



The

Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



WORLD
MEETING OF
FAMILIES
2015 Philadelphia

CriterionOnline.com

October 2, 2015

Vol. LVI, No. 1 75¢

'God bless America'



Memory and motion: Pope Francis shows Americans who he really is

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)—Pope Francis speaks often about memory and motion, the importance of remembering where you came from and setting off without fear to share the Gospel.

That's what he did in the United States. He circled the Statue of Liberty in a helicopter and flew over Ellis Island not preparing to condemn the world's great superpower, but to reflect on its history and promise as a land that welcomes people, makes them part of the family and allows them to thrive.

Over the course of six days in the United States, Pope Francis let the U.S. public see who he really is with touching blessings, strong speeches, prayerful liturgies and an unplugged proclamation of the beauty of family life, even when it includes flying dishes.

With constant television coverage and a saturated social media presence, Pope Francis was no longer just the subject of screaming headlines about the evils of unbridled capitalism, and a "who-am-I-to judge" attitude toward behaviors the Catholic Church describes as sinful.

Instead, he repeatedly admitted his own failures and reminded people they, too, have fallen short. He urged them to trust in God's mercy, and get a move on proclaiming that to the world—first with gestures and maybe with words.

Sin is sin even for Pope Francis. Human life is sacred at every stage of its development, and that includes the lives of convicted murderers,

See POPE, page 7

Pope Francis gestures during an evening prayer service in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York on Sept. 24.

(CNS photo/Mike Crupi)



Once in a lifetime

Local Catholics witness history as Pope Francis addresses Congress, page 3.



Pilgrimage of faith

Archdiocesan group attending World Meeting of Families strengthened in their vocations, pages 9-11.



Papal blessings

Emotions run high as pilgrims catch glimpse of pope during visit, page 13.

God invites us to embrace others, show every life is worth living

(Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, wrote the following letter to launch October as Respect Life Month.)

My dear friends in Christ:

One of the deepest desires of the human heart is to discover our identity. So often, as a society and as individuals, we identify ourselves by what we do. We base our worth on how productive we are at work or at home, and we determine our lives to be more or less good depending on the degree of independence or pleasure. We may even begin to believe that if our lives, or those of others, don't "measure up" to a certain standard, they are somehow less valuable or less worth living.

Respect Life Month is a fitting time to reflect on the truth of who we are.

Our worth is based not on our skills or levels of productivity. Rather, we discover our worth when we discover our true identity found in the unchangeable, permanent fact that we are created in God's image and likeness and called to an eternal destiny with him.

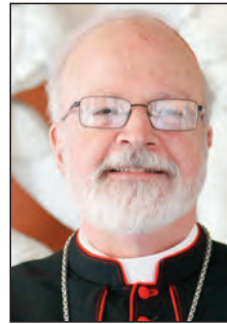
Because of this, absolutely nothing can diminish our God-given dignity, and therefore, nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives. Others may fail to respect that dignity—may even try to undermine it—but in doing so, they only distance themselves from God's loving embrace. Human dignity is forever.

Whether it lasts for a brief moment or for a hundred years, each of our lives is a good and perfect gift. At every stage and in every circumstance, we are held in existence by God's love.

An elderly man whose health is quickly deteriorating; an unborn baby girl whose diagnosis indicates she may not live long; a little boy with Down syndrome; a mother facing terminal cancer—each may have great difficulties and need our assistance, but each of their lives is worth living.

When we encounter the suffering of another, let us reach out and embrace them in love, allowing God to work through us. This might mean slowing down and taking the time to listen. It might mean providing respite care or preparing meals for a family facing serious illness. It might mean simply being present and available. And of course, it always means prayer—bringing their needs before the Father and asking him to work in their lives.

Experiencing suffering—or watching another suffer—is one of the hardest



Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley



human experiences. Fear of the unknown can lead us into the temptation of taking control in ways that offend our dignity and disregard the reverence due to each person.

But we are not alone. Christ experienced suffering more deeply than we can comprehend, and our own suffering can be meaningful when we unite it with his. Especially in the midst of trials, we are invited to hold fast to the hope of the Resurrection. God is with us every step of the way, giving us the grace we need.

In times of suffering, let us have the courage to accept help that others genuinely want to give, and give the help that others need. We were made to love and be loved; we are meant to depend on one another, serving each other in humility and walking together in times of suffering. Our relationships are meant to help us grow in perfect love.

Let us learn to let go of our own standards of perfection and instead learn more deeply how to live according to God's standards. He does not call us to perfect efficiency or material success; he calls us to self-sacrificial love. He invites us to embrace each life for as long as it is given—our own lives and the lives of those he has placed in our paths. Every life is worth living. †

Fall 40 Days for Life is underway, people still needed to pray at sites

Criterion staff report

40 Days for Life is an international campaign that seeks to end abortion through peaceful prayer vigils at abortion centers, and to raise community awareness of the consequences of abortion.

The campaign runs twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. During the 40-day campaigns, individuals silently pray during one-hour time slots in front of abortion centers around the world.

This year, the fall campaign runs from Sept. 23-Nov. 1, with Indianapolis and Bloomington participating within the archdiocese. Cities participating near archdiocesan boundaries include Fishers, Muncie and Evansville.

In Indianapolis, there will be a midpoint rally in front of the Planned Parenthood facility, 8590 N. Georgetown Road, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Oct. 10 with special guest speaker Maria Hernandez.

Hernandez will share a powerful testimony of choosing life after her unplanned pregnancy. After she speaks, a witness talk will be shared about a save that took place seven years ago.

The Bloomington 40 Days for Life campaign will take place on the public right-of-way outside of the Planned Parenthood facility at 421 S. College Ave.

At 9 a.m. on Oct. 24, Bloomington 40 Days for Life will host a march for life and a youth rally.

The rally will start at the Indiana University (IU) Arboretum with prayer, followed by a march to the Monroe County Courthouse to hear several local government leaders and candidates speak in support of defunding Planned Parenthood, and in defense of the unborn. The march will continue to the Planned Parenthood facility to hear from a former Planned Parenthood worker and nurse on why she left Planned Parenthood and became pro-life. The march will then proceed back to the IU campus for a closing prayer and rally.

Both campaigns are in need of volunteers to sign up to pray.

For more information or to sign up for a prayer time slot, log onto 40daysforlife.com and click on "Locations." †

Respect Life Mass, Life Chain events are this Sunday, Oct. 4

The annual Respect Life Mass will be held at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1400 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis at 1 p.m. on Oct. 4, Respect Life Sunday.

During the Mass, two awards will be presented to those performing outstanding service in the pro-life realm. Maria Hernandez will receive the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Respect Life Award, and Grace Lundy will receive the Our Lady of Guadalupe Pro-Life Youth Award.

Following the Mass, the Central Indiana Life Chain will take place from 2:30-3:30 p.m. along N. Meridian Street between Ohio Street and 40th Street.

Life Chain is an interdenominational, silent prayer vigil supporting respect for life at all stages. The Life Chain events taking place in the archdiocese on Oct. 4 as reported on www.lifechain.net are as follows:

- Bedford, W. 16th Street at State Road 37 South, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Information: Judy Streich, 812-277-1926.
- Bloomington, E. Third Street at High Street, 2-3:30 p.m. Information: Carol Canfield, 812-322-5114.
- Brazil, Highway 40 at Alabama Street, 2-3 p.m. Information: Jeff Etling, 812-230-6365.
- Brookville, Main Street at the County Courthouse, 2-3 p.m. For more information, call Jerry Mersch at 513-702-4949.
- Columbus, Second Street at Washington, 2-3 p.m. Information: Don Demas, 812-372-0774.
- Connersville, 30th Street at Park Road, 2-3 p.m. Information: Barbara Wagner, 765-647-3154.
- Greencastle, Washington Street at College Avenue, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Information: Catherine Engle, 765-653-5678.
- Greensburg, N. Lincoln Street at 10th Street, 2-3:30 p.m. Information: Pat Koors, 812-614-0595.
- Indianapolis, Meridian Street from North Street to 38th Street, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Information: Ron and Mary Kramer, 317-527-9531.
- Milan, Highway 101 at Highway 350, 3-4 p.m. Information: Ed King, 812-654-6502.
- Richmond/Wayne County, S "A" Street at S. 16th Street in Richmond, 2-3 p.m. Information: Cheryl Spence, 765-935-1786.
- Terre Haute, 3rd Street at Wabash Avenue, 2-3:30 p.m. Information: Tom McBroom at 812-841-0060.

For other Life Chain events near the borders of the archdiocese, log on to www.lifechain.net. †



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Criterion office:..... 317-236-1570
 Advertising..... 317-236-1454
 Toll free: 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1570
 Circulation: 317-236-1425
 Toll free: 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1425

Price: \$22.00 per year, 75 cents per copy

Postmaster

Send address changes to *The Criterion*, 1400 N Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

Web site: www.CriterionOnline.com

E-mail: criterion@archindy.org

Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January. Mailing address: 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2015 Criterion Press Inc. ISSN 0574-4350.

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The Criterion (ISSN 0574-4350) is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

1400 N. Meridian St.
 Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367
 317-236-1570
 800-382-9836 ext. 1570
criterion@archindy.org

Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN.
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Postmaster:
 Send address changes to:
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Pope to Congress: Stop bickering, world needs your help

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The past, the promise and the potential of the United States must not be smothered by bickering and even hatred at a time when the U.S. people and indeed the world need a helping hand, Pope Francis told the U.S. Congress.

Making history by being the first pope ever to address a joint meeting of Congress, Pope Francis was introduced to the legislators by the House sergeant at arms on Sept. 24 as: “Mr. Speaker, the pope of the Holy See.”

The pope introduced himself, though, as a son of the American continent, who had been blessed by the “new world” and felt a responsibility toward it.

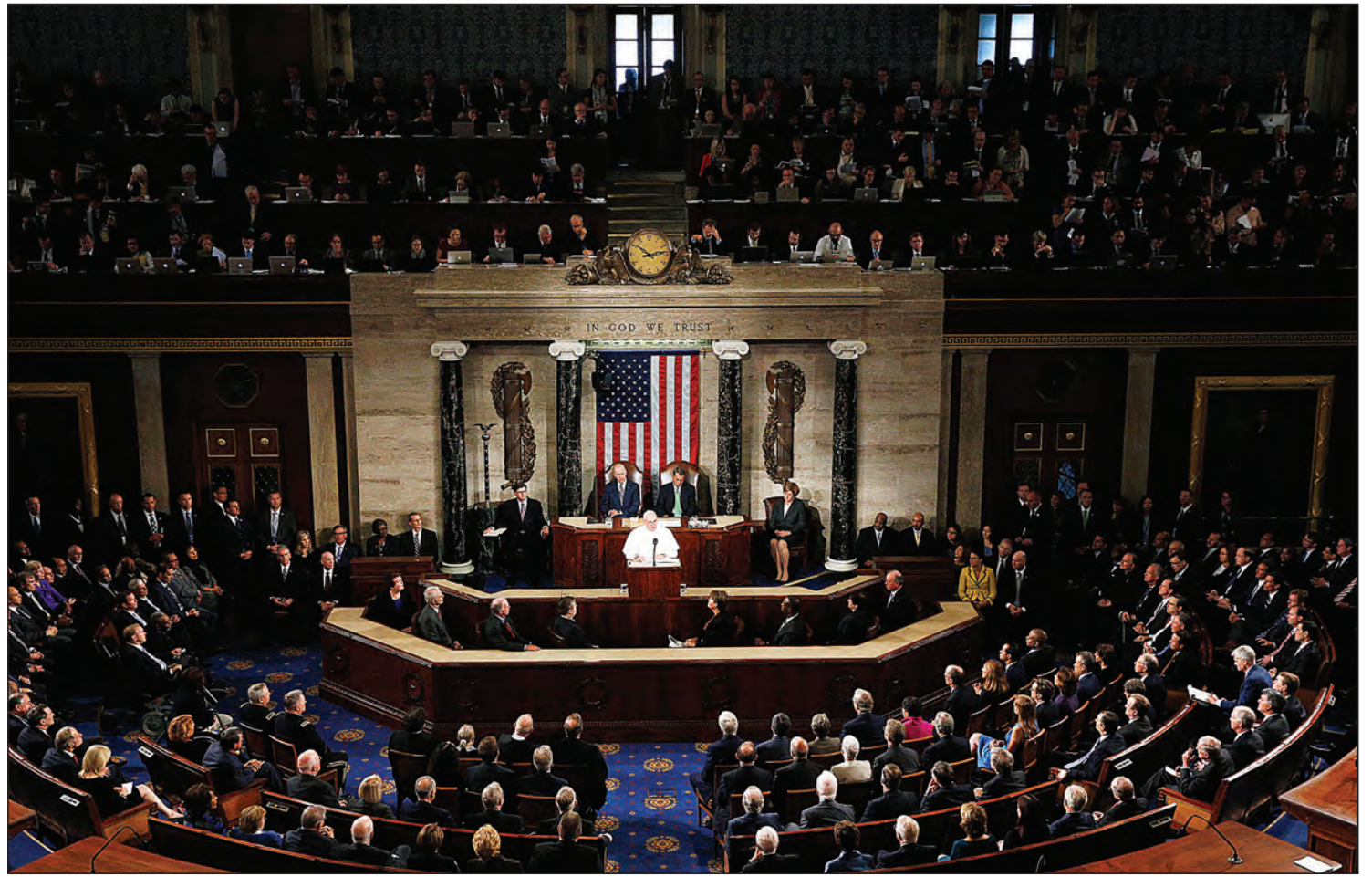
In his speech, he gave the sense that he sees the United States as a country divided, one so focused on calling each other names that it risks losing sight of how impressive it can be when its people come together for the common good. That is when it is a beacon of hope for the world, he said.

Pope Francis condemned legalized abortion, the death penalty and unscrupulous weapons sales. He called on Congress to “seize the moment” by moving forward with normalizing relations with Cuba. And, again referring to himself as a “son of immigrants”—and pointing out that many of the legislators are, too—he pleaded for greater openness to accepting immigrants.

A reporter had asked the pope in July about why he spoke so much about the poor and about the rich, but rarely about the lives and struggles of the hard-working, tax-paying middle class. The result of a papal promise to correct that was the speech to Congress and through Congress to the American people.

“I would like to take this opportunity to dialogue with the many thousands of men and women who strive each day to do an honest day’s work, to bring home their daily bread, to save money and—one step at a time—to build a better life for their families,” the pope said.

“These are men and women who are not concerned simply with paying their taxes, but in their own quiet way sustain the life of society,” he said. “They generate solidarity by their actions, and they create



Pope Francis addresses a joint meeting of Congress at the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Sept. 24. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

organizations which offer a helping hand to those most in need.”

Showing he had studied the United States before the visit—something he said he would do during the Rome August break—he used four iconic U.S. citizens as relevant models of virtue for Americans today: Abraham Lincoln, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton.

“A nation can be considered great when it defends liberty as Lincoln did; when it fosters a culture which enables people to ‘dream’ of full rights for all their brothers and sisters as Martin Luther King sought to do; when it strives for justice and the cause of the oppressed as Dorothy Day did by her tireless work; the fruit of a faith which becomes dialogue and sows peace in the contemplative style of Thomas Merton,”

the pope said.

Describing political service with the same tone used to describe a vocation to religious life—“you have been invited, called and convened by those who elected you”—the pope recognized the weighty responsibility of being a member of the U.S. Congress.

Dialogue, he said, is the only way to handle the pressure and fulfill the call to serve the common good, promoting a culture of “hope and healing, of peace and justice.”

For the speech, Pope Francis stood in the House chamber in front of Rep. John Boehner, speaker of the House and a Republican from Ohio, and Vice President Joe Biden, president of the Senate. Both men are Catholics. Besides the senators, representatives and their invited guests,

the attendees included members of the U.S. Supreme Court and members of President Barack Obama’s Cabinet.

Tens of thousands of people watched the speech on a giant screen on the Capitol’s West Lawn. Gathered hours before the pope’s morning visit, they were entertained by military bands.

In his speech, Pope Francis gave strong support to several concerns of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic faithful, including defending the right of people to publicly live their faith and join political policy debates from a faith-based perspective.

“It is important that today, as in the past, the voice of faith continue to be heard, for it is a voice of fraternity and love, which tries to bring out the best in each person

See CONGRESS, page 14

Local Catholics witness history as Pope Francis talks to Congress

By John Shaughnessy

The unrestrained joy—and the tears—still flowed from Maria Pimentel-Gannon hours after she experienced the rare, close-up opportunity to witness history as Pope Francis delivered his address to the U.S. Congress on Sept. 24.

“It was an unbelievable experience. My heart pounded, and I started to cry when he was introduced. He walked in ever so humbly, and the tears started to roll for



Maria Pimentel-Gannon and her husband Jack Gannon stand in the U.S. Capitol’s Statuary Hall next to a statue of St. Junipero Serra, who was canonized by Pope Francis on Sept. 23 in Washington. Maria attended Pope Francis’ address to Congress on Sept. 24. (Submitted photo)

me,” said Pimentel-Gannon, a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, as her tears came again. “That moment will be forever embedded in my mind.”

That experience will also be a lasting memory for Fred Klipsch, a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.

“It was very uplifting,” Klipsch said. “As a Catholic, to have the opportunity to be in the same room as the pope and hear his comments was special. And at a time that’s difficult for the world, it was humbling to hear his thoughts. He spoke to the needs of all people and at all stages of life.”

Klipsch and Pimentel-Gannon counted their blessings that they were among the select audience to hear, in person, Pope Francis’ historic talk—the first time that a pope has addressed the U.S. Congress.

Each member of the U.S. Senate and House received one extra ticket to give to someone to attend the pope’s address. Klipsch received his ticket from Rep. Luke Messer of Shelbyville, while Pimentel-Gannon was given hers by Rep. Susan Brooks of Indianapolis, also a member of St. Monica Parish.

They both sat in the second-level guest area of the House chambers as Pope Francis called for congressional leaders to end

capital punishment, accept immigrants and refugees, and pursue “a culture of care” for people and the environment.

One part of the pope’s talk that especially connected with Pimentel-Gannon was his reference to the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” (Mt 7:12).

“Let us treat each other with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated,” the pope said. “Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped ourselves.”

“In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities. The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us.”

His emphasis on “welcoming the stranger”—the immigrants and refugees—also resonated with Pimentel-Gannon, an immigrant from Mexico who has dedicated more than 30 years of her life to help Hispanic immigrants move closer to God in their faith.

“To hear him speak for the whole immigrant population, to be about peace, to be about love, to be about family, I just sat there and cried,” she said. “It moved me to tears as God was talking to all of us through this godly man.”

Of the numerous standing ovations that Pope Francis received during his speech, the two that lasted the longest occurred when he talked about the sanctity of life and later about the importance of the family in American history and society.



Fred Klipsch



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Editorial

Pope Francis calls us to communion, not division

In his message to families gathered in Philadelphia on Sept. 27 for the World Meeting of Families, Pope Francis said, "May our children find in us models of communion not division." In a very real way, this is the same message he delivered everywhere he travelled in the United States to every group he met.

We are called to communion, not division, in family life. "We learn many virtues in our Christian families," the pope said. "Above all, we learn to love, asking nothing in return." Love and forgiveness unite families. Selfishness and sin tear families apart.

