U.S. bishops advance pastoral initiatives to strengthen Church’s mission

ORLANDO, Fla. (OSV News) — Meeting in Orlando for their spring assembly, the U.S. bishops moved ahead on some efforts to advance the Church’s mission in the U.S., including new pastoral initiatives aimed at activating Catholics as missionary disciples. The gathering’s June 15-16 plenary sessions proved relatively smooth, but featured moments of vigorous discussion at a few points, particularly around the formation of priests.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services gave his first address as U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) president presiding over the bishops’ plenary assembly. He covered a variety of issues of concern to Catholics, such as the need for Congress to pass a comprehensive immigration reform and for an end to Russia’s unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

“We cannot fail to see the face of Christ in all of those who need our assistance, especially the poor and the vulnerable,” he said.

The apostolic nuncio to the U.S., Archbishop Christophe Pierre, made his case to the U.S. bishops on June 15 that synodality, oriented to Jesus Christ as their “true north,” unleashes missionary activity.

“The purpose of walking this synodal path is to make our evangelization more effective in the context of the precise challenges that we face today,” Archbishop Pierre said in his address.

The archbishop also singled out Auxiliary Bishop David G. O’Connell of Los Angeles, who was shot to death earlier this year, as “a model of synodal service, combined with eucharistic charity.”

The bishops gathered voiced their support for new pastoral initiatives to strengthen the Church’s mission.

School choice expansion nears launch, extending the opportunity to almost all Indiana families

WASHINGTON (OSV News)—Prior to the first anniversary of a landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn its prior abortion precedent, pro-life activists lauded legislation passed in multiple states while advocating for additional support services for women and families facing unplanned pregnancies.

The Supreme Court issued its historic decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization on June 24, 2022, little more than a month after Politico leaked an earlier draft of Justice Samuel Alito’s opinion. The leak caused a public firestorm before the court issued its official ruling, and is seen as the most significant breach of the court’s confidentiality in its history.

Pro-life activists mark Dobbs’ first anniversary, advocate for more pregnancy support

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — As the dramatic expansion to school choice in Indiana is set to take effect on July 1, an educational effort is underway across the state: spreading the word that nearly all Hoosier families now qualify for the program.

As the dramatic expansion to school choice in Indiana is set to take effect on July 1, an educational effort is underway across the state: spreading the word that nearly all Hoosier families now qualify for the program.

School choice eligibility will now extend to 97% of Indiana families, following the state legislature’s recent passage of near-universal school choice as part of its next two-year budget. But educators and advocates say there is a learning curve to overcome, as too many parents either have not heard about the changes or do not believe that they apply to their children.

By Victoria Arthur

“‘This is a pivotal moment for families in Indiana, nearly all of whom now will have the opportunity to send their children to the school that best meets their needs,’ said John Elcesser, executive director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association (INPEA), which represents the state’s more than 400 non-public schools, including Indiana’s 175 Catholic schools. “But we are finding that there is still a large part of the population that isn’t aware of this historic expansion to school choice.”

‘This is a pivotal moment for families in Indiana, nearly all of whom now will have the opportunity to send their children to the school that best meets their needs.’

— John Elcesser, executive director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association

See related article, page 9.
BISHOPS
continued from page 1
approval for the advancement of a cause to canonize five missionary priests from Brittany, France, known as the "Shreveport martyrs." Their deaths of 1691 are now recognized as "sacrifice for the common good of the Church." The bishops approved a study of the Universal Syllabus of Errors, a teaching document created to guide catechists in the Church's early days. The study aims to ensure its relevance for today's educational needs. The bishops also discussed the "Lenten Challenge" and urged Catholics to work towards creating a more just and compassionate society. They praised the U.S. bishops' spring meeting for its focus on the "Lenten Challenge." On Monday, the bishops will focus on issues such as the Church's role in promoting justice and peace, and the importance of prayer and reflection in facing the challenges of our time. The meeting will conclude with a discussion on the "Lenten Challenge" and the importance of making faith a part of daily life. The bishops encouraged the faithful to celebrate the liturgical season of Lent with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and to reflect on their own lives and the lives of those around them. They also called for a renewed commitment to the Church's mission of spreading the Gospel and providing pastoral care to all people.
‘We don’t live in silos’ says Archbishop Thompson at Circle of Giving event

By Natalie Hoeter

The Church in central and southern Indiana is vast: 39 counties, 126 parishes, 67 Catholic schools, five Catholic Charities centers. Each has borders within which they serve—and Catholic support from within those borders. But some needs are greater than a local community can address, and some needs know no boundaries: housing the homeless, feeding the poor, forming priests and deacons, helping pregnant women choose life for their unborn children.

“When we look at how we’re carrying on the mission and ministry of the local Church, it always has to be in the context of the larger Church,” said Archbishop Charles C. Thompson. “We don’t live in islands, we live from one another.”

The archbishop made this point in his homily at a Mass on May 11 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. The Mass and a dinner and presentation were part of a Circle of Giving event sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development.

‘Reach out, warm hearts, heal wounds’

During the homily, Archbishop Thompson paraphrased the day’s Gospel reading, John 15:1-17: “Jesus says, ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments and you will have my love and you will abide in my love.”

He said the ministries of the archdiocese are meant to “reach out to people, warm hearts, to heal wounds—meaning to listen, to meet people where they’re at.”

“But we don’t leave them there. We teach them to bring them along to more fully live the joy of the Gospel and living in Christ as His disciples,” he said.

The archbishop noted that the archdiocese is meant to “reach out to people, in any way that might move them toward God.”

The archbishop also noted that the archdiocese is meant to “reach out to people in any way that might move them toward God.”

July 8 ‘Festival Mariano’ at Marian to celebrate parish renewal program

Marian University in Indianapolis is inviting the public to its first Festival Mariano, which will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Alumni Hall of the university’s main campus, 3200 Cold Spring Rd., on Saturday, July 8.

The university’s Office of Mission and Ministry is organizing this event to celebrate the participation of the parishes in Marian’s Parish Renewal program. This bilingual event hopes to celebrate in a spirit of prayer, reflecting the contributions the Hispanic community makes to the Catholic Church in the U.S.

The main topic will center on Mary and the four Franciscan sponsorship values—dignity of the individual person, peace and justice, reconciliation, and responsible stewardship—that Marian University professes. The festival will include keynote addresses and breakout sessions.

The cost is $35, including lunch. For more information, call 317-955-6508 or e-mail ocstellano@marian.edu.

A video featuring the Kruer family—a Hispanic family whose gift of annual giving to Catholic Charities in central and southern Indiana has supported the很好

‘Festival Mariano’ en Marian para celebrar programa de renovación parroquial el 8 de julio

La Universidad Marian de Indiana invita al público a su primer Festival Mariano, que se celebrará el sábado 8 de julio, de 9:30 a.m. a 4:30 p.m. en el Alumni Hall del campus principal de la universidad, situada en 3200 Cold Spring Rd.

La Oficina de Misión y Pastoral de la Universidad organiza este evento para celebrar la participación de las parroquias en el programa de renovación parroquial de Marian. Este festival bilingüe se celebrará con un espíritu de oración que refleje los aportes que realiza la comunidad hispana a la Iglesia católica en Estados Unidos.

El tema principal girará en torno a María y los cuatro pilares franciscanos—dignidad de la persona, paz y justicia, reconciliación y co-responsabilidad—que profesa la Universidad Marian. El festival incluirá conferencias magistrales y sesiones paralelas. El costo es $35 e incluye el almuerzo.

