



(CNS photo/Remo Casilli, Reuters)

All vocations are imbued with God’s mysterious grace and mercy

By Father Michael Keucher

A few years ago, I had the joy of going on a pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal, for the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady there.



I felt an immediate and strong kinship with St. Francisco de Jesus Marto, one of three the little children who saw Our Lady back in 1917. He was the one who Mary said would only make it to heaven “after many rosaries!”

While Francisco and Jacinta, his sister, died at a young age, Lúcia dos Santos, the oldest of the three visionaries and cousin to the others, lived until 2005. Lucia became a religious sister, and she tells in her book *Fatima, In Lucia’s Own Words* about a beautiful moment when Francisco ran up to her before one of the

apparitions and said, “I came, because—I don’t know why.”

Isn’t that true for all of us who have followed a call of God? There’s a necessary mystery about our callings, our vocations. We walk where God is leading simply because we are drawn there, and then we get there and pause from time to time, thinking, “I’m here, because—I don’t know why!”

Except, of course, we do know why: God’s grace! When it comes to vocations, all is grace and mercy. None of us deserves a vocation, none of us is smart enough to know our vocation and none of us is strong enough to fulfill the demands of our vocation. It is all God’s grace and mercy, from start to finish.

A true disciple of Jesus echoes Francisco’s words often: “I’m here, because—I don’t know why!”

I’ll always remember watching a great documentary on the priesthood called *The Catholic Priest Today* years ago before finally entering the

seminary. I would recommend the whole world watch it. I’ve probably seen it a thousand times!

In the documentary, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith of Colombo, Sri Lanka, says something very wise: “You can never explain your vocation, especially your priestly vocation. It always is a mystery. Something happens inside you.”

That is most certainly the case. This Vocations Awareness Supplement profiles men and women from across our archdiocese who have encountered this mystery and have responded with love and generosity. I hope you enjoy their stories and are encouraged to pray for them and thank them.

Our seminarians and priests, our deacons, our religious sisters and brothers know this well: We can’t explain the life we’ve been called to live. It is the most wonderful thing! We can’t always even explain how we got here. All we know is we have been

drawn by God’s love, grace and mercy. By God’s grace, something happened inside us. By God’s grace, we took the next steps. By God’s grace, we are here.

If you are reading this and are wondering if God might be calling you to serve him in the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, embrace the mystery of your calling! The archdiocesan Vocations Office is here for you!

You may never know for a fact why you’re feeling as you are, why God has picked you or what you might do next. But no worries! Just embrace the mystery, take one step at a time, hold onto Mary’s hand, and you’ll be walking in the divine will!

(Father Michael Keucher is director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and sacramental minister of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County. Contact him at mkeucher@archindy.org.) †



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Hardships and blessings of Burmese seminarians prepare them for ministry



Archdiocesan seminarians Timothy Khuishing, left, and Khaing Thu pose on April 12 in SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

By Sean Gallagher

In the beginning years of the Church in central and southern Indiana, priests from France and later Germany came here to minister to immigrants from those two countries who settled in this section of the U.S. frontier.

Two archdiocesan seminarians are continuing that tradition today in a new way.

Thousands of Burmese Catholics from Myanmar in southeast Asia, many of them refugees from persecution there, began settling in Indianapolis about 15 years ago.

Among the first of those refugees were the families of seminarians Timothy Khuishing and Khaing Thu. Khuishing came with his family to Indianapolis when he was 11 in 2010. Thu was 11 when he arrived a year later.

The challenges of two young boys adjusting to life in a different culture dominated by a language different from their own was eased by the faith of their fellow Burmese Catholics in Indianapolis and at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish on the city's southside.

"The Catholic Burmese community at St. Mark would meet at a family's house every Saturday to pray the rosary," Thu recalled. "I had a sense of community there. But at the bigger community at St. Mark, I felt at home, too."

Both soon became students at the parish's school and later at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

"I don't know how our family would have been if the parish hadn't been there," said Khuishing. "It also helped me in my discernment, too. If I wasn't in a Catholic school, I don't know if I

would have thought as much as I did about becoming a priest."

Thu and his family were also helped in getting settled in Indianapolis through assistance from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Gratitude for the aid they received led them to become St. Vincent de Paul volunteers themselves. Such interactions in turn helped Thu in his discernment.

"Seeing the help that my family got and starting to volunteer, I knew what it was like to receive and to give," he said. "The priesthood is all about giving."

Thu also saw sacrificial self-giving in his father. As the Burmese Catholic community on the southside of Indianapolis began to grow, he made sure that they could get to Mass. He often was driving a carload to St. Mark, dropping them off and leaving to ultimately bring several more to the parish.

"My father taught me the importance of community, relationships and how we humans need to cling to each other and support each other in order to thrive and live fully as we are created to be," Thu said. "He taught me through his actions by stepping up to be a leader of the Burmese community and serving them in many ways."

Khuishing and Thu became archdiocesan seminarians after graduating from Roncalli. Both have now graduated from Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary and Marian University, both in Indianapolis, and are now receiving priestly formation at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad.

Although they now see the archdiocese as their home, the plight of their relatives and of all Burmese people

have weighed heavily on their hearts and minds since the Myanmar military took over the country's government in a February 2021 coup. The hometowns of both seminarians have been attacked by the military.

The air strikes against Khuishing's hometown of Mindat in eastern Myanmar have been particularly fierce.

"Everyone had to flee," he said. "They've been constantly on the move from village to village to get away from the military."

Being so far away from the place of his birth and knowing how little he can do to help ease the suffering of the people there has led Khuishing at times to wonder why God would allow such terrible things to happen.

"I do have a lot of those thoughts," he said. "What can I do? Is there something that I can do? I wish I had a superpower to go back there and help the people there. At the end of the day, though, there's not much I can do other than pray. God is the only one I can rely on at this point."

So, before or after every Mass he attends, Khuishing prays for the people of Myanmar.

Thu has taken a similar approach and also sought contributions for the people of Myanmar through Facebook. He recalled the early days after the coup when there was so much uncertainty.

"For me, it was very stressful not knowing where my aunts and uncles were," he said. "Connections through phones and Facebook was the only way that we were updated on the situation."

"I was constantly texting my friends and family. So were my parents. I tried to do as much as I could to help through

prayer and fundraising."

Praying psalms several times a day in the Liturgy of the Hours has helped Thu. Many of the psalms speak of the suffering of the Israelites some 3,000 years ago. Thu sees in them a prayerful reflection of his own suffering and that of his people.

"I'll read a particular stanza and wonder if it is talking about me," he said. "I am able to relate to a lot of the psalms. I know God is talking to me a lot through that. I know that God is with me through my worries and sufferings."

The challenges that Khuishing and Thu experienced in first moving to Indianapolis as children and more recently in their concerns about the suffering in Myanmar are preparing them to minister as priests to people caught in their own misery.

"There's definitely a connection between my experience and the way that I'll do ministry to people," Thu said. "Most ministry is done from your own personal experience. That's the best way to do ministry, because you know it yourself. You can understand what other people are going through. You can use your experiences in a way to help them."

"God put me through that experience for a reason," Khuishing said. "I'm almost certain that the priesthood is the vocation in which God wants me to give back to others. I'll use my experiences to help others in [various] situations. I'm grateful. If it's through the priesthood that God wants me to serve, then I'm grateful for that."

(For information about a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, visit HearGodsCall.com.) †

Vocations Awareness Supplement highlights the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life

This issue of *The Criterion* features our annual supplement that highlights vocations in the Church to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life.

It is ordinarily published during the U.S. bishops' annual Vocations Awareness Week, which this year is on Nov. 6-12.

From the beginning, the

Church has recognized that marriage is also a vocation, a pathway to holiness, to which God calls people.

The Criterion publishes two marriage supplements

annually, usually in February and July.

In addition, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

has three offices which promote vocations. For information on the Office of Marriage and Family Life, visit archindy.org/marriageandfamily.

For information on the diaconate, go to archindy.org/deacon. For information on the priesthood and consecrated life, visit archindy.org/vocations. †

Bonds across the generations connect sisters in friendship and love of God

By John Shaughnessy

BEECH GROVE—Just back from an enjoyable football weekend at the University of Notre Dame, 74-year-old Benedictine Sister Mary Luke Jones and 42-year-old Sister Susan Reuber joke and smile as they lead a visitor on a walk through the grounds of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove.

