Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Greetings in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ! Having reached the pinnacle of our liturgical year, we have great cause to celebrate with Easter joy. Perhaps the only experience more profound than discovering an empty tomb of a loved one is that of encountering that same person having risen from the dead. We embark on the 50 days of Easter—culminating with Pentecost Sunday—to celebrate what was beyond human imagination, namely, the resurrection of the dead.

When it comes to being raised from the dead, we should be clear about the distinction between resurrection and resuscitation. One who is resuscitated, such as Lazarus, eventually dies again. One who is resurrected, such as Jesus, dies no more. The Easter celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ marks His victory over sin and death. While we mourn for loved ones who have gone before us in death, longing to see them again, our greatest desire is for their resurrection with Jesus Christ.

Through His passion, death and resurrection, in unity with the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ has proven to be the Savior of the world and the Redeemer of humanity. At one time or another, more often some than others, we have all lived under the shadow of the cross—experiencing grief, despair, loneliness, injustice, sickness and loss. Many carry wounds of sadness, fear, guilt, bitterness, shame, uncertainty, anxiety, illness and hurt. Uniting our wounds with the Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the transforming grace of healing, forgiveness and reconciliation is made available to us. Whatever our plight in life, we have cause to rejoice in Him. I pray that this Easter season be filled with an abundance of grace, mercy, peace and joy beyond what we can possibly imagine. Jesus Christ is Risen! He lives! He remains present to us, especially in the Eucharist—His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity—leading us on the path of salvation. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blessings in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ,

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

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Queridos hermanas y hermanos en Cristo:

¡Saludos pascales en Cristo resucitado! Habiendo llegado a la cumbre de nuestro año litúrgico, tenemos grandes motivos para celebrar con alegría la Pascua. Quizá la única experiencia más profunda que descubrir el sepulcro vacío de un ser querido sea la de encontrarse con esa misma persona resuscitada de entre los muertos. Nos embarcamos en los 50 días de la Pascua, que culminan con el Domingo de Pentecostés, para celebrar un hecho que superó la imaginación humana: la resurrección de los muertos.

Cuando se trata de resucitar de entre los muertos, debemos tener clara la distinción entre resurrección y reanimación (o resucitación): aquel que es resucitado, como Lázaro, al final vuelve a morir; aquel que resucita, como Jesús, ya no muere. La celebración pascal de la resurrección de Cristo marca su victoria sobre el pecado y la muerte. Si bien lloramos la partida de los seres queridos que nos han precedido en la muerte y anhelamos volver a verlos, nuestro mayor deseo es su resurrección en Cristo.

Por su pasión, muerte y resurrección, en unidad con el Padre y el Espíritu Santo, Jesucristo ha demostrado ser el salvador del mundo y el redentor de la humanidad. En algún momento y con más frecuencia unos que otros, todos hemos vivido bajo la sombra de la cruz, experimentando dolor, desesperación, soledad, injusticia, enfermedad y pérdida. Muchos arrastran heridas de tristeza, miedo, culpa, amargura, vergüenza, incertidumbre, ansiedad, enfermedad y dolor. Al unir nuestras heridas con Cristo resucitado, se nos abre la oportunidad de gozar de la gracia transformadora de la curación, el perdón y la reconciliación. Cualquiera que sea nuestra situación en la vida, tenemos motivos para alegrarnos en Él. Rezo para que este tiempo de Pascua esté lleno de abundancia de gracia, misericordia, paz y alegría, más allá de lo que podamos imaginar. Jesucristo ha resucitado! ¡Está vivo! ¡Está presente entre nosotros, especialmente en la Eucaristía—su cuerpo y su sangre, su alma y su divinidad—guiándonos por el camino de la salvación. ¡Aleluya, aleluya!

Bendiciones en el Risen Lord Jesus Christ,

Arzobispo Charles C. Thompson
Pope says be close to unborn, migrants and to those ‘abandoned’ like Christ

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The unborn, migrants, the elderly and the disabled are “living icons” of Jesus that call Christians to draw close to those who feel abandoned just as Christ did on the cross, Pope Francis said.

In his homily for Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter’s Square on April 2, the pope reflected on the phrase Jesus uttered on the cross in St. Matthew’s Gospel, and how echoed through the square when sung in the responsorial psalm: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mt 27:46). “Christ, in his abandonment, stirs us to seek him and to love him and those who are themselves abandoned, for in them we see not only people in need, but Jesus himself,” he said.

According to the Vatican gendarmes, some 60,000 people were present in the square for the Mass. Fighting off coughs as he began his homily but otherwise speaking without difficulty, Pope Francis said that in his Passion, Jesus experienced the distance of God so he could be “completely and definitively one” with humanity.

The pope was released from the hospital on April 1 after a four-day stay for treatment of bronchitis. He processed into St. Peter’s Square on the popemobile wearing his winter coat on an early spring morning. He was hospitalized since March 29 for treatment of bronchitis, stopped his car and got out to greet well-wishers and reporters waiting outside the hospital. As Pope Francis leaves hospital, he comforts couple, jokes with reporters.

Easter liturgies are set at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral and Saint Meinrad Archabbey

The Easter liturgical schedules for SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St. in Indianapolis, and the Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Dr. in St. Meinrad, are as follows:

**SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral**
- April 8, Easter Vigil—8:45 p.m., celebrated by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson. Easter Saturday—10 a.m. (will also be livestreamed at www.uppc.org/streaming)

**Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church**
- Both of the following Masses will also be livestreamed at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral and Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church.
- April 9, Easter Sunday—10 a.m.
- April 12 – 7 p.m.

As Pope Francis leaves hospital, he comforts couple, jokes with reporters

ROME (CNS)—“I’m still alive,” Pope Francis joked to reporters who asked how he was doing as he left Rome’s Gemelli hospital on April 1. The 86-year-old pope, who had been hospitalized since March 29 for treatment of bronchitis, stopped his car and got out to greet well-wishers and reporters waiting outside the hospital.

He embraced a sobbing mother, whose daughter had died the night before. He reached out to the father, too, and holding their hands, he prayed with them. The pope then traced a cross on the forehead of each of them and gave them both a kiss on the cheek.

Reporters present said he also signed the autograph of a boy who said he broke his arm playing soccer. Before returning to the Vatican, he stopped to pray at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, a stop he makes before Easter Sunday Mass at the Vatican on April 2. As Pope Francis leaves hospital, he comforts couple, jokes with reporters.

Correction

In an article on three pregnancy care centers in the March 31 issue of The Criterion, the issue date of a press release from the office of U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren was listed as Aug. 5, 2002. The correct date is Aug. 5, 2002.
Eucharistic reflection series aims to form disciples on mission

WASHINGTON (OSV News)—The National Eucharistic Revival announced it will release what it called the “first-of-its-kind” mystagogy series of weekly catechetical reflections throughout the Easter season to “invite all Catholics deeper into the mysteries of Christ by reflecting on the truth, goodness and beauty of the Mass,” a news release on the series said. As early Christians were sustained by patriarchs and heads of Churches in their tumultuous times, when their faith was tested and empowered by this knowledge as a living hope,” so too should the Christians following the resurrection as offering a “new birth into a life of resurrecting faith.”