Para obtener más información, llame al 317-955-6508 o envíe un correo electrónico a ocstellano@marian.edu.

A video featuring the Kruer family—who are Catholic Charities donors—will be shown at the event, which will be held at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. (Photos by Natalie Hoeter)

A video featuring the Kruer family—who are Catholic Charities donors—will be shown at the event, which will be held at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. (Photos by Natalie Hoeter)
A memorial stone dedicated to the unborn children of the world is seen at St. Patrick Parish Cemetery in Smithsonian, N.Y., on June 22, 2021. (CNS/Photo/ Gregory A. Shemitz)

"Abortion is profoundly anti-women. Three-quarters of its victims are women; half the babies and all the mothers." —St. Teresa of Calcutta

It was nearly a year ago to the day that the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion on demand in 1973. In its landmark 5-4 Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization ruling released on June 24, 2022, the Court emphasized that there is no constitutional right to abortion in the U.S.

The Dobbs case involved a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks, in which the state directly challenged the high court’s previous-abortion-related precedents in Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey. The Supreme Court ultimately overturned its own prior rulings, undoing a nearly half-century of its own precedent on the issue.

The ruling was cheered by pro-life advocates across the country—including in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis—who for five decades had worked to put an end to the killing of innocent children. More than 50 million unborn children had their lives terminated by abortion during that time. The actions left a tragic stain on our society and left disenchanted and hurtbroken many people who had worked tirelessly to build a culture of life.

But Dobbs shone a light on a darkness that had existed for far too long.

“The Archdiocese of Indianapolis remains vigilant in its efforts to do all that it can to provide loving support to women before and after the birth of their babies regardless of creed, ethnicity or language, so that no woman ever feels alone,” Archbishop Charles C. Thompson said after the Dobbs decision last June. “We urge all people who care about human life and the common good to prioritize the well-being of women, children and families with both material resources and personal accompaniment so that no woman ever feels forced to choose between improving her circumstances and the life of her child.”

Those who support abortion rights and many in the secular media offered the misconception that there were few—if any—resources for women who decided against having an abortion.

“Nothing could be further from the truth. The Church throughout the U.S., including in central and southern Indiana, has for decades provided ministries to accompany expectant mothers to help them choose life. In the archdiocese’s 39-county region, resources have been and continue to be available at linkinMomResources. The archdiocese is also part of Walking with Moms in Need, an initiative by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to help parishes find those resources and better serve moms who turn to them for help. Visit www.walkwithmomsindy.org for more information.”

Last year’s court decision led to several states moving to give legal protection to unborn babies. (See related article on page 1.) Texas implemented a near-total ban on abortion at any point in pregnancy, while other states, such as Georgia, banned the procedure after six weeks, effectively before many women know they are pregnant and thus banning most abortions in practice. Other states, including North Carolina, have approved restrictions at later gestational points or in an unborn child’s development, where a new term legislation is written into law.

States like Indiana have bans or other limitations on abortion that are currently blocked by pending legal challenges. The Indiana State Supreme Court has still not ruled on one case, and another case is working its way through the appellate courts. Arizona, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah and Wyoming are facing similar legal challenges.

Sadly, some states—California, New York and Oregon among them—are expanding abortion access, making it easier for women to cross state lines to undergo the procedure.

Every baptized Christian is called to the same mission, which is to see others with Jesus’ eyes and heart. The states who are expanding abortion access remind us that there is still much more work to be done. They also remind us we must continue to storm the heavens with prayer that where the unborn are concerned, we can continue converting hardened and uninformed hearts. At the same time, we must continue to accompany expectant mothers to help them choose life.

Mike Krokos
Juan el Bautista procede de un

Juan el Bautista fue un profeta muy importante en la historia de Israel, recibió un nombre que le serviría para toda la eternidad, no por él mismo, sino por el que vendría después de él. Su padre, Zacarías, era sacerdote, pero luchó por lo que él creía era lo correcto. El nacimiento de Juan fue un signo de que Dios estaba preparando a la gente para recibir a Jesús. 

En el Evangelio según san Lucas, narra la fascinante historia del nacimiento de Juan, el Bautista. El niño fue maduro y fuerte, y su padre, Zacarías, comenzó a bendecir a Dios por el nacimiento de su hijo. 

El niño creció y se convirtió en un gran profeta, que predicó la llegada de Jesús, el Mesías esperado, y preparó el camino para su llegada. 

Juan el Bautista es recordado por su valentía y su dedicación a Dios, y es recordado como un símbolo de la preparación para la venida del Mesías.
Events Calendar

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

Retreats and Programs

July 7
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg, IN. Art and Creative Writing Retreat, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., $55, 317-750-7309, monetl19@hotmail.com.

July 7
1-2 p.m., Theological Heart of Mary, confessions, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Mass. Information: 812-246-2521.

July 5
MCI Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis, Soltanis, 5:30 p.m., Catholic, educational, charitable and social single—separated, widowed or divorced—age 50 and older, new members welcome, also called regular Friday night dinner events. Information: 317-796-8065.

July 7
Women’s Care Center, 4901 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. First Friday Mass, 5 p.m., optional tour of center to follow. Information: 317-829-6800, womenscarecenter.org.

July 8
Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. First Friday bilingual celebration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, 6 p.m. mass. Information: by adoration until 9 p.m., sacramento of reconciliation available. Information: 317-750-7309, monetl19@hotmail.com.

July 11
Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. Personal Day of Retreat, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., $40, includes private room for the day and lunch, spiritual direction available for additional $30, must be scheduled in advance. Information: registration: benedictinn@archindy.org.

July 14
Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, Providence House Studio, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. New Beginnings, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., $65, $35 for T-shirt, lunch, $35. Information, registration: newbeginnings@archindy.org.

July 15
Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. First Saturday Devotion, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mass, rosary, litany, consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, confessions, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Mass. Information: 812-246-2521.

July 13
Marian University Alumni Hall, 3200 Cold Spring Rd., Indianapolis. Festival Mariano, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Parish Renewal Initiative conference, keynotes addresses and breakout sessions in English and Spanish. Includes lunch, $35. Information, registration: bit.ly/Mariano23, 317-855-6668, ocoons@archindy.org.

July 12
Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. First Sunday Devotion, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mass, rosary, litany, consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, confessions, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Mass. Information: 812-246-2521.

July 13
Monsignor of the Immaculate Conception, 802 E. 108th St., Ferdinand, Ind. (Evansville Diocese). Adoration for Vocations, 7 p.m. EDT, refreshments following. Information: vocation@ theodore.org, 812-367-1411, ext. 2824.

July 17

July 15-16
All Saints Parish, St. John the Baptist Campus, 25743 State Route 1, Guilford. Chicken Dinner and Summer Festival. Sat. 5-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., food, beer garden, kiddie land, 14 Stations of the Enchiridion religious exhibit, $10,000 raffle, Sat. music by Vorkride Boys, chicken dinner served Sun. beginning at 11 a.m., free admission. Information: 812-576-4392, emivalken@yahoo.com.

July 19

July 20

July 21-23, 28-30

July 22
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 E. Stevens St., Indianapolis. Faithful Catholics Rosary Walk, 8:30-11 a.m., meet in front of church. Information: infoturkey.org, riford14@gmail.com.

Wed 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Thu. 4-7 p.m., free: Information: franciscan.edu/events/ new_horizons.