Their smiles and laughs continue on this grey and blustery autumn afternoon when the visitor asks the sisters to stop for a photo that will appear in *The Criterion*, and Sister Mary Luke playfully says after a few standard shots, “Should we hug?” As the two friends do, their faces radiate joy.

Their closeness also reflects one of the main qualities that defines the Our Lady of Grace community, say the sisters who live there—the tight bonds that connect the sisters across generations, leading to close friendships and an even deeper relationship with God.

“You’re in the midst of like-minded women who are all dedicated to the honor and glory of God,” Sister Mary Luke says. “We pray together three times a day and are accountable to each other and rely upon each other, and we also have the benefit of the wisdom and the expertise of each other. What’s there not to like?”

She is just warming up on a belief that she always carries in her heart.

“The atmosphere around here is one of caring and concern,” Sister Mary Luke continues. “We have a 38-year-old and a 99-year-old and everything in between. We have rural and urban, we have only children and oldest children and youngest children and everything in between. So, you got all kinds of personalities. But we accept each other. That’s not to say that sometimes we may blurt out a word or a look or an eye roll. But at the same time, we understand we’re accountable to each other and we’re here for each other.”

As one of the youngest members of the community, Sister Susan adds, “When I think about the older sisters, the first aspect that comes to mind is their devotion to our prayer and community life. You can truly see their love for Christ in their devotion to the Liturgy of the Hours.

“It is also a blessing to have their wisdom. I know there is always someone who will have some insight into something I am struggling with. I also admire their trust in God and his steadfast love for us.”

The gift of friendship

The friendship between Sister Mary Luke and Sister Susan has evolved since Sister Susan entered the Benedictine community in 2012—46 years after Sister Mary Luke joined it in 1966.

“How [Sister] Luke chooses to live her life is a great role model for all of us who are in the younger generation,” Sister Susan says. “She chooses to be generous with her time and her gifts in the community. She’s always including other people. If she’s showing a movie, she’ll ask lots of people if they want to watch it. And she’s a great storyteller. I always love listening to her stories.”

Sister Mary Luke says her generosity flows from the example of her parents and grandparents.

“I would not be true to my own self if I didn’t share my gifts,” she says. “I’m a big party planner and thrower around here because I enjoy it. And it leads to community life. It makes us stronger.”

Their friendship has especially grown stronger in the past year as Sister Susan has taken on the community’s role of director of development, an area that Sister Mary Luke led for 30 years before retiring in June.

“Susan and I worked together all last year in the development office,” Sister Mary Luke says. “Susan has just latched onto this development thing from the get-go. It’s so easy for me to hand over the reins to this office because I know it’s in good hands.”

Benedictine Sister Harriet Woehler has the same faith and confidence in Sister Marie Therese Racine—and a similarly close friendship.

‘She knows my heart’

Now 91, Sister Harriett smiles as she looks back across the years to when



The friendship between Benedictine Sister Susan Reuber, left, and Sister Mary Luke Jones reflects one of the defining qualities of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove—the tight bonds that connect sisters across the generations. (Photos by John Shaughnessy)

Sister Marie entered Our Lady of Grace Monastery in 2000.

“I had her in formation—hovering, protecting, teaching the Benedictine way of life, our way of life,” Sister Harriet recalls as she looks at Sister Marie seated nearby inside the monastery. “For some, formation bonded into connecting with them. She loved music and that was me, too. Music is so bonding, and we had that. And the spirituality.”

Sister Marie’s eyes light up as she recalls Sister Harriet’s influence.

“I was under her direction for my first two years here,” says Sister Marie, who is now 62. “Even before music was involved, it was really the passion she had for monastic life—the joy she had, teaching us, encouraging us on our journey and also listening to our stories. She allowed me to share who I was and accepted me with the love of Christ. So, that was the bond for me. She knows my heart. It’s the vulnerability you can have with someone that you trust over the years, and that continues.”

Their bond has also strengthened through the years as they have helped each other grow in their relationship with Christ.

“We share books, she finds things of interest that I like on the Internet,” Sister Harriet says. “It’s not just being friends. It’s sharing the Benedictine way of life. It’s just the love of the way of Jesus.”

Sister Marie notes, “We encourage each other on the journey. We help each other grow.”

“There’s a term we have in the *Rule* [of St. Benedict] about radical self-honesty. I can be radically self-honest with Sister Harriet. That really helps me be true to my vocation, to my relationship with Christ, to where I might quite not be on the straight path. To be able to talk things over with her on some things helps me. She’s a spiritual guide for me, and that’s how we started.”

There’s also been a transition in their relationship as Sister Harriet has gotten older—a transition that Sister Marie compares to the change in a relationship between a parent and a child as a parent reaches a certain age. As Sister Harriet

has always been there for her, Sister Marie strives to be even more present for Sister Harriet.

‘A wonderful way of life’

“Intergenerational living helps us to see the long span of life, the different stages,” Sister Marie says. “It helps me to learn to love—who needs to be cared for right now. It’s just companionship on the journey, but it has a richness. We’re in with people who have different life experiences that can help give different perspectives. It just adds a great richness to our life together.”

“And I have to say I have a great sense of gratitude to Sister Harriet and all her contemporaries for persevering in this life through very difficult times after Vatican II. Our community was sustained by them. So, they pass on to us that strength, the love and the passion for this way of life so we can continue it, in whatever way it’s going to be. It gives us courage. It gives me courage. But it’s really a deep sense of gratitude. It helps us keep going.”

Sister Harriet smiles again at Sister Marie as the elder sister says, “This is a wonderful way of life. And I would highly encourage it for anyone who feels God has called them.”

That sentiment is echoed by Sister Mary Luke.

“I don’t know why young women aren’t knocking down our doors. We have been given so many opportunities educationally. We have excellent health care. And we have the opportunity to be of service to others. Our primary work is our prayer. And we’re very conscientious about that. We have people asking us to pray for them, whether online or calling in. And family and friends call upon us to be there in prayer for them. It’s such a privilege and an honor to do so.”

She takes a breath before adding, “This has been my life for 56 years. And it’s always been a wonderful life. It’s always been a pleasure to be a part of the community—and to do what I can to be a significant part of it.”

(For more information about Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, visit www.benedictine.com.) †



For years, Benedictine Sister Harriet Woehler, left, and Sister Marie Therese Racine have been constant supports in each other’s lives, bridging the generations through their mutual love of music, spirituality and God.

Joy-filled deacon strives to see the world through ‘the eyes of Christ’



Deacon Steve Tsuleff shares the Eucharist with Jean Kruthaupt in a home visit with the member of St. Michael Parish in Brookville. (Submitted photo)

By John Shaughnessy

Deacon Steve Tsuleff likes to wear Hawaiian shirts, revealing his often laid-back, lighthearted approach to life and his love of being by the ocean.

“I love the calming sound of the waves, and I like to reflect on God’s beauty,” he says.

In his office where he works as a video editor for a television station, there’s a crucifix, a photo of Pope Francis and an icon of the Blessed Mother holding Jesus—reflecting the way he believes that his professional life and his faith life are interwoven.

“I make no secret that I am a Christian, a Catholic and a deacon,” he says. “Sometimes, it starts a conversation.”

And after his love of his family and his faith, the other true joy for Deacon Tsuleff is the passion he has for creating and telling a story.

So, when he is asked to share the defining details of the story of his first five years as a deacon for the archdiocese, he starts with the way that God has changed him through this ministry.

“In these five years, I have been more successful looking through the eyes of

Christ than through my own eyes,” he says. “By no means am I perfect, but I am a work in progress walking on the right path. If you have a Christ-centered heart, you will do what is correct in God’s eyes and love your fellow neighbor. You will have more patience in a fast-paced world. You will be able to handle difficult situations. It is no longer a *me* outlook on life but a *you and them* outlook.”

He embraces that approach as the deacon for St. Michael Parish in Brookville and St. Peter Parish in Franklin County, where his duties include preaching homilies, assisting the priest during Mass, celebrating the sacrament of baptism and presiding at funerals and weddings. Still, Deacon Tsuleff’s favorite ministry is to the sick and the elderly.

“These individuals remind me of my mom and dad, my grandparents, my aunts and uncles,” says the 60-year-old deacon. “When my mom and dad were at that stage, there were people who gave them comfort. That’s what I am hopefully doing.”

“I am blessed to be able to bring Christ to them and share in the love they have for him. I also am able to develop

friendships and trust, which allows them, as well as myself, to be honest about faith and where they feel they stand with God. We are able to pray, talk, laugh and even cry together.”