Families today are challenged, and broken, as perhaps never before. Healing and hope are possible, the pope told us, but only if we open our hearts to Jesus Christ and allow his love and mercy to fill our lives. "When everything falls apart," the Holy Father said, "only one thing sustains our hope: God loves us, he loves everyone!"

We are called to communion, not division, in our politics. A recent cartoon by Mike Smith in the *Las Vegas Sun* depicts with cynicism the momentary unity achieved by Pope Francis' Sept. 24 address to the U.S. Congress which he depicts as being followed by business as usual—bickering and animosity resulting in fragmentation and gridlock. It's one thing to invoke the Golden Rule, but it's quite another to practice it in the day-to-day affairs of government!

"You are called to defend and preserve the dignity of your fellow citizens in the tireless and demanding pursuit of the common good, for this is the chief aim of all politics," the pope told our nation's leaders. "A political society endures when it seeks, as a vocation, to satisfy common needs by stimulating the growth of all its members, especially those in situations of greater vulnerability or risk. Legislative activity is always based on care for the people. To this you have been invited, called and convened by those who elected you."

Care for the people—especially the most vulnerable—this should unite us above all else. We can only hope that the cartoonist is wrong, that Pope Francis' words will have more than a temporary effect on our leaders' pursuit of the common good.

We are called to communion, not division, in the welcome and assistance we give to strangers, those who come to this great land seeking a better life for their families.

"Many of you came to this country at great personal cost, but in the hope of building a new life," the pope said. "Do not feel discouraged by all the challenges and hardships you might face. I ask you not to forget that, like those who came here before you, you bring many gifts to this new nation of yours. Please: do not feel ever ashamed of your traditions."

Calling himself "the son of immigrants" who came to the American continent seeking liberty and prosperity, Pope Francis reminded immigrants of their essential dignity



Pope Francis embraces the Walker family of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Sept. 27 in Philadelphia. Catire, Noel and their four children—Cala, 12, Dimas, 8, Mia, 5, and Carmin, 3—traveled 13,000 miles to be with Pope Francis during the World Meeting of Families. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters)

and of their giftedness. "Do not forget the lessons you learned from your elders, which can bring an enrichment to life of this American land," the pope said. "You are also called to be responsible citizens. You are called to be responsible citizens and to contribute, like others, with so much resilience before you—to contribute fruitfully to the life of the communities in which you live."

And while he encouraged immigrants, he challenged the rest of us to recall that every one of us is an immigrant, the descendants of those who came to this land from far away. Here, too, the Golden Rule should be practiced, and we should only treat immigrants and their families as we would wish to be treated in similar circumstances!

We are called to communion, not division, in the life of the Church. Regardless of the momentary fervor, the crowds and the media coverage, the pastoral visit of the Bishop of Rome to the Church in the United States of America will not be a success unless it unites us where we have been divided.

Squabbles over Church discipline are like the arguments (even "plate throwing") in families. We should disagree, make noise and give vent to our anger. Then we should calm down. Forgive one another. And continue as sisters and brothers in Christ. After all, we are called to communion, not division, in the Body of Christ.

In his column last week, Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin wished Pope Francis "a warm Hoosier welcome" on behalf of all of us in the state of Indiana. Let's pray that the spirit of welcome—and unity—which was so evident during his pastoral visit last week remains long after the pope's return to Rome.

—Daniel Conway

Reflection/John F. Fink

Thoughts about the pope's visit

With all the acclaim Pope Francis received during his visit to the United States, can there be any doubt that he is the most popular person in the world? Except, of course, among the radical Muslims who are part of ISIS, and their ilk.



He spoke to the United Nations in New York at a time when most of the top leaders of the civilized world were meeting, but Pope Francis pulled the biggest audience. The television pictures showed Angela Merkel, chancellor of Germany and the most powerful political figure in Europe, listening raptly to what the pope had to say.

At ground zero, there were religious leaders from all the major faith traditions. He greeted them all, and they all were glad to be meeting him as one meets a celebrity rather than as an equal.

Presidents could only wish they could get quite the reception that Pope Francis received during his unprecedented talk to a joint session of the U.S. Congress. I can't remember when a president brought senators and representatives to tears, as the pope did Sen. Marco Rubio and Speaker of the House John Boehner, although Boehner is known to cry easily.

What other person in the world could get nearly a million people to attend a rally, or any other event, as Pope Francis did for a Mass in Philadelphia? What political figure could ever attract the crowds that the pope did all week? In my lifetime, perhaps John F. Kennedy and his brother Robert were the only ones.

I was in Washington for the canonization Mass for Junipero Serra at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, so I can attest to the extraordinary measures that were put into effect for the pope's security. Nothing like that has ever been done for any other visitor to our country, either a political or a religious figure.

Those who couldn't be in Washington, New York or Philadelphia watched the pope on television in unprecedented numbers.

Letters to the Editor

Priest's support of Kentucky clerk is surprising, Criterion reader says

I was surprised at Father Tad Pacholczyk's support of Kim Davis' stance in the Sept. 25 issue of *The Criterion*. Davis is the clerk in Rowan County, Ky., who became known for her refusal to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

I can admire Davis for stating her belief, but I also think that she should resign her position if she is unable in conscience to perform her duties as a state employee.

I have been a registered nurse for 50 years, and was employed in that capacity until two years ago. I have baptized fetuses from spontaneous abortions. At one time, I looked at each patient as though I were looking at the face of God.

Luckily enough, I have never worked where my job depended on my participating in aborting a fetus or in euthanizing anyone.

I have cared for physical and emotional abusers, child molesters, adulterers, racists and murderers the same as I would for any patient because of my nursing professionalism. I do know that if any assignment required my turning against my own ethics I would be forced to resign from that employment.

CNN and EWTN covered everything the pope did live, but so did the local TV stations in those three cities.

And it wasn't only Catholics who were watching. People of all faiths, or of no faith, are highly attracted to Pope Francis. They appreciate not only what he says, but the way he walks the talk, living simply and ministering to the poor, the hungry, the sick and the imprisoned. They can see Jesus in this man who is leading the Catholic Church, but who obviously cares for all of humanity.

The media kept saying that the pope's reception in the United States was unprecedented, but I'm not sure that's true. We tend to forget that Pope John Paul II attracted pretty much the same thing the first time he visited the United States in 1979. He went to Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Des Moines and Washington.

Many Catholics from this area went to Chicago to see him, and they can recall what that was like. I was among those invited to the White House for that visit, when he met with President Jimmy Carter. He was the first pope to visit the White House.

At that time, *Time* magazine called him "John Paul, Superstar" for the enormous crowds that he drew and the wild enthusiasm they showed for him. He was to visit the United States four other times, but this first visit and his visit to Denver in 1993 for World Youth Day were probably the most tumultuous.

I say this, not to take away anything from Pope Francis' visit, but to say that the world still pays attention to what the pope—any pope—has to say when it comes to moral values. Pope Francis is a very different man from Popes Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI, all of whom visited the United States and received joyous welcomes.

Now if only the world would put into practice the things that Pope Francis urged during his visit. In his speech to Congress, he made it very simple—the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you" (Mt 7:12).

(John F. Fink is editor emeritus of *The Criterion*.) †

Davis' depending on her faith to guide her while going against the law is the same argument that slave holders and segregationists used.

Elizabeth Bennett
Richmond

Letter writer missed broader context editorial was meant to convey

In response to the letter in the Sept. 18 issue of *The Criterion* where the letter writer is sharing her interpretation of John Fink's editorial in the Aug. 28 issue about divorced and remarried Catholics, I'd like to respond with the following:

Apparently, the letter writer missed the part where the editor emeritus clearly stated his comments were a reflection of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and then went on to explain the whys and wherefores in detail.

A defensive attitude based on one's personal circumstances tends to promote misunderstanding in the eye of the beholder. In no way was the editorial an "attempt to undo" Pope Francis' pastoral outreach.

I would suggest the letter writer re-read the editorial from the broader perspective it was meant to convey.

Alice Price
Indianapolis

ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO JOSEPH W. TOBIN



REJOICE IN THE LORD

ALÉGRENSE EN EL SEÑOR

Challenges to family life can seem overwhelming

When the Synod of Bishops meets in Rome this month to discuss “The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and the Contemporary World,” a lot of attention will be paid to the challenges facing families today. These can seem overwhelming because of the number of issues and their complexity.

As reflected in the “*Instrumentum Laboris*” (working document) that outlines what will be discussed at the synod, there are four major challenges that contemporary families must face: 1) cultural, 2) economic, 3) structural and 4) developmental (or “affective”) challenges. Let me say a few words about each of these.

Much has been written about the ways in which contemporary culture challenges the traditional understanding of marriage and family life. As noted in the synod’s document, only a minority of people today lives, supports and encourages the Catholic Church’s teaching on marriage and the family. Marriages, whether religious or not, are decreasing in number, while separation and divorce are on the rise.

For some time now, the traditional understanding of the meaning and importance of marriage for society has been on the decline. As the recent decision

of the U.S. Supreme Court concerning same-sex marriage makes clear, the Church’s understanding of marriage is now largely countercultural.

Economic challenges also threaten families in serious ways. The synod’s working document points to low wages, unemployment and economic insecurity as factors that negatively influence family life. It also says, “The following effects of economic inequity are reflected in a particularly acute manner in the family: growth is impeded; a home is missing; couples do not wish to have children; children find it difficult to study and become independent; and a calm planning for the future is precluded.”

Pope Francis insists that a change in perception by everyone in society is necessary to overcome the economic challenges facing families today. “Growth in justice requires more than economic growth, while presupposing such growth,” the pope says. “It requires decisions, programs, mechanisms and processes specifically geared to a better distribution of income, the creation of sources of employment and an integral promotion of the poor which goes beyond a simple welfare mentality.”

Today’s families also face structural challenges, including questions about who should be included in the family unit. Care

for aging parents and grandparents has become a very serious issue as people live longer and require more access to health care and assistance in daily living.

The breakdown of traditional marriages, and the contemporaneous rise in the number of “blended” families, can cause confusion about who belongs to whom and about who is responsible for caring for the elderly, disabled and widowed members of families. The synod’s document also calls attention to the effects of migration, sexual exploitation of children, and the role of women as issues that challenge many families today.

Finally, all of these challenges have an effect on the stability, maturity and emotional health of today’s families. The synod’s working document calls this challenge “affective fragility,” and notes that nowadays the question is a pressing one: “A narcissistic, unstable or changeable affectivity does not always allow a person to grow to maturity.” In other words, instability in family life often makes it hard for people to mature and grow as they should. The result is a vicious cycle in which emotionally insecure parents find themselves incapable of rearing children in healthy, responsible ways.

The pastoral challenges facing the

Church reflect the challenges faced by families. As the synod’s working document notes, “The Church is conscious of the need to offer a word of truth and hope.” This cannot be simply the empty promise that all will be well. It has to be words that are both courageous and encouraging.

In the face of challenges that can seem overwhelming, the Church believes that human beings, who are made in the image and likeness of God, have the capacity to respond to “the great questions about the meaning of human existence.” In other words, with the help of God’s grace—and a lot of hard work and determination—we can establish (or restore) family structures that are sound, and that are supported by economic, cultural and political systems that build up the family rather than tear it down.

As the synod working document affirms, “The Christian message always contains in itself the reality and the dynamic of mercy and truth that meet in Christ.” Our job is to open our hearts and minds to the Gospel, and to apply its truth concretely to the circumstances of today’s families.

May the Holy Family of Nazareth intercede on behalf of all families, and show us the way to overcome all challenges and find joy in Christ! †

Los retos que enfrenta la vida familiar pueden llegar a ser abrumadores

Cuando el Sínodo de los Obispos se reúne este mes en Roma para abordar el tema de “La vocación y la misión de la familia en la Iglesia y en el mundo contemporáneo, se prestará enorme atención a los retos que enfrentan las familias hoy en día. Esto puede llegar a parecer abrumador dada la variedad de asuntos y su complejidad.

Según se indica en el “*Instrumentum Laboris*” (el documento de trabajo) que ofrece un bosquejo de lo que se debatirá en el sínodo, las familias contemporáneas deben enfrentar cuatro desafíos principales: 1) culturales, 2) económicos, 3) estructurales, y 4) retos de desarrollo (o “afectivos”). Permítanme ofrecer algunas reflexiones acerca de cada uno de estos desafíos.

Se ha escrito mucho acerca de cómo la cultura contemporánea desafía la noción tradicional del matrimonio y de la vida familiar. Tal como lo señala el documento del sínodo, solamente una minoría vive, apoya y promueve hoy en día las enseñanzas de la Iglesia Católica en cuanto al matrimonio y la familia. La cifra de matrimonios, sean religiosos o no, va en descenso, en tanto que aumenta el índice de divorcios.

Desde hace ya algún tiempo la noción tradicional del significado y la importancia del matrimonio para la sociedad se ha deteriorado. Tal como lo evidencia la reciente decisión de la Corte Suprema de EE. UU. en cuanto a los matrimonios del mismo sexo, la

noción del matrimonio de la Iglesia resulta abiertamente contraria a la cultura predominante.

Los desafíos económicos también representan una grave amenaza para las familias. El documento de trabajo del sínodo apunta a los salarios bajos, el desempleo y la inseguridad económica como factores que influyen negativamente sobre la vida familiar. También señala que: “En la familia se refleja de modo particularmente agudo el efecto de la falta de equidad económica, que les impide crecer: falta una casa propia; no se engendran hijos; cuando se tienen encuentran dificultades para cursar sus estudios y llegar a ser independientes; se les impide poder hacer planes para el futuro con tranquilidad.”

El papa Francisco insiste en que es necesario que se produzca un cambio de parte de toda la sociedad para superar los desafíos económicos que enfrentan las familias de hoy. “El crecimiento en equidad exige algo más que el crecimiento económico, aunque lo supone—expresa el Papa—requiere decisiones, programas, mecanismos y procesos específicamente orientados a una mejor distribución del ingreso, a una creación de fuentes de trabajo, a una promoción integral de los pobres que supere el mero asistencialismo.”

Las familias de hoy en día también enfrentan desafíos estructurales que abarcan la interrogante de quién debe formar parte del núcleo familiar. La

atención que necesitan padres y abuelos conforme avanza su edad se ha convertido en una cuestión muy importante ya que las personas viven más tiempo y requiere más acceso a atención médica y ayuda en su vida cotidiana.

La ruptura de los matrimonios tradicionales y el aumento observado contemporáneamente en la cantidad de familias “fusionadas” puede provocar confusión en cuanto a quién pertenece a quién, y quién tiene la responsabilidad de atender a los parientes ancianos, discapacitados o viudos. El documento del sínodo también pone de relieve las repercusiones que tienen sobre muchas familias los problemas de migración, explotación sexual de menores y la función de la mujer.

Por último, todos estos desafíos afectan la estabilidad, la madurez y la salud emocional de las familias de hoy en día. El documento de trabajo del sínodo denomina a este desafío “fragilidad afectiva” y señala que esta es una cuestión de gran actualidad: “una afectividad narcisista, inestable y cambiante que no siempre ayuda a los sujetos a alcanzar una mayor madurez.” Es decir, la inestabilidad en la vida familiar a menudo dificulta que las personas maduren y crezcan como debieran. El resultado es un círculo vicioso en el que los padres inseguros emocionalmente son incapaces de criar hijos de formas sanas y responsables.

Los desafíos pastorales que enfrenta

la Iglesia son reflejo de los desafíos que enfrentan las familias. Tal como apunta el documento de trabajo del sínodo:

“la Iglesia siente la necesidad de decir una palabra de verdad y de esperanza.” Esta no es simplemente una promesa vacía de que todo va estar bien, sino que debe interpretarse como palabras de aliento y valor.

En presencia de desafíos que pueden parecer abrumadores, la Iglesia cree que los seres humanos creados a imagen y semejanza de Dios, tienen la capacidad de responder a “las grandes preguntas acerca del significado del ser humanos.” Es decir, con la ayuda de la gracia de Dios, grandes esfuerzos y determinación, podremos establecer (o restituir) estructuras familiares que resulten sólidas y estén apoyadas por sistemas económicos, culturales y políticos que contribuyan a construir familias y no a destruirlas.

El documento de trabajo del sínodo afirma que: “El mensaje cristiano siempre lleva en sí mismo la realidad y la dinámica de la misericordia y de la verdad, que en Cristo convergen.” Nuestra labor es abrir nuestras mentes y corazones al Evangelio y aplicar su verdad concretamente a las circunstancias de las familias de hoy en día.

Que la Sagrada Familia de Nazaret interfiera por todas las familias y nos muestre el camino para superar todos los desafíos y encontrar la alegría en Cristo. †

Traducido por: Daniela Guanipa

Events Calendar

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

October 2

Marian University chapel, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. **Lumen Dei Catholic Business Group**, Mass and monthly meeting, 6:30-8:30 a.m., breakfast, \$15 per person. Information: 317-435-3447 or lumen.dei@comcast.net.

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **First Friday celebration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**, Mass, 5:45 p.m., exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, following Mass until 10 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation available. Information: 317-888-2861 or info@olgreenwood.org.

St. Lawrence Church, 6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis. **Charismatic Mass**, praise and worship, 7 p.m., Mass and healing prayer, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-366-4854.

St. Nicholas Parish, 6461 E. St. Nicholas Drive, Sunman. **Famous Turtle Soup Supper**, also serving chicken noodle soup, fish and pulled pork, games, 5-9 p.m. Information: 812-623-2964.

October 2-3

Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 89 N. 17th Ave.,

Beech Grove. **Oktoberfest**, Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 5 p.m.-11:30 p.m., authentic German food, music, raffle. Information: 317-784-5454.

October 3

St. Anthony Parish, 337 N. Warman Ave., Indianapolis. St. Anthony and St. Barnabas parishes, **"Saints in the Streets,"** 8 a.m. Information: 317-292-8964 or connie_merkel@yahoo.com.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish, 202 E. Washington St., Greencastle. **Knights of Columbus, Oktoberfest**, food, kids games, music, 4-11 p.m. Information: 765-720-5497 or mwelder@allstate.com.

St. Mary Parish, 415 E. Eighth St., New Albany. **Fall Festival**, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., food booths, inflatables, games. Information: 812-944-0417.

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 a.m. travel

to St. Patrick Adoration Chapel at 1807 Poplar St. for Divine Mercy Chaplet, completed around 10:30 a.m.

St. Michael 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.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 14598 Oak Ridge Road, Carmel, Ind. (Diocese of Lafayette). **Islam, Jihad and the Catholic Faith**, Al Kresta, president and CEO of Ave Maria Radio and host of "Kresta in the Afternoon," 7-8:30 p.m., free-will offering. Information: 317-430-3448 or diane.conover@sbcglobal.net.

October 4

St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 7575 Holliday Drive E., Indianapolis. **"Islam, Jihad, and the Catholic Faith,"** Al Kresta, president and CEO of Ave Maria Radio and host of "Kresta in the Afternoon," 7-8:30 p.m. Free-will offering. Information: 317-259-4373.

Holy Family Parish, 3027 Pearl St., Oldenburg. **Fall Festival**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners,

games. Information: 812-934-3013, option 2.

St. John Paul II Parish, 2605 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. **St. Joe Hill Turkey Shoot**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner with homemade dumplings, booths, raffles, quilts. Information: 812-246-2512.

