



The

# Criterion

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## Marriage and Family Life Supplement

Articles, information, engagements and more, pages 9-12.

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Archbishop Charles C. Thompson presents the archdiocese's Legacy Award to Patricia Etling during the Legacy Gala at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis on Feb. 6. (Photo courtesy of Denis Ryan Kelly Jr.)

## Patricia Etling—mom of 10 and servant leader—earns archdiocese's Legacy Award

By John Shaughnessy

If there is ever a doubt that children pay more attention to their parents' actions than their words, listen to a few of the 10 children of Patricia Etling talk about their mother.

Joe Etling describes their mom's 53-year commitment to Catholic Charities Terre Haute in this way: "There isn't a place I go to that people don't ask about my mother. And some of them, I can't even fathom how they even know her. *'Your mom could sure throw around those pallets up at the food bank.'* She was still doing that, I'm certain, well into her 70s, maybe her 80s."

Jeff Etling nods and adds, "Giving of herself throughout her life, whether it was to her family, to her community, to her faith, to others that are strangers that she's meeting for the first time, she was always giving, not looking for her own needs."

And John C. Etling's face beams as he notes about his parents, "We never went without the basic essentials of life. In addition to that, there was a lot of love. I think for both my mom and dad, Catholic Charities provided a way for them to put their energy into service."

There is no greater reward for a mother than the praise, gratitude and love of her children. At the same time, the

See ETLING, page 14

## ICC, bishops call for 'humane legislative solutions' on immigration

By Victoria Arthur

As the debate over immigration continues to intensify nationwide, the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) and the state's bishops are urging Indiana



lawmakers to seek solutions that are rooted in empathy and respect for human dignity.

At the heart of the discussion is Senate Bill 76, the centerpiece of immigration legislation in this short session of the Indiana General Assembly. The measure aims to tighten the enforcement of federal immigration laws at the local level in Indiana, mandating cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) by state and local law enforcement, government bodies, employers, colleges and other entities.

Concerns over the measure, which passed the Indiana Senate in late January and at press time was advancing through the House, prompted the ICC to submit a letter to lawmakers calling for a balanced approach.

The ICC—the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana—



Alexander Mingus

urged caution with "continued legislative efforts to amplify indiscriminate immigration enforcement" without also seeking to "protect legal and unauthorized immigrants from unjust discrimination and unnecessary

deportation, preserve family unity, and promote humane legislative solutions."

"In Indiana, we cannot justify a one-sided approach to immigration policy that is only focused on enforcement," said Alexander Mingus, executive director of the ICC, in his letter to members of the

See IMMIGRATION, page 8

## Archbishop Fulton Sheen's beatification moves ahead after 6-year pause

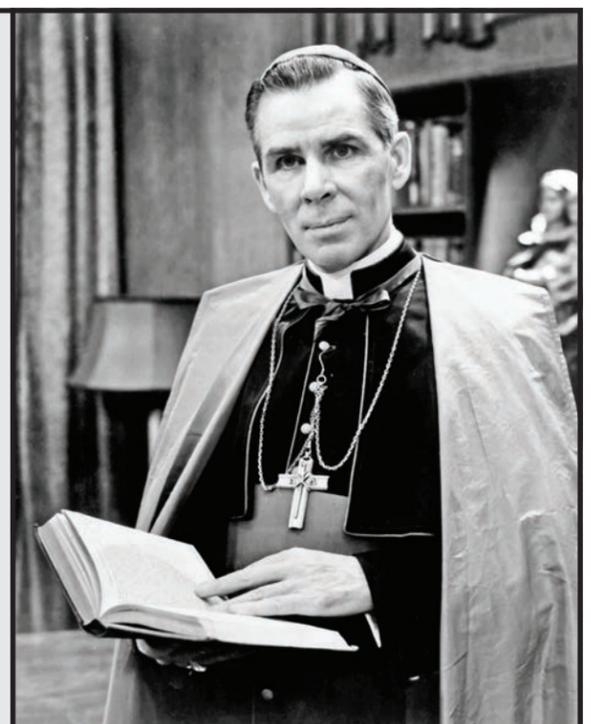
(OSV News)—Venerable Fulton J. Sheen will soon be beatified, now that the Vatican has given the green light, the Diocese of Peoria, Ill., announced on Feb. 9. At press time, no date or location for the beatification was given.

The announcement comes six years after the Holy See had postponed the beatification, initially scheduled for December 2019, only weeks before the event was to take place.

"The Holy See has informed me that the Cause for the Venerable Servant of God Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen can proceed to beatification," Bishop Louis Tylka of Peoria said in a Feb. 9 statement. "The next step in the process is the celebration of the beatification, in which Fulton Sheen would be declared blessed."

See SHEEN, page 20

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, pictured in an undated photo, is remembered as one of the most influential and innovative evangelists in American history. Once dubbed "God's microphone," Archbishop Sheen announced God's truth in a nonconfrontational, yet no less life-giving, manner to untold millions through radio, print and television. (OSV News file photo)





Pope Leo XIV waves to pilgrims holding a flag of the United States as he arrives in St. Peter's Square on the popemobile for his general audience at the Vatican on June 18, 2025. The Vatican press office confirmed on Feb. 8 that Pope Leo XIV has no plans to visit the U.S. this year. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

## Vatican confirms Pope Leo XIV will not visit the U.S. in 2026

(OSV News)—The Vatican press office confirmed that Pope Leo XIV has no plans to visit the U.S. this year.

“The pope will not be going to the United States in 2026,” Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said in response to journalists’ questions on Feb 8 without sharing a reason for the decision.

Vice President JD Vance extended an invitation on behalf of President Donald J. Trump during a May 19 meeting with Pope Leo, not long after his papal election, the Reuters news agency reported.

According to a handout video shared by the Vatican, the pope was heard saying that he would visit “at some point.”

While many had hoped that Pope Leo would visit his homeland, the trip seemed unlikely to happen in the immediate future, given the growing divide between the Trump administration and the pope over his criticism of U.S. policies targeting migrants.

Speaking with journalists outside Castel Gandolfo last September, the pope said Catholic politicians should be judged by their overall policy positions, not just a single issue.

“Someone who says I’m against abortion but is in favor of the death penalty is not really pro-life,” the pope said. “And someone who says I’m against abortion, but I’m in agreement with the inhuman treatment of immigrants in the United States, I don’t know if that’s pro-life.”

At another press gathering in November, the pope expressed his support for the pastoral message released by the U.S. bishops’ conference on the enforcement of immigration policies in the country.

In their message, the bishops wrote, in part, “Catholic teaching exhorts nations to recognize the fundamental dignity

of all persons, including immigrants. We bishops advocate for a meaningful reform of our nation’s immigration laws and procedures. Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.”

“When people are living good lives—and many of them [in the United States] for 10, 15, 20 years—to treat them in a way that is extremely disrespectful, to say the least,” is not acceptable, the pope said on Nov. 18, 2025.

The Holy Father said that while every country “has a right to determine who and how and when people enter,” it was also important “to look for ways of treating people humanely, treating people with the dignity that they have” when enforcing immigration policies.

Despite the pope’s criticism, Trump said he was unaware of the pope’s comments and was open to meeting with him.

“Sure, I will. Why not?” the president said in an interview with Politico published in December.

The Holy See typically announces papal visits months or even just weeks in advance, and it has not issued any announcement about the pope’s 2026 travel destinations.

However, bishops in Angola, Algeria and Spain have confirmed that Pope Leo will visit their countries this year.

Pope Leo has also expressed his desire to visit Latin America during a press conference aboard the papal flight to Rome on Dec. 2, 2025.

“Obviously, I would love to visit Latin America; Argentina and Uruguay are waiting for the pope’s visit. Peru, I think they will receive me, too! And then, if I go to Peru, [I could visit] many neighboring countries as well. But the plan is not yet defined,” the pope said. †



## Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

February 14–24, 2026

February 14 – 10:30 a.m.

Rite of Election at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Church, Floyds Knobs

February 15 – 2 p.m.

Rite of Election at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

February 15 – 6 p.m.

Rite of Election at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

February 16 – 5 p.m.

Catholic Legislators dinner at Ruth’s Chris Steakhouse, Indianapolis

February 17 – 11 a.m.

College of Deans meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

February 18 – 10 a.m.

Department Heads meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center

February 18 – Noon

Ash Wednesday Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

February 18 – 1 p.m.

Holy Hour for Peace at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

February 18 – 2:30 p.m.

Virtual CRS Budget and Finance Committee orientation meeting

February 19-22

Los Angeles Religious Education Congress at Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, Calif.

February 24 – 9 a.m.

Mass for the students of St. Pius X School at St. Pius X Church, Indianapolis

February 24 – 1 p.m.

Council of Priests meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center

## Holy Hour for Peace set for Feb. 18 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indy

Criterion staff report

In response to the violence, division and injustice in our nation, all are invited on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18,



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

to gather in prayer for peace, healing and respect for the dignity of every human life.

The Holy Hour for Peace will take place in SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, following the

Feb. 18 noon Mass. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson is scheduled to be the principal celebrant at the liturgy and to take part in the holy hour.

“Your faith matters. Your prayers matter. Your acts of love and works of justice matter,” said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in his invitation to bishops and priests across the U.S. to offer a holy hour for peace.

“The current climate of fear and polarization, which thrives when human dignity is disregarded, does not meet the standard set by Christ in the Gospel,” he continued. †

## What act of joy and love helped you move closer to Christ and others in Lent?

With Ash Wednesday coming soon on Feb. 18, *The Criterion* encourages you to savor all the desserts you love until then. At the same time, we invite you to share the stories, ideas and acts of joy and love that brought you closer to Christ and others during a previous Lent.

We hope to share these stories and ideas with all our readers, to help all of us have a more meaningful Lent, one that draws us closer to Christ and others in joy and love.

Send your submissions and your stories to John Shaughnessy by e-mail at [jshaughnessy@archindy.org](mailto:jshaughnessy@archindy.org) or by mail in care of *The Criterion*, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202. Please include your parish and a daytime phone number where you can be reached. †

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**NEWS FROM YOU!**

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The Criterion

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# Pope: Church can help sports by flexing values, strengthening human dignity

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—As the 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Milan Cortina were beginning, Pope Leo XIV called on the Catholic Church to recognize sport as an opportunity to offer much-needed human and spiritual guidance.



Pope Leo XIV

With so many dangers and distortions threatening the integrity of athletics and the dignity of players, the Church can help strengthen the needed harmony between people's physical and spiritual development, he wrote, helping sport become a place "for athletes to learn to take care of themselves without falling prey to vanity, to push themselves to their limits without harming themselves and to compete without losing sight of fraternity."

Pope Leo, who considers himself "a decent amateur tennis player," issued a letter on "the value of sport" on Feb. 6 titled "Life in Abundance," from Jesus' declaration, "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly," from the Gospel of St. John (Jn 10:10).

The need for holistic, integral human development is critical, he wrote, because "the danger of narcissism ... permeates the entire sporting culture today. Athletes can become obsessed with their physical image and with their own success, measured by visibility and approval."

And sometimes sports can take on a "quasi-religious dimension" with athletes perceived as "saviors," he wrote. "When sport claims to replace religion, it loses its character as a game that benefits our lives, becoming instead aggrandized, all-encompassing and absolute."

The pope dated and released the eight-page letter the same day the XXV Winter Olympic Games in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo began on Feb. 6. Set to run until Feb. 22, the international sporting event will be followed by the XIV Paralympic Games on March 6-15.

Offering his "greeting and good wishes to those who are directly involved" in the Games, the pope also encouraged all the world's nations to "rediscover and respect" the Olympic Truce as a symbol and promise of hope and reconciliation in "a world thirsting for peace."

"We need tools that can put an end to the abuse of power, displays of force and indifference to the rule of law," the pope wrote, decrying the "radicalization of conflict and a refusal to cooperate" as well as a "culture of death."

The world is witnessing "lives broken, dreams shattered, survivors' trauma, cities destroyed—as if human coexistence were superficially reduced to a video game scenario," he wrote, repeating St. John Paul II's warning that aggression, violence and war are "always a defeat for humanity."

The Olympic Truce is built on the belief that

participating in public sport with a spirit of "virtue and excellence" promotes greater fraternity, solidarity and the common good, he wrote.

"International competitions offer a privileged opportunity to experience our shared humanity in all its rich diversity," he wrote. "Indeed, there is something deeply moving about the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games, when we see the athletes parade with their national flags and in the traditional garments of their countries."

These global gatherings "can inspire us and remind us that we are called to form one human family" and that "the values promoted by sport—such as loyalty, sharing, hospitality, dialogue, and trust in others—are common to every person, regardless of ethnic origin, culture or religious belief," he wrote.

While the pope praised the power and potential of the Olympics, the bulk of the letter was dedicated to all levels of sport, from those engaged in informal fun to serious athleticism.

Like his predecessors, Pope Leo highlighted the virtues of engaging in physical activity and competition as well as warned against current risks that threaten healthy values.

He criticized the perennial problems of using sports as a platform to push political or ideological interests, doping and seeking profits or winning at all costs, warning against the "dictatorship of performance."

"When financial incentives become the sole criterion, individuals and teams may also fall prey to subjecting their performance to the corruption and influence of the gambling industry," he wrote. "Such dishonesty not only corrupts sporting activities themselves, but also demoralizes the general public and undermines the positive contribution of sport to society as a whole."

He also criticized "pay-to-play" programs, which often require costly fees for children to participate, when



Frank Del Duca of the United States holds the country's national flag during the opening ceremony of the Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy on Feb. 6. (OSV News photo/Jennifer Lorenzini, Reuters)

organized sports should be accessible to everyone.

"In other societies, girls and women are not allowed to participate in sports. Sometimes, in religious formation, especially of women, there is a mistrust and fear of physical activity and sport," he wrote in the letter, encouraging greater efforts to make sport more accessible to diversity and fraternity, too.

He also warned against "transhumanism" or technologies, including AI, being applied to enhance performance, artificially separating body and mind, and "transforming the athlete into an optimized, controlled product, enhanced beyond natural limits."

"Finally, we must question the growing assimilation of sport into the logic of video games," Pope Leo wrote, pointing to the "extreme gamification of sport," turning it into "simply a device for consumers" and disconnecting it from "concrete relationships."

The pope continued, "There is an urgent need to reaffirm integral care of the human person; physical well-being cannot be separated from inner balance, ethical responsibility and openness to others," calling on the Church "to recognize sport as an opportunity for discernment and accompaniment and to offer human and spiritual guidance." †

## 40 Days for Life spring campaign is on Feb. 18-March 29 in Indy, North Vernon

### Criterion staff report

While Indiana and several other states have strengthened pro-life laws, there is still a great need for prayer to end all abortion and to change the hearts of those associated with the industry.

40 Days for Life is a campaign of prayer, fasting and peaceful activism held in the spring and fall with the purpose of turning hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life and bringing an end to abortion.

The spring campaign runs from Feb. 18-March 29. Two locations in the archdiocese are participating: Indianapolis and North Vernon.

Following is information on the two campaigns.

**North Vernon:** The campaign will take place at North Vernon Park, 604 N. State Street.

To sign up for one or more hours, go to [www.40daysforlife.com/en/northvernon](http://www.40daysforlife.com/en/northvernon).

For more information, contact Tim O'Donnell at [tidipsumsapere@att.net](mailto:tidipsumsapere@att.net).

**Indianapolis:** The campaign will take place in front of the Planned Parenthood facility at 8590 Georgetown Road. Parking is available along Georgetown Road; do not park in the Women's Care Center parking lot or at the industrial complex across from the Planned Parenthood facility.

The Indiana Knights of Columbus will hold a 12-hour overnight vigil in front of the Planned Parenthood facility starting at

6 p.m. on March 27. All are welcome to join for a few minutes, an hour or more.

To sign up for one or more hours during the Indianapolis campaign, go to [www.40daysforlife.com/en/indianapolis](http://www.40daysforlife.com/en/indianapolis).

For additional information on the Indianapolis campaign, contact Robert Burton at [40daysforlife.indy@gmail.com](mailto:40daysforlife.indy@gmail.com).

To find other 40 Days for Life campaigns outside of the archdiocese, go to [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com) and select "Locations." †

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## Editorial



A volunteer with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA is pictured in an undated photo unloading aid for people in need. (OSV News photo/courtesy Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA)

# This Lent, let's do all we can to share our gifts and be stewards of God's love

We are again approaching the Lenten season, where as people of faith we observe the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Lent begins on Wednesday, Feb. 18, this year and concludes on Holy Thursday, April 2, leading into the Easter Triduum.

Our faith teaches us it is one of the most important seasons of the liturgical year, inviting us to slow down, turn away from sin and renew our relationship with God as we journey toward the Resurrection.

On their website, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops tell us, "During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ."

The bishops continue: "Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. ... In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: 'Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs.'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2446).

Indeed, our faith teaches us all we have is a *gift* from God, yet some find it difficult to *share* them with others.

While some think of *sharing* in a monetary sense, it's not the only way we can assist our brothers and sisters in need. But it could be a part of Lenten offerings.

How about fasting from a meal each week during Lent and *sharing* the

money you saved by putting it in a church's poor box or donating it to a worthwhile cause?

When it comes to *sharing*, why not take a portion of your time—which all of us find extremely valuable—and use it by volunteering at a food pantry or in another capacity at your parish or a nearby organization? Offering your time would be a great way to shine your light on others.

The six weeks of Lent also provide an opportunity to increase the time you spend in prayer. *Share* that added time you schedule for those in need. Stop by your church or any parish you pass going to or from work and offer petitions for the less fortunate, especially the hungry and homeless who struggle this time of year to find the sustenance and shelter they need. Pray for an end to the conflicts across the globe, and pray for family and friends who've asked for your prayers. If you know of a church with an adoration chapel, why not spend a few moments in prayer in the presence of our Lord?

The Lenten season offers us the opportunity to cleanse ourselves of the sins we've committed as well. As you'll read on page 7 of this week's issue of *The Criterion*, there are many opportunities around the archdiocese to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. We encourage you to cut out the Lenten parish penance service schedule, save it and visit a parish in the coming weeks to participate in this great gift and seek God's forgiveness for the times you've fallen. God's mercy is always available to us if we truly repent of our sins.

No matter what our vocation in life, our faith teaches us that we must be the hands and feet of Christ to our brothers and sisters in need, and we are called to see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others.

This Lenten season and beyond, let's take the time to embrace those tenets of our faith and be unwavering stewards of God's love.

—Mike Krokos

## Reflection/John Shaughnessy

# An Olympic moment of gratitude and the power of that gift for Lent

The scene will always be my favorite Olympic moment, a moment that wasn't captured by a television camera or a sports reporter.



The moment happened during the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, shortly after the women's soccer team of the United States earned the gold medal with a riveting, intense 1-0 victory

over the team from Brazil.

Among the heroes of that game for the Americans was Naomi Girma, widely considered internationally as the best defender in women's soccer.