Patriarchs and Church leaders said in their statement announcing the new series. “At every age and stage of life, Jesus invites us to follow him in this new life, this series is for you,” said Sister Alicia Torres, a Franciscan of the Eucharist of Chicago, who is a member of the National Eucharistic Revival. The newsletter (accessed at eucharisticcongress.org/heart-of-the-revival-newsletter) offers various resources, videos, stories and reflections from voices from across the Church. It also is a channel to communicate events, special announcements and highlights from grassroots developments throughout the United States in support of the National Eucharistic Revival.

As we have all seen in recent months, escalating violence has engulfed the Holy Land, they wrote. “Local Christians in particular have increasingly suffered adversity similar to the ones about which St. Peter wrote.” Following the November election of Israel’s most politically and religiously right-wing government, Israel has experienced Israel Defense Forces army raids into northern West Bank Palestinian cities. Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israelis, and almost three months of growing Israeli protests against the new government’s attempts to carry out a judicial overhaul. Many Israelis believe it will break Israel’s already fragile democracy. In addition, attacks against Christian sites also have increased.

The patriarchs and Church leaders noted in their statement that over the past year some churches, funeral processions and other Christian places of public gathering have become targets of attacks, and some holy sites and cemeteries have been desecrated. This includes vandalizing a statue of Jesus at the Francescan Church of Flagellation in the Old City on Feb. 2, as well as what was called “a violent incident” at the Tomb of Mary church in annexed east Jerusalem on March 19. Church leaders also noted that ancient liturgies, such as the Palm Sunday procession and the Orthodox Holy Fire Ceremony, have been closed to pilgrims. The Holy Fire ceremony takes place on Orthodox Holy Saturday when thousands of local Orthodox Christians and Orthodox pilgrims celebrate the traditional miracle of fire at the Tomb of Jesus in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and which Israeli police see as a fire hazard because there is only one entrance into the church. “This is in spite of our agreements to cooperate with the governing authorities, and to accommodate any reasonable requests that they might present,” the patriarchs and Church leaders said in their statement.

Jerusalem (OSV News)—Just as early Christians were sustained by the words of St. Peter describing Jesus’ resurrection as offering a “new birth into a living hope,” so too should the Christians of the Holy Land today be encouraged and empowered by this knowledge as they face tumultuous times, when their own faith continues to be tested, said the patriarchs and heads of Churches in their March 31 Easter message.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson elevates the Eucharist on April 12, 2022, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis during the annual archdiocesan chrism Mass. A new series of reflections from the National Eucharistic Revival features several Catholic authors, including Archbishop Thompson. (Catholic News photo by Sean Gallagher)

“‘As we have all seen in recent months, escalating violence has engulfed the Holy Land,’ they wrote. ‘Local Christians in particular have increasingly suffered adversity similar to the ones about which St. Peter wrote.’ Following the November election of Israel’s most politically and religiously right-wing government, Israel has experienced Israel Defense Forces army raids into northern West Bank Palestinian cities. Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israelis, and almost three months of growing Israeli protests against the new government’s attempts to carry out a judicial overhaul. Many Israelis believe it will break Israel’s already fragile democracy. In addition, attacks against Christian sites also have increased.

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While we will persevere in these good-faith efforts, we ask the overseeing officials to work cooperatively with, even as we call upon international community and local residents of goodwill to advocate on our behalf, in order to help secure the safety, access, and religious freedom of the resident Christian community and the millions of Christian pilgrims annually visiting the Holy Land—as well as the maintenance of the religious status quo.”

Though they welcomed this support, their final hope was not placed in the hands of any human source, they said. We place our ultimate hope only in God. For through Christ’s resurrection, we have been granted the blessed assurance of the Almighty’s gracious providence through the Holy Spirit, a source of divine power that is able to sustain us today, just as it sustained Jerusalem’s first Christians those many centuries ago,” they said in the statement.

And so it is in the hope offered in Christ’s resurrection that we exchange our fellow believers around the world that ancient Christian greeting that continues to resound so powerfully today: ‘Christ is risen!’ †

Patriarchs place ‘ultimate hope only in God’ amid attacks on Christian sites
A question that challenges us, and a challenge for us to draw near the ‘Christs of today’

The crowds preceding him and those following him cried out: “Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” And when he entered Jerusalem, the people went out to meet him, saying, “Who is this?” And the crowds replied, “This is Jesus the prophet, from Galilee.” (Mt 21:9-11)

The words shared in the Gospel during the procession with palms at the beginning of Palm Sunday Mass on April 2 celebrated Jesus as he entered the holy city of Jerusalem. Moments later during that same liturgy, we witnessed the agony of our Savior as he entered into his Passion and was crucified by a people who chose to put him to a horrible death.

We have walked the Lenten journey and arrived at Holy Week. At the beginning of Palm Sunday—through another Gospel reading—we are among those who call for Christ to be King, and yet by week’s end, in that time, would we be among those who supported such a heinous and senseless act? With many pushing for a more secularized society where faith and morals don’t guide people, it is a fair question to ask ourselves.

If we committed our Lent to be a continuous time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we should be stronger, more committed people of faith. And during Holy Week, our focus should be on Christ’s Passion, death and resurrection, where he defeats sin and death.

Easter is a season of hope and joy, but as we proclaim this truth, we must also remember the many “Christs” that exist today, which Pope Francis referenced in his homily during the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican. They include “the poor who live on our streets and that we don’t have the courage to look at, migrants who are no longer能够在 sites but numbers.”

They are also “people who are abandoned, invisible, hidden, discarded with white gloves: unborn children, the elderly who live alone—“the elderly who live alone could also be your dad, your mom, your grandma, abandoned in genocides—the sick whom no one visits,” he continued, “the disabled who are ignored, and the young burdened by great interior emptiness, with no one prepared to listen to their cry of pain and who find another way toward suicide. The abandoned of today, the Christs of today.”

We are all children of God, made in his image and likeness. And as disciples of Christ, we are called to make sure no one is forgotten. We must be people of mercy, tenderness and compassion. As Pope Francis says, “We cannot abandon those whose cry for help is no longer heard.”

As we begin marking this season of Easter joy, let us not forget to be the hands of feet of Christ to those in need and that we are strengthened in this service by growing closer to Christ in the Eucharist.

It is a time to proclaim Christ is alive! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

—Mike Krokos

Be Our Guest!

Dr. Brian Disney

Safety and well-being of students, staff are top priorities in our Catholic schools

In light of the recent tragic school shooting at The Covenant School in Nashville, Tenn., we need to reiterate our commitment and our top priorities: the safety and well-being of our students, parents and community members.

As Christians, our belief as Catholics is that all human life is sacred and should be cherished. Our faith teaches us that the Cross of Christ and his death and resurrection is the source of our new life in Christ. During this ongoing National Eucharistic Revival being celebrated across the U.S., we would do well to remind ourselves and others of this wonderful gift of our Lord that he gave us through his death and resurrection and that lives on today.

Easter is a season of hope and joy, but as we proclaim this truth, we must also remember the many “Christs” that exist today, which Pope Francis referenced in his homily during the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican. They include “the poor who live on our streets and that we don’t have the courage to look at, migrants who are no longer in sight but numbers.”

They are also “people who are abandoned, invisible, hidden, discarded with white gloves: unborn children, the elderly who live alone—“the elderly who live alone could also be your dad, your mom, your grandma, abandoned in genocides—the sick whom no one visits,” he continued, “the disabled who are ignored, and the young burdened by great interior emptiness, with no one prepared to listen to their cry of pain and who find another way toward suicide. The abandoned of today, the Christs of today.”