Gregory and Marsha (Bates) Ralston, members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 13. They have three children: Abby Hitze, Bill and Neal Aiken. The couple also has four grandchildren.

Bernie and Jackie (Stonich) Schroader, members of St. Malachi Parish in Brownsburg, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 30. The couple was married in the former Holy Trinity Church in Indianapolis on June 22, 1973. They have two children: Kristen Schroader and Jessica Valdez.

Bill and Mary (Welch) Akien, members of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 23. The couple was married in St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis on June 22, 1973. They have three children: Abby Hitze, Bill and Neal Akien. The couple also has four grandchildren.

Golf scramble benefiting Missy’s Hope Pregnancy Maternity Home is set for July 15

A golf scramble benefiting Missy’s Hope Pregnancy Maternity Home in Jennings County will take place at St. Anne’s Golf Course, 360 E. County Road 350 W., in North Vernon, with a tee-time of 10 a.m. on July 15.

Virtual job fairs for Catholic schools set for June 27 and July 11

The archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools is hosting two virtual job fairs. The meetings will be held from 1-2 p.m. on June 27 and July 11. The theme of the gatherings is “Open Doors, Open Arms, Open Hearts.” The fairs are open to anyone who wants to learn more about teaching opportunities in schools throughout the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. A list of current open positions can be found at https://archindy.org/jobs. Assistant Superintendent Joe Hansen will be hosting the virtual meetings. For more information, contact him at jhansen@archindy.org.

Announcements for couples celebrating 50, 60, 65, 70 or more years of marriage are accepted. Go to cutt.ly/anniversaries or call 317-236-1585.
David and Michelle Hof's shared Catholic faith is the primary guiding light for their family, as they have been blessed with the new life of a child. At the time, Michelle, trained as an educator at Marian University in Indianapolis, was teaching first grade at St. Nicholas School in Lawrence County, the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg; and Holly, an incoming sixth-grader at St. Nicholas School in Newburgh. 

The couple’s priority on their faith and decision to be a one-income family made sending their children to Catholic schools a challenge—but one that was overcome by Indiana’s Choice Scholarships, commonly known as vouchers. 

David and Michelle have to have their children educated at St. Nicholas School and the Oldenburg Academy. 

“My faith is very important to us,” said David.” Without vouchers, it would have been very difficult, if not impossible, for us to send all of our children [to Catholic schools]. During the past few years as Michael and Nicholas went off to college, David and Michelle have been grateful to see how the Catholic faith is young adults that they and the schools have instilled in them. They’ve been involved in Catholic campus ministry—helping give retreats and other activities in young adult groups. 

“That was a sacrifice that we felt was the correct decision for the raising of our children,” Michelle added. “Just being there to experience their lives as they discovered things outside on our farm has been a true joy.”

“Michelle is glad to see her children being formed in the faith at St. Nicholas and Oldenburg Academy, two schools she attended when she was growing up. The year her son graduated from Oldenburg Academy, the 50th anniversary of her high school graduation and the 25th anniversary of her high school.”

“Both of my children went to Catholic schools K-12, and throughout those years I paid tuition and taxes,” Elcesser said. Elcesser was a Catholic school principal and superintendent. “The public school system is essential to our state, and not of the vast majority of our students. I will always feel a responsibility as a citizen to support our public school system. But I also support the idea that I can spend a small percentage of my tax dollars on private school choice.”

In addition to expanding the financial eligibility component of participating in school choice, the legislation passed in April eliminated the so-called “tracks” or “pathways” to qualifying, which kept many families from participating even if they met financial eligibility guidelines. Those pathways including required a student to have a specific score on the ASVAB, including the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), the INPEA emphasizes that school choice should not and does not come at the expense of public schools, which are vital to society. 

“The push this summer and throughout the coming school year needs to be communicating that nearly every Indiana family now qualifies for school choice,” said Betty Bridges, executive director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the archdiocesan Catholic Church in Indianapolis. “The ICC also encourages everyone to be aware that California has the right to the best possible education. I believe that our public school system is still one of the finest in the country has the right to the best possible education. I believe that’s Catholic identity. And I believe that school choice is a path to sainthood. We’re all on the path to sainthood. Let’s be saints together. We welcome other people anybody—joining us on that journey.”

The offer of a quality education infused with the Catholic faith is something that David and Michelle are glad is now available to more Hoosier families with the recent expansion of the income eligibility of the Choice Scholarships.

“It goes hand in hand with a message that Father Shaun Whittington, our pastor, has said over and over again,” Michelle said. “We’re all on the path to sainthood. Let’s be saints together. We welcome other people anybody—joining us on that journey.”

Although school choice was introduced in Indiana more than a decade ago, it continues to generate questions and debate. Here are some common misconceptions about school choice—along with the corresponding facts—provided by the Indiana Non-Public Education Association (INPEA).

**MYTH:** School choice drains money from public schools. 

**REALITY:** School choice programs across the country have been proven to save state governments millions—even billions—of dollars. When a student attends a non-public school using a Choice Scholarship, the state government does not have to pay the public school the full cost for providing a public education to the student. 

In Indiana, the average voucher amount in the 2021-2022 school year was $5,439, while state funding for public schools amounted to $7,968 per student. Public schools receive local taxes for their operations, but vouchers do not receive those funds. Public schools also retain their local funding even if students attend non-public schools.

**MYTH:** Choice does not lead to better academic outcomes for students. 

**REALITY:** Across Indiana, as students continue to recover from COVID-19 learning losses, non-public school students outperformed their public-school peers on the 2022 I-LEARN state assessment.

The National Assessment of Education Progress, more commonly known as the Nation’s Report Card, shows that nationally, Catholic school students have high math scores as reading and math than their public-school peers in grades 4 and 8, the year that the assessment is administered. 

**MYTH:** School choice only benefits non-public schools. 

**REALITY:** The state of Indiana recognizes that parents should choose the school that best meets the educational and opportunities is the best overall fit for their children. In Indiana, and throughout the state, not to the school. Families can choose to send their children to alternative public schools, charters, non-public schools. 

**MYTH:** School choice programs allow for discrimination. 

**REALITY:** Nine of 10 empirical studies revealed school choice programs led to less segregation in schools. In Indiana, the population of students receiving vouchers is more diverse (43% minority) compared to traditional public school students (32% minority). 

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Choice continues from page 1

**CHOICE**

in Indiana or how it applies to their families.”

Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, any child from a family of four that earns $25,000 annually will be able to receive a Choice Scholarship, more commonly known as a voucher, to attend a school of their family’s choosing.

The far-reaching changes in scope require what Elcesser calls a “paradigm shift” in the way that people think of choice—along with the corresponding facts—provided by the Indiana Non-Public Education Association (INPEA).

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Pope to U.S. Catholics: Adore Jesus’ real presence in the Eucharist

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Catholics need to recover a sense of awe and adoration before the Eucharist, knowing that it is “the real and loving presence of the Lord,” Pope Francis told the board of directors of the National Eucharistic Revival and the National Eucharistic Congress in the United States.

“Let us be gathered in the ‘living bread which came down from heaven, the true bread that gives life to the world,’” the pope told the group on June 19, just three days after leaving the hospital following abdominal surgery.

“This morning, while I was celebrating the Eucharist, I thought about this a lot because it is what gives us life,” the pope said. “The Eucharist is God’s presence to us, the deepest hunger of the human heart, the hunger for authentic life because in the Eucharist Christ himself is truly present, waiting to nourish, console and sustain us on our journey.”