In the medal ceremony that followed the game, the only people to receive gold medals were the players, as the International Olympic Committee designates that medals are solely awarded to athletes. Not even coaches receive a medal at the Olympics.

Shortly after the medal ceremony ended, Girma left the celebration of her teammates and headed toward the area where the medical staff of the U.S. women's team had seats. There, she immediately found a young woman who is part of the medical staff, someone with whom she has forged a friendship during the past few years.

Reaching her friend, Girma took the gold medal that was draped around her neck and placed it around the neck of the young medical person, who immediately dissolved into tears. The pure joy and touching embrace between the two women were captured in a video and a photo that only a few people have ever seen.

Girma's gesture was not only one of friendship but gratitude—gratitude for what her friend had contributed to keep the members of the team healthy and prepared for the grind of Olympic competition.

Ah, the power of gratitude.

It's hoped that you have experienced that kind of gratitude. Even better, maybe you've provided that sense of gratitude for someone.

As memorable and moving as that Olympic scene was, most of us at some point in our lives have also been on the opposite side of gratitude—the absence of gratitude.

Maybe it's a boss who doesn't

recognize the hard work, skill and quality that has been put into a project or a daily work approach and instead focuses on a perceived fault, a boss who makes time to be critical but doesn't take time for a thank you.

Maybe it's a coach who doesn't appreciate the commitment, hard work and loyalty of a player to the team and instead focuses on the physical limits of the player.

Maybe it's a spouse who focuses on a perceived weakness of the other spouse instead of celebrating the gifts that he or she brings to the marriage.

Maybe it's a parent who wishes a child would be more *whatever* instead of embracing and celebrating the qualities the child has.

Maybe it's a teenager who focuses on the faults of their parents instead of their love.

The likelihood is that at some point in our lives nearly all of us have experienced the absence of gratitude.

At the same time, the likelihood is that at some point in our lives nearly all of us have been *guilty* of a lack of gratitude.

I've been a member of both those groups. Have you?

I share these thoughts about the great gift of gratitude—and the disheartening, spirit-robbing absence of gratitude—as we approach another season of Lent.

Many of us, myself included, usually view Lent as a time of sacrifice, as a time of "giving up" things.

But what if we approach this Lent as a season of gratitude, as an opportunity to grow in gratitude toward God and each other?

What if we make an extra effort to not only give up our favorite dessert but to savor the sweetness and richness of the people in our lives?

What if we focus on the beyond-generous, life-changing gift that Christ gave us?

What if we also focus on being grateful to God for the people he has placed in our lives, the gifts he has given us and the opportunity for salvation he has made possible for us?

Let us embrace God's great gift of gratitude.

Let us grow in his goodness and his grace.

(John Shaughnessy is the assistant editor of *The Criterion*. He can be reached at [jshaughnessy@archindy.org](mailto:jshaughnessy@archindy.org).) †

## Letter to the Editor

# Articles on Daughters of Mary of Nazareth shine light on women religious

Cheers to Sean Gallagher and *The Criterion* for the two excellent articles (in the Dec. 19 and Jan. 9 issues) on the arrival of the new sisters from the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth at St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg.

These stories instill a sense of hope and gratitude for the women who continue to answer God's call to the life of a religious. It reminded me that so many children in today's world, even those educated in Catholic schools, have limited knowledge of women religious and have been deprived of witnessing the devotion that they exemplify.

In my own life of 66 years, I was born in a New Albany hospital operated by the Sisters of St. Francis of the Perpetual Adoration, attended a grade school served by the Oldenburg Sisters of St. Francis, and a high school founded and staffed by the Sisters of Providence.

It cannot be said more plainly: our parishes, schools and other institutions

have stood on the shoulders of an army of women who answered their call and served us all.

Where would we be without them?

**Philip Hendershot**  
Clarksville

## Letters Policy

Letters from readers are welcome and should be informed, relevant, well-expressed, concise, temperate in tone, courteous and respectful.

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

Letters may be e-mailed to [criterion@archindy.org](mailto:criterion@archindy.org) or sent to "Letters to the Editor," *The Criterion*, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367.

ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO CHARLES C. THOMPSON



# Christ the Cornerstone

## Jesus challenges us to exceed the commandments

Most of us are good people who obey the rules and strive to live good lives. We think we know what God expects from us, and despite our occasional failures at being kind or truthful or honest, for the most part we succeed at being good people.

Unfortunately, Jesus demands more from us—much more. He wants us to be holy and to strive for perfection. It's true that the Lord is merciful and that he understands, and forgives, our weaknesses and our sins.

But Jesus is never complacent. He always demands more than ordinary goodness. He wants us to follow the rules—to keep the Commandments—but he is not satisfied with ordinary righteousness.

As the rich young man discovered (cf. Matthew 19, Mark 10 and Luke 18), to be “perfect” requires an absolute commitment to give up everything and follow Jesus without counting the cost.

The Scripture readings for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time call our attention to God's commandments. The first reading (Sir 15:15-20) tells us that we are free to choose between life and death, goodness and evil:

*If you choose you can keep the*

*commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you too shall live; he has set before you fire and water to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand. Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him. (Sir 15:15-17)*

Salvation is found in freely choosing to live according to God's commands. God never forces us to do anything. He invites us to live rightly or to suffer the consequences. “Immense is the wisdom of the Lord,” Sirach tells us. “He is mighty in power, and all-seeing” (Sir 15:18).

The Lord knows us. He sees us even in secret, and he understands both our strengths and our weaknesses, our righteous acts and our sins. And yet he calls us to be better than we are. He challenges us to never settle for “good enough” when we can strive to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect (cf. Mt 5:48).

The second reading for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians speaks to us about God's wisdom which is hidden and mysterious, only revealed to us in the person and teaching of Jesus Christ. The teachings of the Old Testament,

like the best teachings of other great world religions and philosophies, tell us how to be good and how to live in ways that will make us better people. But they do not tell us how to be perfect.

The very idea that we are capable of perfection is scandalous. We say to ourselves, “Well, no one is perfect.” And yet Jesus does not hesitate to demand that we far exceed our own and others' expectations. He challenges us to be the best that we can be, especially in the moral and spiritual dimensions of our lives.

The Gospel reading for this Sunday (Mt 5:17-37) recalls Jesus' teaching that “whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 5:19). This appears to be an impossible standard. Even the slightest transgression of “the least of these commandments” is enough to marginalize us. And yet, the Lord continues to demand more of us.

Sunday's Gospel reading tells us that Jesus is not satisfied with what might be called “conventional morality.” As he tells his disciples (and all of us):

*You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, You shall not kill; and*

*whoever kills will be liable to judgment. But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment. (Mt 5:21-22)*

Without ever suggesting that the basic premises of the traditional commandments should be set aside, Jesus challenges us to dig deeper into the meaning of these moral precepts and to find in them ways of living that transcend ordinary goodness.

“I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees,” Jesus says, “you will not enter the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 5:20). Unless we become holy and obey the commandments in our minds and hearts as well as in our external actions, we will never be perfect as God intends us to be.

This is a lot to expect of anyone—even the greatest saints struggle with the call to perfection. But the Lord gives us the grace we need to live holy lives. And when we fail, he readily forgives us and helps us to get back on our feet and try again.

Let's ask Jesus to help us seek perfection in our daily lives. May we learn to follow him, and live holy lives that far exceed what we and others expect. †



# Cristo, la piedra angular

## El reto de Jesús para nosotros: superar los mandamientos

La mayoría de nosotros somos buenas personas: obedecemos las normas y nos esforzamos por rectamente. Creemos saber lo que Dios espera de nosotros y, aunque a veces fallamos en ser más amables o sinceros, en general consideramos que cumplimos.

Sin embargo, Jesús nos pide más ... mucho más. Nos llama a la santidad y a la perfección. Es verdad que el Señor es misericordioso, que comprende y perdona nuestras debilidades y nuestros pecados, pero nunca es complaciente. No se conforma con una bondad ordinaria. Quiere que sigamos las reglas, que cumplamos los mandamientos, pero no se contenta con la justicia ordinaria.

Como descubrió el joven rico (cf. Mateo 19, Marcos 10 y Lucas 18), ser “perfectos” implica un compromiso radical: estar dispuestos a dejarlo todo y seguir a Jesús sin calcular el costo.

Las lecturas bíblicas del sexto domingo del tiempo ordinario centran nuestra atención en los mandamientos de Dios. La primera lectura (Eclo 15:15-20) nos dice que somos libres de elegir entre la vida y la muerte, el bien y el mal:

*Si quieres, guardarás los mandamientos y permanecerás fiel a su voluntad. Él te ha puesto delante*

*fuego y agua, extiende tu mano a lo que quieras. Ante los hombres está la vida y la muerte, a cada uno se le dará lo que prefiera. (Eclo 15:15-17)*

La salvación se encuentra en la libre elección de vivir según los mandamientos de Dios. Él nunca nos obliga: nos invita a vivir rectamente o a afrontar las consecuencias de nuestras decisiones. “Qué grande es la sabiduría del Señor”—nos dice el Eclesiástico— “fuerte es su poder y todo lo ve” (Eclo 15:18).

El Señor nos conoce y nos ve incluso en lo secreto. Comprende nuestras fuerzas y debilidades, nuestras obras justas y nuestros pecados. Y, aun así, nos llama a ser mejores de lo que somos. Nos desafía a no conformarnos nunca con lo suficiente, cuando estamos llamados a aspirar a la perfección de nuestro Padre celestial (cf. Mt 5:48).

La segunda lectura tomada de la primera carta de san Pablo a los Corintios, nos habla de la sabiduría de Dios, oculta y misteriosa, que se nos revela plenamente en las enseñanzas y la persona de Jesucristo. Las enseñanzas del Antiguo Testamento, al igual que las de otras grandes religiones y corrientes filosóficas, nos orientan sobre cómo ser buenos y cómo vivir de forma que nos haga

mejores personas, pero no cómo ser perfectos.

La sola idea de que podamos alcanzar la perfección resulta escandalosa. Decimos con facilidad: “Nadie es perfecto.” Y, sin embargo, Jesús no duda en exigirnos que superemos nuestras propias expectativas y las de los demás. Nos llama a ser lo mejor que podemos ser, especialmente en lo moral y lo espiritual.

La lectura del Evangelio de este domingo (Mt 5:17-37) nos recuerda la enseñanza de Jesús de que “todo el que infrinja uno solo de estos mandamientos, por pequeño que sea, y enseñe a otros a hacer lo mismo, será considerado el más pequeño en el reino de los cielos” (Mt 5:19). A primera vista, parece una norma imposible de cumplir; incluso la más mínima falta de cualquiera de los mandamientos “por pequeño que sea,” parecería bastar para excluirnos. No obstante, el Señor nos exige más.

El Evangelio del domingo nos dice que Jesús no se conforma con lo que podría llamarse “moral convencional.” Exhorta a sus discípulos—y a cada uno de nosotros—a ir más allá:

*Ustedes han oído que se dijo a sus antepasados: “No mates”. También se les dijo que todo el que mate quedará sujeto al juicio del tribunal. Pero yo*

*digo que todo el que se enoje con su hermano quedará sujeto al juicio del tribunal. (Mt 5:21-22)*

Sin sugerir en ningún momento que se dejen de lado las premisas básicas de los mandamientos tradicionales, Jesús nos desafía a profundizar en el significado de estos preceptos morales y a encontrar en ellos modos de vida que trasciendan la bondad ordinaria.

“Porque les digo a ustedes que no van a entrar en el reino de los cielos a menos que su justicia supere la de los fariseos y la de los maestros de la Ley” (Mt 5:20), a menos que seamos santos y obedezcamos los mandamientos en mente y corazón, así como también en acciones externas, jamás seremos tan perfectos como Dios espera que seamos.

Esto es mucho pedir; incluso los más grandes santos han luchado con este llamado a la perfección. Pero el Señor nos concede la gracia necesaria para vivir en santidad y, cuando fallamos, está presto a perdonarnos, nos levanta y nos invita a comenzar de nuevo.

Pidamos a Jesús que nos ayude a buscar la perfección en la vida cotidiana y a seguirlo con fidelidad, viviendo vidas santas que superen con creces lo que nosotros mismos—y los demás—esperamos. †

# Events Calendar

For a list of events for the next four weeks as reported to The Criterion, log on to [www.archindy.org/events](http://www.archindy.org/events).

## February 16

**Virtual Sister Thea Bowman Black Catholic Women's Prayer Group**, 7 p.m., meets online monthly on third Monday, sponsored by archdiocesan Black Catholic Ministry, all women welcome. Meeting: [tinyurl.com/SrTheaPrayerGrp](http://tinyurl.com/SrTheaPrayerGrp). Information: [iowhosomaddox@archindy.org](mailto:iowhosomaddox@archindy.org), 317-261-3381.

## February 18, 25, March 4, 11

St. John the Evangelist Parish, Corpus Christi Parish Hall, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. **Catholics in Recovery Support Group**, 7 p.m., meets every Wednesday, Catholic 12-step program serving those with addictions and unhealthy attachments. Information: 317-557-8888, [jjdav887@gmail.com](mailto:jjdav887@gmail.com).

## February 19

Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, Assembly Hall, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Poverty in Our Community: Complexities, Challenges, Hope**, 5:30-8 p.m.; 5:30-6:30 p.m. visit with members of organizations that directly aid those in need; 6:30 p.m. panel discussion with representatives from

Catholic Charities Terre Haute, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Changing Lives Forever Program, St. Mary's Early Childhood Center, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the archdiocese's Catholic Charities Senior Services and Holy Family Shelter; registration preferred, walk-ins welcome, refreshments provided, free. Information, registration: [tinyurl.com/povertypanel2026](http://tinyurl.com/povertypanel2026), [lsheehan@archindy.org](mailto:lsheehan@archindy.org), 317-542-2492.

## February 19-22

Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, Foley Room, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Used Book Sale**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., freewill donations. Information: 812-535-2947, [events.sistersofprovidence.org](http://events.sistersofprovidence.org), [lindenleafgifts@spsmw.org](mailto:lindenleafgifts@spsmw.org).

## February 20

Liter House, 5301 Winthrop Ave. Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, Kent Kramer, president and CEO of Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana, presenting "New Beginnings, Changed Lives and Goodwill," rosary 6:35 a.m., Mass 7 a.m., buffet breakfast and program

following, \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Register by 4 p.m. Feb. 17. Information, registration: [cutt.ly/CBE-Reg](http://cutt.ly/CBE-Reg).

## February 21

East Central H.S. Performing Arts Center, 1 Trojan Place, St. Leon. **E6 Catholic Men's Conference**, 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m., speakers include Ryan Olohan, Tim Francis, Devin Schadt, Kevin Wells and Father Jonathan Meyer, includes Mass, confession, adoration, lunch, adults \$48, group of 10 or more adults \$38 per person, students ages 14-25 \$18, clergy and religious free. Information, registration: 513-518-2728, [contact@e6catholicmensconference.com](mailto:contact@e6catholicmensconference.com), [e6catholicmensconference.com](http://e6catholicmensconference.com).

## February 22

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Chili Cook Off**, 4-7 p.m., entry is a full 6-quart crock pot of chili made from scratch, recipe should be included, non-entrant price \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 3-12, ages 3 and younger free. Information, entry registration: 317-545-7681, [spatel@archindy.org](mailto:spatel@archindy.org). Tickets: [retreatportal.com/events](http://retreatportal.com/events).

## February 28

St. Joan of Arc Church, 4217 Central Ave., Indianapolis. **Healing Service**, 7 p.m., sponsored by Encounter School of Ministry, free, no registration required. Information: [indianapolis@encounterschool.org](mailto:indianapolis@encounterschool.org), 317-795-4912.

## March 7

Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Teen Volunteering Opportunity**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., ages 12-18, visit with elder sisters and help them with activities such as Bingo, exercise, baking and more. Information, registration: [teenvolunteer.sistersofprovidence.org](http://teenvolunteer.sistersofprovidence.org), [jluna@spsmw.org](mailto:jluna@spsmw.org), 361-500-9505.

Anderson Hills Church, 7515 Forest Road, Cincinnati. **Stephen Ministries 50th Anniversary Celebration and Learning Event**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., check-in 8 a.m., \$15 includes light breakfast and snacks, additional box lunch is \$12. Information, registration: [stephenministries.org/celebrateCIN](http://stephenministries.org/celebrateCIN).

## March 8

McGowan Hall, 1305

Delaware St., Indianapolis. **Irish Hooley Celebration**, 2-7 p.m., Irish bands, Irish dancing, corned beef sandwiches, Irish stew and soda bread available for purchase, cash bar, live auction, games, \$10, clergy and children 12 and younger free, walk-ins welcome, proceeds benefit St. Vincent De Paul Indianapolis' unsheltered programs. Information, advance tickets: 317-924-5769, [dsweeny@svdpindy.org](mailto:dsweeny@svdpindy.org), [svdpindy.org/hooley](http://svdpindy.org/hooley).

## March 13-15

Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, 5440 Moeller Ave, Norwood, Ohio. **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**, \$75 non-refundable fee. Registration: [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org). Information: Andy and Melanie Reinersman, 859-653-8464.

## March 14-15

Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Pre-Cana Retreat**, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. each day, includes materials, light breakfast, box lunch and snacks, \$200 per couple, register by March 4. Information, registration: [ccorona@archindy.org](mailto:ccorona@archindy.org).

317-800-9306, [tinyurl.com/ccprecana3-26](http://tinyurl.com/ccprecana3-26).

## March 15

**Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Patrick's Day Events**. St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis: **Celtic Cross Blessing, Mass, Parade**: 10:15 a.m. Celtic cross blessing in church courtyard followed by 10:30 a.m. Mass, 11:30 a.m. parade to Indiana Roof Ballroom, 140 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, for **Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Patrick's Celebration**, 11:45 a.m., plated luncheon, Irish bands, raffle for Ireland trip for two, \$40 adults, \$16 ages 12 and younger, register for dinner by March 10. Information: [aohindy.com/spc](http://aohindy.com/spc). Registration: 317-341-3570, [kmcginley720@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kmcginley720@sbcglobal.net).

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 1530 Union St., Indianapolis. **Indianapolis Symphony Sphinx Series Chamber Music Concert**, 2-4 p.m., brass program featuring works by Giovanni Gabrieli, J.S. Bach, Poulenc, Moncayo, Irving Berlin and Alice Gomez, free. Information: 317-902-3006, [judithessex@icloud.com](mailto:judithessex@icloud.com). †

## Lenten Fish Fries

For our full list of fish fries as reported to The Criterion, log on to [www.archindy.org/fishfries](http://www.archindy.org/fishfries)

## February 20

**Sacred Heart Parish Gymnasium, 558 Nebeker St., Clinton**. Fish Fry, 4-7 p.m., dine-in or carry-out, four-piece adult meal \$12, two-piece meal for children

ages 12 and younger \$6, meals include baked beans, coleslaw, apple sauce; extra fish fillets \$2, freewill donations for dessert. Information: 765-832-8468.