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It is a time to proclaim Christ is alive! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

—Mike Krokos
Today we celebrate Good Friday. This seems like a contradiction in terms—“celebrate” what is, in fact, a day of intense sorrow, agony and mourning because of the painful death of someone we love. And yet, the Church insists that this holy day should be celebrated because it expresses the inexpressible love of God and shows us how far Christ was willing to go to save us from the deadly consequences of sin.

“For wondrous love is this!” we exclaim in the words of a popular hymn, as we hear the Passion of the Lord Jesus Christ according to John proclaimed during the Good Friday liturgy: “What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of all to be smitten by God and afflicted? But he was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our sins; upon him was the “chastisement” that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way, but the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all.” (Is 53:4-6) He was “crushed” for our sins. And upon him was the “chastisement” (a strong verbal reprimand or severe criticism) that should rightly be leveled only against us. When John sings down, the hymn “What Wondrous Love Is This” continues, “When I was sinking down beneath my burden,” the hymn “What Wondrous Love Is This” expresses the incomparable love of Christ.

Today, we celebrate Good Friday. Today, let’s celebrate the depth of God’s love for each and every one of us, his children. 

Celebration of the maravilloso amor y sacrificio de Cristo por todos nosotros

Celebrating Christ’s wondrous love and sacrifice for all of us

Hallándose en condición de hombre, se humilló a sí mismo haciéndose obediendo hasta la muerte, ¡y muerte de cruz! Por lo cual, también Dios lo exaltó hasta lo sumo y le otorgó el nombre que es sobre todo nombre. (Versículo del Evangelio del Viernes Santo)

Hoy celebramos el Viernes Santo. Pareciera una contradicción utilizar la palabra “celebrar” para referirnos a un acontecimiento que, de hecho, constituye un día de intenso dolor, angustia y luto por la dolorosa muerte de un ser querido. Y, sin embargo, la Iglesia insiste en que este día santo debe celebrarse porque expresa el incomparrable amor de Dios y nos muestra hasta dónde estuvo dispuesto a llegar Cristo para salvarnos de las consecuencias mortales del pecado.

“¡Cuán admirable amor!” exclamamos al son del popular himno inglés, mientras escuchamos la proclamación de la pasión de nuestro Señor Jesucristo según San Juan durante la liturgia del Viernes Santo.

“¡Cuán admirable amor!” es este que hizo que el Señor de la dicha carga con la terrible maldición por mi ser, por mi ser, cargara con la espantosa maldición por mi ser? Sí, la raza humana fue maldicida, no por un dios enfadado o vengativo, sino por la elección pecaminosa de nuestros primeros padres de alejarse de la gracia de Dios. Esa terrible maldición no podía deshacerse por medios humanos; solamente Dios era capaz de llevarla lejos, y, así, de liberarnos.

Las lecturas de la liturgia del Viernes Santo nos recuerdan el enorme sacrificio que nuestro Salvador tuvo que hacer. Tal como predijo el profeta Isaias (Is 52:13-53:12), “Cuando me hundía bajo el peso insoportable del pecado y muerte, Cristo se despojó de su corona para mí, por mi ser.” Por supuesto, la idea que Dios “frunció el ceño” se contradice con el hecho de que ha enviado a su único Hijo para condenarnos, sino para redimirnos. Incluso cuando el mundo y todos sus habitantes parecían “hundirse” bajo el peso insuperable del pecado y la muerte, Cristo “se despojó de su corona” haciéndose hombre, un cordero dispuesto a ser sacrificado por nosotros.

La segunda lectura de la liturgia del Viernes Santo está tomada de la Carta de los Hebréos (Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9), donde se nos asegura que “aunque era Hijo, [Jesús] aprendió la obediencia por lo que padeció. Y habiendo sido perfeccionado, llegó a ser autor de eterna salvación para todos los que lo obedecen” (Heb 5:8-9). Se nos dice que el sufrimiento es el camino hacia la perfección; de hecho, la experiencia vivida por Jesús nos enseña con toda claridad que el único camino al cielo es el de la cruz. “¡Admirable amor!” que celebramos el Viernes Santo es un amor abnegado.

La lectura del Evangelio del Viernes Santo siempre es la pasión de nuestro Señor Jesucristo según San Juan (Jn 18:1-19:42). San Juan narra la pasión y muerte de Jesús desde su singular perspectiva del “discípulo a quien Jesús amaba” (Jn 19:26). Por supuesto que Jesús amaba a todos sus discípulos, al igual que nos ama a todos nosotros, pero entre todos los evangelistas, sólo San Juan se refiere a sí mismo de esta manera.

Así se hizo, como repite el himno, “por mi ser.” En el “Admirable amor” que caracteriza toda la vida de Cristo, incluida su pasión y muerte, la narración de la pasión de San Juan deja en claro que este gran acto de amor abnegado se hizo, como reitera el himno, “por mi ser.” Cristo murió para salvar el alma de todos y cada uno de nosotros, y al hacerlo nos ha liberado de la esclavitud del pecado y de la muerte. Resulta muy apropiado que el himno “¡Cuán admirable amor!” fuera utilizado por los esclavos del sur de Estados Unidos para expresar tanto su dolor como su profunda esperanza. Esta es justamente la razón por la que celebramos el Viernes Santo

Celebre el maravilloso amor y sacrificio de Cristo por todos nosotros.
**April 14**

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Retreat Center, 5535 St., Indianapolis. Pro-Life Lecture Series: Ballaton Day Massacres—Childlessness on Purpose. 6-8:30 p.m. doors open 6 p.m., lecture 6:30 p.m.; panel discussion including medical professionals and Catholic ethicists, pizza provided. Free. Information: holynurseprofile.com


**April 14-16**

Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, 1 Providence Way, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Come and See Retreat. 4 p.m. Fri.-2 p.m. Sun. Single Catholic women ages 18-42 exploring religious life, includes housing and meals, free. Registration: information@ComeAndSeeSistersOfProvidence.org. 317-505-9950. benedict@bps.org

**April 15**

Father Michael Scazzi Memorial High School gym, 5000 Nowland Ave., Indianapolis. Clifton Fundraiser. 6-11 p.m. $10,000沉默 reverse raffle, silent auction, food and drinks. List of items most needed: cutt.ly/JSfoodbank.

**April 15-29**

Virtual St. Vincent de Paul Walk Your Neighbor 5K Run/Walk, prize for one-thousand-dollar gift and one $100 gift card. April 15 through April 34 through April 16, 2023 from April 17-29. $25 ages 22 and younger; $5 discount per person when registering for five or more. Register by April 29. Information: registration.317-352-3228, rscvpilgrimage.org/evolve/.

Tobit Marriage Retreat. Information: 317-466-3765. bklane@ indianaeg.org

St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. George St., Indianapolis. Divine Mercy Sunday Healing Service, 3 p.m. adoration and Divine Mercy Chaplet, 3:30 p.m. praise and worship, 4 p.m. corporate prayer for healing, 5 p.m. individual prayer ministry teams, sacrament of reconciliation available, free meals, coffee and tea. cutt.ly/DivineMercy.

**April 14-28**

Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, 1 Providence Way, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Retreat. 5 p.m. Fri. - 11 a.m. Sun., Franciscans Mary Lou Parnell, Ministry of the Word, and Cindy Sturgeon presenting. $75 per couple. Registration: information@oldenburgosf.com. 812-933-6437, center@ oldenburgosf.org.

