



The

# Criterion

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**'Embracing the other'**

Saint's feast day celebrates Church's cultures and ethnicities, page 9.



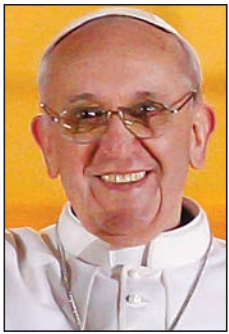
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## Pope confirms he will visit Philadelphia in September

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis said he would attend the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September, making it the first confirmed stop on what is expected to be a more extensive papal visit to North America. The pope made the announcement on Nov. 17 in a speech opening an interreligious conference on traditional marriage.



Pope Francis

"I would like to confirm that, God willing, in September 2015 I will go to Philadelphia for the eighth World Meeting of Families," the pope said.

The announcement had been widely expected because Pope Benedict XVI had said before his retirement that he hoped to attend the Philadelphia event. Popes typically fulfill their predecessors' publicly known travel plans, as Pope Francis did in July 2013 when he attended World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro.

Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, who was in Rome for the families' meeting, told Catholic News Service the announcement was "a surprise in the sense that it was announced so early; you know, usually they don't make these announcements—four months out is the typical, and here we are 10 months away, and the Holy Father said he is coming to Philadelphia.

"The Holy Father has said that he's going to be coming to Philadelphia for quite a few months," he told Catholic News Service. "He's been telling me that personally, but for him to announce it officially that he is coming so early is really quite an unusual thing, so it's going to re-energize our efforts. There's a lot of enthusiasm already, but I think 90 percent of the enthusiasm's based on the fact that the Holy Father will be with us, and now that he's said that, I expect that there will be even a double amount of enthusiasm ... and I'm very happy about that."

See POPE, page 2

## Thanksgiving homecoming



The Ruckelshaus family poses for a photo outside an inn in Oxford, England, where Jay Ruckelshaus studied at Oxford University during the summer of 2013. Drew, left, John, Jay, Mary and Maggie will all be together again on Thanksgiving in the family's Indianapolis home. (Submitted photo)

## Family will celebrate the strength, love and faith that binds them through blessings, challenges

By John Shaughnessy

As parents, John and Mary Ruckelshaus believe that one of the greatest blessings of their life is when their grown children all return home at the same time.

As a college student who lives away from home, 22-year-old Jay Ruckelshaus knows there's something special about returning to the place where you grew up and being embraced again by family and friends.

And the homecoming will be even more meaningful this time for the Ruckelshaus family, including Jay's

older siblings, 27-year-old Drew and 26-year-old Maggie.

For the first Thanksgiving in four years, they will all be together in the family's Indianapolis home, celebrating the strength, the love and the faith that has always bound them—especially through some of the most challenging and devastating times a family can face.

"I think what I'll give thanks for is that we're all together, that we're all here," says Mary. After a pause, she adds, "Because very easily we couldn't be."

In those words, there's a hint of the challenges and heartaches that have confronted this family from St. Pius X

Parish in Indianapolis.

When Drew and Maggie were little, they were both diagnosed with congenital glaucoma, a condition that led to about 20 surgeries each to prevent blindness.

When Drew was 9, he was struck with leukemia. Six months of chemotherapy followed. So did five years of waiting to see whether the cancer would return.

Then, in the early morning hours of a summer day in 2011, more heartbreaking news came.

"We got a phone call at 1:30 in the morning," John recalls. "It was every parent's worst nightmare."

See RUCKELSHAUS, page 8

## In the wake of synagogue shooting, Jerusalem patriarch calls for end to violence in the Holy Land

JERUSALEM (CNS)—After an early morning synagogue attack left four people dead and eight injured on Nov. 18, Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal called for an end to all violence in the Holy Land.

"We are praying and waiting. We are sad," said Patriarch Twal. "We must, all people of responsibility, politicians and religious leaders, do our best in our positions to condemn this violence and avoid as much as possible the causes which lead other people to violence."



Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal

The attack occurred in the

Har Nof neighborhood of West Jerusalem, which is popular with the Anglo-Orthodox Jewish community. Three of the dead had dual Israeli-American citizenship; one had Israeli-British citizenship.

The two perpetrators of the attacks, Palestinian cousins from East Jerusalem, were killed at the scene by Israeli police.

"Violence leads to more violence," Patriarch Twal told Catholic News Service. He said he sent condolences to the families of all the victims of the recent wave of violence that has rocked Jerusalem as Israel moves toward expanding Jewish settlements in the area, and Palestinians fear a Jewish presence on the shared holy site of the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif, in Jerusalem's Old City.

According to a tenuous and contested status quo agreement, Jews are allowed to visit the site where, according to Jewish

tradition, the Biblical Jewish temple stood, but they are not allowed to pray there. According to Muslim tradition, it is the site where Muhammad ascended into heaven.

A day prior to the synagogue attack, a Palestinian bus driver who worked for an Israeli cooperative was found hung in his bus at the terminal. Israeli police called the death a suicide after a medical investigation, but the man's family and the Palestinian media maintain that it was a lynching. Some have said the synagogue killings were in retaliation for his death.

"You can't occupy and then think people [will be quiet]," Patriarch Twal said, referring to Israel occupation of Palestinian lands. "We are against any kind of violence either from a state group or private groups."

"We are in a very bad situation and

See HOLY LAND, page 15



# Archdiocese seeks representatives to attend 2015 World Meeting of Families



Special to *The Criterion*

The archdiocese is seeking families and individuals to become part of an archdiocesan representative group at the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.

The archdiocesan group will consist of about 50 people who will be part of a Sept. 20-28 pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families and Festival of Families. Pope Francis has confirmed that he will attend the gathering, and celebrate Mass for an estimated 1 million people on Sept. 26.

Families and individuals from across central and southern Indiana will be selected to represent the archdiocese by application or nomination process, which includes family demographics and an essay portion with three questions:

- 1) What gifts and strengths do you bring that would be beneficial to the pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families?
- 2) What do you hope to learn during the pilgrimage?
- 3) How do you plan on bringing back

what you learn to your family, parish and community to enhance and build up the Christian family in the Church and society within the Archdiocese of Indianapolis?

The application and nomination deadline is Jan. 13, 2015.

The group from the archdiocese will be diverse in family type (nuclear, single-parent, blended, grandparents as parents), state of life (married, divorced, never married, religious, priest, deacon) as well as in age, location in the archdiocese, and ethnicity.

The eighth World Meeting of Families will take place for the first time in the United States in Philadelphia on Sept. 21-25, 2015. The conference is expected to draw thousands of attendees from more than 150 countries—and more than 1 million pilgrims for the papal visit and Sunday Mass.

The theme for the 2015 World Meeting of Families, “Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive,” emphasizes the impact of the love and life of families on society. The purpose of this worldwide gathering is to allow families to hear distinguished speakers, share thoughts, participate in dialogue and prayers, and work together to grow as individuals and families while focusing on the role of the Christian family in the Church and society.

The World Meeting of Families was conceived by St. John Paul II to strengthen

the sacred bonds of families across the globe. The first World of Families took place in Rome in 1994, the International “Year of the Family,” and has been held in Rio de Janeiro (1997); Rome (2000); Manila (2003); Valencia, Spain (2006); Mexico City (2009); and Milan, Italy (2012).

Some financial assistance for participating in the weeklong pilgrimage to Philadelphia may be available.

For more information, to nominate a family, or to apply as a family to represent the archdiocese at this historical event, please visit [www.archindy.org/wmf2015](http://www.archindy.org/wmf2015) or contact Scott Seibert at 800-317-236-1527 or 317-236-1527 or e-mail [sseibert@archindy.org](mailto:sseibert@archindy.org).

For general information regarding the World Meeting of Families as well as parish and school catechetical resources, visit [www.worldmeeting2015.org](http://www.worldmeeting2015.org). †

## Office of Pro-Life and Family Life offers speakers on World Meeting of Families

*Criterion* staff report

The archdiocese’s Office of Pro-Life and Family Life has speakers available to come to parishes or communities to talk about the World Meeting of Families next September in Philadelphia.

The one-hour talk includes an introduction to the 10 themes of preparatory catechesis, a collection of what the Church teaches concerning marriage, family and the purpose of humanity:

- Created for Joy

- The Mission of Love
- The Meaning of Human Sexuality
- Two Become One
- Creating the Future
- All Love Bears Fruit
- Light in a Dark World
- A Home for the Wounded Heart
- Mother, Teacher, Family: The Nature and Role of the Church
- Choosing Life

(To schedule a speaker or for more information, contact Scott Seibert at 317-236-1527, 800-382-9836 ext. 1527, or e-mail [sseibert@archindy.org](mailto:sseibert@archindy.org).) †

## POPE

continued from page 1

[Catholicphilly.com](http://Catholicphilly.com) reported the archbishop noted that Pope Francis has focused “on the many challenges that families face today globally. His charisma, presence and voice will electrify the gathering.

“As I’ve said many times before, I believe that the presence of the Holy Father will bring all of us—Catholic and non-Catholic alike—together in tremendously powerful, unifying and healing ways. We look forward to Pope Francis’ arrival in Philadelphia next September, and we will welcome him joyfully with open arms and prayerful hearts.”

In August, Pope Francis told reporters accompanying him on the plane back from South Korea that he “would like” to go to Philadelphia. The pope also noted that President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress had invited him to Washington, D.C., and that the secretary-general of the United Nations had invited him to New York.



Archbishop Charles J. Chaput

“Maybe the three cities together, no?” Pope Francis said, adding that he could also visit the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico on the same trip—“but it is not certain.”

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters on Nov. 17 that Pope Francis wanted to

“guarantee organizers” that he would be present at the meeting in Philadelphia, “but he did not say anything about other possible stops or events during that trip. And for now I do not have anything to add in that regard.”

Although few details of the papal visit have been made public, organizers for the families’ congress

expect Pope Francis to arrive on Sept. 25 for an afternoon public visit with civic officials.

That would begin his first trip as pope to the United States and the second papal visit to Philadelphia in a generation; St. John Paul II visited the city in 1979. He will be the fourth sitting pope to visit the U.S.

During his visit, Pope Francis is expected to attend on Sept. 26 the Festival of Families, a cultural celebration for hundreds of thousands of people along Philadelphia’s main cultural boulevard, the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Donna Farrell, executive director for the 2015 World Meeting of Families and its chief planner, said although Philadelphia has hosted St. John Paul’s visit, the city has “not had anything like this unique Festival of Families. It’s really going to be something special.”

Registration for the congress opened in mid-November. The meeting will be a weeklong series of talks, discussions and activities.

Pope Francis is also expected to celebrate a public Mass for an estimated 1 million people on Sept. 26 on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, in full view of the crowds arrayed from the museum down the Ben Franklin Parkway.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, welcomed the pope’s announcement.

“The presence of Pope Francis at the World Meeting of Families in our country will be a joyful moment for millions of Catholics and people of good will,” Archbishop Kurtz said. “Our great hope has been that the Holy Father would visit us next year to inspire our families in their mission of love. It is a blessing to hear the pope himself announce the much anticipated news.” †



Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz

## Official Appointments

Effective November 26, 2014

**Rev. Timothy Sweeney, O.S.B.**, sacramental minister at St. Isidore the Farmer Parish in Bristow, appointed administrator of St. Isidore the Farmer Parish in Bristow and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Siberia.

**Rev. Sengole Thomas Gnanaraj**, administrator of St. Isidore the Farmer parish in Bristow, St. Michael Parish in Cannelton, and St. Pius V Parish in Troy, continuing as administrator of St. Michael Parish in Cannelton and St. Pius V Parish in Troy.

**Rev. Brian Esarey**, pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Leopold, St. Martin of Tours Parish in Siberia, and Holy Cross Parish in St. Croix, continuing as pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Leopold and Holy Cross Parish in St. Croix.

Effective January 14, 2015

**Rev. Msgr. William F. Stumpf**, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Greenfield, vicar general and moderator of the curia, and priest moderator of St. Agnes Parish in Nashville, to vicar general and moderator of the curia and continuing as priest moderator of St. Agnes Parish in Nashville.

**Deacon Wayne Davis**, retired Indiana Securities Commissioner, appointed parish life coordinator pro tem of St. Michael Parish in Greenfield.

**Rev. Msgr. Paul D. Koetter**, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish and dean of the Indianapolis East Deanery, appointed priest moderator pro tem of St. Michael Parish in Greenfield and continuing as pastor of Holy Spirit Parish and dean of the Indianapolis East Deanery.

**Rev. Joseph Newton**, adjunct vicar judicial, Metropolitan Tribunal, appointed sacramental minister pro tem at St. Michael Parish in Greenfield and continuing as adjunct vicar judicial, Metropolitan Tribunal.

*These appointments are from the office of the Most Rev. Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Indianapolis.* †



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# Veterans: Faith was bedrock of our lives during conflicts

(Editor's note: The Criterion invited readers who served in the military to share their stories of how their faith helped them during wartime. Here are the stories of four veterans.)

By Natalie Hoefler

During World War I, before the United States Air Force existed, Sgt. Thomas Marcotte served as an aircraft mechanic for the Air Service of the Signal Corps of the United States Army.

He is not alive to tell his story, but his son loves to share the wartime stories of his father, "an interesting man, a very religious man."

While Don Marcotte, a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis, says there are many tales to share about the "storybook exploits" of his father, one experience of faith particularly stands out.

The story takes place in France where, "passing through a French town, [my father] learned about a local 'holy French nun.'"

Being a Catholic man of faith, Sgt. Marcotte purchased from the sisters a prayer book that contained a piece of the nun's habit on the front cover.

Don says his father "prayed to the nun that he would be kept safe in the war. He carried the prayer book in the breast pocket of his uniform shirt."

One day, Sgt. Marcotte was sent out to repair a downed plane in an area between two trenches of opposing troops. Although there had been no activity between the trenches for a few days, Don relates how his father "heard a shot ring out as he bent over the engine of the plane, and he felt a burning pain in his chest."

Upon reaching the safety of a bomb shell crater, he noticed a bullet hole in his shirt.

"When he opened his shirt, there was a bullet hole in his undershirt," Don explains. "The bullet had plowed a bloody furrow across the skin of one breast and burned a strip from the heat of the bullet to the other breast."

"As the bullet left, it took the corner off the prayer book in his shirt pocket. He credits this nun with saving his life."

Don shares that his father believed the nun also saved his life several other times, "including a plane crash he was in."

In 1925, less than a decade after the U.S. entered World War I, the nun whose prayer book Sgt. Marcotte owned was declared a saint—St. Thérèse of Lisieux, known as "the Little Flower."

After his father died in 1942 of lung cancer believed to be caused by exposure to poisonous gases during the war, the Marcottes donated the prayer book to the national shrine of St. Thérèse,

which was then located on the south side of Chicago.