## February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20

**St. Anthony of Padua Parish Gym, 316 North Sherwood, Clarksville**. Men's Club Annual Fish Fry, 5-7 p.m., dine-in or carry-out; adult

dinners (includes two sides): baked fish, fried fish or fried shrimp \$14, oyster \$15; small fish dinner (includes one side) \$11; fish sandwich \$8, cheese pizza \$4, drinks and desserts \$1; \$4 side options: French fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, green beans, onion rings, mac and cheese; cash or credit cards accepted. Information: 812-282-2290, ext. 205, [communications@stanthony-clarksville.org](mailto:communications@stanthony-clarksville.org)

5:30-8 p.m., dine-in or carry-out, fried fish provided by Sahn's Family Restaurant, baked or fried fish, grilled cheese, mac and cheese, rice, salad bar, coleslaw, applesauce, green beans, lemonade, beer and wine available for purchase, face painting, balloon animals, cost in advance \$16 ages 15 and older, \$6 ages 6-14; cost at door \$20 ages 15 and older, \$8 ages 6-14; free for children ages 0-5; purchase advance tickets online or in the narthex after weekend Masses. Information, tickets: [tinyurl.com/StLukeFishFry2026](http://tinyurl.com/StLukeFishFry2026), 317-259-4373.

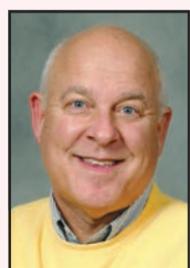
## February 27

**St Barnabas School Cafeteria, 8300 Rahke Road, Indianapolis**. PTO Fish Fry, 5:30-7:30 p.m., fish \$10, cheese pizza \$6. Information: 317-881-7422, [pto@stbindy.org](mailto:pto@stbindy.org).

**St. Anthony Parish Hall, 4773 Church Road, Morris**. St. Nicholas Parish (Ripley County) and St. Anthony of Padua Parish (Morris) Faith Formation Fish Fry, 4:30-7 p.m., \$15. Information: 812-623-2964, [communications@stnicholas-sunman.org](mailto:communications@stnicholas-sunman.org). †

## Servant leadership workshop will be held at Saint Meinrad on March 12-13

A workshop on servant leadership will be held at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, 200 Hill Dr., in St. Meinrad, from 6:15 p.m. on March 12 through 4:30 p.m. on March 13.



Ken Ogorek

Featuring archdiocesan executive director of the Secretariat of Evangelizing Catechesis Ken Ogorek as speaker, this workshop will look at how to lead a team in ways that make everyone's work joyful and lifegiving. Administrative leadership is important for the life of the Church. This learning opportunity will help attendees serve

future staff members by enhancing their experience of mission-effectiveness in the important area of faith-related work.

Those who are enrolled students in Saint Meinrad's Graduate Theology Program can register for the workshop for one graduate credit. Those not currently enrolled as a student who would like to register for credit can complete an expedited, non-degree-seeking application at [tinyurl.com/Non-DegreeCredit](http://tinyurl.com/Non-DegreeCredit).

The cost for the workshop is \$295, which includes meals. There is an additional charge of \$100 for overnight accommodations. A \$50 deposit is required for registration, with the balance billed after registration.

For more information or to register, go to [saintmeinrad.edu/workshops](http://saintmeinrad.edu/workshops) or call 812-357-6611. †

## Wedding Anniversaries

**V. THOMAS AND CHARLOTTE (GODICH) DEVILLE**, members of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Aurora, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Feb. 19.

The couple was married in Christ the King Church in Indianapolis on Feb. 19, 1966.

They have three children: Camille Boyken, Shelley Walker and Matthew DeVille.

The couple also has five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



**ALLEN AND ROBIN (HORNBERGER) WEILER**, members of St. Peter Parish in Franklin County, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 14.

The couple was married in St. Paul Church in New Alsace, now a chapel of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County, on Feb. 14, 1976.

They have six children: Tonya Hudepohl, Michael Weiler, Valarie Hoff, Jacob Weiler, Nicholas Weiler and Josie Bonilla.

The couple also has 20 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. (correction)



Announcements for couples celebrating 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 or more years of marriage are accepted. Go to [cutt.ly/anniversaries](http://cutt.ly/anniversaries) or call 317-236-1585.

## Right to Life of Johnson and Morgan Counties will host euchre tournament on Feb. 28

Right to Life of Johnson and Morgan Counties will host its annual euchre tournament at Concordia Lutheran Church, 305 Howard Road, in Greenwood, from 9 a.m.-noon on Feb. 28.

Right to Life of Johnson and Morgan Counties is an affiliate of Indiana Right to Life. Its mission is to protect and promote the respect of unborn children.

All proceeds from the event will benefit CareNet Pregnancy Centers

local to the two central Indiana counties.

The cost to enter the tournament is one package of diapers. The first-place winner will receive a cash prize of \$200, and the second-place winner will receive a cash prize of \$100.

Registration is encouraged but not required. To register or for questions, call 317-697-2441 or send an e-mail to [ebrookehaskins@gmail.com](mailto:ebrookehaskins@gmail.com). †

# Lenten penance services are scheduled at archdiocesan parishes

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

## Batesville Deanery

Feb. 20, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at St. Joseph, Shelbyville  
 Feb. 20, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Aurora  
 Feb. 24, 7 p.m., at St. Mary, Greensburg  
 March 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Holy Family, Oldenburg  
 March 6, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at St. Martin Church of All Saints Parish, Dearborn County  
 March 10, 6 p.m. at St. Michael, Brookville  
 March 20, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Aurora  
 March 24, 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Decatur County  
 March 25, 6:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County  
 March 25, 6:30 p.m. at St. Peter, Franklin County  
 March 26, 7 p.m. at St. Louis, Batesville  
 March 28, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at St. Louis, Batesville  
 April 1, 9-11 a.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. at St. Louis, Batesville

*Additionally, recurring opportunities for reconciliation in the Batesville Deanery:*  
 Fridays 11 a.m.-noon at St. John the Evangelist Church of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Decatur County  
 Wednesdays 5-6 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo, Milan  
 Saturdays after 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Nicholas, Ripley County, and 4-5 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo, Milan

## Bloomington Deanery

March 9, 6:30 p.m. at St. Agnes, Nashville  
 March 17, 7-9 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford  
 March 18, 6:30 p.m. at St. Jude the Apostle, Spencer  
 March 26, 6-7 p.m. at St. Martin of Tours, Martinsville

April 1, 6-9 p.m. for St. Charles Borromeo, St. John the Apostle and St. Paul Catholic Center, Bloomington, at St. Paul Catholic Center

## Connersville Deanery

Feb. 25, 6 p.m. at St. Anne, New Castle  
 March 11, 6:30 p.m. at St. Bridget of Ireland, Liberty  
 March 12, 6 p.m. at St. Mary, Rushville  
 March 13, 5:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Richmond

## Indianapolis East Deanery

March 12, 6:30 p.m. at Holy Spirit

## Indianapolis North Deanery

March 1, 2 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas  
 March 2, 7 p.m. at St. Lawrence  
 March 3, 7 p.m. at St. Luke the Evangelist

*Additional opportunity for reconciliation in the Indianapolis North Deanery:*

March 30, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., no appointment needed

## Indianapolis South Deanery

March 3, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
 March 11, 7 p.m. for St. Jude and St. Mark the Evangelist, at St. Mark the Evangelist  
 March 12, 6:30 p.m. for Holy Name of Jesus, Beech Grove, and Good Shepherd, at Holy Name of Jesus  
 March 18, 6 p.m. at St. Barnabas  
 March 26, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood  
 March 28, 8:30-10 a.m. at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood

## Indianapolis West Deanery

Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m. at St. Susanna, Plainfield  
 March 3, 7 p.m. for St. Gabriel the Archangel, St. Michael the Archangel and St. Monica, at St. Monica  
 March 10, 7 p.m. at St. Malachy, Brownsburg  
 March 12, 7 p.m. at St. Anthony  
 March 24, 7 p.m. at St. Christopher

## New Albany Deanery

Feb. 24, 6:30 p.m. at St. Michael, Bradford  
 Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m. at St. John Paul II, Sellersburg  
 March 5, 7 p.m. for St. Mary, Lanesville; St. Joseph, Corydon; and St. Bernard, Frenchtown, at St. Mary (confession available in English and Spanish)  
 March 11, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany  
 March 12, 6 p.m. at St. Mary, New Albany (confession available in English and Spanish)  
 March 23, 7 p.m. for St. John the Baptist, Starlight, and St. Mary, Navilleton, at St. John the Baptist  
 March 25, 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County  
 March 25, 7 p.m. for St. Michael, Charlestown, and St. Francis Xavier, Henryville, at St. Michael (confession available in English and Spanish)  
 March 26, 7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville

## Seymour Deanery

March 4, 7 p.m. at St. Bartholomew, Columbus  
 March 10, 6:30 p.m. for St. Mary, North Vernon, and St. Ann and St. Joseph, Jennings County, at St. Mary  
 March 19, 6:30 p.m. for Most Sorrowful Mother of God, Vevay, and Prince of Peace, Madison, at Prince of Peace  
 March 24, 6 p.m. at Holy Trinity, Edinburgh  
 March 25, 6:30 p.m. for St. Ambrose, Seymour; St. Patrick, Salem; and American Martyrs, Scottsburg, at St. Ambrose

## What the Catechism says about Lent

The season of Lent is mentioned in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in various sections.

It is brought up in #540 in the section that explains Christ's public ministry.

In #1095, Lent is discussed in regards to the way in which the Church, especially in its liturgy, sees Christ prefigured in various ways in the Old Testament.

Finally, in #1438, the penitential nature of Lent is discussed in the section on the sacrament of reconciliation.

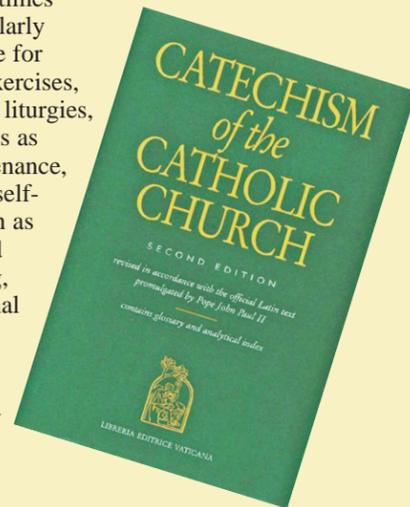
#540 "Jesus' temptation reveals the way in which the Son of God is Messiah, contrary to the way Satan proposes to him and the way men wish to attribute to him (see Mt 16:21-23).

"This is why Christ vanquished the Tempter for us: 'For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sinning' (Heb 4:15). By the solemn forty days of Lent, the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert."

#1095 "... the Church, especially during Advent and Lent and above all at the Easter Vigil, re-reads and re-lives the great events of salvation history in the 'today' of her liturgy. But this also demands that catechesis help the faithful to open themselves to this spiritual understanding of the economy of salvation as the Church's liturgy reveals it and enables us to live it."

#1438 "The seasons and days of penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the Church's penitential practice.

"These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies, pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing [charitable and missionary works]."



(To read the Catechism of the Catholic Church online, log on to [www.usccb.org/catechism/text](http://www.usccb.org/catechism/text).) †

## Terre Haute Deanery

March 6, 1-4 p.m. at St. Benedict, Terre Haute  
 March 24, 6-8 p.m. at Annunciation, Brazil  
 March 25, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute  
 March 25, 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart, Clinton  
 March 26, 6-8 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle, Greencastle †

## Lenten disciplines include fasting, almsgiving, prayer

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years and older on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 18.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

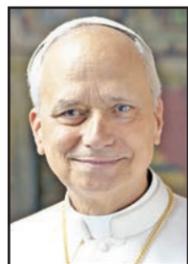
The special Paschal fast and abstinence are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday.

By the threefold discipline of fasting, almsgiving and prayer, the Church keeps Lent from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday, which is on April 2. †



# Pope urges Christian formators to learn from 'spiritual giants' like Augustine

ROME (OSV News)—Pope Leo XIV urged Christian leaders on Feb. 6 to look to the examples of "spiritual giants"



Pope Leo XIV

including SS. Philip Neri, Ignatius of Loyola and Augustine as models for faith formation.

Speaking to the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, the pope stressed that Christian formators must "foster

consistent, engaging and personal paths of life that lead to baptism and the sacraments, or to their rediscovery,

because without them there is no Christian life."

The "art" of Christian formation requires "patience, listening, accompaniment and verification," Pope Leo said, emphasizing it "cannot be separated from the experience and company of those who have lived it."

The pope cited St. Augustine's treatise "*De Catechizandis Rudibus*" ("On the Catechizing of the Uninstructed") as containing guidelines that "remain useful and valuable to this day."

He also pointed to the example of later saints, including 16th-century Italian St. John Leonardi, 17th-century Spanish St. Joseph Calasanz and 19th-century Italian St. Gaspar del Bufalo.

"We cannot stop at transmitting a doctrine, an observance, an ethic, but rather we are called to share what we live, with generosity, sincere love for souls, willingness to suffer for others, and unreserved dedication, like parents who sacrifice themselves for the good of their children," he said.

"As indeed human life is transmitted thanks to the love of a man and a woman, so Christian life is conveyed through the love of a community," he added.

The pope's speech in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace came on the final day of the dicastery's three-day plenary assembly focused on Christian formation.

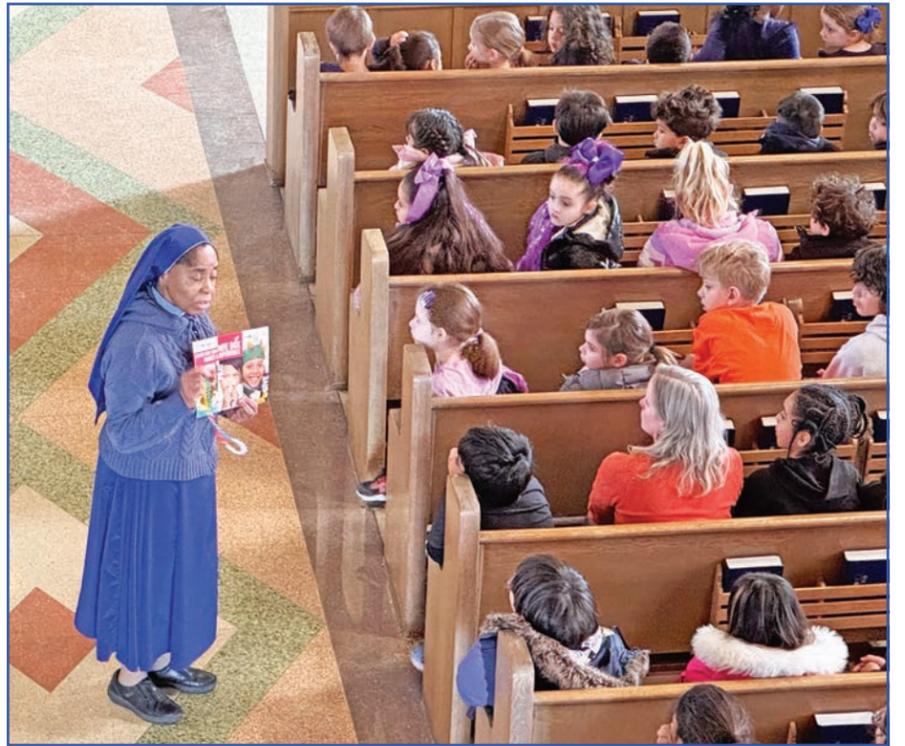
During the dicastery's plenary assembly, which took place at the Jesuit General Curia in Rome, the participants discussed the organization of the upcoming 2027 World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea, as well as the 2028 World Meeting of Families and the 2026 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the dicastery's prefect, told the plenary that Pope Leo had expressed his hope that these world meetings "can be evangelically more effective, touch people's hearts, transmit grace, and have a lasting impact on their lives," becoming "authentic experiences of encounter with Jesus Christ." †

## Catholic Schools Week visit



Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy Sister Loretto Emenogu, archdiocesan mission educator for the Missionary Childhood Association, visited St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) School in Indianapolis on Jan. 30 as part of its Catholic Schools Week activities. Sister Loretto joined the students during a lesson on the rosary and adoration. (Submitted photos)



## IMMIGRATION

continued from page 1

Indiana House. “Immigration enforcement is not intrinsically unjust, but we argue against its indiscriminate application.”

The letter notes that Indiana is home to 137,000 unauthorized immigrants, citing data from the Washington, D.C.-based Migration Policy Institute. More than 60% have lived in the state at least a decade, and nearly 40% have called Indiana home for more than 20 years.

“The Indiana Catholic Conference argues that the humane solution for many of these longtime residents is not deportation but, rather, earned pathways to citizenship,” the letter states. “This is not an endorsement of open borders or illegal entry, but rather, a prudential moral judgment applied to the challenges of today.”

The national discussion over immigration has escalated dramatically in recent weeks, as unrest in Minneapolis and the killing of two anti-ICE protesters there have sparked widespread outrage and backlash. Now, in Indianapolis, Senate Bill 76 has generated fierce debate at the Statehouse.

Its author, Catholic lawmaker Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne), has emphasized that the bill—which has the backing of the Indiana Sheriffs’ Association—will ensure proper training for local law enforcement officers in helping to carry out federal immigration policies. This is training for which they have “repeatedly asked,” she told her fellow lawmakers during a Feb. 2 hearing on the measure in the House Judiciary Committee.

Dozens of people—most opposing the bill—waited for hours to testify on the measure. Fueling the debate was an amendment that had just been added to the bill by its House sponsor, Rep. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City), which introduced language from a similar bill he had authored in the House that failed to get a hearing.

Prescott’s House Bill 1039, dubbed the FAIRNESS Act, was a stronger anti-sanctuary measure that White House Border Czar Tom Homan called the “gold standard” for state-level immigration action. Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita lauded the addition of the amendment, which further aligns Senate Bill 76 with the immigration policies of President Donald J. Trump.

Following five hours of emotional debate,

the amended Senate Bill 76 passed the House Judiciary Committee on a 9-4 vote.

Days after the hearing, the committee’s ranking minority member, Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D-Fishers), reflected on the implications of the measure moving forward at the Statehouse. The Catholic lawmaker, who was among those voting “no” on the bill, said that “President Trump has even called into question” some of the tactics that are reflected in this type of legislation.

“[The president] has admitted that perhaps as a country we have been too aggressive over the last two months in how we are pursuing those whose legal status in this country is questionable,” Garcia Wilburn said. “The stories that have come out of states where this has been implemented have been difficult to watch, irrespective of what side of the aisle you land on.

“I want to encourage all of our fellow Catholics to seek the heart of Jesus during this time, which can be so divisive, and to relentlessly pursue unity.”