Pope Francis walked into the library using his cane in the hospital on June 16, just three days before he was at the alter during the eucharistic congress in Indianapolis on July 17-21, 2024.

The group was led by Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minn., chair of the U.S. bishops’ advisory group for the National Eucharistic Revival, a multi-year process aimed at renewing and strengthening faith in the Eucharist, and chair of the board of directors planning the eucharistic congress.

Bishop Cozzens told Catholic News Service (CNS) it was an “amazing experience” to know the pope’s “passion for the Eucharist and for the work that we’re about.”

“Too often, the group that, unfortunately, today many Catholics “believe that the Eucharist is more a symbol than the reality of the Lord’s presence and love,” he said. “Many people think the Eucharist is a celebration, but it is the real and loving presence of the Lord.”

Under Roe and its ensuing decisions, states were generally barred from restricting abortion prior to viability, or the point at which the fetus was capable of surviving outside the womb. When Roe was issued in 1973, fetal viability was considered to be about 24 weeks. Nearly 40 years later, estimates are now generally considered to be 23-24 weeks, with some estimates as low as 22 weeks.

While supporters often described Roe as settled law, opponents argue that the court in 1973 improperly legalized abortion nationwide, a matter that should have been left to legislators in Congress and to the states, many, including the Catholic Church, also argued that abortion is murder and that its legalization should be opposed on moral grounds.

Opponents of Roe challenged it for decades in public discourse and within the political square, such as the national March for Life held annually in Washington since 1974.

In a June 6 statement marking the 50th anniversary of Dobbs, Bishop Michael Burbidge of Arlington, Va., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life activities, said, “It is time to celebrate.”

“By the grace of God, the nearly 50 years of relentless efforts to undo Roe per se has resulted in demand has been put to an end. Roe v. Wade—a seemingly insurmountable legal roadblock—has been overturned,” Bishop Burbidge said. “Over the past year, while some states have acted to provide pro-life protections, other states have tragically moved to enshrine abortion in law—enacting extreme abortion policies that leave children vulnerable to abortion, even until the moment of birth. The work that lies ahead continues to not be just changing laws, but also helping to change hearts, with steadfast faith in the power of God to do so.”

Bishop Burbidge said the “task before us begins less with the knowledge of the truth and our courage to speak it and to live it with compassion,” calling for the “whole church” to be the Eucharist, with women facing an unexpected or challenging pregnancy, “enshrined in the Eucharist.”

Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life organization, told OSV News the first post-Roe year has been “amazing in so many ways” in reducing abortion. Mancini said the sheer overturn of Roe itself is “a huge accomplishment.”

Speaking off the cuff, the pope said those who believe in the Eucharist must reach out to “myth the elderly, who have given us our life, and the sick, who take the form of the suffering Jesus.”

Pope Francis prayed that the National Eucharistic Congress would be “a kind of love pilgrimage through our nation to the Lord who, by his presence

But, he said, “it is more than a symbol; it is the real and loving presence of the Lord who we encounter.”

The pope insisted on the link between celebrating Mass, eucharistic adoration and sharing the Gospel with others. “The Eucharist is about experiencing ‘everything for us, who sacrificed himself in order to give us life, who loved us to the end,’” he said. “We become ‘credibility witnesses’ and true transformers because of the power of the Gospel only when we recognize that the love we celebrate in this sacrament cannot be kept to ourselves but demands to be shared with all.”

“This is the sense of mission: You go, you celebrate Mass, you take Communion, you go to adoration—and afterward?” he asked. “Afterward you go out, you go out and evangelize; Jesus makes us this way.

The Eucharist empels us to commit to speaking for those who are not safe, those whose lives are not loved or live the meaning of the Eucharist if our hearts are closed to our brothers and sisters, especially those who are poor, suffering, who are struggling to live a ‘good life.’

Speaking off the cuff, the pope said those who believe in the Eucharist must reach out to “the elderly, who are the ones we encounter and the sick, who take the form of the suffering Jesus.”

Pope Francis said that the National Eucharistic Congress would be “a kind of love pilgrimage through our nation to the Lord who, by his presence in law—enacting extreme abortion restrictions in 20 states. New York enacted similar legislation.

But the U.S. may already be seeing some signs of a shift toward increased support for pregnant women and new mothers in its states, such as California, which lowered the age of viability from 24 weeks to 12 weeks in a 2023 abortion ban is scheduled to go into effect in July.

Bans or other limitations are blocked pending legal challenges in South Carolina, Arizona, Indiana, North Dakota, Ohio, Utah and Wyoming. South Carolina’s bill, for example, would ban abortion after six weeks if it remains in effect because a temporary hold on it one day after Gov. Henry McMaster signed it into law, asking the state Supreme Court to rule on the law. The state’s high court previously struck down similar legislation.

But some other states have moved to keep or expand abortion access within their borders, including Oregon, as well as some that permitted abortions as a result of rape or incest. But the state’s high court previously struck down similar legislation.

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Gov. Gavin Newsom said he would shield patients and providers who travel from California to states to perform abortions in California in laws in other states. New York enacted similar legislation.

Destiny Herndon-De La Rosa, founder and president of New Wave of Lives, said the fall of Roe, “was one of the most significant victories of life.”

Pope Francis blesses a 4-foot-tall monstrance, a chalice and a paten as Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minn., looks on during an annual Mass for Peace at the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican on June 19. (CNS photo/Reuters/Alessandro Di Meo)
By Natalie Hoefer

Indiana pro-life legislation still on hold due to preliminary injunctions

The U.S. Supreme Court’s Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization ruling last June—which overturned the Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision—gave authority of abortion law back to the states. The decision led to a flurry of activity in Indiana—activity that came to a sudden halt, leaving the status of Indiana’s new pro-life legislation still in limbo as the state’s abortion law in place at the time went to press this week.

The law, which greatly increased the authority of abortion law back to the states. The injunction put back into place the law violated the Indiana Constitution. The injunction put back into place Indiana’s abortion law as it stood prior to Sept. 15, which allowed abortion up to 22 weeks gestation, including at independent abortion centers. The Indiana Supreme Court heard oral arguments for the case on Jan. 19. The preliminary injunction remains in place until a decision is announced, and the justices set no deadline for a decision.

Meanwhile, a second suit was filed against SEA 1 last fall, this time a class-action lawsuit based on the grounds of restriction of religious freedom. A Marion County judge ruled in December 2022 in favor of the plaintiffs—a group of anonymous women and the Hoosier Jews For Choice organization—and placed a second preliminary injunction on SEA 1. Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita appealed the case to the Indiana Supreme Court, which in January denied hearing the case. It is now working its way through Indiana’s appellate court system.

The Indiana Supreme Court could take up both challenges in a single ruling if it wants, or it could deal with the religious liberty question as a separate issue,” explains Marc Tuttle, president of Right to Life of Indianapolis. “Obviously, if the court rules [SEA 1] is unconstitutional on privacy grounds, the religious liberty issue becomes moot. If it rules in such a way that both the privacy and religious liberty issues are addressed, it could lift all injunctions to [SEA 1]. So, we have to wait to see what the court does with its ruling.”

