



The

# Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



## Twenty Something

'Fully alive': the summertime invitation to glorify God, page 12.

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Roman Caito, a member of St. Michael Parish in Greenfield, kneels on June 26 in the courtyard of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis to receive a blessing from newly ordained Father Jack Wright during Bishop Bruté Days, the annual vocations camp of the archdiocesan vocations office. Newly ordained Father José Neri, right, joined Father Wright in offering blessings to lines of camp participants. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

## Record number of Bishop Bruté Days' participants celebrate faith and fun

By Sean Gallagher

MOORESVILLE and VINCENNES, Ind.—The more than 100 boys who took part in Bishop Bruté Days from June 26-28 threw themselves completely into whatever they were doing.

Dozens who filled one of three school buses on a pilgrimage to the tomb of the Servant of God Bishop Simon Bruté in Vincennes, Ind. (Evansville Diocese), sang with gusto

such varied songs as John Denver's "Take Me Home, Country Roads" and Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody."

Yet on that same bus ride, their voices blended together in praying the Liturgy of the Hours and the rosary.

At Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary in Indianapolis and at St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville—a stop on the June 27 pilgrimage's return to the seminary—the boys poured their hearts

See BRUTÉ DAYS, page 9

## Pope Francis names 21 cardinals, including U.S.-born Archbishop Prevest

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis named 21 new cardinals, including U.S.-born Archbishop Robert F. Prevest, who took the helm at the Dicastery for

Bishops in April, and French Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States.



Cardinal-designate Christophe Pierre

The pope announced the names after his recitation of the *Angelus* with the faithful in St. Peter's Square on July 9.

He said he would formally install the

cardinals during a special consistory at the Vatican on Sept. 30.

Cardinal-designate Prevest expressed his joy upon hearing the announcement, he said in an interview with Vatican News on July 10.

"Certainly I felt happy for the recognition of the mission that has been entrusted to me—which is a very beautiful thing—and at the same time I thought with reverence and holy fear: I hope I can respond to what the pope is asking of me. It is an enormous responsibility, like when he called me to Rome as prefect," he said in Italian.

"I see it as the continuation of a mission that the pope has decided to give me," he added.

Speaking in English, Cardinal-designate Prevest said it is not a coincidence that Pope Francis scheduled the consistory before the start of the first general assembly of the synod on synodality, saying he is firmly convinced that "all of us are called to walk together."

The new cardinals represent more than a dozen countries on five continents. Three of the new cardinals are current Vatican officials, three are current or retired apostolic nuncios, 13 are current or retired heads of archdioceses around the world, one is a rector major of the Salesians and one is a 96-year-old confessor in Buenos Aires. Six belong to religious orders; two of them are Jesuits.

See CARDINALS, page 8

## Filled with emotions and memories, Dottie King steps down as the president of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College

By John Shaughnessy

When you leave a place you love, a place where you have given your all to help people grow in strength, faith and love—a place that also helped you to grow in strength, faith and love—the emotions begin to pour out at some point.

That was the reality for Dottie King in the last week of June as she packed up her office at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, ending her 21 years there, including the past 13 as the school's president.

"I'm feeling a lot of emotions this week," she said on June 26. "It's a

See SMWC, page 8

Dottie King gives a hug to a graduate of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in St. Mary-of-the-Woods during a May 2023 commencement ceremony. After 13 years as president of the college, King stepped down from that post at the end of June. (Submitted photo)





# Indiana Supreme Court upholds law restricting abortion on demand

By Natalie Hoefler

Indiana's 2022 law protecting most unborn lives from abortion, which has been under a preliminary injunction



Marc Tuttle

since Sept. 22 of last year, was declared constitutional by the Indiana Supreme Court in a ruling released on June 30.

The law limits abortion up to 10 weeks gestation in instances of rape or incest, up to 20 weeks gestation

in cases of lethal fetal anomalies, or when the mother's life is in danger from specific medical issues. It also requires that abortions take place at a hospital or a hospital-owned surgery center, essentially shutting the doors of abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood in the state.

Unless the plaintiffs—Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers—seek a rehearing, the law will go into effect on Aug. 1, according to a June 30 article at the online *Indiana Capital Chronicle*.

Meanwhile, a second suit against the law, based on the grounds of religious freedom, is making its way through the state's appellate courts. While a preliminary injunction was placed on the law as result of this case, the *Indiana Capital Chronicle* notes that this "injunction only applies to the plaintiffs in the case"—Hoosier Jews for Choice and four anonymous women.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson lauded the June 30 decision.

"The Church applauds all efforts of the state, including its courts, to safeguard the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human being from the moment of conception to natural death," he told *The Criterion*. "Let us not waver in our care for both mother and child, both persons and families."

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita released a statement after the ruling,

declaring, "We celebrate this day—one long in coming, but morally justified. Thank you to all the warriors who have fought for this day that upholds LIFE."

Right to Life Indianapolis president Marc Tuttle also weighed in on the ruling, calling it a "big victory."

"This is a big victory in the fight to protect the life of unborn babies, and to protect pregnant mothers from the often lifelong trauma of abortion," Tuttle said in a statement. "This case is also a victory in that Indiana was the first state to pass pro-life legislation since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* [in June 2022], making it clear there was never a right to abortion established in the U.S. Constitution.

"Now the work ahead is to ensure that we, as loving and compassionate Hoosiers, provide the support that pregnant mothers and their babies need to thrive and succeed."

### A decision nine months in the making

After the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on June 24, 2022, overturning the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion,



Todd Rokita


Indiana became the first state to initiate a special session of its General Assembly to reassess the state's abortion law in place at the time.

The result was Senate Bill 1. It became Senate Enrolled Act 1 (SEA 1) when it was

signed into law on Aug. 6, 2022. The law, which greatly increased the legal protection afforded to unborn children in the state, went into effect on Sept. 15, 2022.

Just seven days later, a preliminary injunction was placed on the law in a legal challenge filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) that claimed the law violated the Indiana constitution. The injunction put back into place

Indiana's abortion law as it stood prior to Sept. 15, which allowed abortion up to 20



## Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

July 14–August 7, 2023

**July 21**  
National Eucharistic Congress Board site visit, Indianapolis

**July 27 – 6 p.m.**  
Annual priest and seminarian cookout, Indianapolis

**July 28-August 7**  
World Youth Day, Lisbon, Portugal

weeks gestation, including at independent abortion centers.

The Indiana Supreme Court heard oral arguments for the case on Jan. 19, taking about five months before declaring SEA 1 does not violate the Indiana constitution.

As for the religious freedom suit filed against SEA 1 last fall, Rokita has filed three appeals now making their way through the Indiana Appellate Courts: one against the case itself; one against a preliminary injunction on SEA 1, with oral arguments to be heard on Sept. 12; and one against a Marion County judge's June 6 decision to grant the case "class action" status.

### Indiana became 'an abortion destination'

The cost of unborn lives due to the preliminary injunction in the ACLU case was extensive. According to the



Mike Fichter

Indiana Department of Health's recently released Termination of Pregnancy report, nonresident abortions were up significantly in 2022.

"This was the result of abortion-industry hysteria, pre-emptive pro-life laws in Ohio and Kentucky that went into effect upon the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, the time it took for Indiana's legislation to pass, and judicial activism blocking Indiana's new law from being in effect," said Mike Fichter, president and CEO of Indiana Right to Life, in a July 7 press release. "Together this combination

of actions doomed Indiana to become an abortion destination state. This is exactly what we warned would happen, and it did."

The result was 9,529 abortions in the state in 2022. According to the press release, that figure is the largest annual number since 2010. The majority of Indiana abortions in 2022 were performed at abortion clinics, with nearly half conducted at Planned Parenthood locations.

"Sadly, the 2022 reported abortion complications increased by 600% over the number of abortion complications reported in 2021," said Fichter. "Abortion is traumatic to women—mentally, emotionally, and the state's latest report underscores abortion presents real life-threatening complications as well."

The press release noted that there were 100 reported abortion complications in 2022, including one death, uterine perforation, incomplete abortions (retained tissue) and cervical laceration. Most of the complications—72%—arose from medical rather than surgical abortions.

"Last year was, essentially, open borders on abortion, despite the will of millions of loving and compassionate Hoosiers represented in the passage of SEA 1," Fichter said in the press release. "We are hopeful the recent Indiana Supreme Court ruling ends this exploitation by abortion businesses in Indiana. Each day the law remains inactive is another day where Indiana becomes the final and fatal destination for unborn babies." †

# Track options announced for National Eucharistic Congress next July

Criterion staff report

Track options for the National Eucharist Congress on July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis, have been announced. They are summarized below. Individual speakers and session topics within each track will be announced soon. More information can be found at [cutt.ly/NEC2024Tracks](http://cutt.ly/NEC2024Tracks).

• **Encounter Track: Jesus Is Calling You Deeper.** These sessions are for anyone who desires a deeper renewal of their faith and a richer understanding of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and who wants to embark on the next step of their faith journey. Experience the energy, unity, and inspiration of powerful Catholic conferences—but on a whole new scale. This track will be available in English and Spanish.

• **Eucharistic Missionary Track: Practical Tools for Evangelization.** These smaller, more intimate sessions

are for anyone who wants practical tools to become a "Eucharistic Missionary," evangelizing their community and taking on a deeper role in spreading the Gospel to those around them.

• **Ministry Track: Revive Your Spiritual Life and Apostolates.** These sessions are for any person who serves in a parish, diocesan, or other ministry role, whether you are paid, volunteer, part time, or full time. If you are a ministry leader and would like to connect with others who share your challenges and mission, then this is a fantastic way for you to participate at the Congress.

• **Youth Track: Empower Young Catholic Disciples.** These sessions are for teenagers ages 14-18, including those who are entering high school in the fall or recently graduated the previous spring. Teenagers must register with an adult, a family, or a youth group.


• **Family Track: Become a Eucharistic Family.**



## NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

This experience is intentionally designed for parents or caregivers and children to attend together, with activities, talks, and prayers that will speak to every family member. Families with children aged 13 and younger will find these sessions to be particularly impactful. Older children are welcome either to attend with their family or to join a group and attend the Youth sessions during the day.

For more information about the National Eucharistic Congress or to register, go to [eucharisticcongress.org](http://eucharisticcongress.org). †



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# Father's approach to sports and people guides next CYO director

By John Shaughnessy

As the next executive director of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Jack Schmitz wants to follow the example of the one person who has had the greatest impact on his life.

Being the only child of his parents, Donald and Sheri, Schmitz spent a lot of time in his childhood with his dad, who was the athletic director and boys' basketball coach for 25 years at St. Lawrence Parish in Lafayette, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese.

"I was always his sidekick in the gym," Schmitz recalls. "He always had a strong connection to CYO and just loved being around it. Seeing him in that role, I saw the positive impact it had on so many people, not only in sports but how much it affected them in life. I just wanted to follow in his footsteps."

The 39-year-old Schmitz then became emotional thinking about his father who died unexpectedly when Schmitz was 13.

"He accepted everyone for who they were. And he helped them out in any way that he could. He never knew a stranger and was friends with everybody. He just always gave back so much of his time to CYO and the parish. Without a doubt, I think he's played a part in this."

Schmitz shared his memories of his father a few days after the archdiocese announced on June 8 that he will become the next executive director of CYO when Bruce Scifres retires on Aug. 31 at the age of 66.

Scifres praised the selection of Schmitz, who has served first as the development director of CYO and now as the boys' athletic director in his two years with the organization.

"First and foremost, Jack is just a really good person," Scifres says. "He is a devout Catholic with a great work ethic and a strong moral compass. His calm demeanor and great sense of humor make him a real joy to be around. His people skills and ability to effectively communicate will serve him quite well in this position."

Schmitz's selection also drew praise from Brian Disney, the superintendent of

Catholic schools for the archdiocese who also oversees CYO.

"Jack has been a positive force for the past two years in his roles at CYO, and we are thrilled to have him rise to the position of executive director," Disney says. "I look forward to working with him to ensure a bright future for CYO and all of the youths who benefit from its activities and mission-driven leaders."

Schmitz says he's "humbled" by his selection, adding, "The best part of this opportunity to serve in this role is to be a part of something bigger than myself. The immense impact that this organization has on people is incredibly fulfilling, and I'm so thankful to be involved with it."

The combination of their Catholic faith and CYO means a great deal to him and his wife of 12 years, Danialle, who grew up being involved in CYO as a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.

The couple first met at Marian University in Indianapolis, where he played baseball, and she played softball. Now members of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Danville, they hope their Catholic faith and CYO have a similar positive impact on their three children—Morgan, 10, Grant, 7, and Beau, 5.

"In my own personal experience, growing up in Catholic schools and CYO helped strengthen and guide my life," Schmitz says. "I want the same thing for my children. To be around great people, the family atmosphere of CYO and the Catholic community, I don't think it gets any better than that in preparing you for life and helping you to become the best version of yourself."

That's also the ultimate goal he has for the 20,000 children and youths who participate in CYO activities in the archdiocese each year.

The pursuit of that goal is partly achieved through the eight sports that CYO offers to both girls and boys. Schmitz stresses that the goal is also achieved through the fun, faith-filled and year-round efforts of Camp Rancho Framasa, the CYO camp in Brown County.

"One of the coolest parts of the camp is seeing how inclusive it is," says Schmitz, who earned a bachelor's degree in sports management from Marian and a master's

degree in that same field from Illinois State University. "To see kids from all different backgrounds be able to enjoy camp and to have opportunities for kids with special needs to enjoy camp is just a phenomenal thing."

Schmitz smiles as he shares some of the touching conversations he's had with campers. One camper told him, "I can be myself here." Another said, "I feel I belong here."

"That's great because sometimes athletics aren't for all children," he says. "To have those different experiences through camp, our music contests and our chess program is such a well-rounded way of helping prepare kids for life."

While Schmitz appreciates the different ways that CYO activities provide new experiences for children and youths, he also wants to be open and inclusive in his future leadership of the organization.

"The volunteers, coaches and parents that are involved in CYO are so vital to the success of the organization," he says. "From this office, I want to extend as much of an appreciation for what they do and to get out to meet those people, listen to them and hear their ideas for the future of CYO."

"We've done a lot of great things, and we're currently doing a lot of great things, but there's always an opportunity for certain changes to be made and certain ideas. I just want to be as visible as I can



Jack Schmitz will become the next executive director of the archdiocese's Catholic Youth Organization when Bruce Scifres retires on Aug. 31. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

throughout all the parishes and schools and let them know how much of a direct relationship we have in serving the kids throughout CYO."

He views such cooperation as all leading to a shared goal—continuing to have the Catholic faith be the foundation of CYO for everyone involved in it, both children and adults.

He has embraced that faith at the core of his life.