Sadly, a fire destroyed both the shrine and the prayer book in 1975.

Throughout his life, his father developed a strong devotion to St. Thérèse, says Don.

"She was his favorite saint. He prayed to her all the time."

That devotion spread to the rest of the Marcotte family, including Don.

"I have a [St. Thérèse] medal around my neck that I've been wearing for 40 years," he shares.

## 'A level of inner peace'

When Marine Staff Sgt. William Medford was deployed to Okinawa, Japan, in the summer of 1990, he went with a non-military mission in mind.

"One of my personal goals during this deployment was to prepare for confirmation, to be formally received into the [Catholic] Church," says Medford, a baptized Christian who had married a Catholic.

"I felt it was important for me to profess the Catholic faith through confirmation in order to strengthen our family and my Christian life."

Medford had started meeting with the Catholic chaplain on his base when his plans were interrupted by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August of 1990. He was redeployed to Saudi Arabia as part of operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

After the redeployment, Medford continued speaking with the priest assigned to his unit about being received into the full communion of the Church.

His steps to be received into the Church were soon put on the fast track.

"As it became more apparent that we were going to have to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait, the serving priest and I agreed that I [should] be confirmed and receive the Eucharist, with the understanding that I attend RCIA [Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults] classes post-deployment," Medford explains.

Although his memories of first receiving the sacraments of confirmation and holy Communion are vague, Medford states that his "faith during Desert Storm enabled me to not only deal personally with the aggression, emotion and violence of war, but also to support others as they tried to deal with what we were facing."

"I recall through prayer having that moment where I was able to release my worries to God. I was still scared, but I was provided a level of inner peace, enough where I could carry on with the mission and provide moral leadership to others."

After his deployment, Medford fulfilled his promise to attend RCIA classes while stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

His first sacraments may have

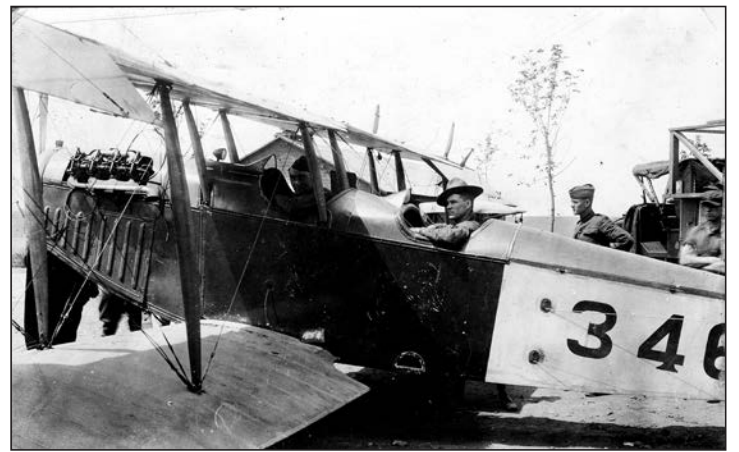


Above, Gulf War veteran Marine Staff Sgt. William Medford sits in a tent during the conflict. It was just before the war began that Medford became Catholic. (Submitted photo)

Right, Army Sgt. Thomas Marcotte sits in the cockpit of a plane during World War I. His son Don likes to share stories about the exploits of his father from the time of the war, including how his father credits a certain "holy French nun" with saving his life several times. (Submitted photo)



Above, Maryknoll Father Vincent R. Capodanno, a Navy chaplain who was killed while serving with the Marines in Vietnam, is pictured in an undated photo. Vietnam Marine veteran Mike Johnson "got to know him personally" while serving in Vietnam. (CNS photo/courtesy Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers)



been hastened by war, but the effects have been lasting.

Now, more than 20 years later, the Gulf War veteran and his wife are members of St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington.

And after two decades, says Medford, he still continues to grow in his "Catholic Christian faith through prayer, Mass, ministry and family."

## 'Catholic roots guided me through the war'

Retired Army Specialist Norbert Schott feels his mother's prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help were answered in the assignment he received during the Vietnam War.

"War was around me, but I was not part of war," Schott says of his non-combatant role as a clerk in Qui Nho'n, a city on the coast of the South China Sea in Vietnam. He served there from June of 1967 to January of 1969.

As the war went on around him, Schott held on to his Catholic faith.

"I had a beautiful Catholic-Franciscan family life as part of Sacred Heart Church in Indianapolis," he recalls. "Going to Mass and confession were regular tools of growth. I did not abandon them in Vietnam."

Schott celebrated Christmas of 1968 with a Catholic Filipino family he met through his uncle, a Franciscan priest who served as pastor of the family's parish in the Philippines.

"I think I attended a dozen or so family Christmas parties," he says of his "R&R [rest and relaxation]" visit to what he calls

the "Catholic island."

He saw his prayer life deepen in Vietnam as he "prayed for the boys who were in the infantry. I had deep compassion for them."

"Perhaps I was 'lucky,' perhaps I was 'spoiled' by my assignment," Schott reflects, but concludes rather that he was "blessed" to be able to continue prayer in a war that should not have been."

For Schott, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, it all comes down to gratitude for his faith, as he gave thanks to God for "my Catholic roots that were deep and guided me through the war."

## 'The inspiration of my life'

Retired Marine Corporal Mike Johnson of Shelbyville was raised a Baptist. Yet he still claims Servant of God Father Vincent Capodanno to be "the inspiration of my life."

Maryknoll Father Capodanno was a military chaplain for the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. His bravery and dedication to soldiers earned him not only a posthumous Medal of Honor, but more importantly led to an investigation into his cause for sainthood, thus giving him the title, Servant of God.

"I first met Father Vincent Capodanno a short time after arriving in Vietnam during a combat field operation," Johnson recalls. "It was a Sunday, and he was our field chaplain. I wasn't Catholic, but a church service seemed welcoming considering our miserable circumstances."

"Several of us attended his

service, all of various faiths. That didn't matter. Father Capodanno's service somehow provided us with a connection to our normal lives back home, and brought some sanity to an environment of madness."

Johnson explains that when he was lying injured in a military hospital he "got to know [Father Capodanno] personally [when] he would come and visit the patients."

The Vietnam veteran remembers one particular incident when he witnessed Father Capodanno's dedication firsthand.

"We were sweeping a field, walking in a horizontal formation," he shares. "About 15 yards from me, two Marines had tripped some type of landmine and were seriously injured."

"Out of nowhere, Father Capodanno climbed a fence, ran out in front of everyone, and was the first person to arrive at their side. He gave no thought to his own life—he knew he had to get to them to serve the faith that he so truly believed. It made us feel good to know he was with us."

Johnson returned to the U.S. in 1967.

"Shortly after I returned home, I learned that [Father Capodanno] was killed during Operation Swift," he recalls. "As I read the details of his death, I knew he was doing what he had done so often—he was helping and comforting others."

"Not a day goes by that I don't think about Father Capodanno. He has always been, and still is, an inspiration in my life." †



*'I had a beautiful Catholic-Franciscan family life as part of Sacred Heart Church in Indianapolis. Going to Mass and confession were regular tools of growth. I did not abandon them in Vietnam.'*

—Retired Army Specialist  
Norbert Schott

## Holy Trinity to celebrate final Mass on Nov. 23

Holy Trinity Parish, 2618 West St. Claire St. in Indianapolis, will celebrate the final Mass in its parish church at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 23.

On Nov. 30, Holy Trinity will be merged with nearby St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis. The merger came about through the *Connected in the Spirit* pastoral planning process.

The parish was founded in 1906 and served the Slovenian Catholic community for many years.

Following Mass, an open house will be held at The Slovenian National Home, 2717 W. 10th St. in Indianapolis, at 11 a.m. Please bring a covered dish.

For more information, call 317-632-0619 or e-mail [slovenianindy@gmail.com](mailto:slovenianindy@gmail.com). †





Rev. Msgr. Raymond T. Bosler, Founding Editor, 1915 - 1994

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## Editorial



A woman prays during a Mass of thanksgiving at Holy Rosary Church in Abuja, Nigeria. November is a time to be especially grateful for all the gifts that God has given us. (CNS photo/Afolabi Sotunde, Reuters)

## November is gratitude month

The month of November begins with a celebration of saints and sinners (All Saints and All Souls), and concludes with the uniquely American feast of Thanksgiving, a “harvest festival” that recalls God’s abundant goodness to us.

November is a time to be especially grateful for the people (living and dead) who have gone before us, and for the goodness and beauty of the Earth that feeds, clothes and shelters us as we journey to our heavenly home.

Gratitude is an emotion that is truly liberating. Have you ever met a genuinely grateful person who was bitter, mean or resentful? It’s impossible to be truly thankful for what we have while being consumed with anger for what we don’t have.

Jealousy of others’ gifts can’t be sustained when we’re focused, gratefully, on all the gifts God has given to us. Misery results from an obsessive bitterness that is exclusively focused on self.

Joy is the spontaneous result of thankfulness, an attitude that turns our attention away from our own wants and needs to what others have generously given us, or done for us, out of love, friendship or simple fairness.

Everyone should have a gratitude list that starts with God, who has given us every good gift we possess, and goes on to include the people and communities who have enriched our lives. Parents and family should be high on our gratitude list, even if things at home weren’t (or still aren’t) perfect. Friends are a great blessing, and many of us are privileged to have co-workers who make tough jobs easier. All these should be on our list.

Life itself is a tremendous gift that we should be thankful for. Respect for all life, especially the sacredness of every human life, begins with a profound “thank you” to God, the author of all life.

When we forget to thank God for this most precious gift, when we act like we ourselves are somehow responsible for decisions concerning life and death, terrible things happen. Saying thank you for the great gift of life is the first (and perhaps most important) step on the road to peace—in our hearts, in our families and neighborhoods, and in our world.

Good health should be on everyone’s gratitude list even when we, or those we love, are suffering from a serious

physical or emotional illness. The miracle of healing should always be a source of thankfulness, especially for those of us who have witnessed firsthand what can happen when the skill of health care professionals is complemented by the power of prayer.

Freedom should also be high on our list. As daily news reports remind us, if we take our liberty for granted, we risk losing it. Gratitude to the men and women who defend us and keep us safe—here at home and throughout the world—should be something we express often and from the heart.

Love demands our gratitude, and so does friendship. Think of how lonely this world would be without the power of love freely given to us from the moment of our conception to the hour of our death.

Every one of us is loved by God in the most intimate and personal way. God knows our name. He reaches out to us and cares for us as only a loving father can.

Scripture says that God *is* love, so when we thank others—spouse, family, friends and even strangers—for the gift of love, we are expressing gratitude for God’s gift of self to us. This loving and selfless gift was most perfectly realized in Jesus who became human and died for our sake. He is the source of all our hope, the joy of all desiring. Giving thanks to him—and for him—is the secret to true and lasting joy.

November is gratitude month. It is a time when we are invited to reflect gratefully on all the gifts we have received from a good and gracious God.

Gratitude is the first characteristic of a Christian steward, but it never stands alone. The grateful steward is accountable for all his or her gifts, and generous, too. Finally, a steward who is truly grateful seeks to return God’s gifts with increase, to be productive and “give back” a hundredfold.

Thanksgiving for the abundant harvest—for all the gifts we have received—acknowledges that the blessings we have received are not to be hoarded or buried, but to be grown, matured and then shared generously with others.

The Earth and all it contains belong to everyone. Grateful stewards are green, not with envy but with loving care for the environment that is God’s gift to us.

This November, let’s offer heartfelt thanks to God for all his gifts.

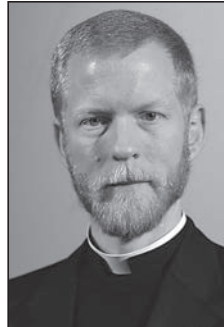
—Daniel Conway

## Making Sense of Bioethics/Fr. Tad Pacholczyk Physician-assisted suicide and confronting our fears

The prospect of a very attractive, recently married young woman with a terminal illness facing excruciating pain and suffering as she dies is enough to

move anyone.

The life and death of 29-year-old Brittany Maynard recently captured enormous media attention when she declared she was moving to Oregon to commit suicide after having



been informed by her doctors that she had an aggressive form of brain cancer, and likely had only six months to live. She brought her life to a close on Nov. 1, a date she had selected ahead of time, by taking a lethal dose of barbiturates prescribed by her doctor.

In the public discussions that have ensued, some have ventured to argue that suicide under such desperate circumstances would, in fact, be justifiable.

A recent online article from *Time* magazine observed that few fault those who were trapped on the top floors of the Twin Towers on 9/11 when they jumped to their deaths below as the flames surged around them.

Similarly, the article suggests that those who face the prospect of a difficult, pain-racked death from a terminal disease should be able to take their own life through physician-assisted suicide without fault or blame.

For those jumping out of the Twin Towers, however, we recognize a horrific situation of desperation, and even the possibility of a kind of mental breakdown in those final panic-stricken moments.

Their agonizing choice to hurl themselves out of the building to their deaths below would be, objectively speaking, a suicidal act, and would not represent a morally good choice, but their moral culpability would almost certainly be diminished, if not eliminated, by the harrowing circumstances in which they found themselves, driven by raw terror more than by anything else.

Clearly, grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of suffering can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide.

Yet in the face of a terminal medical diagnosis, it is not reasonable to let our fears dictate our choices. Instead, it behooves us to confront and resolve those fears without yielding to panic, and without allowing unpleasant future scenarios to loom large in our imagination.

Brittany Maynard not only greatly feared a difficult death for herself, but also argued that protecting her family from pain and suffering was an important consideration in her decision to carry out physician-assisted suicide: “I probably would have suffered in hospice care for weeks or even months. And my family would have had to watch that. I did not want this nightmare scenario for my family.”

Yet even with very noble intentions and a loving concern for our family, we can unwittingly become overzealous in our desire to “protect” them from suffering.

Brittany’s desire to protect her family and friends from pain by committing suicide also led her to cross over critical moral boundaries such that she deprived her family and friends of the chance to love her through her sickness.

Suicide in any form runs contrary to our duty to love—to love ourselves and to love our neighbor—because it unjustly breaks important ties of solidarity we have with family, friends and others to whom we continue to have obligations.

It is always violent to eliminate suffering by eliminating the sufferer. We effectively give up on the Creator and all he has created. We refuse the help of our neighbor, the love of a family member, or even the beauty of another sun-drenched day to lighten our affliction.

Even as our lives wind down, we have a calling to be good stewards of the gift of life. Hospice and palliative care, along with careful pain management, can lighten our burdens during the dying process. The mutual support of family and friends enables us, and them, to grow in unexpected ways.

By respecting and working through the dying process, we can encounter deep and unanticipated graces. We may recognize the need to ask for and receive forgiveness from others and from God. We may become aware of God’s presence, and receive a strengthened faith.