Sister Sheila initiated and led the Beech Grove in caring for creation. The day will be presented by Father Jonathan Meyer, two-minute video reflections and speeches. April 7-May 28. Information, registration: benedictinn.org. †

**April 19**


**April 20**

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Hoosier Road, Indianapolis. Memorial Mass, 10 a.m. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson presenting, breakfast reception to follow at Archbishop Edward Cardinal O’Malley, 5000-9505, jluna@spswm.org.

**April 21**

21st Century Scholars, SYO Disciples Institute, theatre, Indianapolis. Summer Youth Camps. Information: www.archindy.org/retreats. For a complete list of retreats as reported to mountainstfrancis.org. †

**April 24**

Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. Envisioning the Future of the Grove community on numerous initiatives, led by Father Adrian Burke presenting. Free. Information: mountstfrancis.org or bring art materials, supplies (lights, technology, arts and crafts), to Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on April 24. The day, which takes place on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, will include presentations of Mary’s words in Scripture, excerpts from Edward Sri’s book Walking with Mary, walking the Stations of the Cross from the voice of Mary, and more.

The day will be presented by experienced retreat facilitator Judy Rihar, associate director at Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality. The cost is $75. For more information or to register, go to www.mountstfrancis.org or call 812-923-8817 or send an e-mail to retreatcommunications@mountstfrancis.org. †

**April 20**

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Our Lady of Fatima Retreat Center. 5535 St., Indianapolis. Tobit Marriage Preparation Weekend, 9 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Sun., for engaged couples only. meals, materials, snacks, presentations and separate overnight accommodations. $298 per couple. Registration: info@benedictinn.org. 812-923-8817, benedict@benedictinn.org.

**April 21**

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. Contemplative Prayer, in person or via Zoom, 2-3:30 p.m. Franciscan Sister Olga Wittenberg presenting, free will donation. Information, registration: saintolga@archindy.org. 317-788-7581, benedict@oldenburgosf.com. 812-933-6437, center@oldenburgosf.com.

**April 22**


**April 24**

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat Center, 5535 St., Indianapolis. Tobit Marriage Preparation Weekend, 9 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Sun., for engaged couples only, meals, materials, snacks, presentations and separate overnight accommodations. $298 per couple. Registration: info@benedictinn.org. 812-923-8817, benedict@benedictinn.org. †

**April 25**

Virtual St. Vincent de Paul Walk Your Neighbor 5K Run/Walk, prize for one-thousand-dollar gift and one $100 gift card. April 15 through April 34 through April 16, 2023 from April 17-29. $25 ages 22 and younger; $5 discount per person when registering for five or more. Register by April 29. Information: registration.317-352-3228, rscvpilgrimage.org/evolve/. †

**April 29**

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Blessed Mother’s Beads, 9 a.m. noon, Benedictine Sister Nicolette Etienne and Kathy Willis presenting, $60, includes materials, class limited to 25. Information, registration: benedict@benedictinn.org. 812-923-8817, benedict@benedictinn.org. †

**May 3**

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. Contemplative Prayer, in person or via Zoom, 2-3:30 p.m. Franciscan Sister Olga Wittenberg presenting, free will donation. Information, registration: saintolga@archindy.org. 317-788-7581, benedict@oldenburgosf.com. 812-933-6437, center@oldenburgosf.com.

**May 5**

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. Our Lady of Fatima Retreat Center. Day of Silence, Day of Prayer, Day of Silent Renewal. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. $20, $50 with spiritual direction. Information: 812-933-6437. www.benedictinn.org/teens. 317-784-7581.

**May 6**

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Pause and Let Your Soul Catch Up. 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, registration: benedict@benedictinn.org. 812-923-8817, benedict@benedictinn.org. †

**May 19-21**

Saint Meinrad Archabbey. 1347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Disabilities Awareness Mass, 10 a.m. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson presenting, breakfast reception to follow at Archbishop Edward Cardinal O’Malley, 5000-9500, jluna@spswm.org.

Presentation at Benedict Inn will address Benedictine Values of care for creation

A presentation titled “Benedictine Values in Caring for Our Creation” will be held at the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., in Beech Grove, from 9 a.m. noon on April 22. In this workshop, participants will look at Scripture, the Rule of Saint Benedict and Pope Francis’ encyclical, “Laudato Si’.” On Care for Our Common Home, to gain awareness of the power of love to bring about a deep change in ourselves and our world. The presentation will be presented by Benedictine Sister Sheila Marie Fitzpatrick. She has completed Master Naturalist and Tree Steward training and has led efforts at the Sisters of Saint Benedict’s Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove in caring for creation. Sister Sheila initiated and led the project to create the Peace & Nature Garden at the Benedict Inn and works closely with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Beech Grove community on numerous environmental initiatives. The cost is $35. For more information or to register, go to www.mountstfrancis.org or call 812-778-8817, benedict@benedictinn.org. †

**Announcement for couples celebrating 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 or more years of marriage are accepted. Go to cutt.ly/anniversaries or call 317-236-1585.**
Pope names Dominican sister to lead Academy of Social Sciences

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis has named Dominican Sister Helen Alford, dean of the faculty of social sciences at the Angelicum University in Rome, to be president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

The Vatican announced the appointment of Sister Helen, 58, on April 1. She has been a member of the academy since 2020 and will be the third woman to lead the group of scholars. Mary Ann Glendon, a professor of law and former U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, served as president 2004-2014, and Margaret S. Archer, a British sociologist, served as president 2014-2019.

Sister Helen succeeds Stefano Zamagni, an Italian economist. The pontifical academy brings together social scientists—mainly scholars in the fields of economics, sociology, law and political science—to study questions of interest to the Vatican as it develops and promotes the application of Catholic social teaching.

Born in London, she worked in industry and earned her Ph.D. in engineering management from Cambridge University before joining the Dominicans. A member of the order’s Congregation of St. Catherine of Siena of KwaZulu-Natal, she teaches Catholic social doctrine, business ethics and corporate responsibility.

In a 2020 interview with Catholic News Service, Sister Helen said St. John Paul II, who established the academy in 1994, “was really important in terms of relaunching the whole idea of Catholic social thought,” which teaches that the Gospel has clear and concrete principles for living together in a way that recognizes the God-given human dignity of each person and promotes societal living that is good, just and peaceful. †
Faithful turn to prayer as tornadoes take at least 33 lives across U.S.

(OSV News)—Catholic faithful turned to prayer as tornadoes carved a deadly path through the center of the United States on March 27, killing at least 33, injuring dozens and devastating thousands of homes and businesses.

More than 100 preliminary tornado reports have been received in at least 11 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

In Sullivan County, Ind., three deaths were reported as a result of a tornado that struck the area. At McCormick’s Creek State Park in Owen County, a couple camping there were among the casualties.

According to archdiocesan officials, St. Jude the Apostle Parish in nearby Spencer received slight roof damage in the storm and playground equipment at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Franklin was destroyed.

At Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, a parish staff member told OSV News a tornado in nearby Whiteland had destroyed several parishioners’ homes. The parish is “coming up with a plan” that will combine fundraisers and donated labor to assist the families, she said.

In Belvidere, Ill., the roof of the Apollo Theater collapsed during a concert, killing one and sending 28 others to the hospital.

Father Brian Geary, pastor of St. James Parish in Belvidere, Ill., told OSV News he blessed the body of others to the hospital who collapsed during a concert, killing one and sending 28 others to the hospital.