"I don't know where I would be without my faith. I really believe my faith carried me through the loss of my father. And I truly believe that it's been a calling to join CYO. To be the next executive director is just a wonderful blessing." †


**Saint Michael The Archangel Parish, Indianapolis, is celebrating our 75th Anniversary this year!**  
Our Celebration will be September 23rd & 24th. On the 23rd of September we are having a Reverse Raffle and Silent Auction. We need sponsors and donors for our Celebration Weekend! We will have three levels of Sponsorship: Patron Level of \$150 will be listed in our 75th Anniversary Book. Angel Level of \$300 will be an Ad Space in our book and Archangel Level of \$500 will receive ad space in the book as well as listed on our 75th Anniversary Tee Shirts. Donations from companies in the form of gift certificates and/or baskets or services are also welcomed for the Silent Auction Evening. Donors will be listed in the book as well. Families of 2023 Graduates are welcome to run congratulations ads for Angel Level Donations as well. Please Contact Katie Monnett at 317-926-7359 ext. 1 or [katie@saintmichaelindy.org](mailto:katie@saintmichaelindy.org) for more information. Tickets are now on sale for the Reverse Raffle. Lic.# 2571



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**In Jesus' name, Amen.**



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## Editorial

# Contempt is not Catholic

How many times have we read or watched or listened to someone whose opinion of a public figure in society or in the Church is nothing but pure contempt? How often are we exposed to critical arguments that are based not on facts or rational thinking, but on emotions ranging from simple dislike to unbridled hatred?

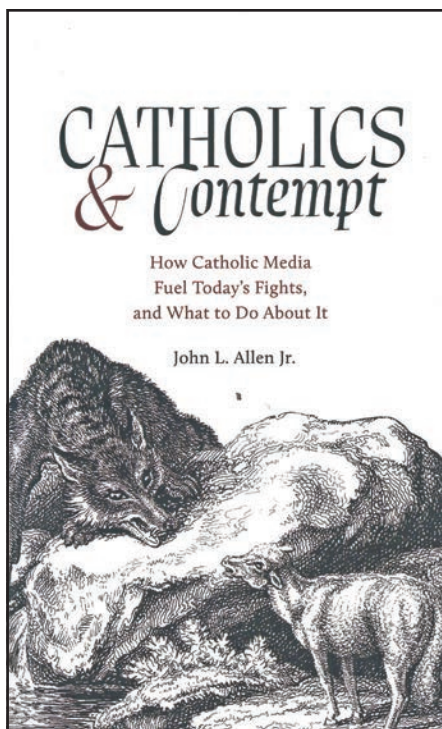
According to John L. Allen, Jr., editor of *Crux* and a 25-year veteran of Catholic journalism, “In social media, on cable talk shows, in newspaper editorials, and on internet blogs, it seems what drives traffic and lights up the scoreboard isn’t a patient search for understanding, but rather cheap shots at people perceived to be political, ideological and cultural enemies.” All too often, this sad situation into which contemporary journalism has lapsed also applies to individuals and media outlets who claim for themselves the title “Catholic.”

Allen recently published a book, *Catholics and Contempt: How Catholic Media Fuel Today’s Fights, and What to Do about It* (Word on Fire, 2023) that describes how both mainstream and extremist news sources on both the right and left of Catholic thinking distort their coverage of people and events in the Church. Secular media also skew their reporting based on preconceived ideas of what the Catholic Church is or isn’t doing, but Allen contends that media organizations aligned with Catholic causes too often “fuel the flames” by disingenuous reporting on popes, their policies and the impact their teaching has on the daily lives of Catholics.

*Catholics and Contempt* names names and gives vivid examples of how “narratives” are created that govern the way stories unfold. He says for example, that long before his election as Pope Benedict XVI, the narrative surrounding Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was set in stone. He was portrayed as a rigid, doctrinaire conservative, even as a former Nazi. As a result, everything he said and did was perceived by many as unacceptable, contrary to the spirit and teaching of Vatican II, and therefore bad for the Church. Allen takes great pains to show that “the Ratzinger Narrative” is absurd, but he admits that many individuals and groups still perpetuate these false claims about this gentle, kindly pope who loved the Church and who was fully dedicated to carrying out the teachings of the Second Vatican Council as he understood them from his personal experience and extensive study.

Allen also provides what he calls a “counter-narrative” that was quickly developed when Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio was elected as Pope Francis. In fact, Allen says, there are two counter-narratives surrounding our current Holy Father.

One narrative is used by those who applaud the pope’s teaching and actions as powerful signs that the Church is alive and well in the modern world, striving to respond to issues of grave concern such as migration, climate change, outreach



to the poor and marginalized, and eager to cast off rigidity and conformity in its teaching and practice.

The opposite narrative portrays Pope Francis as a threat to all that the Church has held dear for 2,000 years. Many people, especially those who are most unhappy with changes that are taking place under Pope Francis, argue that his actions undermine both the teaching authority and the devotional life of Catholicism.

Both sides have their powerful media outlets. As a result, contradictory, contemptuous narratives are spun constantly from both the left and the right. Social media is the loudest, most vulgar and most unrelenting source for “fake news,” but Allen shows that no one who seeks to communicate what is happening in the Church today is immune from the effects of the conflicting ideologies that infiltrate contemporary thinking in the Church and in society.

So what does *Catholics and Contempt* propose? Unfortunately, as Allen admits, he’s much clearer about what not to do about these false, contemptuous narratives than he is about what we should do to stop them from coloring our perspective on all things Catholic.

Changing culture, including the culture of contempt, takes time and patience.

Above all, it requires that we all refuse to let ourselves be sucked into emotions and mindsets that portray those we disagree with as beneath consideration, worthless or deserving scorn.

If we are faithful to our Catholic understanding that every person is made in the image and likeness of God, and therefore worthy of courtesy and respect, we can learn to disagree seriously without being rude or offensively.

Contempt is not a Catholic virtue. It has no place in our public or private conversations.

—Daniel Conway

Be Our Guest/Sr. Constance Veit, L.S.P.

## Bring generations together this summer

This summer, Catholics around the world are invited to participate in two exciting, interrelated events in the life of the Church. The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will take place on Sunday, July 23, and World



Youth Day is being celebrated in Lisbon, Portugal, during the first week of August.

To highlight his desire for the young and the old to deepen their bonds with one another, Pope Francis chose to draw the themes of these

two celebrations from a single biblical passage—that of the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, found in the first chapter of St. Luke’s Gospel.

This biblical passage is often associated with the Advent season, since the Visitation occurs between the angel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary that she would become the mother of the Savior, and the birth of her Savior-Son in Bethlehem.

But echoes of the Visitation are quietly woven into our daily prayer life as Catholics. Part of the traditional Hail Mary prayer—“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb” (Lk 1:42)—is drawn from Elizabeth’s greeting to her young cousin when the Virgin arrived to visit her.

The *Magnificat*—the exuberant hymn of praise to God sung by Mary during the Visitation—is repeated every evening, year-round, by all those who pray the Liturgy of the Hours.

As we sing this canticle day after day, it imprints itself on our memories and on our souls.

But I think that even as we repeat the Hail Mary and the *Magnificat* each day, we tend to take for granted the encounter from which these texts were born.

By focusing our attention on the Visitation this summer, Pope Francis is inviting us to find new meaning in this scene.

In his messages for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly and World Youth Day, the pope presents the Visitation as a significant intergenerational encounter.

“In the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth, between young and old, God points us toward the future that he is opening up before us,” he wrote. “Indeed, Mary’s visit and Elizabeth’s greeting open our eyes to the dawn of salvation: in their embrace, God’s mercy quietly breaks into human history amid abundant joy.”

Pope Francis continued, “I encourage everyone to reflect on that meeting, to picture, like a snapshot, that embrace between the young Mother of God and the elderly mother of St. John the Baptist, and to frame it in their minds and hearts as a radiant icon.”

Following the pope’s advice, we could add the first chapter of St. Luke’s Gospel to our summer reading list, especially verses 39-56!

The pope is asking us to do more than just frame an image of the Visitation in our minds, however. He is also inviting us “to make a concrete gesture that would include grandparents and the elderly.”

He challenges us, “Let us not abandon them. Their presence in families and communities is a precious one, for it reminds us that we share the same heritage and are part of a people committed to preserving its roots. ... Let us honor them, neither depriving ourselves of their company nor depriving them of ours. May we never allow the elderly to be cast aside!”

To the pope’s suggestions that we reflect on the biblical text of the Visitation and make a concrete gesture to include the elderly in our lives, I would like to add a third suggestion for this summer.

Just as it is important for the young to reach out to the old, the opposite is also true. If you are an older adult with young people among your relatives or neighbors, why not honor the spirit of World Youth Day by reaching out to them with a gesture of welcome or support?

Pope Francis really believes that the young won’t make it without their elders.

He has said that if older people do not reach out to the young, the latter “will no longer see the things that must be done to open up the future. ... If grandparents fall back on their melancholies, young people will look even more to their smartphones. The screen may stay on, but life will die out before its time.”

Let’s do all we can to make sure that life does not die out before its time!

Whether you are young, like Mary, or older, like her cousin Elizabeth, this summer set aside some time to reach out to someone who is not from your own age cohort. If you do, your life, and the lives of others, will be richly blessed.

(*Little Sisters of the Poor Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.*) †

*Just as it is important for the young to reach out to the old, the opposite is also true.*

## 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](mailto:criterion@archindy.org). †



ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO CHARLES C. THOMPSON



# Christ the Cornerstone

## Find peace and joy as Jesus relieves our burdens

*“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light” (Mt 11:28-30).*

Last weekend, we celebrated the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt 11:25-30). The Gospel we read contains one of the paradoxes of Jesus’ teaching.

On the one hand, he invites all who are anxious and weary to come to him to find rest. On the other hand, he requires that we accept an additional burden (his “yoke”) and learn from him. In other words, to relieve ourselves of the burdens we are afflicted with (physical, mental or spiritual), we must commit ourselves to “taking up our cross” and following Jesus no matter how much it costs us.

A “yoke” is a wooden crosspiece that is fastened over the necks of two animals and attached to a plow or cart that they are to pull. It is not something that is used to harness a single beast of burden. A yoke helps its bearers to

work together to achieve their purpose. It can be seen as an analogy for the kind of discipline that liberates us from the chaos and disorder that prevent us from collaborating in our efforts to build a better world.

Jesus assures us that his yoke is easy, and his burden is light. Still, we too often resist surrendering our will to God. Jesus experienced this same human resistance, but he overcame it. As a result, he suffered the cross, the greatest burden imaginable. In the end, however, he triumphed over life’s greatest obstacles—sin and death. Now, he invites us to do the same—to “let go and let God” and to freely accept a sacrificial love that is much more liberating than burdensome.

As St. Paul told us in the second reading (Rom 8:9, 11-13), it is the Holy Spirit that transforms the burdens we freely take on as missionary disciples of Jesus and frees us from sin and death. “If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,” Paul says, “the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you” (Rom 8:11). If we

open our minds and hearts to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, no weight will be too much for us to carry. And if we see in our sisters and brothers the same Spirit, we will be moved to join with them in carrying our burdens lightly and easily as Jesus has promised.

The first reading for last Sunday in the Book of Zechariah described the joy that we are invited to experience once we have surrendered our difficulties to God and accepted the responsibilities that come with fidelity to God’s will. As the prophet proclaims:

*Thus says the Lord: Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass. He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem; the warrior’s bow shall be banished, and he shall proclaim peace to the nations. His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth. (Zec 9:9-10)*

Peace and joy are the fruits of our labor as men and women who collaborate with Jesus in his saving

work. Meekness and humility, not aggressive forms of pride and self-will, are what lift us from our daily preoccupations. Above all, care and concern for the needs of others free us from self-pity and the preoccupation with our own difficulties whatever they may be.

Paradoxically, the burden that Jesus imposes on us is not burdensome. The “easy” yoke that he asks us to bear is not difficult; it is meant to keep us all together, pulling in the right direction, as we continue the Lord’s saving work in our world. With Jesus, we are invited to pray: “I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and Earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones” (Mt 11:25).

Together, let’s rejoice in the burden that God’s love imposes on us. Let’s shout for joy that we are bound together—in freedom—and given the magnificent opportunity to proclaim peace to the nations and comfort to all who are weary.

Christ’s yoke is easy, and his burden is light. Let us rejoice in him now and always! †



# Cristo, la piedra angular

## Encontremos la paz y la alegría mientras Jesús alivia nuestras cargas

*“Vengan a mí todos ustedes, los agotados de tanto trabajar, que yo los haré descansar. Lleven mi yugo sobre ustedes, y aprendan de mí, que soy manso y humilde de corazón, y hallarán descanso para su alma; Porque mi yugo es suave y mi carga es liviana” (Mt 11:28-30).*

El pasado fin de semana celebramos el decimocuarto domingo del tiempo ordinario (Mt 11:25-30). El Evangelio que leímos contiene una de las paradojas de la enseñanza de Jesús.

Por un lado, invita a todos los que están ansiosos y cansados a venir a acudir a él para encontrar sosiego. Por otro lado, nos exige que aceptemos una carga adicional (su “yugo”) y que aprendamos de él. En otras palabras, para aliviarnos de las cargas que nos afligen (físicas, mentales o espirituales), debemos comprometernos a “tomar nuestra cruz” y seguir a Jesús sin importar cuánto nos cueste.

Un “yugo” es un travesaño de madera que se coloca sobre los cuellos de dos animales y se fija al arado o al carro del que van a tirar. No es algo que se utilice para enjaezar a una sola bestia de carga. El yugo ayuda a los que lo llevan a trabajar

juntos para lograr su propósito. En este sentido, puede considerarse como una analogía del tipo de disciplina que nos libera del caos y el desorden que nos impiden colaborar en nuestros esfuerzos por construir un mundo mejor.

Jesús nos asegura que su yugo es fácil y su carga, ligera. Aun así, con demasiada frecuencia nos resistimos a rendirnos a la voluntad a Dios. Jesús vivió esta misma resistencia humana, pero la superó y en consecuencia, tuvo que llevar y sufrir en la cruz, la mayor carga imaginable. Sin embargo, al final triunfó sobre los obstáculos más grandes de la vida: el pecado y la muerte y ahora, nos invita a hacer lo mismo: a soltar y a dejar que Dios obre, y a aceptar libremente un amor sacrificado que es mucho más liberador que gravoso.

Como nos dijo san Pablo en la segunda lectura (Rom 8:9; 11-13), es el Espíritu Santo el que transforma las cargas que asumimos libremente como discípulos misioneros de Jesús y nos libera del pecado y de la muerte. “Y si el Espíritu de aquel que levantó de los muertos a Jesús vive en ustedes, el que levantó de los muertos a Cristo Jesús también dará vida a sus cuerpos mortales por medio de su Espíritu que vive en ustedes”

(Rm 8:11). Si abrimos nuestras mentes y corazones a los dones del Espíritu Santo, ningún peso será demasiado para llevar. Y si vemos en nuestras hermanas y hermanos el mismo Espíritu, nos sentiremos movidos a unirnos a ellos para llevar nuestras cargas de forma ligera y fácil, como Jesús ha prometido.

