



The

Criterion

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Catholic Schools Week

See our annual Catholic Schools Week Supplement, pages 1B-16B.

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In Chile and Peru, pope tackles tough issues and urges compassion, unity

LIMA, Peru (CNS)—Pope Francis tackled politically charged issues during his weeklong visit to Chile and Peru, decrying human trafficking, environmental

destruction, corruption and organized crime in speeches before audiences that included political leaders.



Pope Francis

At the same time, he called for unity, dialogue and coexistence in each of the two countries, which have been marked by political

tension and sometimes-violent conflicts. Invoking Mary, he called for compassion, which he also demonstrated as he blessed a Chilean prisoner's unborn baby and consoled people who lost their homes in devastating floods a year ago on Peru's northern coast.

He also acknowledged that the Church must address its own problems, including sexual abuse, corruption and internal divisions.

"The kingdom of heaven means finding in Jesus a God who gets involved with the lives of his people," he said.

Pope Francis arrived in Santiago, Chile's capital, on Jan. 15. Over the next three days, he met with young people outside the capital, celebrated Mass among indigenous people in the southern city of Temuco, and traveled to the northern desert city of Iquique, which has been a magnet for migrants.

On Jan. 18, he arrived in Peru, where he celebrated Mass in Lima and traveled to the northern coastal city of Trujillo, which suffered disastrous flooding a year ago, and Puerto Maldonado, in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon.

In both countries, the pope met with indigenous people and youths, clearly with an eye toward the meeting of the Synod of Bishops on youth, scheduled for October at the Vatican, and the synod for the Amazon in 2019. He repeatedly referred to the importance of the Earth, calling it "our common home," as he did

See POPE, page 10A



Students from Saint Theodore Guérin High School in Noblesville, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese, lead a procession of approximately 500 participants along Capitol Avenue in Indianapolis on Jan. 22 for the inaugural Indiana March for Life, an event coordinated by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, the Lafayette Diocese and Right to Life of Indianapolis. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

Inaugural Indiana March for Life shows pro-life movement 'is alive and well'

By Natalie Hoefler

When Shawn Gillen reflected on her participation in the inaugural Indiana March for Life, she had only one regret.

"I wish I'd brought my kids," said the member of St. Lawrence Parish in Lafayette, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese. "This was an historical, monumental event. We'll look back on this and say, 'I was there.'"

Gillen was one of approximately 500 participants in the first Indiana March for Life in Indianapolis on Jan. 22—the day when, 45 years ago, the *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions by the United States Supreme Court legalized abortion across the country.

The event was the culmination of

efforts by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, the Diocese of Lafayette and Right to Life of Indianapolis. Their goal was to support and raise awareness of the pro-life cause, and to promote pro-life action and legislation at the state level.

And what better place to accomplish such a goal than to march up Capitol Avenue in Indianapolis and hold a rally outside the Indiana Statehouse, where the state's General Assembly is currently in session.

"For 45 years, legal abortion has been the law of the land," said Right to Life of Indianapolis president Marc Tuttle from the statehouse steps. He was the first of several speakers to address the crowd at the post-march rally. "It's time that we do something

about this as citizens, and it's time that we do something about this as legislators." (For more quotes from rally speakers, see story on page 9A.)

After the rally, Sandy Burton of Bread of Life Ministries Church in Avon looked up at the statehouse's towering limestone façade.

"I hope us just standing here will make a difference in the hearts of everyone in this building making decisions for us," she said. "We can voice our opinion, but [the legislators] make the decisions."

Burton participated in the march and rally "because it matters that we show up. I'm thankful to see unity across the board [here]—young, old, families, men, women, babies, different faiths."

See LIFE, page 8A

'Every unborn child is a precious gift from God,' President Trump tells annual March for Life crowd

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In remarks broadcast to the March for Life from the White House Rose Garden, President Donald J. Trump said that his administration "will always defend the very first right in the Declaration of Independence, and that is the right to life."

He invoked the theme of this year's march, "Love Saves Lives," and praised the crowd as being very special and "such great citizens gathered in our nation's capital from many places for one beautiful cause"—celebrating and cherishing life.

"Every unborn child is a precious gift from God," he said. His remarks were interrupted several times by applause

See NATIONAL, page 7A

See related story on page 14A.



Pro-life advocates watch U.S. President Donald J. Trump during a live broadcast to the annual March for Life rally in Washington on Jan. 19. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

Margaret Nelson remembered for her writing and service to others in life and the Church

Criterion staff report

Margaret Miriam (Vernia) Nelson, whose byline was a staple of *The Criterion* for many years, died on Jan. 16 in Indianapolis. She was 87.

The Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Jan. 23 at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Indianapolis,



Margaret Nelson

where Nelson was a longtime member. A private burial followed.

Margaret Miriam Vernia was born on Feb. 21, 1930, in Chillicothe, Ohio, to Thomas and Goldia (Bechtel) Vernia. She graduated from The Ohio State University with

a bachelor of fine arts degree before marrying Paul Nelson on April 27, 1957, and moving to Cleveland, and ultimately to Indianapolis. She continued her education at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis and at the Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, completing courses for an ecclesial lay ministry certificate. Nelson was not raised as a Catholic, but was later received into the full communion of the Church.

Nelson had a lifelong talent and passion for journalism, and her excellence was recognized through the years with more than 100 awards for writing, photography, layout and headlines by the Catholic Press Association, Women's Press Club of Indiana (WPCI), National Federal of Press Women (NFPW) and other state and national organizations. Among the honors she received was the 2005 WPCI Communication of Achievement Award—the state organization's highest honor.

She became part of *The Criterion's* editorial staff in 1986. Her focus was multicultural and educational concerns, with a knack for personality profiles. She retired in 2000 as senior editor.

"Margaret was a great reporter and interviewer," said *Criterion* Editor Emeritus John Fink, who hired and supervised Nelson. "I could always give her assignments while nearing deadline, if necessary, knowing that she would complete them because she wrote fast but thoroughly.

"Margaret was devout, and a Benedictine oblate, and she was happy that her career was also something that served the Church."

Charles Schisla, who was then-archdiocesan director of communications, recommended Nelson for the job at *The Criterion*. They became friends as members of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish. He remembers how Nelson contributed

to the parish through her design and sewing skills, making vestments, a beautiful funeral pall, and other liturgical items.

"As a convert, Margaret had a special knowledge and love for the Church that she carried for her lifetime as a Catholic," Schisla said. "[She had a] unique perspective as a widowed mother of five [her husband died in 1971] raising a family by herself, a convert to the faith, and a dedicated volunteer who always had time for others. Margaret's life experience and her educational and professional background made her a remarkable journalist for our archdiocesan newspaper.

"As her journalist friend, Julie Slaymaker, said on Margaret's passing, 'I have a hole in my heart and in my life.' Julie's quote says it best for many of us who were indeed blessed to call Margaret friend."

Her work at *The Criterion* also led Nelson to interview many interesting and high-profile individuals.

"Margaret was a very kind person with a charming personality. I first met her when she interviewed me after I was elected as abbot [of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad] in 1995," noted Benedictine Father Lambert Reilly. "We had become friends and would meet rather regularly.

"She also was known for her homemade cookies, which she sent to me and to Archbishop [Emeritus] Daniel [M.] Buechlein. She had won prizes for them at the [Indiana] state fair."

Beyond journalism, Nelson's other creative talents were honored with more than 500 awards—including 22 sweepstakes honors from the Indiana State Fair for baking, sewing, decorating and photography.

In 1995, she was commended with the Church's Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award for a layperson.

Nelson enjoyed traveling, making pilgrimages to shrines in Europe, the Holy Land, Rome and Mexico.

Survivors include daughter Maureen (Vince) Norris of Louisville, Ky., son Paul Nelson (Darice) of San Diego, Calif., daughter Kathleen Nelson of Indianapolis, and son Patrick Nelson (Shelly) of Covington, Ky., and her brother Peter Vernia (Sue) of Rochester, Mich. Margaret was also preceded in death by her daughter Rosemary McElhenny (John).

In lieu of flowers, her family asks that donations be made in her name to St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 4052 E. 38th St., Indianapolis, IN, 46218-1444; St. Vincent de Paul Society, 3001 E. 30th Street, Indianapolis, IN, 46218; or Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN, 47577-1003. †



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

January 28 – February 10, 2018

January 28 — 10 a.m.
Mass at St. Mary Church, Rushville to honor 150th Anniversary of St. Mary School

January 30 — 6 p.m.
Connected in the Spirit, New Albany Deanery Town Hall Meeting, auditorium of Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School, New Albany

January 31 — 10 a.m.
Catholic Schools Week Mass, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

February 2 — 2 p.m.
Mass of Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding, Nashville, Tenn.

February 4 — 3 p.m.
Scout Awards presentations, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

February 6 — 9:30 a.m.
Visit and tour of Providence Cristo Rey High School, Indianapolis

February 6 — 6 p.m.
Knights of Columbus Clergy Appreciation Dinner, Indianapolis

February 7 — 12:30 p.m.
New Albany Deanery Priests' Meeting, Mount St. Francis

February 10 — 10 a.m.
Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, St. Bartholomew Parish, Columbus

(Schedule subject to change.)

New school presidents named for Providence Cristo Rey, Brebeuf

Criterion staff report

New presidents have recently been named for two private Catholic high schools in Indianapolis.

Margie Crooks has already begun serving as the president of Providence Cristo Rey High School, while Jesuit Father William Verbryke will become president of Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School on July 1.



Margie Crooks

Crooks has previously served in the Archdiocese of Detroit as the director of the department of evangelization, catechesis and schools, overseeing several areas of archdiocesan restructuring, which included 125 schools and 270 parishes.

She also guided these schools and parishes through the development, alignment and implementation of strategic goals for quality Catholic education, according to a press release from Providence Cristo Rey.

A Purdue University graduate, Crooks most recently served as the director of mission and discipleship for Church of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in West Lafayette, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese.

"I am excited to be joining the Providence Cristo Rey High School team in their mission-driven, innovative work for high school students in Indianapolis," said Crooks, who has a master's degree in theology and a doctorate in pastoral ministry.

"To be able to assist in making dreams a reality for these youths is an amazing opportunity. I look forward to continuing, and building upon, the strong faith, academic and professional foundation that makes the Cristo Rey Network model transformative and successful."

Father Verbryke will become the 12th president of Brebeuf, succeeding Jesuit Father Jack Dennis who plans to return to work for the Jesuits' Maryland Province in his hometown of Baltimore.

Father William currently serves as Brebeuf's vice president of mission and Jesuit identity, and as a member of the school's board of trustees. He has been a part of the school's leadership team since October 2016.

Ordained a priest in 1983, he served 10 years as the president of St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati.

"I look forward to working with the exceptional leadership team, faculty and staff to continue Brebeuf's history of excellence, which includes ensuring continuation of the academic and formational standards that are hallmarks of a Jesuit education," Father Verbryke said in a press release from the school.

(For more information about Providence Cristo Rey High School, visit www.cristoreyindy.org. For more information about Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, visit brebeuf.org.) †



Fr. William Verbryke, S.J.

NEWS FROM YOU!

Do you have something exciting or newsworthy you want to be considered to be printed in The Criterion?

E-mail us: criterion@archindy.org

Staff:
 Editor: Mike Krokos
 Assistant Editor: John Shaughnessy
 Reporter: Sean Gallagher
 Reporter: Natalie Hoefler
 Online Editor/Graphic Designer: Brandon A. Evans
 Business Manager: Ron Massey
 Executive Assistant: Cindy Clark
 Graphic Designer: Jane Lee
 Print Service Assistant: Annette Danielson

Phone Numbers:
 Main office: 317-236-1570
 Advertising: 317-236-1454
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Panel passes nutrition eligibility plan for reformed drug felons

By Brigid Curtis Ayers

A proposal to lift a ban on nutrition program eligibility for reformed drug felons advanced in the Senate. The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) supports the measure.

Indiana is one of a handful of states that bans convicted drug felons from



receiving certain federally operated nutrition benefits.

If Sen. Michael Bohacek, R-Michigan City, has his way, former drug felons who meet certain criteria to reform their lives would be eligible for food assistance under the federal program called Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program, commonly referred to as SNAP.



Sen. Michael Bohacek

Senate Bill 11, authored by Bohacek, would remove the permanent ban from food assistance under SNAP for convicted drug felons as long as they follow their parole guidelines or their release plan determined by the

court. The bill was passed 7-0 by the Senate Family and Children Services panel on Jan. 11.

“When someone is released from prison, the goal is to reintegrate them into society and to make them a productive member,” said Bohacek. “And we do that by providing the supports to be able to become productive.

“When someone is incarcerated, they

have been separated from family and friends,” he added. “They’ve lost a lot of connections. And depending on the crime, especially if it’s a drug crime, they may not be eligible for public housing or certain licensing in certain occupations, and now we are restricting them from nutrition.

“If they move back in with family—as many of them do—if the family is eligible for SNAP and the felon is not, they are going to be utilizing the program as well,” continued Bohacek. “They are going to be taking the SNAP benefits designed for four people and now it’s feeding five. To me, it’s high time to give these folks the tools to keep them out of the judicial system and out of prison.”

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC who serves as the public policy spokesperson for the bishops in Indiana, testified in support of the bill before the Senate panel. “All persons have a right to food and shelter. Individuals, after serving their sentence and being released from jail or prison, have many obstacles when rejoining the community,” he said. “In addition to family adjustments, employment is often denied because of the conviction and prison record. Many employers refuse to hire them, which contributes to recidivism. When jobs are available, often these are temporary or part time. SNAP assistance is tangible and needed. This benefit will go a long way to help people maintain themselves and their dignity.

“Persons who have paid their debt and attempting to rectify past mistakes should be given the opportunity to prove themselves and be eligible for support and programs that can assist them and affirm their human dignity,” continued Tebbe. “Current law banning food



‘Persons who have paid their debt and attempting to rectify past mistakes should be given the opportunity to prove themselves and be eligible for support and programs that can assist them and affirm their human dignity. ... Assisting those to change their lives for the better is what all persons deserve, and I believe how Jesus responded to all those who sought his help.’

— Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference

assistance tends to punish someone after that person has already made restitution for their misdeeds. Assisting those to change their lives for the better is what all persons deserve, and I believe how Jesus responded to all those who sought his help.”

Cheryl Ashe, a volunteer with Dismas House of South Bend since 2007, helps reintegrate people into society after they leave prison. “Family members can offer a sofa or couch to sleep on, but food is a problem,” she said. “Even with SNAP, people still must go to one or two food pantries a month. Most can get their canned goods and bread at a food pantry, but use their SNAP benefits to buy milk, meat, eggs and other dairy items.

“A single person with no dependents, who is not working, gets \$192 per month in SNAP benefits,” Ashe noted. “A single person without dependents can only receive SNAP benefits for three months every three years, unless they are working 20 hours per week, enrolled in an approved job training program or

disabled.”

Ashe, who chairs the social justice committee at St. Augustine Parish in South Bend, said some families are denied SNAP because of how the benefit formula works. She explained that there are households with children that are denied SNAP benefits because the parent who was previously convicted of a drug felony is not counted.

“If the parent were counted in the calculation for the household, the household would be eligible for SNAP,” she said. “Families and children are hurt under current law due to the SNAP benefits ban for former drug felons.”

Tebbe said he expects Senate Bill 11 to pass the full Senate before the third reading deadline which is on Feb. 6. If Senate Bill 11 passes the Senate, it will move to the Indiana House for further consideration.

For more information on the ICC’s priority bills, go to www.indianacc.org.

(Brigid Curtis Ayer is a correspondent for The Criterion.) †

Pope Francis’ prayer intentions for February



- Say “No” to corruption—That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

(To see Pope Francis’ monthly intentions, go to www.archindy.org/popessintentions.) †

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Editorial



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson delivers a homily during a Jan. 22 Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis commemorating the 45th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions legalizing abortion on demand in the U.S. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

When it comes to life, let us heed faith leaders' words

Pope Francis and the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. may have represented different faith traditions, but both men shared a passion for the rights of all people.

And as Christians called to care for each of our brothers and sisters, we would do well to follow their lead.

Rev. King, who was a Baptist minister and leader of the American civil rights movement until he was killed in 1968, and Pope Francis, elected by the College of Cardinals to be the universal shepherd of the Church in 2013, are examples of Christians valuing all human life. Both are also examples of an unwavering advocacy and witness to their beliefs.

"Like the Rev. Martin Luther King, our prayers and witness are about 'civil rights'—the right to life and to equal protection under the law, guaranteed by our constitution, for the most fragile, marginalized and threatened, the tiny innocent baby in the womb," said New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan during a homily at a Jan. 18 Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington that opened the National Prayer Vigil for Life. The annual March for Life followed the next day.

Rev. King "would be marching with us in the defense of unborn life were not the dignity of his own person and the sanctity of his own life tragically violated 50 years ago this spring," Cardinal Dolan added, referring to the pastor's assassination in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

In his 2013 apostolic exhortation "*Evangelii Gaudium*" ("The Joy of the Gospel"), Pope Francis highlights the need to care for the least among us.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson shared the Holy Father's words in a homily during a Jan. 22 Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis commemorating the 45th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions legalizing abortion on demand in the U.S.

"Among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us" ("*Evangelii Gaudium*," #213), Archbishop Thompson said.

"Yet this defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right. It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development. Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems" ("*Evangelii Gaudium*," #213).

Our faith implores us to continue to stay strong and not become discouraged as we work to convince many in society that all life—from the unborn to the elderly—is precious. Despite the obstacles presented in today's ever-increasing secular society, it is paramount for us to remind others that each of us is made in our Creator's image and likeness, and valued members of God's family.

But our work should not end there. Citing Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago's words spoken during a recent Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) gathering, Archbishop Thompson reminded the faithful that giving priority to the marginalized in society also includes caring for what Cardinal Cupich referred to as the "uns"—the unborn, unemployed, undocumented and uneducated.

"It is not just the 'uns' that need our witness but all of society, for a society is only as moral and stable as it treats its weakest members," Archbishop Thompson said. "Such witness is needed not only for a day, but the whole of our lives."

Our call to missionary discipleship is by no means easy. As Archbishop Thompson said, "... Our witness is one of proclaiming the goodness, beauty and truth of God within each and every culture by means of the divine image to be safeguarded and celebrated in every human being. Our witness of prayer, advocacy, dialogue, accompaniment and mercy is cultivating that culture of encounter that brings us together to realize how we share in that image, rather than being divided by our differences."

May we use those "encounters" to spur conversations and plant seeds, that God willing, will protect society's most vulnerable members and bear much fruit.

—Mike Krokos

Letters to the Editor

Editorial about immigration misinforms newspaper's readers

It is discouraging that the uninformed are permitted to use *The Criterion* as a platform to misinform its readers.

The editorial, "We need more immigrants" written by John Fink in the Jan. 12 issue attempts to portray President Donald J. Trump in a bad light. In fact, he is attempting to bring order to a disordered situation.

The editorial asks: "Why should we be trying to discourage immigrants now?" In fact, the United States has open borders. There are hundreds of border legal stations where thousands enter our country daily merely by walking past a border guard. Others in cars and trucks line the border station highways entering the U.S. legally.

There is usually some impediment that causes illegal entry to our country. Nevertheless, our government places water barrels in the desert for those who become lost or abandoned by traffickers. It is appropriate here to mention the danger that lost, desperate immigrants present to remote ranchers as the immigrants approach their residences for help.

Fink mentions the need for workers in agriculture and construction, traditionally low-paying jobs that continue to be that way because immigrants can be used to an employer's advantage, and are many times forced into accommodations unfit for human habitation.

The editorial continues on with other material that refuses to acknowledge the true situation and real problems that illegal immigrants face, and present to those who must deal with those problems like human trafficking, decent housing and smuggling.

Emery Mapes
Lawrenceburg

Column spurs reader to share ties with late Santa Fe archbishop

(Editor's note: This letter was addressed to Editor Emeritus John F. Fink.)

To begin with, thank you for the columns in *The Criterion*. I always find them most enjoyable and interesting.

I just finished reading with excitement your latest column titled "Willa Cather's portrayal of Archbishop Lamy of Santa Fe." When I was a teenager in the 1960's, my aunt gave me a copy of the book and proudly remarked that it should be a required read for everyone in our family.

As it happens, my great-uncle was also an archbishop of Santa Fe, N.M., for 13 years, from 1919 until his tragic death in 1932. He, like Archbishop Jean Baptiste

Lamy, is buried in the crypt directly behind the sanctuary at Saint Francis Cathedral in Santa Fe.

