Dallas bishop reacts to mass shooting with ‘heavy heart,’ urges ‘prayers for peace’

(OSV News)—Dallas Bishop Edward J. Burns addressed the faithful of the diocese “with a heavy heart” late on May 6 after at least eight people, including a child, were killed during a mass shooting that afternoon at an outlet mall in Allen, Texas.

“Like all of you, I am deeply troubled by the shooting in the community of Allen and the senseless disregard for life that has occurred in our community,” Bishop Burns said in a statement. “The Catholic community is in unity and solidarity with the families who have lost loved ones in this tragedy. May God, our heavenly Father, bring comfort and strength to all affected by this tragic event. We ask God to comfort our community, the victims and their families.”

Authorities said a gunman opened fire at the Allen Premium Outlets, a Dallas-area outlet mall, killing eight and wounding at least another seven people before being killed by a police officer who happened to be at the mall.

The Allen Police Department said one of its officers had already responded to the outlet mall on an unrelated call, when the officer heard gunshots shortly after 3:30 p.m. The department said this officer “engaged the suspect and neutralized the threat.”

Victims range in age from 5 to 61 years old, authorities said. Late on May 7, the Texas Department of Public Safety said one of its officers had already responded to the outlet mall on an unrelated call, when the officer heard gunshots shortly after 3:30 p.m. The department said this officer “engaged the suspect and neutralized the threat.”

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Joyful Witness

Be sure to take friends as you journey through life, page 12.

Faith fills woman honored for ‘heart for serving’ needy and mothers of miscarriage

By Natalie Hoefer

Jessica Murphy admits to feeling “a bit uncomfortable” about recently being named one of Terre Haute’s “12 Under 40” professionals who have made significant contributions to the community.

“Honestly, I thought, ‘Well, I’m just doing my job,’” says the development director for Catholic Charities Terre Haute.

But scratch beneath the surface of her humble response, and a story much deeper is revealed.

It’s the story of a geologist who, just shy of receiving a

See TEXAS page 8

Six residents of the Village of Merici in Indianapolis—a Catholic-inspired place of hope and growth for adults with developmental disabilities—showcase the hats and T-shirts that are part of a fundraising effort led by Cathedral High School grad and Cincinnati Bengals football player Ted Karras that has raised nearly $400,000 for the Village.

The residents are Mary McClamroch, left, Jason Renie, Trese Mascari, Sarah Boyd, Angie Cain and Steve Mailloux. (Submitted photo)

See VILLAGE page 8

With a tip of the hat, NFL player impacts people with a powerful bond of friendship

By John Shaughnessy

If you have ever needed a friend, or been a friend to someone in need, you will appreciate the beauty of what Ted Karras is doing.

You may even marvel at how a small yet meaningful token of his friendship—a hat—is making such a huge difference to a Catholic-inspired place in Indianapolis that fosters friendships and a sense of community to people who desperately need and want those gifts in their lives.

Through the sales of his personally-designed hats in the past seven months, Karras—a 2011 graduate of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis and now an offensive lineman for the Cincinnati Bengals—has helped raise nearly $400,000 for the Village of Merici, an organization that provides housing, support services and educational opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities.

Named in honor of St. Angela Merici, the Village holds a special place in Karras’ heart for the hope and the promise it gives people.

“It provides such a wholesome environment for these people to live in, and it provides independence which otherwise would be hard to achieve,” he says. “These are adult men and women

See WOMAN page 9

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Jessica and Kevin Murphy smile with their son Daniel in December 2022. She was recently named one of Terre Haute’s “12 Under 40” professionals who have made significant contributions to the community. (Submitted photo)
Obiato Father Kevin Collins, pastor of St. Eugene de Mazenod Parish, in Brownsville, Texas, places his hands on the hand of a migrant at the Bishop Enrique San Pedro Ozanam Center, a shelter for migrants and homeless, after a deadly incident where a car ran into pedestrians at a bus stop on May 7. (OSV News photo/Miguel Roberts, Reuters)

Bishop: Tragedy at bus stop reflects ‘corrosive tendency’ to devalue life

Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville called the crash indicative of a “corrosive tendency” to devalue vulnerable human life.

“Pray for the victims, pray for their families, pray for the community, and pray for our country,” he said. “Let us continue our common efforts to fight hunger” article in the April 28 issue of the Criterion Press.

The faithful are invited to follow “Rejoice in God’s love on Earth.” †

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Christians have no need to be afraid or hopeless because Jesus always tells the faithful where they are going and how to get there, Pope Francis said.

“But we experience fatigue, bewilderment and at times, especially when there are major problems to face and there is the sensation that evil is stronger, we ask ourselves: What should I do, what path should I follow?” he said on May 7.

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Pope Francis spoke about the day’s Gospel reading, John 14:1-12, which is among Jesus’ “discourses at the Last Supper before his death.”

“The disciples’ hearts are troubled, but the Lord speaks reassuring words to them, inviting them not to be afraid,” the pope said. Jesus “is not abandoning them, but is going to prepare a place for them and to guide them toward that destination.”

Jesus tells his disciples that “there is space for you, you are welcome, you will always be received with the warmth of an embrace, and I am in heaven to prepare a place for you,” the pope said. Jesus also “prepares for us that embrace with the Father, the place for all eternity.”

This is a source of consolation and hope for the faithful, he said. “So, when we experience fatigue, bewilderment and even failure, let us remember where our life is headed.

“Pray for the victims, pray for their families, pray for the community, and pray for our country,” he said. “Let us continue our common efforts to fight hunger” article in the April 28 issue of the Criterion Press.

The faithful are invited to follow “Rejoice in God’s love on Earth.” †

Correction

The website address for Bread for the World listed in the “St. Vincent de Paul Society and Bread for the World join to fight hunger” article in the April 28 issue was incorrect. The correct web address is bread.org. †
Seniors will soon celebrate their Catholic high school graduations

By John Shaughnessy

Pride and relief, nostalgia and celebration will blend once again as seniors prepare to graduate this spring at Catholic high schools across the archdiocese. It’s a time when friends promise to stay close forever, when seniors seek out the teachers who have made a difference in their lives, when parents of the graduates look at their children and wonder where the years have gone. It’s also a time for congratulations to the Class of 2023, including this one from Brian Disney, superintendent of Catholic schools in the archdiocese.

“Congratulations to our Catholic high school graduates throughout the archdiocese,” Disney said. “We are proud of you for your accomplishments and are excited to see the continued impact you will make in our Church, communities, nation and world. Be who God meant you to be and go set the whole world on fire.”

Disney also praised the all the people who have supported and contributed to the success of this year’s graduates.

“All the successes of our graduates would not be possible without their parents, their primary teachers,” he said. “The dedication and support of their priests, school leaders, teachers, coaches and staff members have contributed to their successes as well. All their opportunities are enhanced by those committed to Catholic schools, including our benefactors and prayer warriors.”

The superintendent also hopes the graduates will continue to build upon the formation and education they have received in their Catholic school as they journey into the future.

“They are the ones that God calls to be and go...”

“My prayer for them is that they continue to grow in their faith and have a relationship with Jesus. May they make Him proud and use the gifts He has given them to bring glory to Him.”

Disney also praised all the people who have supported and contributed to the success of this year’s graduates.

“‘We are all in it together.’ I hope they will have that same spirit of unity and shared success as the class of 2023,” Disney said.

He especially saluted the graduates for the way they have “demonstrated their intelligence, courage, strength and commitment by excelling in academics, athletics, performing arts and other activities.”

The superintendent also hopes the graduates will continue to build upon the formation and education they have received in their Catholic school as they journey into the future.

“May their relationship with Jesus Christ remain strong, and may they use their gifts to bring glory to God.”

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson.

Father Michael Shave Memorial High School in Madison has a graduating class of 38 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 2 p.m. on May 28 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 7 p.m. on May 28 at the school.