‘Indication of the decline in abortions’

Since the Dobbs decision, there has been a new energy in the pro-life movement, says Tuttle. “The Dobbs decision gave the pro-life movement renewed hope that we can protect every human being in law,” he says. Despite Indiana’s former, less restrictive abortion law still remaining in place, the state has seen a decrease in abortions, according to the state’s most recent termination of Pregnancy report issued in March.

“I think the biggest shift in abortion we have seen is movement away from the abortion facilities to the hospitals,” says Tuttle. “All abortion facilities except for Bloomington have apparently seen a decrease in abortions,” Tuttle adds. “Yes, there are referrals to abortion centers in Michigan, but studies have shown that the farther a woman has to travel for an abortion, the more likely she is to choose not to do it.”

“Indication of the decline in abortions’”

The closing of the Whole Woman’s Health Alliance abortion facility in South Bend in early June “is an indication of the decline in abortions, too,” Tuttle adds. “Yes, there are referrals to abortion centers in Michigan, but studies have shown that the farther a woman has to travel for an abortion, the more likely she is to choose not to do it.”

The Dobbs decision also gave us renewed energy to serve mothers in need, so we can save as many lives as possible,” he notes. “There has been a marked increase in interest in the work of pregnancy help centers.”

He also notes an increased intensity and attention to serving pregnant mothers through Indiana’s 2023 legislative General Assembly, which ended in April. “Our legislators voted for increased funding for pregnancy services, for mental health services, for health care in general, as well as funding for telehealth services to reach those moms who are contemplating abortion and help them find assistance for themselves and their baby,” says Tuttle.

He also lends House Enrolled Act 1001, which designates $7 million to alternative services for pregnant women, including the 12 pro-life Women’s Care Centers in Indiana.

Regardless of the outcome of the two lawsuits challenging SEA 1, the pro-life movement “now has to begin to engage the culture to show love and support for pregnant moms,” says Tuttle.

“We have to be involved in our city’s social services. We have to make sure that our schools are sending messages that are affirming of pregnant moms and promoting family life as the best way to raise and protect children.”

In assessing causes that lead to the decision to abort a child, Tuttle has found “the attack on the family” to be a major source.

Studies show that the traditional, two-parent family of a mom and dad is the best way to care for and protect pregnant moms,” he says. “And it’s also the best way to prevent unintended pregnancy and abortion.”

He notes reviewing studies that indicate fathers provide a two-fold protection for women.

“One, they’re there to offer care and support for sons and daughters and give them guidance,” he says. “They also serve as a deterrent to preadolescent males. When dads are present, studies show there’s less likelihood of women being used and abused, and that pre-marital sex and pregnancy decrease.” Part of the solution involves parishes “reaching out to single people to show them and nurture them in how to have loving, supporting marriages—that’s a huge first step,” says Tuttle.

“Just having couples be more bold and loving, supporting marriages—that’s a huge first step,” says Tuttle.

And just having couples be more bold as examples of loving, healthy marriages. So much of the solution to abortion takes place in the family,” he says.

His words are reminiscent of a statement St. John Paul II made in a Nov. 30, 1986, homily in Australia: “As the family goes, so goes the nation.”
Near the site of the recent attack. Museveni in a statement on Twitter on June 17. “I pray also for the young students, victims of the brutal attack against a school in the west of Uganda. This battle, this war everywhere … let us pray for peace!”

Pope Francis, in his first public appearance and Angelus prayer after returning from Gemelli hospital on June 16, prayed for the victims of the attack on June 18: “I pray also for the young students, victims of the brutal attack against a school in the west of Uganda. This battle, this war everywhere … let us pray for peace!”

On behalf of the Ugandan government … I extend heartfelt condolences to the families, students, staff of Lhubiriha Secondary School and the broader community affected by this tragedy,” said Uganda’s First Lady Janet Museveni in a statement on Twitter on June 17. Antoanetta Guiteres, Secretary General of the United Nations, extended “heartfelt condolences” to the families of the victims and called for the release of those abducted. “Those responsible for this appalling act must be brought to justice,” his statement read.

At least six students were abducted in the attack and forced to carry food that the rebels stole from the school’s stores. The ADF is a rebel group linked to the Islamic State. It was established in the 1990s by some Ugandan Muslims who felt that President Museveni had sidelined them in his policies. The Ugandan military launched attacks on the rebel movement, forcing it to relocate into eastern Congo, where the absence of state authority has allowed several rebel groups to operate and thrive.

Pope asks for prayers for children massacred in Ugandan school attack

(OSV News)—Ugandans woke up on June 17 to the shock of a school massacre in which at least 39 students and two community members were killed. Just before midnight local time on June 16, rebels suspected to be members of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) swooped into the Lhubiriha Secondary School in the town of Mpondwe, near the border with Congo. Children educated in the school were between the ages of 13 and 18. Some victims were shot, many were hacked with machetes and others burnt to death when the dormitories where they lived were set ablaze, according to Father Sunday Augustine Masereka, director of the communications office in the Diocese of Kasese, located near the site of the recent attack.

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Brian Lumumba

By Benjamin Parr

Special to The Criterion

God calls us all to our own unique vocation that we are meant to live out with love. Following this vocation can be a difficult task. Sometimes you need a little assistance. Blessed Carlo Acutis used his already entrenched love of the Eucharist in order to answer God’s call. Carlo’s love of the Eucharist was evident early on. Since the age of 3, he would go to Mass every day. He really couldn’t stand to be away from Christ in the sacrament. This amount of discipline from someone so young is inspiring in itself. If a toddler can have such a diligent work ethic, surely a teenager like me can, too. However, it didn’t feel like work to Carlo. He truly enjoyed being in the presence of Christ every day, and he saw it as a gift.

When Carlo would make his daily trip to the church, he wasn’t just focused on himself and Jesus. He was keeping others in mind, too. He had been experiencing this great love of the Eucharist and wanted others to feel that same sensation. So, he would invite others to come and worship alongside him. Sometimes when I focus too much on myself, I can forget that my neighbors are just as important to my relationship with God. When I ignore God in others, I ignore God in myself. However, if I follow Carlo’s example, then I can remember to include others in my faithful journey.

Carlo also knew how important God’s gifts to us are. He recognized that he had a knack for computer coding and technology and let it shine through instead of wasting it. Through this gift, he shared his love of the Eucharist with an even wider audience on the Internet. Today, Carlo’s website, which contains lists of miracles of the Eucharist around the world, is still accessible to millions of people across the world. Carlo’s use of his gifts gives me an example of how to use my own God-given talents. For example, I can use my experience as a musician to spread the knowledge of God to anyone willing to listen.

Unfortunately, Carlo would succumb to leukemia at the age of 15. Even though he passed at such a young age, Carlo was ready to part from this world to the next. He loved the Eucharist so much that he was already prepared to return to Jesus.

If I lead a holy life for God, then I should be able to feel that same way when I pass. The scary reality is that I never know when that might happen, but Carlo has inspired me to start preparing myself as soon as possible. Blessed Carlo Acutis was called to use his gifts to spread God’s word, which he was able to do through his love of the Eucharist. If I follow his example of generosity and dedication, then I, too, can use my desire for the Eucharist to live as God calls me to.

(Benjamin and his parents, Drew and Lina Parr, are members of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis. He recently completed the eighth grade at Christ the King School in Indianapolis and is the eighth-grade division winner in the Indianapolis Serra Club’s 2023 John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest.)