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In time of despair, Bible verse leads to life-changing moment

(Editors note: The Criterion has invited our readers to share a favorite Bible verse or a favorite quote that helps remind them of God’s presence, how his love and grace helps center them in their relationships with other people. Here is part of one of their responses.)

Jon Smith remembers that summer as a time of despair in his life. Without warning, the father of three had been laid off from his job, leading him to worry about how he would be able to provide for his family. Yet in the midst of those dark days, everything began to change for Smith because of one seemingly out-of-the-blue moment.

It happened when the member of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Martinsville was invited to attend a Bible institute in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he signed up for a three-day seminar called “Life in the Spirit.”

“At the end of the three days, as I was being prayed over, a [Scripture verse] came to one of the men ministering to me,” Smith recalls. “He said, ‘I don’t know if this is prophecy or not, but Matthew 6:33 keeps coming into my mind. Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all else will be given to you besides.’

“When he said that, it was like an electric charge shot down my spine and all worry and stress vanished. He did not know me personally, and certainly did not know my employment status or state of despair.

“I knew in my heart that God was speaking to me through him to say that he was in charge, that I was loved, and that he would provide. From that life-changing moment, I have turned my life and every area of my life over to him, and I trust in him completely.”

That trust in God has been at the core of his life for the past 22 years, Smith says, noting that he was laid off in July of 2001. And that trust in God guided him through the months ahead before he gained employment in January of 2002. That trust was apparent in a defining moment during November of 2001, before Smith found a job.

“My oldest daughter Rachel and I attended an open house at [Father Thomas] Seccia Memorial High School in November 2001,” Smith recalls. “On the way home, she expressed a true desire to attend high school there. I told her that she could. She said to me, ‘Dad, how is that possible? Tuition is a lot, and you don’t have a job.’

“I told her that if the Lord wanted her to attend Seccia, that he would provide a way, and two months later I was employed with a strong company and she attended all four years at Seccia, graduating in 2006.”

Smith says the wisdom of Matthew 6:33 “changed the course of my life and has become my mantra.”

“I have given my testimony and witness many times in classes and conferences, as well as personal counsel since that time, encouraging others to trust in him and believe his promises.

“God is good! All the time!”

What is God up to?

David Garrison has always had an appreciation for the late C.S. Lewis, the author of Mere Christianity, The Screwtape Letters and Chronicles of Narnia.

“Virtually anything Lewis has ever written has had an impact on me and my faith, starting with his masterpiece, Mere Christianity,” says Garrison, a member of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville.

“He has a way of boiling our faith down to its pure essence.

“That essence—God’s love, hope and plan for all people—is especially captured for Garrison in this quote from Lewis: ‘God intends to come and live in it himself.’

“God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what he is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you know that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently he starts knocking the house down. ‘What on earth is he up to?’

“The explanation is that he is building quite a different house from the one you thought of—throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but he is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it himself.”

“There is an undeniably bold power in God’s plan for people, Garrison believes.

“The audacious claim God makes on our lives leaves no room for negotiation,” Garrison says. “We can’t play at being a Christian. It asks a lot of us, it can be uncomfortable, and maybe it will lead us where we don’t want to go.”

Accepting the struggles and celebrating the successes of life

One of the joys for Mary Withem through the years has been seeing how her four children and five grandchildren have come to embrace the three phrases that she has constantly used to accept the struggles and celebrate the successes of life.

“I must have used the same three catch-phrases all my life,” says the member of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis. “Now I hear my children and grandchildren say them.

“When she faces disappointments and heartbreaks in life, Withem relies upon these words: ‘This too shall pass.’

“When she experiences times where she has to wait on people or deal with moments that take far longer than she would have hoped, she tells herself, ‘Patience is a virtue.’

‘Most of all,’ she says, ‘you can thank God for winning some of these battles, you can say, ‘All’s well that ends well.’”

“This is what God asks of you”

 Dee Suding has a gift for doing calligraphy. Once she led a special request from the late Msgr. Paul Koetter, a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. The priest asked her to use her flowing writing talent for a Bible verse he wanted to frame for his desk.

So Suding did her artistic lettering of Micah 6:8. “This is what God asks of you: Only this, to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God.”

In creating the artwork for Msgr. Koetter, Suding was inspired to read more from Micah, but the verse she copied for the priest always stayed special for her. It also became special to her husband, Gene.

“It became my husband’s and my favorite quote, and we placed it on the bathroom mirror as a daily reminder,” says Suding, a member of St. Agnes Parish in Nashville.

“I had it placed on the memorial card for my husband who passed away past this November.”

—Jon Smith

Seeking stories about the bonds between high school students and their parents

The stories of high school athletes—and other students who participate in other extracurricular activities—across the archdiocese are overwhelmingly intertwined with the stories of the parents who have supported their sons and daughters at every turn.

If any high school student has a special story of the way a parent has influenced their high school sports career or other extracurricular activity, The Criterion is inviting you to share your story with us.

If you’d like to share your story, please send an e-mail to John Shaughnessy at jshaughnessy@archindy.org or call him at 317-236-1554. 

The audacious claim God makes on our lives leaves no room for negotiation. We can’t play at being a Christian. It asks a lot of us, it can be uncomfortable, and maybe it will lead us where we don’t want to go.”

—David Garrison
Divine Mercy Sunday services will be celebrated on April 16

**Indianapolis North Deenery**
- Christ the King Church, 5884 N. Crittenden Ave., Indianapolis—2:30-3:30 p.m. Information: 317-255-3666, crkckc-indy.org
- St. Joan of Arc Church, 4217 Central Ave., Indianapolis—3-4 p.m., adoration and Benediction. Information: 317-283-5508, mjbers@ssioa.org
- St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 7575 Haldelay Dr. E., Indianapolis—2-3 p.m. confession, 3-4 p.m. adoration, eucharistic procession, Benediction, Divine Mercy chaplet with music. Information: 317-259-4373, event@sluke.org
- St. Simon the Apostle Church, 8155 Oaklondon Road, Indianapolis—2-15-3:15 p.m., adoration, chaplet, Benediction. Information: 317-826-6006, brsks@saintsimon.org

**Indianapolis South Deenery**
- Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood—2-3 p.m. eucharistic adoration and chaplet. Information: 317-888-2861, info@ogreenwood.org
- Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis—3 p.m. prayer service. Information: 317-636-4478 or info@holymysterychurch.org
- St. Barnabas Church, 8300 Rühle Road, Indianapolis—3 p.m., prayer service. Information: 317-882-0724, ext. 221, parishoffice@sbhindy.org
- St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis—2-3 p.m. adoration, chaplet, praise and worship prayer teams. Information: 317-635-2021, office@stjohnindy.org
- St. Patrick Church, 951 Prospect St., Indianapolis—2-4 p.m. adoration. Information: 317-631-5824, office@stpatrickindy.com
- SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Church, 5901 Olive Branch Road, Greenwood—9-30 a.m. Information: 317-859-4673, olc@ssfcparish.org

**New Albany Deenery**
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 1752 Scheller Lane, New Albany—3-4 p.m., adoration, chaplet, confession.