Numerous students are in contention for valedictorian and salutatorian honors as the school year draws to a close, according to school officials. The announcement of these honorees will be made on May 28.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Chris Walsh, chancellor.

Father Thomas Scalea Memorial High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 156 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 7 p.m. on May 25 at Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis.

The graduation ceremony will be at 7 p.m. on May 26 at the school.

The class valedictorian is Mason Beriault, son of Justin Beriault and Niki Mallerhy of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis.

The class salutatorian is Andrew Caussemaeker, son of Deedee and Andrew Caussemaeker of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Msgr. William F. Stumpf, vicar general and pastor of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.

Lumen Christi Catholic High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 6 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass and graduation ceremony will begin at 11:15 a.m. on May 18 at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis.

Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg has a graduating class of 41 seniors.

The archdiocese will be represented by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 1 p.m. on May 19 at the Chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg.

Four students are currently in contention for valedictorian and salutatorian honors, which will be announced during the senior awards ceremony on May 19. The students are listed in alphabetical order:

- Madeley Henry, daughter of Brad and Miranda Henry of Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg.
- Mary Hunter, daughter of Jeff Hunter and Lisa Mattacci-Hunter of St. Louis Parish in Batesville.
- Erin Potuschmidt, daughter of Todd and Carolyn Potuschmidt of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish in Bright.
- Clarence Meter, daughter of Daniel and Jennifer Van Meter of St. Michael Parish in Brookville.

Our Lady of Providence High School has a graduating class of 44 seniors.

The graduation ceremony will be at 6 p.m. on May 26 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in New Albany.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Chris Walsh, chancellor.

Providencia Cristo Rey High School has a graduating class of 43 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 6:30 p.m. on June 1 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 7 p.m. on June 2 at the school.

The class valedictorian is Benjamin Torrijos, son of Rosa Hernandez.

The class salutatorian is Floriges Garcia, daughter of Juan Garcia and Florentina Cazares of St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson.

Roncalli High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 257 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 6 p.m. on May 19 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 9 a.m. on May 20 at the school.

The class valedictorian is Anna Dresman, daughter of Bruce and Lori Dresman of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.

There are two salutatorians:
- Andrew Dial, son of Greg and Kristen Dial of St. Barnabas Parish.
- Robert “Mac” Netzke, son of Robert and Anne Netzke.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson.

Seton Catholic High School in Richmond has a graduating class of 23 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 1:30 p.m. on June 4 at St. Andrew Church in Richmond.

The graduation ceremony will follow at 3 p.m. on June 4 at the school.

The class valedictorian is Jack Martin, son of Edward and Barbara Martin of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond.

The class salutatorian is Josey Meeks, daughter of Jim and Beth Meeks.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Michelle Radomsky, assistant superintendent of Catholic schools.

The theme for this year’s World Youth Day is “Mary arose and went in haste (Lk 1:39), a verse from the Gospel of Luke.”

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Approximately three months before World Youth Day is scheduled to get underway in Lisbon, Portugal, Pope Francis said young people should consult their grandparents about how to prepare.

In a two-minute video message recorded in Spanish and published on May 4, the pope urged young people preparing for World Youth Day to “look toward your roots.”

“Try to spend time with the elderly. Many of your grandparents may not have your grandparents,” he said, and asked them “what do you think I must do?” to prepare for World Youth Day.

“Talk a little with your grandparents. They’ll give you wisdom, but always go forward,” Pope Francis is expected to attend part of the international gathering—which will take place on Aug. 1-6, despite the many young people have on their mind to prepare for the international gathering—such as requesting vacation or getting what they need in order before making a long trip—they must look to World Youth Day with hope, Pope Francis said.

“Have hope, because one grows a lot at an event like World Youth Day,” he said. “We don’t realize it, but things remain inside us. The values we find within us remain, the relationships we form with other young people from other countries, the encounters, it all remains inside.”

“Above all,” he said, “seeing the strength of young people. The Church has the strength of the youth.”

A spokesperson for World Youth Day said that as of May 4 more than 550,000 young people already were registered for the event in Lisbon. The pope, on camera and live in front of thousands of people gathered to pray the Angelus with him, registered in October for the help of some Portuguese young people.

The theme for this year’s World Youth Day is “Mary arose and went in haste (Lk 1:39), a verse from the Gospel of Luke.”

World Youth Day prep advice from pope: speak to your grandparents

By Michelle Radomsky, assistant superintendent of Catholic schools

May the pope’s message encourage you to hear from your grandparents and to reflect upon their wisdom as you prepare for World Youth Day.
Editorial

‘Have your faith set on fire,’ attend National Eucharistic Congress in 2024

It isn’t too early to start making plans for the summer of 2024. In fact, we’re encouraging members of parishes throughout central and southern Indiana to mark July 17-21, 2024, on their calendars to part of the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, which will be the cornerstone of the National Eucharistic Revival launched last year by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The revival is a three-year campaign whose goal is to increase the Catholic understanding of and devotion to Christ’s real presence in the Eucharist. Its vision is to inspire a movement of Catholics across the United States who are healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist—and who are then sent out on mission for “the life of the world.”

Part of the impetus for the campaign was a Pew Research Center study in the fall of 2019 that showed that only 31% of American Catholics believe he was still human and 45% identified as “practicing” Catholics. While 75% of Catholics perceived the Eucharist as a sign of Jesus’ love and forgiveness, only half believed he was still human. Strikingly, it is precisely these groups who are most likely to be enticed by the Eucharist and to have your faith set on fire.

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In the Eucharist, they encountered Jesus Christ alive. In the days after this encounter, they immediately ran back to Jerusalem to inform the other disciples. We see that this encounter with the living Jesus makes all the difference in their lives and in ours. Pope Francis made this point in his apostolic letter on the Eucharist. He said, “Christian faith is either an encounter with him alive, or it does not exist” (“Desiderio desideravi,” #10). He is making the point which he already made in his first apostolic exhortation on evangelization, quoting Pope Benedict XVI: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with a person, a person which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction” (“Evangelii gaudium,” #7).

Christianity begins when we encounter the living God in the person of Jesus Christ—when we realize that he is the one who made us, who knows us and who loves us even though we are not worthy of his love. When we experience that recognition that “Jesus died for me, to save me from my sins,” then, as St. Paul said, “I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me” (Gal 2:20).

Every Christian needs some form of this encounter. Pope Paul VI had it on the road to Damascus. St. Peter had it on the Sea of Galilee when, realizing who Jesus was in the miraculous catch, he cried out, “Leave me Lord, I’m a sinful man!” (Lk 5:8).

Jesus doesn’t leave him. In fact, he invites Peter to follow him and to lead his Church.

—Mike Krokos

We could list many other examples of this encounter, including Zaccheus, the woman at the well, the sinful woman who washed Jesus’ feet and the woman caught in adultery. The list grows with all the saints through history who encountered Jesus and followed him in his Church. In each case, someone “meets” Jesus and realizes they are in the presence of God incarnate. They recognize their profound unworthiness—their need for conversion—and at the same time, they understand that they are infinitely loved by the one who knows everything about them. They know they cannot live without him and must follow him in his Church.

Each of us should ask ourselves: Have I had this kind of encounter with Jesus Christ? Do I believe he is alive and that he sees me and knows me right now?

When I stand in the light of his gaze, do I realize my profound need for salvation and that I am a sinner, but that also I am infinitely loved by him?

Pope Francis points out we need to continually seek this encounter: “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I call all of you to do this unfailingly each day” (“Evangelii gaudium,” #9). It is one of the main reasons why Jesus leaves us the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Again, Pope Francis writes, “In the Eucharist and in all the sacraments, we are guaranteed the possibility of encountering the living Lord Jesus Christ who comes to the aid of his people in his paschal mystery reach us” (“Desiderio desideravi,” #11). Jesus is alive. He is living in the Eucharist and wants to encounter you. If you open your heart to him, he will change you. If you close your heart to him, he will turn you into himself. Let us pray that we and many others might encounter Jesus alive in the Eucharist during the National Eucharistic Revival.

(Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens is chair of the National Eucharistic Revival and the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Covington, Ky.)

—Ann Wolski

On Mother’s Day—and every day—remember her rules to live by

“No wearing white shoes after Labor Day.” I’ve heard this fashion advice all my life. Because I look up to my Mom, I follow her advice. I didn’t even try to put away my white sandals at summer’s end.

Of course, this is the same Mom who also encouraged me to “eat my peas [yuck] because there are so many starving children in China.” I am pretty sure kids around the world don’t like peas any more than I do, especially leftover peas.

Another favorite saying was, “If you can’t say anything nice, don’t say anything at all.” Consequently, my teenage years were pretty much spent in silence.

Luckily, Mom shared other “pearls of wisdom” that have become far more important than saving me from a fashion faux pas. These gems include:

• Be kind to the world—throw away your trash!
• Be thankful for your blessings—you have so many.
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• Be thankful for your blessings—you have so many.
• Believe in the power of God and Jesus Christ—thank heaven I’m not totally in charge.
• Don’t be another yourself—and you be and others be themselves.
• Everyone is of value.
• Gratitude for life’s opportunities—there are no coincidences so look for the good in every situation.
• Enough for your blessings—you have so many.
• Be kind to the world—throw away your trash!

I send up lots of prayers for the wisdom, the guidance and the strength to increase another daughter following Mom’s life guidelines. Some days, my prayers are answered. Some days, I can pray for is another day to do better. Some days “don’t wear white” and “watch what you say” are the only things I achieve.

And maybe that’s OK. But, sorry Mom, I will never, ever eat my peas.

(Ann Wolski is a member of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.)

Encounter Jesus and prepare to be revived and changed by his presence

I am always amazed that on the road to Emmaus, as the two disciples journeyed from Jerusalem, they did not recognize Jesus when he started to walk with them. I theorize that they didn’t recognize his presence because they believed he was still dead. It was then when they invite Jesus into their home and “he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them that their eyes were opened” (Lk 24:30-31).

In the Eucharist, they encountered Jesus Christ alive. In the days after this encounter, they immediately ran back to Jerusalem to inform the other disciples. We see that this encounter with the living Jesus makes all the difference in their lives and in ours. Pope Francis made this point in his apostolic letter on the Eucharist. He said, “Christian faith is either an encounter with him alive, or it does not exist” (“Desiderio desideravi,” #10). He is making the point which he already made in his first apostolic exhortation on evangelization, quoting Pope Benedict XVI: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with a person, a person which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction” (“Evangelii gaudium,” #7).

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Jesus doesn’t leave him. In fact, he invites Peter to follow him and to lead his Church.

—Mike Krokos

Encounter Jesus and prepare to be reviv...
Mary and the rosary: the path to peace in our lives, our world

In fact, it was not until 1930 that the local bishop declared that the apparitions of Our Lady were “worthy of belief,” and in October 1942, Pope Pius XII in a radio address to the people of Portugal discussed the apparitions of Fatima and consecrated the human race to the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin, with specific mention of “peoples of Russia.” Consecration of Russia to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception is a major feature of the Fatima story. So are the “three secrets” that Sister Lucia dos Santos, the surviving member of the three children (Francisco and Jacinta Marto died in the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918) wrote about in 1941 in her third memoir. Perhaps the most important revelation of Our Lady’s appearances to the three Portuguese children is her promise that if we pray the rosary daily, the world will be at peace. The rosary is a Scripture-based prayer which centers on the events of Christ’s life, which are mysteries of our Catholic faith. There are four sets of mysteries: Joyful, Luminous, Glorious, and Dolorous (added by St. John Paul II in 2002). The repetition in the rosary is meant to lead us into restful and contemplative prayer related to each mystery. The repetition of the words helps us to enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ’s spirit of peace dwells.

María Inmaculada, nos ponemos bajo tu protección y consagrarnos a tus cuidados maternales a todos los hombres, a la Iglesia y al mundo entero. Ruego por nosotros a tu amado Hijo para que nos dé en abundancia el Espíritu Santo, el Espíritu de verdad, que es fuente de vida. (Papa san Juan Pablo II, Consagración a María).

La liturgia del sábado 13 de mayo nos brinda la opción de celebrar el memorial de Nuestra Señora de Fátima. Los relatos de las apariciones de la Santísima Virgen María a partir de la primavera de 1916 a tres niños portugueses son fascinantes. Vista desde la perspectiva de la historia religiosa, la historia de Fátima está llena de elementos aparentemente contradictorios. Primero, los padres de los niños dudaban de la veracidad de las apariciones; después, las autoridades locales llegaron a encarcelar a los niños por miedo a las implicaciones políticas de estos sucesos para la primera República Portuguesa, oficialmente laica; segundamente, grandes multitudes acudieron a los lugares donde se decía que la Virgen (o “un ángel vestido de azul”) se había aparecido; y por último, los funcionarios eclesiásticos fueron cautos y meticulosos en sus investigaciones sobre la veracidad de las afecciones de los niños.

De hecho, no fue hasta 1930 cuando el obispo local declaró que las apariciones de la Virgen eran “fidedignas,” y en octubre de 1942, el Papa Pío XII, en un discurso radiotónico al pueblo de Portugal, habló de las apariciones de Fátima y consagró la raza humana al Inmaculado Corazón de María, con mención específica a Rusia. La consagración de Rusia a la Santísima Virgen María bajo el título de la Inmaculada Concepción es una de las principales características de la historia de Fátima. Así los tres “secretos” que sostiene Lucía dos Santos, la única sobreviviente de los tres niños (Francisco y Jacinta Marto murieron en la epidemia de gripe española de 1918) escribe en 1941 en sus terceras memorias. Quizá la revelación más importante de las apariciones de la Virgen a los tres niños portugueses sea su promesa de que, si rezamos el rosario a diario, el mundo estará en paz.

El rosario es una oración basada en las Escrituras que se centra en los acontecimientos de la vida de Cristo y que resume los grandes misterios de nuestra fe católica. Existen cuatro grupos de misterios: gozosos, dolorosos, gloriosos y luminosos (añadidos por san Juan Pablo II en 2002). La repetición en el rosario tiene por objeto conducirnos a una oración reposada y contemplativa con respecto a cada misterio. La suave repetición de las palabras nos ayuda a entrar en el silencio de nuestro corazón, donde habita el espíritu de paz de Cristo. El rosario, que puede rezarse en privado o en grupo, tiene por objeto llevar la paz y la calma a los corazones atribulados y es una fuente de esperanza para quienes no se sienten ansiosos o desesperados. Rezar el rosario es una excelente forma de entrar en la vida de Cristo junto con María, Madre de la Iglesia y madre nuestra.

Todos los papas recientes han afirmado el mensaje de la Virgen sobre la importancia del rosario como instrumento de paz y han adoptado con seriedad el acto de consagración al Corazón Inmaculado de María.

En marzo de 1984, el Papa san Juan Pablo II consagró “el mundo” al Inmaculado Corazón en una ceremonia pública en la Plaza de San Pedro en el Vaticano. Esta consagración se llevó a cabo en unión con los obispos católicos de todo el mundo. El Santo Padre atribuyó además a Nuestra Señora de Fátima el haberle salvado la vida tras un intento de asesinato el 13 de mayo de 1981, fecha de su festividad. Más adelante, el 12 de mayo de 1987, el Papa expresó su agradecimiento a la Virgen María por habérsele salvado la vida y al día siguiente renovó la consagración del Papa Pío XII al Inmaculado Corazón de María.

En mayo de 2010, el Papa Benedicto XVI visitó el Santuario de Nuestra Señora de Fátima y afirmó rotundamente su aceptación del origen sobrenatural de las apariciones de Fátima. El Papa también recordó la “mano invisible” que salvó a san Juan Pablo II. Y se refirió a la profecía de Fátima sobre el triunfo del Inmaculado Corazón de María.