In recent months, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and several of Indiana’s bishops have addressed the growing concern and unrest over the country’s immigration policies and practices.

“The recent shootings of protesters, attacks on government officials, and continued indiscriminate deportations of so many of our neighbors have sparked outrage and grave concern about the integrity of our nation,” wrote Archbishop Charles C. Thompson of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in a Jan. 29 statement. “Have we lost our moral compass? Have we sacrificed our sense of human decency for unbridled freedom without obligations or restrictions?”

Archbishop Thompson noted that “the path to lasting peace and unity, Pope Leo XIV reminds us, is predicated on the building of bridges rather than walls.

“Given the escalating violence of both rhetoric and brutality in our society, it seems that both humility and empathy are gravely lacking among us as the growing lack of civility continues to spiral out of control,” Archbishop Thompson continued. “Rather than recognizing one another as brothers and sisters, members of the same human race or family, the extremes of polarization are causing us to hold one another in suspicion as some type of threat or enemy.”

In the ICC’s recent letter to lawmakers in the Indiana House, Mingus echoed many of the sentiments expressed by Archbishop Thompson and his brother bishops. He noted that the USCCB has offered the perspective of the Catholic Church on immigration matters for decades, and that Catholic social teaching is particularly relevant given today’s challenges.

“Sacred Scripture emphasizes ‘welcoming the stranger,’ while Catholic social doctrine also acknowledges the responsibility of sovereign nations to justly regulate national borders and flows of immigration,” Mingus wrote. “These principles are not mutually exclusive. We should acknowledge that immigration enforcement does achieve beneficial outcomes: Violent criminals and drug dealers have been deported, and child trafficking rings have been discovered and broken up. However, these good outcomes must be pursued in a way that is just, prudent and proportionate.”

In a recent ICC podcast, Mingus further discussed what he termed as a “very complex situation.” He said that the Catholic Church agrees with “the importance of immigration enforcement that helps to protect public safety, preserve the common good, and that is a just use of federal resources.”

“The pressure point comes down to when that net is cast so broadly over a problem that has been decades in the making,” Mingus said during the podcast, which he co-hosts with Roarke LaCoursiere, the ICC’s associate director.

The ICC’s leaders call on the Catholic faithful to remain engaged on these issues at this pivotal time.

“We really hope that you stay updated, and that you take some time to read and reflect on what our bishops have said on these important matters,” Mingus said. “And we hope that you pray for our state and our country as we above all try to move toward peace and unity.”

To follow priority legislation of the ICC, visit [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org). This website includes access to ICAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network, which offers the Church’s position on key issues. Those who sign up for ICAN receive alerts on legislation moving forward and ways to contact their elected representatives.

(Victoria Arthur, a member of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, is a correspondent for The Criterion.) †



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‘Given the escalating violence of both rhetoric and brutality in our society, it seems that both humility and empathy are gravely lacking among us as the growing lack of civility continues to spiral out of control.’

—Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

# Marriage and Family Life Supplement

A special section of The Criterion celebrating Christian marriage

## Events and programs keep Tell City Deanery focused on marriage and family

By Natalie Hoefler

The Tell City Deanery spreads across Crawford and Perry counties and portions of Spencer County in the southwest corner of the archdiocese. More than 2,100 families find their faith home in one of the predominantly rural region's 10 parishes.

Whether rural, suburban or urban, all Catholic families share the same ministerial needs and hallmarks: marriage preparation, milestone anniversaries of sacramental marriage and raising holy families.

This article focuses on just three of the ways the Tell City Deanery and its parishes support marriage and the family: a new Witness to Love marriage preparation program at the parishes of St. Paul in Tell City and St. Mark in Perry County; consecration to the Holy Family at the faith communities of St. Isidore the Farmer in Perry County and Holy Cross in St. Croix; and a deanery-wide Mass celebrated by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson for couples celebrating 50 years or more of marriage.

### 'Adaptable and still fruitful'

When it comes to marriage preparation, Father Anthony Hollowell likes to provide various options at St. Paul and St. Mark parishes, which he serves as pastor. "We get so many situations with our engaged couples," he explains. "Our [marriage preparation] programs vary to meet the variety of situations engaged couples come to us with."

So, when Gabriela Ross, director of the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life, told Father Hollowell about the Witness to Love marriage preparation program a year ago, he researched it.

"I was attracted to the fact it's based off Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, 'Amoris Laetitia,'" he says. "I thought that was very wise to build on the foundation of the wisdom of [a successor of] Peter and to have best

See TELL CITY, page 10



Bill and Eva Guillaume of Holy Cross Parish in St. Croix pose at a reception at St. Paul Parish in Tell City following a special Mass last October celebrated by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson for couples of the Tell City Deanery married for 50 or more years. The Guillames have been married for 69 years. (Submitted photo)

## 'My House' pornography recovery and prevention site is work of the Holy Spirit

By Gabriela Ross

The struggle with pornography, and the need to provide resources for recovery and education, is not something new. However, in the last one to two



years, the issue came to the forefront in several ways on the national level and in our own state of Indiana.

Those signs of the times spurred me to make our archdiocesan response to

pornography on the pastoral ministry side a priority.

I began the work of piloting the "Safe Haven Sunday" pornography awareness weekend with two of our parishes during Lent of 2025 (see article on page 12). Around the same time, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops re-released their pastoral statement on pornography "Create in Me a Pure Heart," which endorsed and recommended Safe Haven Sunday as a resource for dioceses.

After the successful pilot program, it was my hope to share Safe Haven Sunday with the wider archdiocese. However, there were some other pastoral priorities that took precedence at the

time. One of the priests who piloted the program encouraged me to trust in God's timing, and I took that to heart. I didn't know at the time that God had bigger plans that would come to fruition just eight months later at the October 2025 meeting for the priests of the archdiocese.

After all the business updates at the meeting were done, the floor was open for any concerns that the clergy wanted to share with the archbishop and his leadership team. There was a priest who courageously stood up and shared how pornography is a growing issue that he was encountering in the confessional, and he felt like the faithful needed more to support them outside of/in addition to the sacrament of reconciliation.

The priest asked if the archdiocese could offer recovery resources to support on-going education and restoration for the faithful who struggle with this issue. I was able to respond with some of the resources I knew about that would help with recovery.

Then another priest chimed in and said something along the lines of, "If there are so many resources [for men, women, wives, married couples, parents, etc.], then this must be an increasingly serious issue. Is there more that we can do about it, as an archdiocese?"

The Holy Spirit took it from there. In just under two weeks' time, I

was given the opportunity to promote Safe Haven Sunday as an optional observance for parishes that wished to participate. And I was given the bigger task of revamping the archdiocese's "My House" website, originally launched in 2018, which hosted our resources for pornography addiction recovery.

I was amazed as all the people who would normally need to approve this project made their way through my office door, one after the other, answering my questions and giving their support and approval. I understood then that this was God's timing, and his plan had been so much bigger than mine.

Again, in under two weeks' time, we had revamped the My House website ([marriageandfamily.archindy.org/myhouse](http://marriageandfamily.archindy.org/myhouse)). It includes Church teaching; pornography recovery and prevention resources and support for men and women of all age levels, as well as for couples and families; resources for pastoral leaders; Safe Haven Sunday information for parishes; and information available in multiple languages. There is also a training course called "Three Pillars to Purity" available for clergy; two members of the clergy have signed up to take the 15-hour self-paced class.

By December, the site had been shared with all of the archdiocese's priests, deacons and parish catechetical leaders.

I have already seen some fruit come from this initiative. Parishes have been linking to the My House site on their parish websites, promoting it through their bulletins and handing out My House referral cards in the confessional. There are new parishes signing up to preach on the topic of pornography during Safe Haven Sunday, which takes place on Feb. 21-22 in our archdiocese this year.

I hope that more clergy will take the opportunity to grow in their knowledge of how to spiritually accompany the faithful in this area; that more parishes will be courageous in breaking the silence about the harms of pornography, encouraging every home to be a Safe Haven against pornography; and that parents, teachers and parish leaders will work together to educate our young people on the dignity of every human life and how pornography is an affront to that dignity.

I'm so grateful to have witnessed how God worked through this project—in his own perfect timing—and the fruit it has already begun to bear. I can't wait to see what happens next.

(Gabriela Ross is director of the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life. She can be reached at 317-592-4007 or [gross@archindy.org](mailto:gross@archindy.org).) †

# TELL CITY

continued from page 9

practices applied to the local culture. It's very adaptable and still fruitful."

He notes a unique feature of the program is that the couple chooses their own mentor couple—a couple they admire as model witnesses of sacramental marriage.



Fr. Anthony Hollowell

The engaged couple completes an inventory then meets with their mentor couple monthly for six months to discuss a book that is part of the program, with a workbook providing "homework" for the engaged couples between meetings.

Father Hollowell says he has heard positive feedback from the 10 couples who have completed the program.

As current mentors of two engaged couples through St. Mark, Mary Lee and Houston Smith also praise the program.

"It teaches [engaged couples] about virtues like patience, understanding, commitment, plus things like communication, finances [and] parenthood," says Mary Lee. "If couples aren't talking enough to know and understand each other, this book opens up conversations they can talk about and maybe see things they want to do better."

The Smiths, who will celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary on March 2, say the book included in the Witness to Love program has benefited them as well as the engaged couples.

"It's made us look at our lives a little different," says Houston. "The balance, the commitment of marriage—it opens your eyes."

Mary Lee agrees, saying the program "has made us have more conversations. It opens doors to think about things you don't think about otherwise—even after 53 years."

The program also "creates a close bond of friendship" between the engaged and mentor couple, she notes.

"We just finished our last chapter [with one of the engaged couples]," says Mary Lee. "They said, 'We don't want to quit,' and we said, 'We don't either.' We're talking about continuing to meet once a month after the wedding."

"It's just a very good program," Houston adds. "We recommend it to any engaged couple."

## Life 'interconnected with the Holy Family'

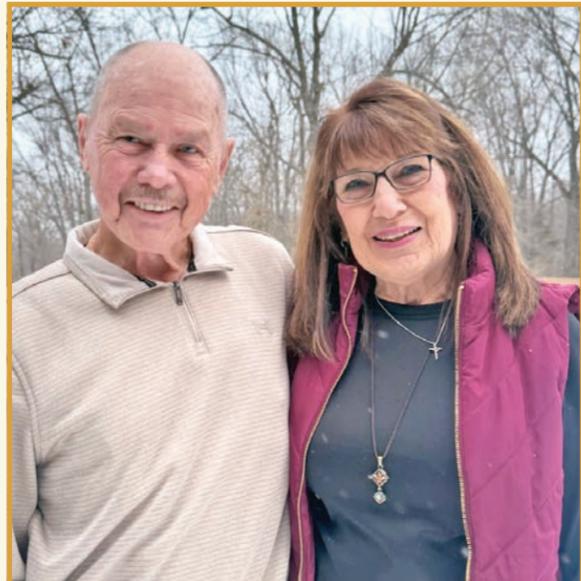
About eight years ago, two seemingly unconnected events led to a beautiful focus on the family in two Perry County parishes.

The first event occurred late in 2017 when the Knights of Columbus organization launched a Consecration to the Holy Family program for parishes. Its goal is to revitalize faith communities by encouraging families "to devote themselves to the ideal model of familial love set by Jesus, Mary and Joseph," according to the Knights' website.

The following summer, St. Martin of Tours Parish in Siberia was merged with St. Isidore the Farmer Parish.

"We were looking for programs to unite the [members of the] combined parishes," says Ryan Borden, a member of St. Isidore. As head of family programs for the parish's Knights of Columbus Fr. Timothy Sweeney Council #17069 at the time, the new Holy Family consecration came to mind.

He received approval from the parish's pastor, Benedictine Father Luke Waugh. Then he set the wheels in motion for the consecration to take place on the feast of the Holy Family, the Sunday after Christmas—although the consecration can be made anytime throughout the year.



Houston and Mary Lee Smith. (Submitted photo)

"Everyone thinks the consecration is a one-day thing, but it's actually a one-week process," explains Borden, a fourth-degree Knight who has held several positions with his parish's council, including past Grand Knight.

Material is handed out to parishioners a week prior to the consecration. It explains the consecration, promotes daily prayer and discussion in the family, and encourages each family member to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

The consecration takes place after Mass on the designated day.

"The Knights hand out a card with the prayer," Father Luke explains. "After Mass, I bless the congregation, then everyone says the prayer."



Fr. Luke Waugh, O.S.B.

The consecration doesn't end there, Braden emphasizes. Families are encouraged to continue praying together regularly, perhaps creating a small altar or corner in the home "for prayer and meditation, with a crucifix or small statue," he says.

"I have friends say they started praying more with their family at home" after the consecration, Braden says. "That helps a lot of

the kids see it's alright to practice your faith more than just going to Mass."

Consecration to the Holy Family has taken place at St. Isidore and at Holy Cross Parish in St. Croix—where Father Luke is also pastor—almost every year since 2018.

"I think within our parish communities, it helps the understanding that there's a deep spirit of family life that is interconnected with the Holy Family," he says. "It has been a big blessing at my parishes."

## 'Moments to be cherished'

Each year the archdiocese hosts a Wedding Anniversary Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis, almost always with the current archbishop as the principal celebrant.

But the cathedral is about a three-hour drive from the Tell City Deanery.

"That's quite a trip for people to make from here, especially when they're older," says Becky Hubert, a member of St. Mark Parish.

She thinks it was her position on the parish council that led a parishioner to tell her in 2021, "We should have an anniversary celebration like they do in Indianapolis," Hubert recalls. "She planted a seed in my mind" for a locally-held, deanery-wide wedding anniversary Mass with the archbishop.

Hubert took the idea to the council.

"One of the goals for the [archdiocesan] pastoral plan at the time was recognizing and celebrating marriage," says Father Hollowell. "Becky pointed out that we had a lot of couples who'd been married a long time. I was surprised at the numbers—the deanery had over 200 couples married for 50 or more years."

The idea was approved. Hubert formed and headed a committee, and in 2022 the first Tell City Deanery Wedding Anniversary Mass honoring couples celebrating 50 or more years of marriage was celebrated with Archbishop Charles C. Thompson in St. Paul Church, followed by a reception in the parish hall.

The celebration was held a second time at St. Paul last fall, again with the archbishop. The plan is to continue the tradition every five years going forward.

"With the archbishop and other deanery parishes involved and the music, it's an awe-inspiring experience," says Hubert.

She also noticed older couples from different parishes interacting at the reception.

"At their age, many don't have that opportunity to visit with others from other parishes," she says.

Father Hollowell notes the celebration uplifts families, too.



Becky Hubert

"I've heard several people say, 'The last time we had a photo with Mom and Dad was that Mass,' or 'That was the last time all the family got together was that Mass,'" he says. "They were grateful to have that opportunity. Those are moments to be cherished."

About 90 couples celebrating milestone anniversaries attended the Mass last fall, says Hubert—including her and her husband Paul.

"It was our 50th anniversary, so the Mass took on a different meaning for me this time," she says.

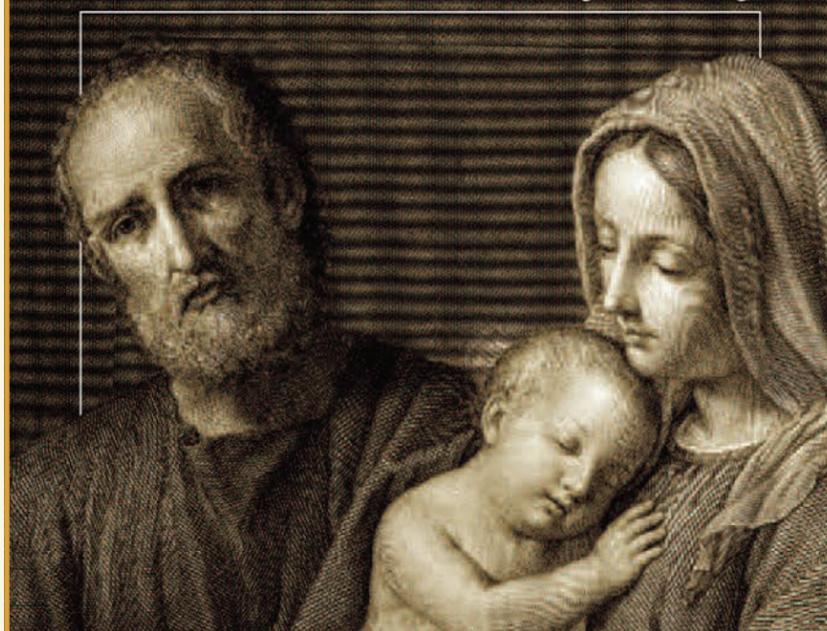
Father Hollowell credits Hubert for her leadership in turning an "abstract idea" from the former archdiocesan pastoral plan "into a real celebration for couples. It's made a real impact on how marriage is understood and celebrated in the area."

Hubert in turn credits the "wonderful, talented" members of the event's planning committee.

But in the end, what matters most is celebrating the love of family, she says.

"Every day is a gift," says Hubert. "Getting to celebrate it with your loved ones makes it even more special." †

## Consecration to the Holy Family



O Lord Jesus,  
you lived in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth.  
There you grew in age, wisdom and grace  
as you prepared to fulfill your mission  
as our Redeemer.

**We entrust our family to you.**

O Blessed Mary,  
you are the Mother of our Savior.  
At Nazareth you cared for Jesus  
and nurtured him in the peace and joy of your home.

**We entrust our family to you.**

O Saint Joseph,  
you provided a secure and loving home for Jesus and Mary,  
and gave us a model of fatherhood  
while showing us the dignity of work.

**We entrust our family to you.**

Holy Family,  
we consecrate ourselves and our family to you.  
May we be completely united  
in a love that is lasting, faithful  
and open to the gift of new life.  
Help us to grow in virtue,  
to forgive one another from our hearts,  
and to live in peace all our days.  
Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer,  
diligent in our work, and generous toward those in need.  
May our home, O Holy Family,  
truly become a domestic church  
where we reflect your example in our daily life. Amen.

**Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!**

Building the Domestic Church



KofC.org/DomesticChurch

This prayer was written by Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, Md., and printed with the permission of the Knights of Columbus.

# Wedding Announcements

## Alexander-Annee



Sophia Taylor Alexander and Joseph Samuel Annee will be married on June 6 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Chris and Margie Alexander. The groom is the son of Joe and Jenny Annee.

## Gehrich-Miano



Megan Brittany Gehrich and Edward Rocco Miano were married on Oct. 18, 2025, at St. Mary Church in Greensburg. The bride is the daughter of Dave and Angela Gehrich. The groom is the son of Sal Miano and the late Traci Ware, and the stepson of Amy Miano.

## Prewitt-Newett



Riley Prewitt and Tyler Newett were married on Dec. 27, 2025, at St. Roch Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Tanya Prewitt. The groom is the son of John and Toni Newett.