La primera lectura del domingo pasado en el Libro de Zacarías describía la alegría que se nos invita a experimentar una vez que hemos entregado nuestras dificultades a Dios y aceptado las responsabilidades que conlleva la fidelidad a la voluntad de Dios. Como proclama el profeta:

*Así dice el Señor: “¡Lléname de alegría, hija de Sión! ¡Da voces de júbilo, hija de Jerusalén! Mira que tu rey viene a ti, justo, y salvador y humilde, y montado sobre un asno, sobre un pollino, hijo de asna. Yo destruiré los carros de guerra de Efraín y los briosos caballos de Jerusalén, y los arcos de guerra serán hechos pedazos. Tu rey anunciará la paz a las naciones, y su señorío se extenderá de mar a mar, y del río Éufrates a los límites de la tierra” (Zac 9:9-10).*

La paz y la alegría son los frutos de nuestra labor como hombres y mujeres que colaboran con Jesús en

su obra salvadora. La mansedumbre y la humildad, y no las formas agresivas del orgullo y la voluntad propia, son las que nos elevan de nuestras preocupaciones cotidianas. Sobre todo, el cuidado y la preocupación por las necesidades de los demás nos liberan de la autocompasión y de la preocupación por nuestras propias dificultades, sean cuales sean.

Paradójicamente, la carga que Jesús nos impone no es gravosa. El yugo “fácil” que nos pide que llevemos no es difícil de cargar; está pensado para mantenernos todos juntos, tirando en la dirección correcta, mientras continuamos la obra salvadora del Señor en nuestro mundo. Con Jesús, se nos invita a rezar: “Te alabo, Padre, Señor del cielo y de la tierra, porque estas cosas las escondiste de los sabios y de los entendidos, y las revelaste a los niños” (Mt 11:25).

Alegrémonos de la carga que nos impone el amor de Dios y gritemos de alegría porque estamos unidos, libremente, y se nos ha dado la magnífica oportunidad de proclamar la paz a las naciones y el consuelo a todos los que están cansados.

El yugo de Cristo es fácil y su carga, ligera. ¡Regocijémonos en él ahora y siempre! †



# Events Calendar

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

## July 19

Calvary Mausoleum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. **Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-784-4439, [catholiccemeteries.cc](http://catholiccemeteries.cc).

## July 20

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. **Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-574-8898, [catholiccemeteries.cc](http://catholiccemeteries.cc).

## July 21

Northside Events and Social Club, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, Dr. Casey L. Delcoco, founder and CEO of Magnificat Family Medicine, LLC, "Health Care the Catholic Way: Christ-centered for the Whole Person—Mind, Body and Spirit," rosary 6:35 a.m., Mass 7 a.m., buffet breakfast and program following, \$18 members, \$24 non-members. Register by 4 p.m. on July 18. Information, registration: [cutt.ly/CBE-Reg](http://cutt.ly/CBE-Reg).

## July 21-23, 28-30

Lutheran High School Auditorium, 5555 S. Arlington Ave., Indianapolis. **Agape Performing Arts presents "The Hunchback of Notre Dame,"** suitable for ages 11 and older, VIP tickets \$15, adult \$10, children ages 11-13

\$5. Information, tickets: [cutt.ly/agapehunchback23](http://cutt.ly/agapehunchback23).

## July 22

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. **Faithful Citizens Rosary Walk**, 10:45-11:45 a.m., meet in front of church. Information: [holyrosary.prolife@gmail.com](mailto:holyrosary.prolife@gmail.com).

Northside Events and Social Club, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **17th Annual Tropical Tribute Pool Party**, 7-11 p.m., Bishop Chatard High School Joe and Barb Krier Grant Foundation fundraiser, \$35. Information, registration: 317-370-6970, [sherrymp@comcast.net](mailto:sherrymp@comcast.net).

Parkside Lanes Bowling Center, 815 S. County Rd. 200 W., Greensburg. **Covenant Resources Miscarriage Ministry Bowling and Putt-Putt Fundraiser**, 2-8 p.m., proceeds benefit Covenant Resources Miscarriage Ministry, prizes, food and ice cream available for purchase, \$5 per game for bowling or Putt-Putt, shoe rental \$3, purchase tickets onsite. Information: 812-212-3463, [covenantresources.org](http://covenantresources.org).

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 21 N. 16th St., Beech Grove. **Altar Society**

**Rummage Sale**, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., proceeds support church and school, free admission. Information: 317-702-4910, [p108cmaster@sbcglobal.net](mailto:p108cmaster@sbcglobal.net).

## July 22-23

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Circle of Friends Summer Retreat**, 10 a.m. Thu.-4 p.m. Fri., retreat for adults with developmental disabilities, \$85 double occupancy, \$90 single occupancy, commuter \$12 per meal, \$12 for T-shirt, sponsored by archdiocesan Disabilities Ministry. Information, registration or to volunteer: 317-236-1448, [jbryans@archindy.org](mailto:jbryans@archindy.org).

All Saints Parish, St. Martin Campus, 8044 Yorkridge Rd., Guilford. **Chicken Dinner and Summer Festival**, Sat. 5-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., food, beer garden, kiddie land, 14 Stations of the Eucharist exhibit, \$10,000 raffle, Sat. music by Misty Creek, chicken dinner served Sun. 11 a.m., free admission. **5K Country Run**, Sun. 9:30 a.m., \$22.34 with T-shirt (register by July 19), \$17.02 no T-shirt, register at [lnkiy.in/StMartin5K23](http://lnkiy.in/StMartin5K23). Information: 812-576-4302.

## July 23

Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, Pump House Studio, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. **Bluegrass Jam**, 5:30 p.m., free. Information: [franciscansusa.org/bluegrass-jam](http://franciscansusa.org/bluegrass-jam).

## July 26

McGowan Hall, 1305 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis. **Theology on Tap**, 6-9 p.m., summer speaker series for young adults ages 18-39, free admission. Information: [emastronicola@archindy.org](mailto:emastronicola@archindy.org), 317-592-4006.

## July 28-August 7

Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, Foley Room, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Summer Used Book Sale**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Information: [Events.SistersofProvidence.org](http://Events.SistersofProvidence.org), 812-535-2952.

## July 29

St. Pius X Parish, 7200 Sarto Dr., Indianapolis. **St. Vincent de Paul Stuff-A-Truck**, 9-11 a.m., accepting clothing, household goods, linens, furniture, bicycles, helmets locks and backpacks. List of items most needed: [cutt.ly/ItemsNeeded](http://cutt.ly/ItemsNeeded). Information: [dweeney@svdpindy.org](mailto:dweeney@svdpindy.org).

Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **God's Plan for Human Sexuality Conference**, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Institute Amar al Máximo founder Evan Lemoine, FertilityCare/NaPro Technology consultant Dr. Casey DelCoco, Catholic therapist Jonathan Chamblee, \$25 individual, \$40 couple, includes continental breakfast, register by July 15. Information, registration: 317-800-9306, [ccorona@archindy.org](mailto:ccorona@archindy.org), [cutt.ly/GP4HS23](http://cutt.ly/GP4HS23).

## July 30

St. Augustine Parish, 18020 Lafayette St., Leopold. **Church Picnic**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. CT, \$12 fried chicken dinners, ice cream, hamburgers, raffles, quilt raffle, quilt wheel, free admission. Information: 812-843-5143, [staughc@psci.net](mailto:staughc@psci.net).

## August 2

MCL Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, 5:30 p.m., Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles—separated, widowed or divorced—age 50 and older, new members welcome, also call about regular Friday night dinner events. Information: 317-796-8605.

## August 3-5

Holy Spirit Parish, 7243 E. 10th St., Indianapolis. **Holy Spirit Festival**, Thurs. 6-11 p.m., Fri. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 1 p.m.-midnight, live music, midway rides, food, beer and wine, bingo, Monte Carlo, Texas Hold 'Em, silent auction, rummage sale, parking shuttle available at 7140 E. Washington St., free wrist bands provided to parishioners after Masses, non-parishioner admission \$10 in festival tickets, children younger than 12 free, minors under 18 unaccompanied by an adult not admitted. Information: [holyspiritfestival.org](http://holyspiritfestival.org), [festival@holyspirit.cc](mailto:festival@holyspirit.cc), 317-353-9404.

## August 4-5

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 523 S. Merrill St., Fortville. **Summer Festival**, Fri. 6-10 p.m.: Bingo Night, \$35; Sat. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.: children's games, food, raffle, silent auction, free admission. Information: 317-485-5102.

St. Susanna Parish, 1210 E. Main St., Plainfield. **Backyard Bash**, Fri. 6-10 p.m., Sat. 1-10 p.m., raffle, games, food, live music, bounce houses, free admission. Information: 317-839-3333, [info@saintsusanna.com](mailto:info@saintsusanna.com). †

## Retreats and Programs

For a complete list of retreats as reported to The Criterion, log on to [www.archindy.org/retreats](http://www.archindy.org/retreats).

### July 27-August 31

Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, Pump House Studio, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. **Trees: A Conversation**, exhibit of paintings by Hagan and Joe McGee, opening reception 6 p.m. July 27, gallery hours through Aug. 31: Mon. and Wed. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Thu. 4-7 p.m., free. Information:

[lnkiy.in/treesconversation23](http://lnkiy.in/treesconversation23).

### July 30

**Virtual You Are Not Alone Session: The Healing Journey Forward with Suicide Loss**, 4-6 p.m., second of three stand-alone Zoom sessions, Sister of Providence Connie Kramer and Lisa Thibault presenting, 4-6 p.m., session two of

three stand-alone sessions, Sister of Providence Connie Kramer and therapist Lisa Thibault presenters, free will offering, registration required. Registration: [ftm.retreatportal.com/events](http://ftm.retreatportal.com/events), 317-545-7681, [lcoons@archindy.org](mailto:lcoons@archindy.org).

### July 31, August 7

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St.,

Indianapolis. **"The Chosen" Season 3: Discussion and Dinner Series**, 5:30-8:30 p.m., seventh and eighth

of eight sessions, episode viewing and discussion, \$16 per session, includes dinner, popcorn and

refreshments. Registration: [ftm.retreatportal.com/events](http://ftm.retreatportal.com/events), 317-545-7681, [lcoons@archindy.org](mailto:lcoons@archindy.org). †

## Wedding Anniversaries

**EMERY AND JOANN (HAAS) MAPES**, members of St. Lawrence Parish in Lawrenceburg, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 7.

The couple was married in St. John the Baptist Church in Harrison, Ohio, on June 7, 1958.

They have 10 children: Theresa Broering, Connie Hughes, Cynthia Macke, Nancy Macke, Susan Stange, Emery, John, Joseph, Paul and Tony Mapes.

The couple also has 36 grandchildren and 38 great-grandchildren.



**MICHAEL AND JUDY (VOYLES) QUINN**, members of St. Louis de Montfort Parish in Fishers, Ind. (Lafayette Diocese), formerly of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 29.

The couple was married in Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis on June 29, 1963.

They have three children: Anne Bartholomew, Chris and Michael Quinn.

The couple also has seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



**STEVE AND SHARON (COKER) COFFMAN**, members of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood, will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on July 20.

The couple was married in Holy Name of Jesus Church in Beech Grove on July 20, 1968.

They have 10 children: Christine Brooks, Mary DeVore, Catherine Quinn, Diane Spotts, Stephanie TenBarge, J. Stephen II, James, Joseph, Michael and Robert Coffman.

The couple also has 28 grandchildren.



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

## Mental Health and Addiction Healing Mass with Archbishop Thompson is set for Aug. 10

The Mental Health and Addiction Ministry Healing Mass, to be celebrated by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, will take place at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 10. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 6 p.m.

The Mass is for all those suffering from mental health difficulties and addiction, their families and those involved in addressing mental health issues.

Following the Mass, Archbishop

Thompson will offer individual blessings, and prayer teams will conduct prayer sessions with those who need extra prayer time in the cathedral. At the same time, refreshments and resources will be available in the cathedral rectory parlor adjoining the cathedral until 9 p.m.

The Mass is sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Human Life and Dignity. For additional information, contact Brie Ann Varick at 317-236-1543 or [bvarick@archindy.org](mailto:bvarick@archindy.org). †

## Sidewalk advocate training will take place on Aug. 5 in Lawrenceburg

Dearborn County Catholics and Cincinnati Right to Life will offer abortion center sidewalk advocate training in the St. Lawrence School cafeteria, 524 Walnut St., in Lawrenceburg, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Aug. 5. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m.

The training is designed for those who feel called to be a witness to the sanctity of the life of unborn children. No special skills are needed—just a humble desire to reach out in love to those experiencing an unplanned

pregnancy, and a willingness to volunteer as a sidewalk advocate or prayer partner outside abortion facilities after training is completed.

The training is free, though freewill donations will be accepted. Workbooks, snacks and lunch will be provided.

The deadline to register is Aug. 1.

To register or for more information, contact Pat Conwell at 812-290-3574 or Sara Yunger at 859-801-1293, or visit [cutt.ly/DCSidewalk23](http://cutt.ly/DCSidewalk23). †



# St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: three churches, one faith community

By Natalie Hoefler

The history of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond is a story with five chapters. Chapters one through three involve the founding of three parishes: St. Andrew in 1846, St. Mary in 1859 (just a half-mile from St. Andrew), and Holy Family in 1953 (about a mile from St. Andrew and St. Mary).

The 1980s ushered in the fourth chapter as the three faith communities began to work in unison. In 1995, one priest was assigned to head the three parishes as the Richmond Catholic Community.

The fifth chapter launched in 2016 when the parishes united to form one faith community. A poll for a new parish name resulted in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, in honor of the two local parochial schools: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (pre-K through grade 6) and Seton High School (grades 7-12).

But the story isn't over. It continues as the parish serves the community, educates children and seeks to make disciples.

## Making a difference in Richmond and beyond

The parish's largest ministry is its two schools and their ability to both provide a stellar education and to evangelize, says Father Sengole Gnanaraj, the parish's administrator. He notes that 40% of the high school's students are not Catholic.

"Some have been exposed to Christianity, some not at all," he says. "Our priority is the Catholic identity in the schools."

Mass, daily prayer, opportunities for confession and service projects are among the ways "the schools evangelize non-Catholics, exposing them to God," says Father Gnanaraj. "Our schools have been a huge blessing to the Richmond community."

So has the parish's participation in the Tri-County Good Samaritan St. Vincent de Paul conference, along with members from the



parishes of St. Gabriel in Connersville and St. Bridget of Ireland in Liberty.

"They're really active," he says. "They do a furniture ministry, they offer Changing Lives Forever and they're opening a building soon to expand to [offering] cooking classes and budgeting classes."

The parish also helps those in need by annually donating to the Wayne County Trusteeship.

"They take care of the homeless and hungry in Richmond and the whole county," explains Father Gnanaraj. "They have a system in place, so we help the poor and homeless in Wayne County through them."