Cuando Rusia invadió Ucrania el año pasado, los obispos católicos de Ucrania pidieron al Papa Francisco que “realizará públicamente el acto de consagración de Ucrania y Rusia al Inmaculado Corazón de María, como pidió la Santísima Virgen en Fátima.” El Santo Padre invité a las diócesis de todas las regiones del mundo a unirse a él para consagrarse tanto a Ucrania como a Rusia a la Santísima Virgen María. Al recordar este día santo dedicado a Nuestra Señora de Fátima, recemos por la paz en nuestros corazones y en nuestro mundo con las palabras del Papa Francisco: “Que la Madre de Dios, Reina de la Paz, acúple nuestra oración: Regina pacis, ora pro nobis (Queen of Peace, pray for us).”
May 15

June 3
Provider Day of Retreat, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., $20, $70 with $10 food/drink ticket per person or per family required for admission. Information: Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, 5640 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis. 317-340-7550, padouglass@archindy.org.

June 9
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. May 20-21, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., Personal Day of Retreat, 6:30-7:30 p.m., free. For more information, contact Shae Beehler at 217-204-5774 or shaebeehler@gmail.com.

June 10

June 12
Mount Saint Francis Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Haverstock Road, Indianapolis. Memorial Day Mass, 11 a.m. Information: 317-784-4439 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

June 20
St. Augustine Church, 315 E. Chestnut St., Jeffersonville. Faithful Citizens Rosary Walk, 10:45-11:45 a.m. in front of church. Information: bethanyrosary@gmail.com.

June 24
Benedictine Room, 1400 W. Washington St., Bloomington—Fathers Simon-Felix Penalosa presenting, $55. For more information, go to ftm.retreatportal.com/events.
We were made to share HOPE.

There’s no greater hope than that which we find in the Eucharist.

Help us nourish others with the word of life and the bread from heaven.

United in the Eucharist

Thinking of You Jdub

Happy Mother’s Day!

Happy Father’s Day!

We Love You!

Jdub’s letter to his mom.

More, if you are reading this just know nothing was your fault. You were the best mother I could ever asked for and I love you so much. I never understood why any of this had to happen to me, but I am finally at peace with everything and all the pain and suffering is gone. You and dad gave me the best life any kid could have asked for and you guys will never know how thankful I was for everything. Even though I am no longer here, I will always be here in your hearts. We had 23 great years of life and would have changed a thing. Take care of Hunter and tell her I love her, tell everyone and dad I love them too. Don’t be sad and don’t just know I am happy now and in a better place. I’ll always be your mom, thank you for everything - Your son Jdub

Jdub’s letter to his family and friends.

If you are reading this, I am sorry for what is about to happen. I know it's going to hurt, but I miss you so much and want to make sure you know I will be with you every step of the way. I love you both so much.

United Catholic Appeal

St. Agnes Parish serves needy in Brown County, sees ‘visitors from all over’

By Natalie Hoefer

Joseph and Agnes Nurre owned a successful plate glass company in Bloomington in the early part of the last century. Among the products they made were glass backboards for basketball goals—not surprising, given their location in the city and state where basketball is religion.

But the Nurre’s true religion was Catholicism. In 1937, the couple approached then-Bishop Joseph E. Ritter with an idea to build a chapel in nearby Brown County in thanksgiving for their many blessings and for their children.

There was no Catholic church in the county at the time. So, instead of approving the Nurre’s idea, he asked Joseph and Agnes to contribute to the establishment of a parish in Brown County. In 1940, a log church was dedicated along State Road 135 on the north side of the town of Nashville. So began St. Agnes Parish—as a nod to Mrs. Nurre.

Service-minded, from youths to young at heart

Twenty years ago, a new parish church was built just a half-mile west of downtown Nashville.

“The church is nestled in the woods of Brown County with an abundance of windows that let visitors and parishioners alike take comfort from being among God’s creation,” says parish life coordinator Deacon Russell Woodard. Indeed, the light and view of the woods through the massive windows lining the sanctuary side of the church give the feeling of worshipping at an outdoor Mass.

While the majority of parishioners are retired, says Deacon Woodard, the parish’s youth and young adult ministries are still “vibrant.”

“They’re active. They like to do service work and help St. Vincent de Paul [of Brown County],” he says. The youth group goes to the National Catholic Youth Conference, often attends the annual One Bread One Cup liturgical leadership conference in St. Meinrad, and this year will make a pilgrimage to Rome and then to Portugal for World Youth Day, thanks to a “tremendous outpouring of financial support from our parishioners,” he notes.

Those parishioners also make a tremendous impact on the local community.

“The Brown County St. Vincent de Paul conference is led for the most part by members of the parish,” says Deacon Woodard. “They serve thousands of residents every year providing food, toiletries, clothing and household items to those in need.

“Our parishioners also support our Brown County Habitat for Humanity by providing volunteers who help to build houses and by providing financial support.”

Deacon Woodard notes that “a lot of school kids in the county are on reduced or free lunches.” The parish’s Brown County Weekend Backpacks ministry fills backpacks with food to distribute to schools on Fridays “for children whose parents can’t provide for them on the weekends,” he says.

Parishioners also volunteer for the United Service Organization at Camp Atterbury in nearby Edinburgh, and the faith community is working to develop a relationship with a parish in the Appalachian area of Kentucky.

For a literal taste of the St. Agnes faith community, come the first Friday and Saturday of November for the parish guild’s annual Christmas Bazaar.

“There is a plethora of baked goods for sale,” says Deacon Woodard. “There’s also an abundant variety of crafts and artwork from local artisans for sale, and we raffle off a hand-sewn quilt each year.”

When you come, expect to be joined by visitors from a plethora of places who’ve come to enjoy Nashville and beautiful Brown County.

“Every weekend, we have visitors from all over Indiana, the Cincinnati area, Kentucky and Illinois,” says Deacon Woodard. He invites all to join them and the parishioners to worship at the Lord’s table in St. Agnes Church.

For Mass times, go to stagnescatholicnashville.org.

Famous park, famous town, famous art

Encountering Christ in the Eucharist during Mass at St. Agnes can be part of a day or weekend trip to Brown County, where God can also be seen in the area’s famous park, famous town, famous art.
it’s the honor of a lifetime to just be a
and activities. It does so much good, and
VILLAGE
Page 8
have a history of autism. And Renie’s
Karras remembering how welcomed Renie
more good’
'I really can’t think of a place that does
Village of Merici makes.
introduction to the difference that the
but intimate confidants and buddies.”
friends for 20 years now. Not only friends,
America where there’s such a tight-knit
feeling of a hometown that I had yet to
really welcomed me in and gave me the
immediately embraced by a group of
friends and their families.
the Indianapolis Catholic community
really welcomed me in and gave me the
feeling of a hometown that I had yet to
feel up to that point in my life,” he says.
One of the really unique factors of that
community is the lifelong bonds that
people share with their friends they made
in middle school and high school.
‘I’ve yet to see another place in
America where there’s a tight-knit group
of friends who have been friends since
they were 10 or so. We’ve been friends
for 20 years now. Not only friends,
but intimate confidants and buddies.”
One of those friends became his
introduction to the difference that
the Village of Merici makes.
'I really can’t think of a place that does
more good’
Karras calls Matt Renie “my best friend.”
The same goes for Matt, who
Karras remembering how welcomed Renie
made him feel. Their bond grew even
tighter during their time at the Indianapolis
school in Uvalde, Texas. That legislation expanded
the law to ban the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

The proceeds from both hats and the
t-shirts will be used to expand the housing
capabilities of the Village, Colleen
said. It’s not only about providing
capsules and the support of all the first
responders who are still working to bring
home the victims of this tragic event.

We ask for everybody to pray together
the tragedies that have occurred
over the past year, and we ask
for everybody to pray for peace
and justice.