## Bierman-Rodriguez



Phoebe Marie Bierman and Alexander James Rodriguez will be married on June 26 at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Church in Floyd County. The bride is the daughter of Paul and Connie Bierman. The groom is the son of Jessica Pritchard and Rick Rodriguez.

## Hudepohl-Schepers



Annalise Elizabeth Hudepohl and Benjamin Joseph Schepers will be married on July 18 at St. Nicholas Church in Ripley County. The bride is the daughter of Andrew and Angela Hudepohl. The groom is the son of Brennan and Lori Schepers.

## Samuelson-Lewis



Riley Samuelson and Dylan Lewis were married on Aug. 9, 2025, at St. Barnabas Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Ryan and Angie Samuelson. The groom is the son of Nate Lewis and Shaune Harlow.

## Brown-Costin



Sasha Rose Brown and Bradey Costin were married on July 5, 2025, at St. Martin of Tours Church in Martinsville. The bride is the daughter of James and Tracy Brown. The groom is the son of Steve and Staci Ralph.

## Kunkel-Wirey



Amber Nicole Kunkel and Justin Lee Wirey were married on July 12, 2025, at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Beech Grove. The bride is the daughter of Ron and Sonya Kunkel. The groom is the son of Rick and Jacki Wirey.

## Tatarek-Fon



Grace Marie Tatarek and Stephen Joseph Fon, Jr., were married on Dec. 20, 2025, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Stephanine Tatarek. The groom is the son of Stephen, Sr., and Phyllis Fon.

## Farrar-Bergeon



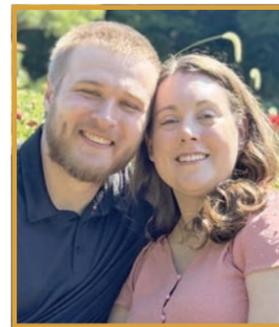
Meredith Mosel Farrar and Andrew John Bergeon will be married on Feb. 14 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of John and Gina Farrar. The groom is the son of Christopher and Annette Bergeon.

## Lecher-Sander



Melissa Rose Lecher and Joshua Albert Sander will be married on June 6 at St. Raphael Church in Dubois, Ind. The bride is the daughter of Steve and the late Edith Lecher. The groom is the son of Steve and Marla Sander.

## Waggoner-Simpson



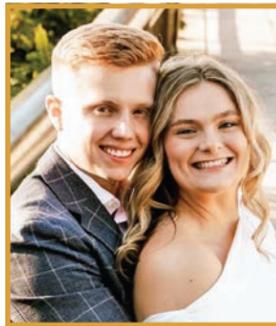
Corrina Sue Waggoner and Alex Richard Simpson will be married on May 16 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Monte Cassino in St. Meinrad. The bride is the daughter of Jerry and Sue Waggoner. The groom is the son of Richard and Dorothy Simpson.

## Ferguson-Brown



Shelby Ferguson and Mason Brown were married on May 24, 2025, at St. Martin of Tours Church in Martinsville. The bride is the daughter of Steve and Tasha Ferguson. The groom is the son of James and Tracy Brown.

## Newett-Da Silva



Ainsley Marie Newett and Leonardo Augusto Sala Da Silva will be married on July 3 at Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of John and Toni Newett. The groom is the son of Carlos and Claudeine Da Silva.

## Wilson-Bertin



Kierra Marie Wilson and Matthew Michael Bertin will be married on June 20 at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Brian and Heather Wilson. The groom is the son of Randy and Karen Bertin.

## Fischer-Davis



Kara Michelle Fischer and Matthew Louis Davis were married on Jan. 24 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Dr. Don and Beth Fischer. The groom is the son of Rick and Julie Davis.

### Couples may announce engagement or marriage this summer

Engagement announcements will be published in the July 10 issue of *The Criterion* for couples planning to marry between July 12, 2026, and Jan. 31, 2027, in a marriage that is recognized by the Church as a valid sacramental or valid natural marriage.

Submissions may also be sent by couples who wed in a marriage as described above between Jan. 1 and June 30, 2026, if they did not publish their engagement in *The Criterion*.

The wedding announcement form is available online at [cutt.ly/CriterionWeddings](http://cutt.ly/CriterionWeddings).

An engagement or wedding photo may be sent to [alewis@archindy.org](mailto:alewis@archindy.org). Digital photos must be clear, high-resolution images with the couple close together. Photos can also be mailed to Ann Lewis, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN, 46202. To receive the photo back, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Due to print quality, Xerox copies of photos will not be accepted. Submissions are due by June 24. †

# Safe Haven Sunday creates path for clergy to preach on harms of pornography

By Natalie Hoefler

When Melinda Rivelli thinks of her six boys, she fears “it’s not a matter of ‘if’ but ‘when’” they are exposed to pornography.

“Kids can stumble across it innocently enough,” she says. “A lot of schools give students devices today. [The devices] may have security blocks in school, but not necessarily at home. It’s so addictive, and it’s just everywhere.”

Father John Hollowell agrees.

Since his ordination in 2009, he says he’s noticed an increase in the mentioning of the moral struggle with pornography “in the counseling and all the different ways I work with teens, young adults and adults.”

The U.S. bishops addressed the growing issue with their 2015 document, “Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography.” The document raised awareness of the harms of pornography addiction and suggested resources for prevention and healing.

A 10th anniversary edition of the document was issued last year and renamed “Create in Me a Pure Heart.” Its introduction holds some discouraging news:

“During the decade since the first publication of this pastoral response to pornography, opposition to this grave evil has weakened among the general population.”

That statement was based on two Gallup polls, one in 2015, the other in 2022. The first showed that 34% of Americans deemed pornography morally acceptable—a figure that rose to 41% in just seven years.

But the document offers more than sobering statistics. It also provides suggestions for parents, lay and civil leaders, educators and clergy to protect those they care for from pornography’s harm.

One suggestion for dioceses and parishes is to implement the “Safe Haven Sunday” program.

## ‘It brings evil to the light’

The program, created by the faith-based organization Covenant Eyes, provides tools for dioceses and parishes to designate a weekend during the liturgical year to

address and preach on the harms of pornography. On its website, Covenant Eyes notes the program was inspired by the 2015 “Create in Me a Clean Heart” document.

Father Hollowell sees merit in the idea, noting, “If the Church talks about pornography, it brings evil to the light.”

So, when he and Father Jonathan Meyer, the priests who lead All Saints Parish in Dearborn County, were approached by the archdiocese last year to pilot the Safe Haven Sunday program at the faith community, they agreed.

So did Father Thomas Schliessmann, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis. The program was rolled out in both parishes on the first weekend of Lent last year.

Rivelli, pastoral associate at St. Joan of Arc, oversaw the implementation at her parish.

At no cost, Covenant Eyes “provides everything you need to roll [Safe Haven Sunday] out—sample letters for the priest to send out before the weekend, bulletin inserts, social media posts, homily guides for the priests,” she says. “You can do as much or as little as the priest and parish are comfortable with.”

For the St. Joan of Arc implementation, Father Schliessmann mailed an explanatory letter to parishioners a few weeks prior to the Safe Haven Sunday weekend.

“Between that [letter] and bulletin announcements, it wasn’t a shock” when parishioners heard him preach on the sensitive topic, says Rivelli.

The parish also provided a table with information after each Mass that weekend “to try to offer resources to protect children and also for healing if any adult in a family is addicted to pornography,” she says. “Obviously the sacraments are a huge source of help, but they need something more intentional to help them break the cycle of addiction.”

All Saints “took advantage of all the things that Covenant Eyes offers for the parish to roll out the program,” says Father Hollowell.

For the homilies that weekend, “We followed Covenant Eyes’ suggestion of using the phrase ‘explicit material’ instead of ‘pornography’ to keep young people from saying, ‘What’s pornography?’ and looking it up online,” he says.

## ‘Who else is going to tell the truth?’

The program was well-received at All Saints, says Father Hollowell, noting, “People thanked me for talking about [the issue],” he says.

The program spans four years, each with a different focus for the Safe Haven Sunday weekend. The first year’s theme is “Safeguarding Children,” followed by “Having Critical Conversations,” “Safety Through Connections” and “Healing Marriages and Fatherhood” in years two through four.

Both All Saints and St. Joan of Arc will participate in Safe Haven Sunday this year, although All Saints will offer it on the weekend of Feb. 28-March 1 rather than on Feb. 21-22, the first weekend of Lent.

“I feel really passionate that we need to do more to equip parents especially, but people in general, to avoid the hazards of pornography,” says Rivelli. “It ruins marriages, it affects mental health, it destroys self-confidence.”

Father Hollowell agrees.

“When Jesus said, ‘If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out,’ that passage relates to the sin of lust,” he says, referring to Matthew 5:27-30. “He knows how numbing those sins are to our soul, so we should take any steps necessary to avoid that temptation.”

“Pornography is obviously a major issue in our world and culture. If the Church is silent, who else is going to tell the truth about it?”

*(To read the U.S. bishops’ document “Create in Me a Pure Heart,” go to [uscbb.org/pureheart](http://uscbb.org/pureheart). For information on Safe Haven Sunday, go to [covenanteyes.com/safe-haven-sunday/catholic-resources](http://covenanteyes.com/safe-haven-sunday/catholic-resources). Parishes seeking more information on implementing the program can contact Gabriela Ross, director of the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life, at 317-592-4007 or [gross@archindy.org](mailto:gross@archindy.org).) †*



Melinda Rivelli

## Pre-Cana Retreats, Tobit Weekend and One in Christ program prepare engaged couples for marriage

Criterion staff report

Three marriage preparation programs offered in the archdiocese—the Pre-Cana Conference, Tobit Weekend and One in Christ—help prepare engaged couples for the sacrament of marriage as well as the challenges of married life.

Early registration is recommended for all programs, as each fills up quickly.

**Pre-Cana Retreats** cover skills for marriage, a catechesis on the sacrament of marriage and an introduction to the science and morals behind natural family planning. They are offered in English.

Two Pre-Cana retreats are scheduled at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, as follows:

—March 14 and 15, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. each day, \$200 per couple, register by March 4.

—Sept. 19 and 20, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. each day, \$200 per couple, registration opens on March 14.

More information and registration are available at [tinyurl.com/IndyPre-Cana](http://tinyurl.com/IndyPre-Cana).

**Tobit Weekend** retreats take place at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, and are offered in English. The cost is \$400 per couple, which includes program materials, meals, snacks and two rooms for two nights.

The next retreats will take place on June 5-7 and Sept. 25-27.

More information and registration are available at [fatimaretreathouse-indy.org/tobit](http://fatimaretreathouse-indy.org/tobit). For Tobit retreat or registration questions, contact Lisa Coons at [lcoons@archindy.org](mailto:lcoons@archindy.org) or 317-545-7681.

**One in Christ** marriage preparation, which includes a medical panel to address questions on reproduction and fertility, involves an online pre-seminar course (\$99 per couple) and a three-day seminar (\$300 per couple) spanning a weekend and the following Saturday. On Saturdays, the program runs from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and on Sunday it runs from 9:45 a.m.-4 p.m. Meals and materials are included. Scholarships are available for those with financial difficulty.

There are two upcoming One in Christ opportunities: April 11, 12 and 18, and June 27, 28 and 11. Both will be held at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, 10655 Haverstick Road, in Carmel, Ind. (Lafayette Diocese).

To register, go to [oicmarriage.org/seminar-info](http://oicmarriage.org/seminar-info). For more information, including the possibility of financial assistance, call 317-600-5629, e-mail [info@OICmarriage.org](mailto:info@OICmarriage.org) or go to [oicmarriage.org](http://oicmarriage.org).

**Parish-led marriage preparation retreats in Spanish** are available throughout the archdiocese. For a current list, go to [tinyurl.com/PrematrimonialesEnEspanol](http://tinyurl.com/PrematrimonialesEnEspanol).

Live retreats offer an invaluable experience for engaged couples and are the expected formation option.

However, for couples who experience significant difficulties attending a live retreat, including but not limited to preparing for marriage while out of state or country, being deployed in the armed forces or inflexible shift work at a hospital or factory, the online and self-paced Joy-Filled Marriage course ensures that no one misses out on valuable and comprehensive marriage formation. It is available in English and Spanish, and the cost is \$124.95.

For more information or to register, go to [tinyurl.com/Pre-CanaOnline](http://tinyurl.com/Pre-CanaOnline). †

## Archbishop Thompson will celebrate Wedding Anniversary Mass on Aug. 30

The archdiocesan annual Wedding Anniversary Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, at 2 p.m. on Aug. 30. A reception will follow across the street at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center.

The Mass and reception, sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life, are for couples of the archdiocese married sacramentally in the Catholic Church and

celebrating an anniversary ending in 0 or 5 (for example, 5th, 10th, 45th, 60th, etc.).

All couples celebrating an anniversary ending in 0 or 5 who register will receive a certificate.

The event is free, but registration is required and will open in May at [tinyurl.com/WedAnniversaryMass](http://tinyurl.com/WedAnniversaryMass).

For additional questions, contact Claudia Corona at 317-236-7310 or [ccorona@archindy.org](mailto:ccorona@archindy.org). †

## Catholic speed dating event will take place at St. Joan of Arc Parish on April 18

“Holy Flirtation,” a speed dating event for Catholic singles, will take place at St. Joan of Arc Parish, 4217 Central Ave., in Indianapolis, from 1:30-5:10 p.m. on April 18.

The event includes a catered dinner with wine, 12 six-minute speed dates and time for mingling.

Upon registering, participants will receive a link to a compatibility survey. The survey results determine the 12 people each person will “date” during the event. Toward the end of the event, participants will receive a survey to note which people they would like to get to know better. Mutual matches will be shared by email the following day.

Immediately after the event, all are invited to worship at the 5:30 p.m. vigil Mass at St. Joan of Arc Church.

April 18 marks the third “Holy Flirtation” event, created and operated by St. Joan of Arc parishioner Josh Matthews. The previous events involved 200 participants, with an even balance of men and women.

There is no age limit to register. While the majority of attendees of past events were 22-32 years old, participants have ranged from 20-55 in age.

The cost is \$35 plus \$1.92 online processing fee.

For more information or to register, go to [tinyurl.com/HolyFlirtation3](http://tinyurl.com/HolyFlirtation3). †

# SIMPLY CATHOLIC

## Married couples show how spouses lead each other to holiness

By Katie Yoder

(OSV News)—Catholics and people worldwide associate St. Valentine's feast day with love and romance.

Here are five married couples who are saints today because they lived out a vocation of love for each other—and for God.

### —SS. Louis Martin and Marie-Azélie Guérin (Zélie)

Pope Francis canonized the French couple Louis Martin (1823-94) and Zélie Guérin (1831-77) in 2015. Louis, a watchmaker, and Zélie, a lacemaker, attempted to enter religious life before discerning marriage. They are perhaps best known for being the parents of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, their youngest daughter.

St. Thérèse was one of nine children the Martins welcomed into their home; four died in infancy, the other five—all girls—joined religious orders.

The couple's path to holiness embodies the "little way" that St. Thérèse is famous for—doing small things with great love.

"The holy spouses Louis Martin and Marie-Azélie Guérin practiced Christian service in the family, creating day by day an environment of faith and love which nurtured the vocations of their daughters," Pope Francis remembered at their canonization.

Their feast day is on July 12.

### —SS. Aquila and Priscilla

SS. Aquila and Priscilla served an important role in the early decades of the Church. The Jewish tentmakers who converted to Christianity traveled to Corinth after being exiled from Rome.

While there, they encountered St. Paul, a fellow tentmaker whom they welcomed into their home.

The first-century Christian couple appears multiple times in the Bible because of their faithful witness.

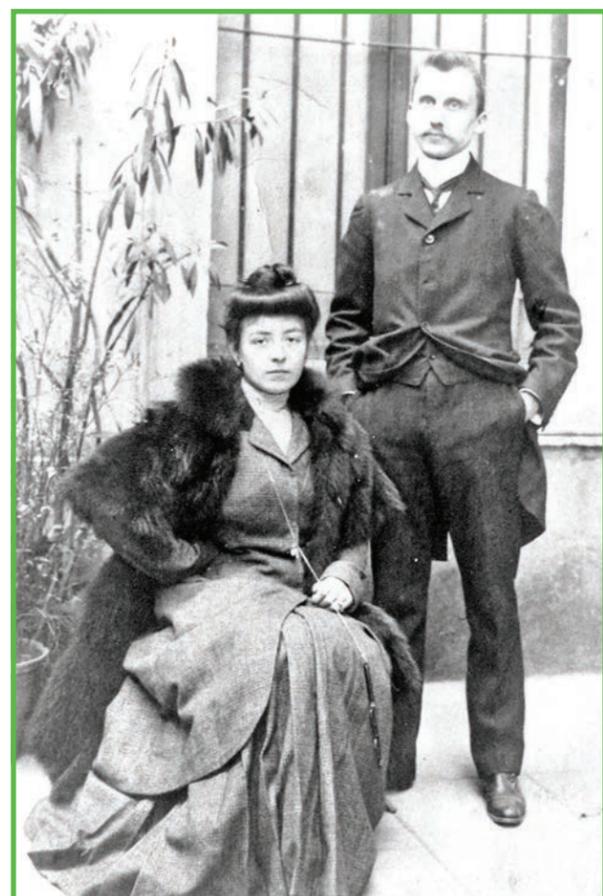
"Greet Prisca and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I am grateful but also all the Churches of the Gentiles," St. Paul writes in Romans 16:3-4.

Acts 18 reveals that the two saints accompanied St. Paul from Corinth to Syria and then to Ephesus, where they instructed others in "the way of God" (Acts 18:26).

They also opened their home as a church to the local Christian community, where the faithful read the Scriptures and celebrated the Eucharist.

From their example, Pope Benedict XVI said in 2007, the faithful can learn how "every home can transform itself in[to] a little church."

According to some traditions, they died as martyrs. Their feast day is on July 8.



Blessed Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi became in 2001 the first couple in the history of the Church to be beatified as a married couple. The Italian couple of the early 20th century had four children and lived in Rome. He was a lawyer and she a housewife. (OSV News photo/CNS archives)

### —Mary and St. Joseph

Catholics honor SS. Mary and Joseph as the parents of Jesus. Throughout their lives, they always said "yes" to God's plan—from Mary consenting to become the Mother of God to Joseph, a carpenter, taking Mary as his wife after an angel appeared to him.

There are various feast days for Mary over the course of the Church's liturgical year, with the most prominent perhaps being the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on Jan. 1.

There are two feast days for St. Joseph, with the principal one happening on March 19.

### —SS. Joachim and Anne

SS. Joachim and Anne are honored as Mary's parents and thus Jesus' grandparents.

While their story does not appear in the Bible, an early Christian document dating to the mid-second century known as the "Protoevangelium of James" recalls them as a faithful, holy couple who struggled with childlessness before they became the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Their feast day is on July 26.