We gain peace in our dying days and hours by accepting our mortality and our situation, journeying down the road that still opens ahead of us, even as it becomes shorter, living it with the same tenacity and generosity we did when the road was yet longer.

(Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience at Yale University and did post-doctoral work at Harvard University. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org).) †

## POPE FRANCIS' VISIT TO TURKEY, NOV. 28-30

76.1 million total population 120,000 Christians, including 53,000 Catholics 75.9 million Muslims

6 Bishops (as of Oct. 29, 2014)

58 Priests

7 Male Religious

54 Women Religious

2 Permanent deacons

2 Lay members of secular institutes

7 Lay missionaries

68 Catechists

17 Church jurisdictions 54 Parishes 13 Other pastoral centers

### Education

23 Schools 6 Centers of special education

### Social/charitable centers owned or run by priests or religious

3 Hospitals 2 Clinics 5 Residences for the elderly/disabled



Source: Vatican Information Service, Vatican Press Office

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ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO JOSEPH W. TOBIN



REJOICE IN THE LORD

ALÉGRENSE EN EL SEÑOR

## Giving and receiving thanks with an attitude of gratitude

*“Thanksgiving Day is a harvest festival celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada. Traditionally, it is a time to give thanks for the harvest and express gratitude in general. While it may have been religious in origin, Thanksgiving is now primarily identified as a secular holiday.”* (Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia)

November is sometimes called gratitude month. It’s the time of year when we Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, a time when we are invited to be grateful for all the gifts we have received from a good and gracious God.

I spent 20 years living in Rome and traveling all over the world on behalf of my religious community, the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists). Nothing unites Americans abroad more than the annual Thanksgiving celebration. It’s part of our DNA, and no matter where we are in the world, when Thanksgiving Day comes around, we Americans find a way to celebrate!

This year, Thanksgiving Day is observed on Nov. 27. That’s just a few days before the second anniversary of my

installation as archbishop of Indianapolis on Dec. 3, 2012. This year, I will be giving thanks for two blessed years here in central and southern Indiana! In a very special way, I will be giving thanks to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who sent me here to serve all God’s people in this historic local Church, and to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, who inspires us all to serve as missionary disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am also grateful to the people of central and southern Indiana; to my dedicated co-workers at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center and in parishes, schools and archdiocesan agencies in every deanery; to my brother priests and deacons; to my assistant in episcopal ministry, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, and my predecessor in this ministry, Archbishop Emeritus Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B. All have shown me what Hoosier hospitality truly means, and I am grateful.

I hope that you can enjoy this very special time of year—surrounded by your family and friends! Holidays can be hard times for people who are in poor health, who are homeless or who are experiencing

emotional or financial difficulties. Let’s be sure to pray for those who are less fortunate than we are, and let’s help them in every way we can this Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is a secular holiday, not a religious holy day, the encyclopedia says. That’s technically true, but for those of us who are believers, it is impossible to express “gratitude in general.” Our thanks go to the God who created us and who sustains us by his grace. We Christians believe that this God is a person who knows us individually, and who cares about each one of us. When we give thanks to him, it is always an intimate and personal thing.

We Catholics celebrate the holy Eucharist (whose name comes from the Greek word for thanksgiving) every day, but on this day, Thanksgiving, we give special thanks to God for all his abundant blessings. That includes the gift of life itself, our parents and families, the love that we share with spouses and children, our friends, our freedom as Americans, our vocations as disciples of Jesus Christ, our material possessions, our intellectual gifts and talents, and much, much more.

Gratitude is a powerful virtue. It opens our hearts to the healing power

of God’s grace. It helps us look beyond our own selfish wants and fears to the gifts we receive from others, and to the opportunities we have to share with others and to return thanks to God for all that he has generously given to us.

If God can thank us, and forgive us, in spite of our selfishness and sin, shouldn’t we be able to do the same? Shouldn’t we have the faith and the courage to look beyond our own needs and wants and fears to the gifts we have received from God and from so many others?

When you go to Mass this weekend, say a special word of thanks to God for all his blessings. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for all the people in your life who have shared their gifts with you. Say a prayer of contrition for your sins, and ask for the grace to forgive those who have harmed you in any way.

For us, Thanksgiving is not just a secular holiday. It is a moment of grace for all of us who have been blessed by God to say thank you. May we thank God always for his goodness to us! May our hearts be filled to overflowing with gratitude for all the gifts we have received from a loving and generous God.

Happy Thanksgiving! †

## Dar y recibir las gracias con una actitud de agradecimiento

*“El Día de Acción de Gracias es un festival agrícola que se celebra principalmente en Estados Unidos y Canadá. Tradicionalmente es una ocasión para agradecer por la cosecha y expresar gratitud en general. Aunque quizás sea de origen religioso, el Día de Acción de Gracias se identifica hoy en día como una festividad laica.”* (Wikipedia, la enciclopedia libre)

El mes de noviembre también es conocido como “el mes del agradecimiento.” Es la época del año en la que los estadounidenses celebran el Día de Acción de Gracias, ocasión en la que se nos invita a dar gracias por los obsequios que hemos recibido de un Dios bueno y generoso.

Pasé 20 años viviendo en Roma y viajando por todo el mundo en nombre de mi comunidad religiosa, la Congregación del Santísimo Redentor (la Congregación Redentorista). El Día de Acción de Gracias es la celebración que reúne a los estadounidenses expatriados como ninguna otra. Forma parte de nuestro ADN y no importa en qué parte del mundo nos encontremos, cuando llega el Día de Acción de Gracias, ¡los estadounidenses buscamos la forma de celebrarlo!

Este año el Día de Acción de Gracias cae el 27 de noviembre, tan solo unos días antes de celebrar mi segundo aniversario de instalación como arzobispo de Indianapolis el 3 de diciembre de

2012. Este año estaré dando las gracias por estos dos años llenos de bendiciones que he vivido aquí en el centro y el sur de Indiana. De una forma muy especial estaré dando las gracias al Papa Emérito Benedicto XVI quien me envió aquí a servir al pueblo de Dios en esta Iglesia histórica, así como también a nuestro Santo Padre, el papa Francisco, quien nos inspira a servir como discípulos misioneros de nuestro Señor Jesucristo.

También estoy inmensamente agradecido con todo el pueblo del centro y del sur de Indiana; con mis dedicados compañeros de trabajo del Centro Católico Arzobispo Edward T. O’Meara y de las parroquias, escuelas y agencias arquidiocesanas de cada uno de los deánatos; con mis hermanos sacerdotes y diáconos; con mi asistente en el ministerio episcopal, el obispo Christopher J. Coyne, y con mi predecesor en este ministerio, el arzobispo emérito Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B. Todos me han demostrado el verdadero significado de la hospitalidad de los oriundos de Indiana y les estoy profundamente agradecido por esto.

Espero que puedan disfrutar de esta época tan especial del año, rodeados de familiares y amigos. Las fiestas pueden ser momentos difíciles para las personas que sufren problemas de salud, para aquellos que no tienen hogar o para los que están atravesando dificultades emocionales o económicas. No olvidemos rezar por aquellos menos afortunados que nosotros

y ayudémoslos en todo lo que podamos durante esta época de Acción de Gracias.

Según la enciclopedia, el Día de Acción de Gracias es una festividad laica, no religiosa. Aunque esto es técnicamente cierto, a los creyentes nos resulta imposible expresar “gratitud en general.” Nuestro agradecimiento se eleva al Dios que nos creó y que nos sustenta con su gracia. Los cristianos creemos que ese Dios es un ser que nos conoce y que se preocupa por cada uno de nosotros. Cuando le damos las gracias, siempre lo hacemos de forma íntima y personal.

Los católicos celebramos la Santa Eucaristía (nombre que se deriva de la palabra griega de agradecimiento) todos los días, pero en este en particular, el Día de Acción de Gracias, le agradecemos especialmente a Dios por sus abundantes bendiciones. Esto incluye el don de la vida misma, nuestros padres y familiares, el amor que compartimos con cónyuges e hijos, nuestros amigos, nuestra libertad como estadounidenses, nuestras vocaciones como discípulos de Jesucristo, nuestras posesiones materiales, nuestros dones y talentos intelectuales, y mucho, mucho más.

El agradecimiento es una virtud muy poderosa; abre nuestros corazones al poder sanador de la gracia de Dios. Nos ayuda a ver más allá de nuestros deseos egoístas y temores, y a concentrar nuestra atención en los obsequios que recibimos de los demás, en las oportunidades que se nos

presentan para compartir con el prójimo y en darle gracias a Dios por todo aquello que nos ha dado tan generosamente.

Si Dios puede darnos las gracias y perdonarnos, a pesar de nuestro egoísmo y del pecado, ¿acaso no deberíamos hacer lo mismo? ¿Acaso no deberíamos tener la fe y el valor para ver más allá de nuestras propias necesidades, deseos y temores, y posar la mirada en los obsequios que hemos recibido de Dios y de los demás?

Cuando vayan a la misa este fin de semana, dediquen unas palabras de agradecimiento especiales para Dios por todas sus bendiciones. Eleven una oración de agradecimiento por todas las personas en su vida que han compartido sus dones con ustedes. Entonen una oración de contrición por sus pecados y pidan por la gracia para poder perdonar a aquellos que de algún modo los hayan perjudicado.

Para nosotros, el Día de Acción de Gracias no es una festividad laica. Se trata de un momento de gracia para todos lo que hemos sido bendecidos por Dios y la oportunidad de expresar nuestra gratitud. ¡Que siempre le demos gracias a Dios por su bondad con nosotros! Que nuestros corazones estén rebosantes de agradecimiento por todos los obsequios que hemos recibido de un Dios amoroso y generoso.

¡Feliz Día de Acción de Gracias! †

Traducido por: Daniela Guanipa, Language Training Center, Indianapolis.



## Events Calendar

### November 21

Northside Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 E. 71st St., **Indianapolis. Catholic Business Exchange Mass**, breakfast and program, **"Happy Holidays? Self Care During the Busiest Time of Year,"** Rev. Christina Jones Davis, ThD., LMFT, clinical director and assistant professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, Christian Theological Seminary, 7-9 a.m., \$15 members, \$21 non-members, breakfast included. Reservations and information: [www.catholicbusinessexchange.org](http://www.catholicbusinessexchange.org).

Holy Spirit School, 7243 E. 10th St., Indianapolis. **8th-grade fundraiser, "Italian Dinner Party,"** 5:30-8:30 p.m., pre-sale tickets, \$8 adults, \$5 children, \$25 family, at the door, \$10 adult, \$5 children. Information: 317-710-3726 or [jpvastag@iupui.edu](mailto:jpvastag@iupui.edu).

St. Matthew the Apostle Church, 4100 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Charismatic Mass**, praise and worship, 7 p.m., Mass, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-846-0705.

### November 21-22

St. Augustine Home for the Aged, 2345 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. **Rummage sale**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 317-872-6420.

Marian University Theatre, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. **"Songs for a New World,"** 7 p.m., \$10 adults, \$5 students and seniors (65+). Information: 317-955-6588 or [boxoffice@marian.edu](mailto:boxoffice@marian.edu).

### November 22

St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. **Faithful Citizens Rosary procession**, Mass, 12:10 p.m., procession following Mass. Information: [faithful.citizens2016@gmail.com](mailto:faithful.citizens2016@gmail.com).

St. Philip Neri Parish, 545 Eastern Ave., Indianapolis. **Philippfest**,

**bingo and raffle**, 6-10 p.m., \$30 per person presale, \$35 per person at the door, includes dinner. Information: 317-631-8746 or [dianar@stphilipneri-indy.org](mailto:dianar@stphilipneri-indy.org).

St. Bartholomew Church, 1306 27th St., Columbus. **Concert series, Men's Ministry Choir, "Alleluia!"** Mass, 5 p.m., dinner, concert, free will offering. Information: 812-379-9353.

Ball State University, Cardinal Hall Room 301, 2000 W. University Avenue, Muncie. **Indiana Pro-Life Leadership Summit 2014**, high school and college students, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: [sfla.webconnex.com/14INRegConf](http://sfla.webconnex.com/14INRegConf).

### November 22-23

St. Margaret Mary Parish, 2405 S. 7th St., Terre Haute. **Annual craft fair, noodle sale, bake sale and raffle**, breakfast available Sat. morning, Sat. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Information: 812-232-3512.

### November 27

Cathedral Soup Kitchen, 1347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **St. Luke's United Methodist Church sponsors Thanksgiving Day meals**, continental breakfast, 7-10 a.m., dinner, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., meals delivered if ordered by Tuesday, Nov. 25. For meal delivery reservations, call: 317-846-3404, ext. 480.

Our Lady of Lourdes School, 30 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis. **Irvington Community Thanksgiving dinner**, noon-2 p.m., delivery upon request. Information: 317-356-7291 or [parishsecretary@ollindy.org](mailto:parishsecretary@ollindy.org).

### December 3

Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced. New members welcome. 6:30 p.m.

Information: 317-243-0777.

### December 5

St. Joseph Parish, 1375 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. **First Friday exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, rosary and Benediction**, 4-6 p.m., Mass, 5:45 p.m. Information: 317-244-9002.

### December 6

St. Michael the Archangel Church, 145 St. Michael Blvd., Brookville. **First Saturday Devotional Prayer Group**, Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, rosary, confession, meditation, 8 a.m. Information: 765-647-5462.

### Helpers of God's Precious

**Infants Prayer Vigil, Terre Haute.** 7:30 a.m. Mass at the Carmelite Monastery at 59 Allendale, 9:25 a.m. parking on Ohio Blvd., 9:30 a.m. assemble on sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood at 30 S. 3rd St. for prayers, 10:00 a.m. travel to St. Patrick Adoration Chapel at 1807 Poplar St. for Divine Mercy Chaplet, completed around 10:30 a.m.

St. Lawrence Parish, 6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis. **Craft fair**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., bring a canned good to help St. Vincent de Paul. Information: 317-313-5534.

### December 9

St. Paul Hermitage, 501 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. **Ave Maria Guild**, Christmas party and pitch-in, noon. Information: 317-888-7625 or [vlgmimi@aol.com](mailto:vlgmimi@aol.com).

Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 1125 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Euchre party**, seniors and retirees, 12:30 p.m. Information: 317-788-0522. †

## VIPs



**Charles and Mary Alice (Ringeman) Ruxer**, members of St. Meinrad Parish in St. Meinrad, will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on Nov. 11.

The couple was married on Nov. 11, 1944, at Saint Meinrad Abbey Church.

They are the parents of three children, Karen Ruxer Springston, Mark and Terry Ruxer.