October 5

St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. **St. Thomas More Society Red Mass for Catholic Lawyers and Judges**, celebrated by Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at Crown Plaza, keynote address by Indianapolis Zoo president and CEO Michael Crowther, \$50 members, \$60 non-members, \$550 table sponsorship. Information: Rachel Van Tyle, 317-402-3090 or rvantyle@nclegalclinic.org.

October 6

Nine Irish Brother, 575 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis. **St. John the Evangelist, St. Mary and SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral parishes, Next On Tap, "Marriage and Family in the Catholic Church,"** Scott Seibert, presenter, 6 p.m., must be age 21 or older to attend. Information: 317-637-3983 or

cbveever@sainmarysindy.org.

October 7

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.

October 8

St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, Cenacle (house on parish grounds), Indianapolis. **Hope and Healing Survivors of Suicide support group**, 7 p.m. Information: 317-851-8344.

October 10

Rama Car Wash, 560 State Road 135, Greenwood. **America Needs Fatima, Rosary Rally**, Msgr. Tony Volz will lead the rosary, 11 a.m. Information: 317-985-1950 or marye356@gmail.com.

Central Catholic School, 1155 Cameron St., Indianapolis. **Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, "Treasure Chest Raffle,"** 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-788-7581.

Bravo Italian Restaurant, 2658 Lake Circle, Indianapolis. **Marriage on Tap: "Faith**

in the Face of Tragedy," presented by Danny and Rita O'Malia, 7-9:30 p.m., \$35 per couple includes dinner, cash bar available, registration required by Sept. 30 at www.stluke.org or call 317-259-4373.

St. Benedict's Brew Works, 860 E. 10th St., Ferdinand. **Sisters of St. Benedict, Oktoberfest celebration**, 11:30 a.m. EDT. Information: 812-719-2301 or saintbenedictsbrewworks.com.

October 11

St. Malachy Parish, 7410 N. 1000 East, Brownsburg. **Altar Society, Longaberger Bingo**, 2 p.m., doors open at 1:30 p.m. Information: 317-268-4238 or altarsociety@stmalachy.org.

St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. **Mass in French**, 1 p.m. Information: 317-523-4193 or acfadi2014@gmail.com.

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church, 4720 E. 13th St., Indianapolis. **Class of '63 monthly gathering**, 6 p.m. Mass, optional dinner afterward. Information: 317-408-6396. †

Retreats and Programs

October 16-18

Saint Mary of the Woods, 1 Sisters of Providence, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Discernment weekend for women 18-42**, no charge. Information: 812-535-2895 or eben@spsmw.org.

October 18

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation Conference**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima.

October 19-23

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. Priests retreat, **"The Sermon on the Mount: Challenges for Contemporary Priestly Ministry,"** Benedictine Father Eugene Hensell, presenter, \$425 single. Information: 812-357-6585 or mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

October 21

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **Contemplative**

Prayer, Sister Olga Wittekind, presenter, 3-4:30 p.m. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgosf.com.

October 23-25

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Tobit Marriage Preparation Weekend**, \$292 per couple. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **"Listening to God with a Discerning Ear,"** Benedictine Father Adrian Burke, presenter, \$235 single, \$395 double. Information: 812-357-6585 or mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mt. St. Francis. **Annual Men's retreat**, Franciscan Brother Robert Baxter, presenter. Information: 812-923-8817 or retreats@mountsaintfrancis.org.

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

Deadline for all women's Catholic high schools Mass and luncheon is Oct. 16

Graduates of former all-women's Catholic high schools in Indianapolis are invited to Mass at St. Mary Church, 317 N. New Jersey St., in Indianapolis, and lunch at the nearby Rathskellar, 401 E. Michigan St., on Nov. 1.

Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m., and the luncheon will begin after Mass, around 11:45 a.m.

Reservations are required, and must

be received by Oct. 16.

For reservations, contact Sue Dillane Powell at powell0626@msn.com, or write a check for \$25 made out to All Women's Catholic High School Luncheon, and mail it to Sue Dillane Powell, 12676 Treaty Line, Carmel, IN, 46032. Checks must be received by the Oct. 16 deadline. †

Session on recent changes to annulment process will be held on Oct. 28 in Indianapolis

An interactive general information session regarding the annulment process and recent changes announced by Pope Francis will take place at the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, from 7-9 p.m. on Oct. 28.

Presenters include Father Joseph Newton, adjunct judicial

vicar; Benedictine Father Patrick Cooney, defender of the bond; and judge instructors Ann Tully and Nancy Thompson.

There is no cost, and registration is not required.

For more information, contact Ann Tully at 800-382-9836 ext. 1471, 317-236-1471 or e-mail atully@archindy.org. †

Founder of Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc., to speak at St. Joan of Arc Parish on Oct. 8

Monica Kelsey, founder of Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc., will speak in Doyle Hall at St. Joan of Arc Parish, 4217 N. Central Ave., in Indianapolis, at 7 p.m. on Oct. 8.

Kelsey has made it her personal mission to educate others on Indiana's Safe Haven Law, and to save the lives of babies from being abandoned. She is a driving force behind Indiana House Bill 1016 to have infant incubators ("boxes") placed in locations such as police and

fire stations, hospitals and nonprofits dedicated to child welfare.

Kelsey will share her inspiring and uplifting story about her journey from being saved at birth through healing and joy.

This free presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer period and light refreshments.

Please RSVP to Carole at 317-970-9029, or e-mail carolewill@hotmail.com. †

Registration for St. Mother Theodore Fest at St. Mary-of-the-Woods is due on Oct. 12

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods will host St. Mother Theodore Fest at Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, on Oct. 17-18.

The festival will begin at 10 a.m. on Oct. 17, and conclude at noon on Oct. 18.

This year's event will focus on the 175 years of ministerial service provided by the Sisters of Providence.

A keynote address will be provided by Capuchin Franciscan Father Mark Joseph Costello at 10 a.m. on Oct. 17.

Mass will then take place at 11 a.m., followed by an optional luncheon. Guests are also welcome to picnic on the grounds. Activities are scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m.

Some of the activities include tours of the White Violet Center for

Eco-Justice gardens and alpaca pasture, and the opportunity to partake in a "Journey with a Saint Tour," an outdoor experience to learn about the making of the St. Mother Theodore Guérin shrine.

At the shrine, participants will meet period-dressed characters from Mother Theodore's life as history comes to life.

For a complete list of activities and times, visit fest.saintmothertheodore.org.

The event will close with Mass at 11 a.m. on Oct. 18. Sunday brunch will be available from 10:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Admission is \$20 per person, or \$75 for families of four or more. The cost does not include limited on-campus housing or meals.

The deadline to register to attend the festival is Oct. 12.

For more information or to register, call 812-535-2952, e-mail jfrost@spsmw.org or log on to fest.saintmothertheodore.org. †

Comedian John Crist to perform at Marian University in Indianapolis on Oct. 16

Nationally known comedian John Crist will perform at Marian University's theater, 3200 Cold Spring Road, in Indianapolis, at 7 p.m. on Oct. 16.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission, or \$10 for Marian University students.

To purchase tickets, log on to www.LumenChristiSchool.org.

For more information, call 317-632-3174 or e-mail LumenChristiHeadmaster@gmail.com. †



Serve, care for each other, pope tells families at closing Mass

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)—Pope Francis urged the hundreds of thousands of people gathered for the closing Mass of the World Meeting of Families to serve and care for each other as freely as God loves the human family.



The pope called upon the faithful to embrace signs that the Holy Spirit can work through everyone. He referred to the readings in the multilingual Mass—from the

Book of Numbers and the Gospel of Mark—in which members of the faith community questioned the work of those not part of their group and for prophesying in the name of God.

“To raise doubts about the working of the Spirit, to give the impression that it cannot take place in those who are not ‘part of our group,’ who are not ‘like us,’ is a dangerous temptation,” the pope said. “Not only does it block conversion to the faith; it is a perversion of faith. Faith opens a window to the presence and working of the Spirit. It shows us that, like happiness, holiness is always tied to little gestures.”

Illustrating his point before the Mass, Pope Francis engaged in “little gestures” himself along the papal parade route to the Mass, kissing and blessing many babies brought to him from the sidewalk throngs by

Secret Service agents, who themselves managed to crack smiles after days of maintaining a stern demeanor as they guarded the pontiff.

Pope Francis recalled that Jesus encountered “hostility from people who did not accept what he said and did,” saying they thought it intolerable that Christ was open to honest and sincere faith from men and women who were not part of God’s chosen people.

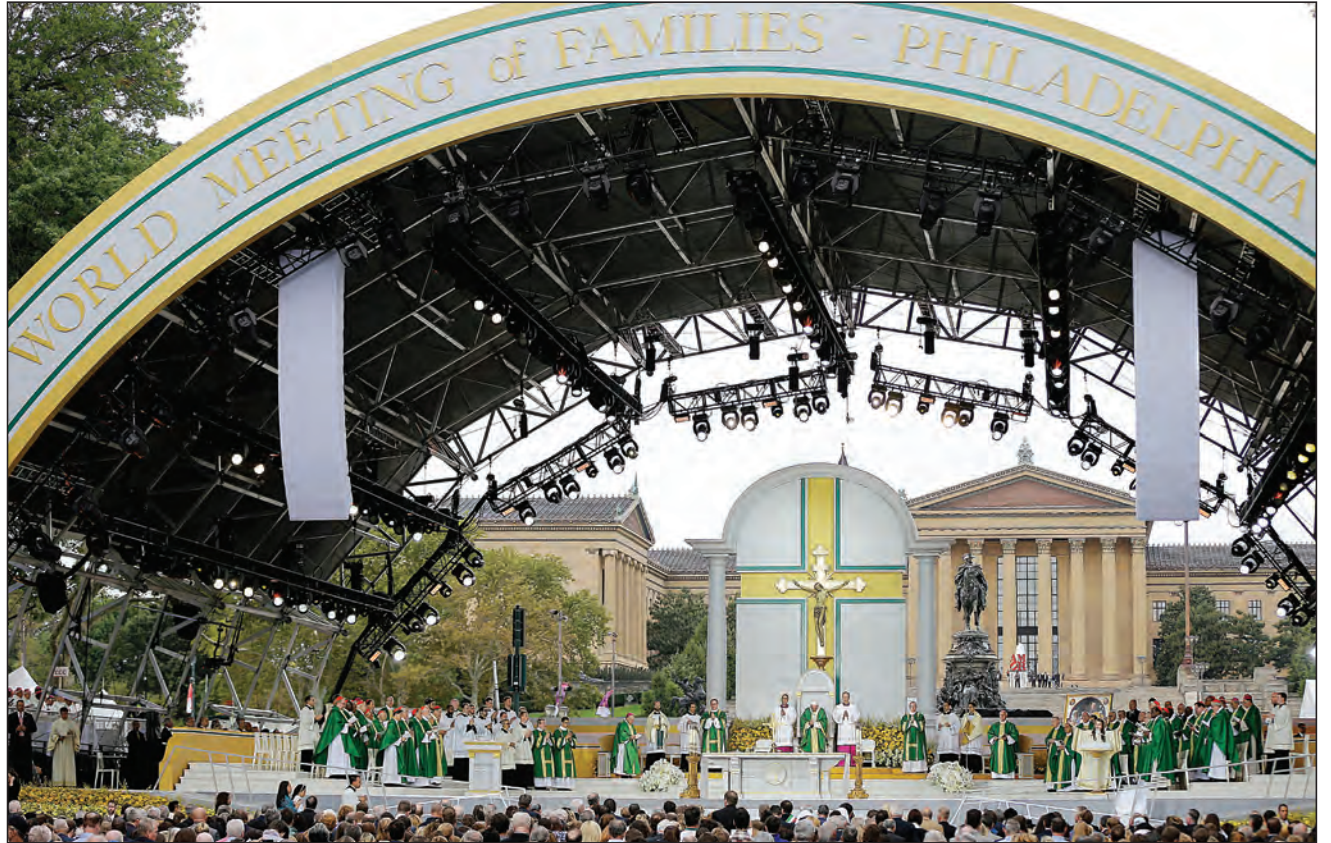
“The disciples, for their part, acted in good faith. But the temptation to be scandalized by the freedom of God, who sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous alike, bypassing bureaucracy, officialdom and inner circles, threatens the authenticity of faith. Hence it must be vigorously rejected,” he said.

“Once we realize this, we can understand why Jesus’ words about causing ‘scandal’ are so harsh. For Jesus, the truly ‘intolerable’ scandal consists in everything that breaks down and destroys our trust in the working of the Spirit,” he continued.

Pope Francis held up the family as vital to building the Church for the future. He said love must be freely shared for faith to grow.

“That is why our families, our homes, are true domestic Churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to become faith,” he said.

“Little gestures” of love exist daily in the lives of family and serve to carry on God’s love as well,



Pope Francis celebrates Mass for the closing of the World Meeting of Families on Sept. 27 in Philadelphia. (CNS photo/Matt Rourke, pool)

Pope Francis explained.

“These little gestures are those we learn at home, in the family. They get lost amid all the other things we do, yet they do make each day different. They are the quiet things done by mothers and grandmothers, by fathers and grandfathers, by children. They are little signs of tenderness, affection and compassion,” he said.

“Like the warm supper we look forward to at night, the early lunch awaiting someone who gets up early to go to work. Homely gestures. Like a blessing before we go to bed, or a hug after we return from a hard day’s work. Love is shown by little things, by attention to small daily signs which make us feel at home.”

Pope Francis asked the worshipers to consider how they share God’s love with people in their families and in the world around them.

“What kind of world do we want to leave to our children?” he asked, referencing a line in his encyclical “*Laudato Si*”, *On Care for Our Common Home*.”

“Our common house can no longer tolerate sterile divisions,” he continued. “The urgent challenge of protecting our home includes the effort to bring the entire human family together in the pursuit of a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things

can change.”

The pope asked the congregation to consider how they treat each other in their own home. “Do we shout or do we speak to each other with love and tenderness? That’s a good way of measuring our love.”

Calling the Church to renew faith in the word of God, the pope said people can live prophetic lives as a “kind of miracle in today’s world.”

“Would that we could all be prophets. Would that all of us could be open to miracles of love for the sake of all the families of the world, and thus overcome the scandal of a narrow, petty love, closed in on itself, impatient of others,” he said.

As the Mass concluded, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, who also was lead Vatican organizer of the World Meeting of Families, announced the next meeting will take place in Dublin, Ireland, in 2018.

Six families, representing five continents, received copies of the Gospel of Luke. Families from Syria, Vietnam, France, Australia, Congo and Cuba were chosen for their Church involvement and faith life. The Vatican also planned to distribute 100,000 copies of Luke’s Gospel in the families’ home countries. †

POPE

continued from page 1

he said during the visit. People are blessed and at their best when they are part of a family composed of a mother, a father, children and grandparents. The well-being of a nation is served by businesses and enterprises that make money, but that do not make money their god.

The pope’s proclamation of the Gospel in Washington, New York and

Philadelphia on Sept. 22-27 focused on reinvigorating people’s faith, hope, trust and commitment to loving God, serving others and living up to the founding ideals of the United States: equality, opportunity for all, religious liberty and the sacred dignity of every creature—human especially, but also the Earth.

Pope Francis had never been in the United States before landing in Washington on Sept. 22. He was welcomed to the White House, and became the first pope to address a joint

meeting of Congress. He joined leaders of other religions in honoring the dead and comforting their surviving family members at ground zero in New York. He addressed the United Nations. And, in Philadelphia, using a lectern once used by Abraham Lincoln, he called for respect for religious freedom and for ethnic and cultural differences.

At home and abroad, Pope Francis scrutinizes people and identifies something good and beautiful in them. He affirms their core concerns, and he challenges them to grow.

For the Catholic Church—in the United States as elsewhere—the key challenge is “not about building walls, but about breaking them down,” as he told the bishops, clergy and religious of Pennsylvania on Sept. 26.

From the beginning of his trip—on Sept. 19 in Havana—the pope made it clear that with all the important meetings he would have, his primary purpose was to join the celebration of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia on Sept. 26-27.

And he insisted it be a celebration, not a funeral or simply a session for rallying the obedient, loyal troops before they set out to battle.

The big challenge, he told more than 100 bishops who came to the meeting from around the world, is to recognize just how many beautiful families God has blessed the Church with.

“For the Church, the family is not first and foremost a cause for concern, but rather the joyous confirmation of God’s blessing upon the masterpiece of creation,” he told the bishops on Sept. 27.

“Every day, all over the world, the Church can rejoice in the Lord’s gift of so many families who, even amid difficult trials, remain faithful to their promises and keep the faith!”

Tossing aside the text he had prepared for the nighttime festival of families on Sept. 26, Pope Francis had tens of thousands of people watching him with awe or with laughter or with tears as he described the blessing of real-life families.

“Some of you might say, ‘Of course, Father, you speak like that because you’re not married,’” he admitted. But he proved he knew what he was talking about. “Families have difficulties. Families—we quarrel, sometimes plates can fly, and children bring headaches. I won’t speak about mothers-in-law,” he quipped.

But mothers-in-law deserve a break and understanding, if one applies the pope’s words to the bishops the next morning and to hundreds of thousands of people gathered on Philadelphia’s Benjamin Franklin Parkway for the event’s closing Mass.

Trust the Holy Spirit, he told the crowds. Recognize that God is at work in the world. Treasure the little daily gestures that show love within a family. Affirm all those who do good, whether or not they are “part of our group.”

“Anyone who wants to bring into this world a family which teaches children to be excited by every gesture aimed at overcoming evil—a family which shows that the Spirit is alive and at work—will encounter our gratitude and our appreciation. Whatever the family, people, region, or religion to which they belong!” he said. †

Saturday, Oct. 17 and Sunday, Oct. 18



Saint Mother Theodore Guerin **FEST!**

Join the Sisters of Providence in celebrating 175 years and continue the legacy.

At the FEST, you will:

- Learn more about the role of devotion and prayer in the life of the people of God.
- Participate in workshops that will nourish your love for prayer, music, history, spirituality, and sustainability.
- Relive the foundation story of the Sisters of Providence and meet characters from Mother Theodore’s Journals and Letters.
- Enjoy keynote speaker, Father Mark Joseph Costello, OFM Cap.

Registration deadline is **Oct. 12**



The **FEST** is a great way to nourish your faith life and spend time with family and friends!

Cost: \$20 per person or \$75 for families of four or more

(meals and housing not included)

For more information visit: Fest.SaintMotherTheodore.org or call 812-535-2952

Pope canonizes Junipero Serra, says faith is alive only when shared

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Canonizing the 18th-century Spanish missionary, Blessed Junipero Serra, Pope Francis insisted a person's faith is alive only when it is shared.

Celebrating a late afternoon Mass outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Sept. 23, the pope declared the holiness of St. Junipero, founder of a string of missions in California.

Some people had objected to the canonization—like the beatification of the Spaniard in 1988—because of questions about how Father Junipero treated the native peoples of California, and about the impact of Spanish colonization on native peoples throughout the Americas.

Pope Francis mentioned the controversy only briefly, saying: "Junipero sought to defend the dignity of the native community, to protect it from those who had mistreated and abused it. Mistreatment and wrongs, which today still trouble us, especially because of the hurt which they cause in the lives of many people."

Vincent Medina, who has questioned the wisdom of the canonization, proclaimed the first Scripture reading in the Chochenyo language of the Ohlone people of Northern California.