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- St. Simon the Apostle Church, 8155 Oaklondon Road, Indianapolis—2-15-3:15 p.m., adoration, chaplet, Benediction. Information: 317-826-6006, brsks@saintsimon.org

**Seymour Deenery**
- Mary of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood—2-3 p.m. eucharistic adoration and chaplet. Information: 317-888-2861, info@ogreenwood.org
- Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis—3 p.m. prayer service. Information: 317-636-4478 or info@holymysterychurch.org
- St. Barnabas Church, 8300 Rühle Road, Indianapolis—3 p.m., prayer service. Information: 317-882-0724, ext. 221, parishoffice@sbhindy.org
- St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis—2-3 p.m. adoration, chaplet, praise and worship prayer teams. Information: 317-635-2021, office@stjohnindy.org
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- SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Church, 5901 Olive Branch Road, Greenwood—9-30 a.m. Information: 317-859-4673, olc@ssfcparish.org

**Indianapolis West Deenery**
- St. Thomas More Church, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville—3-4 p.m., adoration, Divine Mercy prayers, confession. Information: 317-831-4142, mshea@stm-church.org

**Terre Haute Deenery**
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 1752 Scheller Lane, New Albany—3-4 p.m., adoration, chaplet, confession.

**Batesville Deenery**
- St. Vincent de Paul Church, 4218 E. Michigan Road, Shelbyville—2 p.m. Information: 317-398-4028, office@stjoeup.org.
- St. John Paul II Parish, St. Joe Hill Chapel—2605 W. Joe Road, Sellersburg—2:30-4 p.m. adoration, scripture readings, hymns, singing, of divine mercy chaplet, confession, reception with rectorcy renovation tour following. Information: 812-246-2512
- St. Joseph Church, 629 Clay St., North Vernon—10:30 a.m., eucharistic procession, adoration until 2:30 p.m., chaplet, Benediction, light refreshments afterward. Information: 812-378-2742, parishoffice@catholic-community.org

**Connersville Deenery**
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, St. Andrew Church, 213 S. 5th St., Richmond—3 p.m. Information: 765-962-3902, leslmiller@setoncatholics.org.
- St. Martin of Tours Church, 1709 N. Harrison St., Martinsville—11 a.m. Information: 765-342-6379
- St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1723 “I” St., Bedford—2 p.m. Information: 812-275-6539, parish@svsbedford.org

**Seymour Deenery**
- St. Mary Church, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville—3-4 p.m., adoration, Divine Mercy prayers, confession. Information: 317-831-4142, mshea@stm-church.org

**Terre Haute Deenery**
- St. Joseph University Church, 113 S. 5th St., Terre Haute—2:45 p.m. Information: 812-232-7011, parishoffice@stjoeup.org
Church celebrates Christ’s love for humanity in the Triduum

By Bishop Donald J. Hying

(OSV News)—During the Sacred Triduum—the days of Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday—the strangest thing will occur. Millions of Christians throughout the world will gather to honor the humiliation, torture and crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

In a global culture that usually celebrates power, strength and beauty, this public veneration of something so horrible is always a little shocking. Could it be that what people find so absolutely compelling about the passion narrative is the vulnerability of God?

In the Christ event, God leaves the safety and glory of heaven, in a certain sense, and embraces the limitations of our human condition. He comes to know in the flesh both the glory and tragedy of our nature without ever having sinned.

In the last week of his life, Jesus completely hands himself over to us. In the foot washing and the Eucharist, the Son of God loves us completely without restrictions, conditions or limits. Whether we accept, reject or ignore this divine love, Jesus never changes his fundamental stance toward us.

In Roman and Greek mythology, the gods are always conspiring to manipulate humanity to serve their own selfish ends and egotistical schemes. In Christ, we encounter the surprising subversion of this oppressive game. God serves us! In absolute humility, availability, vulnerability and mercy, God has come to love, pardon and save us.

The weakness of the cross, the simplicity of the Eucharist, the tenderness of the foot washing, the love that seeks to embrace a traitor, a thief and a coward is so beyond the grasp of power politics, the swirl of social habitus and the world of earthly grasping that it takes our breath away.

No wonder that kings would stand speechless in the presence of the Suffering Servant, as the prophet Isaiah proclaimed.

If God could become that poor, humble and vulnerable to love me, how can I ever stand on my own self-importance?

This week, we celebrate the strangest things: weakness becomes strength, love conquers fear, miserable despair transforms into resurrected hope and perpetual death gives way to eternal life. And it’s all because a naked criminal was thrown down on a cross 2,000 years ago, and he embraced it as if it were his marriage bed.

We should let the Lord love us during Holy Week. The palm we held on Palm Sunday should be a symbol of our praise, reverence and love for the humble Master who has saved and set us free.

The Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday evening is an opportunity to taste the surprising grace of the Eucharist and surrender to the consolation of the foot washing.

Listening to the passion and venerating the cross on Good Friday gives us the opportunity to embrace the cross in our own lives, no matter what form it may take. Know that the mystery of suffering in our lives is the sacred ladder by which we will ascend to the beauty of the kingdom of heaven.

Holy Saturday is a sacred time of rest and silence, as the Lord sleeps in the tomb and all of creation awaits a salvation it does not yet understand. A beautiful ancient text from the early Church pictures Jesus roaming the abode of the dead on this day, unchaining Adam and Eve and all of the other souls who had been waiting for redemption since the foundation of the world.

Ask the Lord to set you free from the fear, sin and self-seeking that keeps you bound.

Gathering around the Easter fire at the Easter Vigil, we call to mind how we began the Lenten journey marked with the ashes of sin, failure and defeat, but now we have become filled with fire—the mighty force of the risen Christ and the courageous strength of the Holy Spirit. As we proclaim the resurrection of Christ as the beautiful truth and transformative meaning of human history, know that the Lord walks with you, loves you and is leading you to the fullness of joy and peace.

The shocking, strange and powerful events of Holy Week should lead us to tears and laughter, gratitude and praise, humble awareness of our weakness and joyful acclamation of God’s victory.

The Triduum is a time for God to break open our hearts so that the gracious torrent of Divine Mercy that flows from the side of the crucified Christ will wash us clean, forgive our sins and fashion us ever more deeply in the new creation of the Lord’s saving death and resurrection.

(Bishop Donald J. Hying is bishop of the Diocese of Madison, Wis. He previously served as the bishop of the Diocese of Gary, Ind., from 2014-19.)

Worshippers hold candles at the beginning of an Easter Vigil at St. Louis de Montfort Church in Sound Beach, N.Y. The high point of the Church’s liturgical year, the Easter Vigil is filled with profound symbols that joyously celebrate Christ’s resurrection.

(CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

Washington Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory prays as he elevates the crucifix on Good Friday April 15, 2022, at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle during the celebration of the Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion. Good Friday is among the most solemn days of the Church’s liturgical year. (CNS photo/Andrew Biraj, Catholic Standard)
The integrity that roots our modern Catholic heroes

Somewhere in Nicaragua, a Catholic bishop languishes in prison because of his outspoken opposition to the Ortega regime. As an unjust government...

Richard Etienne

Guest Column/Guest Column

There’s a glimmer of hope for the embattled natural family. The years after DOMA were marked by...
The Sunday Readings
Sunday, April 9, 2023

- Colossians 3:1-4
- John 20:1-9

Today, the Church celebrates the greatest day of the year, Easter, the feast of the Lord’s resurrection.

These readings are proclaimed at Masses during the day on Easter Sunday. On Holy Saturday, the day preceding Easter, the Church commemorates the Easter Vigil, surely one of its most dramatic and expressive liturgical moments. The first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, a source that will be very much used as the season of Easter progresses. These readings, and certainly this reading, will give us a glimpse into life in the early Christian community in Jerusalem and into the lives of the 11 surviving Apostles after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. It is apparent that memories of Jesus, the risen Lord, were fresh in the minds of the Apostles and the other members of the Church. Strong also was the wish to follow the Lord’s instructions and example.