‘God sometimes has different plans’

During his visits, Deacon Tsuleff hopes to leave people with a smile. He believes God was smiling when he taught him one of the great lessons he has learned as a deacon.

“When we as deacons go visit those who are sick and dying, we find that God sometimes has different plans for us when we arrive,” he says.

That leads him to share the story of his visits to a woman, suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, and her son.

“I’m not really sure if she knew who I was, but her son would always tell her who I was when I arrived. I would talk and pray with her and give her Communion. This was also a time that I could talk with her son. He was struggling with some aspects of his faith, but I sensed a need for Christ. Why else would he want me to bring Communion to his mother?”

“I always asked him how he was doing, and it was always, ‘OK, I guess.’ I reassured him that struggling with your faith is not uncommon, and it takes time to get reacquainted with our Lord. As time passed, I could tell he was getting closer to the Lord and his spirits seemed better. I told him I was always here for him and his family.”

He has that same approach for his co-workers and the people he meets as a video editor for a television station in Cincinnati.

“I have a dear friend that I have worked with for about 25 years,” he says. “His wife got sick. He would come in and he would just talk, and I would listen. Even though he wasn’t Catholic, we were still able to share our love of Christ. He eventually left work to take care of her. The doctors did diagnose her with Parkinson’s. She’s now in hospice care. We still keep in touch and talk.”

It’s all part of the Christ-centered approach that Deacon Tsuleff strives to bring to his life and to others, says Father Vincent Lampert, pastor of both St. Michael and St. Peter parishes.

‘It’s been such a beautiful journey’

“One of the things he’s really good at is he really knows how to be present to people,” Father Lampert says. “After Mass on Sundays, he visits a lot of people who are sick or homebound. He takes them Communion, and he listens to them, to let them know they’re still connected and still vital to the parish.”

“He’s also a man of deep prayer. I enjoy working with him. We both have a great sense of humor. We laugh a lot together.”

Joy has also marked his 36 years of marriage with his wife, Kara, who notes that their joyful connection has increased since he started the process of becoming a deacon.

“It began with his five years of formation,” Kara says. “He’s become a better man, a better Christian, a better Catholic. I’ve truly enjoyed watching him in this ministry—and seeing how much joy it brings him. It’s helped me grow in my faith as well. One of the things that’s beautiful about the archdiocese’s program is that the wives are invited to be part of the formation process. We formed a community that was wonderful. It’s just been such a beautiful journey.”

It’s had an impact on their marriage, too. The couple met as students at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. A cradle Catholic, Kara introduced him to the Catholic faith, and he was received into full communion of the Church after their marriage and the birth of the first of their two daughters.

“I was the spiritual leader in the family,” she says. “Since he became a deacon, I see him taking the lead more. That’s been great to see.”

They work together as sponsors for engaged couples, sharing meals, stories and advice.

Being a deacon has also given him the blessing of baptizing their granddaughter, Elise.

It’s been such “a wonderful experience” for Deacon Tsuleff that he encourages other men to consider serving the archdiocese and the Church as a deacon.

“Christ will be there for you,” he says. “You’ll feel the love of Christ, and you’ll want to share that love with everybody. It’s a beautiful thing. You’ll be so blessed.” †



Deacon Steve Tsuleff, right, and Father Vincent Lampert are known to share smiles and a sense of humor as they work together to bring members of St. Michael Parish in Brookville and St. Peter Parish in Franklin County closer to God. (Submitted photo)

Providence Sister Patty Wallace heard God's call from an early age

By Jason Moon

Special to *The Criterion*

ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS—For Providence Sister Patty Wallace, becoming a Sister of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods seemed, well, providential.

Sister Patty, who entered the congregation in 2003 at age 35, had known of the Sisters of Providence for practically her entire life.

"The Sisters of Providence were a part of my story from before I was born," she said. "They were my father's teachers in grade school. My grandparents knew and helped the Sisters of Providence in New Castle with transportation and other needs. My teachers and principals at St. Simon the Apostle School in Indianapolis were Sisters of Providence.

"We lived in the same neighborhood in Indianapolis [as some of the Sisters], so they were our friends as well. And Providence Sister Marilyn Baker brought me to the Woods for the first time and showed me courage when she moved to Taiwan for a new ministry."

Sister Patty graduated from Cathedral High School in Indianapolis in 1986 and earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1991 at Butler University in Indianapolis. She also has a master's degree in library science from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Sister Patty had attended 10 discernment weekends with the Sisters of Providence before entering the congregation and said she never considered another community.

After ministering with the Sisters of Providence through the Providence Volunteer Ministry program, she entered the congregation on Sept. 18, 2003, from St. Mary of the Pines Parish in Shreveport, La., where she was living at the time.

"I was attracted to religious life because I felt that my spirituality, my relationship with Jesus, God's presence in my life and my experiences in helping others were central to my life and were valued by the Sisters of Providence," Sister Patty said. "I was excited to be with the sisters who shared these values, supported each other and had ministries that impacted those who struggled with daily hardships and injustice.

"I felt that I would make more of a difference in ministering with other sisters, although I had little concept of how that would work and the transformation I would go through."

Sister Patty professed first vows on July 1, 2007, and final vows on June 30, 2013. Her first ministry with the congregation was as the school librarian at the former St. Andrew-St. Rita Catholic Academy in Indianapolis. She began her current ministry as a children's librarian for The Indianapolis Public Library system in 2007.

Through her 19 years of religious life, Sister Patty admits she has faced some challenges and has even questioned whether she should continue.

"These were challenges of my formation, my expectations and doubts, and others not understanding my choice of religious life," Sister Patty observed. "But I want to stay in religious life to create change, to join with sisters to reach

out to those who are hurting and know that I have gifts that are needed [within the religious] community as well."

Despite these challenges, Sister Patty said her hope for religious life has only grown during these 19 years.

"My multicultural intercommunity experiences and the Giving Voice Conference for religious 20 to 50 years of age have shown me how much we will connect and minister with other religious congregations in the future," Sister Patty said. "It is difficult at this time because we are losing so many older sisters who were active when I entered the community. But I believe that I carry their wisdom and guidance with me for the congregation.

"As I move into middle age, I want to support the sisters who are following me in religious life. I find great hope in our Providence Associates who will be the presence of Providence. I believe we are living [our] religious life [in a way] that is connecting and ministering with others to create peace and compassion in these times."

Of her current ministry, Sister Patty said it is "very life-giving," and she is delighted with all the ways she can use the gifts God has granted her.

"I feel like I can make a difference in the lives of families and their children,



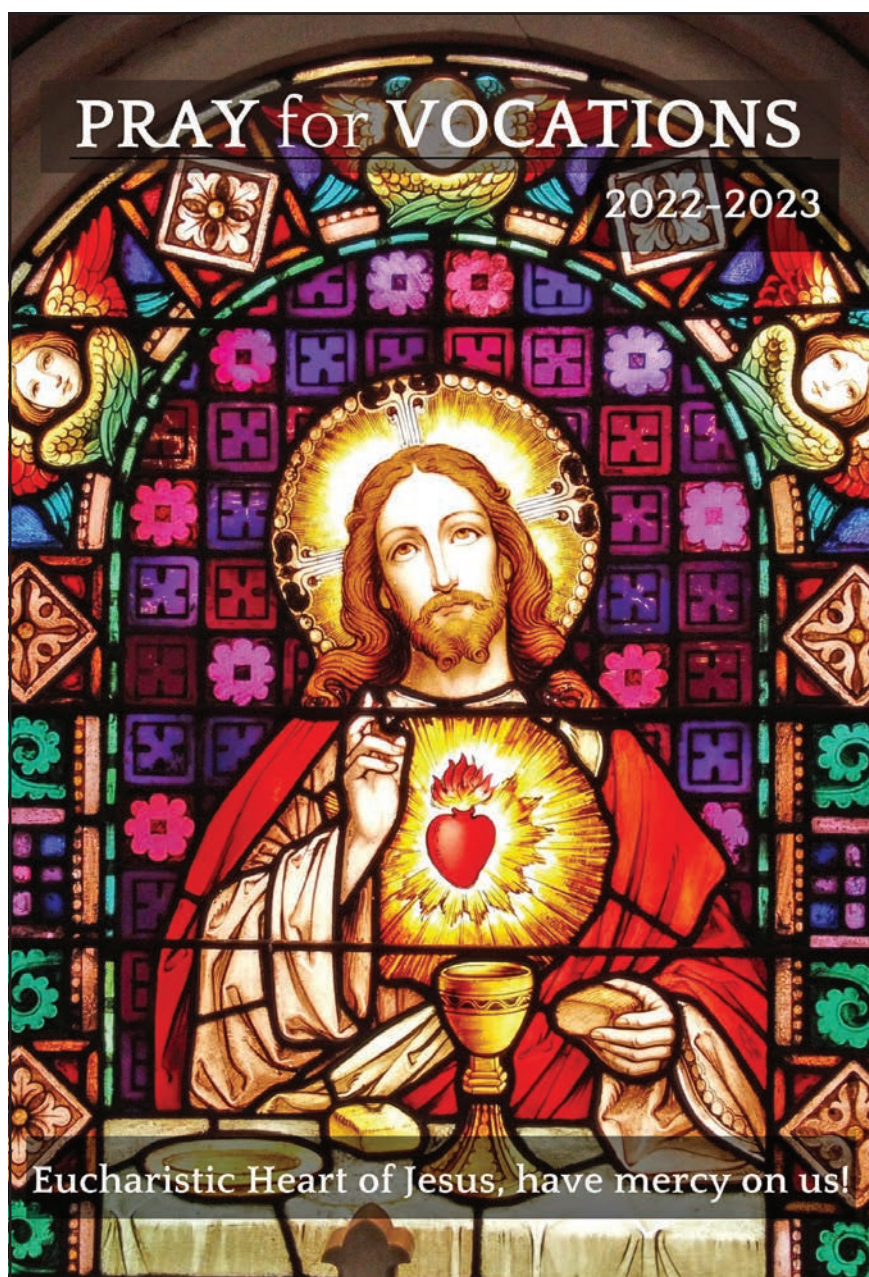
Providence Sister Patty Wallace meets with two children on April 28, 2018, during an Earth Day event. (Submitted photo)