One time when I came to the Village, I
was stunned. So was Colleen Renie. They
both felt the impact of living in the Village.
Karras also insists the Village helps
them—how can we support individuals with
disabilities to live their best life.

The relationship developed by
Karras with the residents of the Village
has made her to Jason, leading him
to independent living, to a job in a
restaurant.

Karras also insists the Village helps
him live his best life.

Make your donation today to
support the Village of Merici.

For more information
about the Village of Merici,
visit the website,
www.villageofmerici.org.

To live their best life!
In all, the effort with the “Cincy” hat
raised about $380,000 for the Village.
Colleen says it has also inspired the
creation of a “Bengals” hat and T-shirt
that Karras designed, timing their introductions
with the Cincinnati Bengals’ 500th May.

We’re from Indianapolis,” Karras says.
The race is the biggest sporting event
in the world. We want to tie this
into our hometown.

The proceeds from both hats and the
T-shirts will be used to expand the housing
opportunities for residents in the Village.

We ask for everybody to pray together
the tragedies that have occurred
over the past year, and we ask
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about the Village of Merici,
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www.villageofmerici.org.

The Friendship of Cincinnati Bengals football player Ted Karras, left, and Matt Renie began in a
Catholic grade school and has blossomed ever since, with the two friends joining together in a
project that has raised nearly $400,000 for the Village of Merici, an Indianapolis organization that
provides housing and support services for adults with disabilities. (Submitted photo)

The Friendship of Cincinnati Bengals football player Ted Karras, left, and Matt Renie began in a
Catholic grade school and has blossomed ever since, with the two friends joining together in a
project that has raised nearly $400,000 for the Village of Merici, an Indianapolis organization that
provides housing and support services for adults with disabilities. (Submitted photo)
Jessica Murphy, development manager for Catholic Charities Terre Haute, helps sort food at the agency's food bank on May 6. (Submitted photo)
Hospital says government backs off ultimatum to extinguish candle in chapel

(OVS News)—A Catholic hospital in Oklahoma said the federal government has backed off after presenting it with a choice to either extinguish a candle in its chapel’s sanctuary or risk its ability to treat patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which would have jeopardized its ability to operate at all.

Saint Francis Hospital South was represented by Becket, a religious liberty law firm, that says the government violated the First Amendment.

Lori Windham, vice president and senior counsel at Becket, wrote on Twitter on May 5 that the government “has seen the light and abandoned its attempt to force an Oklahoma hospital to blow out a small candle or stop serving elderly, disabled, and low-income patients.”

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Windham said, “has told Saint Francis that it can keep its living flame—a sacred candle housed in the hospital chapel.”

St. Francis Hospital South, which is part of St. Francis Health System, the 12th largest hospital system in the nation, has a sacred candle list inside its hospital chapel at all times, in accordance with Catholic teaching that a lit candle is a symbol that Christ is present. The hospital said it follows every pertinent fire regulation, and the sanctuary flame is enclosed, away from any medical equipment and regularly passes annual reviews by the local fire marshal.

But the hospital said that following a February inspection on behalf of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), a federal agency under HHS, a surveyor said the flame was not in compliance with CMS regulations.

In response, Becket sent a letter on May 2 to HHS officials stating that despite “many sprinkler heads surrounding the candle, good exhaust, the flame’s double glass encasing, the bronze top enclosing the flame, despite its mounting to a wall over six feet high, and despite the surveyor’s knowledge of the fire marshal’s long-standing approval of the eternal flame, the sanctuary lamp did not meet with the surveyor’s favor.

“You have threatened to deny accreditation because Saint Francis keeps a candle—an eternal flame—in its hospital sanctuary,” the letter from Becket said, adding, “If we go to court, you will lose.”

Barry Steichen, St. Francis’ executive vice president and chief operating officer, said in a statement that “over 60 years ago, Saint Francis was founded by William K. and Natalie Warren as an act of gratitude and service to God and to the people of Oklahoma.

“The cornerstone of Saint Francis is love for God and man,” Steichen said. “To this day, the Saint Francis torch insignia indicates a space of hope: a place where in hand.

Hoosier Group of Impressionist painters. You can tour his hilltop home—known as the House of the Singing Wind—and art studio at the T.C. Steele State Historic Site, 4220 T.C. Steele Road, in Nashville. The site and tours are open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information or to purchase tour tickets, call 812-988-2785 or go to indianamuseum.org/ historic-sites/steel.

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

EXCURSIONS

continued from page 7

natural cathedral of rolling, wooded hills.
Brown County State Park is one of Indiana’s most popular state parks, with its hilly hiking trails and hazy vistas. While it’s especially known for its brilliant fall foliage, the park is a natural respite any time of year (and from personal experience, the park makes for a beautiful setting to get engaged!).
Hike, climb the park’s 90-foot-tall fire tower for a panoramic view of the hills or take a horseback ride. Come for a day or spend the night in a room or cabin at the park’s Abe Martin Lodge, where you can cool off in its 12,000-square-foot indoor water park. Camping is an option, too.

For a different perspective on the hills of Brown County, go zip lining or take an all-terrain vehicle ride with stops to learn about the Native American and pioneer history of the area. Both are available through Explore Brown County. Call 812-988-7750 or go to explorebrowncounty.com for more information.

Nashville itself is a well-known destination, a walkable town with a cozy, rustic ambiance. It’s popular for its clothing and jewelry boutiques; shops selling local-made art, crafts and furniture; wine-tasting rooms; restaurants and more. Stores are typically open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., although some remain open later on the weekends and during the fall season.
Be sure to stop by Gifts from the Heart in the Heritage Mall, 41 S. Van Buren St., where you can purchase rosaries made by German-born Marie Nealy, a Catholic who was one of four rosary makers featured in an article in the Oct. 22, 2021, issue of The Criterion.
Nashville was also the home of world-renowned artist T.C. Steele (1847-1926), a member of the then-famous Hoosier Group of Impressionist painters.

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Pictured above is the living flame sanctuary candle located in the chapel at St. Francis Hospital South in Tulsa, Okla. (OVS News photo/courtesy St. Francis Health System)
Families can meditate on Jesus with Mary in rosary’s joyful mysteries

By Dr. Joseph White

(OSV News)—The rosary is one of the most popular prayers of all time.

In the rosary, we meditate together with Mary on the mysteries of the life of Jesus and the beginnings of the Church. The joyful mysteries include five joyful events in the life of Jesus and Mary: the Annunciation; the Visitation; the Birth of Jesus; the Presentation in the Temple; and the Finding of Jesus in the Temple.

Praying the joyful mysteries as a family, especially during the Marian month of May, can help us discover the real joy of living the Gospel in our everyday lives.

Family meditations for the joyful mysteries

First mystery—The Annunciation (Lk 1:26-38)

Mary and Joseph welcomed Jesus into their home and family. Rosary reflection: How do we reconnect with them, or connect with them more often?

Second mystery—The Visitation (Lk 1:39-45)

Mary went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, and was encouraged by her Rosary reflection: What is the most joyful event in your family life?

Third mystery—The Birth of Jesus (Lk 2:1-14)

Mary and Joseph welcomed Jesus into their home and family. Rosary reflection: How do we welcome Jesus into our home and our family life?

Fourth mystery—The Presentation in the Temple (Lk 2:22-38)

Mary and Joseph presented to God that which they loved the most—their new baby child. Rosary reflection: How do we trust God to bless all that is precious to us? Do we hold anything back from him? Or do we offer everything to him, knowing that he is the source of all good things?

Fifth mystery—The Finding of Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:41-52)

Mary and Joseph didn’t expect Jesus to remain at the temple in Jerusalem after they had left, but Jesus said he had to do his Father’s work. Rosary reflection: What different or unexpected things does our family sometimes do because we are followers of Christ?