They also have nine grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

On Thanksgiving Day, Benedictine Father Anthony Vinson, administrator of St. Meinrad Parish in St. Meinrad and St. Boniface Parish in Fulda, will offer a Mass for the family at the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House Chapel. A family dinner will follow the liturgy at the Saint Meinrad Community Center. †

## SS. Francis and Clare to hold meeting about Early Childhood Learning Center

SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood will host an informational meeting about its new Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 4 in the San Damiano room. Anyone who would like more information is invited to attend.

The new 12,000-square-foot-facility will be located on the southeast portion of the parish's current location at 5901 Olive Branch Road in Greenwood. Construction will begin in early spring of 2015 with an anticipated opening next September.

The ECLC will serve families with

infants (as young as 6 weeks old) through kindergarten. It will have openings for 10 infants and 40 toddlers. The existing preschool and kindergarten classrooms will be relocated into the new facility from their current location in the Assisi Center.

SS. Francis and Clare currently serves approximately 800 children and youths in its religious education and youth ministries in addition to 550 children in its school ministry.

Registration for the new center will begin in January. For more information, contact admissions at 317-859-4673 or visit their website at [www.ss-fc.org](http://www.ss-fc.org).



## Columbus Day baby

To celebrate life, Knights of Columbus Council #1231 in Lawrenceburg recognize the first baby born on Columbus Day at Dearborn County Hospital in Lawrenceburg. This year, the lucky baby was Nyla McAllister, born at 11:45 p.m. on Oct. 12, pictured here being held by her mother, April McAllister. Jeff Lacey, Grand Knight of Council #1231, left, stands next to April and her husband, Ryan, while Council Community Director Brandon Abdon hands Ryan a \$100 check. The McAllisters live in Dearborn County and have three other daughters. (Submitted photo)

## Advent retreats, programs offered at retreat centers in December

Several retreat centers exist in and around the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Below are selected retreats and programs each is offering during the Advent season.

### One-day programs

On Dec. 6, the **Kordes Center at Monastery Immaculate Conception**, 841 E. 14th St., in Ferdinand, Ind., in the Evansville Diocese, is offering a program by Benedictine Sister Anita Louise Lowe titled "Eucharist: Called, Nourished, and Sent" from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Sunday Eucharist is called the source and summit of our faith. In this one-day program, participants will learn about the various elements of the eucharistic liturgy in order to gain a deeper appreciation for the liturgy, to enter fully into this celebration, and to become what is received—Christ for the world.

The cost is \$75 per person, which includes lunch. Registration is due by Dec. 3, and is available online at [www.thedome.org/programs](http://www.thedome.org/programs) or by calling 812-367-1411, ext. 2915.

On Dec. 13, **Mount Saint Francis Retreat Center**, 101 Mt. St. Francis Drive in Mt. St. Francis, will offer

an Advent retreat on The Festival of Lessons and Carols from 2-6 p.m., with a celebration of the Festival at 7 p.m., followed by a reception.

According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops website, "The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century [looking at the] promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News."

Franciscan Brother Robert Baxter will lead the afternoon session, speaking on Catholic traditions, music and Scripture revolving around Advent and Christmas.

The afternoon session is \$25, which includes dinner. Registration is due by Dec. 4. From 7-8 p.m., there will be a presentation of the Festival of Lessons and Carols, followed by refreshments. The evening event is free to the public.

For more information or to register for the afternoon session, call 812-923-8817 or e-mail [retreats@mountsaintfrancis.org](mailto:retreats@mountsaintfrancis.org).

### Multi-day themed retreats

On Dec. 12-14, **Oldenburg Franciscan Center in Oldenburg** will offer an Advent retreat titled "Journey with St. Francis." The retreat begins at

7 p.m. on Dec. 12, and concludes at noon on Dec. 14.

During the gathering, participants will have time to reflect on the spiritual meaning of the Advent and Christmas seasons, focusing on how they share hope, joy and Jesus.

The retreat will be led by Franciscan Sister Jane McConnell, author of *Daily We Seek You*.

The cost of the retreat is \$215 for a single room or \$130 for commuters.

To register or for more information, call 812-933-6437 or e-mail [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com).

On Dec. 19-21, **Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center**, 200 Hill Drive, in St. Meinrad will offer a retreat titled "Jesus: Savior and Son."

The retreat will focus on Scripture to help prepare participants' hearts for Christ's coming.

The retreat will be led by Benedictine Father Jeremy King. The cost is \$235 for a single occupancy room, and \$395 for a double occupancy room.

Registration and more information are available online at [www.saintmeinrad.org/retreats/](http://www.saintmeinrad.org/retreats/) (select "Jesus: Savior and Son"), by calling 812-357-6585, or

e-mailing [ormzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:ormzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu).

### Self-guided retreats

On Dec. 15, the **Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center**, 1402 Southern Ave. in Beech Grove, will offer a "Listen with the Ear of Your Heart" personal day of retreat from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

A personal day of retreat at the Benedict Inn allows participants to relax, read a good book, walk the grounds, attend liturgy, or just be. It is a day set aside for reflection and time with God.

The cost is \$35, which includes lunch and a room for the day. Spiritual direction is available for an additional fee.

To register, or if a different day is preferred, call 317-788-7581 or log on to [www.benedictinn.org](http://www.benedictinn.org).

On Dec. 17-19, **Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House**, 5353 E. 65th St., in Indianapolis will offer silent self-guided retreat days and nights for Advent.

Participants may come for one or more days or nights to create their own self-guided quiet time with God.

To register or for more information, call 317-545-7681 or log on to [archindy.org/fatima](http://archindy.org/fatima). †



# Msgr. Stumpf to lead pilgrimage 'in the Footsteps of St. Paul'

By Sean Gallagher

Msgr. William Stumpf, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, will lead a pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey from April 13-24, 2015.

The 11-day pilgrimage, titled "In the Footsteps of St. Paul," will feature several places where the great Apostle first brought the Gospel to Europe. It is being organized by the Carmel, Ind.-based Tekton Ministries.

Msgr. Stumpf desired to lead a pilgrimage to places connected to St. Paul after traveling to the Holy Land in 2010.

"It made the Scriptures come alive in a way that they'd never come alive for me before," he said, "so I thought that it would be perfect to experience the footsteps of St. Paul."

In addition to touring historic sites in Greece and Turkey, the pilgrimage will feature daily Mass at places of key importance to the early history of the Church.

The pilgrimage will begin in Athens and Corinth and will feature a tour of ancient ruins there, including the famous Parthenon, as well as places where St. Paul preached the Gospel.

Pilgrims will later visit Beroea and Thessaloniki, two cities where Paul spent time on his missionary journeys.

In Turkey, pilgrims will visit some of the sites of the seven Churches mentioned in Revelation and the island of Patmos, where St. John received the visions he described in the last book of

the Bible.

Near the end of the pilgrimage, participants will tour the modern city of Izmir, which is the site of the ancient city of Ephesus. St. Paul ministered there. It is also considered by tradition as a home of Mary after Jesus' Ascension.

The pilgrimage will end with a trip to Istanbul featuring a tour of the Hagia Sophia Museum, housed in the large basilica of the same name built in the sixth century.

Msgr. Stumpf hopes a pilgrimage to many places tied closely to several books of the New Testament will help pilgrims experience the richness of the Bible in a new way.

"When you look at the Bible, you're always relating to it as some place over there," he said. "When you actually encounter the place, you encounter the story differently. It becomes more a part of you."

"I think it will be a really wonderful pilgrimage. It should be fun, educational and spiritually enriching."

*(The "In the Footsteps of St. Paul" pilgrimage is \$3,280 per person for double occupancy and \$3,792 for single occupancy. The pilgrimage includes round-trip, economy-class air transportation, deluxe motor coach, daily breakfast and dinner, entrance fees and comprehensive sightseeing guides. For more information, call Tekton Ministries at 866-905-3787, send an e-mail to [pilgrimage@tektonministries.org](mailto:pilgrimage@tektonministries.org) or log on to [www.tektonministries.org](http://www.tektonministries.org).) †*



The ruins of a fourth-century basilica named for Mary are seen in the ancient town of Ephesus near Izmir, Turkey. Msgr. William Stumpf, vicar general, will lead a pilgrimage from April 13-24, 2015, to Greece and Turkey that will include Ephesus, traditionally considered a home of Mary after Jesus' Ascension. (CNS file photo/Bill Wittman)



*'When you look at the Bible, you're always relating to it as some place over there. When you actually encounter the place, you encounter the story differently. It becomes more a part of you.'*

—Msgr. William Stumpf

## Bishops OK several liturgy items, endorse sainthood cause, hold elections

BALTIMORE (CNS)—Though there were no actions on the U.S. bishops' agenda in Baltimore dealing with immigration, poverty and other public policy issues, the president of their conference said on Nov. 11 that he hopes to meet with President Barack Obama and House and Senate leaders soon on several topics.

In a brief comment during the annual fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky.,

said he had heard from many of his brother bishops about those issues and hopes conferring with the politicians will supplement the work that committees and USCCB staff are doing.

He told Catholic News Service that he intends to pursue a meeting with the president and congressional leaders as soon as December.

In other action at the bishops' fall meeting, the bishops:

- Approved several liturgical items, including a revised translation of the ritual book used whenever a new church or a new altar is dedicated; the first official English translation of the ritual book *Exorcisms and Related Supplications*; and a supplement to the Liturgy of the Hours that is an English translation of the prayers used for the feast days of saints who have been added to the general calendar since 1984.

- Voted to proceed with a revision of a section of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services dealing with partnerships.

- Endorsed the sainthood cause of Father Paul Watson. Father Watson was an Episcopal priest who co-founded the Society of the Atonement in 1899, and was later received into the full communion of the Church. In his day, he was a leading advocate of Christian unity.

- Approved a 2015 budget of just under \$189.5 million. They also voted on a 3 percent increase in the diocesan assessment for 2016, but the vote fell short of the required two-thirds majority of the 197 bishops required to approve it. Eligible members absent from the Baltimore meeting will be canvassed to determine the final vote.

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh, N.C., chairman of the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, gave a presentation on the newly revised "Guidelines for Receiving Pastoral Ministers in the United States."

As the number of priests and pastoral ministers from other countries increases in the United States, he said the resource—now in its third edition—provides information for dioceses, eparchies and religious communities to prepare international ministers for their service and help the communities that receive them.

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle, USCCB secretary and chairman of the Committee on Priorities and Plans, told the bishops that a myriad of activities revolving around four key goals of the USCCB is an indication that "the conference planning process is working quite well."

The current four goals, or priorities, are faith formation and sacramental practice; strengthening marriage and family life; the life and dignity of the human person; and religious liberty.

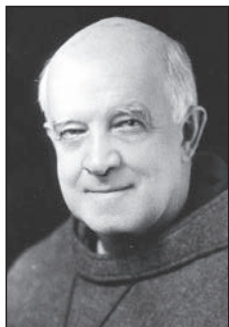
The bishops also heard a report on the work of various committees—pro-life, domestic justice, international justice, evangelization and religious liberty—which together are trying to pinpoint what Catholics in the pew are thinking and why they accept or disregard Church teaching.

The compilation of vast data is being assembled for bishops to read and also will be relayed in a series of workshops. One of the major findings from the study—that Catholics want to find out more about their faith—has prompted plans for a 2017 convocation in Orlando, Fla., the week of July 4.

In considering the bishops' ethical directives for Catholic health care, the discussion focused on whether to revise Part 6, "Forming New Partnerships with Health Care Organizations." It will take into account principles suggested by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Once completed, the revision will be presented to the bishops for final approval.

Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, N.Y., chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, invited the bishops to a 2015 Lay Ecclesial Ministry Summit. The June 7, 2015, event will mark the 10th anniversary of the bishops' statement "Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord." It will be held just prior to the USCCB spring general assembly in St. Louis.

In elections, Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans won the secretary-elect spot. The committee chairmen-elect are: Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, pro-life activities; Auxiliary Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Indianapolis, communications; Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio, cultural diversity; Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of Detroit, doctrine; Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi of Mobile, Alabama, national collections. Each will assume their offices next November for a three-year term. †



Fr. Paul Watson

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# RUCKELSHAUS

continued from page 1

Two months removed from graduating as a valedictorian at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, Jay dove off a dock at Geist Reservoir—into water that was much more shallow than he anticipated. Friends rescued him. An ambulance was called. But the damage was already done when his head hit the bottom of the reservoir. His severe spinal cord injury left him paralyzed from the middle of his chest down.

## From darkness to light

Many parents try to teach and show their children to have the spirit and the strength to continue on through the sometimes-harsh realities of life.

For children who have absorbed that lesson from their parents, a personal core often develops that makes them believe they can overcome any setback.

Then comes a moment that no one ever imagined—a moment that not only tests those lessons and beliefs, but threatens to crush them and the people who hold them.

There were moments like that in the first days and months after Jay's accident. Instead of starting college on a full scholarship to Duke University in Durham, N.C., Jay began the tough, painful process of rehabilitation in the Shepherd Center, a highly-regarded facility in Atlanta known for treating people with spinal cord injuries.

In the beginning, everything—from breathing to coping with the change in his body—was excruciatingly hard for Jay, who was a member of the swimming and cross-country teams at Cathedral. The emotional toll of the accident also touched everyone in the family.

"When an injury like this occurs, everyone in the family is injured," John notes.

While it doesn't do complete justice to the dark days the family initially endured, one moment in John's experience is revealing. It happened when he was on a deck overlooking Hartsfield International Airport in Atlanta where he had come to visit Jay and Mary at the Shepherd Center.

"It was [on] Oct. 7, 2011—a beautiful day in early fall," John recalls. "I broke down and cried. It was the raw emotion of all the anxiety, fear and sadness. And they all came together."

As the tears flowed down his face, he looked ahead and saw "the most beautiful sunset I had ever seen in my life."

"When I looked at that sunset, everything drained out—all the fear, the anxiety, the sadness. Right after that was the most incredible, calming influence in my life. From that moment, it was all positive. I had this feeling—it's going to be OK. And it's not only going to be OK, Jay's going to get through it and have a great life."

The first glimpses of that new

life for Jay shined through in the months that followed.

"When he went down to the Shepherd Center, he was exposed to all these other injured patients," John recalls. "It was inspiring to watch Jay wheel into other rooms, giving them hope and inspiration. He just touched so many of those kids through his generosity, his compassion and his inclusiveness."

John stops and shakes his head before he continues: "In a strange way, in a fantastic way, the accident has taken Jay to another level."

## Reaching beyond

It is the night of Oct. 28, 2014. Jay is in his room at Duke University, preparing for another round of exams, papers and commitments that are an ever-present part of college life.

Now in his junior year, Jay has embraced Duke, and Duke has embraced him. He has joined a fraternity, started an undergraduate humanities academic journal, and cheered at home men's basketball games in the "Cameron crazies" student section.