those who are not skilled in technology and online applications in a world where everything requires the Internet," Sister Patty said.

"I also connect with the elderly who need someone to talk to, the mentally challenged who come into the library where they are welcome, and my co-workers who have struggles in their lives and could use some support."

The Sisters of Providence are a community of Catholic women religious who collaborate with others to create a more just and hope-filled world through prayer, education, service and advocacy.

Learn more about becoming a Sister of Providence at Become.SistersofProvidence.org or contact the congregation's vocations director, Providence Sister Joni Luna, at 812-535-2954 or jluna@spsmw.org. †



2022-2023 Seminarians and Religious in Formation Prayer Card

Please pray for the following individuals and intentions on the corresponding day of the month.

1. Pope Francis
2. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson
3. Deacon Jose Neri
4. Deacon Jack Wright
5. Tyler Huber / Sr. Emily Tekolste, SP
6. Anthony Armbruster / Sr. Maria Gemma, SOLT
7. Samuel Rosko / Sr. Mary Lily among Thorns McCann, SSVM
8. Bobby Vogel / Sr. Evelyn Lobo, SSps
9. Thomas Day / Sr. M. Evangeline Rutherford, OSF
10. Liam Hosty / Sr. Mary Peter Ruschke, OSF
11. Aaron Noll / Sr. Mary Amata Naville, OSF
12. Khui Shing / Sr. Stella Marie Armes, OSF
13. Isaac Siefker / Sr. Gabriel Maria Trimble, MICM
14. Kristofer Garlitch / Sr. Israel Mercy Magnificat, S.V.
15. Samuel Hansen / Sr. Agnes Mary Graves, RSM
16. Khaing Thu / Sr. Maria Guadalupe Figueroa, RSM
17. Lance Tony / Sr. Magdalene Marie Schafer
18. Casey Deal / Sr. Mary Paul, FSGM
19. James Hentz / Sr. Stephanie Pahren
20. Randy Schneider / Sr. Cheyenne Johnson
21. Nathan Thompson / Br. Alberic Henry, OCSO
22. Emiliano Enriquez De Alva / Br. Dominick Jean, OP
23. Alexander W. Lindberg / Br. Leonard Easlick, OP
24. Robert McKay / Br. Benjamin Sasin, CSC
25. Noah Sherman / Josh Amodeo
26. Matthew Maples / Br. Taylor Fulkerson, SJ
27. Aidan Smith / Br. Ben Jensen, SJ
28. Aidan Hauersperger / Seth Hickey
29. Chase LaCoursiere / Ryan Moshak
30. For Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life

For information on the Seminarians and Religious in Formation from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, visit www.HearGodsCall.com

‘The pearl of Catholic life’

The Eucharist stands at the heart of the lives of archdiocesan priests

By Sean Gallagher

The Second Vatican Council, which began its first session 60 years ago last month, taught that the Eucharist is the “source and summit” of the life of the Church.

If this is true for the Church as a whole, it is also true for its priests who, by the grace of their ordination and the power of the Holy Spirit, make the Eucharist possible for the faithful day-in and day-out.

The Eucharist is at the heart of the vocation to the priesthood. So, as the Church in the U.S. takes part in a three-year National Eucharistic Revival, *The Criterion* spoke with archdiocesan priests across central and southern Indiana about how the Eucharist is central to their priestly lives and ministry.

‘It’s been the center of my life’

Father Juan Valdes, pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis, was ordained a priest in 1991 for the Archdiocese of Guadalajara, Mexico.

He began ministry in the Church in central and southern Indiana in 2006 and became a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in 2019.

Father Valdes has experienced the variations of the way the Eucharist is celebrated and valued in Mexico and in the U.S.

He noted that in Mexico, “eucharistic adoration will involve a lot of singing, praising and reciting of psalms,” whereas Catholics in the U.S. ordinarily pray in silence before the Blessed Sacrament.

Father Valdes, however, knows in his own life and ministry as a priest that there is value in both approaches.

“Everything is needed,” he said. “There is richness in the difference. People pray in praising and singing, but you also need silence. You need to allow Jesus to teach you. You need to sit at the feet of the teacher and ask him to teach you to listen to him, to accompany him and be with him.”

Through his decades of parish ministry, Father Valdes has found fulfillment in his vocation in bringing his parishioners closer to Christ in the Eucharist, especially through the sacrament of penance.

“It was all about that relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist, living in the grace of God,” he said. “You serve the community. People come to you for confession. It helps them to receive the Eucharist and to be in union with God.”

“Doing that ministry brings me joy, peace and satisfaction.”

Whether in Mexico or in the U.S., the Eucharist remains at the heart of Father Valdes’ life as a priest.

“It’s been the center of my life,” he said. “I try to pray every day before the Blessed Sacrament. It has helped me to persevere. It’s strengthened me in my vocation.”

Holy Communion for ‘holy communion’

Father Anthony Hollowell, pastor of St. Paul Parish in Tell City and St. Mark Parish in Perry County, has found



Father Juan Valdes, pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis, elevates a chalice on Oct. 19 during a Mass in his parish's church. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

in his six years of priestly ministry that praying a daily holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament is key to his being continually drawn close to Christ.

“You can’t be conformed to Christ without spending time with Christ and being with Christ,” he said. “And he comes in many ways. He comes in the people we serve. He comes in the duties and tasks that are asked of us. He comes in the liturgy.”

“But he also comes in that privileged place of silence, which is what happens in that holy hour. As we become conformed to Christ and in our priestly formation, the holy hour for me allowed me to be conformed to Christ in the silence.”

This practice started for him when he was in priestly formation, and the daily schedule of the seminary made it easy to find an hour to spend in prayer. Finding time each day for an hour of prayer has been challenging

since ordination, and especially in his last four years as a pastor of two parishes.

But Father Hollowell is so convinced of the importance of his holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament that he makes it a priority, no matter how busy his days of ministry become.

“It’s physically rejuvenating just to slow down, slow your heart rate, not run around, put the phone off to the side for a little,” he said. “Spiritually, it’s the only space in which the day that is about to occur or that has just occurred makes sense. It’s the only place where I learn how to interpret and be at peace with the kind of cacophony of unpredictable and confusing events that have happened. It’s where I learn to be ready early in the morning for what is about to happen.”

Father Hollowell also sees the hour he spends each day by himself before the Blessed Sacrament as vital to drawing him closer to the parishioners he serves.

He describes this as a “holy communion,” the same term used, of course, to describe the Eucharist.

“It’s a real tie, that communion that we share as sheep and shepherd, pastor and parishioners,” Father Hollowell said.