One recent source of "pride and excitement" in the parish was celebrating two sons of the parish being ordained priests in the last two years. Jesuit Father Joseph Kraemer was ordained on June 11, 2022, and Father Jack Wright was ordained on June 3. He now serves as parochial vicar of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis.

With three worship sites, each church building offers something unique, says Father Gnanaraj.

Completed in 1901, St. Andrew Church has "beautiful stained-glass windows," he says. "I use them during school Mass to help teach the children about the life of Christ."

St. Mary Church was completed in 1909. Built by the same architect who designed SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis, it is a smaller version of archdiocese's cathedral.

Holy Family Church, built in 1979, boasts a new outdoor Stations of the Cross. The church also hosts adoration, confession, Vespers and Benediction twice a week for the parish.

"We have 30-40 people show up each time," says Father Gnanaraj. "When people leave confession, they see all these people praying, like they're being brought back into the community."

He is also excited about something else coming back to the community: the parish's annual Chocolate Fest.

"We used to have over 1,000 people show up, with chocolatiers and vendors. We had to stop it because of COVID," he says. "But we're bringing it back next year on Jan. 27."

Father Gnanaraj invites all to worship with the members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

"The Richmond Catholic community is known for its openness," he says. "Our members are very welcoming and very generous."

"Please come worship with us—and bring your friends! God wants to see us all together adoring, worshipping and praising as one family."

Go to [www.setoncatholics.org](http://www.setoncatholics.org) for Mass times and church locations.

## Choose your path: forest, music trail or Underground Railroad

There is a wealth of culture within the boundaries of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish to make for a fun day or weekend trip that includes Mass at one (or more!) of the parish's churches.

Known as "The Birthplace of Recorded Jazz," Gennet Records in Richmond is where greats like Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and Hoagy Carmichael cut their first albums. Founded in 1917, Gennet Records studio and record plant was instrumental in spreading jazz, country and Gospel music in the country prior to the Great Depression. The studios no longer exist, but the Gennet Walk of Fame is a sidewalk trail embedded with medallions and information honoring the many artists and bands that recorded there. The trail begins at 201 S. 1st Street.

Music and the arts thrive in Richmond, says Father Gnanaraj. He notes that parishioners are involved in the Richmond Symphony Orchestra ([richmondsymphony.org](http://richmondsymphony.org), 765-966-5181) and the Richmond Theater ([richmond-theater.com](http://richmond-theater.com), 844-765-8432). He also recommends the Richmond Art Museum ([richmondartmuseum.org](http://richmondartmuseum.org), 765-966-0256) and the Wayne County Historical Museum ([wchmuseum.org](http://wchmuseum.org), 765-962-5756).

One particular historic site of note is the Levi Coffin Home in Fountain City, about 9 miles north of Richmond. Built in 1839, it became known as "The Grand Central Station of the Underground Railroad." For 20 years, the Coffins provided food, clothing, shelter and transportation to slaves seeking freedom. The site consists of the home and an interpretive center—named in 2016 by the Smithsonian as "one of 12 new museums around the world to visit." It's located at 201 US Highway 27 in Fountain City. For more information,



From top to bottom, St. Andrew, Holy Family and St. Mary churches, all part of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond. (Submitted photos)

hours or to purchase tickets, go to [cutt.ly/CoffinHome](http://cutt.ly/CoffinHome) or call 765-847-1691.

Those who prefer the outdoors will like Hayes Arboretum—330 acres of hiking and biking trails through woods, flora and fauna native to Indiana. An old-growth beech and maple forest on the grounds includes trees as old as 450 years. The site includes two Adena and Hopewell native American mounds, a nature center, a playspace, a geology collection featuring at least one of every rock type native to Indiana and more. For more information and hours of operation, go to [hayesarboretum.org](http://hayesarboretum.org) or call 765-966-1931.

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

# Gabriel Project helps moms at several locations in central Indiana

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

## Gabriel Project

Through parish Gabriel Project ministries, trained volunteers called "angels" support pregnant mothers' choice for life through emotional and spiritual assistance and accompaniment. Some parish ministries also help meet pregnant mothers' material needs in the form of donated items.

At least six Gabriel Project chapters exist at parishes in Brownsburg, Greenwood, Indianapolis and Plainfield, as reported to *The Criterion*.

There are also two Gabriel Project resource centers in Indianapolis offering material support to pregnant mothers; a local hotline and website; and a Gabriel Project ministry doing business as 1st Choice for Women Pregnancy Care Center in Indianapolis.

**Hotline:** 833-9937-4968 (317-946-3813 *en Español*) for pregnant mothers to be connected with local help.

**Website:** Go to [www.goangels.org](http://www.goangels.org) for information on abortion pill reversal and to learn about ways to support Gabriel Project financially, through donated items and through volunteering.

## Resource centers in Indianapolis:

- St. Joseph Parish, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. Open Thursdays 1-4:30 p.m.

- St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, 4720 E. 13th St., Indianapolis. Mothers in need can call Anita at 317-918-0997 to arrange a meeting time.

Both resource centers help any pregnant or parenting woman regardless of location. Both offer clothes, diapers, wipes, baby shampoo, lotion, bathtubs, baby towels and washcloths, activity mats, strollers, bounce seats and other baby items as donated. They CANNOT take used cribs, used mattresses or used car seats.

**Current needs at St. Joseph location:** diapers size 3, 5 and 6, diaper bags, pack-and-plays, strollers, bathtubs, bottles, activity mats and a steady supply of baby wash and baby lotion. Do NOT need clothing. Items can be ordered online and delivered to Linda Kile, 5616 Nodlehls Crt., Indianapolis, IN, 46221.

**Current needs at Little Flower location:** clothes, baby wash and lotion, wipes, any size diapers, pack-and-plays, new car seats, strollers, bathtubs, bottles, activity mats, baby toys. Call Anita at 317-918-0997 to arrange a meeting time.

## 1st Choice for Women Pregnancy Care Center:

Currently being renovated. In need of 1) experienced grant writer (volunteer), and 2) financial donations for renovation. Make donations online at [www.goangels.org](http://www.goangels.org) or send a check made out to The Gabriel Project to: The Gabriel Project, P.O. Box 422, Camby, IN, 46113. Also, go to [sevenweekcoffee.com/?ref=1st](http://sevenweekcoffee.com/?ref=1st) to purchase Seven Weeks Coffee (so named because at seven weeks gestation, a baby is about the size of a coffee bean), and 10% of the purchase price goes to 1st Choice for Women Pregnancy Care Center.

## Parish Gabriel Project ministries

Those wishing to donate money or items or to volunteer for a parish Gabriel Project ministry can reach the ministry leader as follows:

- **SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi**



**Parish, Greenwood:** Parish office, 317-859-4673

- **St. Ann Parish, Indianapolis:** Mike, 317-757-9141

- **St. Malachy Parish, Brownsburg:** Parish office, 317-852-3195

- **St. Monica Parish, Indianapolis:** Steve, 317-875-9817

- **St. Susanna Parish, Plainfield:** Michelle, 317-437-9991

- **St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish:** Anita, 317-918-0997 †

Walking with  
Moms in Need





## SMWC

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mixture of gratitude, thinking about all the people I've worked with through these years. And gratitude to God for allowing me to do this job and to experience all I have. I also feel a lot of sadness about moving on."

On Aug. 1, King will become president of the Independent Colleges



Dottie King

of Indiana, an organization that represents the state's 29 private, nonprofit colleges and universities. Brennan Randolph, a vice president at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, has been named its interim president.

As the emotions flowed for King, so did the tributes for her leadership of the college which was founded by St. Mother Theodore Guérin and which was granted the first charter for the higher education of women in Indiana in 1846.

King was described as "a true daughter" of St. Mother Theodore by Providence Sister Dawn Tomaszewski, general superior of the Sisters of Providence of Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods, the order which sponsors the college.

"As the religious sponsors of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, we entrust our legacy, mission, values and charism to the keeping of the president of the college," noted Sister Dawn. "Dottie has certainly embraced that responsibility. And in all that she has accomplished—and those accomplishments have been significant—she has enhanced that legacy, put forward the values of love, mercy and justice, and operated out of a deep trust in the charism of providence.

"We are very proud of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College at this moment in its history, and we are grateful to Dr. King for her dedication to its mission and for the ways she had led this institution into the future by responding to the needs of students of this time."

*The Criterion* interviewed King in the last week of her presidency of the college, a tenure that included opening the school to men in 2015. Here is an edited version of that conversation.

**Q. Talk about the impact that your 21 years at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College has had on you personally.**

A. "It's been a life-changing

experience. When I came, I was a faculty member. So I loved teaching, but becoming president allowed me to grow my leadership skills. It was a perfect place for me. My faith has always been an extremely important part of my life. So working in an environment that really allowed that to be on display and at the forefront was especially meaningful to me—and was one of the reasons I wanted to come to the Woods. I grew, I stretched and accomplished a lot here. It's been a special, special experience that I will cherish for all of my life."

**Q. What are you most proud of from your 13 years of leading Saint Mary-of-the-Woods as its president?**

A. "When people think of that, they will think of possible accomplishments, but really what I'm most proud of is that I was able to work with the people of the Woods in meaningful ways. I think I was able to understand the gifts that were inside of them and help us to use our gifts together. So really, it's just the work itself, the people, and accomplishing things as a team."

**Q. The college's history revolves around developing young women to become leaders and people of great faith. Talk about the importance of that goal to you.**

A. "When I think about that, I think about Mother Theodore's wisdom of meeting needs in society. She came when girls had no access to education beyond grade school in the Wabash Valley and created a new opportunity for them. So she met a need. That's the story we all know. But she also created a pharmacy, and she created a free school for boys. She was really just meeting the needs of the world in her time.

"As we became a women's college through the 1900s, women were beginning to imagine themselves in roles that went beyond those that were traditional. Some of them were dreaming of careers, and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College really allowed that dreaming opportunity for them, gave them empowerment and put the tools in them that made them successful.

"Now we've expanded our mission to include men, and we're attracting a lot of men of color. I think the world is asking, 'Now, what about these men? How will they be successful in school?' It all is a flowing story. So the women's piece is huge, and I would never minimize it. We are still committed to the empowerment of women—and now men along with them."

**Q. You welcomed men into Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in 2015. Talk about the impact that has had on the college.**

A. "The most immediate impact back then was an uptick in women. Because I had done my homework, I suspected that was what was going to happen. I think the very first year, we had three men. In year two, I think we were at 11. But what we started to see was the number of women going up much faster than the new men coming in. So we immediately made ourselves more attractive to women.

"We did do some things to be legally compliant and encourage men to attend, and that was adding athletic programs. We didn't change any academic programming. Everything we had already been doing for all those years was equally good for men as women. Our percentage of men has now reached about 30%, and that's very close to the national average which is 40-some percent across the country."

**Q. What impact have the Sisters of Providence had on you?**

A. "My words will not be adequate to describe the impact of the sisters. They have been nurturing. They have cared deeply about me. I know they have prayed for me. The great trust they put in me was never lost on me. I took that so seriously."

**Q. What's one of the most important things you've learned about yourself in your time at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods?**

A. "I've learned that in the midst of emotion, there's a strength inside of me. And if I become convinced that something is right, I can go forward in that, even if I'm met with opposition. If I feel compelled that what I'm doing is for the good and for the right, I can go through hard things.

"During the co-education time, when I was being reminded by some angry alums that I was not a graduate of the Woods, I understood that was coming from a place of hurt. But I also felt that hurt. Within a few years, I came to realize something that I would always love and appreciate—that you do not have to be a student of the Woods to be a student of the Woods. This place has impacted me much like it has the generations of students who attended here.

"I feel like I have learned to find a voice and to use it to go out and make a difference in the world. And to know my actions have impact on others, and it

could be good, and it could be bad. And so, I wanted it to be good."

**Q. What do you see as the current state of the college?**

A. "I think the state of the college is strong and good. And most importantly, it's built on strong and enduring values. I see it as a growing school. And I think it's a sustainable growth. We've really worked hard to understand our own foundation and to build upon it.

"We're not trying to do what everyone else is doing. We're trying to be uniquely ourselves. And because of that and our willingness to innovate and our willingness to meet the needs of today's young people, the college is growing. The other thing I would say it's always been a resource-challenged institution, so if we were able to grow an endowment significantly in the coming years, that would be the last thing we need to do to realize a bright future."

**Q. How do you want to be remembered?**

A. "I hope that what people remember the most is that my faith was always a part of what I did, and I always kept that. I always remembered that even in the midst of financial challenges and decisions we were making for strategic reasons that at the heart and soul of this institution was mission. So, I always kept the mission in mind. And I really valued the people I worked with and their ideas. I knew that together we were far better than me alone. I hope those are the things people will remember."

**Q. Anything else you would like to share?**

A. "I would like to share that I worked with three different archbishops during my 13 years as president, and each one has been incredibly supportive. I didn't work very long with Archbishop [Daniel M.] Buechlein, but Archbishop [Joseph W.] Tobin, now Cardinal Tobin, visited the Woods. And I called him on the phone when we were announcing going coed, and he literally prayed a beautiful prayer for me over the phone. And I've enjoyed so much my relationship with Archbishop [Charles C.] Thompson. I hope that continues as I represent all the Catholic colleges in Indiana now.

"So I really want to say I really appreciated the support of *The Criterion*, the archdiocese and the archbishops in Indiana. And I know there a lot of wonderful Catholic people in Indiana that care about Catholic education, and I just want to say thank you to them." †

## CARDINALS

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Continuing a papal custom, among the new cardinals were three Churchmen—two archbishops and a Capuchin Franciscan priest—older than age 80, whom Pope Francis said he wanted to honor because they were particularly deserving because of "their service to the Church." Being over the age of 80, they are ineligible to vote in a conclave.

After the new cardinals are installed in late September, there will be 137 potential voters and the total membership of the College of Cardinals is expected to be 243.

The nomination of Cardinal-designate Prevost brings to 18 the number of U.S. cardinals; after the consistory, the U.S. contingent will include 11 potential papal electors.

Cardinal-designate Prevost, 67, was born in Chicago, and had served as bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, for more than eight years before being appointed to lead the Vatican body responsible for recommending to the pope candidates to fill the office of bishop in many of the Latin-rite dioceses of the world. Recommendations made by the dicastery are typically approved by the pope. Archbishop Prevost has been a member of the dicastery since November 2020.

He also oversees the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, established in 1958 by Pope Pius XII to study the Church in Latin America, where nearly 40% of the world's Catholics reside.

The cardinal-designate holds degrees from Villanova University in Pennsylvania and the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and a doctorate from

the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. An Augustinian friar, he joined the Augustinian mission in Peru in 1985 and largely worked in the country until in 1999, when he was elected head of the Augustinians' Chicago-based province. From 2001 to 2013, he served as prior general of the worldwide order.

In 2014, Pope Francis named him bishop of Chiclayo, in northern Peru, and the pope asked him also to be apostolic administrator of Callao, Peru, from April 2020 to May 2021. The pope then appointed him to succeed the retiring Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops in early 2023.