Before the formal proclamation of the missionary's sainthood, a choir and the congregation chanted a litany invoking the intercession of Jesus, Mary, the Apostles and a long list of saints, including other saints who lived and worked in the United States, such as St. Frances Cabrini, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. John Neumann and St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first American Indian to be canonized. The canonization of St. Junipero, however, was the first such ceremony to be celebrated in the United States rather than at the Vatican.

After the formal proclamation, Andrew Galvan, curator of Dolores Mission in San Francisco, brought a relic of St. Junipero up to a stand near the altar as a song was sung in Spanish accompanied by a drumbeat.

Catholics in the United States and throughout the world are indebted to St. Junipero and thousands of other witnesses who lived their faith and passed it on, the pope said in his homily.

St. Junipero "was excited about blazing trails, going forth to meet many people, learning and valuing their particular customs and ways of life," Pope Francis said.

A missionary's life is exciting and brings joy, he said, because it is not sedentary or turned in on itself. Sharing the Gospel is the way to keep experiencing the joy it brings, and keeps the heart "from growing numb from being anesthetized."

More than speaking about St. Junipero, Pope Francis spoke about keeping faith alive and joyful, calling on all Catholics to be missionaries.

"Mission is never the fruit of a perfectly planned program or a well-organized manual," he told the assembly of about 25,000 people. "Mission is always the fruit of a life which knows what it is to be found and healed, encountered and forgiven."

Pope Francis insisted that Jesus does not give Christians "a short list of who is, or is not, worthy of receiving his message, his presence."

Instead, Jesus embraced people as they were, even those who were "dirty, unkept, broken," he said. Jesus says to believers today, like yesterday, "Go out and embrace life as it is, and not as you think it should be."

"The joy of the Gospel," the pope said, "is something to be experienced, something to be known and lived only through giving it away, through giving ourselves away."

Before the Mass, Pope Francis made a short visit inside the basilica, where he briefly greeted families and men and women studying to be priests and religious sisters. They had waited inside for more than two hours.

Parents like Margarita and Carlos Ramos, who brought their 7-year-old son Samuel to Mass, were in the pews, sharing a prayer before all started, while Secret Service snipers stayed alert in several balconies.

"I like Pope Francis because he was born in Argentina; he is one of us. I would love to have the chance to be blessed by him. I'm telling everybody in my second grade class that I was sitting here the day he made Junipero Serra a saint."



Above, Pope Francis celebrates Mass and the canonization of Junipero Serra outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on Sept. 23. (CNS photos/Paul Haring)



Left, Pope Francis gives the homily as he celebrates Mass and the canonization of Junipero Serra outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on Sept. 23.

"It is a historic moment," said Sister Maria Virgen Oyente of the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara. She was in the line to get inside the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception with a group of about 20 nuns. "We are very happy to be here. The line is long and is getting hot, but we are reading about Fray Junipero Serra, and that makes us feel better."

"My expectations for today are very high," said St. John Vianney College seminarian Gustavo Santos. "Imagine

what it is to be in the same place with your pastor, the vicar of Christ on Earth, I can't even describe it with my own words."

"I admire Pope Francis' simplicity and mercy for the poor and vulnerable," said Yoandy Gonzalez, born in Cienfuegos, Cuba, and currently attending St. John Seminary. "The pope teaches us all simple ways to truly live the Gospel as Christ every day."

After Mass, Pope Francis greeted guests that included California Indians. †

Seminarians, priests witness history at canonization Mass in nation's capital

By Mike Krokos

Michael Dedek and Adam Berning were witnesses to history on Sept. 23.

So were 36 of their brother seminarians plus



Michael Dedek

Father Robert Robeson and Father Joseph Moriarty, two priests of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

The young men in formation for the priesthood at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis were among the estimated 25,000 people who attended the canonization liturgy for Blessed Junipero Serra outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Father Robeson, rector of Bishop Bruté, and Father Moriarty, vice-rector, also were part of the first-ever canonization liturgy celebrated in the United States.

"The canonization part itself was really cool," said Dedek, a senior at Bishop Bruté Seminary and a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington. "I had never seen that done. It was really cool to listen to it and read along, what Pope Francis and Cardinal

[Donald W.] Wuerl were saying about it. I just thought, 'We've been doing this for awhile, we have a set formula for it.'"

Though it was a multilingual liturgy and Pope Francis delivered his homily in Spanish, Dedek said a translation of his message was shared on a big screen for English speakers to understand.

"He talked about ... if we get too comfortable or too set in our ways, we allow our hearts to become apathetic when they should in reality be always seeking Christ through love and charity for others," Dedek said.

The seminarian said the once-in-a-lifetime experience affirmed his desire to become a priest.

"It's definitely strengthened it," he said. One reason, he continued, was "because of how Pope Francis talked about how we should always strive for charity. He quoted St. Junipero Serra's motto, 'Always keep moving forward,' and hearing Pope Francis say that, being there in person, it just inspired me to not try to do what's comfortable in life, but to do what God wants me to do, whether it's comfortable or not."

Berning, a sophomore at Bishop Bruté and a member of Sacred Heart Parish in McCartyville, Ohio, in the Cincinnati Archdiocese, said he was within 15 feet of Pope Francis when he was processing in at the beginning of the canonization liturgy.

"It was one of the most unique experiences I've ever got to be a part of," Berning said of the Mass. "Everybody was standing up on the pews trying to get a cell phone shot or a picture, and just to see him, ... everyone was up on their feet."

Though the view wasn't the best for many of the thousands of pilgrims who traveled to take part in the canonization liturgy, Berning said there was still a sense of holiness.

"Even though we could only see the pope on a big-screen TV in front of the church, there was still an aura that you were a part of the Mass and still connected to it," he said.

Like Dedek, Berning said Pope Francis' homily shared a powerful message.



Fr. Robert Robeson

"Always moving forward, always going forward, and that's very fitting for all Christians to always renew yourself, to always go deeper into your prayer life. That's one thing that really, really struck me."

Father Robeson, who was able to concelebrate the liturgy with Pope Francis, was initially seated in the back row of concelebrating priests, but was moved to the second row of priests right before the Mass started by an usher who said there were empty seats closer to the front.

At the end of the liturgy, Father Robeson was brought to tears when the Holy Father placed a rosary in front of a statue of the Blessed Mother adjacent to the altar.

"I love Mary very much," he said. "He [Pope Francis] laid the rosary at her feet, then he touched her womb, he touched her midriff, and then he made the sign of the cross, and he kissed her fingers at the end. It was a beautiful gesture of love for Mary."

Like the seminarians, Father Robeson took to heart the Holy Father's message of St. Junipero and "his witness of laying the foundation for the Church."

"Afterward, I remember thinking to myself how beautiful the history of the people who have gone before us [is], to lay the foundation of the Church—the institutions, the parishes, the dioceses, the schools and all these things that we've been entrusted with as Catholics," he said. "[There's an] enormous sense of mission that has resulted in what is truly an incredible gift to the United States, the American Church."

The rector said he hopes the seminarians who attended the canonization liturgy came away energized in their lives of faith.

"I hope it reinforced their love for the Church, and their love for Christ," he said. "To see the universal Church—or at least the Church in the United States—to come together in that way is pretty powerful."

(For more information about Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, log on to www.archindy.org/bsb.) †



Pope helps archdiocesan pilgrims grow in love of the family

By Sean Gallagher

PHILADELPHIA—Worshipping with Pope Francis at the closing Mass of the eighth World Meeting of Families on Sept. 27 on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia was what the 46 pilgrims from across central and southern Indiana had anticipated from the start of their weeklong pilgrimage.



A small group of pilgrims were so determined to get as close to the sanctuary as they could that they woke up at 4:30 a.m.—nearly 12 hours

before the start of the Mass—and arrived at a security checkpoint when it opened at 6 a.m.

They soon found a place on the parkway that was just hundreds of feet from the stage with a clear view of it.

“We could see both the altar and the pope’s chair from our location,” said Julie Bauman, who arrived early with her husband Doug. “That was the number one priority.”

The husband and wife, who are members of St. Barnabas Parish and teachers at its school, showed their love for Pope Francis in a fun and unusual way. Before the Mass, they wore homemade, cardboard miters with these messages written across them, “We’ve Got Francis Fever,” and “Francis Fan Club.”

“We’re known as like the goofy parents,” said Doug. “And that doesn’t just come from our kids, but also our students and other families at St. Barnabas. So we were just looking for something fun, creative and within budget.”

As it happened, the place where they were standing was close to booths where TV networks were covering the day’s events and other members of the media arrived on buses.

Little by little, reporters were drawn to the Baumans, at first from local Philadelphia TV stations, then national and international networks and newspapers, including the *New York Times* and members of Catholic media outlets.

“It was totally undeserved,” Julie said. “We were having a blast. It was a great time filler. It just felt like the time flew by.”

“Some of the most sincere [interviews] we had were with Catholic news agencies,” Doug said. “They did a great job.”

As one interview followed another, the Baumans, along with archdiocesan pilgrims Alex Bushkoetter and Annie Harton, young adult Catholics who also drew the attention of members of the media, spoke with each other about how they could use the opportunity to evangelize.

“We totally tried to do a little name dropping each time,” Julie said, “mentioning we were with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and that we were Catholic school teachers, trying to promote in the little snippets that we had.”

“We really enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the media at our age because we are younger and vibrant,” said Harton, a member of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis. “We’re able to remind everyone that it’s not just about the pope. It’s about the Church, the Mass and the Eucharist. So we had a lot of fun trying to figure out how we can evangelize and remind people of what’s really important.”

Other pilgrims made their way to the area at different times and found places far and near along the parkway.

Pope Francis arrived around 3 p.m., and greeted worshippers along the parkway from a popemobile while several Secret Service agents rode on it and walked beside it, making sure the pontiff was kept safe.

Although archdiocesan pilgrims and the nearly 1 million others gathered for the Mass enthusiastically greeted the pope as he drove by, their attention was focused on the Mass when it began at 4 p.m.

During his homily, Pope Francis reminded his many listeners that holiness grows in the home when family members show their love for each other in “homely gestures” of kindness.

“They are the quiet things done by mothers and grandmothers, by fathers and grandfathers, by children, by brothers and sisters,” he said. “They are little signs of tenderness, affection and compassion. Like the warm supper we look forward to at night, the early lunch awaiting someone who gets up early to go to work. Homely gestures.

“Like a blessing before we go to bed, or a hug after we return from a hard day’s work. Love is shown by little things, by attention to small daily signs which make us feel at home. Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love. That is why our families, our homes, are true domestic Churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to grow in faith.”

Scott Seibert, marriage and family enrichment coordinator for the archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life and Family Life, was grateful that the pope spoke in such a heartfelt way about family life before so many people.

“It’s a voice that the world listens to,” he said. “Who else in the world do [nearly a] million people gather to meet? He is, for our world and our time, a man who is



Sebastian, left, Ella, Angie and Benjamin Moster, members of St. Louis Parish in Batesville, kneel in prayer on Sept. 27 beside the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia during the closing Mass of the eighth World Meeting of Families, attended by nearly 1 million worshippers. The Mosters participated in an archdiocesan pilgrimage to Philadelphia for the meeting. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

probably the closest living embodiment of Jesus outside of the sacraments that we’ll ever encounter.”

The pope’s message touched the heart of archdiocesan pilgrim DeInda Dellacca, a member of St. Michael Parish in Greenfield. A mother of three children ages 9, 7 and 2, she and her husband David are expecting the birth of their fourth child at the end of November.

“It was uplifting and inspiring,” she said. “It let me know that God and our Church are very supportive of the family. It gave me a renewed feeling that I can always go to our mother as well as Jesus and any of the saints to help me pray.”

DeInda was also moved to see so many people share her love for the pope.

“I was crying,” she said. “I can’t even put it into words. It was just that awe-inspiring. I don’t know if we’ll ever have that moment again.”

The crush of people to get close to Pope Francis when he rode in the popemobile before Mass was matched during Communion as hundreds of thousands of people in the congregation made their way to the barriers to receive the sacrament. Some 500 priests and deacons made their way along the parkway to distribute Communion.

One of them was Deacon Patrick Bower, who was stationed far away from the stage near the Basilica Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, at the edge of the congregation, filled with people who did not have tickets for the standing areas closer to the altar.

He saw it as suggestive of the charitable ministry of deacons, who reach out to help people in need on the periphery of society.

“Distributing Communion to the people that didn’t have tickets and were on the fringes was very moving,” Deacon Bower said. “It was crowded as people came to receive Communion, but they did it gently and peaceably. It was a phenomenal experience.”

About a mile away from where Deacon Bower was distributing Communion, Doug and Julie Bauman were receiving the sacrament near the stage.

“It was a flood of emotions,” Doug said. “Tears were everywhere. We received and instinctively knelt down in the dirt.”

As they prayed, other members of the congregation made their way to the barrier to receive Communion.

“There were different languages,” Doug said. “There were young and old. I just felt like we were all in communion together as a universal family.”

Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, which helped to organize the World Meeting of Families, spoke of God’s universal plan for the family in remarks at the end of the Mass, and exhorted all in attendance to make that plan a reality when they returned to their homes around the world.

“God’s dream, from the first moment of creation, has been to make all peoples into one family . . . ,” Archbishop Paglia said. “We must make our own this dream of God. Yes, God gives us and our families the gift of participating in his dream.”

(For more coverage of the archdiocesan pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families, including photo galleries and links to blog posts, visit www.archindy.org/wmof.) †



Doug and Julie Bauman, members of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis and teachers at its school, show their love for Pope Francis prior to the Sept. 27 closing Mass of the World Meeting of Families on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia. The Baumans participated in an archdiocesan pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)



Pope Francis delivers his homily during the closing Mass of the World Meeting of Families on Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia on Sept. 27. (CNS photo/Rick Musacchio, *Tennessee Register*)



Pope Francis waves from a popemobile on Sept. 27 near the Basilica Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Philadelphia prior to the start of the closing Mass of the eighth World Meeting of Families. (Submitted photo by Deacon Patrick Bower)



Pilgrims seek to 'see Jesus' in pope at festival, Independence Hall

By Sean Gallagher

PHILADELPHIA—After the World Meeting of Families congress ended on Sept. 25, the focus of the 46 pilgrims from central and southern Indiana was on Pope Francis' visit to Philadelphia.



Many saw him at the Festival of Families on the evening of Sept. 26, which featured performances by entertainers and witnesses by families from around the world.

Then on Sept. 27, they would worship with the pope—and nearly 1 million other Massgoers—at the closing Mass of the World Meeting of Families.

The festival and liturgy both took place on a temporary stage built on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in front of the picturesque Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Before all that, though, the pilgrims gathered for Mass on the morning of Sept. 26 at St. John the Evangelist Church, a few blocks from their hotel in Philadelphia.

In contrast to the Mass that took place the next day, this liturgy had a congregation of about 100 worshippers.

Father Eric Augenstein, archdiocesan vocations director and chaplain for the archdiocesan pilgrimage, was the principal celebrant and homilist. He encouraged pilgrims to keep their focus on Christ in the weekend's festivities.

"We're here to see Jesus," he said. "We are here to see Jesus in the sacraments and the Eucharist. We're here to see Jesus in those we encounter. The people we've met at the World Meeting of Families and have learned from and listened to this week have helped us draw closer to Jesus, to see in them the love of God, to learn from them how to form families of love and peace and reconciliation.

"That's why we're drawn to [Pope Francis], too. Not to see a celebrity, but to glimpse the face of Jesus in the shepherd that he has given us here on Earth."

After the morning Mass, many of the pilgrims made a long walk to the parkway, walking down the middle of streets barred from all vehicular traffic because of the pope's visit, and passing through tight security checkpoints.

Renee Odum, her husband Shane and their 12-week-old adopted son Asa, all members of St. Michael Parish in Greenfield, spent several hours waiting for the pope to arrive and to experience the Festival of Families.

When she and Shane first sought to participate in the archdiocesan pilgrimage, they thought they were doing so as a childless married couple. They had been married for seven years, coped with infertility, the loss of an unborn child, and Renee battling through non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

They had tried many times to adopt a child with no success. That all changed in a moment about four months ago.

"We finally let it go and said, 'In God's time,'" Renee said. "Then, bam, we got a call ... and were told that, in 10 days we were going to be parents."

So, despite the challenges of a 14-hour bus ride with an infant, Renee said that her family's attending the World

Meeting of Families was "perfect timing."

She listened to a presentation on the difficulties and blessings of the adopting process that helped her realize her family's connection to so many others.

"It's been therapeutic and healing," she said. "Other people go through the same exact thing, and we're all here and have our own crosses to bear. It's how you pick up that cross and move forward. It's been amazing to be here."

Samantha McGuire and her 13-year-old daughter Clare watched television coverage of the pope's arrival in Philadelphia from their hotel room. Clare suffers from Rett syndrome, a rare genetic brain disorder that involves both physical and mental disabilities. She also uses a wheelchair.

Samantha hoped before setting out on the pilgrimage that Pope Francis might be able to greet and bless Clare. But she was satisfied to see him bless a boy in a wheelchair shortly after his arrival in Philadelphia.

"She could see him, and she was all excited," said Samantha, who, with her family, is a member of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville. "I told her, 'If the pope could see you, he would bless you like that.' I feel like she got that blessing through him. That was really cool that that worked out that way."

While the Odum family and other pilgrims waited for the pope and attended the Festival of Families along the parkway, a handful of archdiocesan pilgrims attended a speech given by Pope Francis at Independence Hall.

Steve and Kathy Heath, members of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis, were given tickets to the limited-seating event at the last minute and were overjoyed to see the pope.

For Steve, it was a chance to see the presence of Jesus in the pope as Father Augenstein had suggested earlier in the day at Mass.

"You get a little glimpse of what heaven is going to be like," said Steve. "It was thrilling to see him up close. And after he went by, to look around and see the crowd—the smiles, the happy faces. Everybody was so uplifted. It was amazing. Everybody's face was aglow."

Tami Koehl attended the speech with her three sons. She entered into the event with the spirit of family life encouraged at the World Meeting of Families.

"Being a mom, I give everything to my kids," said Koehl, a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood. "I was more happy for them to have this experience than I was for myself. I wanted them to be able to say, 'I was there. I was touched. I was changed.' My happiness lies in whatever they get from it."

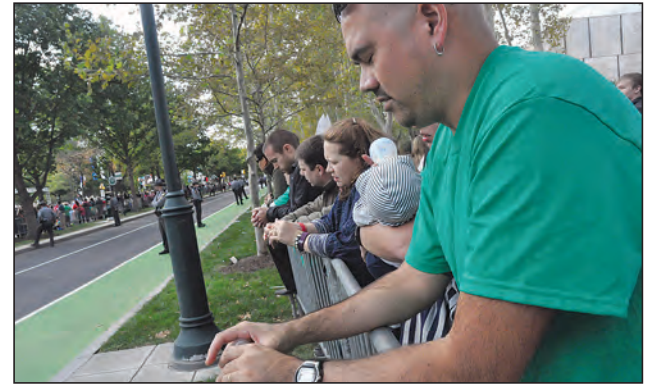
Arthur Koehl, a junior at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, said he gained much from seeing and hearing the pope with so many faith-filled people from around the world.

"I got to take a lot of pictures, and I met amazing people," he said. "I learned about how people live their lives and how they view Christian life."

"My teachers are going to ask me a lot of questions. I can inform them and tell them how my experience was for me. It will help out a lot when I get older when I explain it to my children and grandchildren."