He was born Albert Thomas Daeger in 1872 in St. Anne Parish, just north of North Vernon in Jennings County. He was the sixth archbishop of Santa Fe, and broke the French line of bishops appointed there as he was German. He was ordained a Franciscan priest in July 1896, and celebrated his first Mass in St. Anne Church.

He spent many years prior to his appointment serving the Indian missions of New Mexico. You may already be aware of this information and his story, but if not, I just thought you would find it an interesting bit of trivia and a connection to St. Anne Parish.

Thomas G. Daeger Sr.
Indianapolis

Sister Segale's last name is misspelled in Jan. 12 issue of *The Criterion*

Thanks to Editor Emeritus John F. Fink for all of his columns and for the recent one about Sister Blandina Segale in the Jan. 12 issue of *The Criterion*.

Sister's family name was misspelled as "Seagle" in the column.

I always look forward to Mr. Fink's work and also appreciate reading his books.

Thank you for presenting archdiocesan Catholics with such a great weekly newspaper!

Jim Waldon
Aurora

Columns show ministry coordinators in action, promote awareness of Church

Just a note to commend the publisher and editors of *The Criterion* for invoking an expanded interest in your articles and columns that has me now reading it cover to cover, whereas I previously only read my favorite columns and catechetical updates.

Erin Jeffries' "An Advent Dialogue with the Sick" column in your Dec. 15 issue was a refreshing approach to catechesis, and Father Eugene Hemrick's "Truly celebrate Christmas by becoming fully absorbed in its meaning" column particularly touched a chord for me.

Introducing your numerous ministry coordinators to your readership through an occasional Perspectives page column is an excellent way to promote awareness of our Church in action in our awesome archdiocese.

Keep up the good work! God is with you!

Alice Price
Indianapolis

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are published in *The Criterion* as part of the newspaper's commitment to "the responsible exchange of freely-held and expressed opinion among the People of God" (*Communio et Progressio*, 116).

Letters from readers are welcome and every effort will be made to include letters from as many people and representing as many viewpoints as possible. Letters should be informed, relevant, well-expressed and temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect.

The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to edit

letters from readers as necessary based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content (including spelling and grammar). In order to encourage opinions from a variety of readers, frequent writers will ordinarily be limited to one letter every three months. Concise letters (usually less than 300 words) are more likely to be printed.

Letters must be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld. Send letters to "Letters to the Editor," *The Criterion*, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org. †

ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO CHARLES C. THOMPSON



Christ the Cornerstone

Solidarity with migrants, refugees, and strangers among us

“The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2241).

Here in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, we are participating in the two-year-long “Share the Journey” campaign initiated by Pope Francis in collaboration with Caritas Internationalis (the Church’s international relief organization), Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services. The goal of this campaign is to raise awareness of the plight of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who are forced to flee their homes due to economic, political or religious strife.

“Share the Journey” seeks to remind us all that the millions of people worldwide who are fleeing war, persecution and poverty are our sisters and brothers. These are real men, women and children, not abstractions or statistics. They have names and faces and personal histories. God knows each one of them

by name. He loves them and considers them to be his precious children. What’s more, God has challenged us to welcome them as guests, not reject them as aliens, and he has told us in no uncertain terms, “Whatever you do to the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you do to me” (Mt 25:40).

When he announced the “Share the Journey” campaign, Pope Francis said, “Christ urges us to welcome our brothers and sisters with our arms truly open, ready for a sincere embrace, a loving and enveloping embrace.”

This is characteristic of Pope Francis—to use vivid physical imagery to underscore his teaching. The Holy Father tells us, in effect, that Christ is not content with half-hearted gestures. Simply writing a check and dropping it in the mail to one of the relief agencies is not enough. Along with our financial support, the pope says, Christ wants us to have warm, enthusiastic contact with our sisters and brothers who are poor and vulnerable.

That’s not easy for most of us who lead busy lives filled with work and family obligations. Still, opportunities for hands-on engagement with those in need are not hard to find if we look for them.

Indianapolis Catholic Charities has welcomed and cared for migrants and refugees for more than 42 years. And many parishes throughout central and southern Indiana work hard to provide food, shelter, clothing and access to quality health care to all who are in need, including people who have left their home countries in search of better lives. Ask your pastor, or any Catholic Charities agency, how you can help. They will gladly direct you to the nearest place that will welcome your participation!

Our Church extends to all the unconditional love of Jesus. We welcome strangers and work to make everyone feel at home. We support our nation’s efforts to secure our borders, and to regulate the processes that govern immigration and refugee resettlement.

However, we insist that in all instances the rights of individuals and families be protected, and we place concern for human dignity above political or practical expediency. We take this responsibility so seriously that Church teaching points out that as citizens we may be obliged in conscience not to follow laws or regulations that are contrary to the fundamental rights of persons or the

teaching of the Gospel (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2242).

“Share the Journey” is not a political campaign. It is a way of promoting solidarity with members of our family who are in particular need of our loving support. However, “Share the Journey” does remind us that as citizens we have a responsibility to promote the common good—for the sake of our nation and the community of nations. Peace and prosperity should be available to all peoples regardless of their race, ethnic origin, and or religious preferences. We should be open to all, welcoming of all and respectful of both the differences that divide us and the fundamental humanity that unites us.

Pope Francis reminds us that Jesus, Mary and Joseph (the Holy Family) were once refugees who fled the political tyranny and vicious brutality of King Herod. They were migrants who spent years living in a foreign land, a situation now shared by millions of people who have left their homes desperately seeking safety and a better life.

Whatever we do to the least of these brothers and sisters, we do to Christ. Let’s share their journeys. Let’s welcome them with “a loving and enveloping embrace” in Jesus’ name. †



Cristo, la piedra angular

Solidaridad con los inmigrantes, los refugiados y los extranjeros entre nosotros

“Las naciones más prósperas tienen el deber de acoger, en cuanto sea posible, al extranjero que busca la seguridad y los medios de vida que no puede encontrar en su país de origen. Las autoridades deben velar para que se respete el derecho natural que coloca al huésped bajo la protección de quienes lo reciben” (Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, #2241).

La Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis está participando en la campaña de dos años de duración, llamada “Compartiendo el viaje,” que lanzó el papa Francisco en colaboración con la organización Caritas Internationalis (la organización de auxilio internacional de la Iglesia), conjuntamente con Catholic Charities USA y Catholic Relief Services. El objetivo de esta campaña es crear conciencia sobre la grave situación de los inmigrantes, los refugiados y los solicitantes de asilo que se ven obligados a huir de su patria debido a conflictos económicos, políticos o religiosos.

“Compartiendo el viaje” procura recordarnos que los millones de personas que huyen de la guerra, de la persecución y de la pobreza, son nuestros hermanos. Se trata de hombres, mujeres, niños y adolescentes de carne y hueso, no meras abstracciones o estadísticas. Tienen rostros, nombres e historias personales. Dios conoce a cada uno de ellos por su nombre; los

ama y los considera sus hijos adorados. Más aún: Dios nos exhorta a que los recibamos como invitados, no a que los rechacemos como extraños, y nos ha dicho muy claramente que “cada vez que lo hicieron con el más pequeño de mis hermanos, lo hicieron conmigo” (Mt 25:40).

Cuando anunció la campaña “Compartiendo el viaje,” el papa Francisco afirmó que “Cristo nos insta a recibir a nuestros hermanos con los brazos verdaderamente abiertos, listos para estrecharlos en un abrazo sincero y amoroso.”

Este es un rasgo característico del papa Francisco: emplear imágenes vívidas y físicas para destacar sus enseñanzas. En efecto, el Santo Padre nos dice que Cristo no se conforma con medias tintas. No es suficiente hacer un cheque y simplemente enviarlo por correo a una de las agencias de socorro. Además del apoyo económico, según expresa el papa, Cristo desea que mantengamos un contacto cálido y entusiasta con nuestros hermanos pobres y vulnerables.

Para la mayoría de nosotros que llevamos vidas ajetreadas, repletas de trabajo y obligaciones familiares, esto no resulta sencillo. Sin embargo, las oportunidades para involucrarnos activamente con los necesitados abundan si los buscamos.

Desde hace más de 42 años, la organización de caridad católica de

Indianápolis ha dado la bienvenida y ha atendido a inmigrantes y refugiados. Y muchas parroquias de todo el centro y el sur de Indiana trabajan arduamente para proporcionar comida, albergue, ropa y acceso a atención médica de calidad para todos los necesitados, incluyendo a aquellos que abandonaron su país de origen en busca de una mejor vida. Pregúntele a su pastor o a cualquier agencia de Catholic Charities de qué forma puede usted ayudar y gustosamente lo referirán al lugar más cercano en el que acogerán de buen grado su participación.

Nuestra Iglesia extiende a todos el amor incondicional de Jesús. Recibimos a los extranjeros y nos esforzamos por lograr que todos se sientan como en casa.

Apoyamos los esfuerzos de nuestro país para resguardar las fronteras y para reglamentar los procesos que rigen el proceso de inmigración y de reubicación de los refugiados. Sin embargo, insistimos en que se protejan los derechos de las personas y las familias en todas las circunstancias, y anteponeamos la defensa de la dignidad humana a la conveniencia política o práctica. Tomamos tan en serio esta responsabilidad que las enseñanzas de la Iglesia señalan que los ciudadanos tienen la obligación de atender a su conciencia y no obedecer las leyes y las normativas que sean contrarias a los derechos fundamentales de las personas

o a las enseñanzas del Evangelio (véase *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*, #2242).

“Compartiendo el viaje” no es una campaña política sino una forma de promocionar la solidaridad para con los miembros de nuestra familia que tengan una necesidad especial de nuestro apoyo devoto. Sin embargo, “Compartiendo el viaje” nos recuerda que como ciudadanos tenemos la responsabilidad de promover el bien común, por el bien de nuestra nación y el de la comunidad de naciones. La paz y la prosperidad deberían estar al alcance de todos los pueblos, sin importar su raza, origen étnico o preferencia religiosa. Debemos recibir a todos, darles la bienvenida y respetar, tanto las diferencias que nos dividen, como la condición humana fundamental que nos une.

El papa Francisco nos recuerda que Jesús, María y José (la Sagrada Familia) fueron una vez refugiados que huyeron de la tiranía política y de la cruel brutalidad del rey Herodes. Fueron inmigrantes que pasaron años viviendo en suelo extranjero, una situación que comparten hoy en día millones de personas que han dejado atrás sus hogares en una búsqueda desesperada de seguridad y de una mejor vida.

Lo que hagamos al más pequeño de nuestros hermanos, se lo hacemos a Cristo. Compartamos su viaje y démosles la bienvenida, estrechándolos “en un abrazo sincero y amoroso.” †

Events Calendar

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

January 29

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Serra Club Dinner Meeting**, Benedictine Father Justin Duvall presenting on the Benedictine way of life, 5:40 p.m. rosary followed by dinner, \$15. Information: 317-748-1478 or smclaughlin@holyspirit.cc.

January 31

St. Nicholas School, 6459 E. St. Nicholas Dr., Sunman. **Open House**, for prospective parents and students, 6-7 p.m. Information: 812-623-2348, school.stnicholas-sunman.org.

February 2

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **First Friday** celebration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mass, 5:45 p.m., exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, following Mass until 9 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation available. Information: 317-888-2861 or info@olgreenwood.org.

St. Lawrence Church, 6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis. **First Friday Charismatic**

Renewal Praise and Mass, praise and worship 7 p.m., Mass 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-546-7328, mkeyes@indy.rr.com.

Women's Care Center, 4901 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. **First Friday Mass**, 5 p.m., Father Coady Owens presiding, optional tour of center to follow. Information: 317-829-6800, www.womenscarecenter.org.

February 3

St. Michael Church, 145 St. Michael Blvd., Brookville. **First Saturday Marian Devotional Prayer Group**, Mass, prayers, rosary, confession, meditation, 8 a.m. Information: 765-647-5462.

St. Jude Parish, 5375 McFarland Road, Indianapolis. **Alumni Legacy Association Chili Cook Off**, live music, wine tasting, beer, food, 7 p.m., free admission. Contact Whitney Carroll to enter cook off (indicate traditional or non-traditional chili or soup/stew): 317-784-6828, whitneycarroll14@gmail.com.

February 6

Mission 27 Resale, 132 Leota St., Indianapolis. **Senior Discount Day**, every Tuesday, seniors get 30 percent off clothing, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., ministry supports Indianapolis St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry and Changing Lives Forever program. Information: 317-687-8260.

February 7

Knights of Columbus Council 3433, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced. New members welcome. 6 p.m. Information: 317-243-0777.

February 8

St. Andrew the Apostle, Intercultural Pastoral Institute, Lower Level, 4052 E. 38th St., Indianapolis. **Black Catholic Young Adult Gathering**, sponsored by archdiocesan Black Catholic Ministry, 6:30-8 p.m., for ages 18-35, however all are welcome, childcare available with advance reservations, free. Information and childcare reservations: Pearlette

Springer, 317-236-1474, pspringer@archindy.org.

February 10

St. Bartholomew Church, 1306 27th St., Columbus. **12th Annual Concert Series: Young Musicians Concert**, 7 p.m., freewill offering. Complete list of all concerts: www.saintbartholomew.org under "Music Ministry," or bminut@stbparish.net.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Seton Elementary Campus, 801 W. Main St., Richmond. **Chocolate Fest**, hors d'oeuvres, chocolate, silent auction, 5-8 p.m., \$15 pre-sale tickets only through Feb. 9. Information and tickets: Lisa Rourke, 765-969-4919.

February 11

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 4625 N. Kenwood Ave., Indianapolis. **Mass in French**, 12:30 p.m. Information: 317-627-7729 or acfadi2014@gmail.com.

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church, 4720 E. 13th St., Indianapolis. **Class of '63 monthly gathering**, 6 p.m. Mass,

optional dinner afterward. Information: 317-408-6396.

February 11-18

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 5333 E. Washington St., Indianapolis. **8-Day Festival of Prayer**, Sun., 10 a.m. Mass with Archbishop Charles C. Thompson; Mon., 7 p.m. concert; Tues., 5:30 p.m. rosary, 6 p.m. Mass and reception; Wed., 6 p.m. Mass and distribution of ashes followed by soup and bread dinner; Thurs., 1:45 p.m. Living Rosary presented by school children, 3-6 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 5:30 p.m. rosary followed by Mass; Fri., 5:30-7 p.m. Fish Fry; Sat., 9 a.m. continental breakfast, viewing of the movie *St. Bernadette of Lourdes* (reservations required, 317-3560-7291); Sun., 10 a.m. Mass followed by coffee and donuts. Information: 317-356-7291.

February 13

Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Monthly**

Taizé Prayer Service, theme "Praying for Peace in the World and in Our Hearts," 7-8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence. Information: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org.

February 15

St. Joseph Parish, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. **Third Thursday Adoration**, interceding for women experiencing crisis pregnancy, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., with Mass at 5:45 p.m. Information: 317-244-9002.

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. **Monthly Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-574-8898 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

February 17-19

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Used Book Sale sponsored by Linden Leaf Gifts**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., books not pre-priced but donations accepted. Information: 812-535-2932 or lindenleafgifts@spsmw.org. †

Retreats and Programs

For a complete list of retreats as reported to The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/retreats.

February 9-11

Providence Spirituality & Conference Center, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Retreat for Busy Catholic Moms**, Providence Sister Mary Montgomery presenting, Fri. 6:30 p.m.-Sun. 1:30 p.m., \$215 includes lodging and meals, \$125 without lodging. Registration deadline Feb. 2. Information and registration: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org or www.spsmw.org/providence-center/events/.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. **Winning Relationships—A Married**

Couples Retreat, Benedictine Father Noël Mueller, \$425 double. Information: 812-357-6585 or mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

February 13

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Personal Day of Retreat**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$35 includes room for the day and lunch, spiritual direction available for \$30. Information and registration: 317-788-7581, www.benedictinn.org.

February 14

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **De-clutter Your**

Life for Lent: Living an Intentional 40 Days, Benedictine Sister Julie Sewell presenting, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., \$40 includes lunch. Information and registration: 317-788-7581, www.benedictinn.org.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Silent Self-Guided Day of Reflection**, \$35 includes room for the day, continental breakfast, lunch and use of common areas, additional \$28 extends stay to include the night before or night after day of silence, \$9 for dinner when available. Information and registration: 317-545-7681, ext. 101 or www.archindy.org/fatima. †

Alveda King to speak at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond on Feb. 3



Alveda King

Evangelist Alveda King, niece of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will speak at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Holy Family Campus, 815 W. Main St., in Richmond, at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 3. King currently serves as pastoral associate and director

of Civil Rights for the Unborn African, the African-American Outreach for Priests for Life and Gospel of Life Ministries.

She is also the voice for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, sharing her own testimony of two abortions and God's forgiveness and healing.

The event is free. For more information, call Debbie Coleman at 765-977-4266 or e-mail debraanncoleman@gmail.com. †

Indiana Holy Family Catholic Conference set for Feb. 24 at Kokomo High School

The 12th Annual Indiana Holy Family Catholic Conference will be held at Kokomo High School, 2501 S. Berkley Road, in Kokomo, in the Diocese of Lafayette, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Feb. 24.

The theme for this year's conference is "God is for Us! Romans 8:31." Scheduled speakers include Dominican Father Timothy Combs and Dr. Peter and Chantal Howard, co-founders of Heroic Families (www.heroicfamilies.com).

The event also includes a kid's corner, a middle school track and a high

school track.

Father Theodore Dudzinski, vicar general of the Diocese of Lafayette, will celebrate Mass to conclude the conference.

The cost is \$60 per family, \$40 for a couple or a family of two, and \$20 for singles and high school youths through Feb. 6. After Feb. 6, the prices increase to \$75, \$50 and \$25, respectively. Scholarships are available.

Information, including the registration link, can be found at www.holyfamilyconference.org. †



STEM grant

Krista Konradi, left, and members of her kindergarten class at St. Louis School in Batesville smile as they hold a check representing a \$500 grant from the Ripley County Community Foundation to purchase STEM-based (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) materials to provide hands-on learning experiences in their classroom. Pictured along with Konradi are Amelia Spielmann, Parker Smith, Samson Walmsley, Tess Rennekamp, Evelyn Ollberding and Henry Candelot. (Submitted photo)

Retrouvaille retreat for marriages in crisis set for Feb. 23-25 in Indianapolis

A Retrouvaille retreat for marriages in crisis will be held at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, on Feb. 23-25.

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you stopped talking to each other? Do you wonder if your marriage might end?

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-v) is a worldwide program that offers tools needed for hurting couples to rediscover a loving marriage

relationship. For more than 30 years, the program has helped hundreds of thousands of couples heal their hurting marriages.

To learn more about the program or to register for the Feb. 23-25 weekend and follow-up post-weekend sessions in Indianapolis, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com or www.retrouvaille.org, or for confidential information e-mail RetrouIndy@gmail.com or call 317-489-6811. †

NATIONAL

continued from page 1A

from the crowd gathered on the National Mall. He praised the pro-lifers for having “such big hearts and tireless devotion to make sure parents have the support they need to choose life.”

“You’re living witnesses of this year’s March for Life theme, ‘Love Saves Lives,’” he said. His remarks were broadcast to the crowd live via satellite to a Jumbotron above the speakers’ stage, a first for any U.S. president, according to March for Life.

During their tenure in office, President Ronald Reagan, President George H.W. Bush and President George W. Bush all addressed the march via telephone or a radio hookup from the Oval Office, with their remarks broadcast to the crowd.

Trump spoke with a crowd surrounding him in the Rose Garden, including 20 students from the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D. One of those standing next to the president was a Marianne Donadio, a top official with Room at the Inn, a nationally accredited Catholic ministry based in North Carolina that serves homeless, pregnant women and single mothers with children.

Vice President Mike Pence, who addressed last year’s March for Life in person at Trump’s request, introduced the president as the “most pro-life president in American history” for, among other things, issuing an executive memorandum shortly after his inauguration to reinstate the “Mexico City Policy.” The policy bans all foreign nongovernmental organizations receiving U.S. funds from performing or promoting abortion as a method of family planning in other countries.

Trump also has nominated pro-life judges to fill several court vacancies, and a day before the March for Life the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced formation of a new Conscience and Religious Freedom Division in the HHS Office for Civil Rights. Its aim is to protect the conscience rights of doctors and other health care workers who do not want to perform procedures they consider morally objectionable.

For the first time in recent memory, the weather in Washington was more than tolerable for March for Life participants as they gathered on the National Mall to mark the anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decisions legalizing abortion.