The Apostles were committed to making the mercy of God in Jesus known, which the Church continues to do today in evangelization. Here, Peter spoke for all the Apostles. Indeed, throughout Acts, Peter appeared as the leader of the Apostles and of the Church as a whole. For its second reading, the Church gives us a passage from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Colossians. Paul teaches in it that Christians also have been raised to new life. Their new life is in the resurrected, living Christ. As Christ is in heaven, so the thoughts of Christians must be on heaven.

A Resurrection narrative from St. John’s Gospel is the last reading. Mary of Magdala went to Jesus’ tomb, but she found it empty. Upset, fearing that the Lord’s body had been stolen, she rushed to inform Peter. Reaching Peter, she anxiously said that the Lord’s body had been stolen, she said. Peter entered the tomb, saw that it was empty, but evidently he did not realize that Jesus had risen, although the Gospel does not say this. It does say that the disciple understood what had occurred.

Reflection

These readings are powerful in their message. Central, of course, is the Gospel passage, highlighting the experiences of Mary Magdalene, Peter and the Beloved Disciple as they find the Lord’s tomb empty. The Gospel is remarkably detailed. The reactions of the principal figures are understandable.

In an age so dismissive of religion, how authentic is the Church’s and the Gospels’ message that Jesus rose? Was the Lord’s body stolen? It is hard to believe.

Other readings say that soldiers guarded the tomb specifically to never safeguard the body from being taken. A heavy stone sealed the entrance. Secondly, in John’s account, the burial cloths were neatly folded. No thief would have taken the time for such care.

Very convincing is the fact that all four Gospels, while written at different times, in different places and by different authors, all agree that Jesus rose from the dead. Furthermore, it was the fervent view of the first Christians.

In this reading, the Beloved Disciple alone understands what the empty tomb reveals. His devotion to Christ illuminated his mind. It reminds us that faith can open our eyes.

Essential in our own coming to believe that the Lord lives, therefore, is faith. It is more than accepting an intellectual proposition, however verified. It is the acknowledgement that Jesus is the Lord of life, the source of life and the Savor of the world.

Realizing the identity of Jesus, and that the Lord lives forever, is the ultimate wisdom.

My Journey to God

The Magdalen Tree

By Sandra Behringer

There’s a willow tree
That waits for me each year
Now soft winds, like hands,
Lift my branches
And the sap within me
Runs with praise.
Greetings, Risen One.
You call me back to life.
Your tree obeys.

Bending, Lord before you,
Weeping at your feet.
I am the Magdalen of trees,
Shaking out my hair,
Making my prayer.
RABBIONI

(Sandra Behringer is a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. Photo: A willow tree is draped in branches of green and gold leaves. (Photo courtesy of Pexels or iStockphoto.)

Daily Readings

Monday, April 10
Monday within the Octave of Easter
Acts 2:14, 22-33
Psalm 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11
Matthew 28:18-15

Tuesday, April 11
Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
Acts 2:36-41
Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22
John 20:11-18

Wednesday, April 12
Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
Acts 3:1-10
Psalm 105:1-4, 6-9

Thursday, April 13
Thursday within the Octave of Easter
Acts 3:11-26
Psalm 8:5a, 9b
Luke 24:35-48

Friday, April 14
Friday within the Octave of Easter
Acts 4:11-12
Psalm 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a
John 21:1-14

Saturday, April 15
Saturday within the Octave of Easter
Acts 4:24-27
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-15, 16-21
Mark 16:9-15

Sunday, April 16
Second Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday
Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Question Corner

Jenna Marie Cooper

Catholics should use prudence in financially supporting charities

Q: I receive solicitations from many religious organizations with pictures of saints, etc. I cannot afford to give donations to all, so I trash them. I hope it’s not a sin to throw away those pictures of saints? My priority is my contribution to our parish and other areas to which the Church gives donations. (Location withheld)

A: One of the five “precepts of the Church”—i.e., big-picture rules Catholics are obliged to follow—is to provide for the material needs of the Church. This is reflected in canon 222 of the Code of Canon Law, which states: “Christ’s faithful have the obligation to provide for the needs of the Church, so that the Church has available to it those things which are necessary for divine worship, for apostolic and charitable work and for the worthy support of its ministers.” You are fulfilling this obligation by contributing financially to the support of your parish. However, in discussing this obligation, the Catechism of the Catholic Church clarifies that members of the faithful are to provide material support for the Church “each according to his own ability” (#2043).

That is, rather than demanding a specific percentage of one’s income, the Church leaves the dollar amount of our charitable giving up to our own good-faith discernment of what we can realistically afford.

Similarly, canon 222 §2 tells us that besides supporting the administrative needs of the Church, the faithful—being “mindful of the Lord’s precept”—are to also “help the poor from their own resources.” Is there too, the Church’s law would only expect us to give insofar as we are truly able.

The overarching principle in the Church’s law is that nobody can be bound to do what is impossible, and for most Catholics it would be impossible to give to every charity that sends us a mailing.

Additionally, it is often a matter of justice toward the wider community to use our resources to prudently ensure that our own material needs are met—because if we don’t attend to our needs, somebody else will have to.

In some cases, we might justly decline to give to a charity because we are on a strict budget, a fixed income, or even because we need to save that money for emergencies or retirement.

Finally, our charitable giving is a matter of prudence and discretion on our part. Not all charities are created equal. For example, some charities are better than others at keeping their administrative overhead costs low (meaning that different charities will use different percentages of the donations they collect in directly helping the population they serve).

So, even if you were a billionaire and could give to everyone who asks for donations, it would still be perfectly reasonable to be selective in which charities you choose to support.

In any case, even if you don’t give to a charity, it’s fine to keep and use whatever free gift they send you. If you don’t want to keep all the saint images (and holy cards, rosaries, medals, etc.) that come in the mail, generally we say that devotional items should be disposed of in a reverent way, such as burning or burying.

But perhaps the best thing to do with the unwanted pious knick-knacks that come in the mail would be to pass them along to someone who can use them. Many parishes have something like a “free table” where people can leave, share, and swap these kinds of small religious articles.

Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, it a consecrated virgin and a canonist whose column appears weekly at OSV News. Send your questions to CatholicQA@osv.com.

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord/
Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Easter Vigil

John 20:19-23

The Easter Vigil is a unique and significant Mass that takes place on Holy Saturday evening, marking the end of Holy Week and the beginning of Easter. It is a time of personal renewal and spiritual rebirth, as Catholics gather to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Vigil begins with various rites that include the lighting of the Paschal candle and the singing of hymns. It is during this time that the faithful are renewed in their faith and prepared for the following morning Mass, which will mark the official start of the Easter season.

The Vigil Mass is a powerful event that is filled with symbolic actions and teachings. It serves as a reminder of the importance of faith and the need for continual spiritual growth and development. It is a time for individuals to reflect on their own lives and to renew their commitment to their faith.

The Easter Vigil is a time of hope and renewal, as Catholics come together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of eternal life. It is a moment of spiritual transformation that is essential for the growth and development of the Church.

The Easter Vigil is an opportunity for individuals to reconnect with their faith and to renew their commitment to their spiritual journey. It is a time to reflect on the teachings of Jesus and to strive for a more authentic and meaningful relationship with God.