Caleb Moster, left, JuJuan Woodson and his mother, Simonna Woodson, kneel in prayer during a Sept. 26 Mass in the lower church of St. John the Evangelist Church in Philadelphia. Caleb and the Woodsons participated in an archdiocesan pilgrimage to the eighth World Meeting of Families held in Philadelphia from Sept. 22-25. (Photos by Sean Gallagher)



Scott Seibert, left, coordinator of marriage and family enrichment for the archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life and Family Life, David Dellacca, Delnda Dellacca, Renee Odum, Asa Odum (both partially obscured) and Shane Odum pray on Sept. 26 while standing along a barricade next to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia prior to the Festival of Families, which was attended by Pope Francis.

Around 7 p.m. on Sept. 26, after many pilgrims had been along the parkway for more than eight hours, Pope Francis rode in a popemobile to greet the hundreds of thousands of people attending the Festival of Families.

The pilgrims from central and southern Indiana were happy to see the pope during his historic visit to the United States, and amazed by a reflection on family life that he gave during the event.

"From time immemorial, in the depths of our heart, we have heard those powerful words: 'It is not good for you to be alone,'" Pope Francis said. "The family is the great blessing, the great gift of this 'God with us,' who did not want to abandon us to the solitude of a life without others, without challenges, without a home."

"God does not dream by himself. He tries to do everything 'with us.' His dream constantly comes true in the dreams of many couples who work to make their life that of a family." †

Archdiocesan pilgrims attending World Meeting of Families reflect on its impact

By Sean Gallagher

PHILADELPHIA—In remarks made at the end of the closing Mass of the eighth World Meeting of Families on Sept. 27, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council on the Family, which helped organize the event, called on the meeting's 20,000 attendees "to light the fire of love in all the families of the world."

Pilgrims from across central and southern Indiana were inspired to do just that by the many keynote addresses and homilies they heard during the meeting and the breakout sessions they attended on Sept. 22-25.

They heard bishops and cardinals from around the world, speakers who have a wide variety of experiences of

family life, and experts on the family.

Sally Stovall, a member of Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis who was born in Nigeria and later emigrated to the United States, was excited by her experience of the meeting.

"It's all about the family that works together and prays together stays together," she said. "I'll carry that with me. Love is our mission. That's what we are here for."

Deacon Patrick Bower, who ministers at St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis, was impressed by how Catholics from more than 100 countries came to the meeting, the best attended in the history of the World Meeting of Families.

"I think the biggest impression was the people from all around the world, and the love," he said. "How refreshing it was to hear people talk about the importance of the family and the domestic Church, and seeing it everywhere you turn."

Something that challenged Deacon Bower, however, was seeing many homeless people in Philadelphia when he and other pilgrims would leave the city's convention center.

"How far we have to go," he said. "Where do you begin with these people? How do you help them? How do you lead them out? There's a lot to do."

Juan Carlos Ramirez, a deacon candidate and member of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, said he gained a renewed perspective at the meeting on his own ministry to people in need and all people.

"It's not about us," Ramirez said. "It's about bringing people, including ourselves, to God. That really is the way that I want to see my ministry going on."

Scott Seibert, marriage and family enrichment coordinator for the archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life and Family Life, said the meeting inspired him to see how he can help more families across the archdiocese help people in need.

"I hope to do more to focus on mercy ministry, how

we can support families in going out together to the periphery," he said. "How can families, even with young children, go out and serve others? That's something that I'm continuing to pray about, and hopefully find some direction with."

While adults at the World Meeting of Families heard many keynote addresses and attended breakout sessions, children and youths attended a youth congress in the convention center with speakers, musicians, activities and service projects geared just for them.

"We heard a lot of things about true love, vocations and trying to figure out who you are in life," said Joseph McGuire, 16, a member of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville. "It was really powerful. We had sisters and priests who talked, and married and single people. There were lots of different perspectives on how to see our vocation."

Caleb Moster, 16, a member of St. Louis Parish in Batesville, hoped that what he experienced at the World Meeting of Families would help him be a better witness of the faith back in Indiana.

"I'm going to try to apply graces more to my life and focus harder on the grace of love," said Caleb. "I think it's going to help to turn me into a more selfless person, and help me behave and treat others in hopefully a good way. Hopefully that will reflect on the Catholic faith well and bring others closer to God."

Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin celebrated Mass with the pilgrims from central and southern Indiana on Sept. 25, and later had dinner with them.

"I just want to thank you," he told them during the meal. "I can't imagine all of the sacrifices that you've made to be part of this. I'm really proud that you're here."

"And I think that your presence is going to be a blessing for your families, but also for the archdiocese. Somehow, you're all going to return to [it] with a gift. And I'm not talking about T-shirts." †



Msgr. William Stumpf, archdiocesan vicar general, gives Communion to Samantha McGuire, a member of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville, during a Sept. 25 Mass in the upper church of St. John the Evangelist Church in Philadelphia. Preparing to receive Communion next is McGuire's son, Joseph. They were among 46 Catholics from central and southern Indiana who participated in the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia from Sept. 22-25. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)



Pilgrims have encounters with pope, saints in Philadelphia

By Sean Gallagher

PHILADELPHIA—The eighth World Meeting of Families that took place on Sept. 22-25 in Philadelphia involved liturgies and keynote addresses attended by thousands of Catholics from around the world.

But some of the most powerful moments for a number of the 46 pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis were spent apart from large crowds—moments in which they offered up prayers to God through the intercession of various saints and Our Lady, Undoer of Knots.

Doug and Julie Bauman, members of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis and teachers at its school, made many heartfelt prayers while visiting a makeshift shrine to Our Lady next to the Basilica Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

Like thousands of other visitors to the shrine before and after their visit, they wrote their intentions on strips of paper and tied them in knots onto fencing, chicken wire and other netting surrounding the shrine.

Speaking through tears, Julie said she was moved “just to know that the Holy Father is going to be here and pray for us. It’s so touching.”

At the time, she didn’t know with certainty that Pope Francis would visit the shrine, but she hoped he would.

“We all have our struggles, and we all have our own lives. They’re all here together,” she said as she stood in the middle of the shrine on Sept. 22. “I know that even if he just drives by [the shrine], I know that our hearts and our prayers and our wishes are with him.”

This devotion to Mary, a favorite of Pope Francis, invites the faithful to offer up difficult problems, “knots,” to Christ through Mary so that she may “undo” them through her intercession.

Inside the cathedral were relics of the patron saints of the World Meeting of Families: St. John Paul II, St. Gianna Beretta Molla, St. Therese of Lisieux and her parents—Blessed Louis and Zelig Martin.

St. Gianna was an Italian wife, mother and physician who died in 1962, four days after giving birth to her fourth child, Dr. Gianna Emmanuela Molla, who attended the World Meeting of Families.

While pregnant, St. Gianna was diagnosed with a tumor on her uterus. Although her doctor recommended that she have a hysterectomy, she gave clear instructions that priority be given to caring for the life of her unborn child.

Among the second-class relics on display in the cathedral for veneration were a stethoscope used by St. Gianna and her wedding dress.

Annie Harton, a member of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis, was excited about seeing and getting to venerate the saint’s relics when she visited the cathedral on Sept. 22.

“As a young person who is called to marriage and is also a marriage counselor, it’s important to see holiness in the family and to know that mothers and wives can also be called to holiness,” Harton said. “Hopefully, I can be like her someday. I would love to have my wedding dress on display someday.”

Five days later on Sept. 27, Deacon Patrick Bower was standing beside the cathedral while Pope Francis rode in a popemobile to see the congregation of nearly 1 million worshippers gathered for the closing Mass of the World Meeting of Families.

Deacon Bower had been sent to the cathedral to distribute Communion during the Mass to people who were on the outskirts of the massive assembly.

While waiting, a police officer on duty called him over to a fence. A child standing on the other side wanted about 50 strands of paper with intentions written on them to be added to the shrine.

While Deacon Bower and some college students from Philadelphia that he had befriended were tying them, the popemobile arrived.

Pope Francis got out, and visited and prayed at the shrine.

“It was phenomenal,” said Deacon Bower, who ministers at St. Barnabas Parish. “Everybody was literally shaking. It was one of those moments that you can’t explain. You couldn’t re-create it.”

The Baumans saw the pope’s visit to the shrine on a Jumbotron while they stood about a mile away from the cathedral, as near as they could get to the stage in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art that had been set up for the Mass.

Seeing the pope visit the shrine brought forth tears like their own visit to the shrine had five days earlier.

“We were screaming and jumping up and down and hugging,” Julie said. “It was like he heard all of our prayers. It was tears of joy all over again.” †



Julie and Doug Bauman, members of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis and teachers at its school, tie strips of paper with prayer intentions onto netting on Sept. 22 below an image of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots at a makeshift shrine dedicated to her beside the Basilica Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia. The Baumans participated in an archdiocesan pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families held in Philadelphia from Sept. 22-25. (Photos by Sean Gallagher)



Archdiocesan pilgrim Sally Stovall, a member of Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis, views a case containing second-class relics of St. Gianna Beretta Molla during a Sept. 22 visit to the Basilica Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Philadelphia.

‘Let freedom ring!’ Respect for rights helps society, Pope Francis says

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)—Not far from where the Liberty Bell is on display, Pope Francis urged the people of the United States to continue to “proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof,” as the bell’s inscription says.

Meeting on Sept. 26 with members of the Hispanic community and immigrants at Independence National Historical Park, the pope said when governments respect human rights and freedoms, especially the right to religious liberty, they benefit from their citizens’ respect and care for others.

The “ringing words” of the U.S. Declaration of Independence proclaiming the equality of all men and women and

their being endowed by their Creator with “inalienable rights” continue to inspire people in the United States and around the world, the Argentina-born pope said.

But even such powerful words can ring hollow if they are not “constantly reaffirmed, re-appropriated and defended,” the pope said.

In a speech punctuated by off-the-cuff comments and explanations, Pope Francis urged immigrant communities in the United States to be “responsible citizens” of their new home without being ashamed of or hiding their cultural heritage.

Asking forgiveness for speaking in the language of geometry, the pope told the crowd that globalization is bad if it tries to erase all differences, placing everyone in a sphere equally distant from one another and the center, but it is good if it respects differences, which are like the varied sides of a polyhedron.

Speaking from the same lectern President Abraham Lincoln used for the Gettysburg address, Pope Francis said the history of the United States is in many ways a history of progressively trying to live out the values affirmed in the Declaration of Independence. As examples, he cited the eventual abolition of slavery, the extension of voting rights, the growth of labor unions “and the gradual effort to eliminate every kind of racism and prejudice.”

When a government respects the right of its citizens to profess freely their faith and to live it publicly, the whole society benefits, the pope said.

Religions, he said, “call to conversion, reconciliation, concern for the future of society, self-sacrifice in the service of the common good and compassion for those

in need.”

The religious dimension of a people’s life, he said, “is not a subculture. It is part of the culture of any people of any nation.”

The Quakers who founded Philadelphia, he said, “were inspired by a profound evangelical sense of the dignity of each individual and the ideal of a community united by brotherly love.”

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters that as the pope was heading in a helicopter from Manhattan to John F. Kennedy Airport for his flight that day to Philadelphia, New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan asked the pilot to circle the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island so the pope could see them.

At the Philadelphia gathering, Pope Francis said concern for the dignity of all, “especially the weak and the vulnerable, became an essential part of the American spirit.”

The pope used his speech “to thank all those, of whatever religion, who have sought to serve the God of peace by building cities of brotherly love, by caring for our neighbors in need, by defending the dignity of God’s gift of life in all its stages, by defending the cause of the poor and the immigrant.”

Those who stand up for the poor and the immigrant, he said, “remind American democracy of the ideals for which it was founded, and that society is weakened whenever and wherever injustice prevails.”

Dozens of cardinals and bishops attended the event as well. But Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, tweeted that they did not have their customary reserved seats up front and instead were “learning to live on the ‘periphery,’” a

favorite term of Pope Francis. Being in the crowd, the bishop added, offered a “better perspective.”

Turning to the representatives of the Hispanic and immigrant communities present gathered at Philadelphia’s Independence Mall, Pope Francis said he knows the sacrifice and struggles many of them faced as they sought to build a better life for themselves and their families in the United States.

And while they may have been in need when they arrived, he said, they also must remember that their experiences and cultures also are a gift that can enrich their new home, just as the heritage of previous waves of immigrants over the centuries did.

“You should never be ashamed of your traditions,” the pope told them. “I repeat, do not be ashamed of what is part of you, your life blood.”

A vibrant faith and a strong family life are particularly important gifts to share, he said. “By contributing your gifts, you will not only find your place here, you will help to renew society from within.”

Before leaving Independence Mall, Pope Francis—repeating a section he had read early in this speech—told the people, “Don’t forget what happened here more than two centuries ago. Don’t forget the declaration that proclaimed that all men and women were created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights and that governments exist to protect and defend those rights.”

“May we keep freedom, may we care for freedom—freedom of conscience, religious freedom,” he said, and may all the people of the United States express “gratitude for the many blessings and freedoms that you enjoy.” †



Pope Francis speaks from Independence Hall in Philadelphia on Sept. 26. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Visiting prison, pope says all people need forgiveness, cleansing

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)—While pilgrims in Philadelphia put up with a long weekend of lines and security checks at the papal venues, the pope reached out to a group of people whose lives are lines and security checks for years at a time.

Pope Francis spent about an hour at the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility. He entered its gymnasium from behind a blue curtain, walking up on to a small stage and carefully inspecting the large chair the inmates had made for him. He turned, with a big smile across his face, and gave the inmates a sincere thumbs up.

As the U.S. debates the need for penal reform, Pope Francis said prisons must focus on rehabilitation, and he insisted that no one is perfect and without need of forgiveness. While his speech was addressed primarily to the inmates, a small group of their family members, prison officials, state legislators and city officials, including Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, also attended.

About 20 minutes before the pope arrived—ahead of schedule—Nutter greeted each of the inmates, who were wearing dark slacks and light blue scrubs, as they were led into the gym. Michele Farrell, prison warden, later told Catholic News Service (CNS) that the pope “threw us a curveball by showing up early.”

The inmates were told to stay seated, and reporters, who were behind them, were told they could not speak to the inmates until after the pope left.

Deacon Ed Dymek, who ministers at the prison, told CNS, “There’s pope hope.”

The prisoners, who were chosen from among those with records for the best behavior, “are as excited as can be,” Deacon Dymek said. “This visit is hopefully inspiration for them to lead better lives.”

Pope Francis addressed the inmates in Spanish, “not English because I do not speak

it well.” However, he said, his aide, Msgr. Mark Miles from the Vatican Secretariat of State, “does” speak well.

The pope also told the inmates he was visiting as a pastor, “but mostly as a brother.”

Serving time in prison is a painful time, said the pope, who continues to speak on the telephone with inmates he used to visit in Buenos Aires, Argentina. “Any society, any family, which cannot share or take seriously the pain of its children and views that pain as something normal or to be expected, is a society ‘condemned’ to remain a hostage to itself, prey to the very things which cause that pain.”

Pope Francis insisted Jesus “teaches us to see the world through his eyes—eyes which are not scandalized by the dust picked up along the way, but want to cleanse, heal and restore. He asks us to create new opportunities: for inmates, for their families, for correctional authorities, and for society as a whole.”

The pope spoke to the inmates about Jesus washing his disciples’ feet, explaining that back in those days, people wore sandals and the roads were dusty. Everyone needed to have his or her feet cleaned. Often there were pebbles and stones, too, which hurt.

“Life is a journey, along different roads, different paths, which leave their mark on us,” the pope said. “We know in faith that Jesus seeks us out. He wants to heal our wounds, to soothe our feet, which hurt from traveling alone, to wash each of us clean of the dust from our journey.”

Jesus, the pope said, “doesn’t ask us where we have been, he doesn’t question us about what we have done.” Instead, Jesus washes peoples’ feet and gives them life.

“The Lord goes in search of us; to all of us he stretches out a helping hand,” the pope said.

“It is painful when we see prison systems which are not concerned to care for wounds, to soothe pain,



Pope Francis blesses a prisoner as he visits the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility in Philadelphia on Sept. 27. (CNS photos/Paul Haring)

to offer new possibilities.

“It is painful when we see people who think that only others need to be cleansed, purified, and do not recognize that their weariness, pain and wounds are also the weariness, pain and wounds of society,” Pope Francis continued.

The pope urged the prisoners to dedicate their time in prison to “getting back on the right road,” and preparing to rejoin society.

After the pope left, Heriberto Mejia, a prisoner who uses a wheelchair, told CNS he asked the pope to pray for him.

“I feel so good. God has changed my heart,” said Mejia, who is awaiting trial on drug charges. “After this visit, we have to do better. ... We can’t go back to doing things the same way.”

Dechon Adams, who was charged with a weapons offense, called it “beautiful” that the pope took the time to greet each prisoner—11 women and close to 60 men—and offer his blessing.

Adams, who identified himself as Christian, agreed with Pope Francis’ explanation of Jesus’ washing the disciples’ feet.

“We all need cleansing,” Adams said.

After 19 months in prison, the 23-year-old said the experience has been tough on both him and his family, though he’s found solace in faith.

“It’s harder for my family than me. It’s hard for them to see me like this,” he said.

“This is the most time that I’ve had to reflect and pray ... get close to Jesus,” Adams said. “That’s all you can do.” †



Pope Francis greets prisoners at the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility in Philadelphia on Sept. 27.

Pope Francis meets with sex abuse victims, says crimes can’t be secret

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)—Pope Francis met with a group of survivors of sexual abuse on Sept. 27, and later told bishops that he was overwhelmed by a sense of embarrassment and was committed to holding accountable those who harmed children.

In a meeting with cardinals, bishops, priests and seminarians at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, the

pope prefaced his address on the importance of the family by saying that he had met with the group as arranged by Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput. The Vatican said the 30-minute meeting, with three women and two men abused by members of the clergy or their families or their teachers, was held at the seminary shortly before the pope addressed the bishops.

“It is engraved in my heart, the stories, suffering and pain of the children abused by priests,” the

pope said. “I continue to feel an overwhelming sense of embarrassment because of those who had in their care the little ones and caused them great harm.

“I am deeply sorry. God cries,” he said.

He said that “the crimes and sin of sexual abuse of children can no longer remain secret,” and that he “committed the close vigilance of the Church to protect the children, and I promise that all responsible will be held accountable.”

In his earlier meetings with bishops during his six-day U.S. visit, he told them that he continued to be hurt by news of sexual abuse of children and wanted them to be more vigilant.

For years, the Philadelphia Archdiocese has been rocked by scandals of sexual abuse by priests and has sold Church-owned properties and scaled back ministries

to settle claims. Earlier this year, Bishop Robert W. Finn of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., resigned after being the first bishop convicted of a misdemeanor for failing to report to authorities the sexual abuse of children by a priest.

In 2014, Pope Francis met in Rome with victims of sexual abuse by clergy. However, many groups, including members of Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests or SNAP, continue to be critical of the Vatican and claim it has not done enough for the victims.

In his private meeting at the seminary, Pope Francis told the survivors that they were an inspiration and “ministers of mercy.” He also prayed with them and said he shared their pain, suffering and shame.

“We owe each of them and their families a gratitude for their great courage to bring the light of Christ of the sexual abuse of children,” he told the bishops.