The sun was shining and the blue sky was cloudless. By the time the speeches ended and the march to the Supreme Court started, the temperature had reached 50 degrees. March officials estimated that more than 100,000 were in attendance.

Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, opened the rally by calling on everyone in the crowd to text the word “March” to 7305 and to show their commitment to ending abortion and join their voices in calling on Congress to defund Planned Parenthood.

“Do you agree that’s important?” she asked the crowd. “Yes!” they shouted. March for Life, she said, is about educating people about abortion and mobilizing to end it and to love all those women and families who are facing a



Young women hold pro-life signs and shout slogans as they stand in front of the U.S. Supreme Court during the 45th annual March for Life in Washington on Jan. 19. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

troubled pregnancy and other needs.

“‘Love Saves Lives’ is this year’s theme,” she added. “Love and sacrifice go hand in hand. It is not easy. No one ever said it was, but it is the right choice ... the self-sacrificial option.”

In an interview with Catholic News Service (CNS) before the march began, Mancini said that as a pro-life Catholic she believes “100 percent” in Church teaching that the sanctity of all life, from conception to natural death, must be protected.

But she said the annual March for Life has a singular purpose—to mark the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions legalizing abortion through nine months of pregnancy nationwide. She believes abortion is “the single most significant social justice cause of our time.”

As a small nonprofit with a staff of six, the March for Life organization has to “stay focused” on its mission, she said, which is to educate people about abortion and activate them to stop abortion. Mancini also told CNS she was “grateful to the leader of the free world” for deciding to address the rally from the Rose Garden.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin, was among several others who addressed the crowd from the speakers’ platform.

“Thank God for giving us a pro-life president in the White House,” the Catholic congressman said.

“Your energy is so infectious,” he told the crowd, praising them for being “the vigor and enthusiasm of the pro-life movement.”

Seeing so many young people “is so inspiring because it tells us this a movement on the rise,” he said. “Why is the pro-life movement on the rise? Because truth is on our side. Life begins at conception. Science is on our side.”

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Washington, gave an emotional speech about the troubled pregnancy she faced about four years ago. She and her husband, Dan, were told their unborn child had severe defects, that the baby’s kidneys would never

develop and the lungs were undeveloped because of a rare condition. Abortion was their only option, they were told.

Today, that baby is 4-year-old Abigail. She and her younger brother and their father stood on the stage with the congresswoman.

“Dan and I prayed and we cried [at the news of their unborn child’s condition] ... and in that devastation we saw hope. What if God would do a miracle? What if a doctor was willing to try something new? Like saline infusions to mimic amniotic fluid so kidneys could develop?” she recalled.

With “true divine intervention and some very courageous doctors willing to take a risk we get to experience our daughter, Abigail,” Herrera Beutler said. She is a very “healthy, happy 4-year-old big sister who some day is going to be ‘the boss of mommy’s work,’” she said.

Herrera Beutler asked the crowd to imagine that 45 years of legal abortion had not existed and that 60 million babies had not been lost to abortion, and if out of those people had come those who could cure cancer and correct all manner of disabling conditions, including those that exist *in utero*, and eradicate poverty.

“What richness we would get to see instead of two generations missing,” she added.

Another Catholic member of Congress and longtime pro-life advocate, Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, described the last 45 years of legal abortion as Orwellian.

“Every one of you here today” and millions of others throughout the country and world, he said, “are an integral part of the greatest human rights struggle on Earth. Because we pray, because we fast, we will win. Babies will be protected.” †



Pro-life advocates hold signs while walking up Constitution Avenue en route to the U.S. Supreme Court during the 45th annual March for Life in Washington on Jan. 19. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

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LIFE

continued from page 1A

Her description captured the crowd that processed to the statehouse from St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis after a pre-march Mass. (See story on page 9A). Banners, balloons, signs and chanting voices all proclaimed the sanctity of life in the downtown Indianapolis procession.

Trying to tame a yellow “Life” balloon blowing in the gusty wind, 10-year-old Eli Elmore said he thought it was important to march “because babies don’t have the choice if they live or die. They have their entire lives ahead of them, and that shouldn’t be ruined.” Eli is a member of Southside Christian Homeschool Academy in Indianapolis.

Another youth participating in the march had a special reason to promote the pro-life cause.

“I love pro-life because I was adopted, and I’m grateful my mom didn’t abort me,” said Mary Green, 14, a member of St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Zionsville, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese. “I feel so bad for people who don’t realize abortion takes away life.”

Young adults were also well-represented in the march, including members of the

pro-life club at DePauw University in Greencastle. Drew Cobb, a freshman, proudly waved a flag bearing the school’s name as he marched.

“I thought it was important to be here and support the pro-life movement,” he said. “I hope by attending this year that it will draw even more [people] next year.”

Fellow club member Sarah Hennessy, a sophomore, noted that “especially on college campuses, the feminist movement is strong. But to be truly feminist, you have to be pro-life.”

There were plenty of little testaments-to-life being pushed in strollers along the way to the statehouse.

“I can’t think of a better witness to life than to bring my children,” said Aurora Verkamp as two little faces peered out from a double-stroller.

The member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg is grateful for the opportunity to march locally for the pro-life cause.

“Going to Washington [for the national March for Life] is just not practical given my current situation,” she said with a grin toward her toddlers.

While the only toddlers in his life are now his grandchildren, that didn’t stop long-time pro-life advocate Steve Martin from taking part in the march.

“When I heard [a] high school youth group chanting as they walked, I was in tears,” said the member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis. “It is such a powerful thing to hear high school kids pick up this issue and be as excited as they obviously were.”

“We pro-life people work all year long, and no one sees anything. ... You’ve got to have a march to show people we’re alive and well, and that



Kristine Allen of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis holds the hand of her daughter Faye while marching with Amber Starr of St. Joseph Parish in Lebanon, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese, and her two boys, Thomas (front) and Michael on Jan. 22. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)



Father John Hollowell, right, pastor of Annunciation Parish in Brazil and St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, waves an American flag during the inaugural Indiana March for Life on Jan. 22. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)



Hundreds of pro-life people from across Indiana participate in the inaugural Indiana March for Life on Jan. 22. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)



Indiana Catholic Conference executive director Glenn Tebbe, left, in the tan coat, Lafayette Bishop Timothy L. Doherty and Archbishop Charles C. Thompson clap during a pro-life rally on the steps of the Indiana Statehouse on Jan. 22. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

there’s many of us.”

After the march and rally, many participants ventured inside the statehouse to witness a Rose Ceremony. There, 45 people each held a sign representing one of the years in which lives were lost to abortion since it was legalized in 1973. On each sign was the number of children aborted in that year. The combined total was more than 60 million. (For comments by Rose Ceremony speaker Abby Johnson, see sidebar on page 9A.)

The Indiana March for Life event ended later in the evening, when about 150 people participated in a youth-and-young-adult rally and holy hour at St. John the Evangelist Church.

Abby Johnson served as the keynote speaker during this Vigil for Life, captivating the youthful audience with a message similar to the one she shared during the Rose Ceremony.

The former Planned Parenthood facility director turned pro-life-advocate told the young people how she regretted taking so long—eight years—to leave a job where she assisted in the abortions of children.

“Being pro-life means you are advocating for the right to life every day,” she said. “One day, I had the opportunity to do something, to save a life, and I did nothing. I’m asking you tonight to find out how you can do something.”

Silent prayer and the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed in the darkened church before the soaring, heartfelt singing of “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” closed the rally—and the day of witness for life—on another emotional note.



Father Rick Nagel, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, leads a eucharistic procession during the Vigil of Life youth and young adult rally at the parish church on Jan. 22. About 150 people attended the rally, which was part of the inaugural Indiana March for Life. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)



Participants at the pro-life rally on Jan. 22 on the steps of the statehouse in Indianapolis listen to a speaker while a child holds a photo of himself stating “I was born at 32 weeks.” (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

“I’m very passionate about the pro-life movement,” said Cari Weibel, the director of youth ministry for St. Lawrence and St. Matthew the Apostle parishes, both in Indianapolis. “I can’t think of anything more important than saving babies and saving lives.”

The Vigil for Life also left its impact on Matt Faley.

“The vigil gives us an opportunity to reconnect to the great miracle of our own lives,” said Faley, director of young adult and college campus ministry for the archdiocese. “Tonight’s vigil connects us to God, the source of this life and sends us back out into the world to bring others to that same reality. That is what the world is starving for the most—a witness to authentic life.”

From the opening Mass to the end of the evening youth and young adult event, the entire day was a success in the eyes of Susan Hoefler, Natural Family Planning coordinator for the Lafayette Diocese, who helped organize the inaugural Indiana March for Life.

“I am filled with joy about what I’ve witnessed today, ... everyone coming together to proclaim that *all* human life has inherent dignity and worth, given to us from God Almighty,” she said. “How beautiful it is to see such an amazing gathering.”

The plan is to have another such gathering next year, and likely for years to come. As Tuttle declared to the crowd: “We will be out here marching as long as the culture victimizes the unborn through abortion.”

(John Shaughnessy contributed to this story.) †

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SUPPLEMENT



Catholic schools are our shared inheritance and opportunity

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is a great blessing to celebrate the apostolate of Catholic schools with you!

Our Catholic schools throughout central and southern Indiana are an integral part of the incredible foundation that, by the grace of God and the witness of many generations of the faithful, is our shared inheritance, responsibility and opportunity.

During the Second Vatican Council, the Holy Father, in union with the bishops of the world, proclaimed that Catholic schools are of the "utmost importance." Indeed, it is "abundantly clear in an unbroken list of statements" from both the Holy See's Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education and from the bishops of the United States that Catholic schools are "the most efficacious means available to the Church for the education of children and young people."

Our Catholic schools are the "fullest and best" opportunity to "promote the integration of religious truth and values with the rest of life."



With Christ, the Master Teacher, as their cornerstone, these ministries of hope make the Gospels and the sacraments a way of life. They continue Christ's own ministry as priest, prophet and king through their worship, faithful teaching and witness to the world.

Please join me this week in thanking and praying for all who have made, and who continue to make, the mission of our Catholic schools possible.

Please join me in praying for the future of this essential apostolate. The Church "earnestly entreats pastors and all the faithful to spare no sacrifice in helping Catholic schools fulfill their function in a continually more perfect way."

May our ministry in this generation be a "prophetic choice," ensuring excellent and accessible Catholic schools both for today and for the many tomorrows to come.

Yours in Christ, Our Teacher,

+ Charles C. Thompson

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson



Catholic schools prepare ‘problem solvers’ bound by faith

(Editor’s note: Science, technology, engineering and math. These four areas comprise what has come to be known as STEM fields—areas of projected job growth by as much as 28 percent by 2024. Catholic schools around central and southern Indiana are finding creative ways to introduce these areas to their students—and even to parents. On this page, The Criterion takes a look at three schools that are embracing the future—and faith—by using innovative ways to ramp up their students’ excitement and knowledge around the areas of STEM.)

By Natalie Hoefler

Megan Schaller and Ryan Scharr have become both coaching staff and cheerleaders when it comes to the STEM approach at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis.

The two recently completed the Trustey Family STEM Teaching Fellows program through the Center for STEM Education at the University of Notre Dame. The program focuses on increasing student interest and learning in STEM disciplines through the support and growth of high-quality STEM teachers.

Since starting the program in 2015, they have worked with other teachers at St. Barnabas to incorporate STEM projects and concepts into their curricula, even in religion and language arts classes.

“A STEM lesson is when you take any two letters or more [from the acronym], and both are being used and graded in a project,” explains Schaller, the school’s

STEM coordinator and fifth- and sixth-grade science teacher. “Teachers plan a full STEM project, and each teacher sees how they can fill in,” such as using a religion class to brainstorm how STEM components could be used to address social justice issues like poverty, then writing about the topic in an English class.

But class time is limited. So in the fall of 2015, the school implemented STEM Days. One Friday each month is set aside to focus entirely on completing a project.

“The students enjoy that they get to do a whole project from beginning to end,” says Scharr, the school’s assistant principal. “They’re given a problem with real-world effects, and use what they learn to work with other people. They have to collaborate, engage socially, take leadership roles.”

The momentum didn’t stop there. “Parents hear from kids [that] they love STEM,” says Schaller. “We wanted parents to see kids engaging in STEM challenges, and also themselves to do a [project] or problem-solve or test. ... There are a lot of emotions involved in taking on real world challenges. [We wanted them] to see what it’s like to be frustrated or be exhilarated at success.”

So in the fall of 2016, the school hosted its first Family STEM Night. More than 300 parents and students took part in the two-hour event working on projects together. The second annual event last fall drew nearly 600 parents and children.

“There’s this void in the world today of problem solvers,” says Scharr. “We’re



Maddox Novotney launches his improvised “car” while Matt Maddox marks its speed with a timer during the second annual Family STEM Night on Nov. 16, 2017, at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)

doing our best at St. Barnabas [to see] that all of our students, regardless of gender or socio-economic status or cultural

background, can work together to solve problems, to take real world struggles and brainstorm solutions.” †

STEM plants roots of ‘cool’ learning in New Albany Deanery

By Natalie Hoefler

Laura Swessel, a high school science teacher at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville, knows the importance of STEM fields first hand—she used to own an engineering consulting firm.

“Just working in a manufacturing environment now, you have to have some familiarity with computers, either on the user or the programming side,” she notes. “Regardless of what field you go into, the critical thinking you gain from STEM helps you with any field you end up in.”

To provide students with more hands-on STEM experiences, Swessel started STEM summer camps in 2016 for youths throughout the New Albany Deanery in first grade through ninth grade.

During the camps, which are broken down by grade ranges, participants take part in projects ranging from basic computer coding and making a volcano to creating a

storm-proof house—which she tests against a leaf blower she calibrated to simulate category one through four hurricanes.

To accommodate those on the summer camp waiting list, Swessel created a STEM club to meet five times during the school year. More than 110 students participated last spring.

Both the STEM club and the camp include visits by professionals in those fields. Among those who spoke to the youths were a dentist, an aerospace engineer, an electrical engineer, an emergency room director and a statistician.

In addition to getting students excited about STEM fields, Swessel uses the camp and club as an opportunity for high school students to serve as helpers. Not only do the older teens get experience mentoring, but it helps kids to see “it’s cool” to like STEM fields, she says.

Fourth-grader Lydia Cospers says she likes to learn about “my interests such as chain reactions, engineering, and

freestyle math,” while fifth-grader Matt Wetzel says he “love[s] being able to experiment with creating my own video games.” Both are members of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg and attend the parish school.

And being deanery-wide and open to non-Catholics, the camp and club allow students to meet youths from other schools.

“I like meeting new people from throughout the deanery,” says Ginger Atzinger, a member of Holy Family Parish in New Albany who attends sixth grade at



In this photo from June 28, 2016, Laura Swessel, a science teacher at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville, works with fourth-through sixth-graders participating in the school’s summer STEM Camp, which is open to all students in the New Albany Deanery. (Submitted photo)

the parish school. “I love learning about the importance of STEM and how it affects how we live, and I like having something to look forward to after school.” †

Students ‘dig’ discovering new ways to see the world

By Natalie Hoefler

The Thanksgiving feast at St. Bartholomew School in Columbus last year was particularly special: among the fare enjoyed by students and staff members was lettuce grown by the fifth-grade class at the school’s new outdoor learning lab, an area containing a permanent greenhouse nearly 25 feet by 17 feet in size built next to raised garden beds.

“We asked every grade level to plan a unit to use the outdoor learning lab to cover the science standards for their grade,” says principal Helen Heckman. “We brought together our science, math and technology teachers so they can better collaborate and look at STEM initiatives.”

St. Bartholomew middle school science teacher Bridget Steele gushes about the opportunities provided by the outdoor learning lab.

“All middle school students will complete the Junior Master Gardeners Program over the next two years and become certified,” she says. “[A] rocks and minerals dig site allows students to

study the rock cycle while identifying rocks that they dig out themselves.”

The area also offers a worm farm “where [students] learn about the importance of soil,” adds Steele.

Middle school students will collect temperature readings and collect data on decomposition rates to engineer the best composting system, and fourth graders will learn about the importance of native species and the interdependence of pollinators and flowering plants in the lab’s butterfly garden and monarch watch station.

Steele notes the importance of math in “evaluating data on growth measurements and other activities related to the greenhouse, but also on weather-related readings, data collection and graphing at our weather station.”

And the current integration of the new space into class curricula “is just the tip of the iceberg,” she says, noting that the outdoor learning lab is still in its first phase.

Steele is not the only one excited about the outdoor learning lab.

“We worked the dirt, then we planted the seeds row by row,” says fifth-grader

Amelia Fay of her class’ lettuce project. “It was really cool and fun. It was very delicious when we cooked it.”

Third-grader Ella Campbell, who joined her classmates in testing how plants grow in various soils, thought it was “cool because we could see how [the plants] grew each day.”

The students’ enthusiasm proves a point for Steele: “Kids learn best from doing authentic and relevant projects.

“The motivation and depth of learning are just two wonderful outcomes of project-based STEM-related content. The Outdoor Learning Lab naturally connects our students to our community partners



Raised garden beds near the new outdoor learning lab at St. Bartholomew School in Columbus offer students an opportunity to study the growth of plants. (Submitted photo)

and real-world problems.

“Our students discover a love of learning, [and see that] digging in the dirt, sorting seeds, handling bees and worms—this stuff isn’t gross, boring or scary, but real and amazing.” †

'Team Jesus' approach proves to be a big hit for school

By John Shaughnessy

The "aha" moment came for Lisa Vogel as the Catholic school principal dealt with two students who were constantly arguing on the playground a year ago.

Trying to find a way to change their attitudes, Vogel suddenly heard herself telling them, "We're all on the same team. We're all on Team Jesus!"

Just as soon as she said those last two words, Vogel knew she had the theme that she hoped would guide the students, the teachers, the staff and herself at St. Mary School in North Vernon during this current school year.

So on the first day of school in August, she gathered everyone in a big huddle—"because that's what teams do," she says—and shared the theme of "Team Jesus."

Trying to add a concrete symbol to that theme, Vogel showed everyone that day a huge sports bag normally used for storing and carrying baseball bats. Then she asked the students what they should put into the bag to represent Team Jesus. Soon, a Bible was placed into the bag. So was a crucifix. Then a rosary.

Vogel also told everyone that one of the things that teammates often do is give "high fives" to each other, so she encouraged everyone to adopt that practice too.

"I told them that each of the five fingers represents one of the words I wanted them to say to each other—'I am here for you,'" Vogel recalls. "So when they see someone struggling on the playground or in the classroom, they should just offer them a high-five and they'll know you are there for them."

That practice has caught on at the school. Teachers high-five students. Students high-five students. And teachers high-five teachers.

"I love seeing our team having each other's backs," Vogel says.



The smiles of Kaelen Hauersperger, left, Adylin Cox, Kaylen Cox, Brooklyn Woods, Eliza Kreutzjans and Drew Spurlock reflect their support for "Team Jesus," the approach that guides students and staff members during this school year at St. Mary School in North Vernon. (Submitted photo)

That caring for each other has extended to a concern for others—a concern that's reflected in the school's monthly service projects that are led by a different class each month.

The eighth-grade class organized a collection of new and used shoes for the people of Haiti. The seventh-grade students went to the three Catholic cemeteries in Jennings County, grooming some of the gravesites and placing the silk flower arrangements that they had made on some of the graves.

When each service project has been completed, each class has put a symbol of their efforts into the Team Jesus baseball bat bag. So the eighth graders added a pair of flip-flops in there. And the seventh graders placed one of their flower arrangements in the bag.

The efforts for Team Jesus have left their mark on the students.

Fifth-grader Charlie Taylor confesses that he really didn't think much about the concept of Team Jesus when Vogel initially shared it, but he saw the difference the approach made when his father, Brian, went into a hospital to receive a heart transplant. His classmates rallied around him and another fifth-grader whose mother is battling cancer. The class focused its monthly service project on raising money to help school families reeling from such concerns.

"I like that it helps people who need it," Charlie says.

Third-grader Aubree Crane shares how her class built a "rosary walk" on the lawn of the school during October—the month of the rosary—creating and coloring pictures that showed the beads and the mysteries of the rosary. Then each class in the school used the rosary walk daily to

pray at least a decade for others.

"I thought it was a really good idea—and a good opportunity to pray for people who need it," Aubree says. "I think it's a good way to get closer to God, and do better things."

That's exactly what Vogel wants for everyone on Team Jesus. And sometimes the blessings of that approach come in ways that surprise even her.