“I believe it starts in the Eucharist and it culminates in our liturgical celebration. And even when we’re separate physically, that bond remains. It’s always deepening.”

“The holy hour is time with holy Communion. And when we’re gathered together in the Sunday liturgy, I would say it’s almost holier communion. We’re all together. We’re all finding purpose in God.”

“It’s the pearl of Catholic life”

When Msgr. Joseph Schaedel was a student at Holy Name of Jesus School in Beech Grove, a Franciscan sister serving there asked him



Father George Plaster, an archdiocesan priest who serves as a chaplain at Franciscan Health Indianapolis, poses on Oct. 19 in the hospital's chapel. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

and a friend to be altar servers during Benediction. They politely declined.

“She said, ‘If you only knew the graces that come from Benediction, you would come,’” he recalled. “We didn’t come, but I figured out later what she was talking about.”

That lesson especially hit home for him when he was a seminarian years later at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad. On many occasions, he saw the seminary’s rector, then-Benedictine Father Daniel Buechlein, the future shepherd of the archdiocese, spend time before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer.

That example led Msgr. Schaedel to make that practice his own while in seminary.

This special connection to the Eucharist had a historic effect on the archdiocese after he was ordained in 1982.

In 1989, he was serving as president of Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis when he and other priests ministering in the Indianapolis West Deanery approached then-Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara about starting a perpetual adoration chapel in a convent on Cardinal Ritter’s grounds.

The idea of such a chapel had been the brainchild of Sister Mary Ann Schuman, a consecrated virgin in the archdiocese at the time.

Archbishop O’Meara’s response to the request was memorable for Msgr. Schaedel.

“I’ll never forget it,” Msgr. Schaedel recalled. “He said, ‘How could I say no? It’d be like being against mothers and apple pie.’”

The first perpetual adoration chapel in the archdiocese was inaugurated on Sept. 14, 1989. There are now 14 such chapels spread across central and southern Indiana.

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, which Msgr. Schaedel has led since 2011, inaugurated its adoration chapel 25 years ago on Sept. 28, 1997.

“It’s a source of edification,” he

said. “When I go in there, there’s other people praying. If I get up in the middle of the night at the rectory and look out the window, I’ll see one or two cars over at the parish. And I know that somebody is praying in our adoration chapel.”

Although he could pray in lots of different places, Msgr. Schaedel said he always gravitates toward the adoration chapel at St. Luke.

“What better place to pray?” he asked. “Jesus is just as present here as he was in the manger at Bethlehem, as he was when he was preaching in Capernaum, or as he was at the Last Supper. He is really present here. It adds a focus to our prayer.”

And praying before the Blessed Sacrament is a reminder to Msgr. Schaedel of just how important the Eucharist is for him and for all the faithful.

“If we don’t have the Eucharist, we don’t have

the Church,” he said. “The Church didn’t invent the Eucharist. It’s the treasure. It’s the gem. It’s the pearl of Catholic life.”

‘Blessed Sacrament is the heart of the Church’

If the Eucharist is the source and summit of the life of the Church, then it should guide and strengthen Catholics toward the goal of their life’s journey: spending eternity with God in heaven.

Father George Plaster has aided Catholics in the last steps of that journey in his 23 years of ministry as a hospital chaplain.

There have been countless times when Father Plaster has given Communion to the sick and dying in his chaplaincy ministry in Indianapolis, first at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital and for the past 10 years at Franciscan Health.

He recalled giving Communion to a woman named Mary, who was close to death.

“She was anointed, ... received holy Communion and then I, along with her family, prayed the commendation for the dying prayers,” Father Plaster recalled. “When we said the last invocation, she looked at us, took her last breath, and expired.”

“Everyone present would never forget this very sacred moment of Mary’s death. During this pastoral visit, Mary began mentally alert here on Earth and ended entering into eternal life.”

Most of the patients to whom he has given Communion later went home from the hospital. But their time there changed them spiritually, Father Plaster said. He’s seen it in their gratitude for receiving Communion there and in the spiritual healing they receive through it.

“In holy Communion, the Divine Physician, Jesus Christ, is received, offering healing in the recovery process,” Father Plaster said.

His journey to the priesthood began early in life and followed a path through the Eucharist.

“At a young age, I came to my earliest appreciation of the divine presence of Christ in holy Communion,” Father Plaster said. “This appreciation developed as I grew into adulthood, and I eventually felt called by God through the divine presence to the priesthood.”

The faith of the Catholics he’s served in hospitals and parishes have strengthened him in his ministry and love for the Eucharist.

“God and faithful Catholics have continually formed me into the priest I am today,” Father Plaster said. “Most people probably have no idea the impact they have in continually forming their priests.”

“Those who sincerely believe in the holy Eucharist remain faithful Catholics for life. Despite ongoing changes in the world, in their lives, and in the Church, and despite scandals, their faith in the eternal truths and teachings have not been threatened. Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the heart of the Church and the heart of my life as a priest.”

(For information on a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, visit HearGodsCall.com.) †



Msgr. Joseph Schaedel, pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, speaks on July 6, 2021, to Bishop Bruté Day participants in the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel on the grounds of Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis. In 1989, Msgr. Schaedel helped to start the chapel, the first perpetual adoration chapel in the archdiocese. (File photo by Sean Gallagher)



Archindy 2022 Eucharistic Revival 2025

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“It’s a source of edification,” he



Father Anthony Hollowell shares a moment of joy on June 10 with Hubert and Eulalae Hagedorn in St. Mark Church in Perry County, where the priest is the pastor and the couple are members. The couple celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on that day. Father Hollowell has said that his prayer before the Eucharist increases his bond with his parishioners. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

At 52, newly ordained Jesuit priest from Richmond ‘never felt closer to Christ’

By Natalie Hoefler

When a priest of the Divine Word Missionaries visited the former St. Andrew School in Richmond in the 1970s, young student Joseph Kraemer was intrigued.

“They traveled all around the world, and growing up in a small town, I thought that sounded so good,” says the Richmond native.

He continued to feel a call to the priesthood through his teenage years and beyond.

And he did become a priest—but not until this summer at the age of 52. He was ordained a priest of the Society of Jesus (known more commonly as the Jesuits) and now serves in prison ministry in the state of Washington.

How did such an early calling evolve into such a late one?

“I always thought there was plenty of time—until there wasn’t,” says Father Joe, who prefers the informal form of his name.

Following is the story of Father Joe’s vocational journey—with stops in Washington, D.C., New York City and Los Angeles—and the call that almost got away.

‘You’re young now, but keep in touch’

Father Joe was raised in the former St. Andrew Parish in Richmond, now a part of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in the east-central Indiana city, and graduated from its former elementary school, now a part of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School.

“I know that going to Catholic school had everything to do with hearing my call,” says Father Joe. “I was taught by Franciscan nuns, and they were very faithful in having a vocations day every year. That’s when I learned about the Divine Word Missionaries.”

Around the age of 13 or 14, he learned that Xavier University in Cincinnati was a Jesuit school and told his dad he would like to learn about the Jesuits.

“So, my dad took me to talk with them,” Father Joe recalls. “I had a great talk with their vocations director. He said, ‘You’re a little young now, but keep in touch.’”

“I didn’t imagine it would be nearly 40 years later.”

Rather than Xavier, Father Joe went to Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Mich., majoring in English with an emphasis in Shakespeare. His first job after graduation was with The Shakespeare Theatre at Folger in Washington, D.C.

From there he moved to New York to help develop and run the Playwrights Program at The Juilliard School. For 15 years, he nurtured the talent of young actors and playwrights while simultaneously teaching dramatic writing at New York City’s Barnard College.