In his address on the importance of the family, Pope Francis challenged the bishops to provide more pastoral leadership and guidance in a “consumerism” culture, and to encourage young people to opt for marriage and family despite challenges that keep many from the sacrament.

His speech at the seminary came about 12 hours after a star-studded Festival of Families celebration that showcased the importance of the family. In unscripted remarks at the festival, Pope Francis said the institution of marriage, despite its many challenges, should continue to be protected.

“Without the family, not even the Church would exist. Nor could she be what she is called to be, namely ‘a sign and instrument of communion with God and of the unity of the entire human race,’” the pope said, quoting “*Lumen Gentium*,” the Second Vatican Council’s “Dogmatic Constitution on the Church.”

“Needless to say, our understanding, shaped by the interplay of ecclesial faith and the conjugal experience of sacramental grace, must not lead us to disregard the

unprecedented changes taking place in contemporary society, with their social, cultural—and now juridical—effects on family bonds,” the pope said.

As the number of marriages decline and more and more states across the country redefine marriage, the pope said the consumerism culture allows people to follow the latest trends, and their loneliness discourages establishments of close bonds and the devouring of everything, including religion, until the next fad.

“Today, consumerism determines what is important,” the pope said. “Consuming relationships, consuming friendships, consuming religions, consuming, consuming ... whatever the cost or consequences. A consumption which does not favor bonding, a consumption which has little to do with human relationships. Social bonds are a mere ‘means’ for the satisfaction of ‘my needs.’”

As he had done on several occasions during his visit to the United States, the pope challenged the bishops to do more to help reinvigorate the family, especially the young people, the future of the Church.

“Many young people, in the context of this culture of discouragement, have yielded to a form of unconscious acquiescence,” he said. “Many put off marriage while waiting for ideal conditions, when everything can be perfect. Meanwhile, life goes on, without really being lived to the full.

“We need to invest our energies not so much in rehearsing the problems of the world around us and the merits of Christianity, but in extending a sincere invitation to young people to be brave and to opt for marriage and the family,” he said.

Pope Francis said that priests give up a family to care for a larger one in an effort to bring them closer to God.

“Our ministry needs to deepen the covenant between the Church and the family,” he said. “Otherwise it becomes arid, and the human family will grow irremediably distant, by our own fault, from God’s joyful good news.” †



Pope Francis



Emotions run high as pilgrims catch glimpse of pope during visit

(Editor's note: During Pope Francis' whirlwind six days in the United States, he touched the hearts and inspired the faith of people around the country. Here are four stories about people in the archdiocese who won't forget the pope's visit and his impact on them.)

By John Shaughnessy

David Siler didn't think anything could match the thrill of being invited to witness Pope Francis being welcomed at the White House by President Barack Obama on Sept. 23. Then he experienced an even more memorable moment.



David Siler

"After the pope did his parade in his Jeep following the White House welcome, I went for a walk," recalls Siler, the executive director of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. "I ended up at a street corner where I was just waiting for the light to change. Suddenly, there was a flurry of security activity, and a police officer told us that the pope's motorcade was coming by."

"I looked down the street and saw a few black Suburbans headed our way. Then there was the pope's Fiat, with him leaning out the back window waving. As he passed, I waved at him, and he looked right at me and waved back. It is hard to explain, but I felt a warm flush through my entire body, and I realized I had tears streaming down my face. I believe that I sensed a profound presence of the Holy Spirit."

"I can only figure that Pope Francis is such a clear reflection of Jesus that that is why I felt what I did. I had this immediate thought about what it might be like to meet Jesus in heaven someday."

Siler had been invited to attend the White House ceremony by Catholic Charities USA. He was touched that Pope Francis made it a point to meet with the poor and prisoners during his visit to the United States.

"It did not come as a surprise that he wanted to dine with the poor and meet prisoners, but when I saw how his face lit up during these encounters, I knew that these encounters are genuine."

One other personal encounter for Siler stood out during his conversations with fellow pilgrims in Washington.

"It was encouraging to hear of how inspired people have been by Pope Francis, and that there is a sense of a real resurgence of the Catholic faith. I even heard one young lady, probably in her mid-twenties, say, 'It's cool to be Catholic again!'"

'It brought me to tears'

The Jesuit background of Pope Francis

has always been a source of pride and purpose for Leighann Eckrich, a student at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis.

That pride and purpose grew even stronger when she, her brother and four other students from Brebeuf made a pilgrimage to Philadelphia for the pope's visit there.

"It was the greatest experience I've ever had," she says. "One of my favorite parts was on Saturday when we went to hear Pope Francis speak at Independence Hall. At the end, he started praying the 'Our Father' and everyone joined in. It was unbelievable to hear all these people praying in different languages. I felt God's presence in me and everyone around me. It brought me to tears."

Another memorable part of the weekend was interacting with 400 students from Jesuit high schools across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. They all stayed at St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia, attending workshops designed to deepen their commitment to the Jesuit motto, "Men and women for others."

The group was also together during the Sunday afternoon Mass that drew nearly 1 million people—including the Brebeuf student contingent of Leighann, her brother William, Izzy Hackett, Eve Kelly, Willa Sasso, Olivia Totten and their two chaperones from the school's faculty, Carson King and Jess Rewa.

"We were all together for the Sunday Mass," Leighann says. "A bunch of the students started shouting, 'Papa Francisco!' He slowly passed us and gave us a blessing."

Leighann hopes to share the blessing of the pilgrimage with other students at Brebeuf.

"Seeing Pope Francis made me more open and vulnerable to God," she says. "If I could bring anything back to share, it would be his call for justice, for peace and for helping others."

'It surprised me how emotional I got'

As Libby Wright helped lead the annual trip to Washington for the eighth-grade students of Holy Family School in New Albany, she kept running into roadblocks because of the visit of Pope Francis.

First, the group couldn't take its usual tour of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception because of the canonization Mass for Blessed Junipero Serra.

Their tickets to go inside the Washington Monument were also canceled because of the pope's visit.

"Then some providential things happened," says Wright, the school's seventh- and eighth-grade social studies teacher. "We were reading in the paper about the pope's parade route from the White House to the Capitol. I thought we



Cathedral High School students Mike Rushka, Rachel Kent and Molly Mitchell pose for a photo in Philadelphia during their recent trip to the World Meeting of Families—an experience that led them to see Pope Francis. (Submitted photos)



A group of students and educators from Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis pose for a photo outside the Church of the Gesu during their recent journey to Philadelphia to see Pope Francis. Brebeuf's director of campus ministry Jess Rewa, left, William Eckrich, Izzy Hackett, Willa Sasso, Olivia Totten, Eve Kelly, Leighann Eckrich and Carson King, religion teacher, received a blessing from the pope as he drove to the Mass he celebrated on Sept. 27.

might get the chance to see him."

She shared her plan first with the other 17 chaperones, and then she told the 33 students.

"We went down there, and all of us got through security in 10 minutes," she says. "We were just off the sidewalk of Constitution Avenue. We could see the White House in front of us, and the Washington Monument was behind us. He rode right down the center of Constitution Avenue. We were about 60 feet from where the pope actually passed in front of us. We were obviously meant to be there."

Wright later asked her students to write about that lifetime experience.

"They wrote about how inspired they felt, how touched they were. Some of the kids said, 'I never want to forget the look on the pope's face as he turned and waved to us.' Maybe we will have some future priests because of this, or their hearts will just be open more."

Wright's heart was definitely touched.

"I am not someone who gets overly emotional about things. But when I saw the pope and saw the looks on my students' faces, I teared up. It surprised me how emotional I got."

A moment of grace and reassurance

When a teacher stopped her in a crowded school hallway to ask about her plans for the weekend of Sept. 25-27, Molly Mitchell never expected the conversation would lead to her coming within just feet of Pope Francis.

"I mentioned a couple of things to Mr. [Matt] Cannady, and he said, 'How'd you like to see the pope?'" Molly recalls about their conversation on Sept. 15. "I was over the moon. I was beyond excited."

After securing four tickets to the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, Cannady asked his fellow theology teachers at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis to recommend students for the trip. Molly, Mike Rushka and Rachel Kent were the lucky recipients of the tickets—and an up-close view of Pope Francis.



During their eighth-grade class trip to Washington, students from Holy Family School in New Albany were able to see Pope Francis during his parade route from the White House to the Capitol. Here, as they wait for the pope to pass by, students Stephanie Koopman, left, Natalie Boesing and Fiona Grannan, and chaperone Suzette Boesing, Natalie's mother, pray the rosary.

"He spoke at Independence Hall on Saturday at 4:30 [in the afternoon], and we watched him on a big screen," says Molly, a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis. "Later, he drove by us as part of a parade. We had camped there for hours. We knew he was coming because of all the police cars and all the people screaming. My heart started racing. He waved right at us. Just to see his face was so amazing."

It was also a reassuring moment for Molly.

"In my life, I look for affirmation that I'm doing the right thing, that I'm making the right choices. I thought God was reassuring me when we were there. Everything we've been taught about the Church, how we gather together, and how we share the word of God, that was really cool to see that all come together. The grace of God allowed us to be there." †

The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
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Friday, February 26	
Nativity Catholic Church, 705 E. Brandon Blvd, Brandon	
11 a.m.	Reception and Gathering
11:30 a.m.	Remarks • Archbishop Tobin
Noon	Lunch
1 p.m.	Blessing and Adjourment
Saturday, February 27	
St. John the Evangelist, 625 111th Ave North, Naples	
6:30 p.m.	Mass in Church • St. John the Evangelist, Naples
7:20 p.m.	Reception and Dinner
8:20 p.m.	Remarks • Archbishop Tobin

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All of our friends from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis are invited to join us for these special social gathering events. Please bring friends with you or share the invitation with others who may be interested in joining us.

'No justification whatsoever' for lack of housing, pope says

WASHINGTON (CNS)—“We can find no social or moral justification, no justification, no justification whatsoever, for lack of housing,” Pope Francis told an audience of about 200 clients of Catholic Charities gathered at St. Patrick Church.

“I want to be very clear,” Pope Francis told the crowd, many of whom have low incomes, are immigrants, and receive medical care or clinical and mental health services from Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Washington.

After his remarks at St. Patrick’s, he exited from a side door of the church to visit the main headquarters of the archdiocesan Catholic Charities agency, blessing the chapel there.

Outside the Catholic Charities office on Sept. 24, many homeless clients received a meal from the St. Maria’s Meals Program. He stopped at the line and told them with a smile, “*Buen apetito!*”—“Enjoy your meal!”—to applause followed by a swarm of outstretched arms and hands. Pope Francis waded into the throng, waving and shaking hands, surrounded by nearly as many photographers and security agents as hungry people. He also posed for a number of selfies taken by ecstatic members of the crowd.

Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser, who was a teen lector at her District of Columbia parish, stayed behind to talk with the homeless diners after the papal motorcade left.

Pope Francis spoke in his native Spanish. His remarks were interpreted inside St. Patrick, and the Vatican translated texts as well.

He reminded the Catholic Charities clients of the Christmas story, when Jesus

was born in a manger in a stable because there was no room for Joseph and Mary at the inn in Bethlehem.

“The Son of God came into this world as a homeless person. The Son of God knew what it was to be a homeless person, what it was to start life without a roof over his head,” Pope Francis said. “We can imagine what Joseph must have been thinking. ‘How is it that the Son of God has no home? Why are we homeless, why don’t we have housing?’”

“These are questions which many of you may ask daily,” the pope continued. Like St. Joseph, you may ask: Why are we homeless, without a place to live?”

Pope Francis added, “These are questions which all of us might well ask. Why do these, our brothers and sisters, have no place to live? Why are these brothers and sisters of ours homeless?”

The pope told the Catholic Charities clients that Jesus is with them to give them comfort.

“We know that Jesus wanted to show solidarity with every person. He wanted everyone to experience his companionship, his help and his love. He identified with all those who suffer, who weep, who suffer any kind of injustice,” Pope Francis said. “He tells us this clearly: ‘I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me’” (Mt 25:35).

He encouraged the Catholic Charities clients to pray.

“In prayer, we all learn to say ‘Father,’ ‘Dad.’ And whenever we say ‘Father’ or ‘Dad,’ we learn to see one another as brothers and sisters,” Pope Francis told them. “In prayer, there are no rich and poor



A girl hugs Pope Francis as he visits with people at St. Maria’s Meals Program of Catholic Charities in Washington on Sept. 24. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

people, there are sons and daughters, sisters and brothers. In prayer, there is no first or second class, there is brotherhood. It is in prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice.”

The pope then led a recitation of the Our Father, telling the group he would start in Spanish, but adding they could continue in English.

“Jesus keeps knocking on our doors, the doors of our lives. He doesn’t do this by magic, with special effects, with flashing lights and fireworks. Jesus keeps knocking on our door in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in the faces of our neighbors, in the faces of those at our side,” Pope Francis told them.

The pope entered the church with Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington and Msgr. Salvatore Criscuolo, pastor of St. Patrick Parish.

The pope took a pot of flowers to a Marian altar at the side of the church and stood praying silently for a minute before addressing the crowd. He left the church with Msgr. John Enzler, director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, and Cardinal Wuerl.

Pope Francis has made a visit with the poor and marginalized in society a hallmark of his pastoral visits to other nations, just as he has with visits to prisoners. A visit to a jail in Philadelphia was a part of the final day of activities of his Sept. 22-27 U.S. trip. †

CONGRESS

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and in each society,” he said. The dialogue the country needs must be respectful of “our differences and our convictions of conscience.”

“Every life is sacred,” he insisted, calling for the “global abolition of the death penalty” and the “responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage of its development.”

Some U.S. politicians and pundits have expressed confusion or even anger over Pope Francis’ teaching about the damage provoked when money becomes a god and profits count more than people. The pope insists his words are straight out of Catholic social teaching.

His speech to Congress included more of that teaching, delving deeper into the positive aspects of a market economy—as long as it is ethical and includes controls, solidarity and a safety net for the poorest and weakest members of society.

“The creation and distribution of wealth” obviously is important for continued efforts to reduce poverty in the United States and around the globe, he said. “The right use of natural resources, the proper application of technology and the harnessing of the spirit of enterprise are essential elements of an economy which seeks to be modern, inclusive and sustainable.”

“Business is a noble vocation” when it seeks the common good, Pope Francis said. And today, he told legislators, the common good includes protecting the environment and taking bold steps “to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity.”

After his speech, Boehner led Pope Francis through the Capitol’s Statuary Hall and showed him a statue of St. Junipero

Serra, whom the pope canonized the previous day.

The pope then proceeded to the West Portico of the Capitol, where tens of thousands of people with tickets had waited for hours.

“Good morning, everyone,” he said in Spanish, then blessed the crowd.

“I am so grateful for your welcome and your presence here, especially for the most important ones here—the children. I will ask God to bless you. ‘Lord, father of all, bless this people, bless each one of them, bless their families, give them what they need most. And I ask you all please to pray for me. And if there are among you any who do not believe or cannot pray, I ask you please to send good wishes my way. Thank you. Thank you very much. And God bless America.’ †

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Like Jesus and Pope Francis, keep the poor in clear view

By David Gibson

Lazarus, a destitute man, is a central character in one of Jesus' best-known parables (Lk 16:19-31). The poor man's name reveals a great deal about him.

Actually, every person's name is revealing. A name possesses a unique, hidden power. Names have a way of confirming that those they belong to are real persons, and not valueless objects.

When others call us by name, they address us personally. In being called by name, we sense that we are known, remembered and not overlooked. There are times when just being called by name creates an uplifting feeling.

But characters in the parables of Jesus usually are not assigned names. Do you know the prodigal son's name or the name of his older brother, for example? (Lk 15:11-32). The persistent widow who repeatedly asks a judge to enter a verdict against her adversary is not known by name either (Lk 18:1-8).

But Lazarus is introduced by name. We encounter him lying down outside the gate of a rich man's home. Lazarus is covered with sores.

Typically, Lazarus is called a beggar. The parable says he gladly would have "eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table" (Lk 16:21).

Pope Francis speaks of Lazarus as both a homeless person and a beggar. This is a pope who is known everywhere for drawing attention to the homeless and to beggars. When he speaks of them or meets them, he highlights their dignity and worth.

"Become a beggar. That's what is lacking, learning to beg from those to whom we give," Pope Francis told youths when he visited the Philippines in January. He meant he wanted the youths "to be evangelized by" those they serve.

"The persons we help, the poor, the sick, orphans, have much to give us," the pope insisted. He encouraged respect for the poor, asking the youths to think not only of giving something to them but also of learning from them.

Homeless people were the subject of a question Pope Francis asked in another context that became one of the most-quoted statements of his papacy. In "The Joy of the Gospel," his 2013 apostolic exhortation, he asked:



Pope Francis blesses the sculpture "Jesus the Homeless" during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Nov. 20, 2013. Pope Francis frequently draws attention to the homeless and highlights their dignity and worth. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

"How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points?"

Beggars and the homeless are among the "excluded" people of contemporary society for Pope Francis. He believes the excluded suffer from "a globalization of indifference."

This indifference leaves many "incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor," he wrote in "The Joy of the Gospel." He expressed concern about the deadening effects of a "culture of prosperity."

In cultures ruled by money and where lifestyles are structured around the ceaseless accumulation of possessions, the excluded no longer are just society's "disenfranchised," said the pope. Rather, the excluded "are no longer even a part of" society.

To be excluded is to rank among the "outcast" of society, its "leftovers," he added.

It might seem that ethical reflection is needed for considering the excluded. The

problem is, however, that "ethics leads to a God who calls for a committed response that is outside the categories of the marketplace," according to Pope Francis.

Thus, he suggested, God comes to be viewed in the eyes of many as "uncontrollable, unmanageable and dangerous." For "nonideological ethics" could lead toward a social order that "makes money and power relative," while condemning the "debasement of the person."

The biblical parable that introduces Lazarus also introduces the rich man, "who dressed in purple garments and fine linen," and "dined sumptuously each day" (Lk 16:19). Each of these men is challenging in his own way.

Pope Francis discussed the parable in a March homily. The parable does not say that the rich man "was bad," he noted. "If he had parents, he surely sent them things so they would have the necessities of life," the pope thought. Maybe, too, "he was a religious man in his way."

But the pope wondered how it was "possible that this man did not realize

Lazarus was there, below his house, poor and starving." The rich man was not "bad," but "he was sick, afflicted with worldliness," said the pope.

Worldliness, Pope Francis continued, causes people to "lose consciousness of reality," and "anesthetizes the soul." In the parable, he pointed out, we do not learn the rich man's name, but we do learn the poor man's name.

Amy-Jill Levine, author of a 2014 book on the parables titled *Short Stories by Jesus* (Harper One), calls attention to the name given to this poor man. She writes:

"The name forces us to notice the man by the gate. He is not just some guy, he is Lazarus."

Levine is a Jewish professor of New Testament studies and Jewish studies at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, she writes, affirms "that Jesus proclaimed the poor blessed."

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

Discipleship includes determining what one would give away to follow Christ

By Daniel S. Mulhall

The Gospel of St. Matthew tells the familiar story of the rich young man who wants to know what he must do to gain eternal life (Mt 19:17-22).