Cardinal-designate Pierre, 77, was born in Rennes, France. Ordained to the priesthood in 1970, he served as apostolic nuncio to Haiti, Uganda and Mexico until Pope Francis named him nuncio to the United States in 2016.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of Military Services, USA, and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops offered his congratulations and prayers to the new cardinals on behalf of the bishops of the United States on July 9.

"Please join me in praying for Cardinal-designate Prevost and Cardinal-designate Pierre as they continue their lives of service to the universal Church," Archbishop Broglio said. "For the Church in the United States, their ministry has been a true blessing. Our episcopal conference rejoices in this sign of recognition of these distinguished Churchmen."

Here is the list of the other new cardinals:

- Italian Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, prefect of the Dicastery for Eastern Churches, 67.
- Argentine Archbishop Víctor Manuel Fernández of La Plata, Argentina, incoming prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith. He will turn 61 on July 18.

- Swiss Archbishop Emil Paul Tscherrig, the apostolic nuncio to Argentina, 76.
- Italian Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, 58.
- South African Archbishop Stephen Brislin of Cape Town, 66.
- Argentine Archbishop Ángel Sixto Rossi of Córdoba, 64. He is a member of the Society of Jesus.
- Colombian Archbishop Luis José Rueda Aparicio of Bogotá, 61.
- Polish Archbishop Grzegorz Rys of Łódź, 59.
- South Sudanese Archbishop Stephen Ameyu Martin Mulla of Juba, 59.
- Spanish Archbishop José Cobo Cano of Madrid, 57.
- Tanzanian Archbishop Protase Rugambwa, coadjutor archbishop of Tabora, 63.
- Malaysian Bishop Sebastian Francis of Penang, Malaysia, 71.
- Bishop Stephen Chow Sau-yan of Hong Kong, 63. Born in Hong Kong, he is a member of the Society of Jesus.
- Bishop François-Xavier Bustillo of Ajaccio in Corsica, France, 54. Born in Spain, he is a member of the Conventual Franciscans.
- Portuguese Auxiliary Bishop Américo Alves Aguiar of Lisbon, 49.
- Spain-born Salesian Father Ángel Fernández Artime, rector major of the Salesians, 62.
- Those named cardinal and over the age of 80:
  - Italian Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, a retired papal nuncio, a former curial official and a respected historian of the Second Vatican Council, 82.
  - Retired Archbishop Diego Rafael Padrón Sánchez of Cumaná, Venezuela, 84.
  - Capuchin Father Luis Pascual Dri, confessor at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompei, Buenos Aires, 96. †



# BRUTÉ DAYS

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into hard-fought soccer, football and basketball games.

Yet at both the seminary and the parish, they entered into complete silence as they prayed in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

"They pray hard and they play hard," said Father Michael Keucher, as he drove a packed school bus. The archdiocese's vocations director led the annual vocations camp, sponsored by the archdiocesan vocations office for middle school- and high school-age boys who are open to a calling to the priesthood.

"That's exactly what you see in all three days of Bishop Bruté Days," Father Keucher continued. "The Catholic life is one of prayer and service and celebration."

This year, that Catholic life reached a new high during the camp with a record 103 participants—59 high schoolers there for all three days and 43 seventh- and eighth-graders who took part on the final day. The participants came from 31 parishes across central and southern Indiana and two other dioceses.

This year's number of participants mark an increase from 76 just two years ago. Interest among high school boys exceeded the housing capacity of the seminary, so a registration waiting list was implemented starting last year.

"Vocations are becoming a greater focus in our schools, parishes and families," said Father Keucher. "It's awesome."

## The "brotherhood of Christ"

Bishop Bruté Days began in 2006 with 16 participants. As the camp has grown, it's always included daily Mass, opportunities for the sacrament of penance, periods of eucharistic adoration and the praying of the rosary in addition to time for play and socialization. Meals are provided by parishes, the Knights of Columbus and the Serra Club of Indianapolis.

Archdiocesan seminarians help run the camp, interact with the participants and give presentations on the faith.

Seminarian Emiliano Vasquez De Alva, a member of St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour and soon to begin his third year of formation at Bishop Bruté, was encouraged by seeing the enthusiasm of the participants.

"It's really important for them to see what our life is like here in the seminary, to see how we grow in fraternity and fellowship with others as brothers and sisters in Christ," said De Alva.

Max Craney said the "brotherhood of Christ" among the Bishop Bruté Days participants was a big draw for him to come back this year after attending for the first time last year.



Seminarian Noah Sherman, a member of St. Mary Parish in North Vernon, plays a flute on June 27 in a school bus filled with teenage boys taking part in a Bishop Bruté Days pilgrimage to Vincennes, Ind.



Father Michael Keucher, archdiocesan vocations director, elevates the Eucharist during the closing Mass of Bishop Bruté Days on June 28 on the grounds of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. Kneeling in prayer during the Mass are the 103 high school and middle school boys who took part in the vocations camp, as well as their family members.

"It's true joy," said Max, a member of St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Spencer. "I don't have to hide my faith here."

Living, playing and praying with so many like-minded peers at Bishop Bruté Days was also important for Adam McIntyre, a member of St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville. This was his third year taking part in the camp.

"It's a fun time," said Adam. "It's a good way to prayerfully discern what your future vocation will be. There are a lot of good opportunities for prayer."

Being together with so many other peers open to the possibility of a priestly vocation led Jacob Flaig of St. Lawrence Parish in Lawrenceburg to look to the future while taking part in Bishop Bruté Days for the second time.

"It's interesting that we're all thinking about the same goal," said Jacob, adding that he was curious about who among his fellow campers would discern a priestly call.

## "It is Jesus who calls us."

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson celebrated Mass on the opening evening of Bishop Bruté Days. In his homily, he encouraged his teenage listeners to focus on Christ, especially present in the Eucharist, in their prayers about their vocation.

"We know the word of God is transforming our hearts and the Eucharist is always there for us," he said. "It's what sustains and nourishes us on the journey. ... It's what sustains us in our vocation and in our discernment."

"It is Jesus who calls us. It is Jesus who is always with us intimately, who nurtures, sustains and feeds us in word and sacrament so that we can carry out in service, in his name, the good news of the Gospel."

After the Mass, Archbishop Thompson spoke with *The Criterion* about seeing so many young men taking part in the camp.

"The fact that these young people have given up part of their summer and the comfort of their homes to be here shows a lot of great courage, generosity and faith on their part," he said.

Father Jack Wright and Father José Neri, ordained priests for the archdiocese just three weeks before Bishop Bruté Days, were there on its first day.

Lines of campers waited in the courtyard of the seminary to receive blessings from them. The newly ordained priests spent about an hour answering questions about their vocation and life in seminary. And then they were on hand to hear confessions.

All of this showed Father Wright "that there are guys here who are really interested in how a guy decides to become a priest. They may be interested, too."

On the verge of beginning his priestly ministry in the archdiocese at St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, Father Wright was happy to see so many young men considering the call that he's embraced. About two-thirds of this year's high schoolers had participated in the camp before.

"Most of them probably don't know yet what the future holds, but the fact that they're here and come back year after year tells me that God's doing something with them," said Father Wright. "It's great to see because I know it's going to bear fruit in priestly vocations. I'm sure it will."

As this year's Bishop Bruté Days took place at the beginning of the second year of the three-year National Eucharistic Revival, Christ's presence in the Eucharist was emphasized throughout the camp.

Transitional Deacon Samuel Rosko reflected on the meaning of the Mass and its connection to a priestly vocation in a homily during a holy hour on the first night of the camp.

"The priestly vocation is the Mass," said Deacon Rosko, a member of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis. "It is a call to live the Mass in your life, your own self gift, your own death and your own rising with Christ."

"In these coming days and especially tonight as you have the opportunity to be with our Lord and



Adam Flaig, left, his brother Jacob and Vincent Lecher kneel in prayer during a June 26 Mass at Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary in Indianapolis on the first day of Bishop Bruté Days, the annual vocations camp of the archdiocesan vocations office. The Flaig brothers are members of St. Lawrence Parish in Lawrenceburg. Vincent is a member of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus. (Photos by Sean Gallagher)



Elijah Wessel, left, arm wrestles Gerard Dubois on June 26 during a lunch break of a Bishop Bruté Days pilgrimage to Vincennes, Ind. Elijah and Gerard are both members of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County. Looking on are Isaac Timberlake, second from left, of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, and Angel DeLeon of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield.

keep watch with him in the holy Eucharist truly present here on this altar, offer yourself to Christ. Make the first step. Say, 'Lord, I am yours. Do with me as you will.' You'll be amazed at what might happen."

Throughout that night, campers took turns praying before the Blessed Sacrament. The first night of adoration had been scheduled. A second night of adoration took place again on the final night of the camp—at the boys' request.

## God at work in their lives

On the final day of Bishop Bruté Days, 43 seventh- and eighth-graders joined the high schoolers and had their own schedule of presentations on the faith, prayer and games.

At the end of the day, parents and other family members of the participants gathered for the closing Mass on the front lawn of the seminary, with an altar arranged high on a hill overlooking it.

Amy Harrity of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg was on hand to pick up her son Connor, a first-time Bishop Bruté Days participant who will be a seventh-grader in the fall. She was encouraged by seeing so many parents who want to instill the faith in their children.

"It's reassuring that it's a really big community," she said. "We're all collectively kind of thinking the same way, wanting our sons to do good things. My prayer for [Connor] today was to be open, to explore the word 'vocation' and what that means for him. I want him to listen to what God has in store for him."

Daniel and Elizabeth Wright, also of St. Malachy Parish, were at the seminary to pick up their son Elijah. He had participated in Bishop Bruté Days last year and asked to sign up again.

"You don't want to push them into it," said Daniel. "You want to be pulled into it and for them to think that this is where they belong. So, it's reassuring that this is what he wants to do."

In his homily at the closing Mass, Father Keucher left the young men at Bishop Bruté Days and their parents with an important message to keep in their hearts and minds.

"A vocation is never of human origin," he said. "It's always of divine origin. You can never explain a vocation, especially a priestly vocation. Something happens inside of you."

"All of you young men who have been here the last three days, and some of you here just today, know that God has already been at work in your life. It's been a joy to see that and to hear your witness. It's a joy to see it in you."

(To view more photos from Bishop Bruté Days, visit [www.CriterionOnline.com](http://www.CriterionOnline.com). For more information about a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, visit [HearGodsCall.com](http://HearGodsCall.com).) †



## SERRA CLUB VOCATIONS ESSAY

# St. Juliana of Cornillon inspires student to ‘prevail in humility’

(Editor’s note: The Indianapolis Serra Club’s annual John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest awards prizes each spring to winning essayists in grades 7-12 in the archdiocese. This week, we continue with the winning entry in the 10th grade.)



By Audrey May  
Special to The Criterion

St. Juliana of Cornillon was a woman, an orphan, and a daughter, but most importantly, she was a follower of Christ.

Though it is not widely known, her faith and perseverance contributed to

the institution of the feast of *Corpus Christi*. St. Juliana of Cornillon’s life illustrates the prominence of devotion to the Eucharist. Through her devotion, she fulfilled her vocation.

At the age of 16, Juliana received a vision during eucharistic adoration where a moon presented itself crossed by a dark stripe. The moon symbolized the life of the Church on Earth while the line represented the lack of a liturgical feast on which believers would be able to adore the Eucharist in order to increase their faith.

Juliana’s heart became filled with joy, and she immersed herself in prayer to wait patiently. Following her vision, Juliana’s devotion to the Eucharist allowed her the strength to confide in two friends, also fervent adorers of the

Eucharist, and Father John Lausanne.

Fulfilling her vocation of establishing a liturgical feast for the Eucharist, Juliana requested Father Lausanne to consult theologians and clerics about such a feast. Accompanied later by other bishops, Bishop Robert Torote accepted Juliana’s proposal and introduced the Solemnity of *Corpus Christi*.

St. Juliana’s devotion to the Eucharist empowered her to overcome the harsh opposition of certain clergy. Her fervent love for the Eucharist inspires me to prevail in humility. Throughout the brutal opposition she endured, she never offered criticism for her adversaries. She continued to obediently spread eucharistic worship.

St. Juliana truly inspires me because, as she faced opposition, she turned to

God rather than straying from him. She in no way allowed the opposition to define who she was, as I fail to accomplish today.

St. Juliana died loving and adoring the Lord in the Eucharist. Her love for the Eucharist inspires me to love the Lord as she did. She devoted her life to serving the Lord through her vocation, exemplifying a life given to God.

(Audrey and her parents, Bill and Kimberley May, are members of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis. She recently completed the 10th grade at the Roncalli High School in Indianapolis and is the 10th-grade division winner in the Indianapolis Serra Club’s 2023 John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest.) †

## On affirmative action, U.S. bishops echo call of St. Katharine Drexel

(OSV News)—In a statement released on July 7, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) said that it was their “hope that our Catholic institutions of higher learning will continue to find ways to make education possible and affordable for everyone, regardless of their background.”

The statement was made in response to the June 29 Supreme Court ruling that institutions of higher education can no longer take race into consideration for admission, a landmark decision overturning previous precedent supported by many Catholic universities and colleges.

“Education is a gift, an opportunity, and an important aspect of our democracy that is not always within the reach of all, especially racial and ethnic groups who find themselves on the margins,” the statement, issued by Bishop Joseph N. Perry, auxiliary bishop of Chicago and newly appointed chair of the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, said. Quoting St. Katharine Drexel, a

pioneer in Catholic education in the U.S., the USCCB statement concluded: “If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor as well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to him and them. Let us open wide our hearts. It is joy which invites us. Press forward and fear nothing.”

Within higher education, affirmative action refers to admissions practices that purport to increase the number of students admitted from historically marginalized groups, such as Black and Hispanic students. Colleges and universities that take race into consideration have argued that doing so is only one factor in a broader admissions process, which also includes a student’s grades, test scores and extracurricular activities.

Supporters of affirmative action policies argue they help to address the lasting impact of racism in American society. Opponents, however, say race-based admission policies harm students who should be judged on their

merits as students alone, with some arguing that Asian American students were disproportionately rejected in favor of white, Black and Hispanic applicants.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the 6-3 majority opinion in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, arguing admissions programs at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina (UNC) violated the Constitution’s equal protection clause in a ruling dealing with affirmative action policies at those institutions.

“The Harvard and UNC admissions programs cannot be reconciled with the guarantees of the Equal Protection Clause,” Roberts wrote. “Both programs lack sufficiently focused and measurable objectives warranting the use of race, unavoidably employ race in a negative manner, involve racial stereotyping, and lack meaningful end points. We have never permitted admissions programs to work in that way, and we will not do so today.” †

Save the Date Love Your Neighbor Summer Scirree

PRESENTED BY  
St. Vincent de Paul Indianapolis

**AUGUST 26, 2023, 6 P.M.**  
Northside Events & Social Club

Proceeds from this fundraiser will help fund SVdP Indy’s new housing facility for unsheltered neighbors who are working toward stability in their lives.