"Before Christmas, I was a little distracted walking down the hall, and this second-grader was coming toward me," she recalls. "As she approached me, she had her hand in the air, and she said, 'I am here for you, Mrs. Vogel.' And she gave me a high-five."

"I said to myself, 'I think we're getting this.'"

"I want my students to have empathy for everyone. Jesus loved everyone. I want my students to not just love their best friends, but to love everyone." †

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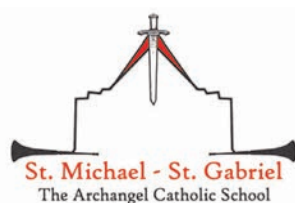


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FOLLOW THE HASHTAG #CSW18 JANUARY 29TH-FEBRUARY 2ND

High schools build up relationships with nearby parish schools

By Sean Gallagher

Indiana's state government has launched a series of initiatives over the last decade or more that recognize parents' freedom to choose the best education for their children.

They include allowing children to enroll in public school systems beyond the one in which they live, creating charter schools, establishing tax credits for contributions to organizations that provide scholarships to private schools and, most notably, the state's voucher program, which is arguably the most robust in the nation.

This empowerment of parents to use their freedom to ensure the best education for their children has created an educational marketplace in which schools must, in a sense, market themselves to parents and students, showing them how the educational experience they offer would be best for them.

Leaders in Catholic high schools across central and southern Indiana recognize this challenge and are responding to it.

"It is absolutely vital that we can get information on Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School out to the public," said Kyle Powers, Cardinal Ritter's director of admissions. "Our students do so many great things academically, athletically and in the community, and we want the city of Indianapolis to see how well prepared our students are for post-high school life."

An important way that Cardinal Ritter lets the broader community know about the education it offers is by building up relationships with parish grade schools in the Indianapolis West Deanery.

This happens in a variety of initiatives, such as academic competitions among parish schools sponsored by Cardinal Ritter and having grade school students come to Cardinal Ritter on Halloween to go trick-or-treating from classroom to classroom.

Other Catholic high schools in the archdiocese work in similar ways with nearby Catholic schools.

"Building community is at the heart of a great Franciscan Catholic school," said Diane Laake, president of the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg. "Our commitment to evangelizing, empowering and educating our youth is best achieved in a K-12 educational experience. We build on the foundation of faith established in our nearby schools, and provide the essential tools as our young adults make those critical decisions about the next phase of their life journey."

Among the partnerships that the Oldenburg Academy has established is a program where academy students tutor students of St. Louis School in Batesville.

Samantha Sheets, a junior at Oldenburg Academy, was tutored in math by an academy student when she was a student at St. Louis.

"It was extremely beneficial and helped me score higher on my tests," Samantha said, adding that having been helped in that way makes being a student now at Oldenburg Academy "more special because I now have the opportunity to return the help that was given to me while I was a student at St. Louis."

Laake said that having relationships with nearby schools through tutoring



Students from parish schools in the Indianapolis West Deanery pose with Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School students in Indianapolis on Oct. 31, 2017, when the grade school students came to Cardinal Ritter to trick-or-treat in its classrooms. Cardinal Ritter and other Catholic high schools across central and southern Indiana foster relationships with nearby parish schools to help younger students learn more, and to enhance the educational experience in their own schools. (Submitted photos)

and sponsoring academic competitions enhances the education it can offer.

"When students serve as an Oldenburg Academy ambassador in any of these programs with our nearby schools, they serve as role models," she said. "This responsibility inspires them to always be and do their best. Often, it also helps to reveal a skill or talent they may possess, such as public speaking, teaching, organizational skills or writing. It helps to ensure that they experience being part of a larger community of faith, too."

Nancy Buening, principal of St. Mary School in Greensburg, appreciates the relationship St. Mary has with Oldenburg Academy, especially in the academic competitions in which St. Mary students participate, and thinks it is a way to help her students see ways to continue their Catholic education.

"Any time you can get students working with others or performing in front of an audience, you are building on skills that they will use for a lifetime," Buening said. "We support Catholic education and want students to know that there are other alternatives. I feel like it is a way we can extend our mission even when they are no longer in our building."

Building up community is part of a Catholic school's identity. So fostering relationships with nearby Catholic grade schools isn't just a marketing ploy for Tyler Mayer, vice president for institutional advancement at Bishop Chatard High School in the Indianapolis North Deanery.

"It is our responsibility as a member of the North Deanery to share our resources," he said. "If we have the ability to share resources that will enhance the educational experience of students across the North Deanery, then we need to do everything we can to collaborate with the parish schools ..."

Bishop Chatard does this by allowing deanery schools to use their facilities free of charge for extracurricular activities, helping schools in setting and implementing technology plans, offering

a wide variety of summer camps and workshops, and welcoming parish youth ministers to visit with students from their parishes in the school's cafeteria on schools days.

While Chatard maintains such programs to assist deanery schools, Mayer said they also enhance the educational experience it can provide to its high school students.

"Our unique relationships with the parishes and schools of the North Deanery allows a level of support that can be found nowhere else," he said. "Bishop Chatard, in large part due to the unique relationship with the North Deanery parishes and schools, offers the strongest college preparatory academic program and faith formation experience for most students and families."

At the same time, Mayer and other leaders at Bishop Chatard recognize that, with many other high quality private and public high schools close by, they can't presume that families and students will choose their school.

"We have two goals for each student that comes to Bishop Chatard: college and heaven," Mayer said. "There are



Sports camps are among the ways that Catholic high schools in the archdiocese try to make a continuing connection with students from nearby parish schools. Here, Josh Coons, a student-athlete of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, shares a tip during a football camp for third- to eighth-graders at the school in the summer of 2017.

many great choices in regard to high school. However, they are not the same. Each school has a different approach and focus and, therefore, a different culture. Bishop Chatard offers a genuine Catholic education.

"It is our responsibility to reach out to as many families as we can and provide them with a genuine understanding of who we are, and what we are all about." †

'We were being what Jesus wants us to be,' Seton High School senior says

By John Shaughnessy

As one of 24 seniors at Seton Catholic High School in Richmond, Sarah Gray offers an extensive list of the ways that a Catholic education has enhanced her life.

"It's let me get a well-rounded education while helping me stay on track with my faith. Being in a small Catholic school, we're really close to



Sarah Gray

our teachers. They really focus on you as a person and on your learning.

"Plus we have theology class, we go to Mass at least once a week, and we pray in every class. That has helped me draw closer to God and my

faith every single day."

The student-athlete in volleyball and basketball says she also appreciates the opportunities her school has given her to live her faith, including a weeklong mission trip in the summer of 2017 when she helped in a homeless shelter in Virginia.

"It was cool seeing how we were being what Jesus wants us to be—being servants to people."

She also savors the friendships with her classmates, many of whom have been together since they began pre-school at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School 14 years ago.

"That's made us really close. Plus we go on retreats every year in high school, and that's made us even closer. I've definitely grown in my faith because of the community we have here." †

‘A dream come true’ connects school community

By John Shaughnessy

Luz Caldera had the dream for a long time.

The dream connected her childhood home in Mexico, the Indianapolis Catholic school that has become part of her family, and the faith that has guided her life.

Caldera’s dream became a reality recently during a special celebration at Central Catholic School in Indianapolis on Dec. 12, 2017.

On that day, the school unveiled a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe during an emotional ceremony that struck to the hearts of the 243 students—and their families—who represent 86 percent of the school’s enrollment.

“I was close to tears,” recalls Caldera, the school’s administrative assistant who played a critical role in obtaining the statue that was made in Guadalupe, Mexico. “I felt a comfort, a peace, to have Our Lady of Guadalupe so close. Every time a parent walks into the school now, they look at the statue and their eyes shine. I believe it’s brought a new pride and joy to our school.”

Caldera knows well the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the special significance it holds to natives of Mexico—how the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531 in Mexico, and how on Dec. 12 of that year, she filled his cloak with roses, a cloak that bore her image when he removed the roses.

“It’s the only big miracle we’ve known,” she says. “When people ask for something, she’s the one we ask for help. Of course, we have to do our part always.”

That’s exactly what the community of Central Catholic School did to give the statue a home.

When principal Ruth Hurrle arrived at the school for her first year during the summer of 2017, she talked to Caldera about the school’s traditions—and the traditions they should add.

“Luz told me how important the Guadalupe tradition and story is to the Hispanic community, specifically the Mexican community,” Hurrle says. “She talked about how much it would mean to have a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe. I said, ‘Let’s get one!’”

“Luz’s mother was already planning a trip to Mexico to visit the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. So we thought it would be amazing to get a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe from Guadalupe, Mexico.”



Central Catholic School students Ingrid Reyes, left, Yasmin Salazar, Lesly Reyes, Stephanie Jasso and Natalia Jasso dress festively for the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12, 2017, at their Indianapolis school. (Submitted photo)

So did the school community, which began a series of grassroots efforts to raise more than \$2,000 for the statue.

Parents who worked at local businesses put up boxes by cash registers, asking for donations for the statue. The school sold suckers for a quarter and cups of *horchata*, asking a dollar for the popular Mexican drink.

“The largest donation we got was \$20,” Hurrle says. “We did a basket raffle for each class that ended up raising several hundred dollars. That put us over the top.”

The large statue was unveiled at the school on the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe during a ceremony in which students in traditional Mexican attire paraded toward the statue. There, they placed roses at its base.

The statue was then blessed and dedicated during a Mass for the students and their families at the school, which is one of the five Notre Dame Alliance for Catholic Education Academies in the archdiocese.

“Our families are very faith-filled people,” Hurrle says. “They want their children to attend a Catholic school, and they’re grateful for a Catholic education. It gives me so much hope for the future of

the Catholic Church.”

The statue also symbolizes hope for the present, Caldera insists.

“The students see her as part of our life now,” Caldera says. “It’s hard to believe that we did it, that we have something like that at our school now. It’s like a dream come true.” †

Luz Caldera cherishes having a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe inside the main entrance of Central Catholic School in Indianapolis because it represents the Hispanic culture of many of the school’s families. The school community used grassroots efforts to raise more than \$2,000 for the statue which was made in Guadalupe, the community in Mexico where the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)



‘My class is just like a family’

By John Shaughnessy

Leigh Anne Gaminde was 8 when she faced the kind of difficult transition that would have challenged someone much older.

She moved from the Philippines to the southern Indiana community of Madison to live with her mother—a transition that also included starting at a new school when her command of the English language was rudimentary.



Leigh Anne Gaminde

Ten years later, Leigh Anne looks back on that time at Pope John XXIII School and still marvels at the reception she received from her classmates as a new third-grader.

“It was very scary for me because I wasn’t familiar with anything in America. I was expecting them to be mean because I was different from everyone else. But it wasn’t like that. I’ve never felt any discrimination, and no one bullied me because I wasn’t from here. I’ve just been

welcomed since the time I came here. It just really eased my nerves, and gave me another look at people.”

That feeling has intensified during the past nine years, says Leigh Anne, now one of 28 seniors at Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison.

“My class is just like a family. We’ve helped each other grow.”

So has the Catholic education she’s received at the two Catholic schools in Madison.

“It’s helped me get closer to God and my faith. And it’s helped me discover myself more. At Shawe, we do things that challenge us and push us out of our comfort zone. It’s made me realize I’m capable of so much more than I thought. It’s made me more courageous and outgoing with people, too.

“Being with the same teachers, I’m much more comfortable talking to them. I’m not afraid to ask them for help. And being with the same people, I’ve made long-term friends. I know they’re going to be there for me even after we’re out of school. I’m really thankful for everyone. Being a senior, I’ve learned to appreciate everyone even more.” †

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Bond of faith draws two schools together during disaster

By John Shaughnessy

As Father James Wilmoth shares the story, it soon becomes clear that it captures the heart of everything that's good about Catholic education.

After all, it's the story of the students of one Catholic school reaching out to help the students of another Catholic school that was severely damaged by a natural disaster—the story of two schools that once weren't even aware of each other coming together through a common bond of faith.

Then there's an angle to the story that Father Wilmoth would be the first to downplay—the story of how this 78-year-old pastor of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis once again showed his 53-year commitment to Catholic education by putting the needs of a devastated Catholic school community before the needs of his parish's own school.

The story started in August of 2017 when Father Wilmoth watched televised news reports showing Hurricane Harvey roaring through Rockport, Texas—a hurricane that is believed to be the strongest to make landfall in Texas.

"You saw the devastation and how it displaced people and destroyed homes," he recalls. "I thought, 'Dag-gone-it, we're going to do something.'"

So he had a meeting with the staff of St. Roch School, told them he wanted to donate the school's upcoming walk-a-thon funds to a Catholic school hit by the hurricane, and asked St. Roch's principal Amy Wilson to call the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas, to find a school that needed help.

She found one in Sacred Heart School in Rockport.

"Their windows were blown out. Their computers and rooms were ruined," says

Father Wilmoth, who soon shared his plan with the children of St. Roch School.

"I told the kids I'd like for you to raise \$20,000, and we won't keep any of it. All the money will go to Sacred Heart School," he recalls. "Then I talked it up at church one Sunday. The kids caught onto it, and it took off. We got to \$20,000 and met our goal. So I said, 'Let's do a goal plus. Maybe we can get to \$25,000.' People really responded. We ended up sending them close to \$26,500."

The people of St. Roch School and Parish also ended up receiving a wealth of thanks from the community of Sacred Heart School, a school that re-opened on Jan. 4.

"I am so amazed at your awesome total donation to our school," wrote Sacred Heart principal Kathy Barnes in a thank-you note to St. Roch. "You and your school, St. Roch, really ROCK!! I just can't imagine how you raised so much money in having your Walk-a-Thon, but I am impressed!"

"Please, please relay to your students, families and staff our gratitude and appreciation for not only your check, but for your prayers. Those heartfelt prayers are helping us, I'm sure. May God bless you all abundantly."

God has, Father Wilmoth says. That's why the school and the parish wanted to share their blessings.

"It didn't surprise me that people in St. Roch would respond that way," he says. "But the amount of money we got did surprise me. I was so proud of how they responded to other people. Those people needed to understand we are their brothers and sisters even though they didn't know us."

St. Roch's efforts reflected one of his favorite Scripture passages, he noted: "Whatever you do for the least of my



As pastor of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis, Father James Wilmoth has always had a close connection with the students at the parish school—a connection that led to the students raising more than \$26,000 earlier this year to help a Catholic school in Texas devastated by Hurricane Harvey in August of 2017. (Submitted photo)

brothers and sisters, you're doing for me" (Mt 25:40).

He believes that passage is the essence of the Catholic faith and Catholic education.

"I've loved Catholic education during my 53 years as a priest," Father Wilmoth says. "I look back on my life and see what it's done for me. And

Catholic education has been a terrific contributor to all of society, not just our Church. Thousands and thousands of people have benefitted from Catholic education.

"That's what Catholic education is all about—the fact that Jesus is the focus of our schools. That's what makes it so successful." †



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- Weekly all-school Masses
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Students from St. Roch School in Indianapolis show their joy during their walk-a-thon day when they helped to raise more than \$26,000 to assist a Catholic school in Texas that was devastated by Hurricane Harvey in August of 2017. (Submitted photo)

'Catholic education has become fundamental to my life,' student says

By John Shaughnessy

After two years at a public high school, Nick Ford is happy to be returning to his Catholic education roots by attending



Nick Ford

Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis.

"There's such a big difference in the two," says Nick, a junior at the archdiocesan high school for the Indianapolis North Deanery. "One thing that I've noticed is that all my teachers

and classmates are kind and caring and want the best for you.

"Catholic education has become fundamental to my life. I love having Mass every week and starting every class with prayer. I know I'm happier when I'm in the presence of so many Christians and Catholics like myself. I feel it benefits me

and builds me physically, emotionally and spiritually."

He also believes it's leading him to one of the most important goals of his life—a better relationship with God.

"It's what I'm striving for. It's what we're all striving for," says Nick, a member of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis who graduated from St. Joan of Arc School in 2015. "My relationship with God personally is very unique. Whenever I go to receive the body and blood of Christ, I always feel that presence of God in a physical sense. And I try to listen as best as I can to what he tells me every day."

His experiences at Bishop Chatard have helped him in that effort, he says.

"Every day, I've noticed that I'm just chipping away at any imperfections. I know I won't be perfect, but I have to try. Being in this Catholic environment helps me not just as an academic scholar, but as an all-around person." †

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Research reveals the lasting influence of Catholic education

By Gina Kuntz Fleming
Archdiocesan superintendent of Catholic schools

Did you know that graduates of Catholic schools are more likely to vote, earn higher wages, be civically engaged, be more committed to service as adults, and even demonstrate more tolerance of diverse views than their peers?



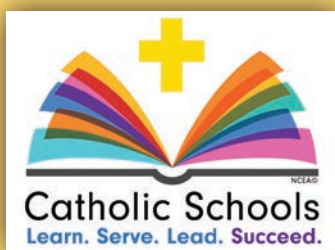
Research over the past two decades continues to illustrate the favorable results produced through Catholic education and formation.

Catholic schools build communities that live and act the fundamental conviction stated so beautifully by Pope Francis: “The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free.”

This is our first and most important task in Catholic education in central and southern Indiana: evangelization. That is, proclaiming the love, mercy and grace of God.

Pope Francis teaches us what this means: “Proclaiming Christ means

showing that to believe in and to follow him is not only something right and true, but also something beautiful, capable of filling life with new splendor and profound joy, even in the midst of difficulties. There is an inseparable bond, our Holy Father teaches, between truth, goodness and beauty” (“The Joy of the Gospel,” #167).



This is why we need Catholic schools.

We need *schools of the Gospel*, schools of truth, goodness and beauty.

With exceptional Catholic school leaders and teachers, dedicated staff and volunteers,

committed families and supportive pastors and religious, our Catholic schools continue to thrive *and* have room to grow further across the more than 13,000 square miles of our archdiocese!

Many thanks go to Archbishop Charles C. Thompson and all of you who support our Catholic schools as an essential ministry of our Church.

Through your prayer, leadership, volunteerism and financial support, our young people are grounded in the very principles of our faith that will aid them in proclaiming their love for God, and all that is good, right and just.

May God bless each of you and all those who serve in Catholic education today and in the future. †

Educator sets high expectations for students—and herself

By John Shaughnessy

As an educator in a Catholic school, Christine Exline sets the standard high for herself and her students.

“Quality Catholic education models the life of Christ,” notes Exline, who was a finalist for the 2017 Saint Theodora Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the archdiocese. “As teachers, we must be the body of Christ. We will hold our students to high expectations, but we will guide them along the path to meet these expectations.”

That combination of challenge and Christ-like concern marks Exline’s approach as she serves as the director of support services at St. Monica School in Indianapolis. Working with students in different grades who need extra help, Exline sees the difference she can make to these children—and the difference they make to her.

She shares the story of one of her most rewarding experiences in her 18 years of

teaching in Catholic schools. It involves a former eighth-grade student and a conference she scheduled for him—a conference to develop an educational plan for him.

“As an eighth grader, students are welcome to be part of the conversation about their education,” Exline says. “He did not want to attend the conference. He was nervous, and did not want to hear what was said about him. I encouraged him to be part of his story; that while it may be hard to listen to strengths and weaknesses, I wanted him to really take part in the conversation.

“Reassuring him that it was completely his decision, I attended the conference without him. Five minutes into the conference, he knocked on the door, having left recess to join me. He was nervous and uncomfortable, but he showed up. He knew I was showing up for him, and he wanted to show up for me.”



As the director of support services at St. Monica School in Indianapolis, Christine Exline leads a session with Elena Rosario, Jordan Mink and Teddy Isakson. (Submitted photo)

A few weeks later, the youth began a conversation with Exline, telling her he wanted to be like her when he grew up.

“He wasn’t sure he would be a teacher, but no matter what, he wanted to help people,” she recalls. “Tearing up in front

of a small group of eighth-grade boys was a first for me, but I didn’t mind. That day, I knew how much I meant to them. I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt I was where I needed to be, doing what I needed to be doing.” †

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Catholic Schools

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Open Arms



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What Makes a Catholic School Special

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("Defining Characteristics of Catholic Schools"; National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools)

RESEARCH SAYS ...

- Catholic schools tend to operate as communities rather than bureaucracies, which links to higher levels of teacher commitment, student engagement and student achievement (Marks, 2009).
- In Catholic schools, the student achievement gap is smaller than in public schools (Jeynes, 2007; Marks & Lee, 1989).
- Latino and African American students in Catholic schools are more likely to graduate from high school and college (Grogger & Neal, 2000).
- Graduates of Catholic high schools are more likely to earn higher wages (Neal, 1997).
- Catholic schools tend to produce graduates who are more civically engaged, more tolerant of diverse views, and more committed to service as adults (Campbell, 2001; Wolf, Greene, Kleitz, & Thalhammer, 2001).
- When a Catholic school closes, neighborhood disorder increases (Brinig & Garnett, 2009).