Jesus' reply to him is, "keep the commandments"



A homeless woman cries while thanking God that she and her family survived Typhoon Haiyan as she prays during Mass inside the damaged Minor Basilica of the Holy Child on Nov. 17, 2013, in Tacloban, Philippines. Jesus in the Gospels challenges his disciples to consider what they would be willing to give away to follow him. (CNS photo/Damir Sagolj, Reuters)

(Mt 19:17). The young man, clearly a faithful Jew who keeps the commandments, wants to know what else he must do. Jesus' reply is stark: "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me" (Mt 19:21). The young man, Matthew tells us, "went away sad, for he had many possessions" (Mt 19:22).

In the verses of Matthew 19:24-26, Jesus offers additional reflections on the topic of wealth and salvation, ending by noting that it will be "easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God" (Mt 19:24).

Matthew notes that the disciples were greatly astonished by these statements, leading them to ask "Who then can be saved?" (Mt 19:25) To which Jesus gives the ultimate answer: "For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible" (Mt 19:26).

Jesus' answer to the rich young man continues to apply to Christians today. In order to follow him completely, we must give away everything that we possess. Wait a minute. Everything?

There are several passages in the Synoptic Gospels where Jesus makes this same point. Take for instance Luke 9 where Jesus says, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me," and to another prospective follower who asks

for time to bury his parents, "let the dead bury their dead" (Lk 9:23, 60)

Several of Jesus' parables make this point as well. There is, for example, the person who finds a great treasure buried in a field and, with great joy "sells all that he has and buys that field" and the merchant who sells all he has to purchase a "pearl of great price" (Mt 13:44, 46).

St. Luke provides perhaps the clearest statement of this teaching. Here we find the story of the man who builds new barns to hold his great harvest only to die before being able to use this new wealth (Lk 12:18), and the parable of the flowers and grass of the field (Lk 12: 22-28).

What Jesus is telling the rich young man, and us, is that "where your treasure is, there also will your heart be" (Lk 12:34). The story isn't a condemnation of money or wealth. Rather, it is a challenge to us to determine what we would be willing to give to gain something whose value is beyond measure.

Jesus is asking us to determine what is really important to us, and telling us the cost to achieve it. Are we willing to pay the price? Fortunately, all things are possible with God, so there is hope for us all.

(Daniel S. Mulhall is a freelance writer and a catechist for adults. He lives in Laurel, Md.) †

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Medieval Church: The greatest scandal in papal history

(Eighth in a series of columns)

Last week, I wrote about the ascension to the papacy of Pope Benedict IX, a layman in his 20s when he was selected by the Tusculan family, which ruled Rome at the time, in 1032. He was the nephew of the two previous popes.



Benedict was a competent pope for 12 years, but then, in 1044, another insurrection in Rome forced him to flee

the city. The Crescentian family, which had ruled Rome from 1000 to 1012 and appointed three popes, regained control of the city and had another man installed as Pope Sylvester III. Benedict, though, rallied his forces and retook the city. He resumed the papacy and excommunicated Sylvester.

Then came the greatest scandal in papal history. Benedict abdicated the papacy, and turned it over to his godfather in exchange for a huge sum of money. In effect, Benedict sold the papal office and then

moved to family properties near Tusculum. The man who paid the money assumed the throne of Peter as Pope Gregory VI in 1045.

All this was too much for King Henry III of Germany. He crossed the Alps and went down to Rome to clean up the mess. He commanded Benedict IX, Sylvester III and Gregory VI all to appear before a synod held at Sutri, near Rome, in 1046.

The synod condemned Sylvester as an invader of the Holy See, and sentenced him to confinement in a monastery. It pronounced Gregory guilty of simony for buying the office of pope and sent him in exile to Germany. Benedict chose not to obey Henry's command to appear at the synod, but he was formally deposed at another synod in Rome a few days later.

So now, instead of Roman families determining who the pope would be, it was the German king. Henry brought a German bishop with him to Rome. He was dutifully elected, took the name Pope Clement II, and was enthroned on Christmas Day of 1046. On the same day, he crowned Henry III as emperor.

Pope Clement appeared to be a

vigorous pope, but on a trip to the abbey of Santo Tommaso in October 1047, he suddenly became ill and died there. An examination of his remains performed in 1942 showed that he died of lead poisoning.

After Clement's death, Pope Benedict IX decided to return to the papacy—for the third time. He managed to regain the throne for eight months—the only pope in history to reign three different times.

Then Emperor Henry intervened again, nominating a German bishop with the name Poppo. He took office as Pope Damasus II. But Henry had the darnedest luck, to say nothing of Damasus, who died 23 days after his consecration, probably of malaria.

So Henry nominated another German bishop, Bruno, who reigned as Pope Leo IX. He showed great promise, but made the mistake of personally leading a small army against the Normans, who had invaded southern Italy. He was captured and imprisoned for nine months. He died shortly after his release in 1054.

To be continued next week. †

It's All Good/Patti Lamb

Call on God when you don't connect with others

Lately, I've been questioning my ability to communicate adequately.

Unfortunately, I can cite several recent examples.



Last weekend, my son Henry, 10, and my daughter Margaret, 7, eagerly invited me to join in their video game fun. They gave me a controller, along with a brief set of instructions, and

the game began. They kept repeating instructions, which I couldn't comply with quickly enough. It went something like this:

Henry: "Hit 'A,' and then jump, mom."

Margaret: "No! A is the red button on the left."

Henry: "Forget 'A,' and just move forward and select a tool."

Margaret: "Here mom, just give me your controller, and I'll do it for you."

Eventually, the kids requested that I "drop out" of the game. They grew tired of my clumsiness with the controller, and my inability to catch on to how the game worked. I remember saying to them, "Sorry, kids, but it's like you're speaking another language."

The next morning, I experienced another communication glitch—this time with my husband. He graciously agreed to

repaint my daughter's room, which was a big undertaking. A few hours into painting, I came up to check on his progress. I walked into the room and sighed, "Oh, no! The color is too light!"

What he heard was, "This looks terrible."

In no way did I intend to comment on his paint job. My husband is a fantastic painter. The issue was that I had picked the wrong color. And I failed to communicate that properly. (Sorry, dear.)

That evening in the checkout lane of the grocery store, I noticed that an item rang up higher than the price at which it was advertised. (I had come specifically to purchase that product.) I explained this to the cashier, and suggested that there might be a glitch in the computer system. I reached into my purse and pulled out the ad to show her.

The cashier grew frustrated and said, "Fine." She begrudgingly typed in an override to give me the sale price as it was advertised. In that particular case, there was literally a language barrier because the woman was still mastering the English language, which is not an easy one to grasp.

It was then that I remembered a passage from *God Calling*, one of my favorite devotionals, which stated a real nugget of wisdom: "God is the heart's great interpreter."

Communication can easily become

broken for the silliest, or most unintentional, reasons. So we must summon God, the heart's great interpreter, to help us bridge the gap and understand one another.

A passage from *God Calling* stated this: "Never judge. The heart of man is so delicate, so complex, only its Maker can know it. Each heart is so different, actuated by different motives, controlled by different circumstances, influenced by different sufferings."

God made us, and he can read our hearts. His love transcends language.

In the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2, when the Holy Spirit descends on the people, they each hear the Spirit in their own native tongues, despite the fact that they were vastly different and spoke many diverse languages.

My recent string of miscommunications has reminded me of the importance of calling on God, the divine interpreter, when I don't properly connect with someone else.

I've learned to say this quick prayer: "Come Holy Spirit. We're at a 'disconnect.' Please enlighten our minds and hearts, so that we can be at peace with each other. We ask this in your name with gratitude for all of our blessings. Amen."

(Patti Lamb, a member of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †

Faith, Hope and Charity/David Siler

Protecting the unwanted children in today's world

Although it did not get a great deal of attention, Gov. Mike Pence signed a bill in May to try to reduce the infant mortality rate in Indiana.



The general assembly allocated \$8 million for the first fiscal year of the program, which started on July 1, and \$5.5 million for the second year.

Along with many others, I applaud this effort.

Yet during this Respect Life Month of October, I find myself pondering how we can do so much to protect a child when they are wanted by the mother, but we do so little to protect the child if they are not wanted.

In addition to this new infant mortality reduction bill, we have program after program to protect children who are wanted by the mother.

We have programs such as the

March of Dimes that strive to reduce birth defects. There are pre-natal care programs available, regardless of ability to pay. And there is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). This program provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals and nutrition education for low-income women. WIC also offers assistance to infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Once a child is born, we have Child Protective Services to respond to cases of abuse and neglect, Prevent Child Abuse Indiana to educate and prevent abuse of every kind, First Steps to provide early intervention for children with special needs, and on and on.

So just say the words, "I want this child," and the community will step up and do whatever it takes to bring a healthy baby into the world, support the parents in their role of raising a healthy child, and even step in and take the child away if they abuse the child.

But just say the words, "I don't want this child," and we step aside and say that it is OK to end its life. If the child is not wanted, our laws would indicate that we really don't care at all.

I concede that there is somewhat little that we can do if a biological mother—and/or father—does not want a child due to being conceived at an inconvenient time in their lives, but I can say with complete certainty that the community wants the child.

This is evidenced by the burgeoning lists of couples desperately waiting to adopt.

The matter of "choice" is bandied about around this issue, but can't we just say that we, the community, choose these children?

If the real issue at the heart of the matter is the wanting of a child, can't the "want" of the community suffice?

(David Siler is executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Catholic Charities and Family Ministries. E-mail him at dsiler@archindy.org.) †

Making a Difference/

Tony Magliano

Millions of refugees have no place to call home

The recent heartbreaking photo of the little Syrian refugee boy washed up dead on the shore of Bodrum, Turkey, strikingly illustrates the tragic plight of desperate refugees—mostly Syrian—fleeing for their lives from the Islamic State and other violent groups in the Middle East and Africa.



The 3-year-old boy, named Aylan, along with his 5-year-old brother Galip and their mother Rehan drowned after the raft carrying them capsized near the Turkish coast.

Millions of refugees are scrambling to escape from the life-threatening civil wars plaguing several countries from Nigeria to Pakistan.

According to the British newspaper *The Independent*, half of Syria's population—approximately 11 million people—have been forced to flee, with 4 million living as refugees in foreign nations. And approximately 2.6 million Iraqis have been displaced, both due to civil wars and the barbarism of the Islamic State.

Matt Wilch, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) refugee policy advisor for Migration and Refugee Service, told me that of the 4 million Syrian refugees, 1.8 million are being hosted by Turkey, Jordan has 1 million, Egypt has 200,000, tiny Lebanon is hosting more than 1 million, and ironically even war-torn Iraq has opened its doors to 200,000 Syrians.

But according to U.S. State Department figures, since March of 2011—when the Syrian conflict started—only 1,554 Syrians have been admitted through the U.S. refugee resettlement program. This is shameful.

Wealthy Europe and the U.S. have a moral obligation to offer far more help.

Germany is providing an excellent example. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that any Syrian arriving in Germany would be granted asylum.

With 800,000 refugees expected to arrive in Germany before year's end, Merkel has been urging Germans to rise to the challenge. She said, "There can be no tolerance of those who question the dignity of other people."

Wilch said if the U.S. and other wealthy nations would provide much more aid to Syria's neighboring nations, not only would refugees be able to benefit from improved services, but most would not feel compelled to take the long dangerous journey to Europe.

Wilch said only 37 percent of the needs of refugees are being funded in these neighboring host countries.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, approximately 2,500 people have perished en route to Europe since the beginning of this year alone.

The USCCB is urging Congress to increase the number of refugees allowed in the U.S. to 200,000 annually—100,000 from Syria and 100,000 from other nations. Please contact your congressional delegation urging them to honor the bishops' plea.

Also, to be of further help please go to bit.ly/1LZxENG at Jesuit Refugee Service/USA to easily submit—click submit twice—a letter to your senators and congressperson on behalf of our suffering refugee brothers and sisters.

And to go the extra mile, kindly consider making a donation to Catholic Relief Services by going to www.crs.org/stories/european-migrant-crisis-grows, and clicking "European Migrant Crisis Grows." Then click "Donate Now."

Pope Francis has strong words for those who would turn away refugees: It is "violence to erect walls and barriers to block those seeking a place of peace. It is violence to push back those fleeing from inhuman conditions in the hope of a better future."

(Tony Magliano is an internationally syndicated social justice and peace columnist. E-mail him at tmag@zoominternet.net.) †

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

Sunday Readings

Sunday, October 4, 2015

- Genesis 2:18-24
- Hebrews 2:9-11
- Mark 10:2-16

The Book of Genesis is the source of the first reading for this weekend. Among the first five books of the Bible, Genesis reveals great truths. God is the creator of all. He gives life.



God also created humanity as male and female. Further, it was God's will that man and woman complement each other and live with each other.

The Scriptures at times are accused of belittling women. Certainly, the Scriptures were all developed within varying cultural contexts. To an extent, they were influenced by these cultural contexts.

The culture surrounding the development of Genesis was not solely Hebrew. Rather, it was surrounded by pagan cultures in which women were considered little better than animals.

Genesis, however, takes pains to declare the dignity of women, equal to that of men. This is the meaning of the story that Eve was created from Adam's rib. Adam and Eve, man and woman, were one in their nature.

It was a revolutionary, fundamental basis for looking at both men and women. Both genders possess an equal dignity because all are created by God and infused with an eternal soul.

Finally, every person, regardless of everything else, holds the supreme dignity of being God's own, God's created, a physical, earthly sign of God.

This reading is a powerful testament to the historic Jewish and Christian concept of marriage. Ordained by God, marriage should never be defiled by exploitation, selfishness or insincerity.

For its second reading, the Church offers us a passage from the Epistle to the Hebrews that also reaffirms the dignity of each human.

According to this reading, humans who love and are faithful to God will one day rejoice in the presence of God. They will

be with God. The key to attaining a place in God's presence is Jesus.

Because Jesus is human as well as God, Jesus loves all people as brothers and sisters.

St. Mark's Gospel provides the third reading. It is a familiar passage. The question centers upon the legality before God of divorce itself, not the grounds for divorce.

It is often assumed that this question put to Jesus opened an entirely new debate and, that in replying, Jesus set aside the Law of Moses.

Actually, the debate was vigorously underway at the time among persons learned in the Mosaic tradition. No universal agreement pertained as to what the Law of Moses meant in this regard.

By settling the question, by ending the debate, Jesus appeared in the role of the divinely constituted and divinely-empowered representative of God the Father.

Jesus set the question in its proper context. Marriage is God's creation. It is subject to God's will, and ideally marriage in the hearts of the spouses reflects God's love.

In the same passage, though on another occasion, Jesus blessed the children. Like children everywhere and at all times, these children were innocent, vulnerable, but with great potential, not simply "to succeed" in this life, but to live with God in the eternal life.

Reflection

Fundamentally, these readings call us to a divinely revealed truth so often and so outrageously ignored in the world. Each human being is God's precious child, God's priceless masterpiece of creation. No one, and no society, has the right to demean or compromise this dignity.

The agonizing problems of this day and time all spring from refusing to honor all human beings as God's own. So terror and prejudice reign.

Secondly, marriage comes from God. It is fully and absolutely within the overall purpose of God, namely to enable men and women better to know, to love and to serve God, and then finally to be with him in the wonder of heaven along with the angels. †

Daily Readings

Monday, October 5

Jonah 1:1-2:1, 11
(response) Jonah 2:3-5, 8
Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday, October 6

St. Bruno, priest
Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher,
virgin
Jonah 3:1-10
Psalm 130:1b-4b, 7-8
Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday, October 7

Our Lady of the Rosary
Jonah 4:1-11
Psalm 86:3-6, 9-10
Luke 11:1-4

Thursday, October 8

Malachi 3:13-20b
Psalm 1:1-4, 6
Luke 11:5-13

Friday, October 9

St. Denis, bishop, and
companions, martyrs
St. John Leonardi, priest
Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2
Psalm 9:2-3, 6, 8-9, 16
Luke 11:15-26

Saturday, October 10

Joel 4:12-21
Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12
Luke 11:27-28

Sunday, October 11

Twenty-eighth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Wisdom 7:7-11
Psalm 90:12-17
Hebrews 4:12-13
Mark 10:17-30
or Mark 10:17-27

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Pope's annulment changes designed to bring speed, simplicity to the process

Q Pope Francis' new "rules" on annulments sound like the answer to my long-held concerns. Many years ago, my wife filed for divorce. We were parents of five children, but my wife decided that she was interested in another man.



The divorce was granted, and she

moved in with him. Seven years later, I met a wonderful woman and we have now been married for 27 years.

I was raised a Catholic, continue to attend Mass and would like very much to have my marriage recognized by the Catholic Church. (My present wife and I were married in a Protestant church where her father had been the pastor, and she continues to be active in that parish's activities.) Do you think my chances for an annulment have increased considerably, based on Pope Francis' latest comments? (North Carolina)

Another change creates the possibility of an abbreviated process, presided over by a local bishop, in a case where evidence favoring an annulment is especially clear—such as an extramarital affair at the time of the wedding or immediately after. And the pope cautioned local tribunals to reduce administrative fees for an annulment to a minimum or even eliminate them entirely—as several U.S. dioceses, including the Archdiocese of Indianapolis—have already done.

Linking these new, more user-friendly steps to the forthcoming Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis noted that justice demands a quicker, less cumbersome process, so that "people can move on without having this doubt, without this weight in their souls."

Q We've been having a bit of a debate among some parishioners, and are hoping that you can help solve it. What is the rule for flowers on the altar in a Catholic church: Do they have to be fresh, or can they be artificial? (Ohio)

A Not to be technical, but I will assume that by the words "on the altar," you really mean "in the sanctuary." Next, although some parishes may (and do) have rules against using artificial flowers, I cannot find in the law of the Church any universal prohibition.

The current *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)*, while it notes that floral decoration should always show moderation" (#305), is short on specifics.

In the year 2000, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops published liturgical guidelines under the title "Built of Living Stones." That document says that "the use of living flowers and plants, rather than artificial greens, serves as a reminder of the gift of life God has given to the human community" (#129).

But those words speak to a preference rather than a prohibition.

Finally, to go back to your question, if by "on the altar" you really did mean the table of the eucharistic sacrifice, then the GIRM is quite clear when it says in No. 305 that floral decoration should always "be arranged around the altar rather than on the altar table" (#305).

(Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St. Albany, N.Y. 12208.) †

My Journey to God

I Am Thinking About the Pope's Visit

By Diane Lewis

This Baptist girl,
this hallelujah-ed servant,
this child of fundamentals
eternally searching for hope
eternally thirsty for the holy
wept when she heard
Francis was coming
and that he had the audacity to come
and that he had declared
the year to come, the year of mercy
sitting, listening as Scott Pelle
interviewed the Holy Father
who had no identity
with my brand of faith
yet concerned more about
my soul, than any other
his pastorate touching
my broken heart
my untouchable heart



(Diane Lewis is a member of a Baptist church in Indianapolis. Moved by the pope's pastoral nature and his visit to the United States, Lewis was inspired to write this poem. U.S. President Barack Obama shakes hands with Pope Francis during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington on Sept. 23. (CNS photo/Joshua Roberts)

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.

BECHER, Paul Joseph, 83, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Sept. 15. Husband of Mary Catherine (Derry) Becher. Father of Christopher and Thomas Becher. Brother of Elnora Beachnau, Richard and Thomas Becher. Grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of three.