"I've had a phenomenal experience at Duke so far," notes Jay, who is majoring in philosophy and political science. "Academically, I've been able to engage and conduct research with some of the foremost scholars across the country, which has been truly thrilling. Socially, I've made some fantastic friends. I couldn't be happier with my choice to come here."

To navigate his life at Duke, Jay still needs help around the clock. That's where his "wing man" Joe Witchger comes into play.

A longtime friend from Indianapolis, Joe has been at Jay's side since Jay's freshman year at Duke. Joe, who is pursuing a nursing degree, helps Jay get into his wheelchair, cooks meals for him, and gets him into bed at night.

While challenges continue for Jay, so does his natural tendency to look past his own concerns to help others.

Remembering that his transition to life at Duke was initially overwhelming—even with the support of his family and friends—he realized that other students with similar disabilities and less support would likely struggle even more in making the transition.

So in 2013, he started a non-profit foundation designed to help other young people with spinal cord injuries achieve their goal of attending college. Called "Ramp Less Traveled," the foundation represents his belief that "the college experience and society at large should be not just physically accessible, but broadly open and actively welcoming to students of all abilities."

The foundation has already provided scholarships to three college students with spinal cord injuries. Even more importantly, Jay and his mother have served as mentors to students

and their parents in helping them make the transition to college.

## Looking forward

Taking his mission a step further, Jay organized and led a national conference on Oct. 22-23 at Duke called "Beyond Disability, Beyond Compliance."

"The goal of the conference was to move the national conversation about higher education and disability away from the negative language of obligation and legality, and toward more proactive solutions that put students in the center of the conversation," he says. "And that's exactly what happened. I'm looking forward to see where these conversations lead in the future."

That focus also includes plans for his future.

"While I'm uncertain of the exact path I'll take, I know I'd like to work at the intersection of political theory and public policy," he says. "I'll be attending graduate school of some sort, potentially working toward a Ph.D. in political theory. I'd like to be a publicly-engaged academic—perhaps working at a think tank so I can keep one foot in the world of research and one foot in contemporary affairs."

Then Jay adds a future goal that will make everyone who knows him smile and laugh.

"I also plan on owning at least two dogs at a time throughout my life."

Jay's mention of the dogs reflects an approach to life that he embraces more and more: "While disability advocacy does occupy a portion of my time, it does not define it. Many days, I like to enjoy some of the other hats I wear—those of being a student, a friend, a family member."

That leads the conversation back to the upcoming Thanksgiving dinner in Indianapolis, his first one there in four years.

## The true measure of a person

"I'm really looking forward to spending this Thanksgiving at home," Jay says. "It's my favorite holiday—free food and no obligation to buy gifts. What's not to like? And I really enjoy spending time with both my immediate and extended family, so it will certainly be nice to do so in Indianapolis."

Fifteen people will gather for Thanksgiving dinner at the Ruckelshaus' home. Joining John, Mary, Drew, Maggie and Jay will be the children's four grandparents and several aunts and uncles.

As Jay looks around the table that day, he will see the people who have been his greatest support through the joys and the struggles of his life. He will see the people who have given him one of the foundations he has relied upon these past three years: his faith.

"I think my faith has helped me remain grounded and connected with those around me as I transitioned from the hospital to



In August 2014, John Ruckelshaus, left, and his son, Jay Ruckelshaus, pose for a photo outside the chapel at Duke University, where Jay is in his junior year. (Submitted photo)



Jay Ruckelshaus, middle, is flanked by Duke University president Richard Brodhead, left, and Kyle Cavanaugh, Duke's vice president of administration. This photo was taken during an Oct. 22-23 national conference at Duke on higher education and disability that Ruckelshaus organized. (Submitted photo)

Duke," Jay says. "It's enabled me to appreciate all that my family and friends have sacrificed for me to be where I am today."

Jay's attitude has helped his parents as they have sometimes struggled with the challenges their children have faced.

"Our faith is strong," John says. "I feel as strong as ever in my relationship with God. He showed me the way through Jay. The sky is the limit for his potential."

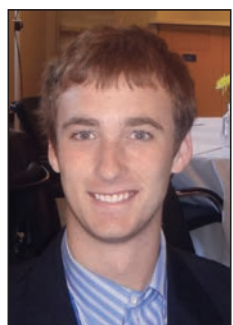
Mary adds, "I think the true measure of a person is how you deal with adversity rather than how you deal with success. I keep going forward because I have my kids. They're still here,

and they're still developing their gifts. Our children are very strong. And we get a lot of strength from each other.

"What's important is that Jay's story gives other people encouragement. If somebody told me three years ago that Jay would have a good life, I wouldn't have thought that. But three years later, he has a great life. That's what perseverance does."

She can't wait to have everyone together for Thanksgiving.

"There will be lots of reminiscing and laughter. That's the best part of Thanksgiving for me. It's always great when we're together. It's priceless. When Jay's home, the circle is tight." †



*"I think my faith has helped me remain grounded and connected with those around me as I transitioned from the hospital to Duke. It's enabled me to appreciate all that my family and friends have sacrificed for me to be where I am today."*

—Jay Ruckelshaus

## John Ruckelshaus receives first 'Joseph Tobin Award' for fatherhood

John Ruckelshaus was honored for his role as a father during the Oct. 10 Dad's Day event at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis.

Ruckelshaus is the first-ever recipient of the "Joseph Tobin Award—Father of the Year," an annual award that the Cathedral Dad's Day program has named in honor of Joseph Tobin, Sr., the late father of Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin.

Similar to programs at

other high schools, the Dad's Day program at Cathedral brings together fathers and their children once a month at the school to share breakfast, listen to a speaker and develop their bond.

"I am very humbled by this award, knowing there are many other fathers more deserving," Ruckelshaus said. "Fatherhood is a commitment, and the greatest investment one can make to the next generation." †



# Saint's feast day celebrates Church's cultures, ethnicities

By Mike Krokos

Caroline Reuter is no stranger to new languages.

As an undergraduate at the University of Notre Dame, she studied overseas in Spain for a time and learned to appreciate the gifts of a different culture.

So the unique combination of prayers in various languages she heard during the annual St. Martin de Porres Mass on Nov. 3 at St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis was music to her ears.

"It was beautiful. I loved the different languages ... to hear Spanish again, to hear the combination, just to hear all the voices, all the people coming together and really the cultural aspect, it's beautiful to see that brought here," said the 2014 college graduate who is a first-year student in Echo, Notre Dame's two-year master's degree program that trains prospective parish administrators of religious education, high school religion teachers and campus ministers.

"It was beautiful to see that community of the archdiocese, of the Church, really the universality of the Church in this Mass," continued Reuter, who teaches sophomore religion at Roncalli High School and is a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish, both in Indianapolis.

During the Mass, readings and a homily were proclaimed in English and Spanish.

Prayers of the faithful were spoken in English, French, Spanish and Tagalog—a national language of the Philippines.

A later prayer during the Mass was said in Italian.

"Tonight, we celebrate the beauty, the joy and the challenge of being a truly Catholic Church," said Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, principal celebrant and homilist, at the beginning of the liturgy.

"We are called to prolong here, in central and southern Indiana, the double miracle of Pentecost. The first miracle is clear: Everyone hears the Good News, in their own language, in their own culture.

"[The second miracle is] the Holy Spirit doesn't wipe it all out, so that everyone becomes like a gray porridge. We remain a rainbow that is illumined by the presence of Christ, and whose Holy Spirit brings us together and makes our diversity rich and good, and an image of God."

The importance of St. Martin de Porres is that he embraced his identity as the son of an African and a Hispanic, noted Franciscan Brother Moises Gutierrez, director of the archdiocesan Office of Intercultural Ministry, during remarks before the Mass.

"He really helped to serve others, to bring people together, to be a saint for everyone," he added. "That's what we're celebrating today, coming together as different cultures and ethnicities, celebrating his feast."

An estimated 325 people attended the liturgy, which included a multicultural choir which sang hymns with verses in English and Spanish.

A Dominican brother who lived from 1579 to 1639 in Lima, Peru, Martin de Porres was the son of a Spanish nobleman and a freed Panamanian slave of African descent.

In his homily, Archbishop Tobin talked about how Martin de Porres' father abandoned the family when Martin was young, leading them to live in poverty. But instead of growing up bitter, Martin "gave his heart—and anything else that he had—to the poor and the despised."

After working for a few years as an apprentice to a barber—who also served as a surgeon in those days—Martin was accepted as a lay helper in the Dominican order. After nine years, the community, impressed with his prayer life, humility and love, invited him to profess vows.

In his various ministries, Martin treated all people equally regardless of their ethnicity, race or social status, the archbishop said, which was not the norm in Lima where racism abounded at the time.

Each of us would do well to follow



Franciscan Brother Moises Gutierrez, left, Maria Pimentel-Gannon, Paul Burns, Marlon Alfonso, Francis Blay-Mockey and Veronica Fuentes hold hands while praying the Our Father during the Nov. 3 St. Martin de Porres Mass at St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis. The annual liturgy, sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Intercultural Ministry, celebrates how the Catholic Church brings together people of various cultures, ethnicities and races. St. Martin de Porres, who was biracial, was a Dominican brother who died in 1639 in Lima, Peru. (Photos by Sean Gallagher)

St. Martin's unfailing spirit of service, Archbishop Tobin added.

"This feast reminds us that racism is a sin of the world that is everybody's responsibility, but apparently, nobody's fault," he said. "One could hardly imagine a more fitting patron of Christian forgiveness and Christian justice than St. Martin de Porres.

"The spirit of St. Martin de Porres is the spirit of Jesus, the Most Holy Redeemer of the world."

Elizabeth Malone, who has attended all the St. Martin de Porres liturgies since the annual gathering began in 2004, said she was impressed by the turnout for the Mass.

"I think this celebration brings people together. The wonderful life and story of St. Martin is an inspiration to all of us," said Malone, a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis and the committee that plans the gathering. "The [annual] celebration continues to grow, and each parish brings something different to that, so I think that's been really good."

Malone also appreciated that St. Anthony Parish hosted this year's liturgy.

"I think this is a parish that really celebrates this kind of feast. ... It's just the continuing appreciation of the diversity of our Church, and I think the message that the archbishop had was very much in support of that diversity."

Like Malone, Brother Moises appreciated "seeing the fruits" of the celebration, and over the years "people developing the passion, the skills and the attitudes needed to live out what St. Martin has been an example for us to do—to really embrace and relate with each other."

He also said Archbishop Tobin spoke beautifully about the wonderful gift of diversity in our local Church.

"He [Archbishop Tobin] has a great sense of what our Catholic Church is all about, this global Church, bringing people together and embracing diversity," Brother Moises said. "He and the pope [Francis] remind us all the time, 'It's OK to be different. It's not only OK, it's beautiful to be different.'"

"What I like is people really getting excited about the [St. Martin de Porres] celebration, about embracing the other."

(For more photos of the St. Martin de Porres celebration, see the online story at [www.criteriononline.com](http://www.criteriononline.com).) †



Deacon Oscar Morales, left, and Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin elevate the Eucharist at the end of the eucharistic prayer during the Nov. 3 St. Martin de Porres Mass at St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis. Concelebrating the Mass were Father Kenneth Taylor, second from right, pastor of Holy Angels and St. Rita parishes, both in Indianapolis; and Society of the Divine Word Father Sam Cunningham, archdiocesan coordinator for Hispanic ministry. Assisting at the Mass was master of ceremonies Loral Tansy, second from left (partially obscured).



Lucia Lazo, left, Ana Vazquez, David Weir and Carlos Telles sing in a multicultural choir during the Nov. 3 St. Martin de Porres Mass at St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis.



Dabrice Bartet, left, Carmen Lozano and Jose Gonzalez kneel in prayer during the Nov. 3 St. Martin de Porres Mass at St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis.



Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin gives a high five to Jose Angel Cazares, who is held by his father Jose Cazares, at the conclusion of the Nov. 3 St. Martin de Porres Mass at St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis. Assisting at the liturgy as master of ceremonies was Loral Tansy, second from left.



# CCHD collection assists those 'working on the margins'

By John Shaughnessy

When he looks at one of the new programs at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis, Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin sees another example of the Catholic tradition of protecting human dignity.

The program is called the Ignatian Spirituality Project, "a program that offers retreats for the transitional homeless and those recovering from addiction," the archbishop states.

In that same life-changing vein, Archbishop Tobin also cites the impact of the Indianapolis Congregational Action Network (IndyCAN), an interfaith organization whose efforts are supported by several Indianapolis parishes, including Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Anthony, St. Gabriel the Archangel and St. Monica.

"Over the last several years, IndyCAN has worked to help implement plans to reduce gun violence, improve housing and employment opportunities, and work toward the reform of immigration laws," he notes.

Archbishop Tobin focused on both those efforts in an Oct. 28 letter that he sent to

Catholics in central and southern Indiana to promote the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)—the annual campaign that Catholics are being asked to support during collections at their churches on Nov. 22-23.

IndyCAN and Fatima Retreat House are among the organizations within the archdiocese that benefit from CCHD, the anti-poverty program of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Their efforts also reflect the theme of this year's annual collection—"CCHD: Working on the Margins."

"The funds collected offer new hope to those living in poverty throughout the United States," the archbishop wrote in his letter. "Please remember, 50 percent of the collection's proceeds stay here in our archdiocese to fight poverty in our communities and protect the dignity of our neighbors."

As the director of the CCHD for the archdiocese, Theresa Chamblee knows the difference those efforts can make to people trying to change their lives.

She mentions another Indianapolis program that benefits from CCHD funds—Craine House, which provides "transitional



*'Through your support of the CCHD, you are helping to restore dignity to men, women and families who perhaps never had anyone tell them that they are valuable.'*

—Theresa Chamblee, director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in the archdiocese

housing for women who are leaving the prison system and trying to get their life back in order."

"They have developed a close relationship with St. Monica Parish," Chamblee says. "It is one of the few facilities nationwide that allows women who have small children and babies to live with them while in transitional housing. Through the programs offered at Craine House, women are able to find meaningful work, learn the necessary skills in raising healthy families, and develop the tools

needed to thrive in their communities."

It's another example of how the CCHD helps people learn to provide for themselves and their families, she says.

"Through your support of the CCHD, you are helping to restore dignity to men, women and families who perhaps never had anyone tell them that they are valuable."

(For more information about the CCHD and its efforts, visit the website, [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org).) †

# CRS official sees wins in Ebola fight, but there's 'a lot more to do'

RYE, N.Y. (CNS)—Catholic organizations and dioceses in the United States have responded to the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa with both generosity and extreme caution.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) committed \$1.5 million to its pre-existing programs in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, the three West African countries affected by widespread transmission of the Ebola virus.