(University of Notre Dame. For more information, log onto ace.nd.edu/resources/catholic-school-research/researched-case-for-catholic-schools)



LEARN MORE

Open Doors + Open Arms + Open Hearts

The students in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Catholic schools are doing great things! Please take a moment to review the 2017-2018 Special Publication from the Office of Catholic Schools at www.archindy.org/OCS-Special-Publication-2017-2018/ highlighting our schools' many accomplishments!



How can we AFFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

Understanding Tax Credit Scholarships and Indiana School Vouchers

My child is enrolled at a Catholic school.

I'm moving my child in grades K-12 to a Catholic school from a public school.

I meet these eligibility requirements:

- Indiana resident
- My family is between 100% and 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

I meet these eligibility requirements:

- Indiana resident
- Apply before September 1, 2018
- My child attended public school the previous year (two semesters) OR received a Tax Credit Scholarship or Voucher the previous school year.

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP

CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INCOME LIMITS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

	100% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility	150% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility	200% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility
Persons in Household	Annual household income limit for a "90%" Choice Scholarship*	Annual household income limit for a "50%" Choice Scholarship**	Annual household income limit for a "50%" Choice Scholarship***
1	\$22,311	\$33,467	\$44,622
2	\$30,044	\$45,066	\$60,088
3	\$37,777	\$56,666	\$75,554
4	\$45,510	\$68,265	\$91,020
5	\$53,243	\$79,865	\$106,486
6	\$60,976	\$91,464	\$121,952
7	\$68,709	\$103,064	\$137,418
8	\$76,442	\$114,663	\$152,884

Note: Income levels are determined in accordance with the *Income Verification Rules* Document available at www.doe.in.gov/choice.

* Add \$7,733 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "90%" scholarship.
 ** Add \$11,600 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "50%" scholarship.
 *** Add \$15,466 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "50%" scholarship.

AND one of the following:

My family is at or below 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

My family is at or below 150% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

My family is at or below 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level and my child qualifies for an IEP.

K-12 SCHOOL VOUCHERS

What is an Indiana School Voucher?

A Voucher is a state-funded scholarship that helps cover the cost of tuition at a private school. Qualifying students in grades K-12 can receive up to 90% of the local per-student state funding amount.

Who qualifies for a Voucher?

- A student whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (see chart), AND
- A student in grades K-12 who is coming to a Catholic school after attending at least one year (two semesters) in an Indiana public school, AND/OR
- A sibling received a Tax Credit Scholarship or Voucher, AND/OR
- A sibling living in an "F" school area, AND/OR
- A current Catholic school student in grades K-12 who has received a Tax Credit Scholarship in a prior year, AND/OR
- A student with learning exceptionalities qualified through an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Why should I apply now?

If your family qualifies for assistance, but you do not apply when your child first enters school, you may lose the opportunity for a Voucher or Tax Credit Scholarship for the next 12-13 years. Students enrolled in a Catholic school CAN receive a Tax Credit Scholarship, making them eligible for a Voucher the following year.

How do I apply for a Voucher?

1. To see how much tuition assistance you are eligible for, first register at your Catholic school of choice.
2. To apply for funding, visit www.doe.in.gov/choice.

What are Tax Credit Scholarships?

The Indiana Tax Credit Scholarship Program provides scholarship support to families who want to enroll their children in the Catholic school of their choice. Qualifying students in grades K-12 can receive a minimum of a \$500 Tax Credit Scholarship.

Who qualifies for a Tax Credit Scholarship?

- A student whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (see chart), AND
- A student who is coming to a Catholic school after attending at least one year (two semesters) in an Indiana public school, AND/OR
- A student who is enrolled in an eligible Catholic school.

Why should I apply now?

If your family qualifies for assistance, but you do not apply when your child first enters school, you may lose the opportunity for a Voucher or Tax Credit Scholarship for the next 12-13 years. Current Catholic school students CAN receive a Tax Credit Scholarship, making them eligible for a Voucher the following year.

How do I apply?

1. To see how much tuition assistance you are eligible for, first register at your Catholic school of choice.
2. To apply for funding, visit www.i4qed.org/sgo.

Additional local scholarships may also be available. Contact your local Catholic school.

Pre-K vouchers are available in Marion, Jackson, Bartholomew, Monroe, Madison, Harrison and Vigo counties. For more information, log onto www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/4932.htm.

Generations build on each other's work to make saints and scholars

By Julie Stockman and John Shaughnessy

RIPLEY COUNTY—At exactly noon, the bells from St. Nicholas Church ring through the countryside near Sunman and echo through the parish school, leading the students to stand, face the nearest crucifix and pray the *Angelus*.

“The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary...”

That daily prayer by the kindergarteners through eighth-graders is just one of the traditional Catholic rituals that mark their days at their school in the Batesville Deanery in southeastern Indiana.

Throughout the year, morning offering prayer begins each school day, and an act of contrition concludes it. Students say grace before and after lunch. And every Friday during Lent, they visit the Stations of the Cross in the church.

St. Nicholas’ 130 students also wear red shirts on the feast days that celebrate martyred saints. And they participate in the celebration of the Mass three mornings during the week, including Fridays when the pastor, Father Shaun Whittington, hosts a question-and-answer session after the Mass, letting students of all ages ask questions about the Catholic faith.

Father Whittington also makes the sacrament of reconciliation available to each grade a couple of times during the school year. And when a student wants to receive that sacrament individually, a teacher will send a text to the pastor to make that arrangement.

“It’s truly amazing,” says principal Daniel Swygart about all the ways that the Catholic faith is a part of life for St. Nicholas students. “When I first came here three years ago, there were two things I was astounded by.

“There’s a stewardship model where they don’t charge tuition. And the second thing is they have access to a 24-hour

eucharistic adoration chapel. It’s amazing how you feel when you’re here late at night and the eucharistic chapel is lit, and people are in there. It makes you feel you’re never alone.”

He also marvels at the efforts of parents, grandparents and friends of the school who volunteer in numerous ways to help the students. It’s an approach that beckons back to the people who came together to build the current parish church in 1856, he says.

“They created the bricks from the sand and the clay of the creek bed,” Swygart says with awe in his voice. “Those bricks are still strong. We have the bricks and stones that show that commitment, and we have the ‘living stones’ that are still living out their faith today.

“You surround these kids with people who have this dedication to their faith and it rubs off. It takes over.”

That commitment continues in the parish’s capital campaign called the Heritage Project. Since the archdiocese approved the campaign in the summer of 2017, the parish has raised more than \$3.3 million, with 173 families making gifts.

That’s already enough for the campaign’s first phase which will create a new education center that will house the school and religious education programs, and create an endowment for ongoing maintenance of parish facilities. And the campaign’s success so far has provided a head start on the funds needed for the second phase—creating a new fellowship center that will include a gym, stage and cafeteria.

The success of the campaign reflects the essence of the parish, says Father Whittington, who offers a defining story about that commitment.

“A couple of months ago, I officiated at a wedding, and I was talking to the bride and groom,” he says. “The bride



Students at St. Nicholas School in Ripley County pause from eating lunch to pray the *Angelus* at noon every day, one of the ways the Batesville Deanery school community lives its faith. (Submitted photos)

told me she was the fifth generation to be married at St. Nicholas. The long-term, multi-generational commitment to the parish is amazing. It’s a way of life.”

A way of life that is also evident in the school’s stewardship model, he insists.

“It creates a robust partnership between the school and the school’s families. There’s a lot of volunteering, and a lot of sacrificial giving.”

There’s also a deep commitment among the parish’s families to participating in the celebration of the Mass each weekend.

That combination “has given us the successes that God’s grace has allowed us to have” in the areas of religious formation, academics and financial stability, he maintains.

That combination also leads to the main hope that the parish and the school have for its latest generation of students.

“The motto of the school is, ‘Building saints and scholars,’” Father Whittington says. “All the different things we do are in support of that goal.”

(Julie Stockman is a member of St. Nicholas Parish.) †



St. Nicholas School principal Dan Swygart does a “Handstand for Jesus” whenever he asks kindergarten, first and second graders a faith-related question and they answer correctly.

Celebrating National Catholic Schools Week

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MEN AND WOMEN FOR OTHERS

Latino Outreach Initiative helps schools invite, support Latino families

By Natalie Hoefler

Phillip Gonzalez believes in the benefits of Catholic education for Latinos, and he has the numbers to back up his belief.

“A number of studies have shown [that] Latino students who attend



Phillip Gonzalez

Catholic school are 42 percent more likely to graduate from high school, and 2.5 times more likely to graduate from college,” he says.

But he also has numbers showing that few Hispanics are reaping those benefits.

“Within a time frame of 2000-2010, the Indiana Hispanic population grew by 82 percent,” Gonzalez notes, quoting a statistic from an article produced by the Indiana Business Research Center in July 2013. Yet according to a University of Notre Dame study, only 3 percent of Catholic Latinos nationally are sending their children to a Catholic school.

To help that situation in central and southern Indiana, the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools started a new Latino Outreach Initiative in 2017. Gonzalez serves as the initiative’s coordinator.

The goal of the program is “to support the evangelization of Latino students through the ministry of Catholic schools,” he says. “We accomplish that purpose by inviting Latino students and families into our schools and showing them they’re welcome and included, and by ensuring our schools have the academic and developmental means to meet their needs.”

The program started with a pilot group of five schools selected from among a group of applicants: Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville; St. Bartholomew School in Columbus; and Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School, Roncalli High

School and St. Lawrence School, all in Indianapolis. Gonzalez hopes to expand the Latino Outreach Initiative to other schools over time.

Helen Heckman, principal of St. Bartholomew School, says her goal in participating in the program is to better serve the needs of the school’s Latino population of 28 percent.

“The reason I wanted to take part in the initiative is to feel like we were doing everything possible so [Hispanic] families at our school feel welcome and [feel] that we want them to be part of our school and [that] we respect their heritage.”

Projects that St. Bartholomew has undertaken through the initiative include hiring more bilingual employees; starting a soccer team; updating signs to include Spanish; and offering professional development in cultural awareness to all staff. Even though the initiative is just getting underway, Heckman says she’s already noticed a difference.

“Now that [Latinos] have seen the effort we’ve put in to better serving them, the benefit is that they want to give back more,” she says. “We’ve seen more volunteers and more effort to help wherever they can.”

At Scecina, president Joseph Therber hopes the Latino Outreach Initiative will help the school to better serve “an increasing number of Latino students, including a number of Latino families in the [Indianapolis] East Deanery parishes.”

The initiative has already led to three plans at Scecina: having an existing bilingual staff member translate documents and conversations; adding displays reflecting Latino culture to the existing displays in the school’s main hall; and identifying a *madrina*—Spanish for “godmother.”

The latter plan reflects the *Madrinas Model*, which promotes schools engaging a trusted woman from the Latino community to develop and strengthen the connection between the school and Latino families.

Member schools participating in the

Latino Outreach Initiative have learned about the *Madrinas Model* through a program the initiative requires them to take—the Latino Enrollment Institute through the University of Notre Dame.

“At that institute, during three days, principals of each school sit down with a mentor, usually an administrator at a Catholic school in the country, who helps them write out an action plan,”

Gonzalez explains. After the institute, mentors continue to meet monthly by teleconference with small groups of principals from around the nation.

Roncalli already has a *madrina*, says principal Charles Weisenbach. She provides “unbelievable help” with translating, setting up visits with Latino families, and helping answer questions when Weisenbach gives presentations at churches.

Plus, he says, since “two-to-three generations [of Latinos], if not living in the same house, are at least in constant communication, word of mouth will spread quickly.” He says that’s key to increasing Latino enrollment and meeting the needs of Latino students and families.

The archdiocese’s Latino Outreach Initiative was timely for Roncalli. Weisenbach says the school’s current



Students of St. Bartholomew School in Columbus participate in a *Las Posadas* procession on Dec. 18, 2017. The procession is a traditional Mexican Advent celebration that re-enacts Mary’s and Joseph’s search for a room in Bethlehem, and commemorates the nine months during which Mary carried Jesus in her womb. The procession is just one way in which the school, a member of the archdiocese’s new Latino Outreach Initiative, is seeking to invite and support their Latino students and families. (Submitted photo)

7 percent Latino enrollment is double what it was the past two years. And with several feeder schools having a high Hispanic enrollment—including one at nearly 90 percent—the necessity for the school to meet the needs of Latino students and families will grow.

Roncalli has also hired a bilingual front office secretary, made their website available in Spanish with the click of a button, and offered a college and career planning night in Spanish.

While Weisenbach notes that implementing plans developed through the initiative is “going to be a process,” he says it will gain momentum.

“I think in the next one-to-three years we’ll see improvement in both enrollment and engagement with the Latino community. What we see is we’re planting a lot of seeds that will bear good fruit.” †

Cherished note reveals the power of a teacher’s encouragement

By John Shaughnessy

The touching moment for Mary Alice Knott came unexpectedly during a high school football game.

As a teacher at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville, Knott was watching the Pioneers play when a former student approached her.

“He opened his wallet,” recalls Knott, who was a finalist for the 2017 Saint Theodora Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the archdiocese. “He showed me the torn corner of his midterm which contained a note I had written to him as a freshman. For many years, he has kept the note in his wallet as a constant source of encouragement.”

Knott has taught math for 26 years at Providence, but it’s such notes of encouragement on exams and in retreat letters where she has left her most lasting

mark on students. Her greatest treasures from her teaching career are the countless e-mails, notes and cards she has received from students.

“I am very humbled,” she says. “Being a Catholic educator has allowed me to be personal and prayerful in my profession. I am strong from the relationships I have built as a Catholic educator.”

Her relationship with Providence extends through much of her life, dating back to even earlier than 1973, when she was a freshman at the school.

“I first entered Providence as the youngest sister of three former graduates,” she says. “For years at the supper table, I would listen to the high school stories of my siblings. Anticipating the experience of making my own stories, I was excited. High school could not begin soon enough.”

Now she sees that same excitement in the freshmen when they arrive at Providence.

“Each year, I am warmly reminded of my own family, of myself entering the same door, guided by my parents, my siblings. This place is and always will be family to me. And that is Catholic education to me. Sharing my family, my prayers, my lunch, my hard work, my guidance, the same community, the same faith, exalts me.

“I am the best I can be because I can share my religion and my life with others around me.” †



Mary Alice Knott of Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville helps Bishop Edwards with a math problem in her class. (Submitted photo)

Roncalli Celebrates Catholic Education



- ◆ The Class of 2017 earned over \$27 million in college scholarships.
- ◆ In the past 25 years, Roncalli students have collected more than 2 million canned food items for the poor.
- ◆ Over 65% of the RHS Class of 2017 graduated with an Academic Honors Diploma or higher.
- ◆ The Class of 2017 completed over 51,800 hours of community service during their four years at RHS, with every Roncalli student performing more than 178 hours of community service prior to graduation.
- ◆ Roncalli awarded over \$2 million in need-based tuition assistance to RHS families for the 2017-2018 school year.



Applications For Registration Now Being Accepted
visit www.roncalli.org

St. Lawrence pre-K program reaches out to peripheries near and far

By Sean Gallagher

A clarion call of Pope Francis since his 2013 election as bishop of Rome has been for the Church to share God's loving care and mercy with people on the peripheries of society.

St. Lawrence School in Indianapolis is responding to that call by reaching out to those in need close to home in the neighborhood that surrounds it on the northeast side of Indianapolis.

But it also follows the pope's call by reaching out halfway around the world by inspiring and offering professional development to a pre-kindergarten school in China.

Surrounded by apartment buildings and rental properties, nearly 80 percent of the students at St. Lawrence meet the low-income requirements to qualify for free or reduced lunches.



Sara Jean Watson

"We're a true mission school in this community," said Sarah Jean Watson, St. Lawrence's principal. "We were not always that. School choice has changed the demographic of the school quite a bit. We definitely minister to the parish and the parishioners' children. But we're also ministering to the whole community, the whole neighborhood."

To help the economically challenged children in the neighborhood achieve their potential, St. Lawrence has worked hard to improve its Kids Care pre-kindergarten program.

Last fall, it became the first Catholic pre-K program attached to a parish school in the state to meet the state of Indiana's requirements as a Level Four Paths to Quality school.

The Paths to Quality requirement calls for pre-K programs to meet standards for health and safety, environmental support for children's learning and planned curricula. To reach level four, a pre-K program must be accredited by a national accrediting agency.

In Indiana, if a pre-K program has reached level three, it can receive vouchers through the state's On My Way Pre-K program in counties that are eligible for it, which includes Marion County in which St. Lawrence is located.

"It's a nice way for parents to see what every child care and pre-school has to offer," said Kathryn Kutan, director of Kids Care of the Paths to Quality program. "They [expect] very high quality care, along with the curriculum and the materials that you have in the room."

St. Lawrence also reaches out to the parents of its pre-K students, offering evening parenting classes in order to help form the best environment for its young students to grow and thrive.

"We're a very family-oriented program," Watson said. "Our pre-school parents are in the door every day. At least one staff member interacts with a parent of the child every day. We're supporting them."

And parents are supporting the program. Melissa Bishop is a parent of a Kids Care student and also has children in kindergarten and third grade at St. Lawrence. An occupational therapist who is currently a stay-at-home mom, Bishop volunteers in Kids Care to help the students begin to learn handwriting.



Teacher Heather Keeney helps Ja'Niyla McFerson learn numbers on Jan. 10 in the Kids Care pre-kindergarten program at St. Lawrence School in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Even though she had been a student at St. Lawrence as a child, Bishop investigated other pre-K programs in the area before enrolling her children in one. She found that St. Lawrence offered a quality early childhood program to its students.

"The programs and the tools that they use to serve the parish and the community are, from my profession, what excite me," Bishop said. "And my kids are excited to come, too."

Bishop also appreciates the cultural diversity found at St. Lawrence School, which attracts many students from the surrounding Hispanic and African-American communities.

"It's something to embrace," she said. "It has a different population than when I was in school here. But as an adult, I feel that it's something for me and my family to embrace and be a part of."

That diversity has increased as Kids Care at St. Lawrence has developed a cooperative relationship with the Go Link Academy, a pre-K school in Shenzhen, China, just north of Hong Kong.

It began when the biological mother of a Chinese child adopted by Watson visited St. Lawrence three years ago. She was so impressed by what she saw that she worked with a partner in China to start the Go Link Academy.

Teachers from the school have since visited St. Lawrence, and Watson and Kutan have traveled to China to help the staff there with professional development.

Chinese pre-K students and their families have also visited St. Lawrence.

"That goes back to the mission of our program," Watson said. "We're a family-oriented program. Last

year, we had a mom and a dad with us. We accept the whole family into the program. That benefits our families and their families."

Although Watson noted that language barriers can be a challenge for visiting Chinese pre-K students, she reflected that the children share another language that brings them together.

"Our students brought them right into the fold," Watson said. "Kids speak the language of love and acceptance more easily than adults. They took them by the hand, brought them over and incorporated them into whatever they were doing. It was really a beautiful thing to watch."

More visitors from China will come to St. Lawrence later this school year.

The Catholic faith is embedded in the Kids Care program at St. Lawrence in the way it reaches out to people in need both near and far.

And it would seem that this is having an effect on the program's staff.

"We're evangelizing every day," Kutan said. "Two of our pre-school teachers are converting this Easter and bringing their whole families in. We see it all the time. It's just amazing. It gives me chills."

"The things that happen in our program every day are magical," Watson said. "To me, it's a blessing to work in a parish and school that is willing to serve the community around them. It truly embraces who we are as Catholics. We're universal."

(For more information about St. Lawrence School in Indianapolis, including its Kids Care pre-kindergarten program, visit saintlawrence.net/school.) †

Helping children make a connection with God guides teacher

By John Shaughnessy

BATESVILLE—The three words have always left a lasting impression on Janice Narwold in her 20 years of teaching in a Catholic school.

For her, they're the three words from a child that let her know she is making a difference.

You understand me.

"It is such a simple statement, yet so impactful when expressed from a student to a teacher. In all my experience, this is the greatest compliment I have received," notes Narwold, a second-grade teacher at St. Louis School in Batesville who was a finalist for the 2017 Saint Theodora Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the archdiocese.

That compliment reflects one of Narwold's main goals as a teacher—"to meet the needs of each student, and to make a special connection with each."