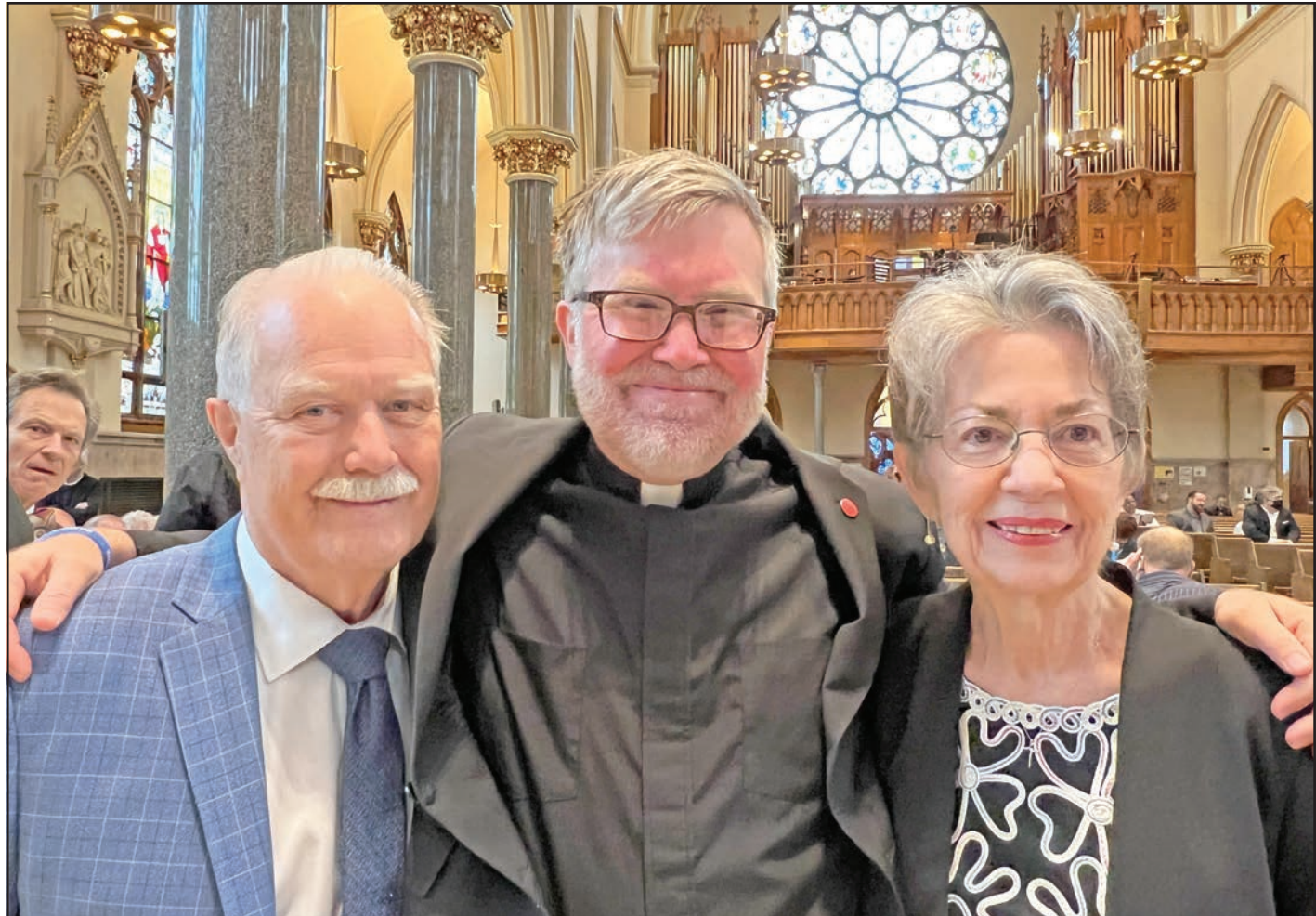
It was also while living in the Big Apple that Father Joe sold a show he co-wrote to Warner Bros. Television.

At one point, a friend introduced him to a son of Martin Sheen. The family owned a film production company on the Warner Bros. lot, and soon Father Joe was off to Los Angeles to work as creative director for their company.

It wasn’t long after that when scandal revolving around Charlie Sheen led to the closing of the company.

Father Joe was in his early 40s. Out of work, he frequented Mass celebrated by Jesuit priests at the chapel of Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

It was there that he met Jesuit Brother Jim Siwicki—who just happened to be a Jesuit vocations director.



Newly ordained Richmond native Jesuit Father Joseph Kraemer smiles with his parents Mike and Melanie Kraemer in Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee on June 11. His parents raised him in the former St. Andrew Parish in Richmond, now part of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, where Mike and Melanie worship. (Submitted photo)

‘The clock had been ticking’

Father Joe recalls Brother Jim’s response upon learning he had considered the priesthood from a young age: “If you’re thinking you’d like to be a priest, this needs to be the year you apply or else start thinking of another way to serve the Church.”

Reflecting on his career to that point, Father Joe says he wasn’t consciously “turning my back” on the call to be a priest.

“When you’re young, you think you have all the time in the world,” he says. “I thought, ‘I’ll just do this here and that there,’ and all of a sudden 20 years are gone.”

All the while he had remained active in his faith—going to Mass, volunteering with service ministries.

He says he was in his early 40s when he spoke with Brother Jim.

“I thought that was pretty young,” Father Joe says. “But I guess the clock had been ticking all along. Most Jesuits take 10-12 years of formation, and I was already in my early 40s. [Brother Jim] lit a fire under me. There was this sense of, ‘It’s now or never.’”

When Father Joe applied to be formed as a priest for the Society of Jesus, it was not pressure from Brother Jim that led him to choose the Jesuit order.

“I associated them with academic success,” he says. “I had done teaching in New York and loved teaching. When I found out the Jesuits are called to teaching, that academic charism appealed to me.”

There was also his chat with the vocation director at Xavier, and his favorite priest growing up was a Jesuit.

But more importantly, says Father Joe, was the exploration he did of various orders by participating in “come-and-see” weekend retreats.

The retreats “give you a sense of what life is like in that order,” he says. “You pray with them, you talk with them, you eat with them, you get to know them.”

During the retreat time he spent

with the Jesuits, he found he not only appreciated their academic call and their social justice works, but he felt at home with them.

“They were joyful, funny and had a sense of humor,” Father Joe recalls. “I was able to see these great, normal guys, and they fit my extroverted nature.”

He was accepted to become a novice for the Jesuit’s California Province (now the West Province) in 2013 at the age of 43.

‘I never felt closer to Christ’

Because he already had an undergraduate degree, Father Joe was able to shorten his time in formation.

“I hurried my philosophy degree by doubling up on classes,” he adds. “And I felt consoled at all the different steps in my formation—the philosophy studies, the [pastoral] work, the theology.”

Father Joe was ordained on June 11. He celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Andrew Church of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish on June 28.

“I really enjoyed my formation,” he says. “But I have to say I was excited to be done with formation and get ordained and get busy with the work.”

Father Joe served as a priest for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton temporarily while the parish’s administrator Father Sengole Gnanaraj was on vacation, then began his first assignment as a Jesuit priest—serving in prison ministry in the state of Washington.

“I didn’t expect to end up in prison ministry,” he admits. “It’s been challenging but very graced so far.”

“Doing the work I do now, I never felt closer to Christ. It’s hard work ... but I always, always find Christ in the sharing they do, in listening with compassion and kindness and trying to bring humor into a dark space. ... I definitely find God’s presence in the ministry I’ve been placed in.”

‘Look for those affirmations’

Father Joe has three pieces of advice when it comes to priestly and religious vocations. The first is to do what he did: explore numerous orders.

“I can’t emphasize enough going to meet members from different orders,” he says. “Go to meet with them, talk with them.”

“Especially go on ‘come-and-see’ retreats they offer, including diocesan retreats. Nothing gives more information of an order’s charism and the type of people in an order than being with them for a day or two.

“The Holy Spirit can tell you a lot about the feelings you have. If you feel excited, consoled, that can be very telling.”

Second is for those considering a call to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life to ask the thoughts of those who know them well.

“You can think [the decision] is all about you and God, but sometimes it’s the people around you who can guide you,” says Father Joe. “Ask your parents, your friends, relatives you’re close to: ‘Can you see me as a priest?’ It’s good to look for those affirmations from those who know you the best. Always be mindful of those around you and what they see you being called to.”

Father Joe’s final advice regarding vocations revolves around the role of the family.

“I know deep in my heart that I never would have found myself on the road to my vocation if not for my parents,” he says. “Everything I try to do reflects the love they showed me and my two brothers. They took us to church every week, sent us to a Catholic school. They prioritized developing in faith, even having dinner with all of us together, saying grace.

“That sense of community, the need to be in communion, to sit and eat and listen to others—I wouldn’t have learned that any other way.”

Father Joe says the role of the family in developing vocations extends beyond the four walls of the home.

“When I go to speak about vocations, there are usually a lot of grandparents,” he says. He tells them, “Don’t underestimate your power as grandparents to say, ‘I think you’d be a good priest’”—even if it takes nearly 40 years for the planted seed to grow. †

Terre Haute Discalced Carmelite nuns have been witnesses of prayer for 75 years

By Sean Gallagher

TERRE HAUTE—In 1947, a small group of Discalced Carmelite nuns from the then-Monastery of the Resurrection in Indianapolis founded a new monastic community on the southern outskirts of Terre Haute.