Blessed Carlo leads student to see God in others through the Eucharist

Serra Club Vocations Essay

God calls us all to our own unique vocation that we are meant to live out with love. Following this vocation can be a difficult task. Sometimes you need a little assistance. Blessed Carlo Acutis used his already entrenched love of the Eucharist in order to answer God’s call. Carlo’s love of the Eucharist was evident early on. Since the age of 3, he would go to Mass every day. He really couldn’t stand to be away from Christ in the sacrament. This amount of discipline from someone so young is inspiring in itself. If a toddler can have such a diligent work ethic, surely a teenager like me can, too. However, it didn’t feel like work to Carlo. He truly enjoyed being in the presence of Christ every day, and he saw it as a gift.

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Blessed Solanus Casey is a witness of power of prayer, listening and care

By Catherine Odell

(OSV News)—Father Solanus Casey, a Capuchin Franciscan, moved closer to recognized sainthood with his beatification on Nov. 18, 2017, in Detroit, Mich. Declared venerable in 1995, Father Solanus (1870-1957) and his cause for canonization remain important to many Catholics in the U.S. A soft-spoken Capuchin priest and son of Irish immigrants, he is one of the currently few native-born North Americans beatified. His feast day is on July 30, the eve of the anniversary of his death.

Though Father Solanus died many decades ago, Detroit has never forgotten him. Authentic and approachable, Father Solanus was devoted to the Detroit Tigers. He loved hot dogs with onions, shooting pool, family reunions and practical jokes. Most of all, as others knew, he loved God and helping others.

In 1929, four days after the Stock Market Crash, Father Solanus helped start a soup kitchen. All too soon, as automobile factories closed, it was feeding between 1,500 and 3,000 people a day.

Even with this great legacy, in the eyes of many it was undoubtedly his ministry of prayer and healing that showed forth his sanctity.

However, it requires more than a legacy and life devoted to prayer and healing to be recognized by the Church as a blessed or saint. In September 2016, the Vatican approved a miracle attributed to Solanus’ intercession involving a Panamanian woman with an incurable, congenital skin disease.

She was visiting friends in Detroit and asked to go to the Solanus Center to pray at the tomb of Father Solanus. She wanted to pray for others who needed healing. While praying, she heard a voice within saying, “Pray for yourself.” She did, and was instantly cured of a lifelong skin ailment.

Back in her own country, she went to five doctors. They all agreed that there was no scientific explanation for her cure. She wished to remain anonymous for a time, the archbishop said, because she didn’t want to draw undue attention to herself—a consideration that matured Father Solanus’ own qualities.

Bernard Francis Casey Jr. was born on Nov. 25, 1870, in Oak Grove, Wis. “Barney” was the sixth child of Ellen and Bernard Casey Sr., and, after three boys, the couple decided to give this son his father’s name—Bernard Francis. More Casey children followed, and eventually there were 16 children in the close-knit Casey clan.

They were Midwestern farmers, and every young Casey child helped to support the family.

Selling was a risky business, and the nightly Casey family rosary often ended with prayers for good harvests and protection from prairie fires, locusts and drought.

After years of prayer and soul-searching, Barney felt that God was calling him to be a priest. He entered the seminary of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee but had to leave because of academic problems. At age 26, he again entered a seminary in Detroit, joining the Capuchin Franciscans.

Since the seminary faculty spoke mostly German, Barney was at a disadvantage again. His superiors were eventually concerned with his theological knowledge and understanding. When ordination finally came in 1904, Barney—by then he had taken the religious name Solanus—was ordained what was then known as a “simplex” priest, which meant that he did not have the authority to hear confession or to preach.

What limitations there were for a 34-year-old priest who wanted to give everything to God. Though it surely humiliated him, Father Solanus was completely obedient and ready for any role. His first pastoral assignments were at Capuchin parishes in New York. Father Solanus was given simple jobs: acting as doorkeeper, training altar servers, serving as sacristan, moderating the Ladies Sodality.

Parishioners were soon drawn to Father Solanus—finding that the doorkeeper was compassionate, wise and patient—and sought his pastoral care. Unburdened by the usual responsibilities of a parish priest, he had time to listen, God used that. Within a year or two, the lines of visitors wanting to talk with the doorkeeper about their family, medical and financial problems were long—every day.

In New York parishes and later back at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit and at St. Felix Friary in Huntington, Ind., Father Solanus reminded people that he couldn’t hear confessions. He did assure them of God’s mercy and unbounded love. “Thank God ahead of time,” he counseled. “His plans for us are always the best.”

As well as providing a listening ear, Father Solanus continued to demonstrate his devotion to prayer, healing and the Church. He asked those who could afford it to make a contribution to the Capuchins’ Seraphic Mass Association, which supported Capuchin missions around the world. While Father Solanus was still in New York, his Capuchin superiors asked him to keep a record of prayer requests. He also took notes when a healing or an unexplainable turn of events was reported.

Eventually, Father Solanus filled seven ledger-style notebooks with notes on more than 6,000 “cases.” On about 700 of those case notations, he later went back and added amazing endings. Among them:

—Papa went to confession and holy Communion for the first time in 49 years,” Solanus penned at the end of an entry about a woman asking for prayers for her father who had left the Church.

—“Walking out of the monastery without assistance” followed his notations on a 46-year-old man who suffered a fractured skull and broken back several weeks earlier in a car accident. The man was carried in to see Father Solanus.

—Declared entirely cured [on] July 2 without having any operation.” Father Solanus added that note to data recorded about 59-year-old Bertha Smith, who’d been diagnosed with stomach cancer. She’d already had four operations. Father Solanus was 86. An estimated 20,000 people came to the doorkeeper’s wake and funeral.

Today, people come from all over the world to his tomb. They leave tiny slips of paper with prayer requests there. He is a model for the value of caring and continues to teach us the power of listening.

(Catherine Odell is married and mother of two grown children. She works as a freelance writer and editor. A committed organic gardener, baker, walker and reader, she lives in South Bend, Ind.)
Addictions and mental health in our jails and prisons

Many of you may remember the days of state-operated mental health institutions. The federal government substantially cut back the operation of these hospitals from the early 1960’s through the early 1990’s. The purpose and goal of these facilities was to provide care for those with psychotic mental illnesses. However, quality of care in some of these facilities was very poor. Their reputation suffered from this poor care.

The federal government was instrumental in the process of shutting down these facilities in 1971. The invention of Thorazine and other antipsychotic drugs gave the false hope that people could manage their own mental health conditions. From 1971 to 1980, 650,000 patients were discharged with only one prescription for these drugs. There was no plan for aftercare.

Many, if not most of these individuals, ended up homeless or in our jails and prisons. Studies have shown that at least 24% of our incarcerated have had at least one psychotic mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorders and several anxiety disorders. Additionally, it is estimated that more than 400,000 people with severe psychotic mental illnesses are imprisoned. This is estimated to be six times higher than the number of people in mental health hospitals with the same mental health conditions. There are hundreds of thousands more living in homeless shelters and roaming our streets.

In addition, the number of incarcerated people with traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is alarming. It has been reported that people with these conditions are much more likely to end up in jail or prison than a “normal” person.

TBI can be caused by shaking a baby, a motor vehicle accident, being hit by sports equipment, a fall or prison than a “normal” person. PTSD is known to be caused by things such as concussions, loud explosions near the head, a fall or prison than a “normal” person.

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The invention of Thorazine and other antipsychotic drugs gave the false hope that people could manage their own mental health conditions. From 1971 to 1980, 650,000 patients were discharged with only one prescription for these drugs. There was no plan for aftercare.