She also strives to help her students make a special connection with God.

"God has created every child to be a unique learner with a tremendous amount to offer to the world," she says. "I want each child to be who God created them to be, and hope to push them to grow into that unique person that I know is within each of them."

"As a teacher, I plan lessons that educate the whole child. I teach children that they are gifts from God. I teach them that we need to take care of ourselves. I teach them that we each are special to God."

Her teaching reflects her view that "quality Catholic education is educating the mind, body and spirit of each child."



Janice Narwold, second-grade teacher at St. Louis School in Batesville, shares a smile with two of her students, Ray Walke and Madi Dierckman. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

"I integrate Catholic teaching and doctrine in my curriculum by asking the Holy Spirit to guide my lessons and my students. We take time to make sure we put God in our lesson and thank God for the opportunity to learn in such a great school."

"I also look for those 'teachable moments' where I can add God's message to make for a more impactful Catholic education, and to help each student take one more moment to think about God." †

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Mass attracts 1,000 to give witness to the dignity, sanctity of life

By Sean Gallagher

St. John the Evangelist Church in downtown Indianapolis was filled to overflowing on Jan. 22 as some 1,000 Catholics from across Indiana gathered to give witness to the dignity and sanctity of life.

The Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life celebrated at St. John kicked off a series of events that made up the inaugural Indiana March for Life, co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, the Diocese of Lafayette and Right to Life of Indianapolis.

It took place on the 45th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion across the country. Jan. 22 is observed by the Church in the U.S. as the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson was the principal celebrant of the Mass. Lafayette Bishop Timothy L. Doherty and several priests concelebrated, just blocks away from the Indiana Statehouse where legislators were in session and considering proposed laws to protect the dignity and sanctity of life.

"Within [our] common bond of our humanity," Archbishop Thompson said in his homily, "we must recognize our responsibility to one another, especially the most vulnerable among us."

Archbishop Thompson described these vulnerable members of society by quoting Cardinal Blasé J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, who said that this priority

of care should be with "the 'uns'; the unborn, unemployed, undocumented and uneducated."

"It is not just the 'uns' that need our witness but all of society, for a society is only as moral and stable as it treats its weakest members," Archbishop Thompson said. "Such witness is needed not merely for a day but for the whole of our lives."

At the end of his homily, Archbishop Thompson spoke to those who would participate in the Indiana March for Life after the Mass that went from St. John to the Indiana Statehouse.

"The call to go forth as missionary disciples—and that's what we do in this march today—is not about seeking to shame, build walls or to tear down," Archbishop Thompson said. "Rather, in [Jesus'] name, we must strive to protect and defend, to heal and restore, to reconcile and raise up."

"Together, by the grace of God as especially made available to us in word and sacrament, may we see, judge and act with the mind and heart of Jesus Christ our Savior."

Candice Schott, a member of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis, is a mother of 10 children and pregnant. She attended the Mass with some of her children.

"I always want my kids to be on the front line of making change and doing good," she said after the Mass. "And this is the best way to do it."

Standing on Georgia Street adjacent to St. John where march



Kellye and Keith Echternach, with their children, Leona, left, and Clara listen during a Jan. 22 Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis that began a series of events for the inaugural Indiana March for Life. The Echternachs are members of St. John the Evangelist Parish. (Photos by Sean Gallagher)

participants gathered after the Mass, Bishop Doherty said "it did my heart really good" to see St. John filled for the pro-life liturgy. He also spoke about the importance of the march's destination—the Statehouse.

"It's a witness of the responsibility we have in our own state," Bishop

Doherty said. "We look past the state capital to Washington too often. We have a lot of great people working here in government. And it's good to acknowledge them."

(For more photos from Indiana March for Life events, visit CriterionOnline.com.) †



A group of students from Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis kneel in prayer during a Jan. 22 Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis.



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson elevates the Eucharist during a Jan. 22 Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. Lafayette Bishop Timothy L. Doherty, right, and several priests concelebrated the Mass.

Speakers from all walks of life inspire crowd at Indiana March for Life

Compiled by Natalie Hoefler

During the inaugural Indiana March for Life on Jan. 22 in downtown Indianapolis, several speakers shared news, stories and



Former Planned Parenthood facility director-turned-pro-life advocate Abby Johnson speaks in the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis on Jan. 22 during a rose ceremony recognizing the more than 60 million lives lost to abortion since it was legalized in 1973. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

inspiring words at a rally on the lawn of the Indiana Statehouse.

Afterward, former Planned Parenthood director-turned-pro-life advocate Abby Johnson shared a bit of her story and news of her foundation, And Then There Were None, which seeks to help abortion workers leave their jobs and embrace Christ and the truth of the sanctity of life. Below are excerpts from the speakers.

• **Archbishop Charles C. Thompson:** "There are seven key teachings of the Catholic Church. The very first key is that of always opting for the most vulnerable, for the poor, ... those on the margins, those sometimes overlooked or maybe not treated as well as they should. ... These are our brothers and sisters. Even in the womb, we believe they are part of the human family."

• **Anna Allgaier, Great Lakes Regional Coordinator for Students for Life of America:** "Young people understand this [pro-life movement] is not a women's issue—it's a human rights issue."

• **Dan Bartemus, pastor of College Park Church in Indianapolis:** "We

worship God. He gave us life. It is a blatant violation to destroy the life he creates in the womb. ... [God's] law is the law of life."

• **Sue Swayze-Leibel, coordinator of the Susan B. Anthony List's National Women's Pro-Life Caucus and pro-life lobbyist:** "Here in Indiana ... we have a pro-life governor, Senate, House [of Representatives], attorney general. ... We are one of the most pro-life states in the country. In 2011, we became the first state to defund Planned Parenthood. ... We banned abortion based on race or gender in 2016 [now under federal review]. ... If you can't discriminate after someone is born, why should you be allowed to discriminate in the womb?"

• From a letter written by **Gov. Eric Holcomb:** "I am committed to supporting the cause of protecting human life. ... You will continue to receive my support."

• **Robin Schilling of Silent No More:** "We [members] have experienced the physical, emotional and spiritual consequences of abortion. It is not just a women's issue but a men's issue, a grandparents' issue, a siblings' issue. ...

Abortion is like a Band-Aid: when you rip it off, the scar is still there."

• **Abby Johnson:** "I would love to be able to turn back time and save the life of my two [aborted] babies. ... I will always feel the emptiness of the two children I was never able to hold in my arms."

"[Planned Parenthood] knows that former workers are their greatest threat, because we know the things they don't want others to know. ... [And Then There Were None has] helped 419 abortion workers leave their jobs so far. Not just leave, ... but get them in a relationship with Jesus Christ, because true healing can't come apart from Jesus Christ. ... The number of [abortion centers] closed because of former workers leaving through our ministry is 27. ...

"But if [making abortion illegal] is where we stop, we're not changing the culture of our country. Cultural change happens because of conversion, and that's what you do. ... It's not enough to just sit here and *be* pro-life—you have to *live* pro-life! I encourage you all today to find your place in this movement so you are making the thought of abortion inconceivable. ... Don't be afraid to defend the Gospel of Life." †

POPE

continued from page 1A

in the encyclical “*Laudato Si’*”, on Care for Our Common Home.”

“The defense of the Earth has no other purpose than the defense of life,” he said.

The trip was the pope’s fourth to South America. It came at a time when politics in the region are increasingly polarized, and political and economic problems have prompted many people, particularly from Haiti, Venezuela and Colombia, to seek better opportunities in other countries, where they often face discrimination.

Various countries, including Peru, are also reeling from revelations of corruption, especially multimillion-dollar bribes and kickbacks from the Brazilian construction company Odebrecht.

Speaking to an audience of diplomats and politicians that included Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, who had narrowly escaped impeachment a month earlier because of accusations of influence peddling, Pope Francis called corruption a “social virus, a phenomenon that infects everything, with the greatest harm being done to the poor and mother Earth.”

He warned political and civic leaders in both countries against the seduction of the “false gods” of money and power, and urged them to maintain unity by listening to their people, including native peoples, with their ties to the Earth, as well as youths, migrants, the unemployed, children and the elderly.

The pope stressed the inextricable bonds between humans and the environment, telling leaders in Chile that “a people that turns its back on the land, and everything and everyone on it, will never experience real development.”

Both countries have seen violent clashes in recent years over large-scale development projects in indigenous territories.

In southern Chile, Mapuche communities are fighting to regain territory lost first to Spanish colonists and later to settlers who moved to the area after the country gained independence. Native forests, sacred to the Mapuche,

have been razed for timber plantations, and springs and streams are drying.

There have been clashes between protesters and police, and attacks against landowners, including a high-profile case in 2013 in which a couple was killed when their house was set on fire.

Churches, both Catholic and evangelical, also have been burned. Four churches in Santiago were firebombed just before Pope Francis’ visit, and a chapel south of Temuco was set ablaze three days after his visit.

Speaking to an audience that included both Mapuche people and descendants of settlers, the pope called for unity, saying, “Each people and each culture is called to contribute to this land of blessings.” He added, “We need the riches that each people has to offer, and we must abandon the notion that there are superior or inferior cultures.”

Rejecting “acts of violence and destruction that end up taking human lives,” the pope also spoke out against the signing of “elegant agreements that will never be put into practice,” which he said is also violence, “because it frustrates hope.”

In Peru, 34 people died and hundreds were injured in protests by indigenous groups in June 2009, after the government passed a series of laws that could have given timber, mining and other industries easier access to indigenous people’s lands. At the time, then-President Alan Garcia said indigenous people were blocking development in the Amazon.

Speaking in Puerto Maldonado to some 2,500 people from more than 20 indigenous groups, Pope Francis responded directly to that accusation, which has been repeated by government officials and industry executives in other countries.

“If, for some, you are viewed as an obstacle or a hindrance, the fact is your lives cry out against a style of life that is oblivious to its own real cost,” he said. “You are a living memory of the mission that God has entrusted to us all: the protection of our common home.”

The pope listed a number of threats that members of his audience had described to Amazonian bishops during an encounter the day before his visit. Governments and corporations promote oil and gas operations, mining, logging, industrial



People wait for Pope Francis outside the Shrine of Our Lord of the Miracles in Lima, Peru, on Jan. 21. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

agriculture and even conservation projects without regard for the people living in the affected areas, he said.

He linked the survival of native cultures—especially groups that continue to shun contact with the outside world, many of which live along the border between Peru and Brazil—to protection of the Earth.

“Native Amazonian peoples have probably never been so threatened on their own lands as they are at present,” he said. “We have to break with the historical paradigm that views Amazonia as an inexhaustible source of supplies for other countries without concern for its inhabitants.”

He urged indigenous people to work with bishops and missionaries to shape a Church with “an Amazonian face and an indigenous face.”

The pope also linked environmental destruction to social problems, mentioning unregulated gold mining that has devastated forests and been accompanied by human trafficking for prostitution and labor.

He called attention to violence against women, urging his listeners to combat the violence that happens “behind walls” and “femicide,” the murder of women because they are women, usually perpetrated by men.

At every stop along his route, the pope was greeted by enthusiastic young people, many of whom were volunteers helping with organization and logistics.

In Chile, he urged them to make everyday decisions about their actions by asking, “What would Christ do?”

He also encouraged them to continue

their education and work for a better future for their countries, while pointing to the need for improved schooling and job opportunities. Education, he said, should be “transformative” and “inclusive,” fostering coexistence.

In a moving encounter with youngsters in a home for abandoned and orphaned children founded and directed by a Swiss missionary priest in Puerto Maldonado, the pope asked their forgiveness for “those times when we adults have not cared for you, and when we did not give you the importance you deserve.”

Speaking with bishops, he addressed problems that included sexual abuse and divisions within the Church.

In Chile, Pope Francis met privately on Jan. 16 with sex abuse survivors. He drew public criticism, however, for his defense of Bishop Juan Barros of Osorno, who has been accused of covering up sex abuse by his former mentor, Father Fernando Karadima. The Vatican sentenced Father Karadima to a life of prayer and penance after he was found guilty of sexually abusing boys.

After the pope told reporters on Jan. 18 that there was no evidence that Bishop Barros knew of the abuse by his mentor, and that the accusations were “slander,” Boston Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley said, “Words that convey the message ‘If you cannot prove your claims then you will not be believed’ abandon those who have suffered reprehensible criminal violations of their human dignity and relegate survivors to discredited exile.” †

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Faithful of the Church are made one in Christ in the Eucharist

By Fr. Herbert Weber

It was Sunday morning in the village of Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, and I was concelebrating Mass with the pastor of the parish there.

Almost all those at the Mass were Tz'utujil Mayans, sharply dressed in their Tz'utujil traditional clothing, women in bright colored woven skirts and embroidered blouses, and the men in their vertical-lined white "pantalonos," often embroidered as well. The men also sported great bright colored sashes around their waists and wore big cowboy-style hats to and from church.

Right after Communion, several men came up to the altar. Each received a pyx with a Communion host to take to the sick. They then walked out of the church and into local neighborhoods, each accompanied by another person with a votive candle, heading for some homebound individuals. The Mass had ended, but the celebration of Communion continued.

Of course, we don't have to go to Guatemala to see extraordinary ministers of holy Communion take the Eucharist to the sick. But seeing these men walk the distance and carry the hosts throughout the streets was especially inspiring.

Any discussion of the Eucharist as a sacrament has to address more than the reception of the Lord in Communion. Like the ministers whose ministry flowed from the Sunday Mass, understanding this sacrament begins with understanding the Mass itself.

Every year, I take the time to interview every first Communion recipient in the parish which I serve during the weeks ahead of their big day. This is not meant as a test, but an opportunity to discuss the sacrament with their parents present.

The children are often primed by their parents to say that the bread becomes the body of Jesus and the wine the blood of the Lord. But I also address the Mass itself, talking about the Liturgy of the Word, as well as the eucharistic prayer.

We talk about songs at Mass and even the artwork and visuals that present themselves to the kids in church. In doing so, I am reminding the children and their

parents that knowing and participating in the Mass is necessary for appreciation of Communion. Understanding the Eucharist as Mass is necessary to understand the Eucharist as sacrament.

With adult groups like the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, I also address the full power of the words of consecration. What the priest speaks are not static words, but involve the redemptive action of Jesus. He says, "For this is my body, which will be given up for you," and "for this is the chalice of my blood ... which will be poured out for you and for many."

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine become the true body and blood of Jesus, which are also the same body and blood given up and poured out on the cross. Participation in the Eucharist is participation in Jesus' redemptive self-giving at Calvary.

Reception of the Eucharist, then, is participation in both the Last Supper and the sacrifice on the cross, both Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

As the Mayan men in Santiago Atitlan made so clear, the Eucharist that they carried to the sick was an extension of the Mass that had just been celebrated. They gave testimony to the reality that Christ is active on Earth through their desire to share Christ's sacramental presence with those who could not come.

As Pope Benedict XVI wrote, in the Eucharist we become what we consume. Those men who had received and accepted Jesus in the Eucharist, along



A priest elevates a chalice as he celebrates Mass in honor of Sts. John Paul II and John XXIII in the ski resort Kasprowy Wierch in Poland's Tatra Mountains on April 27, 2014, the day on which Pope Francis canonized both of them saints. The Eucharist, through the power of the Holy Spirit, joins all the faithful around the world as one in Christ. (CNS photo/Agencja Gazeta/Marek Podmokly, Reuters)

with the rest of the faith community they represented, were mystical extensions of the body of Christ. They didn't simply carry the body or even share the body; they became the body.

The Eucharist unites and calls for ways to reach out to others. It can't be simply about someone "getting" Communion; it is being in communion with the Lord and with others who are also with the Lord.

I especially felt that unity during the five years I ministered to Catholics on death row in the state of Ohio. That was evidenced by inmate Glenn, who had just been baptized by my predecessor when I first met him. He had grown up with no faith or religious practice. For him, baptism was truly the beginning of a new life.

Each week, I would talk with Glenn and share the Eucharist. Since I had five sections of the prison to visit, I would rotate Mass and then take the Eucharist

to those in the other sections. Glenn impressed me with his deep love for the Lord in this sacrament.

As Glenn's execution approached, he asked me to accompany him to his death. The night before he was to die, I had some personal time with Glenn. After a final celebration of the sacrament of penance, he and I and another friend celebrated Mass as the guards looked on. It would be his last meal. It was also one of the Masses I recall best. He received the Redeemer Lord with a smile and complete trust in a God of mercy.

Somehow, that Mass and that final Communion highlighted that through this sacrament we are all made one in Christ, who gave up his body and whose blood was poured out for us.

(Father Herbert Weber is the founding pastor of St. John XXIII Parish in Perrysburg, Ohio.) †

Church teaching on the Eucharist is deeply rooted in sacred Scripture

By Barbara Hosbach

"He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for, I tell you, I shall not eat it again until there is fulfillment in the kingdom of God ...'

"Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.' And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you' " (Lk 22:15-16, 19-20).

The Church's age-old understanding of the Eucharist is anchored in Scripture. Gospel accounts of the Last Supper are central to the Church's proclamation and celebration of this sacrament. Other references from both the Old and New Testaments deepen that understanding.

Instituted at a Passover meal on the eve of Jesus' passion, the Eucharist connects the sacrifice of his body and blood "for the forgiveness of sins" (Mt 26:28) with God's deliverance of the Israelite slaves from death through the sign of the blood of sacrificial lambs (Ex 12:3-13).

Jesus, "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29), established the new covenant at that first Eucharist. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that the sacrament "completes and surpasses all the sacrifices of the Old Covenant" (Heb 9:11-15; #1330).

As God provided manna, bread from heaven, to the Israelites in the desert (Ex 16:4-5, 13-15), so Jesus revealed himself as the true, life-giving bread from heaven that promises eternal life (Jn 6:35, 51). "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him" (Jn 6:54-56).

Understanding that Jesus' words were no mere metaphor, many abandoned him, scandalized by the idea of eating flesh or drinking blood. His disciples remained faithful, however, while taking Jesus at his word—as the Church does today.

The catechism states: "In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist 'the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and,



Renaissance painter Tintoretto's "The Last Supper" is displayed at the Holy See's official Pavilion at Milan Expo 2015. Gospel accounts of the Last Supper are central to the Church's understanding of the sacrament of the Eucharist. (CNS photo/courtesy Holy See Pavilion Press Office)

therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really and substantially contained' " (#1374).

And the Church teaches that "by the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of" both the bread and the wine into the substance of the body and the blood of Christ (#1376). This change is called transubstantiation.

Also known as holy Communion, the Eucharist unites those who receive it with Christ himself—and with all those who

share "one body and one Spirit ... one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph 4:4-5).

Scripture-based Church teaching affirms that the sacrament of the Eucharist is an opportunity for the faithful to be nourished by and united to the body of Christ.

(Barbara Hosbach is a freelance writer and author of 'Your Faith Has Made You Well': Jesus Heals in the New Testament.) †

From the Editor Emeritus/John E. Fink

Black Catholics in U.S. history: This week, Pierre Toussaint

February is Black History Month. I'll observe it by telling you about some black Catholics you should know about. I'm



getting a jump on the month because I have five people in mind.

Venerable Pierre Toussaint, a former slave, is the only layman to be buried among cardinals and archbishops in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. No other

place seemed as appropriate for a man regarded as a saint.

If he is ever canonized, he could become the patron saint of hairdressers because that's what he did for a living. (Hairdressers already have Sts. Martin de Porres and Mary Magdalene as patron saints.)

Pierre was born in 1766 as a slave in Haiti on a plantation owned by the Frenchman Jean Jacques Berard. Since Toussaint worked as a domestic servant, he learned to read and write, and play the violin.

In 1791, Berard foresaw that Haiti's slaves, about 450,000 of them, were

about to revolt. He thought it best to leave the country. He took his family, two sisters-in-law and five domestic slaves, including Pierre and his sister Rosalie, to New York. (The slaves did revolt in a bloody rebellion and won their freedom in 1793.)

In New York, Pierre became apprenticed to a hairdresser. He soon became popular with the wealthiest women in New York, who were generous when paying for Pierre's services. Jean Berard died in 1801, and Pierre used his income to support Madame Berard and the household.

Then Madame Berard contracted tuberculosis and died in 1807 when she was only 32. She had arranged that Pierre would be released from slavery when she died. He also inherited the Berard home where he lived before eventually purchasing another home.

In 1811, when he was 45, Pierre married another former slave from Haiti, Juliette Gaston. Unable to have children, they adopted the 6-month-old daughter of his sister Rosalie, whose husband had abandoned his family. The child, Euphemia, died from tuberculosis when she was 14.