Their goal was simple: to live out faithfully each day a life of communal and personal contemplative prayer in the Carmelite tradition.

It's a vocation that emerged in the Church about 1,000 years ago and underwent a significant reform about 500 years ago that was led by St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross.

On Oct. 8, 11 of the 13 members of the Discalced Carmelite Monastery of St. Joseph in Terre Haute fittingly celebrated the 75th anniversary of their community's founding through prayer—a festive Mass in the monastery chapel. Two nuns did not take part because of illness. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson was the principal celebrant of the liturgy. Many friends and benefactors of the monastery also came to pray with the nuns.

In the Discalced Carmelite tradition, monastic communities are small by design, with no more than 21 members. They also don't have ministries outside their monasteries, such as teaching in schools or serving in hospitals. Their vocation is to daily pray for the Church and the world within their cloistered community.

In his homily during the Mass, Archbishop Thompson praised the life of prayer in the Monastery of St. Joseph.

"Through the witness of prayer, penances and contemplative life, barriers are being torn down," he said. "Today's world—so polarized by radical individualism, ideologies, opposing agendas, preference for the subjective over objective truth and disregard for the sanctity of human life as well as creation itself—is in need of such witness."

Archbishop Thompson praised the Discalced Carmelite nuns of Terre Haute, calling them "saintly women of God ... who continue to listen to the voice of the Lord, call upon the Holy Spirit, draw from the well of prayer and lead others to the living water of Jesus Christ."

Prior to the celebration, Discalced Carmelite Mother Mary Joseph Nguyen, the monastery's prioress, and Discalced Carmelite Sister Anne Brackman, who entered the community in 1959 and is one of its former prioresses, spoke with *The Criterion* about the anniversary and their Carmelite vocation.

"Even in the midst of the busyness



Discalced Carmelite nuns of the Monastery of St. Joseph in Terre Haute sing on Oct. 8 during a Mass to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of their community. (Photos by Sean Gallagher)

of preparing for this anniversary, the Mass and mental prayer have remained our priority," said Mother Mary Joseph. "Everything is centered around prayer and liturgy. That gives us the energy to go out and do the extra work and activity for the celebration."

As the senior member of the community, Sister Anne has seen a lot of changes in the life of the monastery through the 62 years since she arrived in Terre Haute. A new monastery and chapel were built. Land was added to the monastery campus. New members have joined it. Older ones have died.

She said none of those changes touches at the heart of the Discalced Carmelite vocation and how it affects the rest of the Church and the world.

"You can't put that into words or pictures," Sister Anne said. "It's nothing tangible. Our life is intangible. Only God knows what is going on in the heart of every Carmelite, the love and the spiritual energy that is being generated in the soul of every Carmelite. It is only God who takes the effects of this and spreads them out to the rest of the world."

The spiritual energy that flows from the Monastery of St. Joseph has remained the same through the decades, even if the nuns who have lived, prayed



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson poses on Oct. 8 at the Carmelite Monastery of St. Joseph in Terre Haute with three of its members: Sister Emily Marie Nguyen, left, Mother Mary Joseph Nguyen and Sister Marianna So.

and died there come from countries around the world.

Today, its nuns are from Great Britain, the Philippines, South Korea, and the U.S.

This development of an intercultural community began in the early 2000s when Sister Anne was serving as prioress.

She said that the nuns there at the time approached this change with "serious discernment."

"If the community hadn't been prepared to accept people and engage in a deeper study of what it means to be an intercultural community, it could have ended in a disaster," said Sister Anne.

But through their discernment, the community prepared itself to open its doors to women called to contemplative prayer from many cultures. It's a process that continues today.

"A great part of it is listening to the stories of the different cultures," Sister Anne said. "Listening is so important. If you think that you know everything and you know this person, you really don't."

The success of the internationalization of the community is seen in the fact that it is now led by Mother Mary Joseph, who was born in Vietnam and moved as a

young adult with her family to the U.S. in the early 1990s.

She entered the monastery—which members of the order call a "Carmel"—in 2004 when she was in her early 30s.

"When something is right for you, you just feel happy and a deep joy," she said. "When I entered the Carmel of Terre Haute, I just felt that I was at home. I felt like I had been planted in the right soil. The whole life seemed to me to be what God created me for."

Mother Mary Joseph said the community's anniversary is a moment for its members to look to the past in gratitude and to the future in hope.

"God has carried us on the wings of his divine love," she said. "He will continue to carry us into the future. We don't know what the future will look like. But we know who we believe in and who we have placed our hope in.

"Our hope is that we'll continued to live our Carmelite vocation passionately, faithfully and joyfully. That will be a witness to the world through the way that God wants to use us."

(For more information about the Discalced Carmelite Monastery of St. Joseph in Terre Haute, visit heartsawake.org.) †



Discalced Carmelite Mother Mary Joseph Nguyen, center, sings during an Oct. 8 Mass at the Monastery of St. Joseph in Terre Haute to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding the community. Joining her in song are Sister Maria Nguyen, left, Sister Anne Brackman and Sister Emily Marie Nguyen.



ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

2022-2023 SEMINARIANS

VOCATIONAL SYNTHESIS STAGE

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations (Mt. 28.19)



Deacon José Carlos Neri
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. Monica, Indianapolis



Deacon Jack Wright
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Richmond



vocations@archindy.org | [HearGodsCall.com](https://www.hearGodsCall.com)
317.236.1490



Fr. Eric Augenstein
Director of Seminarians



Fr. Mike Keucher
Director of Vocations

CONFIGURATION STAGE

I am the Good Shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me (Jn. 10.14)



Tyler Huber
Pastoral Internship
St. Mary-of-the-Knobs,
Floyds Knobs



Anthony Armbruster
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. Malachy, Brownsburg



Sam Rosko
Saint Meinrad Seminary
Holy Rosary, Indianapolis



Bobby Vogel
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. Joseph,
Jennings County



Thomas M. Day
Saint Meinrad Seminary
Holy Rosary, Indianapolis



Liam Hosty
Mount St. Mary's
Seminary - Cincinnati
St. Barnabas, Indianapolis



Aaron Noll
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. Bartholomew,
Columbus



Timothy Tam Khuishing
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. Mark the Evangelist,
Indianapolis



Isaac Siefker
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. John the Apostle,
Bloomington



Kristofer Garlitch
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. Mary, North Vernon



Sam Hansen
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. Roch, Indianapolis



Khaing Thu
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. Mark the Evangelist,
Indianapolis



Lance Tony
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. Simon the Apostle,
Indianapolis

**Co-sponsored with Diocese of Palayamkottai*

DISCIPLESHIP STAGE

As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love (Jn. 14.9)



Casey Deal
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. Charles Borromeo,
Bloomington



James Hentz
Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary
St. Michael, Greenfield



Randy Schneider
Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary
All Saints,
Dearborn County



Nathan Thompson
Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary
St. Ann, Jennings County



Emiliano Enriquez De Alva
Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary
St. Ambrose, Seymour



Alexander W. Lindberg
Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary
St. Joseph,
Jennings County



Robert McKay
Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary
St. Ann, Indianapolis



Noah Sherman
Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary
St. Mary, North Vernon



Matthew Maples
Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary
St. Ann, Jennings County



Aidan Smith
Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary
St. Bartholomew,
Columbus

PROPAEDEUTIC STAGE

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths (Mk. 1.3)



Aidan Hauersperger
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. Joseph,
Jennings County



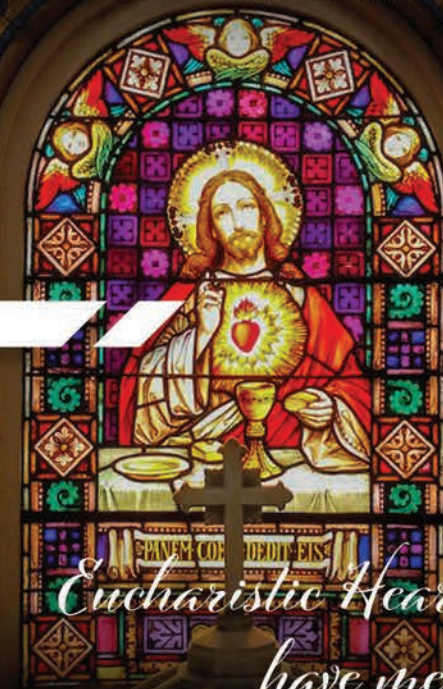
Seth Hickey
Saint Meinrad Seminary
Mary, Queen of Peace,
Danville