Many, if not most of these individuals, ended up homeless or in our jails and prisons. Studies have shown that at least 24% of our incarcerated have had at least one psychotic mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorders and several anxiety disorders. Additionally, it is estimated that more than 400,000 people with severe psychotic mental illnesses are imprisoned. This is estimated to be six times higher than the number of people in mental health hospitals with the same mental health conditions. There are hundreds of thousands more living in homeless shelters and roaming our streets.

In addition, the number of incarcerated people with traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is alarming. It has been reported that people with these conditions are much more likely to end up in jail or prison than a “normal” person.
The Book of Jeremiah supplies the first reading for Mass this weekend. Jeremiah wrote at a time when life was hard for God’s chosen people. Life was good for them only for a brief period. Their nation was unified under one ruler for a relatively short period of time, comparatively peaceful and secure. There was only one Golden Age, namely the years of the reigns of David and his son Solomon. After Solomon, the country divided. Weakened, often at odds with each other, the two resulting kingdoms never attained the level of prosperity and contentment that the single nation had known earlier. Moreover, dismembered and quarreling among themselves, the two Hebrew states were attractive prey for ambitious neighbors. All this was bad enough. For prophets such as Jeremiah, the worst aspect was that the people had grown sluggish in their obedience to the commandments and in their reverence for God. The prophets saw in this laxity “the principal threat to the future security of the people.” In other words, the people had brought bad times upon themselves. This reading from Jeremiah reflects the sad state of affairs. It calls the people back to God. Only in being faithful to God will they regain security. St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans supplies the second reading. A verse read on this weekend, namely Romans 5:12, is one of the few biblical texts about which the Church infallibly and formally has spoken. The teaching of this verse is simple. Humans themselves brought sin and evil into the world through the sin of Adam. Humans themselves brought sin and evil among themselves, the two Hebrew neighbors. Moreover, dismembered and quarreling neighbors. The birds fly beneath me. The treetops glisten with light. Gently secured in your arms, yet I can see clearly. A virtual beauty surrounds me, unwilling to leave my bed. Take Flight
By Stephanie Jackson
The time is early morning. Unwilling to leave my bed. I keep my eyes closed and speak with you instead. “Please take me somewhere beautiful, with views from Heaven above. Say “show me your landscape artistry. Your creations made with love.” My eyes are still closed, yet I can see clearly. A virtual beauty surrounds me, feeling you embrace me dearly. We begin to take flight. Escalated heights into the sky. Gently secured in your arms. I release a tranquil sigh. I see the majestic waterfalls. The treetops glisten with light. The birds fly beneath me. The sun above is bright. You come into my dreams gifting a scenario, breathtaking sight. When I close my eyes, embrace me to take flight. Written by Stephanie Jackson is a member of St. Vincent DePaul Parish in Bedford. Photo: A waterfall cascades in the Great Smoky Mountains in North Carolina. (CNS photo/ Bob Roller)

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
The Sunday Readings
Sunday, June 25, 2023
• Jeremiah 20:10-13
• Romans 5:12-15
• Matthew 10:26-33

The teaching of this verse is simple. Humans themselves brought sin and evil into the world through the sin of Adam. Humans themselves brought sin and evil among themselves, the two Hebrew neighbors. Moreover, dismembered and quarreling neighbors. The birds fly beneath me. The treetops glisten with light. Gently secured in your arms, yet I can see clearly. A virtual beauty surrounds me, unwilling to leave my bed. Take Flight
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Daily Readings
Monday, June 26
Genesis 12:1-9
Psalm 13:1-2, 18-20, 32
Matthew 7:1-5

Tuesday, June 27
St. Cyril of Alexandria, bishop and doctor of the Church
Genesis 13:12-18
Psalm 15:4-48, 5
Matthew 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday, June 28
St. Irenaeus, bishop, martyr and doctor of the Church
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 105:1-4, 6-9
Matthew 7:19-20

Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of St. Peter and Paul
Acts 3:1-10
Psalm 19:2-5
Galatians 1:11-20
John 21:15-19

Thursday, June 29
St. Peter, Apostle
Psalm 13:1-2, 18-20
Matthew 12:1-11
Psalm 34:2-9
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
Matthew 16:13-19

Friday, June 30
The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
Genesis 17:1, 9-10, 15-22
Psalm 128:1-5
Matthew 8:1-4

Saturday, July 1
St. Junipero Serra, priest
Matthew 8:5-17

Sunday, July 2
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a
Psalm 89:2-3, 16-19
Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
Matthew 10:37-42

Question Corner: Jenna Marie Cooper

Frequent confession can be an act of love of the penitent for God

When I was in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the instructor told of confession and that’s something unusual, weekly Eucharist reception is sufficient for forgiveness. There’s no need to bother the people with your daily, petty, minor sins.” Could you comment? (Kentucky)

A Catholics are required to go to confession at least once a year during the Easter season if they have serious sins to confess. But of course, in the spiritual life we’re never encouraged to just stick to the bare minimum. Regular and frequent confessions have always been encouraged, although the ideal frequency will depend on the individual and their specific needs. For some of us, weekly confessions could be very appropriate.

The Church acknowledges what is traditionally termed a “devotional confession,” where a person confesses relatively minor, venial sins out of love for God. And when you think about our sacramental life in terms of a relationship with the Lord, this makes sense. When we care about people like a friend or relative, we say we’re sorry and seek their forgiveness whenever we may have hurt them, even in small ways.

Q If a Catholic attends a Catholic Ecumenical Church on Sunday, can that be considered a fulfillment of one’s Mass obligation for Sunday?

A I’m not familiar with what is a “Catholic Ecumenical Church.” Is the short answer to your question that anything other than an ordinary Catholic Mass would not fulfill one’s Sunday obligation.

The Code of Canon Law refers to the Sunday obligation in canon 1247, which states: “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass.”

Canon 1248, 1, then goes on to give specifics with regard to what “counts” as Mass attendance: “A person who assists at a Mass celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite whatever day it may be or in the evening of the preceding day satisfies the obligation of participating in the Mass.”

Note that this context, to “assist” at Mass simply means to attend Mass with prayerful devotion, i.e., to pray actively though not as a member of the clergy who proper to the lay faithful. It doesn’t necessarily mean “helping” with the Mass by taking on a role such as a lector or altar server.

“Anywhere in a Catholic rite” means that any Catholic can satisfy their Sunday obligation by attending Mass in any Catholic church anywhere in the world, whether that be the Latin (a.k.a. “Roman”) Catholic Church most familiar to us in North America or the eucharistic liturgy of one of the many Eastern Catholic Churches.

Canon 1248, 2, tells us that “If participation in the eucharistic celebration becomes impossible because of the absence of a sacred minister or for another grave cause, it is strongly recommended that the faithful take part in a liturgy of the word if such a liturgy is celebrated in a parish church or other sacred place [. . .] or that they devote themselves to prayer for a suitable time alone, as a family, or, as the occasion permits, in groups of families.”

However, someone cannot fulfill their Sunday obligation by participating in a Catholic “word and communion” service, by spending time in family or personal prayer, or even by watching a livestream or televised Mass, if it would have been realistically possible for you to physically attend Mass in person that day.

If it truly is impossible to get to Mass—whether due to illness, inclement weather or some other truly serious reason—the Sunday obligation would not be binding in that instance. So, the recommendations for other types of Sunday prayer in these scenarios is basically the same as the law reminding us that when we legitimately can’t get to Mass, we still ought to observe Sundays as a special day of prayer in some manner.

(Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, is a consecratedvirgin and a canonist whose column appears weekly at CNS News. Send your question to: CatholicQA@osv.com)
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 significant connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.

BOROSKI, Walter P., 80, Christ the King, Indianapolis, June 3. Husband of Beverly Boroski. Father of Amy Childs, Craig and John Boroski. Brother of Terry Patrick. Grandfather of six.


WHITE, Timothy, 62, St. Michael the Archangel, Indianapolis, June 7. Husband of Kathleen White. Father of Christine, Julia and Mary Ann White. Brother of Betsy Holak, Brenda Kueck, Barbara, Beverly and Thomas White III. Uncle of several.†

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—God wants young people to bring joy to the hearts of the elderly and to learn from their experiences, Pope Francis said.

“Yet above all, the Lord wants us not to abandon the elderly or to push them to the margins of life, as tragically happens all too often in our time,” the 86-year-old pope wrote in a message to young people to bring joy to the hearts of grandparents and grandchildren, “between different generations: between those who come before and now, on money and possessions, on physical strength and thinking with regret achieved instantly but through a process of growth and maturation, in dialogue and in relationship with others,” he wrote.

The message was released at the Vatican on June 15 in anticipation of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly being observed on July 26.

Pope Francis invited the faithful to “break free from the fleeting present in which virtual reality can entrap us, preventing us from doing something productive,” he wrote. “For the elderly, it means not dwelling on the loss of physical strength and thinking with regret about missed opportunities” and dwelling on the past.

Pope Francis invited the faithful to “make a concrete gesture that would include grandparents and the elderly,” and to honor them, “neither depriving ourselves of our company nor depriving them of ours. May we never allow the elderly to be cast aside!”

The Diocesary for Laity, the Family and Life said in a communiqué released the same day that pastoral tools useful in the preparation of the world day were available on its website, laityfamilylife.va.

The students at St. Simon the Apostle School in Indianapolis recently set out to honor their late theater director/music teacher Philippe Moore with their spring production of “St. Simon Night Live,” where all proceeds were donated to Be Like Bill, a local organization whose mission is to increase survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest, including education, awareness and the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). The students raised more than $800 to put an AED in a local archdiocesan school in need. Pictured, front from left: Oella Berty, Morgan Barleyke, Lila Voelkel, Georgia Holman, Jack Reese and Karen Berty. Back row: Jason Berty, Abbie Yousaf, Andie Papesh, Lilly Dengler, Anna Drees, Chloe Kendall and Jeff Utzinger. (Submitted photo)
St. Anne Parish creates Marian grotto from former St. Rose of Lima grotto

By Patty Hughes
Special to The Criterion

NEW CASTLE—St. Anne Parish in New Castle recently blessed a Marian grotto that pays tribute to the former St. Rose of Lima Parish in Knightstown. In 2016, under decree by then-Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, St. Rose of Lima was merged with St. Anne Parish. Three years later, after much consideration and examination of the church structure, it was decided to sell the St. Rose of Lima church property by decree of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson. In November of 2019, the last Mass was celebrated at St. Rose of Lima Church.

Many items from the church were sold to other parishes or given to missions for use. But there was one item St. Anne parish wanted to keep—the former St. Rose of Lima Marian grotto. The grotto was encircled by a walk of bricks that contained the names of all pastors, deacons and religious that served at St. Rose of Lima. Parishioners also purchased memorial bricks to complete and help with the cost of the project.

Father John Hall, pastor of St. Anne Parish, suggested moving the grotto to the St. Anne cemetery. Parishioners of both the former St. Rose of Lima and those at St. Anne were in favor of the project. Although the grotto structure itself was too massive and delicate to move, the Marian statue, benches and bricks from St. Rose were removed and stored through the course of three years.

After a cemetery driveway restoration project, delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and cost increases that required a redesign of the initial plan, efforts to create the Marian grotto finally got underway this past year.

The design is in the shape of a cross using the bricks from the former grotto’s walkway. The bricks used that have no names will be offered for memorials in the future to help with the expense. The Marian statue sits on a pedestal at the top arm of the cross with two benches on either side. It is a project the parishioners were waited anxiously to complete. The grotto was blessed by Father Hall on May 28.

The parishioners are grateful for all the hard work, fundraising and physical effort that went into creating this beautiful space from the former St. Rose of Lima grotto. It is the hope of all parishioners that this will be a quiet place for those who visit the cemetery to spend a few minutes in prayer to the Blessed Mother.

employment

Parish Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
St. Pius X Catholic Church

The Parish Receptionist/Administrative Assistant position is a critical part of the parish environment welcoming parishioners, new parishioners, visitors and being the first voice of outreach to those who call for Sacramental needs. The Parish Receptionist/Administrative Assistant is a critical part of the team of parish staff.

Parish Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

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St. Pius X Catholic Church

The Parish Receptionist/Administrative Assistant position is a critical part of the parish environment welcoming parishioners, new parishioners, visitors and being the first voice of outreach to those who call for Sacramental needs.

Some basic responsibilities include but are not limited to:
- Welcomes visitors and parishioners with a smile; provides the necessary friendly assistance; providing opportunities to bring visitors into the office;
- Answers phones and handles calls as appropriate; Receives deliveries and mail. Assists with tasks such as mailings, copying, filing, creating labels, telephoning, answering phones, creating documents, etc.;
- Maintains Parish calendar, scheduling appointments, special events, meetings, flexible and adaptable personality to new tasks and responsibilities;
- Receives parishioners;
- Takes the calls;
- Answers questions;
- Schedules appointments;
- Greets people;
- Answers phone;
- Answers emails;
- Answers letters.

General Qualifications:
- Must be a practicing Catholic faithful to the teachings of the Church. Maintain confidentiality in all parish matters. Excellent organizational and filing skills, basic computer knowledge, professional bearing, answering phones, accurate typing skills, basic knowledge of Microsoft Office Excel and Word, good interpersonal skills, ability to work in a team environment.

Please submit resume letter of interest via email to Kevin Sweeney at ksweeney@spxparish.org.
Corpus Christi
Love for the Eucharist shown across archdiocese

Father Kyle Rodden carries a monstrance holding the Blessed Sacrament during a eucharistic procession on June 11 on the streets of Corydon on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, traditionally known as Corpus Christi. Father Rodden is pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Corydon and St. Mary Parish in Lanesville. (Submitted photo)

Left, Father Robert Robeson, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove, presides over a Benediction service on June 11, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, traditionally known as Corpus Christi, at the parish’s church. (Submitted photo)

Right, Father Jerry Byrd kneels on June 10 before a monstrance holding the Blessed Sacrament on an outdoor altar at St. Joseph Parish in Jennings County during a Corpus Christi procession. (Submitted photo)

Msgr. William F. Stumpf, archdiocesan vicar general and pastor of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, leads a Corpus Christi procession on June 10 on the campus of the Indianapolis North Deanery faith community. (Submitted photo)

Children who received First Communion at St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis pose on June 10 at the parish on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, traditionally known as Corpus Christi. (Submitted photo)

Father Jonathan Meyer carries a monstrance holding the Blessed Sacrament in a June 7 eucharistic procession on the grounds of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish in Bright. Father Meyer is a priest in solidum in the four parishes in Dearborn County. (Submitted photo)

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