Pierre's work as a hairdresser thrived. Customers appreciated his work, but also his obvious closeness to God. They often sought his advice. He quoted the Beatitudes, *The Imitation of Christ*, and the French writer Father Jacques Bossuet. He would explain devotion to the Blessed Mother and other teachings of the Catholic Church, quoting from some of the Church's great spiritual writers. If any gossip should happen to occur in his shop, he would say in broken English, "Toussaint dresses hair; he no news journal." His customers got the point.

Pierre attended Mass and said the rosary daily. He helped Elizabeth Ann Seton raise funds for orphans and, after she founded the Daughters of Charity, he helped support that community. He opened an orphanage for black children in his own home, and began the first school for black children in the city. He provided food, clothing and shelter to black refugees from Haiti. During a yellow fever epidemic, he nursed victims, including bringing a white man with yellow fever into his home.

After 40 years of marriage, Juliette died in 1851. After two lonely years, Pierre died at age 87. †

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

Coaching gives new perspective on parenting

I've been a sports fan most of my life. But I've never been much of an athlete, learning before I got to high



school that my talents lied more in music and academics than on the court.

So I had more than a few misgivings when I volunteered last fall to serve as an assistant basketball coach for my 10-year-old son Victor's

basketball team made up of fourth- and fifth-graders.

It is a part of a league organized by the archdiocesan Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). I told the head coach that I would be the chief cheerleader for the team because while I lacked a lot in basketball know-how, I was filled with enthusiasm for the boys on the team.

Victor and his friends have grown in their basketball skills and in how to work together as a team. I, on the other hand, have gained a new perspective on parenting through my coaching experience.

The team's head coach and I work hard in our practices to help the boys learn how to play basketball. We give instructions, pointers and encouragement all the time through the many drills we have the boys do.

But I discovered that once the ball is tipped in a game, the role of us coaches fades—literally—to the sidelines. We can call out instructions to the boys from the bench, and remind them of important aspects of the game during timeouts. But when play is happening, the coaches have to trust the boys to carry out what we've tried to teach them. They have to do it on their own with only minimal input from us adults.

It's similar with parenting. That might seem obvious for empty-nester parents whose children are grown and living on their own. But it even applies to moms and dads with young children at home.

We give them good moral principles and try to model those principles in our behavior, but we have to let our children learn on their own how to live them out in their relationships with their siblings, other relatives, fellow students and even perfect strangers.

Encouraging words and corrections when necessary are important, but hovering over them too much hinders them making those principles their own.

Now, as a coach I often see mistakes on the court made clearly before my eyes. When that happens, all I can do is watch, encourage the players and remind them in a few short words of what they're supposed to do. But I find that such mistakes on the court don't bother me.

For one, I don't have time to dwell on miscues because the game quickly goes on, and the team has to do better on the next play. And second, I have confidence that the boys will do better in the future.

This experience has given me consolation in my life as a parent. As the father of five boys ages 15 down to 4, life comes at me pretty fast. Mistakes are made in our family—especially by me—at a pretty fast pace.

Hopefully, my experience as a coach will help me to take misbehavior in stride, knowing that God in his providence gives us second chances.

When he ascended to heaven, Jesus trusted his Apostles, as imperfect as they were, to lead his followers in his place. And he sent the Holy Spirit to strengthen them in their leadership. We can trust God to give our children the same Spirit to help them live according to his will.

With the Spirit guiding them and with us having formed them as we can with the help of God's grace, we'll take great joy when we see them experience victories in this life and in the next. †

Cornucopia/Cynthia Dewes

'Yesh!' What joys God has ready for us now and in eternal life

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, what God has ready for those who love him." Indeed. We all look forward to the wonders which we hope to see in heaven. But there are many delights God gives us

while we're still on our journey.

Even Mutts, the cartoon kitty, understands this. In a recent comic strip marking the new year he noticed "another Sunday" and "another morning" which moved him

to exclaim, "Yesh! Another unlike any other." He appreciated the graces God has already given us.

As I've said many times before, Mutts is awed as I am by every sunset or snowfall I see. And he knows as I do that God's gifts are all around us, just there for our pleasure and inspiration should we happen to look up.

They appear every day, and they can be small or large, mind-boggling or kind of ordinary. Perhaps we received good news on a dreaded doctor visit, or actually got to speak to a human being when trying to manage a problem on the phone. Or

maybe someone just smiled at us as we passed them.

What God has ready for us can also vary from the strictly personal to a worldwide event. We can rejoice when our soldier husband, wife or brother comes home from serving in war, but we also rejoice when the war ends, especially if our national cause is justified. We can happily recover from a serious illness like smallpox, and later be thrilled to learn that that particular illness has been virtually eliminated.

Then there are the emotional events that defy categorizing. One such happened in our family this Christmas. It even moved a less religious child to say the hand of God must be in it.

Our daughter came from Germany for a week's visit during the holiday. She'd not celebrated Christmas with us for 40 years, she said, so it was about time. Then a son and his wife arrived the same day to pick up a truck they'd purchased online. Finally, still another son realized he had time off from work so he came as well. Our local son and his wife joined the group, and the next day our widowed daughter-in-law completed the roster of the visit.

This was probably the first time we'd been together with all of our living children in anyone's memory. Not only that, but we were not distracted by the presence of grandchildren or "greats" or other relatives, much as we love them and enjoy their company. For a few days, we were in a kind of time warp in which we were all younger and nostalgia reigned.

Of course, hindsight is always better, but we laughed ourselves sick thinking about the good times. We itemized the numerous cars which made our yard look like a used car lot, and the despair of the brothers trying to teach their sister to drive at least one of them. We were naughtily gleeful remembering how irate a neighbor became when a couple of the boys burned rubber on the street in front of his house one evening.

God loves us as we love our children, and showers us with gifts. So, when we consider what God has ready for us in this life and in eternal life, we must join Mutts in an affirming "Yesh!"

(Cynthia Dewes, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †



That All May Be One/Fr. Rick Ginther

Directory on Ecumenism seeks to guide us on journey to unity

How does the Catholic Church guide its bishops, pastors and lay leaders in the work of ecumenism? Good question.

Besides the essential documents from the Second Vatican Council and the writings of popes from St. John XXIII to Pope Francis, there is the *Directory on Ecumenism*.

Well, that's the simple title.

The actual one is: *Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism*. It was published by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in 1993.

Why was such a document deemed necessary? And what questions does it answer for us?

By 1993, enough time had elapsed since the Second Vatican Council to have "under the Church's belt" both positive and less than positive experiences and practices centered upon the work toward unity.

Questions from bishops, priests and

others regarding ecumenical practices had been coming during the intervening years to the pontifical council.

These experiences and questions led to seeking the deeper principles to guide future ecumenical practices.

In addition, the publication of the *Code of Canon Law for the Latin Church* (1983), the *Code of Canon Law for the Eastern Churches* (1990) and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1992)—each of which had sections focusing on ecumenism—argued for a revised document.

So a revision of the original two-part *Ecumenical Directory* (1967 and 1970) occurred.

As we have seen here in previous columns, subsequent progress in ecumenism has been made. The ecumenical movement has expanded. Many statements about dialogue have been published. Greater participation of the whole people of God has been encouraged.

This progress was encouraged and guided by the 1993 directory, which is "addressed to the pastors of the Catholic Church, but it also concerns all the

faithful, who are called to pray and work for the unity of Christians, under the direction of their Bishops" (#4).

"The *Directory* intends to motivate, enlighten and guide [ecumenical] activity, and in some particular cases also to give binding directives" (#6).

The *Directory* also seeks to address "... a certain tendency to doctrinal confusion ... and to avoid abuses which could either contribute to or entail doctrinal indifferentism [that is, that differences of religious belief are of no importance]" (ibid).

"The *Directory* begins with a declaration of the commitment of the Catholic Church to ecumenism [Chapter I.] This is followed by an account of the steps taken by the Catholic Church to put this commitment into practice, ... through the organization and formation of its own members (Chapters II and III). It is to them ... that the provisions of Chapters IV and V on ecumenical activity" ... are laid out. (#7)

Within Chapter IV lie answers to questions concerning baptism: how we

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

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, January 28, 2018

- Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
- Mark 1:21-28

The Book of Deuteronomy furnishes the first reading for Mass on this weekend. Deuteronomy appears in the Bible as the fifth book in the Old



Testament. It is part of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament, all of them attributed to Moses.

In this reading, Moses addresses the chosen people whom he has led with God's help from Egypt

where they were enslaved. He promises that God will send prophets with whom the people can relate. If anyone presumes to take the role of prophet upon himself without having been called by God, death will follow because God always will take care of his people.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians is the source of the second reading. From the earliest days of Christianity, virginity has been treasured. Christians have never been forbidden to marry, although all Christians are bound to be chaste, according to their state in life. From the Church's first days, however, Christians have chosen lifelong virginity for religious reasons.

Corinth in the first century was a city notorious for its outrageous sexual excesses. Indeed, Aphrodite, the goddess of love and carnal desire, was the city's special deity.

Paul saw virginity as a powerful Christian witness reflecting Jesus. And from a more pragmatic point of view, he thought that Christians not obligated by marriage and parenthood should devote much of their time to God's service.

Put these two impressions together. The result is the ancient Christian link between virginity and discipleship.

St. Mark's Gospel is the source of the third reading. It is an interesting story, the first of four references to exorcisms.

First, Mark again reveals the identity of Jesus. While Judaism has never required weekly attendance by Jews at synagogue services, going to a synagogue to pray together and to learn the teachings

of the Torah was definitely a high ideal for Jews during the time of Jesus, as indeed it still is among Jews today.

That Jesus went to a synagogue, and on the Sabbath at that, reveals the Lord's devotion to God. He was perfectly obedient to the role of Redeemer, further shown in the countless examples of Jesus' mercy and love.

People listened, seeing the Lord's holiness, and a dramatic moment came when a man "with an unclean spirit" appeared (Mk 1:23). This man recognized Jesus as the "Holy One of God," affirming that Jesus has the power to do anything (Mk 1:24).

Exercising nothing less than divine power, Jesus orders the unclean spirit to leave the man, and the unclean spirit obeys.

The people are amazed. No devil can overcome the power of God.

Reflection

Thanks be to God, few people today would say that they or great numbers of people are possessed by the devil, although the Church still teaches that such possessions occur.

Still, sin is real. Evil is real. All sin is the mark of the devil's involvement to some extent at least in any person's spiritual life.

An unfortunate reality of our own irreligious times is that fewer and fewer people have any sense of sin. Few regard themselves as sinners. They succumb to the age-old tactic of rationalization, abetted by this culture's increasing rejection of any transcendent religious principle, taught by any religious authority.

They succumb to selfishness and often eventually to hopelessness in their hearts. They imprison themselves. They cripple themselves. They rob themselves. Sin is not the consequence of freedom. It is just the opposite. Sin is no reward. It brings nothing but the bad.

Jesus, the Son of God in the words of St. Mark, rescues people from sin, forgiving them for sins committed, and pointing the way to holiness.

Resisting sin, nevertheless, requires the help of God's grace as well as personal resolve, equal to that urged by Paul in his message to the Corinthians. †

Daily Readings

Monday, January 29

2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13
Psalm 3:2-7
Mark 5:1-20

Tuesday, January 30

2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3
Psalm 86:1-6
Mark 5:21-43

Wednesday, January 31

St. John Bosco, priest
2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17
Psalm 32:1-2, 5-7
Mark 6:1-6

Thursday, February 1

1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12
(Response) 1 Chronicles 29:10-11b, 11d-12d
Mark 6:7-13

Friday, February 2

The Presentation of the Lord
Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 24:7-10
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40
or Luke 2:22-32

Saturday, February 3

St. Blaise, bishop and martyr
St. Ansgar, bishop
1 Kings 3:4-13
Psalm 119:9-14
Mark 6:30-34

Sunday, February 4

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Job 7:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 147:1-6
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
Mark 1:29-39

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Bonuses for deacons for parish ministry can be given at a pastor's discretion

QI am the bookkeeper at our parish. Our deacon does wonderful work and puts in a lot of extra time for the good of the parish—sacrificing hours he could be getting paid for in his full-time job.



Church without being paid.

So the deacon had to watch as the rest of the parish staff received checks during our Christmas lunch. Where does the Church stand on this? (City and state withheld)

A Perhaps surprisingly, some dioceses have issued

guidelines to cover this. The Diocese of Bridgeport, Conn., for example, stipulates that a deacon in active pastoral ministry will receive a monthly stipend—fixed, for the year 2016, at \$300 per month. Further, those same guidelines suggest that "the Christmas bonus for a deacon should be equal to his basic monthly stipend."

I believe that most dioceses are far less specific and that usually the question of a Christmas bonus for a deacon falls under the discretion of the pastor. Parish lay staffs, in my experience, are typically underpaid, and a Christmas bonus can be a morale boost at an important time.

Whether a deacon should be included might depend on whether he has another income from a full-time job in the working world.

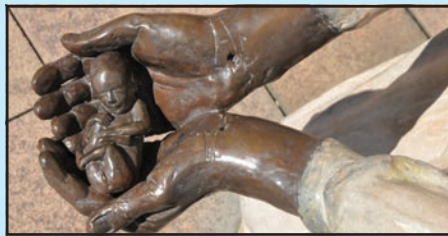
(Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.) †

My Journey to God

Unborn Apology

By Stephanie Jackson

My thoughts travel back to that December day. I made the choice to take your life away. You weren't allowed to build your own life's story, For that, little one, I am truly sorry. I was so afraid, unsure, and young. For my very own life had just begun. Would you have been a little boy? No, I'm sure a girl would've been my pride and joy. I daydream of the woman you might've been. And then I start to feel blue, Hearing my own mom telling me, "The best thing I ever did in life was you." I've thought of you throughout my entire life and attempted to make amends.



I will continue to do so until my own life's story ends. If I'm blessed someday to finally meet you—and I pray that I do—Please find it in your heart to tell me I'm forgiven, and I can respond with: "I've always loved you."

(Stephanie Jackson is a member of St. Vincent DePaul Parish in Bedford. A life-size statue portrays Jesus holding an aborted baby in this April 1, 2015, photo taken at a memorial to the unborn at the Shrine of Christ's Passion in St. John, Ind., in the Gary Diocese.)

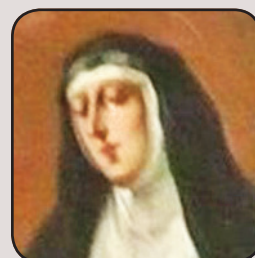
(File photo by Natalie Hoefler)

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to faith or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the "My Journey to God" column.

Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions.

Send material for consideration to "My Journey to God," The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org. †



Angela Merici

1470 - 1540

feast - January 27

By age 26, Angela had lost most of her wealthy Italian family to death. As a Franciscan tertiary, she performed good works and taught catechism

to girls in her home in Desenzano del Garda. Two visions inspired her to found a congregation dedicated to the religious training of young women; she began this mission with a school in Brescia. Earlier she had endured an episode of blindness while on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and had rejected a papal request to run all charities in Rome. In 1535, she founded the Ursulines and served as superior until her death. This mystic, a patron of catechists, reportedly was fascinated from childhood by the legend of St. Ursula, an early virgin-martyr.

CNS Saints

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.

AUGUSTIN, Helen L. (Mullikin), 78, Prince of Peace, Madison, Jan. 13. Wife of Joseph Augustin. Mother of Nancy Fitton, Linda, James and Roy Augustin. Sister of Betty Ritchie, Billy and Roderick Mullikin. Grandmother of three.

BOONE, Robert K., 61, Prince of Peace, Madison, Jan 14. Son of James and Rita Boone. Brother of Collista Krebs, Linda Huber, Christopher and Joseph Boone. Uncle and great-uncle of several.

COLLINS, Margaret E., 65, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Jan. 6. Wife of Daniel Collins. Mother of Brian, Chris and Pat Collins. Sister of Betsey Bergmeyer, Katie Rice, Jimmy and Michael King. Grandmother of four.

CROSBY, William C., 95, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Jan. 5. Father of Cheryl Keating, Gordon and Michael Becker. Grandfather of seven. Great-grandfather of 12.

DOXSEE, Carolyn M., 70, St. Mary, North Vernon, Jan. 10. Wife of Ron Doxsee. Mother of Lisa, Drew and King Doxsee. Sister of Shirley Wheeler and Rick Miller. Grandmother of four.

ELSNER, Evelyn T., 83, St. Joseph, Jennings County,

Dec. 31. Wife of Oscar Elsner. Mother of Rose Rosenbalm, Andy, Jim, Mark and Steve Elsner. Grandmother of 10.

GRANT, Bridget, 76, St. Ambrose, Seymour, Jan. 1. Wife of Berl Grant. Mother of Bridget Jacobi and Zachary Grant. Sister of Michael and Timothy Leigh. Grandmother of two.

GRZEZINSKI, Joseph, 89 St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Jan. 10. Uncle of several.

HANK, Mary (Canfield), 91, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Jan. 2. Mother of Max Hank. Grandmother of six. Great-grandmother of five.

JANSEN, Ralph J., Jr., 89, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Jan. 1. Father of Mary Arnold, James, Jerald, John, Paul and R. Joseph Jansen, III. Brother of Anne Armbruster, Mary Eagan and Estelle Redoutey. Grandfather of 19. Great-grandfather of 21.

KIRK, Timothy E., 57, St. Matthew the Apostle, Indianapolis, Jan. 13. Husband of Susan Kirk. Father of John Kirk. Stepfather of Katie and Kristin Talbert. Brother of Judi Sims, Mike, Pat and Steve Kirk. Grandfather of eight.

MASCHINO, Charles E., 91, St. Ambrose, Seymour, Jan. 11. Father of Charlotte Perry, Rebecca Ritz, Mary Smith, Tex Wayt, Charles and Edward Maschino. Brother of Mary Ann Gustin and Dale Maschino. Grandfather of 12. Great-grandfather of 14.

MAUSER, Mary C., 98, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, Jan 11. Mother of Kathy Keils, Claudia Sabo, John, Joseph, Louis and Thomas Mauser. Grandmother of 14. Great-grandmother of 21. Great-great-grandmother of five.

MORGAN, Jane, 58, St. Michael the Archangel, Jan. 10. Wife of Greg Morgan. Mother of Shelby Morgan.

MUCKERHEIDE, Rosaline M., 100, St. Catherine of Siena, Decatur County, Jan. 14. Aunt, great-aunt and



New basilica

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Va., processes into St. Mary Church in Alexandria, Va., during its dedication as a minor basilica on Jan. 14. Founded in 1795, it is the oldest Catholic parish in Virginia and now joins 84 other minor basilicas in the United States, including two in Indiana. Churches are named minor basilicas by the pope as a recognition of their historical significance. (CNS photo/Zoey Maraist, Catholic Herald)

great-great-aunt of several.

NIELSEN, Stephen R., 63, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, Jan. 9. Husband of Gina Nielsen. Father of Cassie and CJ Nielsen. Brother of Patricia Briggs.

NITKA, Linda A., 71, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, Dec. 19. Wife of Edward Nitka. Mother of Karen Striegel and Stephen Nitka. Sister of Gregg and Randall Rusinko. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of two.

O'HARA, Mary Joan (O'Donnell), 86, St. Philip Neri, Indianapolis, Jan 13. Wife of Terrence O'Hara. Mother of Eileen Alford, Anne Frick, Margaret McLinn, Kathleen Pierce, Sheila, Charles, Dennis, James, Sean, Terrence and Thomas O'Hara. Grandmother of 25. Great-grandmother of 13. Great-great-grandmother of two.

PARENTE, Betty L., 83,

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Indianapolis, Jan. 8. Wife of John Parente. Mother of Kim Monger, Chris and Rick Parente. Sister of Joan Christoff. Grandmother of three.

PRICE, Dr. Francis W., Sr., 92, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Dec. 29. Husband of Helen Price. Father of Carol Moore, Susan Simon, Andrew and Dr. Francis Price, Jr. Brother of LaVerne Sergi. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of seven.

PUTNAM, James P., 81, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Dec. 28. Husband of Mary Putnam. Father of Bill, James and Ron Putnam. Brother of Sandy Althoff and Rita Kopernak. Grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of six.

ROGERS, Linda C., 64, St. Charles Borromeo, Milan, Jan. 12. Mother of Chastity Fogel and Chris Rogers. Daughter of Betty Livingston.

Sister of Connie Hagemeyer, Debbie Jayne, Julie Loudon, Teresa Standish and Rob Livingston. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of one.