Order tickets at [svdpindy.org/summer](https://svdpindy.org/summer) or scan the QR code. You also have the option to purchase a table or sponsor the event.

# Marriage ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be a part of our Fall Marriage Edition  
Aug. 11 issue of *The Criterion*

Couples who are planning to be married between Aug. 11, 2023, and Feb. 17, 2024, in a marriage that is recognized as a valid sacramental or valid natural marriage, or couples who were wed between Jan. 1 and July 28 in such a recognized marriage and did not have their engagement announcement in *The Criterion* are invited to submit the information for the upcoming Aug. 11 Fall Marriage Edition.

Announcements can be submitted by mail using the form below or electronically at [www.archindy.org/engagements](http://www.archindy.org/engagements).

**E-mailed photos**  
Photos should be saved in jpg format and be at least 500 kb. Color photos are preferred. We recommend sending a photo where the couple’s faces are close to each other. Please send the photo as an attachment to the e-mail: [alewis@archindy.org](mailto:alewis@archindy.org). Subject line: Fall Marriage (Last name). In the e-mail, please include the information in the form located below.

If it is not possible to e-mail a photo, a photo can be mailed with the bottom form. Please no photocopies or laser prints. To have the photo returned, please include a return addressed envelope with a postage stamp on it.

**Deadline**  
All announcements and photos must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 28. (No announcements or photos will be accepted after this date.)

— Use this form to furnish information by mail —

Clip and mail to: BRIDES, *The Criterion*, ATTN: Ann Lewis, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. To submit information online go to: [www.archindy.org/engagements](http://www.archindy.org/engagements). Deadline with photos: Friday, July 28 at 5 p.m.

**Please print or type:**

Name of Bride (first, middle, last) Daytime Phone

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Mailing Address City State Zip Code

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Name of Bride’s Parents (first, last)

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City State

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Name of Bridegroom (first, middle, last)

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Name of Bridegroom’s Parents (first, last)

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City State

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Wedding Date Church City State

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Photo Enclosed  
 Return photo  
 No Picture

Signature of person furnishing information Relationship Daytime Phone



# SIMPLY CATHOLIC

## Rosary can renew love for the Church, its role in renewing society

By Gretchen R. Crowe

(OSV News)—It's easy for Catholics to take the rosary for granted. We tend to purchase them as souvenirs or carry them around with us or even wear them.

But we forget the immense power that they have when we actually pray them. And that's really too bad, because a devotion to the rosary can be the answer to so many struggles in our 21st-century world.

Our society today faces growing secularism and the disappearance of faith from the public square. We find ourselves confronting a world awash in the spread of evil and terrorism, war and violence. We are plagued by broken families, abounding distractions and a general lack of drive for holiness.

But the rosary can help. And we know this because Mary herself told us this 100 years ago in Fatima, Portugal, when she appeared six times to three shepherd children from May to October 1917.

She told them repeatedly: "Recite the rosary every day to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war." Sister Lucia dos Santos, the eldest Fatima seer whom the Church just declared venerable, emphasized throughout her long life the message of Mary, who introduced herself to the children as "Our Lady of the Rosary."

We also know the great value of the rosary because it has manifested its power time and time again in the lives of men and women of faith throughout history.

This, of course, isn't because the rosary is magical. It's because it brings us to Jesus. As the late Cardinal Francis E. George, archbishop of Chicago, said at the conclusion of the Year of the Rosary in 2003: The rosary "brings us to the heart of the Gospel."

In today's typical lifestyle, it is easy to become distracted and overwhelmed by the noise that surrounds us. Technology is constantly demanding our attention. We sit in front of screens and, at the same time, look at smaller screens.

We are drawn in by the lure of social media alerts and use texting as a primary form of communication. We have developed an "always on" or "always available" mentality, and noise no longer knows any boundaries.

A recent Nielson report said that Americans, on average, spend 11 hours a day looking at some type



A woman prays the rosary in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. Praying the rosary can be an effective means to grow in love for the Church and allow the Church to renew contemporary society. (OSV News photo/Alessia Giuliani, CNS)

of screen. It's easy for us to tell ourselves we're being productive and that this abundance of "screen time" is necessary. But the reality is that all that noise is damaging to our relationship with God.

This is not just a 21st-century problem, although it has become more pronounced in recent decades. In 1973, Cardinal Albino Luciani—then-patriarch of Venice who would go on to become Pope John Paul I—gave a homily that identified a "crisis of prayer" in the world—adding that part of the reason was due to the fact that "noise has invaded our existence."

If he thought that life was noisy in 1973, what would now Blessed John Paul I think of today?

We also face an abundance of internal noise. We are distracted by interior barriers to prayer that often manifest themselves in the form of pride and self-centeredness. In all of these moments of difficulty, we can turn to the rosary. The meditative quality of the devotion can help focus us and break through the external noise.

At the same time, by praying this simple prayer frequently, faithfully and with humility, we can break down our internal barriers.

One of the intellectual, spiritual and even media giants of the 20th century was Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. He also had a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother, and he dedicated a book to her called *The World's First Love, Mary, Mother of God*.

Archbishop Sheen also spoke much about her in public. In a talk titled "The Woman I Love," he indicated how Mary and the Church were intertwined because "as we discontinue our devotion to the Blessed Mother, there is always a decline in the love of the Church."

Fascinating, isn't it? The less we call upon and venerate Mary, the less we are connected to the Church. It would follow, then, that the opposite also is true.

The more we honor and pray to Mary, especially in her signature prayer of the rosary, the more our love for and devotion to the Church will increase.

And this is a devotion that we desperately need today. Catholics in the 21st century are experiencing a massive decline of love for the Church, as is our country.

On the other hand, the country is experiencing a rise in the religiously unaffiliated, or "nones." It also is facing a large—and growing—gap between the moral teachings of the Church and the evolution of our secular society.

Recent years have seen an increase in cultural mores and public policies at odds with Church teaching, which means that Church teaching is increasingly at odds with the laws of the land. Part of the problem is widespread lack of faith formation, particularly for many adult, cradle Catholics.

The universal call to holiness is expressed in the Second Vatican Council's "Dogmatic Constitution on the Church," which reminds us that we are called to "be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect" (#11; Mt 5:48).

When wanting to achieve holiness, where else is it better to look than to those men and women who have already done so—that is, the saints themselves? "The saints and blessed of paradise remind us, as pilgrims on Earth, that prayer, above all, is our sustenance for each day so that we never lose sight of our eternal destiny," St. John Paul said. "For many of them the rosary ... was the privileged instrument for their daily discourse with the Lord. The rosary led them to an ever more profound intimacy with Christ and with the Blessed Virgin."

(Gretchen R. Crowe is the editor-in-chief of OSV News and the author of *Why the Rosary, Why Now?*, published by *Our Sunday Visitor* in 2017.) †



A portrait of Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, her Bible and her rosary lie on her bed in the Carmelite monastery in Coimbra, Portugal, on Feb. 17, 2006. Sister Lucia died on Feb. 13, 2005, at the age of 97. She was declared venerable on June 22 by Pope Francis. Sister Lucia was one of the shepherd children to whom Mary appeared in 1917 in Fatima, Portugal. She told them to pray the rosary daily for peace. (OSV News photo/Reuters)

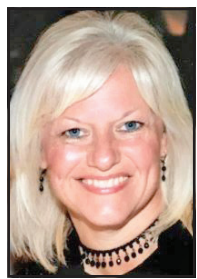


Joyful Witness/Kimberly Pohovey

## God lines up the village we need to thrive in this world

It was April 2004 and the long-anticipated birth of three little lives finally arrived.

When I say “little” I mean little. They each weighed 2 pounds and some ounces. My niece Michelle was on bed rest for a couple months which was difficult enough for a normally athletic individual. But that was nothing compared to the marathon of raising triplets.



Michelle and her husband, Jeff, couldn't have been happier when Jake, Madison and Morgan made their appearance. By God's grace, they were born healthy. They were so tiny at first, it was hard to picture them all grown up.

We all know the phrase “it takes a village,” and I'm sure most parents of multiples know how true it is when you need to rely on family and friends surrounding you.

Michelle and Jeff were blessed with lots of family members—parents, siblings and extended family members who not only helped feed, change and watch the triplets, they also helped raise them. And the triplets have been the recipients of many, many prayers from the village that surrounds them.

These 2-pound babies were fighters. They

grew in size, intelligence, athleticism and inward and outward beauty. My husband and I are godparents to Madison. She is gorgeous, bright and strong. Jake is intelligent, mature and driven. Morgan is beautiful, kind and possesses a quiet determination. Like any other teenagers their age, they have faced their own challenges.

Madison had a sidelining injury to both feet while playing varsity soccer for her high school. But she was determined to play through the pain. She ended her soccer career as captain of the team that won the Ohio state girls' championships.

Jake excelled in leadership as well, playing golf for his high school. He is driven to succeed and used his intelligence to conquer the mental game that golf requires. He also served as student council president his senior year.

Morgan is the smallest but mightiest. She has a quiet strength that has helped her achieve in school despite learning challenges. At one time, teachers told her parents that she would never be able to go to college. She is proving them wrong.

At their high school graduations, all three received top honors and awards—some athletic, some academic, some for leadership and some for truly being kind individuals. I am so impressed with all three of them. I am even more impressed with their parents. And I'm grateful for the many teachers, coaches, family and friends

who have been there for them. I can't help thinking the supportive village surrounding them has also had a hand in forming them into the mature young adults they are today.

I recently attended their high school graduation party. I looked around the room at the gathering and thought about the many people God placed in their lives to help raise these incredible triplets. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and neighbors and all the prayer warriors, they all had a hand in caring for and encouraging them to succeed. Raising triplets wasn't always easy for Michelle and Jeff, but today was a celebration of getting them to this day as high school graduates.

As I helped my niece clean up after the party, I caught her in a moment alone and let her know how incredibly proud I was of her for raising such great kids—basically being the Mom that God knew they needed. She paused and looked at me with sincerity and said how much that meant to her. Then I said a silent prayer of thanksgiving to God for the village that helped shape these tiny beings into the mature young persons they are today. It's remarkable how God lines up the village each of us needs to thrive in this world.

*(Kimberly Pohovey is a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis. She is the director of major and planned gifts for the archdiocese.) †*

Twenty Something/

Christina Capecchi

## 'Fully alive': the summertime invitation to glorify God

The idea came on my birthday, one of those fully formed thoughts that arrives unbidden, a cerebral click.



The day began with a brief summer rain, and a chill still hung in the air. I headed to the gym, rolling down my windows and cranking up the radio. Bruce Springsteen crooned “Dancing in the Dark,” the ballad of a listless young

man searching for inspiration.

“Man, I'm just tired and bored with myself.”

As the wind blew my hair and my body shivered from the cold, the words formed in my head: “I want to feel alive.” They had the weight of a New Year's resolution set on a birthday, the kind of goal-setting I crave each time I blow out candles. And the goal instantly gave me direction, a compass for the year ahead.

So much of our modern quest for wellness hinges on good versus bad, indulgence versus deprivation. It is a reward system that never settles itself out, doling out guilt and gold stars in uneasy patterns.

To seek out, instead, whatever makes us feel more alive—this fills the lungs with air. This feels simpler. No analysis is required; we immediately know the answer. Does it make me feel alive?

Yes or no.

And then we proceed.

It is not hedonistic; it is, in fact, spiritual. It honors the Creator, reverencing the one wild and precious life we are given. It calls to mind ancient words from St. Irenaeus, a great theologian of the Church: “The glory of God is man fully alive.”

God wants us to live our lives to their fullest capacity. He's yearning for us to embrace the beauty of creation with the gifts he has given us—strong legs, clear eyes, big hearts, nimble fingers. One part Theology of the Body, one part *carpe diem*.

Presented with an iPhone full of apps, a pair of tennis shoes and a cloudless blue sky, what will I choose? Will it make me feel more alive or numb?

This approach naturally finds a balance, combining thrills and comforts, requiring discipline while delivering fun.

Sometimes it points us to a treat—tomato soup and a grilled cheese sandwich savored on a rainy day. Other times it asks us to resist the couch in lieu of a morning walk. Sometimes it means staying up late to enjoy a fire and fellowship. Other times it means going to bed early because your body needs the rest.

St. Irenaeus' mantra replaces all the secular metrics: Am I happier? Am I thinner? More popular? More productive? The overarching question: Am I fully alive? Am I glorifying God?

Summer is the perfect time to pose this question and then enjoy simple childhood delights like walking barefoot in grass. Even if we don't know the research affirming its health benefits, we know in our hearts: It makes me feel alive.

I've been keeping a running list of the little things that make me feel alive. Some are cozy, like an old quilt paired with a good book. But many involve contrasts that tingle, shocking me awake. Putting on a wet swimsuit. Rising early to read Scripture. Pushing myself to swim a few more laps.

Gretchen Rubin, the best-selling author and happiness expert, has landed on the

See CAPECCHI, page 15

Our Works of Charity/David Bethuram

## A woman's road to recovery leads to Catholic Charities

Joanne had a “normal” life. She had worked in inventory control for 17 years when her company asked her to come in on her day off to fill in for a co-worker. That day, while she was riding in a company van, the driver had an epileptic seizure. The van rolled and Joanne lost consciousness. She woke up in the hospital, after being in an induced coma for weeks. Her doctor said, “Welcome to your new life.”



In addition to her broken body, Joanne had suffered a traumatic brain injury. She spent nearly three years recovering and trying to cope with her disabilities: she had to learn how to walk, talk and live again.

She says, “I can remember things that happened 20 years ago, but not yesterday.” The brain injury affects her short-term memory, preventing her from holding steady employment.

Once her therapy was complete, her son who lived in Indiana invited her to live with him and help with the grandkids. However, when she and her son had a falling out, Joanne had to leave. With nowhere to go and no work, she became homeless in the middle of the winter in February 2019.

Joanne said it was a stressful experience. At first, it was difficult to even process the shift from a stable and secure lifestyle to one that was traumatic and isolating. She sat at the public library for hours, doing nothing—overwhelmed by what to do and how to start building a new life. “I was in a fog for the first month. I began going to a local church for meals and slowly built relationships with other people in the community.”

Soon, she became acquainted with a Catholic Charities' volunteer who introduced her to some of the staff and services that Catholic Charities offers. A Catholic Charities' case worker began to meet with Joanne, and she received help enrolling

in Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and other services. Joanne says, “After about a year, I finally got it all figured out. I knew where I needed to go for specific services and began to share that information with others.”

Catholic Charities staff soon recognized Joanne's potential and thought she would be an excellent candidate to assist people with housing needs.