How to pray the rosary

1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross.
2. Pray the Apostles’ Creed while holding the crucifix.
3. Pray an Our Father on the first bead above the crucifix.
4. Pray three Hail Marys on the next three beads.
5. On the next bead, pray the Glory Be, announce the first mystery, and then pray an Our Father.
6. Pray 10 Hail Marys for the next 10 beads (called a decade).
7. Pray the Glory Be (optional: then pray the Fatima Decade Prayer).
8. For each following decade, announce the mystery, next say the Our Father, then pray 10 Hail Marys and the Glory Be (and the Fatima Decade Prayer optionally).
9. After the five decades are completed, pray the Hail, Holy Queen and the Closing Prayer.

Sign of the Cross

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, (At the words that follow, up to and including “the Virgin Mary,” all bow) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; be descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Our Father (The Lord’s Prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Fatima Decade Prayer

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins; save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls into heaven, especially those most in need of thy mercy.

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

Closing Prayer

O God, whose only begotten Son, by his life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the reward of eternal life, grant, we beseech thee, that by meditating upon these mysteries of the most holy rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

(De. Joseph White is a clinical psychologist and associate publisher for catechetical resources at OSV. A frequent guest on Catholic radio, he is the author of 12 books and numerous articles on catechesis, ministry, and other topics, including Listening for God in Everyday Life.)†
Throughout my life, I’ve been blessed with the most amazing friends. Some friends I grew up with; some friends I made in college, other friends were co-workers, and friends in all the cities in which I’ve lived. I have been blessed by my husband’s friends. There have been friends who I have lived near and far, and friends who came into my life for just a season, but they all have enriched my life. Before Pentecost (on Communications Day, you’re not alone.

Guest Column/
See RUPPRECHT, page 14

Joel Pohovey
Be sure to take friends as you journey through life

Our Works of Charity/David Bethuram
Celebrating moms who work hard to overcome life’s challenges

During the month of May, Catholic Charities is focusing on celebrating mothers (and fathers!) and the vital role they play in shaping our lives. Catholic Charities is an organization that helps women and men in need make positive changes in their lives. For pregnant women and new parents without a reliable place to live or access to the basic necessities like diapers and health care, Catholic Charities is a source of support. Many women and girls who find themselves in need—whether due to financial hardship, lack of education, or other circumstances—turn to Catholic Charities for help, often referred to us by friends or in the court system.

The pregnancy services provided by Catholic Charities are comprehensive and include confirming a woman’s pregnancy, distributing essentials like diapers, baby clothes, clothing, and other essentials for the child. And Catholic Charities, education, and providing full medical care, behavioral health counseling, possible mentoring, home visits, housing options for those experiencing homelessness, and much more. These services have a significant impact on the lives of those who use them, whether they are already parenting or considering adoption.

One such success story is that of “Carla” (not her real name) a homeless single mother with two children who came to Catholic Charities seeking assistance with her challenging history— including past incarceration and addiction issues— she was determined to be a good mother and not relapse into addiction. Her case manager at Catholic Charities helped her access a variety of support services, including therapy, addiction recovery, vocational rehabilitation, and budgeting and life skills classes.

With the help of Catholic Charities, Carla was able to turn her life around, completing the terms of her probation, finding her credit, finding full-time employment and even receiving a raise after a year on the job. When it comes to working with women and children in crisis, there are numerous complexities to consider. Each situation is unique, and Catholic Charities’ committed staff understands that success means different things to different individuals and families. What may work for one woman may not work for another, and predicting outcomes can be challenging.

Our dedicated staff is tirelessly to work with mothers and families in crisis, providing the resources and guidance they need to make healthy decisions and achieve their goals.

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

Guest Column/...
Prayers for the dead aid souls in purgatory being purified for heaven

Why do Catholics pray for the souls in purgatory to lessen their suffering? It is possible that the souls already in purgatory would even go to hell, so our prayers for them would save them from going to hell? (New Jersey)

A We don’t pray that souls in purgatory won’t wind up in hell, because hell is no longer a possibility for them. We do pray because we hope that, through our prayers and sacrifices, the sufferings of their purification might be eased and their journey to heaven might be hastened.

Recall that heaven is a state of eternal happiness arising from perfect union with God, and hell is a state of eternal suffering arising from one’s freely-chosen rejection of God. It is by God’s grace that heaven is possible for us in this first place, but to an extent where we spend eternity depends on us. We can choose to reject God through our sinful actions, and we can choose to accept God’s gift of eternal life by striving with the help of his grace for a life of virtue and in repenting from our sins. Whether we go to heaven or hell is decided at the point of our death. But we know that God is merciful and wants us to be in eternity with him. God is therefore very forgiving and will save even the most sinful soul—even if that person only repents at the last minute!

Think for instance of St. Dismas, the “good thief” who was crucified next to Jesus, and to whom Jesus promised paradise (Lk 23:39-43). However, not everyone ultimately destined for heaven will be ready to meet the all-holy God face-to-face immediately upon death. Catholics believe in a state called purgatory, which is a state of purification specifically in preparation for heaven.

At the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us: “It is necessary to understand that sin has a double consequence. Grave sin deprives us of communion with God and therefore makes us incapable of eternal life, the privation of which is called the ‘eternal punishment’ of sin. On the other hand every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on Earth, or after death in the state called purgatory.” This purification frees one from what is called the ‘temporal punishment’ of sin. These two punishments must not be conceived of as a kind of vengeance inflicted by God from without, but as following from the very nature of sin (#1472).

In other words, all sin leaves some damage to our souls which can often last even after we have repented or received absolution in the sacrament of penance. Purgatory is a time of repairing this damage. We understand purgatory to be a finite period of suffering, often described or depicted artistically as a purifying fire.

Still, the suffering of purgatory is of a radically different nature than the torments of hell, since the souls in purgatory have the joy of knowing that they are on their way toward God. Incidentally, we can pray for the dead even if we may personally have doubts about an individual’s salvation. While a soul in hell can no longer benefit from prayers, we never know what happens between a soul and God in the final moments of life.

Prayers for the dead are never wasted.

There are several biblical citations referencing prayers for the dead, most famously, in the Second Book of Maccabees: “For if [Judas Maccabeus] were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead, since they were looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in good faith, it would have been useless and groundless thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin” (2 Mc 12:44–45).

(Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, is a consecrated virgin and a canonist whose column can be reached via CatholicQA@osv.com)
Dialogue requires sincerity, respect, pope tells Christian, Muslim leaders

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Interreligious dialogue requires sincerity and mutual respect to be fruitful, Pope Francis told Christian and Muslim leaders.

It also requires “the awareness of both convergences and divergences” between different faiths, he said, but with emphasis on “what unites us on a religious and spiritual level as well as on an ethical-moral level.”

The pope met on May 4 with Catholic and Muslim leaders gathered in Rome for the sixth conference between theDicastery for Interreligious Dialogue and the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies, which is based in Amman, Jordan.

Jordan’s Prince El Hassan bin Talal founded the institute in 1994 to promote “common human and ethical values that contribute to strengthening cooperation and interfaith relations” and to rectify misconceptions about others, according to the institute’s website.

Francis praised the “enlightened leadership” of the prince which is based in Amman, Jordan.

Francis also expressed his “appreciation and gratitude” to the prince’s uncle, Jordan’s King Abdullah II, “His majesty does not tire of repeating that the Christians of those blessed lands are natives, meaning they live where their ancestors had long lived for centuries,” he said.

The pope also told his guests that he has been updated about “the tragedy in Turkey and northern Syria,” which had been hit by two devastating earthquakes on Feb. 6, killing more than 59,000 people and causing tens of billions of dollars in direct physical damage.

He said to the many people who have suffered as a result of [these] terrible earthquakes. Let us pray for them and do our best to help them. There are Muslims, Christians, our brothers and sisters,” he said.

In his remarks to those attending the colloquium, Pope Francis praised the “enlightened leadership” of the prince and the institute’s work regarding “the preservation and enhancement of the Arab Christian heritage.