### —SS. Zechariah and Elizabeth

SS. Zechariah and Elizabeth are the holy parents of St. John the Baptist. The couple also struggled with having children until the angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah and promised them a son in their old age.

When Zechariah doubted the angel, he was struck dumb and was unable to speak until after his son's birth when he confirmed in writing that his son's name was John. His first words were words of praise for God that are prayed every day in Morning Prayer in the Church's Liturgy of the Hours.

Before giving birth, Elizabeth receives a visit from Mary, a relative of hers, while they are both pregnant. Today, Catholics repeat her words of greeting in the "Hail Mary" prayer: "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb" (Lk 1:42).

The account of Zechariah and Elizabeth miraculously becoming the parents of John the Baptist, Elizabeth being visited by Mary, and John's birth can be found in Luke 1:5-25, 39-80.

The couple's feast day is on Nov. 5.

### —Bonus: Blessed Luigi Beltrame Quattrocchi and Maria Corsini

Luigi (1880-1951), a lawyer, and Maria (1884-1965), a catechist, are the first married couple to be beatified together by the Church. The Italian couple were married in 1905 in Rome. They welcomed four children into their home, three of whom entered consecrated religious life.

When doctors recommended that they choose abortion for their youngest, Enrica, due to pregnancy complications, they refused. Today, she is also on the path to sainthood.

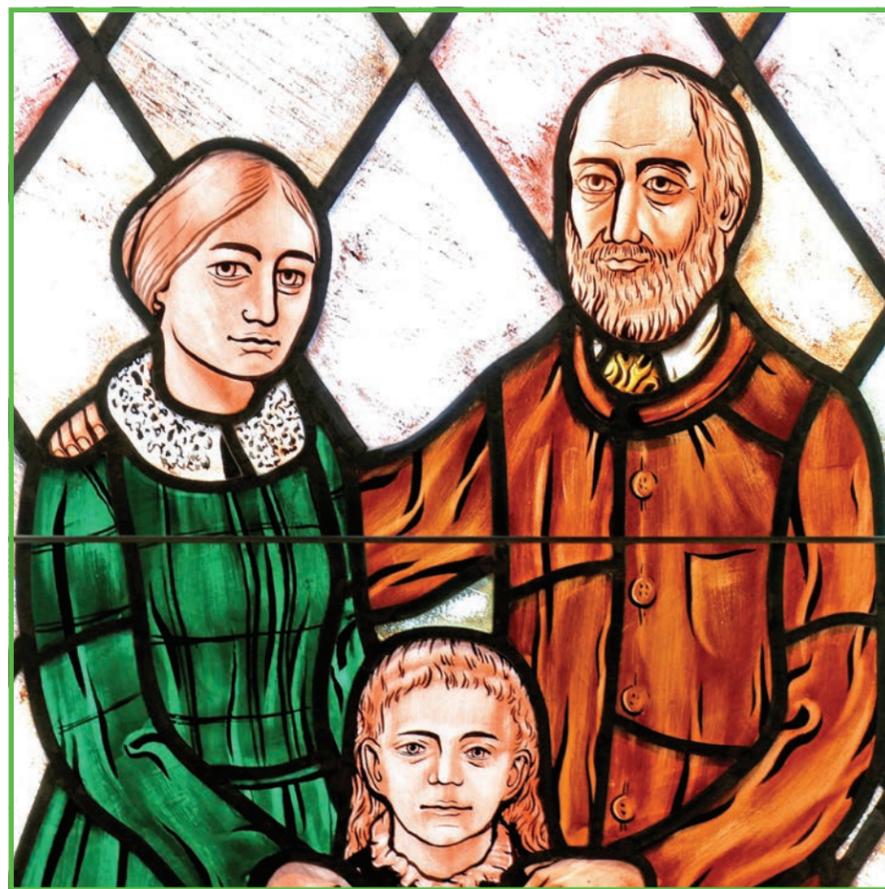
Luigi and Maria died respectively in 1951 and 1965.

The couple lived "an ordinary life in an extraordinary way," Pope St. John Paul II said during their 2001 beatification, including through embracing a rich spiritual life.

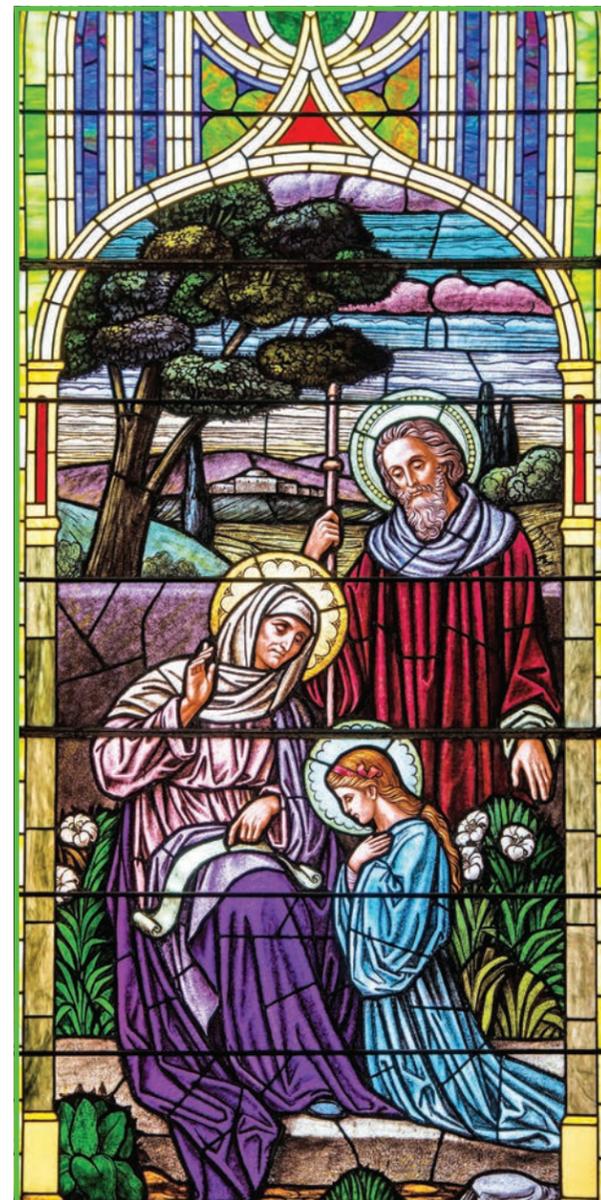
"At the center of their life was the daily Eucharist as well as devotion to the Virgin Mary, to whom they prayed every evening with the rosary, and consultation with wise spiritual directors," he said.

Their example, he said, serves as an inspiration for all.

"Dear families, today we have distinctive confirmation that the path of holiness lived together as a couple is possible, beautiful, extraordinarily fruitful, and fundamental for the good of the family, the Church and society," he said. "This prompts us to pray to the Lord that there be many more married couples who can reveal in the holiness of their lives, the 'great mystery' of spousal love, which originates



SS. Marie-Azélie Guérin and Louis Martin, the parents of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, are depicted with their daughter in a stained-glass window at St. Thérèse of Lisieux Church in Montauk, N.Y. (OSV News photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)



A stained-glass window at St. Joseph Church in Kellnersville, Wis., depicts a youthful Mary with her parents, SS. Anne and Joachim. The feast of SS. Anne and Joachim is celebrated on July 26. (OSV News photo/Sam Lucero)

in creation and is fulfilled in the union of Christ with his Church."

Their feast day is on Nov. 25.

(Katie Yoder is an OSV News correspondent. She writes from Maryland.) †

# ETLING

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archdiocese also recognized the tremendous impact that the 93-year-old Etling has had on countless children and families through the years, honoring her with its Legacy Award during the archdiocese's Legacy Gala at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis on Feb. 6.

Her joy in receiving the honor showed during the gala and also in a video that was shared during the event which was attended by about 1,100 people.

"I'm a blessed woman," Etling said. "When you can help others and do for others, it certainly makes you see how lucky you are. And in the success stories you see—in front of you with people—how they can turn their lives around and do so much more."

That "do so much more" approach to life guided the marriage of Patricia and the late John E. Etling, who were wed in 1956.

The commitment they made to each other and their children also became a commitment to care for people in need.

"John taught art in public schools," his wife recalled. "He saw so much poverty in some of the schools during his time. We had several children at home. He thought every child should be entitled to food and clothing and a good education. John said, 'Why can't we have Catholic Charities in Terre Haute?'"

The Catholic Charities agency in Terre Haute became a reality in 1973, and for the next 32 years John served as its director while Patricia helped and supported all the efforts along the way, including her years as its chief financial officer and program director for its food bank.

"There was an agency phone line in their bedroom," Joe Etling recalls. "And therefore, they could receive calls 24/7."

Fifty-three years later, that family dedication is just as strong through the food bank, Ryves Youth Center, the Christmas Store, the Bethany House temporary emergency shelter and other programs of Catholic Charities Terre Haute. Their son, John, has overseen the agency as its director for 21 years.

"The food bank has now become such the cornerstone of our agency here," John said. "We reach out to seven counties. We have 100 partners and effectively touch about 44,000 people [a year] through that program of providing food."

The impact of Catholic Charities Terre Haute during its 53 years has been impressive and life changing.

"More than 1.35 million unduplicated people have been served," John said.



Participants at the archdiocese's Legacy Gala on Feb. 6 show an abundance of joy during the event. (Photo courtesy of Denis Ryan Kelly Jr.)

In its seventh year, the archdiocese's Legacy Gala is a celebration of the gifts that the archdiocese shares with many people across central and southern Indiana—through its 69 Catholic schools, the extensive outreach of its six Catholic Charities agencies that serve more than 400,000 people each year, and its formation of seminarians at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, where young men are prepared to become the next generation of priests.

The impact of these three ministries was eloquently summed up by Clare LeMark, a senior at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, during her remarks to the people at the gala.

"My experiences at Chatard have taught me to see Christ in everyone I encounter and to trust in God's timing," she began, before soon turning her focus to the three ministries.

"I'm here tonight to share that your support makes an impact in the areas that I've been taught are key elements of our community and faith—educating and forming young men who are considering the sacramental vocation of

becoming a priest, supporting the leaders of our schools who are dedicated to my success, not just today but always, and caring for those who turn to the Church to have their basic needs met because they have nowhere else to turn."

Clare's words helped the gala raise \$600,000 to assist the three ministries. So did the intense bidding for two special auction items connected to the national championship that the football team of Indiana University won in January.

A football signed by IU head football coach, Curt Cignetti, raised \$5,000. And the spirited bidding was even more intense for a helmet autographed by IU's quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner Fernando Mendoza.

Bids for the prized helmet increased by \$1,000 quickly, ultimately raising \$14,000.

Beyond being an evening marked by generosity, it was also an evening filled with joy, a joy that came to life musically with an uplifting performance by the Sounds of Silas Choir of Bishop Chatard High School.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## Connections of hope: Gala highlights three ministries that touch people's lives

By John Shaughnessy

The best parts of life are usually tied to the connections we make with other people—and the difference we make to each other.

These bonds often start with simple invitations and welcomes, in the hope they will lead to something more.

That's the approach of Castle Nights at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, experiences that bring together young men in high school and seminarians for prayer, a meal and fun activities like basketball and football.

"We find that, over the years, one of the most encouraging ways for a young man to think of himself as possibly being a seminarian or being a priest is getting to know other seminarians and priests," says Father Eric Augenstein, the archdiocese's director of seminarians and pastor of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis.

"And so, our vocations office has developed a number of opportunities for young men who are open to the possibility of the priesthood to meet seminarians. So that they can see that, 'Yeah, I can do this. I can picture myself here.'"

Father Michael Keucher has seen the impact that these opportunities to pray, share a meal and have fun together in the seminary setting can make.

"Sacred things happen when people break bread together," says Father Keucher, the archdiocese's director of vocations and the pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County.

"One of the seminarians usually gives a nice little talk on his vocation story

and how the Lord worked in his life. But there is something beautiful too about the football and the basketball."

The games let the youths learn that amid the prayer and the studies, "there's also a lot of fun that's had here," he says.

All the interaction gives him hope.

"Knowing our seminarians and knowing our discerners, my heart is filled with hope," Father Keucher says. "Maybe they'll be priests. Maybe not. Maybe they'll be seminarians. Maybe not. But they have a hunger for holiness. And they have a hunger to be saints in whatever way God is calling them to be."

The two priests shared their insights about the seminary in a video that was shown at the archdiocese's Legacy Gala in Indianapolis on Feb. 6.

Two more life-changing ministries of the archdiocese were also prominently featured in videos during the gala—Catholic Charities and Catholic schools.

### 'I am so blessed'

With six agencies across the archdiocese in Bedford, Bloomington, Indianapolis, New Albany, Tell City and Terre Haute, Catholic Charities serves more than 400,000 people each year.

Among its many outreaches, the archdiocese's Catholic Charities helps families enduring food insecurity and homelessness, people struggling with mental health concerns and women facing a crisis pregnancy.

As the agency director of Catholic Charities Terre Haute, John Etling sees both the needs of people and the generosity of people.

"There's a lot of good people in Indiana," Etling says. "The saying

'Hoosier hospitality' is not just a cliché, it actually exists. And for any of us who have experienced hunger, I think most of us can relate that [food], that's the fuel that allows our kids to perform in the classroom. It's the fuel that allows people to perform in the workplace.

"We can do better."

As the assistant agency director of Catholic Charities Terre Haute, Jennifer Tames says, "There are soup kitchens and pantries in Indianapolis and New Albany and across the Archdiocese of Indianapolis that are working to help individuals in their communities."

She knows the difference that the Terre Haute agency has made to the people who live in the seven-county area it serves.

"Annually, Catholic Charities food bank distributes about 4.5 million pounds of food, and that equals to about 3.7 million meals each year."

She has also seen the impact that her work has had on her life and her faith.

"I am so blessed to be able to go home every night and know that I have made an impact in somebody's life. And I truly do look at my position here at Catholic Charities as having been one that God created for me. And I hope that I have been able over the years to make him proud."

### 'A place that they can call home'

The 69 Catholic schools in the archdiocese help educate more than 23,000 students. Curt Gardner has seen the difference Catholic schools make as the principal of Father Michael Shawe Jr./Sr. High School in Madison.

"It's really hard to put on paper, really—any Catholic school you've been

in—what makes it special," he says. "You really do have to kind of come and walk the halls and experience it for yourself to understand. You feel the spirit here. The Holy Spirit is definitely alive in these halls."

Gardner shares the story of Shawe's success through the perspective of the family of Dan and Leslie Hambrick. Dan first encountered the school when he became its girls' varsity basketball coach in the early 1990s.

"He didn't have any kids yet," Gardner notes. "He himself didn't go to the school. He wasn't Catholic. But he enjoyed his time here as a coach. He saw how our kids behaved. He saw how the place supported each other."

In the years since, the couple has sent their five children through Pope John XXIII Elementary School in Madison and onward to Shawe, with their youngest child set to graduate from the school of less than 200 students in 2029.

"Danny did convert and become Catholic," Gardner says. "They're just one of those families that are in the pew every weekend, and for them Shawe feels like home."

He credits the school's success to being a part of the archdiocese and the support it receives from the Office of Catholic Schools and other Catholic schools.

"We definitely feel the support of time, treasure, talent and, most importantly, prayer.

"If someone wants to feel a sense of a second home, and they're willing to partner—like the Hambricks have partnered with us—they can go into any Catholic school in this archdiocese and find a place that they can call home." †



The Sounds of Silas Choir of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis delivers an uplifting performance during the archdiocese's Legacy Gala on Feb. 6. (Photo courtesy of Denis Ryan Kelly Jr.)

**CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**

Their performance inspired the gala's emcee, Grace Trahan-Rodecap, to note that young people are often viewed as the future of the Church.

"But I would counter that and say that young people are the Church *right now*," said Trahan-Rodecap, director of marketing for Cathedral High School in Indianapolis. "And what a blessing it is to watch them right now as they continue to develop, and they continue to form stewardship and leadership within the Church and develop their faith."

All the joy, generosity and sharing of gifts that marked the evening fittingly led to the spotlight being focused on Patricia Etling, who has strived to live her life with those qualities.

In its Legacy Award, the archdiocese celebrates people who have made outstanding contributions to living the faith and sharing the faith in a way that has touched the lives of so many.

As Archbishop Charles C. Thompson presented the award to Etling, the gala audience rose to a standing ovation for her.

The archbishop then praised Patricia and John Etling for all they have done for others, individually and together.

"It is a joy to gather this evening and to celebrate Pat's remarkable dedication to serving the Church and her community," the archbishop said. "When she and her late husband John made the decision to feed the hungry in Terre Haute, they did far more than respond to a physical need.

"They laid a foundation, solid and strong, creating a place where people are known, where care for one another is tangible, and where no one is reduced to their need alone, easing hunger and strengthening the human spirit.

"On behalf of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and all those whose lives you have touched through your steadfast faith and generous heart, thank you, Pat. You are a blessing to our Church and to our world."

Archbishop Thompson then extended his thanks to everyone at the gala.

"We gather in a spirit of communion and shared

commitment this evening, resolved to build a Church that continues to be a beacon of hope, love and service to all," he said. "Thank you for your presence and your witness of faith."

The archbishop also made a point of stressing the importance of the archdiocese's latest commitment to helping lead people to a personal encounter with Christ.

"The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has recently released a new pastoral plan, one that calls us to further develop vibrant parishes where missionary disciples are called [and] formed through a personal encounter with Jesus Christ."

That personal encounter with Christ is the true focal point of our faith and our life, he noted.

"Everything this night has to be centered on him," the archbishop told the gala audience. "No other ego. No other personality but him. That's why we honor Pat tonight—for living a Christ-centered life."

Returning to the importance of the new pastoral plan, he said, "The plan, which also introduces our new logo, is meant to strengthen our shared vision and unity as one

community with one mission: to joyfully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by living his mission of mercy, hope and salvation."

He closed his remarks with two touches of gratitude—to emcee Trahan-Rodecap for her "poise, warmth and joy" and to the people at the gala and across the archdiocese.

"Thank you for walking this journey with us, for your generosity, and for the hope you continue to bring to life in our Church and in our world," the archbishop said.

Patricia Etling embraced that same spirit of gratitude—for the Church, for people who help others in need, and for the life, service and love she shared with her husband.

"I think the Church is in good hands," she said. "I hope the next generation stays in the Church and carries on the work of charity.

"I am absolutely thrilled and privileged to receive this honor. And I know that John is smiling in heaven. I just want to say thank you—to my family, my kids, all my friends. Thank you." †



A football signed by Indiana University's head football coach Curt Cignetti raised \$5,000 and a helmet autographed by IU quarterback Fernando Mendoza raised \$14,000 during an auction at the archdiocese's Legacy Gala at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis on Feb. 6. (Photo by Emily Mastronicola)



If you would like to contribute to the work of Catholic Charities, Catholic Schools and Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, use the QR above or visit [www.archindy.org/LegacyGala](http://www.archindy.org/LegacyGala).