Joanne's Catholic Charities case worker suggested she begin volunteering at a local nonprofit that works with those facing homelessness. She trained as a peer navigator at a homeless day shelter, helping others who were struggling to find resources, where she received a small stipend. She was also hired to work limited hours. The additional income, combined with her modest monthly disability payment, has allowed her to think about getting an apartment with three other women. She says, “I don't know anyone who can make it alone. Even folks who are not homeless seem to live with four or five other people to be able to afford a place to live.”

Joanne is excited to see what the future holds. She will continue working and volunteering because, she says, “it makes me feel more normal.” Joanne says she probably adjusted to being homeless better than others simply because she was in the process of beginning a new life as a result of the accident. She says, “Some days, it is just so hard to be homeless. People don't understand that things happen that prevent you from getting out of that situation.”

Through her interactions with Catholic Charities, Joanne found a paying job, unexpected friendships and a community that she calls home.

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

Guest Column/Richard Etienne

## Don't worry about 'doing'; make time for 'being' still in life

Are you sometimes overcome with a strong reaction to even the most minor comment or stimulus that occurs? Is it helpful

to always be so moved by every event that happens around you?

I was recently given an image that has been quite helpful in recognizing and reducing that inclination to be over-affected by endless emotional stimuli. The phrase that



I received from my spiritual director is: “I am the mountain and not the climate on the mountainside.”

The idea is that I don't have to be emotionally affected by the comments and occurrences in my daily life. Maybe a

person can find a deeper stability in which to anchor so that he or she is not overwhelmed by every situation or comment.

Maybe it is possible to focus our awareness on simply observing more in life and not reacting so quickly to situations. But that is easier said than done.

For me, this awareness is rooted in a regular practice of meditation—just sitting still for 20 minutes at a time.

Next, I need to cultivate a practice of merely observing my surroundings while staying detached from any reactive feelings. And lastly, to not be metaphorically blown around by every situation and comment that arises. (I admit this is not easily accomplished.)

In the Book of Psalms, we read, “Be still and know that I am God” (Ps 46:11). Just sit

quietly and trust that God is still in charge of all of the crazy situations in our world.

In his Letter to the Ephesians, while St. Paul is explaining the different roles needed in building up the body of Christ, he finishes with, “so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming” (Eph 4:14).

I have found that simple attempts at being still will take a lifetime of practice.

Many of us are good at “doing.” It may now be time to work on our “being.”

*(Richard Etienne has a degree in theology from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad and resides in Newburgh, Ind.) †*



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

# The Sunday Readings

Sunday, July 16, 2023

- Isaiah 55:10-11
- Romans 8:18-23
- Matthew 13:1-9

The third and last section of the Book of Isaiah is the source of the first reading for Mass this weekend. This passage



was composed when pious Jews easily could have become disillusioned and uncertain in their devotion to God.

For decades, Jews exiled in Babylon, capital and center of the once powerful Babylonian Empire,

longed to leave the pagan environment of this great city located in what is now Iraq and return to their own homeland.

At last, as ancient political fortunes changed, these Jews were allowed to go back to their ancestors' homes. Upon returning, however, they found no "land flowing with milk and honey." Life was hard. Difficulties were many. For so long they had dreamt of leaving Babylon for security, order and peace in Israel, yet they instead found destitution and misery. God had spared them, but for what?

Certainly, many were angry with God. The author of this third section of Isaiah was likely one of several prophets who reminded them that God's work must be their own. God had freed them, but they had to create a society of justice and prosperity.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans supplies the second reading. Written to the Christians of Rome about two generations after Jesus, Paul refers to their "sufferings" (Rom 8:18). The legal and political systems in the empire were turning against Christianity.

The law aside, the culture of the Roman Empire in the first century stood directly opposite the Gospel. The Apostle consoled and challenged the Roman Christians, reminding them that sin enslaves humans, demeaning them and robbing them of freedom. Sin disorders creation itself, so creation "groans" in agony (Rom 8:22).

Jesus is the Redeemer. He gives true freedom to people. This freedom opens the way to peace and eternal life, despite any hostility or chaos all around.

St. Matthew's Gospel furnishes the

last reading. It is the familiar parable of the farmer who sowed seed in different places, some conducive to growth, others not. Similar passages occur in Mark and in Luke.

A great crowd awaited Jesus. As are people everywhere, at any time, these people thirsted for the truth and insight that only God gives. Almost certainly, everyone was Galilean, and therefore of rural backgrounds and circumstances. The imagery of a farmer sowing seed was easily understood.

Agriculture still often is a game of chance. It was more so when Jesus preached in Galilee. Hot days easily scorched seeds that fell on shallow soil. Birds and pests were everywhere. So were weeds. Here and there was good soil, able to receive the seeds and produce a yield.

The message is clear. God sows the seeds in our heart. We must be humble enough to receive God's word.

As an aside, here again in the Gospels the disciples had privileged access to Jesus. They question the Lord about the technique of speaking in parables. Jesus explains that parables assist in understanding great mysteries. Jesus explains this parable. He prepares them for their future role.

## Reflection

We celebrate liberty. In the Pledge of Allegiance, we proclaim "liberty and justice for all." Our coins bear the word, "Liberty." Americans have fought wars to preserve their freedom.

St. Paul dealt with Christians entrapped by fear. Hardly free, they were gripped by worry and faced genuine peril. But the greatest threat to their personal freedom was within themselves, the effects of their sins.

Paul urged them to turn to Christ, listen to him and follow him if they were to be set free from all that enslaved them.

An old hymn about the English Catholic martyrs during the Reformation says, "Chained in prisons dark, they still were in heart and conscience free." Indeed, they were.

**As *The Criterion* will not have an issue next week due to its summer schedule, the reflection of Msgr. Campion for Sunday, July 23, will be posted at [www.archindy.org/campion](http://www.archindy.org/campion).** †

## My Journey to God

# It Takes Faith to Believe

By Thomas J. Rillo

It takes faith to believe in defying scientific logic  
It takes faith to believe in having a positive attitude  
It takes faith to believe in a loving omnipotent God  
It takes faith to believe in surmounting needed courage.  
It Takes Faith to Believe

It takes faith to believe that God will help us in dark times  
It takes faith to believe that we can overcome our fears  
It takes faith to arise in the morning to face a new day  
It takes faith to believe you can succeed with perseverance.  
It Takes Faith to Believe

It takes faith to believe God will always provide for you  
It takes faith to believe that you can always count on God  
It takes faith to believe that with God you are never alone  
It takes faith to believe that God sent Jesus to save you.  
It Takes Faith to Believe

It takes faith to believe that God has preordained your life  
It takes faith to believe in the power of sincere prayer  
It takes faith to believe that God can heal and change your life  
It takes faith to believe that God is always there for you.  
It Takes Faith to Believe

(The late Thomas J. Rillo was a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington and a Benedictine oblate of St. Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, Ind.)

## Daily Readings

### Monday, July 17

Exodus 1:8-14, 22  
Psalm 124:1-8  
Matthew 10:34-11:1

### Tuesday, July 18

St. Camillus de Lellis, priest  
Exodus 2:1-15a  
Psalm 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34  
Matthew 11:20-24

### Wednesday, July 19

Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12  
Psalm 103:1-4, 6-7  
Matthew 11:25-27

### Thursday, July 20

St. Apollinaris, bishop and martyr  
Exodus 3:13-20  
Psalm 105:1, 5, 8-9, 24-27  
Matthew 11:28-30

### Friday, July 21

St. Lawrence of Brindisi, priest and doctor of the Church  
Exodus 11:10-12:14  
Psalm 116:12-13, 15-18  
Matthew 12:1-8

### Saturday, July 22

St. Mary Magdalene  
Song of Songs 3:1-4a  
or 2 Corinthians 5:14-17  
Psalm 63:2-6, 8-9  
John 20:1-2, 11-18

### Sunday, July 23

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Wisdom 12:13, 16-19  
Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16  
Romans 8:26-27  
Matthew 13:24-43  
or Matthew 13:24-30

### Monday, July 24

St. Sharbel Makhlūf, priest  
Exodus 14:5-18  
(Response) Exodus 15:1b-6  
Matthew 12:38-42

### Tuesday, July 25

St. James, Apostle  
2 Corinthians 4:7-15  
Psalm 126:1b-6  
Matthew 20:20-28

### Wednesday, July 26

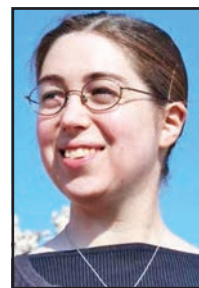
St. Joachim and St. Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15  
Psalm 78:18-19, 23-28  
Matthew 13:1-9

See READINGS, page 16

## Question Corner/Jenna Marie Cooper

# Baptismal registries record a person's important sacramental information

**Q** I am getting married and the priest who my fiancé and I met with said we need new baptismal certificates. Why can't we just use the ones our parents got when we were baptized? (Maine)



**A** Baptismal certificates aren't a one-and-done kind of document. It is true that when you are baptized, you (or

your parents, if you were an infant at the time of your baptism) receive a paper certificate attesting to the fact that your baptism took place on a certain day at a particular place.

However, the official record of your baptism is not one piece of paper in a file, but rather an entry into a baptismal registry book. Your entry in the baptismal register in your parish of baptism then serves as the "master record" of your life as a Catholic. Baptismal registry books register the details of a person's baptism, but also include room for subsequent major sacramental life events.

For instance, when a Catholic who was baptized as an infant later receives the sacrament of confirmation, this is recorded next to their name in the baptismal register of their parish of baptism. If the confirmation happens in a parish other than the one where he or she was baptized, then the parish of confirmation must take care to contact the parish of baptism to ensure that everything is recorded properly.

Other life events that must be recorded in a person's original baptismal register include reception of holy orders and religious profession, or a woman's becoming a consecrated virgin. Marriage in the Church is also an important life event to be recorded in a baptismal register—and if a marriage is declared null by a tribunal, this would also be noted in the same place.

When Catholics request a copy of their baptismal certificate, their parish of baptism issues a new hard copy based on the information in the baptismal register. This new copy will have a section on the back which relates all the biographical

details recorded over the years in the registry book.

So, if you are requesting a copy of your baptismal certificate as part of your marriage preparation, a newly-issued one lets the priest or deacon assisting you in this know about any previous life events, such as a prior marriage or previous reception of holy orders, which might present an issue or impediment with your upcoming wedding.

**Q** My husband abandoned me years ago. I know that I am married and that I am called to live chastely, and I am doing that. But my friend told me I will go to hell since I don't have an annulment. Is that true? (Wisconsin)

**A** No, nobody needs a declaration of nullity (commonly known as an annulment) to avoid hell, or even to participate fully in the life of the Church. In fact, it's never good to start the marriage nullity process because of feeling rushed or pressured by third parties.

We are all required to live out the virtue of chastity according to our state in life and particular circumstances. This means, essentially, that a person can only enjoy sexual intimacy with a person to whom he or she is married. Divorce in and of itself is not necessarily sinful, and being an abandoned spouse is certainly not a sin.

But—as you correctly note—even in cases of divorce, separation or abandonment, a once-married couple is still presumed to be married until potentially proven otherwise by a Catholic marriage tribunal. Because of this, a divorced Catholic would need a declaration of nullity if he or she wanted to marry another person. And it would be sinful to engage in acts proper to marriage with someone to whom they were not married.

But, if you are at peace living a chaste life as a divorced Catholic without seeking a new marriage, it's perfectly fine to remain as you are.

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



# 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.

**ADRIAN, Philip J.**, 64, St. Roch, Indianapolis, June 9. Brother of Julia Adrian Aumen, Anna Adrian Murphy, Janet Adrian Nixon, George and Mark Adrian. Stepson of Effie Mae Adrian. Uncle and great-uncle of several.

**ALVARADO, Jr., Javier**, 25, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, April 2. Son of Javier and Carlotta Alvarado. Brother of Ashley Alvarado.

**BARRETT, Richard**, 81, St. Gabriel, Connersville, June 10. Husband of Dana Barrett. Father of Rett and Richie Barrett. Brother of Bill and Monte Barrett. Stepbrother of Mike Johnson. Grandfather of eight. Great-grandfather of five.

**BIERMAN, Merrel J.**, 99, St. Mary of the Knobs, Floyd County, June 22. Father of Janice Bezy, Marilyn Francke, Marcia Huth, Theresa Loftus, James, Joe and Tony Bierman. Brother of Franklin Bierman, Sr. Grandfather of 20. Great-grandfather of 29.

**BROWN, Melissa M.**, 74, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, May 11. Wife of Charles Brown. Mother of Matt and Tim Brown. Sister of Mary Dale, Madonna Kastings, Marlene Norton, Marjorie Thomas, Mark and Melvin Winzenread. Grandmother of two.

**BURKE, Margaret (MacLeod)**, 81, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, June 17. Wife of Larry Burke. Mother of Shannon Rush, Mary Beth Schuckman, Kathleen and Michael Burke. Grandmother of four.

**CARRICO, Victor**, 91, St. Michael, Cannelton, June 7. Father of Connie Miller, Jim and Rick Carrico. Brother of

Ann Harris. Grandfather of eight.

**COLLIER, Joan M.**, 88, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, June 27. Mother of Kristin Underwood, Theresa Zimmermann, Deacon Daniel, Michael, Scott and Steve Collier. Grandmother of 15. Great-grandmother of 22. Great-great-grandmother of one.

**DEAVER, John W.**, 84, St. Mary of the Knobs, Floyd County, June 15. Husband of Rowena Knasel. Father of Natasha Finn, Andrea, John III, Robert Deaver, Sr., Don and John Knasel. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of two.

**ECKSTEIN, Maurice**, 86, St. Maurice, Napoleon, June 10. Husband of Helen Eckstein. Father of Joan McKamey, Brenda Moster, Gina Seaton, Linda Vannatta, Sharon Wietlisbach, Andy and Ric Eckstein. Brother of Leonard Eckstein. Grandfather of 21. Great-grandfather of four.

**ERHART, Anna Mae**, 87, St. Anthony of Padua, Morris, June 18. Wife of Ronald Erhart. Mother of Diane Batta, Marilyn Caudill, Brenda Kraus, Carla Prickel, Brian, Kenneth, Kevin and Mark Erhart. Sister of Shirley Doll. Grandmother of 21. Great-grandmother of 19.

**FLACK, Margaret F.**, 79, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, April 16. Sister of David, James, Joseph and Paul Flack. Aunt of several.

**GOFFINET, Claris**, 94, St. Augustine, Leopold, June 9. Mother of Theresa Bennett-Lynch, Emma Hoffman, Pat Howell, Rosa Hutchins, Susie Ridener, Charlie, Donald and Gerald Goffinet. Grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother of several.

**HARMEYER, Mary Joyce**, 90, St. Mary-of-the-Rock, Franklin County, June 6. Mother of Ella, Ted and Tom Harmeyer. Grandmother of six. Great-grandmother of nine.

**HENDERSON, Julia A.**, 60, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, June 22. Wife of Jerry Henderson. Mother of Sarah King and Arlen Henderson. Daughter of Shelby Kegley. Sister of Brenda Stewart. Grandmother of eight.

