2A state tournament of the Indiana High School Athletic Association by scoring 27 goals and giving up just one.

And the coach’s confidence continued in the state championship game even as Brebeuf’s opponent—the team from Marian High School in Mishawaka in northern Indiana—took a 1-0 lead in the early part of the second half. Almost immediately, Zavaleta turned to one of his assistant coaches and said, “We’re going to tie this up, and then we’re going to win it.”

And that’s just what happened. After tying the game in regulation, Brebeuf scored the winning goal in overtime—a 2-1 victory that made the Braves back-to-back champions in Class 2A boys’ soccer. “I just knew,” Zavaleta would say later about the comeback. “There are certain things you believe in, and that you know are going to happen. And lo and behold, it turned out that way.”

In the celebration that followed, the head coach watched in pure joy as teammates hugged each other, embraced the head coach, and gave each other a wealth of memories from the day. “That was a great, great thing,” Zavaleta says about the scene. “That was a peace that comes to you and a joy that comes to you when you see their faces in that moment.”

As the bus headed to Brebeuf, he made picture after picture that captured beaming smile after beaming smile. “There is a peace that comes to you and a joy that comes to you when you see their faces in that moment,” Zavaleta says about that scene. “That was a great, great thing. And then I thought of the parents and the great support we’ve had from them.”

And then I thought of the parents and the camaraderie and the family-like atmosphere that we’ve had for the past two seasons. This season was even more special because of the unity we had.”

Zavaleta pointed to the six seniors on the team as a major factor in creating that unity: Michael Rosenberg, Aidan Wade and Jack Weeter. “We have a wide variety of personalities on this team,” says Zavaleta, who has coached soccer for more than 40 years. “But they all love each other, and they all work for one another. I feel we’re lucky as coaches to mentor them. They’re like my kids. They’re like my family. And I love them.”

“They won it twice, and that’s icing on the cake, but we are lucky to be doing this with this special group. I’m so happy for them. They will remember this forever.”

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