The money is being used to train health workers, ensure safe and dignified burials, develop and implement prevention awareness campaigns, maintain local Catholic health facilities and provide food to those in need. CRS is the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency.

In a telephone interview on Nov. 7 from Senegal, Michael Stulman told Catholic News Service, "There has been progress in all three countries, but there is a lot more to do." Stulman is the CRS regional information officer for West and Central Africa. He traveled recently throughout the affected areas.

In Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, the epidemic has killed almost 5,000, out of more than 13,000 reported cases, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A total of 22 cases have been identified in Mali, Senegal and Nigeria. The outbreaks in Senegal and Nigeria were declared over in October, and the single case in Mali was associated with a traveler.

There is also an outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in central Africa, with 67 cases. Other African countries are not affected.

Ebola is one of the world's most virulent viruses, with a fatality rate of up to 90 percent, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), which notes there is no effective vaccine at this time. It is highly contagious and transmitted by direct contact with the blood, body fluids and tissues of infected people and animals.

Sierra Leone has 4,862 cases, including 1,130 deaths, according to the CDC. CRS has 120 staff and volunteers in Sierra Leone, Stulman said. They have focused on door-to-door education programs to help people

understand that Ebola is real and to teach about protection and prevention, he said.

"Ebola is new to West Africa. No one has really seen anything on this scale," Stulman said.

He said CRS is working closely with Catholic counterparts and other churches in Sierra Leone to provide safe and dignified burials for Ebola victims. The scale of deaths from Ebola and the likelihood of contagion from the bodies "requires a big shift in how people ordinarily honor the dead," Stulman said.

In Liberia, CRS is working with a network of Catholic hospitals to provide routine health care, and develop systems and structures to protect patients and staff from Ebola, Stulman said. It is also trying to help reopen St. Joseph's, the country's second largest hospital, that closed when the lead doctor and other medical staff contracted Ebola.

The painstaking effort includes significant staff training and the implementation of a new triage system to separate Ebola cases from more common diseases that may have similar symptoms initially, Stulman said.

He said CRS's long-term presence in Sierra Leone and collaboration with local religious leaders made it easier and quicker to spread educational messages.

In a Nov. 6 letter, CRS president and CEO Carolyn Woo and Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, urged congressional leaders to speak out in support of

the on-the-ground response to the Ebola virus and tamp down reactions based on unfounded fears. Bishop Pates is the chairman of the USCCB Committee on International Peace and Justice.

"Morally and practically, we cannot completely wall ourselves off from this disease," they wrote. "Only by caring for and treating those infected by the disease where it is now running rampant, can we be safer here at home. With prudent



Carolyn Woo

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## Families affected by violence, conflict need pastoral care

By David Gibson

A Chaldean Catholic couple and their children recently spent nights over the course of two months sleeping on their home's roof in an Iraqi village. They kept watch for "the flashing lights" of approaching Islamic State artillery, Catholic News Service reported on Sept. 9.

They thought that "if there was an attack, we could see it coming and evacuate to save ourselves," the father explained. Ultimately, the family resettled temporarily in Lebanon.

Imagine fearing continually that your children might die in the next armed air or ground attack launched on your neighborhood. That is the frightening reality so many parents in the Middle East face.

Families in combat zones everywhere are fearful. Couples have much to lose, including each other. Parents know their children could be killed or maimed, or else exploited for gain by the forces of violence.

The risk remains, too, that in fleeing violence—losing home and homeland—families will end up separated for long periods.

Families contend with similar risks in zones of drug-cartel and gang violence in Central America and other regions.

When warfare or social violence becomes local, parents agonize.

Syriac Orthodox Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem II of Antioch told a September meeting in Washington about a Syrian Christian father whose wife and two children were murdered, their bodies thrown down a well.

Quoted by Catholic News Service, the patriarch described encountering a boy who, with others fleeing violence, took refuge in a small church hall in Iraq's Kurdish region. Opening his arms, the boy exclaimed, "We have no place!"

The well-being of children such as the one described makes its way into today's news reporting. But does it become a top concern for us?

Pope Francis definitely had children high in mind when he spoke in the Vatican Gardens during an "invocation for peace" in the Middle East ceremony on June 8. He was joined by Israel's then-President Shimon Peres and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Our world is "on loan to us from our children ... who plead with us to tear down the walls of enmity and to set out on the path of dialogue and peace," the pope said. Too many of these children "have been innocent victims of war and violence, saplings cut down at the height of their promise," he added.

Remembering these children instills "the courage of peace, the strength to persevere undaunted in dialogue," he added.

The Church is greatly concerned about the effects on families of combat and forced migrations. Bishops and other Church leaders who gathered at the Vatican for the



Syrian refugees wait behind a barbed wire barricade at the Turkish border near Sanliurfa on Sept. 28. The Church is greatly concerned about the effects on families of combat and forced migrations. (CNS photo/Sedat Suna, EPA)

extraordinary assembly of the world Synod of Bishops from Oct. 5-19 discussed the challenges that face these families.

In the synod meeting's closing document, the participants noted the importance in the Church's pastoral care "of so many poor families, of those who cling to boats in order to reach a shore of survival, of refugees wandering without hope in the desert, of those persecuted because of their faith and the human and spiritual values which they hold."

Families deserve the Church's "attentive pastoral care" and the wider social community's support, the Catholic bishops of the border regions between Mexico and the U.S. states of Texas and New Mexico said in November 2013. This is "particularly true" when the family "must bear the great strain of destabilizing social, political and economic forces."

In February, "the 17-year-old nephew of a Catholic Relief Services' staff member was gunned down" with a friend in Honduras after refusing to join a gang, said Richard Jones, a Catholic Relief Services (CRS) official. CRS is the international relief agency of the Catholic Church in the United States.

Jones testified on July 16 before the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on the reasons that Central American children were arriving in great numbers at the U.S. border.

"We have seen an increase of the gangs using children

to distribute drugs in Honduras or to watch for police or others in the barrios of San Salvador and Guatemala City," he told committee members.

In desperation, youths and families primarily are fleeing "violence, not poverty," added Jones.

He described innovative CRS programs in the region, ranging from reducing child labor and helping street children attend school "to providing essential life and job skills" for at-risk youths.

Pope Francis encourages the Church to draw near suffering families.

"Suffering is powerful," and when "we draw closer, we help one another greatly," he commented during an in-flight press conference while returning from South Korea to Rome in August.

Asked why he took time in Korea to meet families who lost loved ones in the April 16 Sewol ferry disaster that took some 300 lives, principally teenagers, he responded:

"I am a priest, and I feel the need to draw near. ... I know that the comfort that any word of mine might give is no cure; it doesn't bring the dead back to life, but human closeness at these times gives us strength. There is solidarity."

(David Gibson served on Catholic News Service's editorial staff for 37 years.) †

## Migrating families, peoples are a common theme in the Bible

By Fr. Lawrence E. Mick

In a message sent to a meeting in Mexico City in July, Pope Francis spoke about migration today: "Despite the large influx of migrants present in all continents and in almost all countries, migration is still seen as an emergency, or as a circumstantial and sporadic fact, while instead it has now become a hallmark of our society



Salvadorans place pictures of missing relatives in front of the Mexican Embassy in San Salvador, El Salvador. Today's families that flee violence in many forms have much in common with biblical figures who were also migrants.

(CNS photo/Roberto Escobar, EPA)

and a challenge."

The pope spoke of the frequency of migration as part of globalization, and noted that the mass movement of people across borders is more common today than in the past.

At the same time, we know that such movement of people always has been part of the human experience. We find many examples of it in the Bible, which gives us a blueprint for migration of individuals, families and large groups of people.

Reports of several significant migrations appear in Genesis. After Cain killed his brother Abel, God bans him from his homeland, and he becomes a wanderer. Note that God puts a mark on Cain to protect him. The story of the Tower of Babel ends with God scattering the nations across the Earth.

When God calls Abram, he tells him to leave his homeland and travel to a land that God will show him: Canaan, which of course was already inhabited by the Canaanites.

There was a famine there, so Abram travelled to Egypt in search of food. Later he and his nephew Lot went back north to the Negev (part of Canaan), but their flocks grew and their land was too crowded for both clans so Lot moved east toward Sodom.

One of the most important migrations came in the time of Moses, when the Israelites escaped enslavement

in Egypt through the Exodus. For 40 years, they were wanderers until they reached the Promised Land (where they had to displace the Canaanites in battle).

The journey of Israel into Egypt and then back to the Promised Land is echoed in the story of the Holy Family, who fled to Egypt to escape the murderous intentions of King Herod. After Herod died, they returned to their homeland, where Jesus grew up and carried out his mission.

We could list several other examples of the movement of families and clans and tribes in biblical times, but even this short list reveals some reasons that people migrated—then and now. Cain was exiled. Abram was called by God, then traveled to escape famine. Lot moved for economic reasons. Moses led the others out of oppression.

Today's migrants and refugees have similar reasons for leaving their homelands. Most are forced or flee because they cannot support their families or because their lives are in danger. Some flee wars, some flee persecution and others flee recruitment or retaliation by gangs.

How should we respond? In Exodus, God commands the Israelites: "You shall not oppress or afflict a resident alien, for you were once aliens residing in the land of Egypt" (Ex 22:20; 23:9).

(Father Lawrence E. Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.) †



From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

## Old Testaments: Six prophecies after the Jewish exile

(Forty-sixth in a series of columns)

Six of the prophetic books in the Old Testament were written after the Babylonian exile: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Joel, Obadiah and Jonah. All of them are short.

Haggai wrote his two chapters in 520 B.C. As I said last week, the Jews who returned to Judah were being blocked from rebuilding the Temple by Samaritans. Once permission was received from the Persians to build, Haggai encouraged them to do so.

He criticized the Jews for dwelling in their own houses while the Temple lay in ruins. Then Haggai prophesied that the future glory of the new Temple would surpass that of the old.

Zechariah's initial prophecy also dates to 520 B.C., and he, too, encouraged the returning exiles to rebuild the Temple. This book, 14 chapters, contains eight symbolic visions, all promoting the work of the rebuilding. They are followed by a vision

of a prosperous future during which nations will come to Judah in pilgrimage.

Chapters 9-14, though, come from a later period. They begin with the messianic vision of the coming of the Prince of Peace, including the appearance of a "just savior, meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass" (Zec 9:9). The New Testament evangelists saw the fulfillment of this prophecy in Christ's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Malachi is the last book in the Christian Old Testament (but not in the Jewish canon; that's Chronicles). It was written shortly before Nehemiah's arrival in Jerusalem. In three chapters, it gives a picture of Jewish life between Haggai and the reforms of Ezra. He's tough on the religious indifference he saw.

Chapter 3 prophesies the day of the Lord, but first a forerunner who will prepare the way: "Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the day of the Lord comes" (Mal 3:23). Christ said that this prophesy was fulfilled in John the Baptist (Mt 17:10-13).

Joel also writes about the coming of

the day of the Lord. His four chapters conclude with all nations gathered in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, where God judges them. But Jerusalem, he says, shall abide forever because "the Lord dwells in Zion" (Jl 4:21).

Obadiah is the shortest, but sternest, of the prophetic books—only 21 verses. It's a cry for vengeance against Edom because Edomites settled in southern Judah and were adversaries of the Jews who were returning from exile. Obadiah predicts that Judah and Israel will again form one nation and will occupy the lands of those who oppressed them.

The Book of Jonah, four chapters, was written after the exile. It's unique in the Bible because it tells the story of a disobedient prophet. When God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, he tried to flee and got on a ship going the other direction. When a storm arose, he was cast overboard and swallowed by a great fish, where he remained for three days.

He finally went to Nineveh and preached. Then he was unhappy when the people repented, and God didn't destroy the city. †

For the Journey/Effie Caldarola

## Listen ... God is waiting in the silence for all of us

Do you ever sit idly in front of the television, remote control in hand pointed like a weapon, and flip through channels wondering why the offerings are so bad?



It's enough to make a woman pitch her remote and grab the nearest novel. Fortunately, right before I did that one night, I switched to

public television and found a documentary about Sister Wendy Beckett.

Do you remember Sister Wendy? I think everyone at some point has caught her art programs, where she arouses in ordinary viewers an interest in painting and art.

The documentary revealed Sister Wendy's ability to help you fall in love with a painting. Her explanation of Caravaggio's portrayal of Christ with the woman caught in adultery and her accusers brought me to prayer.

But the documentary's focus this time was Sister Wendy. The nun, now 84, exudes a holy joy. Originally a teaching sister, she later experienced a call to the contemplative life. Today, she lives, a hermit, on the grounds of a Carmelite

monastery in England. She wears a full habit, and smiles out at the world from behind large glasses.

Some have described her teeth as "rabbit-like," and indeed she would have been an orthodontist's dream if she had been an American child. Instead, she was born into a British family in South Africa where her father was a doctor.

Even as a child, Wendy felt the pull and presence of God. In the documentary, she tells a charming tale of her first Communion. She was sure that when she finally received Christ in the host, she would hear him speaking to her. When she knelt expectantly after Communion, she heard nothing.

It was then, she said, that she realized that God's way of communicating is in the silence. Sister Wendy has been comfortable with silence ever since. She prays for hours each day in a little trailer on the Carmelite property.

Every sister must do work to help support the community, she said, so originally she translated Latin texts. Somehow, it became obvious that she had a particular gift for explaining art and revealing the sacred in it.

She has presented several art history

programs and written more than 25 books on the subject. One of her latest books is *Real Presence: In Search of the Earliest Icons*.

Listening to Sister Wendy, it was clear she is a woman completely at peace in her intimate relationship with God. I felt as if I might be listening to Julian of Norwich or any of the great anchorites of history, women who have separated themselves from the constant noise and distractions of life yet who seem to understand life better than anyone.

In 2010, Sister Wendy told *The Telegraph* in England that when she was young, it seemed that being a nun was the way to belong totally to God. Now she realizes, "This was narrow thinking. Anybody can belong totally to God, in any way of life and at any age. All he asks is our desire."

I thought about the silence that I miss out on, sometimes when I'm foolishly clicking through those television channels. Sister Wendy's joyful life reminds me that God is waiting in the silence for all of us.

(Effie Caldarola writes for *Catholic News Service*.) †

That All May Be One/Fr. Rick Ginther

## Where the rubber meets the road in our outreach to others

Being a singer, I have always been fascinated by commercial jingles. How do those men and women come up with the lingo and the jingo?



One which sticks with me was an old tire commercial: "...where the rubber meets the road." Yes, rubber tires do meet the road, we hope!

But the lingo here can be a metaphor in other instances. It speaks of theory meeting reality. In the world of ecumenism, the theory of "that all may be one" must meet the road of daily life, and human needs.

And the theory is only as good as the reality.

November and December are months in our culture which are punctuated by holidays and holy days. Our nation celebrates Thanksgiving with feasting and family—and providing feasts for the hungry, the homeless and first responders.