“I can but express further gratitude, because this not only benefits the Christian citizens of yesterday and today, but also protects and consolidates this heritage throughout the Middle East, so diverse and rich in ethnicities, religions, cultures, languages and traditions,” he said.

“Indeed it is a matter of jealously preserving each piece of this beautiful mosaic,” which would benefit from closely cooperating with other Christian institutes that have the same goal, he added.

Pope Francis also expressed his “appreciation and gratitude” to the prince’s uncle, Jordan’s King Abdullah II.

Eleonora Alvey, mother of Becky Mangum, Linda Moore and Jim Cowden.

Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of 51.


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

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On May 6, the last of five days of the 10th Annual Easter Raffle to benefit the Pauline Center for Media Studies, a not-for-profit charitable organization that serves the Diocese of Indianapolis with programs for children, youth, families and religious education.

The raffle, the work of needle and thread, the transformation of love, brings a purchase to the creation of a prayer, a gift of love, a kindness to the heart, the work of needle and thread, the transformation of love.

The seamstress, making the way. He simply asks us to set things into motion.

Pope Francis expressed this during Lent of 2020, early into the COVID-19 quarantine. He preached, “This is what we need today: the creativity of love.”

What some might call magic or luck—the winning of a raffle, the work of needle and thread, the transformation of love.

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

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If you or a loved one or someone you know has been a victim of such misconduct, please contact the archdiocesan victim assistance coordinator at 317-288-5470.

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Possible eucharistic miracle in Connecticut under investigation

(OSV News)—A possible eucharistic miracle in Connecticut is now under investigation by the Vatican.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley told a Hartford television station on May 2 that the Diocese (formerly known as the Archdiocese of Hartford) is investigating a possible eucharistic miracle in the town of Terryville, Connecticut.

Archbishop Blair told OSV News that the church, along with the Vatican, will examine whether an apparent multiplication of Communion hosts during a March 5 liturgy at St. Thomas Church in Thomaston, Conn., was supernatural. The church, along with other churches, both in Terryville, Conn., is part of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish.

St. Maximilian Kolbe pastor Father Joseph Crowley said in a YouTube livestream of his March 12 homily that an unnamed extraordinary minister of holy Communion at the previous week’s liturgy had begun to run out of hosts—only to find that “all of a sudden there [were] more hosts in the ciborium.”

The minister continued to distribute hosts to some 100, 150 people in the congregation, after which “there was the same amount, if not more hosts” in the ciborium, said Father Crowley in his March 12 homily. “What happened is Our Lord multiplied himself… I have no doubt. I know what I gave the person. I know what [was] returned [to the tabernacle]. It was just very obvious and plain to me as to what happened.”

In a livestream video of his post-Communion remarks at the March 5 liturgy at St. Thomas Church, a visibly struck Father Crowley said the experience was “very powerful, very awesome, very real, very shocking.”

A local saint in the making also may have played a role. Father Crowley said in his March 12 homily, “since Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, served as pastor of St. Thomas Church from 1884 until his death in 1890,”

“I think in a very profound way that Blessed McGivney’s life here… it shows that this is a very special place. And it’s important to God,” said Father Crowley in his March 12 homily. “And I think good things are coming. I think great things are coming.”

David Elliott, associate director of communications for the Archdiocese of Hartford, told OSV News at the time that the archdiocesan judicial vicar, Father George Mukuka, was “looking into the possibility of a eucharistic miracle” at the parish.

Speaking to media on May 2, Archbishop Blair said he had “[sent] out an experienced priest who has knowledge of Church law, canon law, to follow procedure, [and] to just examine exactly what happened and under what circumstances.”

He noted that “the guidelines for these kinds of situations do call for me to notify the [Diocese] for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome.”

The Vatican’s investigation is expected to take approximately two weeks. In the 21st century, only four Eucharistic miracles have been recognized throughout the world, according to the Magis Center, which, under the leadership of scholar and Jesuit Father Robert Spitzer, promotes dialogue between faith and science.

The last recognized miracle occurred in 2013 in Legnica, Poland, where a consecrated host lost to dissolve in water after it was accidentally dropped, formed red stains that under scientific analysis were found to contain fragmented parts of cross-striated muscle resembling that of heart muscle. The host was approved for veneration in April 2014 by then-Bishop Zbigniew Kiemowski of Legnica. OSV News has contacted both the Archdiocese of Hartford and Father Crowley for comment. •

Empowering Young Families, Inc., helps young moms and dads in southeastern Indiana

Walking with Moms is a monthly feature highlighting organizations that help—and need support in helping—expecting and parenting mothers in need in central and southern Indiana.

Empowering Young Families, Inc.

PO. Box 43
Brookville, IN 47012

Contact: Lyn Weidner, 513-476-2863,
livingston.tanya@yahoo.com,
www.empoweringyoungfamilies.com

Service areas: Dearborn, Fayette,
Franklin, Ripley and Union counties

Services: Three primary services: 1) Teen Mother Choices assists mothers ages 13-23 complete high school, HSE, college degree and/or work full time. Assists these mothers with child care costs and diapers, and offers weekly Monday evening meetings that include meal and Life Skills Workshops based on biblical principles (including parenting, goal-setting, financial management, monthly budgeting, educational guidance, job skills, healthy relationships and more). Mentors help these moms set and complete short- and long-term goals. 2) Dedicated Active Dads (DADs) 8-week program offered in spring and fall. Dads learn parenting skills, self-assessment, caring for self and relationship skills, receive diapers/wipes each week and a $100 gift card at end of program. 3) Provide baskets of items to pregnant mothers.

Item Donations: Diapers (especially newborn, size 1 and 2), baby wipes, $100 gift cards (from gas stations, grocery stores, Amazon) for the DADs program.

Financial Donations: Online at www.empoweringyoungfamilies.com or mail check for Empowering Young Families to Empowering Young Families, PO. Box 43, Brookville, IN 47012.

Volunteer needs: Entirely operated by volunteers. For Monday evening Teen Mother Choices volunteers to provide a simple meal for the moms, their children and volunteers; child care providers; Life Skills Workshop speakers to give young moms information on skills they need as a mom, employee, student, teen or woman seeking Jesus. Mentors walk side by side with the young moms on their journey with Teen Mother Choices.

Principal

St. Matthew Catholic School, Indianapolis

St. Matthew Catholic School in Indianapolis is seeking a principal for the upcoming school year. St. Matthew has an enrollment of over 340 students, from kindergarten through eighth grade as well as over 40 students in preschool. This school has been a vibrant part of the Indianapolis Catholic Community since 1958 and forms Catholic leaders for the twenty-first century.

Applications must possess a valid administrator’s license, have demonstrated ability to foster Catholic identity, possess a passion for education of all students, and be a practicing Roman Catholic. Applicants may apply online at https://archindy.applicantpro.com/apps and are asked to submit a letter of interest, resume, and professional references by May 25, 2023 to:

Anne Krieger, Office Manager
Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Office of Catholic Schools
1400 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2567
317-236-1444
akrieger@archindy.org

Employment

Mother Theodore Catholic Academy

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking to hire a full-time maintenance technician. The person hired for this job will train with the Archdiocese Catholic Center Staff but will become the primary maintenance technician for the Mother Theodore Catholic Academy (MTCA). The MTCA has four schools in Marion Co., Indianapolis. This person will be responsible for the maintenance of all four schools.

The major responsibility of the person in this position is to oversee the maintenance staff of four MTCA schools. This is a hands-on position, but it also requires the oversight and management of subcontractors.

• The person in this job will need to be an independent thinker.
• Responsible for the maintenance and safety of the MTCA buildings.
• Good communication skills are required
• 10 years of experience in property management or commercial building maintenance
• GED is required.
• A valid driver’s license is required.

Interested candidates apply to Daniel Herbertz at Dherbertz@archindy.org.
Congratulations to the Roncalli Class of 2023

The faculty, staff and administration of Roncalli High School are very proud of all that these young men and women continue to accomplish. They have challenged themselves, embraced their faith and are prepared to make their own unique impact in our world. May God bless and protect the Class of 2023.