**HOLMAN, Mary G.**, 99, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, May 29. Mother of Michelle Tennell and Michael Holman. Sister of Janet Hodson and Robert AmRhein. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of 11.

**JOLLIFF, Angela**, 58, St. Gabriel, Connersville, June 20. Mother of Brae-Ann and Brenton Jolliff. Daughter of Ronnie Isaacs and Susie Taylor-Risselman. Sister of Amy Fohl, Kim Isaacs and Niki Phelps. Stepsister of Sherrie Alcorn, Heather, Cory, Edward and Shawn Reagan. Grandmother of three.

**KOONTZ, Patricia M.**, 80, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, June 26. Mother of Susie Bates, Ruth Diaz, Janet O'Connor, Carol Reinken, Marjorie Wilkinson, Gary and Keith Koontz. Grandmother of 20. Great-grandmother of 32.

**LEAP, Richard S.**, 72, St. Martin of Tours, Martinsville, June 13. Husband of Cynthia Leap. Brother of Randy Leap. Uncle of several.

**MISSI, Barbara A.**, 80, St. Mary of the Knobs, Floyd County, June 26. Mother of Dianna Foster and Robert Missi, Jr. Grandmother of three.

**O'DONNELL, Mary E.**, 80, St. Matthew the Apostle, Indianapolis, June 16. Mother of Shannon FitzGerald, Molly Jessen and Michael O'Donnell. Sister of Edward, Louis and Robert Ripperger. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of one.

**POWERS, Anna R.**, 91, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, May 21. Mother of Kerry and Mark Powers. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of five.

**PURICHIA, Doris**, 89, St. Michael the Archangel, Indianapolis, June 19. Mother of Rebecca Gilbert, Nula Kelly, Teresa Stinnett, Michael and Vince Purichia. Sister of Shirley Looper, Mary O'Riley and Charles Neff. Grandmother of 22. Great-grandmother of 24.

**RAMSEY, Lisa M.**, 62, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, June 3. Sister of Joanne Cassada, Janet Farmer, Lorrie Gruner, Greg and Tim Kuehr. Aunt of several.

**SEEWER, Jr., Alfred**, 89, St. Mary of the Knobs, Floyd County, June 21. Husband of Milred Seewer. Father of David, Dennis and Steven Seewer. Grandfather of seven. Great-grandfather of seven.

**SLINGER, Margaret J.**, 82, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, June 1. Wife of Charles Slinger. Mother of Valerie Nichols, Penelope Patton, Rebecca Scott and James Redstone. Stepmother of Angela Beghtel, Cindy Smith, David, Gary, Mark and Robert Slinger. Sister of Sharon Landers. Grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother of several.

**STEEN, Barbara (Gratzer)**, 86, St. Pius V, Troy, June 17. Mother of Beth Beach, Julie Fest, Brian and Steve Steen. Grandmother of 11. Great-grandmother of 10.

**STILES, Sandra S.**, 76, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, May 12. Wife of Kenneth Stiles. Mother of Sindy Parker Alexander, Ron Parker and Scott Stiles. Grandmother of several.

**STUMLER, Nathan**, 37, St. Mary, New Albany, June 8. Son of Randall Stumler. Stepson of Karen Stumler. Brother of Mary Anne, Sarahjane, Alfie, Henry and Oscar Sumler.

**WALSH, Patrick**, 92, St. Michael the Archangel, Indianapolis, June 25. Husband of Maria Walsh. Father of Maria Bingham, Elizabeth O'Gara, Christopher, Edward and Thomas Walsh.

## Pro-life Ireland



Pro-life advocates participate on July 1 in the All Ireland Rally for Life in Dublin. (OSV News photo/Cillian Kelly)

Brother of Ellen Brengman and John Walsh. Grandfather of 14.

**WILHELM, Joan L. (Fox)**, 89, St. Roch, Indianapolis, June 22. Mother of Beth

McMahon, Ben, Chris, Francis and Nicholas Wilhelm. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of two.

**WOODS, Margaret**, 82, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis,

May 28. Mother of Greg, Kevin, Mark and Scott Woods. Sister of Mary Beth Malone. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of six. †

## Providence Sister Mary Roger Madden served in education, as community historian

Providence Sister Mary Roger Madden, a member of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, died on June 24 at Mother Theodore Hall on the campus of her religious community's motherhouse. She was 102.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 6 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse in St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

Sister Mary Roger was born on Dec. 5, 1920, in Decatur, Ill. She entered the Sisters of Providence on Sept. 16, 1940, and professed final vows on Jan. 23, 1949.

Sister Mary Roger earned a bachelor's degree in English at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and a master's degree in English at Indiana University in Bloomington.

During her 82 years as a member of the Sisters of Providence, Sister Mary Roger ministered as an educator in Catholic schools for 40 years in

California, Illinois, Indiana and Washington, D.C.

At the motherhouse, she served at the community's House of Prayer from 1969-71. Beginning in 1986, she became her community's historian and wrote the third volume of its history, covering the period from 1890-1926. From 1998-2007, Sister Mary Roger ministered as pilgrimage coordinator at the community's Providence Center. She also served as the coordinator of the community's Blessed Sacrament Chapel from 2006-17.

In the archdiocese, in addition to her service at the motherhouse, Sister Mary Roger ministered at St. Mary School (now part of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School) in Richmond from 1952-54, Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville from 1964-65 and at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College from 1968-69.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876. †

## Providence Sister Lois Ann Stoiber served in Catholic schools for 55 years

Providence Sister Lois Ann Stoiber, a member of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, died on June 22 at the Gibson Family Center in Terre Haute. She was 96.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on June 29 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse in St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

Sister Lois Ann was born on May 6, 1927, in Joliet, Ill. She entered the Sisters of Providence on Feb. 2, 1946, and professed final vows on Aug. 15, 1953.

Sister Lois Ann earned a bachelor's degree in education at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and a master's degree in education at

Illinois State University in Normal, Ill.

During her 77 years as a member of the Sisters of Providence, Sister Lois Ann ministered as an educator in Catholic schools for 55 years in Illinois and Indiana—38 of them as a teacher, 17 in support roles. After retiring from teaching, she served in Catholic schools as a secretary, clerk and teacher's aide. In 2020, Sister Lois Ann returned to the motherhouse where she committed herself entirely to prayer.

In the archdiocese, Sister Lois Ann served at the former St. Patrick School in Indianapolis from 1952-53.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876. †

### Online Lay Ministry Formation

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### REPORT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT NOW

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

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



# Look to God with childlike wonder, Pope Francis encourages

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Only by shedding feelings of personal greatness and regaining a sense of wonder in God’s love can people welcome Jesus into their hearts and lives, Pope Francis said.

With some 15,000 visitors gathered to pray the *Angelus* in St. Peter’s Square on July 9, the pope reflected on the day’s Gospel reading from St. Matthew in which Jesus praises God the Father for hiding “things” from the wise and revealing them to the childlike.

Those things, Pope Francis explained, refer to Jesus’ miracles—restoring sight to

the blind and healing lepers—which are “signs of God acting in the world” that are overlooked by the prideful.

God’s love, as reflected through Jesus’ miracles, “is not understood by those who presume to be great and manufacture a god in their own image: powerful, unyielding, vengeful,” he said.

“These presumptuous ones fail to accept God as Father; those who are full of themselves, proud, concerned only with their own interests: these are the presumptuous ones, convinced that they need no one,” Pope Francis said.

The childlike who are open to receiving God’s love, however, “have hearts free from conceit and self-love,” the pope explained.

“The childlike are those who, like children, feel needy and not self-sufficient; they are open to God and let themselves be astonished by his works,” he said. “They know how to read his signs, amazed by the miracles of his love.”

Pope Francis urged Christians whether they let themselves stop and be amazed by how the signs of God are working in their lives or if they notice them only in passing.

“Our lives, if we think about it, are full of miracles, full of signs of love, of signs of God’s bounty,” he said. “Before these, however, our heart can also remain indifferent and become set in its ways, strangely unable to be amazed.”

Pope Francis suggested that Christians

draw attention to the signs of God’s love in daily life in by “photographing” them in their minds and “printing” them onto their heart to then develop them in their lives through positive actions, so that the “photograph” of God’s love “becomes brighter in us and through us.”

After praying the *Angelus*, the pope recalled “with pain” the recent bloodshed in the Holy Land, where on July 3 Israeli forces launched a two-day ground and aerial attack on the city of Jenin in the West Bank. The Palestinian government reported that 12 Palestinians were killed in the raid and at least 120 were wounded.

“I hope that the Israeli and Palestinian Authorities can resume a direct dialogue in order to end the spiral of violence and open paths of reconciliation and peace,” the pope said. †

## CAPECCHI

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same path. She famously charted *The Happiness Project*, distilling reams of research alongside personal experiences. Her new book is titled *Life In Five Senses: How Exploring the Senses Got Me Out of My Head and Into the World*.

In an era of mindless scrolling, Rubin recognized, we have become so

numb that the notion of embracing the five senses feels novel. And this season bursts with multi-sensory happiness: the smell of fresh-mown grass, the sound of frogs croaking, the swing of a hammock.

May we soak it all in, feeling the tingle of being fully alive, giving God all the glory.

(Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.) †

### Employment



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### Employment

## Tribunal Advocate

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking a full time Advocate for the Metropolitan Tribunal. This is an in-person role located in the Bishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center in downtown Indianapolis. The Advocate is responsible for assisting persons who are seeking to establish their freedom to marry in the Catholic Church or to clarify their marital status in accordance with Canon Law.

The qualified candidate must have at least a bachelor’s degree (a degree in Canon Law is preferred). Two years of legal and/or pastoral experience or other relevant life experience is preferred. The qualified candidate must also be a Catholic in good standing, have a general understanding and acceptance of the Church’s teachings regarding marriage, have excellent verbal and written communication skills, strong organizational skills, computer knowledge, and the ability to present realistically the requirements of Canon Law while remaining sensitive to the pastoral needs of the client.

The position is an opportunity to work directly in Church ministry that serves people’s human and spiritual needs. To obtain a description of the Advocate position and an employment application, please contact: Mrs. Kay Summers, Associate Director of the Tribunal, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202 or by e-mail: [ksummers@archindy.org](mailto:ksummers@archindy.org). Applications will be accepted through July 31, 2023.

## Bishop Chatard High School Communications Coordinator

Bishop Chatard High School, a dynamic archdiocesan Catholic high school located on the north side of Indianapolis, is seeking a creative and engaging individual to carry out the duties and responsibilities of Communications Coordinator. The Communications Coordinator is a member of the school’s advancement team and reports to the Executive Director of Marketing & Communication. This is a full-time, 12-month position.

Qualified candidates will have strong social media and writing skills, be proficient with technology, and have the ability to work collaboratively with a variety of constituencies. A bachelor’s degree in a related field is preferred. For more information about this position, view the job description at [www.BishopChatard.org/about/employment](http://www.BishopChatard.org/about/employment).

To apply, please email a resume and cover letter by July 23 to Kelly Lucas, Executive Director of Marketing & Communication, at [klucas@BishopChatard.org](mailto:klucas@BishopChatard.org).

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### St. Pius X Catholic Church

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**General Qualifications:**

Must be a practicing Catholic faithful to the teachings of the Church. Maintain confidentiality in all parish matters. Excellent organizational and filing skills, basic computer knowledge Professional bearing; Answering door, receiving packages, movement through parish office and church building, light physical lifting involved in organizational duties in office and church. Experience preferred but not required.

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# The Miracle Club tugs heartstrings with moving performances



Actress Laura Linney (left) stars with the legendary Dame Maggie Smith (right) in the film *The Miracle Club*, which centers around four women's trip to Lourdes, France. (Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures)

## Movie opens on July 14 at theaters nationwide

By Ann Margaret Lewis

I'm always a sucker for a watching Dame Maggie Smith (*Downton Abbey*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *California Suite*) in anything she does, so I couldn't resist the opportunity to review Sony Pictures' film *The Miracle Club*, a story set in 1967 about four Irish-born women making a trip to Lourdes, France, in search of miracles.

As I predicted, Maggie made me cry. Her performance and those of Kathy Bates (*Misery*, *Fried Green Tomatoes*, *About Schmidt*), Agnes O'Casey (BBC One's "Ridley Road") and Laura Linney (*You Can Count on Me*, *The Squid and the Whale*, HBO's "John Adams") are all well done.

One could almost think of this film as an Irish version of *Steel Magnolias* (1989) with all the female actors chewing the scenery. One character faces the threat of terminal illness, while another desires to have her autistic son speak.

But in contrast with the joy of the pilgrimage is tension from the unwelcome return of a friend banished from their Irish community 40 years prior for an out-of-wedlock pregnancy. She joins the women in place of her deceased mother.

Of course, as with just about any secular production about Catholic characters, the film predictably approaches the subject of abortion. Since this is one of the core turns of the story, the subject couldn't be avoided. But still, I find myself wishing secular filmmakers would tell a story about Catholics that didn't hit on that

topic, or at least approach it through a truly Catholic lens. Here the morality of it is left nebulous, which, again, is unsurprising.

I was also disappointed, but again not surprised, that none of the characters suggested or approached the sacrament of penance with the priest on the trip.

Regardless, he was portrayed sympathetically, being visibly crushed when one of the characters declares Lourdes a "con" because only 67 miracles had occurred there since Mary appeared there in 1858. To be honest, I found that amusing because my thought was, "Sixty-seven? That's a lot!" (Lourdes is now up to 70.) Of course, the character who says this ends up with a miracle of her own she hadn't anticipated, proving her wrong in her doubts about the pilgrimage.

Ultimately, the film is a pleasant tear-jerker that I was glad to watch for the fine performances if nothing else.

The film is rated PG-13 for language and adult subject matter. Directed by award-winning Irish filmmaker Thaddeus O'Sullivan, *The Miracle Club* is based on a story by Jimmy Smallhorne, with a screenplay by Smallhorne, Timothy Prager and Joshua D. Maurer. The film is beautifully shot at locations in Ireland, while the Lourdes grotto was recreated at Ireland's Ardmore Film Factory. The Lourdes shrine rarely grants permission for filming.

*The Miracle Club* is releasing in theaters nationwide on July 14. To see if the film will show at a theater near you or to purchase tickets, go to [tickets.miracleclubmovie.com](https://tickets.miracleclubmovie.com). †

## READINGS

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### Thursday, July 27

Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b  
(Response) Daniel 3:52-56  
Matthew 13:10-17

### Friday, July 28

Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 19:8-11  
Matthew 13:18-23

### Saturday, July 29

SS. Martha, Mary and Lazarus  
Exodus 24:3-8  
Psalm 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15  
John 11:19-27  
or Luke 10:38-42

### Sunday, July 30

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
1 Kings 3:5, 7-12  
Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130  
Romans 8:28-30  
Matthew 13:44-52  
or Matthew 13:44-46

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