The musical group "The Bishops" keeps the dance floor crowded with their song selections at the end of the archdiocese's Legacy Gala on Feb. 6. (Photo courtesy of Denis Ryan Kelly Jr.)



As the emcee of the archdiocese's Legacy Gala, Grace Trahan-Rodecap uses her warmth and joy to keep the evening flowing for the 1,100 people at the gala on Feb. 6. (Photo courtesy of Denis Ryan Kelly Jr.)

## Faith in History/Sean Gallagher

## St. Hilary of Poitiers was an ardent defender of the incarnation of Christ

In last month's "Faith in History" column, we explored the life, teachings and significance of St. Athanasius. This towering figure from Alexandria, Egypt, in the Church of the fourth century played a key role in promoting and defending the Church's teaching on the incarnation of Christ defined in 325 at the Council of Nicaea.



The doctor of the Church we'll look at in this column is sometimes called the "Athanasius of the West."

St. Hilary of Poitiers was born around 310 in that city in what is now central France, about 10 years after St. Athanasius was born in Egypt.

His parents were pagan and were likely prominent in the area. Hilary received a good classical education. It was his study of the Scriptures when he was in his 30s that led to his conversion and baptism.

He became the bishop of Poitiers around a decade later in the early 350s. At the time, advocates of Arianism, which held that Christ was not divine, were making inroads into the Church in Gaul, the Roman province that later became France. Hilary thus saw the

defense of the Incarnation as one of his primary duties.

His deep faith and his eloquent writing honed in his classical education made him a fit person to carry out this critical mission.

But it also made Hilary a marked man, much like Athanasius had been in Alexandria. Many leaders in the imperial government, including at times emperors themselves, favored Arianism over the Church's teaching. This led to Hilary being exiled to what is now Turkey for nearly four years.

But he did not let his time away from his flock go to waste. During his exile, Hilary wrote the first major work in Latin explaining the teachings of the Council of Nicaea, as well as insightful Scripture commentaries and hymn texts. Greek was in many ways still the primary language of the Church at this time and was certainly the language most commonly used to set forth its theology.

So, it was helpful for the faithful in the west, many of whom would have been Latin speakers, to have such eloquent explanations of the Church's teachings in their native tongue.

Before the end of the fourth century, great theologians (and doctors of the Church) like St. Jerome and St. Augustine emerged who wrote primarily in Latin.

Both of these profound spiritual writers held Hilary in high esteem for his theological insights.

While in exile, Hilary also challenged defenders of Arianism to public debates. His ardent defense of the Church's teachings while living so close to Constantinople, the empire's primary city at the time, may have led to him being sent back to Poitiers around 361.

Readers of St. Hilary of Poitiers' book on the Trinity, *De Trinitate*, can see this doctor of the Church's profound faith and his great wonder before the mystery of the Son of God taking on human flesh:

"By his incarnation, he [took] to himself from the Virgin a fleshly nature, that through this commingling there might come into being a hallowed body of all humanity. Through that body—which he was pleased to assume—all mankind was hid in him, and he in return, through his unseen existence, was reproduced in all."

A reflection like this from St. Hilary, whose feast is on Jan. 13, would be good for us to meditate upon as we enter soon into Lent to prepare to enter into the passion, death and resurrection that Christ, the Son of God, in his human body, undertook for our salvation. †

## Our Works of Charity/David Bethuram

## We must do all we can to break the cycle of domestic violence

The Catholic Church teaches that any act of violence against another person denies their God-given dignity. Violence treats a person not as someone worthy of love, but as an object to control.



Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behaviors—physical, sexual, emotional, psychological or financial—used by one intimate partner to dominate another. It affects people of every race, age, gender, income level, ability and faith tradition.

Domestic violence is not a distant issue in our communities. In Indiana, 42.5% of women and 27.9% of men experience intimate-partner physical violence, sexual violence or stalking in their lifetimes.

On a single day in 2024, Indiana programs served 1,848 victims, while 123 requests for help went unmet due to lack of resources. These numbers reflect the painful reality that many

individuals who walk through the doors of Catholic Charities have endured abuse.

Catholic Charities remains committed to helping women, men and children escape violent situations by offering food, clothing, counseling and safe shelter—support that allows survivors to begin rebuilding their lives free from fear.

Understanding why victims stay in abusive relationships requires understanding the mindset of an abuser.

Abusers often view their partner as an extension of themselves rather than as a separate, autonomous person. They may use isolation, threats, manipulation or financial control to keep their partner dependent and prevent them from seeking help. Anything that empowers a victim, such as friendships, employment, education or even the possibility of leaving the relationship—can be perceived as a threat.

Jackie's story reflects this painful dynamic. She and her five children lived in fear as her husband's alcoholism escalated into unpredictable and violent behavior.

One night, he fired a gun inside their home in front of the children. Police and Child Protective Services warned Jackie that if she did not leave, she risked losing her children. With no family nearby and nowhere to go, she turned to Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities helped Jackie and her children with safe housing, furnished her new home and provided food and clothing so her family could start over.

Like many abusers, Jackie's husband alternated between moments of affection and episodes of control, blame and violence—creating confusion and emotional turmoil that made leaving even more difficult. Many victims cling to the hope that sobriety, counseling or time will change the abuser's behavior. Jackie eventually found the strength and support she needed to escape.

The impact of domestic violence extends far beyond the immediate victim. More than half of men who abuse their partners also harm their children. Growing up in a violent home increases a child's risk of substance abuse, mental health struggles and becoming either a victim or perpetrator of violence later in life. Without intervention, the cycle can continue for generations.

Catholic Charities and the Church are dedicated to breaking this cycle. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, help is available. Contact your local Catholic Charities agency or reach the National Domestic Violence Hotline for confidential support and referrals: 800-799-SAFE (7233) or 800-787-3224 (TTY).

(David Bethuram is executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Catholic Charities. You can contact him at [dbethuram@archindy.org](mailto:dbethuram@archindy.org).) †

## Media Mindfulness/Sister Hosea Rupprecht, E.S.P.

## Digital examen for the soul reflects on use of artificial intelligence

With the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), society finds itself in a landscape that is both bursting with possibility and a bit overwhelming at the same time.



For those of us tasked with forming the young in the faith—Catholic parents, educators and ministers—the challenge is no longer just about monitoring screen time or even knowing what apps they use; it is about forming the soul in a world where the line between what is human-created and AI-generated is increasingly blurred.

The Church has long advocated applying critical thinking skills when it comes to analyzing messages that come from media and digital technologies.

AI literacy, however, requires something deeper: discernment. It means bringing the Holy Spirit into the conversations we have with ourselves and our children about how we choose to use this amazing gift that human intelligence has provided, namely artificial intelligence.

Much information about AI literacy is out there in the cyber ether, but with the Church and Pope Leo XIV's emphasis on keeping the human person at the center of AI, it's important that people of faith take the time to examine their motivations for turning to AI.

Four questions can guide this digital examen.

## —What is going on? Awareness

In our fast-paced world, we often click and consume without giving our actions much thought. Becoming aware asks us to pause and notice what is going on in our heart, mind and soul as we utilize AI tools.

When confronting our own motivations for using AI, we can ask: Why am I turning to AI for this specific

task? Am I using this tool in a manner that respects people and their inherent dignity (including my own)? Am I being overly reliant on AI instead of using my own creativity?

## —What is really going on? Analysis

Analysis moves us deeper into our examen. We recall that AI systems are trained on massive amounts of data—data that carry all the beauty, but also all the biases and weaknesses of our fallen world.

Analysis helps us realize that "the computer said so" is never a reason for accepting what any AI system generates at face value, especially when it comes to morality. An AI system may have information, but it does not have wisdom.

As we use AI, we can ask: Does the algorithm promote stereotypes? Are there voices or perspectives that are missing? Does it prioritize profit over the common good? Is it giving harmful or wrong information?

## —What difference does it make? Reflection

Here, we bring the AI experience into conversation with the Gospel and the values of our faith by asking and contemplating: How does this AI tool affect my relationship with God, others and myself? Does how I'm using AI enhance my God-given creativity and skills, or ignore them? Am I using AI in a virtuous, authentic and ethical manner?

Pope Francis often spoke of the "culture of encounter." Reflection helps us see that while a chatbot can provide an answer, it cannot provide an encounter. It cannot offer empathy, it cannot celebrate a sacrament, and it cannot sit with a friend in grief. We must reflect on whether AI is helping us become more human, or if it is making us more detached from those around us.

## —What difference can I make? Action

This final question asks us to articulate specific ideas about our own engagement with AI and AI-generated content. Action is about integrity. It's about choosing to use these powerful tools to build the kingdom of God rather than just to "make life easier."

For example, a parent might commit to learning more about whatever AI system is being used at their child's school so they can be a better guide at home.

For an educator, it might mean teaching students how to use AI ethically—to brainstorm and organize a paper or project, but never as a substitute for their own voice and thoughts.

For a minister, it might mean using AI to organize parish data while ensuring that the "pastoral heart" of the parish remains human-led.

The Church has a long history of adopting new media and communications technologies—from the printing press to social media—to spread the Gospel. However, AI is unique because it mimics human behavior and threatens human agency. If we do not model good use of AI and teach children to be critical thinkers when it comes to artificial intelligence, they risk losing the ability to distinguish between a data-driven response and thoughts and values gleaned from an authentic relationship with Christ.

By asking these questions when we engage with AI, we move from being reactive to being discerning and intentional. We empower ourselves, as well as the young people we are responsible for, to navigate the digital continent with a compass calibrated by faith, ensuring that even in a world of computers that sound like people, the human heart remains the primary seeker and finder of truth.

(Sister Hosea Rupprecht, a Daughter of St. Paul, is the associate director of the Pauline Center for Media Studies.) †

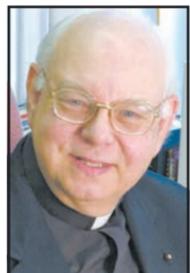
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

# The Sunday Readings

Sunday, February 15, 2026

- Sirach 15:15-20
- 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
- Matthew 5:17-37

The Book of Sirach, the source of the first reading for Mass this weekend, is part of a collection of biblical writings that in their origin teach an important lesson.



As various political, economic and individual fortunes changed, collapsed and reversed among God's people in the decades after the Babylonian

Captivity, and as new alien empires seized the Holy Land, Jews emigrated from the homeland of their ancestors to other places.

Understandably, many went to places where opportunities were more plentiful.

While certainly some of these emigrants not only survived, but possibly did well in their new surroundings, one thing was lacking. They were not living in a society in which all acknowledged the God of Israel. In fact, their adopted culture well could be hostile to the ancient Hebrew tradition.

So, to record their ancient religious beliefs, and very importantly to pass these beliefs along to oncoming generations, Jewish scholars composed books such as Sirach.

The essential point in Sirach was that human reason and honoring God are ideas that are in harmony with each other. Obeying God, logic can prove, is the way to order, peace, justice and reward in human life.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians is the source of the second reading. Paul, who would have been no stranger to this notion of a compatibility between divine revelation and human wisdom, as he was so well trained in Judaism and also exposed to Greek philosophy, added a new dimension to the story. Revelation is of a reality that is often beyond the capacity of human knowledge to comprehend completely.

He refers to a wisdom that is "hidden" and "mysterious" (1 Cor 2:7). We as humans simply cannot understand all. In his great love, God chose to reveal to us what otherwise we would never know.

The Gospel reading is from St. Matthew. The Lord expounds on the meaning of several of the rules for life given by God to Moses on Sinai.

Christ speaking about the law given to Moses reveals two important points. The first is that God's law is permanent and unchanging. This is logical. It touches very basic instincts and conditions among humans, all attached deeply and intrinsically to human nature itself. As such, it is not open to qualifications or to changes that humans might wish to make.

Secondly, the Lord speaks here with authority. He defines and explains the law of Moses. Jews did not regard the law of Moses as merely a set of principles personally composed by Moses. Rather, they saw that Moses was the medium through which God revealed to humanity his divine law. God is the author of this law. He is the author of the commandments. He is the lawgiver.

By defining and making this law more precise, the Lord acts as God. It is an important revelation of the identity of Jesus.

## Reflection

The Mass readings this weekend help look back on recent feasts the Church celebrated and look forward. In both cases, it confronts us with the realities of our nature. It highlights our relationship with God. It shows us that God loves us with a divine love.

At Christmas, Epiphany and at the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, the Church celebrated the events of salvation achieved for us by Christ, but it also told us about the Lord. It identified him.

In these readings, the Church tells us that it is folly to wander away from God's law and follow our instincts or our limited reasoning. Humans, impaired by Original Sin, always have trouble understanding this lesson.

Soon, the Church will lead us into Lent. It will be a time in which we will be led to know our limitations more clearly. And, with the help of God's grace, we can conform ourselves with what we are—human beings destined for eternal life with God in Jesus. †

## Daily Readings

### Monday, February 16

James 1:1-11  
Psalm 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76  
Mark 8:11-13

### Tuesday, February 17

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order  
James 1:12-18  
Psalm 94:12-15, 18-19  
Mark 8:14-21

### Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday  
Joel 2:12-18  
Psalm 51:3-6b, 12-14, 17  
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

### Thursday, February 19

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 1:1-4, 6  
Luke 9:22-25

### Friday, February 20

Isaiah 58:1-9a  
Psalm 51:3-6b, 18-19  
Matthew 9:14-15

### Saturday, February 21

St. Peter Damian, bishop and doctor of the Church  
Isaiah 58:9b-14  
Psalm 86:1-6  
Luke 5:27-32

### Sunday, February 22

First Sunday of Lent  
Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7  
Psalm 51:3-6, 12-13, 17  
Romans 5:12-19  
or Romans 5:12, 17-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

## Question Corner/Jenna Marie Cooper

### Variety in religious life shows the wide spectrum of gifts God gives the Church

Why are there so many different kinds of convents out there? I don't understand why a young woman who feels called to give her life to God would need that many choices. (Ohio)



The short answer to the question of why there are such a variety of convents out there is: You would have to ask God!

But looking at this question on a more fundamental level, we believe God gives us the kinds of consecrated life we need for the good of all the people of God.

The Church teaches that religious life—and really, all of consecrated life (the umbrella category that encompasses "religious life," strictly speaking)—is based around the concept of "charism."

"Charism" is a word used commonly in English, but which was originally the Greek word often translated as "gift." In our current Catholic terminology, a "charism" is a spiritual gift from God meant to benefit the wider Christian community. (For a scriptural example, see Rom 12:6-8.)

In the specific theological context of Catholic consecrated life, a "charism" is an inspiration or spiritual gift from God that informs a whole way of life centered on following Christ more radically in the spirit of the Gospels.

For example, St. Francis of Assisi was given the charism of imitating Christ more closely through a love of holy poverty. In the religious orders he founded or inspired, Franciscan friars, nuns and religious sisters share in the same "gifted" spirituality that was given to their founder.

Throughout the Church's history, God has granted charisms of consecrated life to different members of the faithful to meet the needs of the Church that arose over the course of centuries and in different places.

For example, at

the very beginning of the Church, there were women who renounced marriage in order to dedicate themselves entirely to the Lord as consecrated virgins, with a charism of living as "brides of Christ." This radical, spousal love of God often expressed itself in martyrdom in the Church's first few centuries, and through their witness many people were convinced of the truths of the faith.

Later, when the Church was no longer suffering from violent persecution at the hands of the Roman emperor, men and women longing to bear a similar witness as the early martyrs freely embraced a life of prayer and penance, often in solitude in deserts, as a "bloodless" or "white" martyrdom. They became the first hermits.

In late antiquity, as Roman civil society was collapsing, St. Benedict wrote his *Rule* for monks living in community. This was the beginning of the Order of St. Benedict, which founded monasteries that served as islands of peace and stability in a chaotic world—and which we can largely thank for the preservation of our western intellectual cultural heritage.

During the later Middle Ages, at the height of what could be called "Christendom" when the Church was a major influence in Europe and beyond, many Church leaders grew lax in their spiritual lives.

This was the point in history when God inspired saints such as St. Francis and St. Dominic to found new religious orders dedicated to rekindling the fire of the faith in Christian hearts that had grown cold. Similarly, in the Counter-Reformation era of the 16th century, orders such as the Jesuits and Discalced Carmelites came about in part as a response to some of the objections of the Protestant leaders of the day.

In early modern times, various social needs inspired founders to establish active apostolic communities dedicated to works of charity. For example, St. John Bosco founded the Salesians to care for youths, and St. Jeanne Jugan started the Little Sisters of the Poor to care for the impoverished elderly.

In the 20th century, the Church established secular institutes as a new form of consecrated life dedicated to evangelizing secular society from within as a "leaven in the world." Going forward, the Lord may very well give us new charisms, although this never negates the older ones.

(Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, is a consecrated virgin and a canonist whose column appears weekly at OSV News. Send your questions to [CatholicQA@osv.com](mailto:CatholicQA@osv.com).) †

## My Journey to God

### Dent the Gloom

By M. Lynell Chamberlain

Dawn breaks bleak from the winter night,

My light barely dents the gloom,

Yet in this cold, dark hopelessness

God's love begins to bloom.

His love transforms my broken soul,

Transforms me in every way,

So that every bush burns with his glory

And every bird sings his praise.

(M. Lynell Chamberlain is a member of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg. Photo: Snow covers berries on a bush in Prescott, Ariz., on April 3, 2025, following an early spring winter storm.) (OSV News photo/Bob Roller)



# Rest in peace

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

**AHAUS, Jane E.** (Coghill), 63, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, Jan. 10. Sister of Jill Ford, Jan Slaughter and Mary Jo Smith. Aunt of one.

**AMRHEIN, Anthony C.**, 34, St. Mary, Greensburg, Jan. 12. Son of Wayne and Lynn AmRhein. Brother of Olivia Demir and Stephen AmRhein. Grandson of Fred and Donna AmRhein and James Stier.

**AMYX, William D.**, 93, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Jan. 13. Father of Mary Ann Davis and William Amyx. Grandfather of eight. Great-grandfather of 15.

**ARNOLD, Charolette A.**, 79, St. Paul, Tell City, Jan. 25. Mother of Brad, Greg and Todd Arnold. Sister of Carol Joos and Maurice Foster. Grandmother of seven.

**BAIRD, Mary Beth**, 71, St. Michael, Brookville, Jan. 22. Mother of Rebekah Alfred and Betsy Vonderheide. Sister of Joseph Meier.

**BEDAN, Sr., Jack. W.**, 89, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood, Jan. 5. Father of Kathy, Greg and Jack Bedan, Jr. Grandfather of three. Great-grandfather of three.

**BLEVINS, Jack L.**, 88, St. Joseph, Jennings County, Jan. 28. Husband of Therese Blevins. Father of Barbara Harris, Mary Meece, Jim, Joe and Larry Blevins. Brother of Susie Deaton. Grandfather of 12. Great-grandfather of nine.