Christians celebrate Advent and Christmas with feasting and family—and gift-giving beyond our own.

Throughout the archdiocese, parishes team up with other Christian churches—as well as civic organizations and other

faiths—in attending to the many who live with want and need, especially in the approaching season of abundance.

A 2013 survey of the parishes of the archdiocese conducted by the Office of Ecumenism bears this out. More than 75 percent of responding parishes stated that they participate in annual or ongoing ecumenical and civic-based outreach programs. In addition, a number of other respondents noted their active involvement in Society of St. Vincent de Paul outreach.

The moments where Christians work together to meet human needs are moments of the oneness to which Christ calls us. How we differ does not matter when it comes to meeting human needs.

I know from experience that Christians working together at any form of outreach exposes the lives of the workers to each other. We rub up against one another. Our conversations inevitably turn to the Lord, who made it so abundantly clear that he was one with those in need through food, meals, cures and compassion.

We experience *his* work through our hands. We know what he meant when we see his face on the faces whom we serve. For he is hungry, and we give him food. Together. He is thirsty, and we give him drink. Together. He is lonely, and we sit

with him. Together, in his many guises and circumstances.

In our archdiocese, we have a wonderful resource called the Catholic Help Network. The archdiocese has created this searchable database for those needing help and for those who provide help. We have more than 200 parishes, schools, agencies and organizations that offer a variety of resources. They range from social services to housing to fellowship to global disaster relief. While this database contains only those organizations directly affiliated with our archdiocese within our 39-county geographic boundaries, its purpose is to serve whomever is in need.

Other Christian churches may access it on the archdiocesan website at [chn.archindy.org](http://chn.archindy.org). And our work with other Christian churches in our areas can raise our awareness of other resources not our own—but available, nonetheless.

Whenever we Christians jointly share our time, our talents, our resources, the rubber meets the road.

(Father Rick Ginther is director of the archdiocesan Office of Ecumenism. He is also dean of the Terre Haute deanery and pastor of St. Patrick and St. Margaret Mary parishes, both in Terre Haute.) †

Catholic Evangelization Outreach/  
Matt Faley

## Young adult outreach focuses on building disciples, making saints

"The only real sadness, the only real failure, the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint."

This quote from author Leon Bloy is one that frames all that we do in the archdiocesan Office of Young Adult and College Campus Ministry (YACCM).



It is always great for us to step back and celebrate the good work the Lord has done in this ministry these

past seven years, especially as we see our efforts multiplying across central and southern Indiana with our most recent large-scale outreaches—IndyCatholic Intramurals, the Bishop's Bash and Theology on Tap.

But we know that big events—and seeking, finding and inviting young adults—are only parts of what we do and means to a greater end.

Our parishes, schools, families and world are starving for sainthood. And not just general sainthood, but the individual sainthoods of the faithful. And without the realization of this call, something is missing.

"We can be deprived of the rivers of prayer, generosity, wisdom, love, creativity, charisms, vocations and grace that God intends to bless, heal, evangelize and transform the lives of billions," noted Sherry Weddell, author of *Forming Intentional Disciples*.

As we begin a new ministry year, we begin a new season in our ministry as a whole. We have seen great growth and true, Christian community formed through programs and parish ministry to young adults all across our archdiocese.

Now, we continue that mission forward. Just as our Lord spent three years with his followers before he commissioned them and sent them out, we feel the time has come to build from this fruit and focus our efforts on building disciples, on making saints.

As history attests, some of the Church's greatest saints were young adults. Truly, the world would be a different place had they not recognized this call to sainthood in their lives. The goal of our ministry is to facilitate this call in those we serve.

We have already seen heroic levels of dedication to our Lord and his Church. Small group communities of men and women are growing. Young adult formation houses are thriving around the city of Indianapolis. A large number of young adults give their Fridays once a month to prayer in eucharistic adoration and take part in small group discussion. Young adults are flocking downtown to serve the homeless through Operation Leftover.

And starting in February, we will be gathering all of these leaders together once a month to continue to build a vision for discipleship through an effort called Hearts Freely Given. This group will be the start of something beautiful. Like the disciples in the upper room, we will gather to be sent out to bring souls, especially other young adults, to the source of Life they have been looking for.

While the statistics about the Church as a whole can be hard to take, I can tell you the young Church is alive and well here in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. The leaders that we see answering the call to sainthood each day are going to lead our Church into the future, and their sainthood is going to impact the lives of many.

And we in the YACCM office are excited to continue this journey with them.

Please join us in praying that many, many more young adults continue to answer this call through the ministry that we have been called to lead, and through the great efforts happening around the archdiocese.

(Matt Faley is archdiocesan director of young adult and college campus ministry. E-mail him at [mfaley@archindy.org](mailto:mfaley@archindy.org)) †



Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

# Sunday Readings

Sunday, November 23, 2014

- Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
- Matthew 25:31-46

This weekend closes the Church's liturgical year of 2014. Next week, a new year will begin with the First Sunday of Advent. Closing the year means that the Church has led us through 12 months of careful instruction about Jesus.



The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King joyfully summarizes the lessons of the past year. The Lord is king! He reigns! He lives!

The first reading comes from the ancient Book of Ezekiel. In this reading, God speaks in the first person, promising protection of the

flock, his people. He is the shepherd, seeking the lost, caring for the injured, rescuing the imperiled. God will also distinguish between the sheep and others who assume other identities because of their unfaithfulness.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second reading. This selection is a proclamation of the Resurrection and of the role of the Lord as Redeemer of humanity. He is the Risen Lord, the first of those who will rise to everlasting life. Those who will follow Jesus in being raised from the dead are "those who belong" to Christ, in other words, those persons who have admitted God, through Jesus, into their lives and who have received from the Lord the gift of grace, eternal life and strength.

The reading frankly admits that forces hostile to God are at work in the world. These forces cannot be dismissed as insignificant. However, they are by no means omnipotent. The power and life of God will endure in and through Jesus. God will triumph over all evil. No one bound to God should fear the powers of evil, although all must resist

these powers.

For its final reading on this great feast, the Church offers us a passage from St. Matthew's Gospel. It looks ahead to the day when God's glory will overwhelm the world when Jesus will return in majesty and glory.

This expectation was a favorite theme in the early Church, in the community that surrounded and prompted the formation of the Gospels.

The reading repeats the description given in Ezekiel. In Ezekiel, God, the shepherd, separates the sheep from the goats, the good from the unfaithful. In this reading from Matthew, Jesus promises a final judgment in which the faithful will be separated from the sinful.

The reading is a beautiful description of who the Lord will judge as faithful and unfaithful. The faithful will be those who, in following the model of Jesus, give themselves to caring for the troubled, the distressed by bringing them relief and hope.

## Reflection

Sixty years ago, the parents of the current British monarch enjoyed the people's highest esteem because of their uncompromising commitment to the well-being of the nation.

At the height of the German bombing of London and other major cities in the United Kingdom, the rumor spread that the royal family, as well as the government, would desert the country.

One day, arriving on the scene of a horrendous bombing attack, Queen Elizabeth, the wife of King George VI, and mother of Elizabeth II, was asked if she and her husband would send their young daughters to Canada for their safety. Moreover, would she and the king follow them?

Elizabeth, better known later as the Queen Mother, answered, "My daughters will not leave without me. I shall not leave without the king. And, the king? The king will never, ever leave you!"

Christ the King will never leave us his followers. He will always protect us. He will bring us to glory of heaven after the wars of Earth are ended. †

## Daily Readings

### Monday, November 24

St. Andrew Dūng-Lac, priest, and companions, martyrs  
*Revelation 14:1-3, 4b-5*  
*Psalms 24:1b-4b, 5-6*  
*Luke 21:1-4*

### Tuesday, November 25

St. Catherine of Alexandria, virgin and martyr  
*Revelation 14:14-19*  
*Psalms 96:10-13*  
*Luke 21:5-11*

### Wednesday, November 26

*Revelation 15:1-4*  
*Psalms 98:1-3b, 7-9*  
*Luke 21:12-19*

### Thursday, November 27

*Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a*  
*Psalms 100:1b-5*  
*Luke 21:20-28*

### Friday, November 28

*Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21:2*  
*Psalms 84:3-6a, 8a*  
*Luke 21:29-33*

### Saturday, November 29

*Revelation 22:1-7*  
*Psalms 95:1-7b*  
*Luke 21:34-36*

### Sunday, November 30

First Sunday of Advent  
*Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7*  
*Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19*  
*1 Corinthians 1:3-9*  
*Mark 13:33-37*

## My Journey to God

# See How the Light Shines

By Linda Abner

Linda Abner is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis. She wrote this poem about the merging of St. Bernadette Parish in Indianapolis with Our Lady of Lourdes Parish through the Connected in the Spirit effort. St. Bernadette's will officially merge with Our Lady of Lourdes on Nov. 30.

See how the light shines in this place!  
 See how the sun streams through colored glass—  
 Red, gold, orange -  
 Windows diligently saved for and given  
 By thankful parishioners.  
 See how it beams upon the Tabernacle  
 Illuminating like colors in surrounding art—  
 Bread, chalice, chorusing angels—  
 Lovingly painted by a parishioner,  
 In memory of beloved parishioners.  
 See the pews after Mass  
 Filled with grocery bags, row after row  
 Destined for those even less well-off  
 Than the parishioners offering them.  
 See the homemade, oversized greeting card  
 Meant for an ill parishioner,  
 Waiting in the lobby to be signed with cheerful greetings  
 From brothers and sisters in Christ.

See Jesus in the center.  
 A mosaic wall behind the altar  
 A mosaic circle in that wall, without beginning, without end,  
 And in the center of that circle,  
 Christ.  
 He is the Center; is seen by  
 And oversees  
 All.  
 He is the source  
 The light  
 The wealth of these parishioners.  
 He is unending love  
 Unknowable strength  
 Presence not bound by place, or time.  
 His Spirit, alive in these who love Him  
 Cannot be quenched!  
 But will move with and within them  
 Rising like the measure of yeast  
 Growing like the mustard seed  
 To enrich and bless  
 All whom it encounters.

## Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

### Use of first-class relics are reserved for public veneration and church altars

Please forgive my awful handwriting.

I have multiple sclerosis and also Parkinson's disease, and can no longer do very well on a typewriter or computer. My question is: Why is it so hard to obtain first-class relics? Do I need permission from my bishop to obtain them?

I am now 65 years old and virtually bedridden, a convert to the Catholic Church in my teens. There are two saints to whom I have special devotion, and to have their relics would be a great comfort to me: St. Rita of Cascia and St. John Mary Vianney. I appreciate any advice you might offer. (Tell City, Indiana)



As explained by Catholic News Service: "A first-class relic is the physical bodily remains of a saint or blessed like bones, blood and hair; a second-class relic is a personal possession, such as clothing, devotional objects, handwritten letters or even furniture; and a third-class relic is an object that has touched a first-class relic. These—usually small snips of cloth that have touched a blessed or saint's tomb—often end up in public distribution fixed onto prayer cards."

Relics have been venerated in the Church since the earliest centuries of the Christian era because they evoke the memory of the person honored, and are thought to put one in closer contact with the virtues of that saint.

The largest collection of relics belongs to the Vatican, and is kept at a convent adjacent to the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome. The practice of making relics generally available to the public, particularly first-class relics, ended about 20 years ago at the insistence of the Vatican.

Today, you can apply to the Vatican for a specific relic only with a letter of permission from your bishop, and only if the relic will

be used for a church altar or other public purpose. The private ownership, especially of first-class relics, is highly discouraged since it is seen as limiting the evangelizing effect of the saint's memory.

Occasionally, second- or third-class relics can be obtained by contacting the religious order or shrine of a particular saint. (The national shrine of St. Rita of Cascia is in Philadelphia, and the shrine of St. John Mary Vianney is in Ars-sur-Formans in France). If these shrines are unable to provide you with relics, they can at least offer you devotional material on the saints and information about their lives.

The Church's *Code of Canon Law* says specifically and strongly that, "It is absolutely forbidden to sell sacred relics" (#1190). When relics are obtained, there is often a charge for the metal container encasing the relic and for mailing costs, but not for the relic itself.

Why do so many priests leave the altar as soon as the final hymn begins? Choirs often give much time to practice the hymn, and then the priest hurries off right after they start. So other people begin to leave, too, and nobody pays any attention to the music. I think it's rude. (Bound Brook, New Jersey)

I agree. The Church's guidelines for the Mass (the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*) are silent on the matter of a recessional hymn, and some parishes choose not to use one at all—their thinking being that the congregation is sent forth immediately to "glorify the Lord by their lives."

But if a hymn is used, common courtesy and liturgical propriety ought to keep the priest at the altar for the greater part of it. Since it is a "recessional," the final part of the hymn may accompany the priest back down the aisle, but he should encourage the congregation to sing (and respect the choir) by not moving too soon.

In any case, perhaps the pastor and the parish music director could work together to come to a good common understanding of the matter. †



# 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.

**BANET, Maurice H.**, 77, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, Nov. 10. Husband of Marilyn (Bezy) Banet. Father of Deborah Vanderplow, Karen and Timothy Banet. Brother of Norma Andres, Aileen, Larry and LeMerle Banet. Grandfather of three.

**BENNETT, William Jeffrey**, 60, Annunciation, Brazil, Oct. 15. Husband of Barbara (Goodhart) Bennett. Brother of Susan Abernathy and Julie Ahrens.

**DUERSTOCK, Marvin A.**, 74, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Aurora, Nov. 4. Husband of Sabra (Carmack) Duerstock. Father of Dr. Brad, Greg and Scott Duerstock. Brother of Helen Tebbe and Cyril Duerstock. Grandfather of six.

**DURAN, Maria Fernanda Martinez**, 20, Annunciation, Brazil, Oct. 25. Daughter of Freddy and Marisol Martinez. Sister of Yahaira Martinez Duran.

**FARTHING, Jona T.**, 25, Good Shepherd, Oct. 13. Daughter of Robert and Jean Farthing. Sister

of Jamie, Jason and Joel Farthing. Graddaughter of George and Katie Bender and Paul and Helen Farthing. (correction)

**FIEGLE, Edith M.**, 97, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood, Nov. 2. Mother of Jeri Gumerson, Alan, John and Ronald Fiegle. Grandmother of 14. Great-grandmother of 21.

**FROEHLICH, Annette Marie**, 54, St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis, Nov. 2. Sister of Angi Burkard, Lynn Boone, Susan, Jimmie, Michael, Ralph and William Froehlich.

**HADLEY, Harold L.**, 87, Prince of Peace, Madison, Oct. 18. Father of Kenneth Hadley.

**HALSTEAD, Rita**, 92, St. Mary, Richmond, Oct. 19. Mother of Linda Powers. Stepmother of Moya Goddard. Sister of Wilber Toschlog. Grandmother of one. Great-grandmother of four.