Chase LaCoursiere
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. John the Apostle,
Bloomington



Ryan Moshak
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. Patrick, Terre Haute



*Eucharistic Heart of Jesus,
have mercy on us!*





RELIGIOUS IN FORMATION

2022-2023



Sr. Maria Nguyen of the Holy Family, OCD
Sisters of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Terre Haute
Temporary professed



Sr. Anna Fan, SP
Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods,
Temporary professed



Sr. Emily Tekolste, SP
Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Anthony, Indianapolis
Temporary professed



Sr. Teresa Kang, SP
Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods,
Temporary professed



Sr. Jessica Vitente, SP
Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods,
Temporary professed



Sr. Leslie Dao
Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods,
Novice



Sr. Mary Lily among Thorns McCann, SSVM
Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara, All Saints, Dearborn County
Temporary professed



Sr. Evelyn Lobo, SSps
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, St. Monica, Indianapolis
Temporary professed



Sr. M. Evangeline Rutherford, OSF
Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, St. John the Evangelist, Indianapolis
Temporary professed



Sr. Mary Peter Ruschke, OSF
Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Batesville
Temporary professed



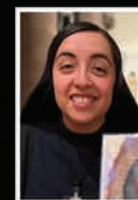
Sr. Mary Amata Naville, OSF
Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, St. Mary, Navilleton
Temporary professed



Sister Israel Mercy Magnificat
Sisters of Life
Novice



Sr. Agnes Mary Graves, RSM
Religious Sisters of Mercy, St. John the Evangelist, Indianapolis
Temporary professed



Sr. Maria Guadalupe Figueroa, RSM
Religious Sisters of Mercy, St. Anthony, Indianapolis
Temporary professed



Sr. Magdalene Maria Schafer
Daughters of the Holy Mary of Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis
Temporary professed



Sister Mary Paul, FSGM
Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, Indianapolis
Novice



Sr. Stephanie Pahren
Missionaries of Charity, St. Michael, Brookville
Aspirant



Sr. Maria Gemma Barnett, SOLT
Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington
Temporary professed



Sister Cheyenne Johnson
Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, Nashville, TN
Postulant



Br. Michael Reyes, OSB
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN
Temporary professed



Br. Gregory Morris, OSB
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN
Temporary professed



Jose Angel Romero-Olivas
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN
Novice



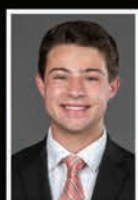
Br. Dominick Jean, OP
Order of Preachers - Province of St. Albert the Great, St. Vincent De Paul, Bedford
Temporary professed



Br. Leonard Easlick
Order of Preachers - Province of St. Albert the Great, Mary, Queen of Peace, Danville
Novice



Benjamin Sasin, CSC
Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers, St. John the Evangelist, Indianapolis
Temporary professed



Josh Amodeo
Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers, SS. Francis and Clare, Greenwood
College Seminarian



Br. Alberic Henry, OCSO
Abbey of Gethsemani, Our Lady of Greenwood, Greenwood
Temporary professed



Taylor Fulkerson, SJ
Society of Jesus - Midwest Jesuits, St. Mary, Lanesville
Regency



Ben Jansen, SJ
Society of Jesus - Midwest Jesuits, SS. Francis and Clare, Greenwood
Philosophy Studies

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Order of Friars Minor Cincinnati Province of St. John the Baptist.
franciscan.org



Marian University students strengthen relationships with Franciscan sisters

By Sara Geer

OLDENBURG—During the last few years, the COVID-19 pandemic changed how schools and universities operated, replacing face-to-face contact with digital technologies. At Marian University in Indianapolis, this shift in communication made it difficult for students, staff and other part of the campus community to build new and maintain existing relationships with each other and beyond the campus.

With classes back operating normally, five Marian students living at the school's Dorothy Day House, an intentional faith community, have chosen to rekindle those lost relationships as part of their "Communication for Intentional Communities" course for a minor in peace and justice studies.

The class—which this year consists of just the five women—meets every three weeks and focuses on living out Pope Francis' teachings of showing "ecumenical hospitality" or "intentional hospitality."

"The discussion is very much peer-led," said Michelle Dickert, a junior studying social work. "We talk about what we want to get done, what we want our projects to be or how to reach the greater community. We formulated this community within ourselves. Now how can we spread that outward?"

The women decided to put what they've learned into action by sending out invitations to student groups on campus to join them for a meal and discussion.

"We want to be able to have a space where people can feel safe and acknowledged," said Mariangel Morales-Aparicio, a Marian junior studying nursing. "So, this semester has been mostly inviting people over, having dinner and talking and sharing ideas together."

The women are also able to extend invitations to organizations and groups off campus.

One relationship the women have diligently been trying to find ways to strengthen is with the Franciscan sisters in Oldenburg, the order that founded Marian University.

The sisters greatly appreciated the opportunity to build relationships again with students of Marian and excited to share about living in community and their passion for advocating for peace and justice—a Franciscan value the university was founded upon.

"It's important for us to be involved in classes like this because we are all about social justice," Franciscan Sister Kathleen Branham, the order's vocations director, said. "I thought it was very important to not lose that at Marian University, and I wanted to see how we could be involved with the students in collaboration together. We wanted to be more involved."

The sisters are welcome to attend the class to discuss a variety of topics—from living in a community to social justice issues.

Franciscan Sister Noella Poinsette, director of the order's Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, shared that she presented to the students about "advocating for tax justice, the homeless, immigrants and the lower 80% of the population."

She noted that she started visiting the Clay County U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE] Detention Center in west-central Indiana town of Brazil to build relationships with the inmates and immigrants housed there. The five women are joining her on her next visit.

"When some people are



Mariangel Morales-Aparicio, left, Daniela Ochoa, MaryClare Swick, and Michelle Dickert, all students at Marian University in Indianapolis, who live in community on the campus, are taking a course titled "Communications for Intentional Communities." Members of the Oldenburg Franciscans are assisting with the class. (Submitted photo)

invisible or ignored or dismissed, we're throwing them away," Sister Noella said. "Pope Francis talks about the throwaway society, that we're basically throwing away the gifts, the dignity of all these people who some label as different because of their religion or no religion or the color of their skin or their gender . . . It's too easy to toss people aside and be about yourself. We are all sisters and brothers."

The sisters have also shared with the women about living in "intentional community" and what that means for their order.

"The Dorothy Day House is an intentional community, and we are a community that could offer some insight on how we live together," Franciscan Sister Susan Marie Pleiss, formation director, said. "We can also offer some translations into how, as they continue to live together, to discover the ins-and-outs and ups-and-downs of community."

Sister Susan also mentioned the sisters are always welcome to receive and answer questions about community from the students, who are still learning how to live together and discover their greater purpose on campus. The conversations shared with the students gives the sisters



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—Franciscan Sister Kathleen Branham

much hope for the future.

"They are very passionate about accepting one another, growing together," Sister Susan said. "It's energizing for us to go and be with them."

"They are passionate about making a difference in the world," added Sister Noella, "erasing some of the inequities."

Deeb Kitchen, an associate professor of sociology and director of the peace and justice studies minor at Marian, said the class not only opens the students' minds about peace and justice issues, but helps them discover their own gifts and talents.

"Because they do have an engagement requirement, it allows them to really

discover their gifts and talents and utilize them," Kitchen said. "Because as they start realizing the capacities that they have individually, and as a community, you see people not only understand what they have but discover that there is so much more around them. You get to see them create things and take ownership of what they engage in, and as a teacher that is what we love to see."

Kitchen added the Franciscan sisters add much to campus life and continuing to promote the Franciscan values the university is built upon. It benefits everyone involved, he noted.

"It's the first time that the sisters have been involved in any kind of sustained, ongoing way" with the Peace and Justice Studies program, Kitchen said.

"In the past, Sister Noella used to come to class routinely and has always been such a huge supporter with everything that we did. So, there has been a relationship there, yet it's certainly been much more intentional this year."

(Sara Geer is a freelance writer and a member of St. Louis de Montfort Parish in Fishers, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese. To learn more about the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg, visit oldenburgfranciscans.org.) †



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—Franciscan Sister Noella Poinsette