Roncalli Salutes the Graduating Class of 2023

Ayden Noli Adame
Veronica Grace Allen
Mikenzie Lynn Anderson
Evan Michael Baker
Maddyn Martha Baker
Aubrey Mary Balke
Nicholas Jack Bandomer
Alexander James Barley
Andrew Joseph Bausch
Anne Jane Bauman
Merrill Anne Bean
Andrew Noah Beaud
Morgan Alicia Beaufre
Cain Michael Bear
Rory Griffin Beakes
Samantha Michelle Belden
Julia Mary Bentlick
Ais Michelle Berger
Lucas Michael Bilelman
Andley Marie Bishop
Lyla Elise Blackwell
Lauren Elizabeth Bobko
Olivia Marie Boggsar
Lauren Marie Boone
Eliot Carter Borders
Anthony Joseph Brockman
Audrey Marie Brown
Olivia Frances Brownfield
Charles Joseph Buckel
Anne Pauline Buening
Elizabeth Ann Burghardt
Abigail Marie Bullock
Fred Ann Burch
Scott Michael Burke Jr.
Shaun Michael Byrne
Michael Scott Childers
Easton Andrew Clowers
Calhoun Sheehan Coughlin
Campbell Grace Cramoissinot
Sophia Maria Creeks
Anna Catherine Crews
Adit Mary Kathleen Duane
Jack William Davis
Dylan Thomas Day
Ethan Robert Dexter
Andrew Joseph Dial
Bradford Reed Dinges
Anna Catherine Dressman
Anthony Celestin Dutaste
Ava Marie Lynn Dunne
Mallory Noel Dwyer
Corey Lounsbury Ele
Ian Matthew Eldridge
Ronelle Marie Elser
Garrett Andrew Farris
Allison Marie Fletwood
Jadyn Aliza Franchina
Erik Kevin Fiebert
Joseph Dennis Gallareta
Andrew Thomas Gallagher
Thomas Richard Gallagher
Jose Francisco Gallegos
Elizabeth Dianne Cannon
Evan Ros Garcia Garcia
Toddi Dennis Geierhart
Dana May Geiger
Lucy Kay Gibbs
Matthew Robert Golob
Alejandro Francisco Gomez-Alejo
Megan Olivia Gonzalez
Gabrielle Marie Godduight
Elle Jerome Gooser
Rex Daniel Gooser
Andrew Michael Greene
Stephanie Alexandra Gutierrez
Luke Patrick Hassan
Joshua Sun Harbers
Nathanial Sun Harbers
Jenna Rose Hatter
Tyler Blayne Hatcher
Kayler Ann Heidelberger
Jordan Christine Hendricks
Derek Hernandez
Irvin Blue Hernandez
Bryce Robert Hillman
Sui Lian Honius
Abigail Marie Hoffmann
Thomas Christopher Hollcraft
Fletcher Kristian Nathan Hooven
Emily Marie Hornek
Sydney Leigh Hurton
Henry William Hower
Angel Lin Huipeiath
Tanner Hague Hudspeth
Jacob Bernard Inner
Jessica Rose Irvin
Olivia Grace-Marie Jackson
Anel Marie Johnson
Matthew Jeffrey Johnson
Oliver Thomas Johnson
Cameron Marie Jones
Monica Michelle Jones
Nora Elizabeth Jordan
Sarah Kathleen Jordan
Zane Joseph Kale
Leo Kani
Luke Eli Rean Kanter
Marta Leona Kaznicky
Elizabeth Fay Keates
Lucas Benjamin Keergren
Connor James Kelkam
Elise Marie Kerr
Kam Ali Khaer
Elizabeth Lauren Kirk
Dylan Shay Koglin
Noah Anthony Kium
Holly Patricia Kuepic
Bryden Charles Lauck
Tyson Dawson Lauck
Judson JonPaul Lawrie
Sophia Rose Lawson
Kathleen Renee Leiser
Elijah Joseph Litell
Emma Kathleen Lohig
Sofia Natalie Lopez
Bryce Kragin Lower
Mary Frances Leukerman
Nathaniel Edward Lyle
Christian Maldonado
Nicholas John Alphonse Marshall
Lauren Elizabeth Marsick
George Paul Marten
Kevin Ian Martinez
Anthony James Maxwell
Ana Sofia Maya Estrada
Andrew David Mayer
Kira Emily McElwain
Patrick Michael McGinley
Grace Margaret McGraw
Sara Lynn McGraw
Isabel Marie Josephine McLain
Connor Michael McNeely
Jack McGehee McNeil
Ann Marie Mem
Evan James Moer
Whitney Renee Meiding
Ethanand Mehe
Lizeth Miranda-Garcia
Noah Anthony Moses
Hannah Marie Morgan
Arik Ray Morgan
Kathleen Marne Naar
Beavon William Neighbors
Robert Maxwell Neuteke
Ara Grace Nelson
Brady Joseph Nero
Emma Rae Nitsen
Linda Sofia Nunn
McKenna Katherine Noshing
Clare Julia Okler
Marshall Tyler Olschager
Joseph Daniel Ondus
Bawi Thluai Pa
Joseph Andrew Parrent
Grace Marie Parren
Walter Andrew Patrick
Michael Anthony Payne
Andrew Michael Payne
Ian Padraig Peats
Hannah Frances Pence
Isabel Morgan Pierce
Olivia Marie Plummer
Cara Jean Pardy
Jackson Walter Lige Quebe
Ingrid Quicks
Jesse Abraham Quintana
Brooke Irene Raimes
Kyle Steven Ramsey
Catherine Taylor Reid
Georgia Claire Reider
Christopher Ethan Render
Joshua Glenn Reshwa
Evan Michael Rieter
Robert Glenn Rooney
Kegan Nicole Roshchuke
Mia Lynn Samuelson
Bryon Allen Sanderfur
Antonina Anna Sarun
Shannon Kathleen Saylor
Mary Elizabeth Schaefer
Mary Elizabeth Schaefer
Michael Anthony Schaefer
Zachary Michael Schaefer
Ava Lachelle Schoettle
Grace Rose Marie Schoettle
Harold Anthony Schoettle
Hayden Alexander Scott
Samuel Joseph Scott
Spencer Lucas Sims
Sonnaraj K Sinhee
Marg Rose Harrington Sinovic
Grace Wenyi Sipe
Elia Emelyn Sizemore-Da’dor
Luke Silas Skartvedt
Morgan Riley Slivka
Elijah Jeffrey Small
Isabel Christine Spencer
Lucy Katherine Spindler
Hannah Kathleen Sports
Kaley Marissa Spross
Jordan Dylan Stanford
Taylor Anne Stahl
Jackson Matthew Steiner
Nicholas Daniel Stewart
Gabrielle Rose Stirmas
Harrison Victor Stitt
Austin Christopher Strykowski
Atan Coningham-Stuart
Lauren Victoria Stulic
Jake Connor Sullivan
Luke Michael Swartz
Olivia Anne Swearingen
Alexander Elizabeth Swift
Allison Ann Taylor
Brady Glenn Taylor
Chanduah Sang Thlaeue
Ryan James Thomas
Natalie Zoie Tonnere
Yasmine Isabel Trejo
Evan Tyler Treman
Nelson Michael Tuney
Hannah Lee Tyler
Anthony Joseph Utberg IV
Alexander Roth Van Sickel
Allison Marie Vennall
Blake Alexander Vennall
Luke Anthony Vennall
Allison Thomas Vald-Romero
Kyle Eugene Walker
Grant Douglas Wiltz
Amelia Santos Warner
David Eric Warner
Isaac Robert Wiese
Abigail Agnes Willis
Joanne Marie Wilson
Ryan Anthony Workman
Abigail Marie Wohl
Samuel Gaspar Xochiltahua

Forming disciples of Jesus Christ through the intercession of Saint John XXIII.