**HARDMAN, Elizabeth C.**, 94, Annunciation, Brazil, Oct. 31. Mother of Doris Pell. Sister of Luther Erwin. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of six. Great-great-grandmother of five.

**KANE, Johanna N.**, 79, St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis, Oct. 31. Mother of Maureen Harter, Kathy, Jim and John Kane. Grandmother of five.

**KIRCH, Dianna**, 51, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, Nov. 1. Mother of Jennifer, Jessica, Nicki and A.J. Kirch. Daughter of Bernie Kirch.

**KUSH, Margaret E.**, 90, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, Nov. 7. Mother of Gloria Carter, Kathy Rowland, Gary and John Kush. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of 14.

**LOFFLAND, Karen Sue**, 69, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, Nov. 1. Wife of Phillip Loffland. Mother of Cynthia Cox and Bryan Loffland. Sister of Mark Takacs. Grandmother of three.

**McCONNELL, Kyle Ray**, 34, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, Nov. 1. Husband of Madelene McConnell. Father of Molly McConnell. Son of Ralph McConnell and Paula McConnell. Brother of Victoria Smith, Samantha, Ralph and Sean McConnell.

**POWELL, Evelyn Elizabeth (Hubbuck)**, 88, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, Nov. 5. Mother of Diane Purvis, Linda Robinson, Dcn. Jeffrey and William Powell Jr. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of five.

**SPOERLE, Wilhelm T.**, 80, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, Nov. 4. Father of Anna Cook, Christina Martin and Kurt Spoerle. Grandfather of six. Great-grandfather of four.

**WERTZ, Catherine Louise**, 82, St. Ambrose, Seymour, Nov. 5. Mother of David Wertz. Grandmother of four.

**ZAHND, Bonita**, 70, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Indianapolis, Oct. 30. Wife of Paul Zahnd. †



## Honoring Veterans

U.S. Army veteran Frederick Carrier, 90, who served in World War II, marches in the annual Veterans Day Parade in New York on Nov. 11. Carrier participated in the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944, in Normandy, France. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

## Seal of confession is absolute, even after penitent dies, officials say

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The secrecy of a confession is maintained so seriously and completely by the Catholic Church that a priest would be excommunicated for revealing the contents of a confession when ordered to testify by a court or even after the penitent dies, Vatican officials said.

“No confessor can be dispensed from it, even if he would want to reveal the contents of a confession in order to prevent a serious and imminent evil,” said

Msr. Krzysztof Nykiel, regent of the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court dealing with matters of conscience.

The penitentiary sponsored a conference at the Vatican on Nov. 12-13 on “the confessional seal and pastoral privacy.”

According to the Vatican newspaper, *L’Osservatore Romano*, conference participants heard that since the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 spelled out the penalties in Church law for violating the secret of the confessional, “the

discipline of the Church in this matter has remained substantially the same,” with the exception of additional protections.

One of those additions, the newspaper said, was a 1988 Church law explicitly stating that using an “electronic apparatus” to record, broadcast or otherwise share the contents of a confession also is an excommunicable offense.

Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, told conference participants it is important “to remove any suspicion” that the Church’s commitment to the confessional seal “is designed to cover intrigues, plots or mysteries as people sometimes naively believe or, more easily, are led to believe.”

The seal, he said, is intended to protect the most intimate part of the human

person, “that is, to safeguard the presence of God within each man.” The effect of the secret, he said, is that it also protects a person’s reputation and right to privacy.

The confessional seal, Msgr. Nykiel said, “is binding not only on the confessor, but also on the interpreter, if present, and anyone who in any way, even casually, comes to know of the sins confessed.”

The Church, he said, takes the seal so seriously that it forbids, on the pain of excommunication, a priest from testifying in court about what he heard in the confessional, “even if the penitent requests” he testify.

Not even the death of the penitent can absolve the confessor from the obligation to maintain the secret, Msgr. Nykiel said. †

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# Pope says defending traditional marriage is matter of 'human ecology'

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis called for preserving the family as an institution based on marriage between a man and a woman, which he said is not a political cause but a matter of "human ecology."

"The complementarity of man and woman ... is at the root of marriage and the family," the pope said on Nov. 17, opening a three-day interreligious conference on traditional marriage. "Children have the right to grow up in a family with a father and mother capable of creating a suitable environment for the child's development and emotional maturity."

Pope Francis said that "marriage and the family are in crisis. We now live in a culture of the temporary, in which more and more people are simply giving up on marriage as a public commitment. The revolution in mores and morals has often flown the flag of freedom, but in fact it has brought spiritual and material devastation to countless human beings, especially the poorest and most vulnerable."

According to the pope, the "crisis in the family has produced an ecological crisis, for social environments, like natural environments, need protection. And although the human race has come to understand the need to address conditions that menace our natural environments, we have been slower—we have been slower in our culture, and also in our Catholic culture—to recognize that our fragile social environments are also at risk. It is therefore essential

that we foster a new human ecology."

Pope Francis voiced hope that young people would be "revolutionaries with the courage to seek true and lasting love, going against the current." But he also warned against falling into the "trap of being swayed by ideological concepts."

"We cannot speak today of the conservative family or the progressive family," he said. "The family is the family."

The pope also stressed that the complementarity between male and female does not necessarily entail stereotypical gender roles.

"Let us not confuse [complementarity] with the simplistic idea that all the roles and relations of the two sexes are fixed in a single, static pattern," he said. "Complementarity will take many forms as each man and woman brings his or her distinctive contributions to their marriage and to the education of their children."

Pope Francis said Christians find the meaning of complementarity in St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, "where the Apostle tells us that the Spirit has endowed each of us with different gifts so that—just as the human body's members work together for the good of the whole—everyone's gifts can work together for the benefit of each."

"To reflect upon complementarity is nothing less than to ponder the dynamic harmonies at the heart of all creation," the pope said. †



## Welcoming Chicago's new shepherd

Cardinal Francis E. George gives the final blessing during a rite of welcome ceremony for Archbishop Blase J. Cupich on Nov. 17 at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. Archbishop Cupich, whose installation as Chicago's new archbishop was set for Nov. 18, is Pope Francis' first major appointment for the hierarchy of the U.S. Catholic Church. (CNS photo/John Smerciak, Catholic New World)

## HOLY LAND

continued from page 1

condemn the violence and assure the families who have lost loved ones of our prayers," he added. "It is very sad."

The Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land expressed "shock and horror" at the attack, calling it "horrendous."

"Such murderous deeds, especially in a house of worship, are the ultimate

abuse of religion," said a statement from the council, which represents Israel's chief rabbinate, the Palestinian Authority Shariah courts, and local Christian leaders. "We call on all religious political and civic leaders to do their utmost to prevent the local political conflict from being turned into a religious war, the consequences of which will be disastrous for all."

The Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, World Council of Churches general secretary, expressed concern and sadness over the attack.

"There is a particular horror in any such attack which takes place at a place of worship. I condemn this violence unequivocally, as I do all violence between the peoples and communities of this region which has seen so much bloodshed in the name of religion," he said. "Violence, collective punishments and communal attacks can only further damage the prospects of peace and justice for all."

Israelis were shocked by the attack on the worshippers, killed while wrapped in prayer shawls as they took part in the

daily morning prayers at the popular neighborhood synagogue.

In past weeks, the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif has been the site of bloody confrontations between Israeli police and Palestinians, and synagogues and mosques have been vandalized.

Over recent weeks, several Palestinians have been killed and injured in demonstrations in East Jerusalem, and several Israelis been killed and injured in attacks by Palestinians in the Jerusalem area and Tel Aviv. †

## What was in the news on November 20, 1964? Editorials discuss the early arrival of Christmas, and the remembrance of a sad anniversary

By Brandon A. Evans

This week, we continue to examine what was going on in the Church and the world 50 years ago as seen through the pages of *The Criterion*.

Here are some of the items found in the November 20, 1964, issue of *The Criterion*:

- Bishops move to apply 'aggiornamento' to U.S.
- Editor comments from Rome: A vast amount of work begets council schema
- State aid for schools issue aired at council
- Campaign for clothing announced
- 'Dialogue' is delayed
- Council tidbits: It's a woman's world, all right
- U.S. bishops approve grant for Montezuma
- Announce prelates on NCWC board
- Drop 'Thou's, Thee's': New epistle, Gospel use 'modern' English
- New texts of epistle, Gospel for Nov. 29th
- Editorial: The rush is on

"Last Saturday, the temperature was about 70. Maples still were shedding. Youngsters were romping around in T-shirts and shorts. Sweltering beneath a synthetic beard and fur-trimmed suit, the season's first Santa

arrived in Indianapolis that day. This out-of-kilter business pointed to the practice of storming the gates of Bethlehem almost in the dying flicker of a Halloween jack-o-lantern candle. The stampede to Santaland is on. No sooner did classrooms open for the 1964-65 season than back-to-school sales counters were rearranged for Yuletide baubles. Thanksgiving? Guess that's for pilgrims and supermarkets. ... Must the hapless citizen be subjected to a two-month barrage of gaudied glee, phony sentiment, and frenzied pressure before the frost is even on the pumpkin and the turkey is in the oven?"

### • Editorial: Anniversary

"A year ago, November 22 fell on a Friday. It was, for most, just another Friday. Then, shortly after 12:30 p.m., Central Standard Time, the President of the United States was shot dead. There was an illusion of time standing still, traumatized. The fact was, time continued moving apace, the nation and the world quickly emerged from the wilderness of shock, and history's caravan proceeded onward. Yet, on this Sunday, a year after the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, millions upon countless millions ... will sense in their hearts that the tragedy of

November 22, 1963, is beyond forgetting."

- Cites need to explain liturgical reforms
- St. Joan of Arc cops CYO Cadet grid title
- Hope for Church seen in E. Europe
- Indian premier plans to meet Pope Paul VI
- Pope meets brothers cured of blindness
- Council schema on seminaries stresses pastoral training
- In council speech: Belgian prelate asks 'new deal' for nuns
- Pope plans 20 talks during India visit



Read all of these stories from our November 20, 1964, issue by logging on to our archives at [www.CriterionOnline.com](http://www.CriterionOnline.com). †

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# Band salutes a favorite priest, students excel and educator is honored



(Editor's note: The Criterion once again offers its monthly salute to the success stories of Catholic schools in the archdiocese.)

Compiled by John Shaughnessy

Marta Belt became overwhelmed with emotion as she watched nearly-100-year-old Father Hilary Meny react to the special performance for him by the first marching band of Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison.

"It made chills run down your spine to watch Father Meny, who will be 100 in January, move his hands like he was conducting the band," recalled Belt, a band parent, of the special moment on Oct. 17.

On their way to a state musical competition in Evansville, Ind., that evening, the band stopped in nearby Haubstadt to salute Father Meny, who led the effort to establish Shawe High School and Pope John XXIII School, both in Madison. Father Meny has been a longtime supporter of Shawe's band, which also became a marching band for the first time this school year.

"We wanted to thank him the best way we knew how," noted Colleen Burdette, another band parent. "Our original thought was to play in his front yard, but it wasn't quite big enough. His family arranged for us to perform in the parking lot of the [SS. Peter and Paul] Catholic Church down the street."

Band director Bill Gordon added, "We thought that playing for Father Meny



Band members of Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison pose on Oct. 17 with Father Hilary Meny outside SS. Peter and Paul Church in Haubstadt, Ind., in the Evansville Diocese. Father Meny has been a longtime supporter of Shawe's band, which also became a marching band for the first time this school year. (Submitted photo)

would mean so much more than any thank you card could ever say.

"I was so proud of the kids. It was amazing. It is a memory that will be with me for many years to come."

The Shawe Band of Gold has 45 members, with over a quarter of the student body participating in the band. Shawe High School has about 175 students in seventh through 12th grade.

The band participated in its fourth marching band competition of the year in Evansville on Oct. 18. The band

has already achieved success, said its flag coach, Sue Tilley.

"They have brought home awards and trophies in their first season ever," she noted. "They have started something that will continue to grow and shape the music program at Shawe for decades to come."

After their first competition, band director Gordon told the students, "You made history today! You are the first group of Shawe Memorial students who have competed in a marching band competition. You helped make my dream come true."

The plan to salute Father Meny began after the marching band's first performance.

"When the marching band performed for the first time, it was an amazing sight that brought tears to my eyes," Belt said. "I looked over at [Colleen Burdette] and we said at the same time, 'Father Meny would be so proud.' So our plan began."

The emotion flowed for her again as Father Meny conducted the marching band. His joy was evident.

Bundled in blankets on the cool, fall evening, he smiled and said, "You came a long way to say thank you. That you did this for me is wonderful."

### Diving right in

In a sport where competitors strive to enter the water with as little splash as possible, Sarah Bacon made a "big splash" this year during national and international diving competitions.

A senior at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis, Sarah earned three national titles during the U.S. Junior National Diving Championships in August.

Her success also qualified her for the World Junior Diving Championships in September in Russia. There, she placed third in the 3-meter dive and sixth in the 1-meter dive.

### Up to the challenge

Rebekah Israel earned a first-place finish in the National Youth Engineering Challenge in September in West Lafayette, Ind.

A senior at Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison, Rebekah competed in the "Electric/Energy" category, one of nine areas in the engineering challenge.

Rebekah's work focused on the "principles of the relationship between

electrical currents and magnetism" and how they are connected to everyday activities.

"I specifically reviewed and discussed the utilization of electrical currents, coils and magnets to explain the function of transformers, the generation of electrical power, and the operation of electrical motors," Rebekah said.

"Without an understanding of these principles, we could not have electricity generated and brought into our homes, could not charge our cell phones, use most kitchen appliances, vacuum or do many of the daily activities that we often take for granted."

### 'Passionate commitment'

Chuck Weisenbach recently received the 2014 Outstanding Leadership Award from the Indiana Non-Public Education Association (INPEA).

Weisenbach was saluted for his 20 years as the principal of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, and for his contributions to the INPEA Board of Directors, which he has

served for 10 years, including two years as its president.

"Chuck Weisenbach has not only served Roncalli in extraordinary fashion for the past 20 years, he has served the entire state of Indiana with his passionate commitment to providing the best possible learning environment for all students," said Roncalli president Joe Hollowell.

"Chuck's dedication to student learning, his incredible work ethic and his support for the development of great teachers has been a gift to all who care about young people in our state."

(Send short summaries of your school's success stories to assistant editor John Shaughnessy by e-mail to [jshaughnessy@archindy.org](mailto:jshaughnessy@archindy.org) or by mail in care of The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN, 46202. Please include a contact person for your school's story and a phone number where he or she can be reached.) †

"Each one must **GIVE** as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7

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