STEWART, Anthony, 70, Holy Family, New Albany, Jan. 9. Husband of Kathleen Stewart. Father of Diana Shuff and Douglas Stewart. Grandfather of three.

STRESINO, Mary Lou (Godette), 86, St. Gabriel the Archangel, Indianapolis, Jan. 10. Mother of Jo Cully, Kathy, Bob and Pete Stresino. Grandmother of five.

TABOR, Hoge T., Jr., 91, Prince of Peace, Madison, Jan. 13. Father of Bonnie Cox, Linda Luallen, Sharon Salley, Jerry Graham, Charles and Don Tabor. Grandfather of 24. Great-grandfather of 55. Great-great-grandfather of 12.

THOMPSON, Bruce D., Sr., 83, St. Joseph, Corydon, Jan. 1. Husband of Mary

Thompson. Father of Sherry Noon and Bruce Thompson, Jr. Brother of Marilyn Stengel. Grandfather of seven. Great-grandfather of two.

TUCKER, Amy M. (Harless), 46, St. Mark the Evangelist, Jan. 13. Wife of H. Charles Tucker. Mother of Paige and Riley Tucker. Daughter of Mary Moody. Sister of Beth Bobko, Becky Coovert and Bob Harless.

VONDERHEIDE, Harold R., 82, St. Michael, Brookville, Nov. 19. Husband of Julie Vonderheide. Father of Edna Martini, Willie Ronnebaum, Bernard and Ed Vonderheide. Grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of three.

WAYNE, Philomena, 97, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, Jan. 13. Mother of Jack, Jerry, Jim and Joe Wayne. Sister of Rita Boehm and Mary Hutchens. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of 15. †

Cardinal Dolan invokes Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in march vigil homily

WASHINGTON (CNS)—New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan invoked the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. during a homily at the Jan. 18 Mass that opened the National Prayer Vigil for Life.

Like “Pastor King,” as Cardinal Dolan referred to him throughout his homily, “our belief in the dignity of the human person and the sacredness of all human life propels us to concern for human life wherever, whenever, and however it is threatened, from racial antagonism to justice for immigrants, from the war-torn to the hungry,” the prelate said.

And, like Rev. King, whose life was the

subject of a national holiday three days prior, “our prayers and witness are about civil rights: the civil right to life and to equal protection under the law, guaranteed by our Constitution, for the most fragile, marginalized and threatened—the tiny, innocent baby in the womb,” Cardinal Dolan said.

The Mass, which has attracted more than 10,000 in recent years, was celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Rev. King “would be marching with us in the defense of unborn life were not the dignity of his own person and the sanctity of his own life tragically violated 50 years ago this spring,” Cardinal Dolan said, referring to the civil rights figure’s assassination in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

“Pastor King would often begin his stirring speeches, which still move us, by asking his listeners, ‘Why are we here?’” Cardinal Dolan said.

Answering the question himself, the cardinal gave a variety of reasons. “We are here to advocate and give witness, to advocate for those who cannot yet speak or walk with us, the pre-born baby, whose future is in jeopardy and can be ended by a so-called choice, and to give witness that millions, mostly young people, share a passion for the belief that that little baby has civil rights,” he said. “We are here to fight the heavy temptation—

we must admit the temptation—to discouragement,” he continued.

Another reason, he said, was “to lobby for life,” sharing “passion for a society to assist and protect all vulnerable life ... because, to borrow my brother pastor’s refrain, ‘We shall overcome,’” to which the Mass crowd applauded. “And there is one final reason why we are here,” Cardinal Dolan said. “To pray!”

The opening Mass featured more than 300 clergy concelebrants, including 34 bishops and archbishops, and six U.S. cardinals. Retired Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington did not join in the processions, but instead got to the shrine’s sanctuary a few minutes before Mass with the aid of a walker.

While Washington has not been immune to wintry weather for the overnight vigil and next-day March for Life in recent years, this year’s events were met with relatively mild temperatures compared to the frigid and slick conditions north, west and—surprisingly—south of the nation’s capital.

At the Jan. 19 morning Mass that closed the vigil, Bishop Edward M. Burns of Dallas told the story of a young boy who saw an online advertisement for a baseball glove. Wanting the glove but not having the money to pay for it, he wrote a letter to his mother that took the form of an itemized bill for the chores he did around the house—with the

total equaling the cost of the glove.

Knowing his mother must have seen the envelope addressed to her at her place at the dining room table, the boy, a few days later, saw a box at his own place at the table. In the box was the glove he had wanted. But as he was trying it on, he spotted an envelope addressed to him at the bottom of the box. In the letter was his mother’s list of services rendered to him—giving birth to him, changing his diapers, tucking him in at night, drying his tears, bandaging his wounds and holding him tight—and after each entry came the words “no charge.”

“That’s sacrificial love,” Bishop Burns said, “the type of love God has for us.” He added, “He demonstrates that love for us time and time again, and he asks us to demonstrate that sacrificial love for others. ... Our Lord Jesus Christ is an example of sacrificial love.”

In echoing the Mass theme “For the Preservation of Peace and Justice,” Bishop Burns recalled the words of the Book of Deuteronomy: “I set before you a choice: death or life. Choose life so that you may live” (Dt 30:19).

“Choosing life comes from a sacrificial love,” Bishop Burns said. “We are here to bring attention to the attacks against human life.” He told worshippers, “Stay strong, stay dedicated and committed to the cause of life.” †



New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, delivers the homily during the opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Jan. 18 in Washington. (CNS photo/Bob Roller) (CNS photo/Paul Jeffrey)

Investing with Faith/Elisa Smith

Share hope in New Year and beyond with endowment giving

I begin this year, as I do every year, with a renewed sense of hope. However, after attending the inaugural "An Evening of Lights," sponsored by the archdiocesan Catholic Community Foundation in December, I find my meaning of hope has deepened.

During last month's tree lighting, Nativity reflection and evening of remembering loved ones who have passed away, I was surrounded by hope. Not the kind that is wishful thinking.

The kind that, as Archbishop Charles C. Thompson said during the event, is a



firm conviction God is with us on Earth, and we will be with him and reunited with our loved ones someday in heaven.

Nothing brought this closer to home than my conversation with a widow at the event. For people who have recently lost a loved one, the holidays can be an emotionally difficult time. This lady had recently lost her husband and told me that she wasn't sure she felt up to attending, but she did.

She also dedicated a luminaria in memory of her late husband. During the event, for a \$10 donation, which went to the Archdiocesan Growth and Expansion Fund, an individual or family could dedicate a luminaria in memory of a loved one and see it blessed by the archbishop.

She was so comforted by the

evening's events, the fellowship and the archbishop's reflection about hope, that she decided to take the luminaria home and place it on her mantle.

Just as "An Evening of Lights" gave hope to many Catholics in our archdiocese suffering from the pain of loss, memorial endowment funds can do the same.

The hope they provide is twofold. First, they provide hope that our loved one's legacy impacts the lives of others forever.

Secondly, because these endowments last forever, the parishes, schools and Catholic agencies they fund often provide a source of perpetual hope here on Earth. The beneficiaries of the endowments are reassured that God is indeed watching

over them.

If you would like to learn more about how you can use an endowment fund to instill hope, please contact us at ccf@archindy.org or by phone at 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1482 or 317-236-1482. You can also visit our website at archindy.org/CCF.

May the Holy Spirit fill your hearts with hope throughout the New Year.

(Elisa Smith is director of the Catholic Community Foundation. Tax information or legal information provided herein is not intended as tax or legal advice and cannot be relied on to avoid statutory penalties. Always check with your legal, tax and financial advisors before implementing any gift plan.) †

Bishop Robert Barron: A worthy successor to Archbishop Sheen

Reviewed by John F. Fink

Bishop Robert E. Barron has become the most prominent Catholic preacher, author and film producer in the United States.

He first came to prominence with his series of films called *Catholicism*, which aired on PBS. He founded Word on Fire Catholic Ministries in 2000. Its videos on YouTube have been viewed more than 20 million times, and he has over 1.4 million followers on Facebook. Bishop Barron has also written 14 books.



John L. Allen, Jr.

His most recent book is titled *To Light a Fire on the Earth: Proclaiming the Gospel in a Secular Age*. However, he didn't write this book; John L. Allen, Jr. did. But Allen, who has been called the best journalist in the Catholic press, wrote it with Bishop Barron, and it's about him and his ministry.

Allen agrees with me that Bishop Barron is the greatest U.S. evangelist since

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

Bishop Barron is now 57. He had a great theological education at The Catholic University of America in Washington and the Institut Catholique de Paris. He tries not to get into arguments between the left and right, but calls himself a post-liberal, and he's more conservative than liberal.

He was a visiting professor at the University of Notre Dame in 2002, and scholar in residence at the Pontifical North American College in Rome in both 2007 and 2010. He served as rector of University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Ill., from 2012 to 2015.

In the book, he chose 12 people from the past who have influenced him, shaped the Church in their day, and also changed the course of civilization: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catherine of Siena, Blessed John Henry Newman, G. K. Chesterton, Michelangelo, St. Augustine, St. Benedict, St. Ignatius of Loyola, Bartolome de Las Casas, Flannery O'Connor and Fulton Sheen. These are in his follow-up series to *Catholicism* called *The Pivotal Players*.

He also admires the preaching of Martin Luther King Jr., learned his spirituality from Thomas Merton, and admires the work of St. Teresa of Calcutta.

In 2015, he was appointed an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Newly appointed bishops

around the world go to a special course in the Vatican, colloquially known as "baby bishops' school." Barron was appointed with two other auxiliary bishops for Los Angeles, who became known as "the triplets." They were in "baby bishops' school" with 154 other bishops, and Barron says that he was surprised that Pope Francis met with all of them after giving them a 30-minute talk.

When it was Barron's turn, he said, "Hello, Holy Father, I'm Bishop Barron." The pope said, "Ah, *el Gran Predicador!*" [the Great Preacher] "who makes the airwaves tremble." Barron wrote in the book, "I chose to take that as a compliment," and was impressed that the pope knew about him and his work.

The other U.S. bishops also knew about his work. He's only a new auxiliary bishop, but the other bishops elected him chair of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

It's not in the book because it happened after the book was published: In November, the bishops elected the four bishops who will represent the U.S. bishops at the World Synod of Bishops that will discuss the Church's ministry to young people this fall. Naturally, the president and the vice president of the USCCB were elected (Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston and Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles), and so was Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia since he is a member of the synod's planning body.

For the fourth member they chose Bishop Barron because of his reputation as an expert on using media for evangelization. This is despite the fact that the Archdiocese of Los Angeles will have two of the four members.

ROBERT BARRON

with JOHN L. ALLEN JR.

TO LIGHT A FIRE ON THE EARTH

Proclaiming the Gospel in a Secular Age



Hopefully, all Bishop Barron's other duties won't hurt Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. He would like to make that ministry a movement, and one of the chapters in the book is about that.

It's hard to see how one man can get so much accomplished while still maintaining a spiritual life. But Fulton Sheen did it, and so is Bishop Barron. A chapter of the book is about his prayer and spiritual life.

Obviously, I recommend the book.

(John F. Fink is editor emeritus of The Criterion. *To Light a Fire on the Earth* is available on Amazon. The cost is \$27 in hardcover, and \$13.99 on Kindle.) †

'It's hard to see how one man can get so much accomplished while still maintaining a spiritual life. But Fulton Sheen did it, and so is Bishop Barron. A chapter of the book is about his prayer and spiritual life.'

Classified Directory

For information about rates for classified advertising, call (317) 236-1454.

For Sale

I HAVE TWO BURIAL PLOTS available in Section H, St. Joseph Cemetery, Indianapolis. Each plot sells for \$1,900. For more information Call Susie @ 317-966-2376.

Removal Services

FRED AND SONS' Junk and Tree Removal Services. Household junk removal, yard waste, property clean outs. Demolition of old sheds, decks, barns, fences and garages. Storm clean up. Gutter cleaning. www.fredandsons.com 317-626-5973

Vacation Rental

BEACHFRONT CONDO, Maderia Beach, Florida, 2BR/2BA, pool & 25ft balcony overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. Meet Indpls. owner. See photos, maps. Call Robin at 317-506-8516.

Lake Front House Rental

3,000 sq. ft. w/Lg Deck, Dock on Lake Webster Northern IN 5BR/5BA + 2 Bunk Rms, AC, Lg Living Area, Wash/Dry, Cable/Internet. Call Bob 317-496-3200 for Info.

Employment

Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools

The Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana is currently seeking candidates for the position of *Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools*. This position will assist the Superintendent in the administration of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.

Candidates should:

- Be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church and with a working knowledge of Church Doctrine, Law and Organization.
- Hold an Indiana Administrators license or its equivalent and have at least five years of administrative or related experience. Knowledge of project management, and strategic and operational viability is required.
- Be familiar with curricular models and current trends in Catholic education.
- Have strong organizational, verbal, and written communication skills with the ability to collaborate across departments.

Interested and qualified applicants should submit their resumé, cover letter and two letters of professional reference by February 15 to Jeanne Lausten, Director of Human Resources, at jlausten@dol-in.org.

Special Events Coordinator

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking a full-time Special Events Coordinator to plan, implement, and continuously improve events for various archdiocesan ministries, including but not limited to Catholic Schools, Catholic Charities, Stewardship and Development, Bishop Brute' Seminary, and the Chancery. This position reports to the Executive Director of Communications and involves interaction with a wide variety of people who lead and serve the parishes, schools, and agencies of the archdiocese as well as members of the community. Other duties include overseeing the archdiocesan calendar, assisting with the events of other organizations (such as the National Catholic Youth Conference), coordinating catering for the Catholic Center, and planning domestic and international pilgrimages. Regular evening and weekend work and some travel are involved.

The position requires outstanding verbal and written communications skills, the ability to develop and oversee budgets, attention to detail, proficiency with Microsoft Office software (especially Word, Outlook, and Excel), flexibility, the ability to prioritize and multi-task, and the ability to exercise discretion and maintain confidential information. Candidates should be practicing Catholics with an understanding of and appreciation for the ministries of the Church. A bachelor's degree or equivalent experience in communications or a related field is preferred. Experience in event planning and communication, preferably involving matters pertaining to the Catholic Church, is required. Proficiency in effectively speaking and writing both English and Spanish is also preferred.

To apply, please e-mail a cover letter, resumé, and list of references, in confidence, to:

Ed Isakson

Director, Human Resources, Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202

E-mail: edisakson@archindy.org

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



Poll shows a strong majority want restrictions on abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The annual poll of Americans' views on abortion sponsored by the Knights of Columbus indicates that more than three-fourths of those polled continue to want "significant restrictions" on abortion access, even though a slim majority describe themselves as "pro-choice."

The poll, conducted by the Marist Institute for Public Opinion, surveyed 1,267 adults in December and another 1,350 adults earlier this month.

Seventy-six percent indicated support for "significant" limits, with 92 percent of those who felt that way identifying as Republicans, and 61 percent as Democrats. Fifty-one percent of respondents overall called themselves "pro-choice."

"I think what you see that's encouraging is that this is not, strictly speaking, a partisan issue," said Andrew Walther, vice president of communications for the Knights of Columbus, at a Jan. 17 news conference. "The labels [pro-choice and pro-life] don't quite tell the full story."

"Policy change," he observed, "could be done with the support of three-quarters of the American people."

Sixty-three percent indicated they support a ban on abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy. "That's up a bit from last year," Walther said.

The Senate is expected to vote soon on a 20-week ban called the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which passed the House last year.

The bill is not expected to pass in the Senate, since it will require at least 60 votes.

President Donald J. Trump has said that if the Senate passes the bill he would sign it into law.

Walther demurred on a question of whether the Knights are supporting Trump. "Some of the actions he's taken have tracked very well and with where the American people are."

He cited Trump's 2017 expansion of the "Mexico City Policy," which requires foreign nongovernmental organizations receiving American health assistance to certify that they do not use other nongovernment funds to pay for abortions.

Other poll findings include:

—A majority of respondents, 56 percent, see abortion as "morally wrong," and of those, most said they practiced a religion. The survey does not break out Catholic respondents.

—If it was considered likely that an unborn child will have a genetic disorder, more than 60 percent found abortion morally wrong.

—52 percent thought that an abortion "did not improve a woman's life in the long run."

—78 percent agreed that "laws can protect both a pregnant woman and the life of her unborn child." †



St. Vincent School of Nursing

In 1881, four Daughters of Charity arrived in Indianapolis at the invitation of Bishop Francis S. Chatard to open a Catholic hospital. They first operated an infirmary that was located on Vermont Street, and then moved to several different locations before building St. Vincent Hospital on West 86th Street in 1974. This photo shows student nurses from the former St. Vincent School of Nursing processing into SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis for their graduation ceremony, sometime in the 1950s or 1960s.

(Would you like to comment on or share information about this photo? Contact archdiocesan archivist Julie Motyka at 800-382-9836, ext. 1538; 317-236-1538; or by e-mail at jmotyka@archindy.org.)

Walls between respect life, social justice camps tumbling down

WASHINGTON (CNS)—When Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin offered the idea that the Church could approach its concern for protecting human dignity in tackling abortion, euthanasia, poverty and peace under a "seamless garment" during a 1983 speech at Fordham University in New York, there were doubters who said the concept was flawed.

For years, the ideological rift between respect life adherents on the "right" and the peace and justice advocates on the "left" felt wider than the Grand Canyon and nigh impossible to bridge.

It was, some concluded, one Church, two camps. So the work of both continued, largely with limited collaboration.

Such divisions just may be breaking down.

The desire to protect human dignity from conception to natural death is increasingly being embraced by Catholics, bringing together the respect life advocates and the social justice advocates to carry out the Church's call to missionary discipleship.

Such collaboration is evident in some dioceses where traditional respect life and social justice offices now operate as one. Where they remain separate, collaboration is strong across the wide spectrum of social concerns.

"It's so unfortunate in our American culture, we've divided the respect life issue from other social justice issues and vice versa," Tony Stieritz, director of the Catholic Social Action Office in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, told Catholic News Service (CNS).

"We want to exemplify as much as we can in this archdiocese that we go beyond those ideological separations. To be pro-

life, to work for social justice, all comes from the same. There are not real political boundaries on any of this," Stieritz said.

Stieritz's office at the archdiocese's downtown headquarters is next to that of Bob Wurzelbacher, director of the Office for Respect Life Ministries. Both regularly work together.

"Obviously, we care for life from conception to natural death. You have to be consistent in upholding dignity of that life," Wurzelbacher said.

"Whether born with handicaps or born to illegal immigrants, we still care about that child as they grow up to become adults. That spreads into all the areas of social justice. We can't give off the appearance that we only care about babies."

In the Archdiocese of Portland, Ore., Matt Cato has been the director of the Office of Life, Justice and Peace for eight years. He described all of his efforts as working for social justice.

Soon after he started in the position, Cato learned about the long-simmering divide, which he said he never realized existed. Prior to joining the archdiocese, he and his wife headed their parish social justice ministry and for years they melded respect life concerns with justice and peace work.

That doesn't mean he doesn't occasionally get pushback from one side or the other. He writes a monthly column on social concerns for the archdiocese. He described how one month he'll be praised for a position he espoused by some readers, and then criticized the next by the same readers on another issue. He said he makes clear to the critics that the stances

taken come directly from Catholic social teaching.

"It's just Catholic. It's just the way it is," he told CNS. "I'm hoping more and more people understand this."

The consistent life ethic is the focus of the Pittsburgh-based Rehumanize International. Executive Director Aimee Murphy, who is Catholic, helped found the organization after graduating from college in 2011 to fill a "niche" and address the many

human actions that destroy human dignity.

"Our number one passion is [to oppose] violence against humans," said Murphy, who was a leader in the pro-life group at her alma mater, Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

"We wanted an organization that could address not only the life of a child in the womb, but also the life of the child behind enemy lines or the life of an inmate in prison or the life of a refugee, the life of any human being in any circumstance," she explained.

The organization has developed



ECUMENISM

continued from page 12A

celebrate, what is considered a universally valid baptism, non-Catholic Christian as baptismal witnesses, etc.

Use of sacred spaces by various Christian communities are also addressed; how Christians may share in common prayer (days of recollection, spiritual exercises, groups for the study and sharing of traditions of spirituality); the question

of limits to inter-communion; and mixed marriages, among others.

The actual document may be found online. Simply query "1993 directory on ecumenism." Or if you would like a copy of the pdf, contact me at the archdiocesan Office of Ecumenism at 800-382-9836, ext. 1993.

(Father Rick Ginther is director of the archdiocesan Office of Ecumenism. He is pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis.) †