The Vigil Mass is also a time for individuals to come together as a community and to support one another in their spiritual growth. It is a moment of shared experience and a time to strengthen the bonds of faith that bind us together as Catholics.

In conclusion, the Easter Vigil is a significant event that is filled with meaning and symbolism. It is a time of spiritual transformation and renewal that is essential for the growth and development of the Church. It is a moment of hope and promise, as Catholics come together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of eternal life.

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In conclusion, the Easter Vigil is a significant event that is filled with meaning and symbolism. It is a time of spiritual transformation and renewal that is essential for the growth and development of the Church. It is a moment of hope and promise, as Catholics come together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of eternal life.
Palm Sunday in Jerusalem

A child and other Christians carry palm fronds as they walk the traditional path that Jesus took on his last entry into Jerusalem during the Palm Sunday procession on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem on April 2. (CNS photo/Debbie Hill)

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social media than other countries, for example, and our instinct is to take a laissez-faire approach to technology, as long as it’s good for business.

But the destructive impact of social media on our children and grandchildren is not imaginary, and that is a relatively modest threat compared to what is coming down the pike.

All of which is to say that the Church, and its institutions, must be actively engaged in the discussion that needs to happen. Movements like transhumanism, artificial intelligence, digital surveillance and the weaponization of all these developments are not to be left solely to their creators and exploiters.

What the world needs now are theologians, teachers, politicians, philosophers, writers and, yes, scientists capable of addressing the threats posed by our own inventiveness. In the face of seemingly boundless advances in bloodless, soulless technology, we need the humanities more than ever.

(Greg Erlandson is an award-winning Catholic journalist whose column appears monthly at OSV News. Follow him on Twitter @GregErlandson.)

Online Lay Ministry Formation

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

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

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

REPORT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT NOW

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

• Ethics Point Confidential, 24/7 Reporting

www.archindy.org/ethicspoint or 888-393-6810

• Victim Assistance Coordinator, Archdiocese of Indianapolis

P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410

317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548

victimassistance@archindy.org

Palm Sunday in Jerusalem

Happy Easter, Mom and Mabeue

Love Jesus forever

1995-2019

Rest in peace

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


GALLAUGHER, Sara J., 92, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood, March 20. Grandaughter of several.


POORE, Steven W., 75, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Jan. 5. Son of Lynn Poore. Great-grandfather of several.


Florida Senate advances six-week abortion ban with increased pregnancy center funds

By Natalie Hofer

Jenny Bryans tears up as she recalls the event that helped her career grow in special education. She was meeting with the director of a group home where her mother—"born with severe disabilities"—lived. The man mentioned the facility had taken her brother to Mass, which pleased her. Next weekend, however, did not. "He asked me, whether my brother should be [receiving] Communion," she says.

Bryans says, "I thought, 'Who are you to question?' It was just so poignant that someone would question his right to Communion! It's very personal to me, that right to be a part of the body of Christ." Bryans is channeling that drive—and her years of experience as a special education teacher and in other jobs that had her working closely with those with special needs—into her new position as the archdiocese's Disabilities Ministries Coordinator. The role falls under the archdiocesan Office of Catechesis.

The member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis says helping Catholics with special needs express their spirituality and grow in faith is "near and dear to my heart. You can have limited abilities, but that doesn't affect your spirituality." Bryans says the nature and timing of the job were providential.

"I was volunteering for Meals on Wheels with a 98-year-old volunteer... I bonded with, she recalls. "She kept telling me, 'you need to do more. The Church needs you.'"

"When I heard about this job, it was a perfect fit with my education, my background and my faith, which has always been very important to me. "The timing was right," says the married mother of four daughters. "I didn't want a position like this when the girls were growing up. But our youngest just started college. It was like, 'OK. God, I hear you!'"

Bryans credits her predecessor Erin Jeffries with "establishing so many great programs and events. That has allowed me to step into this position." She will continue those well-established events. But Bryans has other ideas she hopes to pursue as well.

"They're dealing with a lot," she says from personal experience. "They have their own social and faith needs, too. To connect with other kids who understand that would be very special, for them to support each other." Bryans is also aware of the need for more assistance for the deaf community in making Mass accessible in ASL.

"Maybe we start by inviting someone in a wheelchair to sing in the choir," she suggests. "Maybe someone has a talent to share at Mass but just needs some help." Such invitations "serve the person with disabilities among parishioners and can go a long way in making families feel welcomed."

"They need support groups for siblings of those with special needs. They're dealing with a lot," she says from personal experience. "They have their own social and faith needs, too. To connect with other kids who understand that would be very special, for them to support each other." Bryans is also aware of the need for more assistance for the deaf community in making Mass accessible in ASL.

"There's no priest in the archdiocese who can do that now," she notes. "So maybe reaching out to see if there's a seminarian willing to be ASL-trained (called a 'cooler') would be a solution." When it comes to special needs in general, Bryans sees an overall need to "raise awareness in parishes." She says,"'Some don't even know they have special needs families or how to approach them." She puts forth the idea that inclusion can be a way to raise awareness.

"Maybe we start by inviting someone in a wheelchair to sing in the choir," she says. "I really feel called to this job. It's a combination of all of my passions."
Poland remembers, defends John Paul II 18 years after his death

Eighteen years after the death of St. John Paul II and the March 8 debut of the book "Good News: The Polish magazine Maxima Culpa by Dutch journalist Ekke Overbeek, other Polish secular journalists—Tomasz Krzyżak and Piotr Lika of Rzeczpospolita Daily—proved that sources used in the previous publications were not verified. "Poles are a nation that will defend freedom for the price of life. It is a nation that will mobilize amid attack on what they consider sacred. The media in this case caused an unprecedented mobilization to defend John Paul II," Przybysz said.

"We praise the Lord for the fact that we have been given the opportunity to live in times illuminated by his holiness." Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, longtime personal secretary of St. John Paul II, said on April 2. "This is a great gift, but at the same time an obligation and a task to watch over this heritage, whose name is John Paul II, to pass on the truth about him to future generations."

For the Church in Poland, facing the past and showing accountability for clerical sexual abuse is still difficult. On March 15, the Polish bishops conference announced they will create a commission of experts to investigate cases of abuse of minors by clergy from the past in the country. Many Church leaders urged on April 2 that while remembering John Paul II, the Church can’t forget about the victims.

"According to [Pope John Paul II], pastors of the Church should zealously strive for personal sanctification. The Church, in his view, is in constant need of purification, and therefore must constantly follow the path of repentance and renewal," auxiliary Bishop of Kraków, Damian Muskaś, wrote on Facebook on April 3. The Polish magazine Good News prepared a special issue for the anniversary of John Paul’s death. One of the authors, George Weigel, biographer of the late pope, wrote: ‘I must say, as a Pole, that there is something pathological, something quite sick, about the current wave of attacks on the reputation and legacy of Pope St. John Paul II.’

He added that “the most repulsive part of this attack is that the late pope’s critics have used the crisis of clerical sexual abuse as a weapon against him. This ‘weaponizing’ of the suffering of others is morally repugnant.”

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People march in Warsaw, Poland, in defense of St. John Paul II on the anniversary of his death on April 2. The Polish faithful, clergy and hierarchy showed their bond with the late pope in the wake of a television station’s report on March 6 accusing the pontiff of a ‘cover up’ of abuse when he was archbishop of Krakow 1964-1978, the year he was elected pope. Poland’s bishops and others have disputed the TV report, saying it was based on unreliable sources. (EPA News photos/Karol Paszylko, Reden)