**BROWN, Rhonda C.**, 71, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, Feb. 1. Wife of Charles Brown. Mother of Ashley Bishop. Grandmother of two.

**BUERGLER, Margaret T.**, 87, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Jan. 25. Mother of Catherine Buegler, Christine Heavrin, Joanne Keyler and Alice Ragsdale. Sister of Betty Vagenas. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of 16.

**BURNS, Carol Ann**, 68, St. Joseph University Parish, Terre Haute, Jan. 23. Wife of Dan Burns. Mother of Alyson Wise and Tim Burns.

**CHAPLIN, Stephen**, 78, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood, Jan. 3.

**CLINE, Jerre**, 96, St. Joseph University Parish, Terre Haute, Jan. 19. Husband of Alexandra Cline. Father of Bernadette Ewen, Alexandra Hutson, Crispin Melloh, Jerome and Michael Cline. Grandfather of 14. Great-grandfather of eight.

**CLONCH, B. Jane**, 87, Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood, Jan. 23. Mother of Scott Kirkman. Sister of Ann Vogelpohl and Stephen Theobald.

**CORNACCHIONE II, Matthew**, 80, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, Jan. 12. Husband of Susan Cornacchione. Father of Amie Brown, Teri Wood and Matthew Cornacchione. Brother of Kenneth Cornacchione. Grandfather of seven.

**DUGAN, Mary Ellen**, 80, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Jan. 19. Wife of Michael Dugan. Mother of Katherine Longo and Kelly Remy. Sister of Michael and William Metcalf. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of one.

**GEORGESCU, Ruth (Quinn)**, 87, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Jan. 12. Mother of Beth, Mark and Steve Georgescu. Sister of Donna Pittman.

**HAEBERLE, Diana S. (Forestal)**, 61, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Jan. 15. Wife of James Haerberle. Mother of Aaron and William Haerberle. Sister

## Start spreading the good news



Archbishop Ronald A. Hicks sits in the cathedra of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City during his installation Mass on Feb. 6 as the new archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York. (OSV News photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

of Mary Jo Barth, Rose Sommers, Greg and Joseph Forestal. Grandmother of one.

**HALLQUIST, Diane M.**, 78, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Indianapolis, Jan. 21. Mother of Megan Oliver and Tyler Hallquist. Sister of Joane Amick, Janice and Howard Pattee. Grandmother of two.

**HANNA, John R.**, 85, St. Mary, North Vernon, Jan. 18. Husband of Margaret Hanna. Father of Richard and Timothy Hanna. Brother of Maggie Green, Debra Whitmarsh and Jim Hanna. Grandfather of 11.

**HELBIG, Betty Lou (Rothbauer)**, 83, St. Mary, New Albany, Jan. 13. Mother of Cathy Clevenger, Melissa Cora and Monica Jenkins. Sister of Tony Rothbauer. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of eight. Great-great-grandmother of three.

**IRWIN, Paul M.**, 76, St. Mary, North Vernon, Jan. 21. Husband of Jane Irwin. Brother of John Irwin. Uncle of several.

**MARSELLA, Jack N.**, 89, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, Jan. 4. Father of Dave, Jeff and Mike

Marsella. Grandfather of 11. Great-grandfather of one.

**MASSING, Kathryn A. (Bumen)**, 104, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Indianapolis, Jan. 20. Wife of Leo Massing. Mother of Paula Curseaden, Sarah Himes, Anna LeBaw, Mary Sturm, John, Joseph and Leo Massing. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of eight. Great-great-grandmother of one.

**MCCANN, Leona (Fuchs)**, 95, All Saints, Dearborn County, Jan. 20. Wife of Russell McCann. Mother of Sharon Haney, Dianne Kuhn, Darlene Werner and Robert McCann. Sister of Mildred Gensheimer and Thelma Johnson. Grandmother of 11.

**MCCLISH, Donna**, 71, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood, Jan. 20. Mother of Karen Haywood. Sister of Marilyn Heins. Grandmother of four.

**MUELLER, Carolyn**, 87, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Jan. 6. Mother of Barbara Cable, Mary Dremonas, Michele Jones, Susia LaFrance, Linda Zerr, Nancy, Jim and John Mueller. Grandmother of 16. Great-grandmother of three.

**NALLEY, Luise**, 100, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, Feb. 1. Mother of Janet Parrott, Gail Willis, Don and Doug Nalley. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of 13. Great-great-grandmother of two.

**NAVARRA, Joan M.**, 92, St. Mary, Greensburg, Feb. 4. Mother of Angela Brigger, Michelle Gordon, Sandra Wolter, Daniel and Tony Navarra. Sister of Sheila Doerflinger and Pat Schutte. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of 10.

**NEUMAN, James**, 73, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Jan. 16. Father of Jennifer Flores and Michael Neuman. Brother of Mary Fain, Diane Pflum, Patricia Wise, David, John and Lew Neuman. Grandfather of three.

**PRIEBE, Adelia L.**, 83, St. Nicholas, Ripley County, Jan. 22. Mother of Bryan Priebe. Grandmother of three.

**REYNOLDS, Michael**, 66, St. Michael the Archangel, Indianapolis, Jan. 26. Brother of Sharon Graham, Gregory, Matthew, Robert, Steven, Thomas and William Reynolds.

**RISCH, Melvon**, 95, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Jan. 13. Husband of Juanita Risch. Father of Monica Lingg, Craig, Jeff and Mark Risch. Grandfather of eight. Great-grandfather of eight.

**RUNYON, Richard D.**, 86, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, Feb. 1. Husband of Judy Runyon. Father of Tracy and Timothy Runyon. Brother of Leo Runyon. Grandfather of six. Great-grandfather of six.

**STAUBLIN, Claudine L.**, 86, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, Jan. 22. Mother of Toni McNulty, Tina, Mark and Matt Staublin. Sister of Stanley McIntire. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of 11.

**TAYLOR, Karel A.**, 82, Holy Angels, Indianapolis, Jan. 16. Mother of Tamiko Collins and Kevin Taylor. Sister of Tanita Bentley-Gillum, Wendy and William Bentley II, and Eric Davidson, Sr. Grandmother of six. Great-grandmother of four.

**WEST, Constance**, 83, Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood, Sept. 26, 2025. Mother of Barbara Berta, Claire DeLano and Jeanne Phenany. Sister of Janet, Kate, Marge, Mary, Nan and Danny. Grandmother of five. †

### Online Lay Ministry Formation

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

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

For more information, please log on to [www.archindy.org/layministry](http://www.archindy.org/layministry)



### REPORT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT NOW

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

- 1 Ethics Point Confidential, Online Reporting**  
[www.archdioceseofindianapolis.ethicspoint.com](http://www.archdioceseofindianapolis.ethicspoint.com) or 888-393-6810
- 2 Victim Assistance Coordinator, Archdiocese of Indianapolis**  
P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410  
**317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548**  
[victimassistance@archindy.org](mailto:victimassistance@archindy.org)



# St. Blaise blessing

Father Liam Hosty blesses Isabella McQuilla, a junior at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, in a hallway at the school on Feb. 4, the memorial of St. Blaise. The Church traditionally offers a blessing of throats on the feast of this fourth-century bishop and martyr. Ordained last year, Father Hosty, a 2016 Roncalli graduate, serves as parochial vicar of St. Ann Parish in Indianapolis and St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville. He was joined by other priests serving in the Indianapolis South Deanery in blessing students at Roncalli on the feast. (Submitted photo by Katie Hibner)

## Employment

### Editorial Assistant *The Criterion*

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis seeks a detail-oriented and creative Editorial Assistant to support the weekly production of its newspaper, The Criterion. The position resides within the Secretariat for Communications, supporting mission-driven storytelling across print and digital platforms.

This position is ideal for someone with basic layout/design skills (InDesign or similar), strong writing, proofreading, and attention to detail, ability to meet weekly deadlines and an interest in journalism, communications, or Catholic media.

For the Full Job Description and Qualifications, visit [www.archindy.org/hr/jobs/2026-01-Editorial.html](http://www.archindy.org/hr/jobs/2026-01-Editorial.html) or scan the QR code.

To Apply: Send résumé, cover letter, and writing/design samples to Mike Krokos, editor – [mkrokos@archindy.org](mailto:mkrokos@archindy.org).



## Classified Directory

For advertising rates call  
(317) 236-1585.

## Employment

### Principal

#### St. Therese Little Flower Catholic School

St. Therese Little Flower Catholic School, located on the east side of Indianapolis, is seeking a faith-filled, student-centered, data-driven instructional leader to serve as principal for its PreK–8 community. Little Flower is honoring a 100-year legacy in the Little Flower Neighborhood and celebrates deep alumni roots and a strong parish connection.

The school educates a diverse community of approximately 330 students, whose gifts and character are all celebrated. Students experience a robust House system, multi-cultural programming, and varied extra-curricular opportunities that promote leadership, belonging, and service. The next principal will continue to build on these gifts to lead the school on its commitment to academic and spiritual growth.

Applications will be accepted through February 27, 2026. Please send resume and cover letter of interest to:

Anne Krieger ([akrieger@archindy.org](mailto:akrieger@archindy.org))  
Office Manager, Administrative and Teacher Personnel  
Office of Catholic Schools  
317-236-1444

### Communications Coordinator Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Secretariat for Communications

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis seeks a skilled writer and project manager to create and coordinate print and digital communications supporting ministries and pastors. The position resides within the Secretariat for Communications, supporting mission-driven storytelling across print and digital platforms.

Focused on content creation, project management, and communications strategy, the position is ideal for someone with strong writing and editing skills, experience managing multiple communications projects, comfort working across print, email, web, and design platforms, and a heart for mission-driven work in a collaborative environment.

For the Full Job Description and Qualifications, visit [www.archindy.org/hr/jobs/2026-01-Communications.html](http://www.archindy.org/hr/jobs/2026-01-Communications.html) or scan the QR code.

To Apply: Send résumé, cover letter, and writing/design samples to Mary King, assistant director – [mking@archindy.org](mailto:mking@archindy.org).



### Archdiocese of Indianapolis

#### Payroll Specialist: Downtown Indianapolis

This full-time, hourly position will join The Central Payroll Team with payroll processing.

##### Duties and Responsibilities:

- Processing of bi-weekly payrolls
- Assist business locations and employees with payroll related questions.
- Monitor general payroll inbox with responses, training, and troubleshooting.
- Assist accounting staff with billing and general ledger questions.
- Clerical tasks related to garnishments and employee verifications.

##### Education and Experience needed:

- High school diploma or equivalent is required.
- Two to Three years payroll experience
- Experience with processing payrolls using Paylocity software is a plus.
- High attention to detail and accuracy with data entry
- High level of discretion and confidentiality

For consideration, please send resume to [tsteele@archindy.org](mailto:tsteele@archindy.org)

### Archdiocese of Indianapolis

#### Human Resources Specialist – Retirement & Benefits

Join our HR team and support retirement and benefits for employees, clergy, and retirees.

##### Key Responsibilities:

- Administer 403(b) enrollments, distributions, and inquiries
- Process pension calculations for lay employees and priests
- Manage clergy benefit reimbursements
- Oversee continuation of benefits and maintain HR documentation
- Support HR operations including I-9 tracking, payroll changes, and personnel files

##### Qualifications:

- Experience in HR or benefits administration required
- Strong communication, organization, and attention to detail
- Commitment to confidentiality and the mission of the Catholic Church

##### Apply Today:

Send cover letter & résumé to: James Audley, HR Generalist,  
[jaudley@archindy.org](mailto:jaudley@archindy.org)

# From the Archives



## In This Photo

Students at a former Catholic high school in Terre Haute appear in this photo with Fr. Joseph Beechem, principal. A member of the Sisters of Providence, who taught at the school, also appears in the group. This Vigo County high school operated from 1953-1977. Prior to 1953, there was a small Catholic high school for girls in Terre Haute, but no option for boys.

## Trivia Question

What was the name of the co-educational Catholic high school that opened in Terre Haute in 1953? (*The answer will be published the next time this feature appears in The Criterion.*)

Let us know your answer at [bit.ly/ArchivesTrivia](https://bit.ly/ArchivesTrivia)

## Previous Answer

The Indianapolis Diocese was elevated from a diocese to an archdiocese in 1944.

## SHEEN

continued from page 1

He added, “We are working with the Dicastery of the Causes of Saints at the Vatican to determine the details for the upcoming beatification.”

The bishop said the date and event details will be released soon through [celebratesheen.com](https://celebratesheen.com), the website for Archbishop Sheen’s cause.

“Archbishop Fulton Sheen was one of the greatest voices of evangelization in the Church and the world in the 20th century,” Bishop Tylka said. “I have long admired his lifelong commitment to serve the Church as a priest, rooted in his deep devotion to the Blessed Mother and the Eucharist. As he journeyed through the different stages of his life, his ability to share the Gospel and truly relate to people drew countless souls into an encounter with Jesus—one that transformed not only his life, but more importantly, the lives of those he touched.”

Archbishop Sheen’s cause for canonization, opened in 2002, has been stalled by two controversies—a public legal battle to relocate his remains from St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York to its current location, a side chapel of the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria; and, more significantly, concerns that as bishop of the Diocese of Rochester, N.Y., from 1966-1969, the prelate might have overlooked sexual abuse by at least one former diocesan priest there.

The latter concern was magnified after the state of New York adopted lookback laws that allowed hundreds of abuse claims to be considered, with the Diocese of Rochester ultimately filing for bankruptcy. The bankruptcy was finalized in September 2025, after the establishment of a \$256.35 million settlement fund for abuse survivors.

In July 2019, then-Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria announced Pope Francis had approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Archbishop Sheen, which led the way to the announcement he would be beatified. The announcement was made on Nov. 18, 2019, that Pope Francis had called for the beatification to

be held on Dec. 21, 2019, in Peoria.

A little more than two weeks later, a Dec. 3, 2019, news release from the Diocese of Peoria said it had been informed the previous day that the Holy See had decided to postpone the Dec. 21, 2019, ceremony “at the request of a few members” of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops over the possibility that abuse-related concerns might surface.

The Dec. 3 statement from the Diocese of Peoria said, “In our current climate it is important for the faithful to know that there has never been, nor is there now, any allegation against [Archbishop] Sheen involving the abuse of a minor.”

However, a Dec. 5 statement from the Diocese of Rochester, N.Y., said it had “expressed concern about advancing the cause for the beatification of Archbishop Sheen at this time without a further review of his role in priests’ assignments.” The statement said the Rochester Diocese, prior to the Vatican announcement on Nov. 18 that Pope Francis approved the beatification, had provided documentation expressing its concern to the Diocese of Peoria and the Congregation for Saints’ Causes via the apostolic nunciature in Washington.

The one-time New York lookback window, part of the state’s Child Victims Act, was open from August 2019 until August 2021.

In December 2024, Msgr. Jason Gray, executive director of the Archbishop Fulton John Sheen Foundation, told OSV News that “Sheen is clean. ... Not one accusation has been raised that impugned Sheen.”

Msgr. Gray said the foundation has examined “all of the pleadings” relevant to claims against the Rochester Diocese, and “there hasn’t been anything that was brought up there” implicating Archbishop Sheen.

Msgr. Gray also told OSV News that “the desire to see Sheen beatified is increasing, and there is a growing devotion to him,” as evidenced by a surge in visits to his tomb, requests for both relics and for his more than 50 books, and reports of favors and graces received through Archbishop Sheen’s intercession.

Archbishop Sheen is remembered as one of the most influential and innovative

evangelists in American history. Once dubbed “God’s microphone,” Archbishop Sheen announced the Gospel in a non-confrontational, yet no less life-giving, manner to untold millions through radio, print and television.

Born in El Paso, Ill., on May 8, 1895, Archbishop Sheen resolved to serve the Church as a priest from an early age. He was assigned to academic ministry following his ordination to the priesthood on Sept. 20, 1919, for the Diocese of Peoria.

After studies in Europe, a promising future as a professor awaited Archbishop Sheen. First, though, his bishop called him back to serve in a parish in Peoria to test his obedience. And he zealously took on the task. In less than a year, though, Archbishop Sheen landed a professorship at The Catholic University of America in Washington. For a quarter century, he was known there for his engaging and stimulating lectures. During that time, he published more than half of his more than 60 books, informed by a lively and heroic faith.

During the 1930s and 1940s, then-Msgr. Sheen became a household name as host of “The Catholic Hour,” broadcast nationally from NBC radio in New York. The priest emerged as a national voice, a prophetic truth-teller who spoke out on a host of issues, particularly the threats of communism.

Having to give up his professorship after appointment as director of the American branch of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith in 1950, Msgr. Sheen moved to New York City. The next year, he was appointed an auxiliary bishop of New York and ordained in Rome on June 11, 1951. Bishop Sheen began his work on behalf of the global missions with great energy, and his innovative efforts enabled him to evangelize at the same time. He donated all media earnings to the missions.

Beginning in 1952, Bishop Sheen proposed eternal truths each Tuesday evening to tens of millions via his “Life Is Worth Living” TV program, armed only with his charisma and intellect—and his famous cape and chalkboard. After his first year on the air, Bishop Sheen won an Emmy award for best

television personality. Upon acceptance, he famously thanked his writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Bishop Sheen was a charitable and attentive pastor who treated people from all social backgrounds alike. His intelligence, wit and sense of humor made him an effective evangelist. And with clear teaching and common sense, Bishop Sheen helped people make sense of life’s problems. He was never afraid to proclaim Christ and brought many converts to Catholicism.

Throughout his 60-year priesthood, Bishop Sheen sought to conform himself more closely to Christ by observing a daily eucharistic Holy Hour, what he called “the hour that makes my day.” He also was intensely devoted to the Mother of God.

Bishop Sheen battled various temptations and difficulties throughout his life—including a decade of behind-the-scenes hostility from Cardinal Francis J. Spellman of New York, which caused Bishop Sheen great pain. But in the face of his troubles, Bishop Sheen persevered in virtue. He understood his sufferings in light of God’s providence: “Christianity begins not with sunshine, but with defeat. During those days when my life was backed up against the cross, I began to know and to love it more.”

Despite his best efforts as bishop in Rochester, New York (1966-69)—what many considered to be an exile—Bishop Sheen’s brief tenure was met with great resistance, resulting in a good deal of self-described failure. After retirement, Bishop Sheen was appointed titular archbishop of Newport, Wales, by Pope St. Paul VI.

The temptations and sufferings Archbishop Sheen faced purified him and intensified his union with Christ. He maintained “God has been easy with me.” Toward the end of his life, writing in his autobiography, Archbishop Sheen apologized for his failures, wondering “Was I inspiring anyone to imitate Christ in the daily carrying of His Cross?”

After nearly two years in and out of the hospital following open-heart surgery, Archbishop Sheen died on Dec. 9, 1979, in New York City, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. He was declared venerable in 2012. †