BEDEL, Lawrence M., 83, St. Louis, Batesville, Sept. 7. Husband of Virginia (Herbert) Bedel. Father of Shirley Ellison, Cynthia Napier, Candy Kennedy and Larry Bedel. Brother of Stella Weberding. Grandfather of 13. Great-grandfather of 17.

BRISCOE, Mary Frances (Carpenter), 65, Holy Family, New Albany, Sept. 15. Wife of Barrett Briscoe. Mother of Brandon and Kevin Briscoe. Sister of Barbara Hamilton, Terri Hoffman, Chuck, Mark and Mike Carpenter. Grandmother of two.

CHISMAN, Dorothy T., 94, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, Sept. 14. Mother of Jane, Mary and William Chisman. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of one.

COOK, Dr. Patricia (Parker), 88, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Aug. 16. Mother of Kevin and Thomas Cook. Grandmother of four.

FOX, Beatrice H., 86, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, Sept. 16. Mother of Connie Marien and Dennis Fox. Grandmother of two. Great-grandmother of four.

FULLENKAMP, Timothy W., 60, St. Louis, Batesville, Sept. 7. Husband of Kathy (Yorn) Fullenkamp. Father of Emily Bower, Rachel Rose and Matthew Fullenkamp. Son of Viola Fullenkamp. Brother of Pam Gerdowsky, Becky Quick, Kathy Rosemeyer, David, Jay,

Randy and Terry Fullenkamp. Grandfather of four.

HOLMES, Dolores Ann, 86, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Sept. 1. Mother of Laurie Mattison and Janet Rohlman. Grandmother of six.

HUFF, Mary Gene (Warisse), 88, Holy Family, New Albany, Sept. 9. Mother of Nancy Fulkerson, Sara Schulerburg and Mary Sue Scott. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of seven.

KRIEGER, Donna Jean (Boaz), 67, St. Mary Navilleton, Floyds Knobs, Sept. 17. Wife of Walter Krieger Jr. Mother of Jennifer Riley, Jeremy and Miles Krieger. Sister of Stewart Boaz. Grandmother of five.

MAYFIELD, Dewey W., 59, St. Paul, Tell City, Sept. 5. Husband of Charlene Mayfield. Father of David and Jeremy Mayfield. Son of Colleen Mayfield. Brother of Dennis Mayfield. Grandfather of four.

MCCOURT, Patricia A., 83, Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood, Sept. 16. Mother of Mary Collilouri, Catherine Duke, Margaret Futrell, Charles, Emory, Gregory and Kenneth McCourt. Sister of Frances Nutting. Grandmother of 15. Great-grandmother of four.

MCGUIRK, Bernard Eugene, 73, St. Mary Navilleton, Floyds Knobs, Sept. 11. Husband of Betty (Hoehler) McGuirk. Father of Shannon Fritch, Jennifer Kos and Michael McGuirk. Brother of Mary Lu Dietrich, Rita Rasmussen and James McGuirk. Grandfather of four.

MORRIS, Stylic Rodger, 82, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Sept. 13. Father of Linda Suesz, Gwen McWhorter and Brian Morris. Brother of Jackie Woodruff. Grandfather of eight. Great-grandfather of 10.

MURRAY, Marilyn, 89, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Aug. 22. Wife of John Murray. Mother of Andrew, Jonathan, Matthew and Shelburn Murray.

NIRICH, Vincent J., Sr., 77, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Cambridge City, Sept. 7. Husband of Julia (Stockberger) Nirich. Father of Angie Taylor,

Gary and Vincent Nirich Jr. Grandfather of one.

NORTH, Helen, 91, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, Sept. 15. Mother of Barbara Dunlap, Dana North, Linda Schuder and Rita Smeyak. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of nine.

NUNWEILER, Bobbi, 71, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, Sept. 3. Wife of Raymond Nunweiler. Mother of Ann Dowless, Bev Hockenberry, Peter and Raymond Nunweiler III. Grandmother of 11. Great-grandmother of six.

O'CONNOR, Rita M., 84, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Sept. 3. Mother of Susan Hill, Teresa Lugar, Anne O'Connor Clark, Ellen and Patrick O'Connor. Sister of Rosemary Adamson, Nancy Condon, Margie Miller, Maureen Schultz and Edward Hegarty. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of three.

PAPPAS, Aristotle, 24, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Sept. 10. Son of Joseph Pappas. Brother of Angelo, Kyle and Nick Pappas. Grandson of Joyce Beber and Eleanor Pappas.

PAUSZEK, Thomas R., 89, Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood, Sept. 10. Husband of Marjorie Pauszek. Father of Linda Collins and Julie Weinberg. Brother of John Pauszek. Grandfather of four.

PERRYMAN, Lester W., 68, St. Paul, Tell City, Sept. 10. Husband of Roxanne Perryman. Father of Lesley Brown, Catie Jo Whitaker, Monica, Eric and Shawn Perryman. Brother of Wilma Hildebrandt, Donna Thomas, Margie Zogelman and Garry Perryman. Grandfather of five.

REED, Billy R., 81, St. Joseph, Corydon, Sept. 13. Husband of Terri (Crosier) Reed. Father of Deborah Herthel, Lisa Watt, Josh and Rick Reed. Brother of Jerry Reed. Grandfather of six. Great-grandfather of nine. Great-great-grandfather of one.

REISERT, Jane (Willcox), 97, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, Sept. 7. Sister of Cleon Lawler. Grandmother of two. Great-grandmother of five.

RETTIG, Carole (Keller), 80, St. Agnes, Nashville, Sept. 10. Mother of Chris, Dan, Gary, James, J. Michael and Stephen Rettig. Sister of Jeanne, Patricia, John and Walter. Grandmother of 18. Great-grandmother of eight. Great-great-grandmother of one.

RISCH, Robert J., 86, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Cambridge City, Sept. 16. Husband of Olive Rhea. Father of Amelia Golden, Dorinda Nick, Lyla Turner, Stephanie Riggs and Brad Risch. Brother of Viola Sherwood, Ruth Thompson,

Melvon and Paul Risch. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of six. Great-great-grandfather of one.

SCHEIDLER, Stephen H., 82, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, Sept. 9. Husband of Dorothy (Raver) Scheidler. Father of Anita Johnson and Ed Scheidler. Brother of Patricia Barnhorst and Robert Scheidler. Grandfather of six.

SCHOETTNER, Mary Ann, 70, Immaculate Conception, Millhousen, Sept. 15. Wife of Norbert Schoettner. Mother of Pat and Scott Schoettner. Sister of Janet Copple, Ester Devers, Rita Westerfeld and Bill Schoentrup. Grandmother of five.

SCHUMAN, Jean, 85, All Saints, Dover, Sept. 20. Wife of Leroy Schuman. Mother of Diane Brueggemann, Gary and Tom Schuman. Sister of Alvera Tipton. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of three.

SCHUTTE, Robert L., 78, Holy Family, Oldenburg, Sept. 16. Husband of Donna (Ferkinhoff) Schutte. Father of Jenny Ilderton and Tricia Williamson. Brother of Eileen Stirn. Grandfather of four.

SHIPLEY, Richard T., 75, Prince of Peace, Madison, Sept. 12. Husband of Judith (McCarty) Shipley. Father of Karen Brown, Linda Manning and Mark Shipley. Brother of Marjorie Toomey, Bill Greenan and Charles Shipley. Grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of five.

STEWART, James A., 68, St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County, Sept. 19. Husband of Susan Stewart. Father of Jeb and Jesse Stewart. Grandfather of three.

THOMPSON, Teresa A., 84, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, Sept. 13. Sister of Mary Jo LaBash and Dr. Thomas Dugan.

UNGER, Sandra K., 72, Our Lady of Lourdes, Indianapolis, Aug. 21. Wife of Richard Unger. Mother of Rhonda Mascoe. Sister of Debbie Banet, Becky Riley, Candice Taylor and Mark Hunt. Grandmother of five.

WALLACE, Karlene E., 68, Our Lady of Lourdes, Indianapolis, June 29. Wife of Walley Wallace.

WEAVER, Lela Evon, 91, St. Agnes, Nashville, July 13. Mother of Brigitte and John Weaver. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of two.

WOLTER, Michael J., 56, St. Mary, Greensburg, Sept. 12. Brother of Sandy Richardson, Cynthia Wickizer, Judy, Steven and Tim Wolter.

ZOBEL, W. Robert, 85, St. Mary, Greensburg, Sept. 17. Brother of Betty Zobel. †



Newest saint

A banner displays an image of Blessed Junipero Serra at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on Sept. 23 just ahead of his canonization by Pope Francis. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

Franciscan Sister Marilyn Joel Franks was a teacher, principal and college treasurer

Franciscan Sister Mary Joel Franks died on Aug. 29 at the motherhouse of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in Oldenburg. She was 78.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Sept. 2 at the Motherhouse Chapel in Oldenburg. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

Marilyn Anne Franks was born on Sept. 14, 1936, in Dayton, Ohio.

She entered the Sisters of St. Francis on Sept. 8, 1954, and professed final vows on Aug. 12, 1960.

Sister Mary Joel earned two undergraduate degrees at Marian University in Indianapolis, and completed graduate studies at Clarke College in Iowa, Indiana Central College and Butler University, and earned a principal's license at Ball State University in Muncie.

During 61 years of life and ministry as a Franciscan, Sister Marie served in Catholic schools in Indiana and Ohio.

In the archdiocese, she taught in Indianapolis at St. Mark the Evangelist School from 1956-57, and St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) School from 1967-69. She also taught at St. Lawrence School in Lawrenceburg from 1957-58, St. Mary School in Greensburg in 1961, Most Holy Name of Jesus School in Beech Grove from 1966-67, and our Lady of Perpetual Help School in New Albany from 1969-81, where she served as principal the last six years of her time there.

She served as assistant treasurer then treasurer at Marian University in Indianapolis from 1981-96. She later served at Marian as a library technician until her retirement earlier this year.

Surviving is her sister, Pauline Bennett of California and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of St. Francis, P.O. Box 100, Oldenburg, IN 47036-0100. †

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People come first, human life is sacred, pope insists at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (CNS)—Dealing with war, development, the economy or environmental concerns, bureaucrats and diplomats always must remember that the lives of real children, women and men are at stake, Pope Francis told the United Nations.

Helping to celebrate the organization's 70th anniversary, Pope Francis visited its headquarters on Sept. 25 and pleaded with government leaders and U.N. officials to keep the dignity and sacredness of every human life and the value of all creatures at the center of their concern.

"Above and beyond our plans and programs," he told the U.N. General Assembly, "we are dealing with real men and women who live, struggle and suffer and are often forced to live in great poverty, deprived of all rights."

More than 190 heads of state were attending the General Assembly, and many of them made a point of being in the U.N.'s historic hall for Pope Francis' speech on the eve of discussion of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, later in the year, the Paris Conference on Climate Change.

The first hour of Pope Francis' visit was heavy on protocol and posing for official group

photographs. He met privately with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and spoke briefly with U.N. employees, urging them to make their workplace a model of the peace and respect they work to promote around the world. He also paid tribute to the sacrifice of U.N. employees killed in the line of duty.

Pope Francis called for real, concrete action to stem climate change; respect for every human life and for "the natural difference between man and woman"; economic decisions that place the needs of people before profits; and greater controls on weapons sales and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

He praised recent international agreements with Iran to ensure it does not develop nuclear weapons, and he pleaded for real, concrete, multilateral efforts to bring peace and justice to the Middle East, North Africa and other African countries plagued by the violence of extremists claiming to act in the name of Islam.

"Christians, together with other cultural or ethnic groups and even members of the majority religion who have no desire to be caught up in hatred and folly," he said, "have been forced to witness the destruction of their places of worship, their cultural and religious heritage, their houses

and property, and have faced the alternative either of fleeing or of paying for their adhesion to good and to peace by their own lives or by enslavement."

Those lives, he said, "take precedence over partisan interests."

"In wars and conflicts there are individual persons—our brothers and sisters, men and women, young and old, boys and girls—who weep, suffer and die," the pope said. They are treated as "human beings who are easily discarded when our only response is to draw up lists of problems, strategies and disagreements."

Pope Francis warned the U.N. leaders and the heads of state that too many decisions seemed to be based on the desire by a few for economic or political power, ignoring the values and rights the United Nations was formed to promote and protect.

The United Nations, he said, is called to help humanity "dispel the darkness of disorder caused by unrestrained ambitions and collective forms of selfishness."

"Economic and social exclusion is a complete denial of human fraternity and a grave offense against human rights and the environment," the pope said, echoing one of the main themes of his encyclical, "Laudato Si'." The document emphasized that respect

for creation must include respect for all creatures, human beings included, and that efforts to reduce poverty and promote development must respect both the Earth and the people who live there.

The best way to measure the success of the new development goals, he said, will be how they give "effective, practical and immediate access, on the part of all, to essential material and spiritual goods: housing; dignified and properly remunerated employment; adequate food and drinking water; religious freedom and, more generally, spiritual freedom and education."

"These pillars of integral human development," Pope Francis said, "have a common foundation, which is the right to life and, more generally, what we could call the right to existence of human nature itself."

Pope Francis insisted on the reality of "natural law," an ethical code of right and wrong that all people can recognize. As he has done before, he condemned "an ideological colonization," through which wealthier nations try to impose on poor countries not just a legitimate accounting of how aid is used, but also "anomalous models and lifestyles which are alien to people's identity."

In the past, Pope Francis has termed as "ideological



Pope Francis addresses the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York on Sept. 25. (CNS photo/Mike Segar, Reuters)

colonization" making development aid dependent on greater acceptance of homosexuality and gay marriage.

The Earth, "the common home of all men and women must also be built on the understanding of a certain sacredness of creature nature," the pope told the assembly.

While some people continue to question scientific evidence that human activity is contributing to global climate change, Pope Francis insisted "a true 'right of the environment'" exists and is closely tied to human rights, since people are part of nature and are called to live in communion with it.

"Any harm done to the environment," he said, "is harm done to humanity." †

Pope Francis brings Gospel of 'encounter' to Madison Square Garden

NEW YORK (CNS)—Seeing New York for the first time in his 78 years of life, Pope Francis said he knew Madison Square Garden was an important gathering place for sporting events and concerts. For him, it was transformed into a chapel in the heart of the Big Apple.

True peace in a big city comes from seeing the vast variety of people not as a bother, but as a brother or sister, Pope Francis said in his homily during the Mass on Sept. 25 at "The Garden" where 20,000 people gathered to pray with him.

With tough security and long lines, people arrived hours early. They prayed and listened to inspirational music sung live by Gloria Estefan, Jennifer Hudson and Harry Connick Jr.

Before vesting for Mass, Pope Francis entered the arena in an electric cart, riding up and down the aisles, kissing babies and blessing several sick children.

In his homily, the pope urged the congregation to go into the city, to seek the face of Jesus in the poor and suffering, and to share the joy of the Gospel with all.

Jesus urges his disciples "to go out and meet others where they really are, not where we think they should be," Pope Francis said.

"Go out to others and share the good news that God, our Father, walks at our side," the pope told them. "He frees us from anonymity, from a life of emptiness and selfishness," and moves people to encounter and to peace instead of competition.

The pope had visited ground zero earlier in the day, participating in an interreligious service for peace. The evening Mass used the readings and prayers for a Mass for peace and justice.

The first reading, from the Book of Isaiah, began with the passage, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Is 9:1).

People who are faithful to God, the pope said, "can see, discern and contemplate his living presence" in the midst of the city. "The people who walk, breathe and live in the midst of smog, have seen a great light, have experienced a breath of fresh air."

The pope, who was born in and served as archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, a city of 3 million people, said he knows it is not always easy living in a big city, especially one made up of people of dozens of different languages and cultures.

However, he said, those differences are riches that

express "all the different ways we human beings have discovered to express the meaning of life."

Pope Francis recited most of the Mass prayers in English, although he read the eucharistic prayer in Latin. He preached in Spanish, and the prayers of the faithful were offered in Italian, German, Polish and Tigrinya, one of the languages spoken in Ethiopia.

For Christians, the real challenge of big cities is the way that they can "conceal the faces" of people who don't fit in or even are treated as if they had no right to be there, Pope Francis said. "They are the foreigners, the children who go without schooling, those deprived of medical insurance, the homeless, the forgotten elderly."

Too many people just walk by them, he said. They have become part of the "urban landscape."

But being a Christian means seeing Jesus in others, all of them, and actually looking for his face in the faces of those who usually are ignored, the pope said.

The Christian virtue of hope frees people from isolation and self-absorption. It is "unafraid of involvement," he said, and it "makes us see, even in the midst of the smog, the presence of God as he continues to walk the streets of our city." †

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Pope at 9/11 Memorial: Violence is never impersonal, always brings tears

NEW YORK (CNS)—Honoring both the pain and the strength of the families of those who died at the World Trade Center on 9/11 and drawing on the pools of water that are part of the site's memorial, Pope Francis spoke about tears and quenching the world's longing for peace.

"The water we see flowing toward that empty pit reminds us of all those lives" lost in 2001, he said. "The flowing water is also a symbol of our tears. Tears at so much devastation and ruin, past and present."

The pope and New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan each left a single white rose on the edge of the fountain in Memorial Plaza. Pope Francis also met briefly with 20 family members of fallen first responders, shaking their hands, blessing them and listening to them carefully with the help of an interpreter. Gathered around the fountain were 1,000 people—including some injured when the twin towers fell.

Afterward, Pope Francis joined a varied group of religious leaders and about 400 people in Foundation Hall to offer prayers for the deceased and for peace in the world.

Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove of Park Avenue Synagogue and Imam Khalid Latif, the Muslim chaplain at New York University, offered reflections before the pope spoke.

"Intolerance and ignorance fueled those who attacked this place," Latif said. "We stand together as brothers and sisters

to condemn their horrific acts of violence and honor each life that was lost."

Rabbi Cosgrove prayed that "today and every day may we understand our shared mission to be, in the words of Pope Francis, 'a field hospital after battle' to heal the wounds, and warm the hearts of a humanity in so desperate need of comfort."

Representatives of the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Christian and Muslim communities read meditations on peace, and a choir sang a Jewish prayer in honor of the deceased.

Pope Francis read the same prayer that Pope Benedict XVI recited when he visited the ruins of ground zero in 2008, a prayer that specifically mentions also those who died the same day at the Pentagon and near Shanksville, Pa.

"This is a place where we shed tears, we weep out of a sense of helplessness in the face of injustice, murder and the failure to settle conflicts through dialogue," Pope Francis said in his personal reflection.

Meeting the families of victims, he said, was a concrete reminder that "acts of destruction are never impersonal, abstract or merely material. They always have a face, a concrete story, names."

"In those family members," he said, "we see the face of pain, a pain which still touches us and cries out to heaven."

However, the pope said, they also demonstrate "the power of

love and remembrance," which is something the memorial promotes with the names of those who died in the attack engraved in stone. "We can see them, we can touch them and we can never forget them."

What happened on 9/11 and in its aftermath are not just motives for grief, though, he said. The reaction of the first responders and of thousands of New Yorkers demonstrated "the heroic goodness which people are capable of," which also must be remembered.

"No one thought about race, nationality, neighborhoods, religion or politics" as they pitched in, some even risking their lives, to help others, the pope said. "This place of death became a place of life, too, a place of saved lives, a hymn to the triumph of life over the prophets of destruction and death, of goodness over evil, reconciliation and unity over hatred and division."

People of different religions and cultures do not need to pretend their differences do not exist, he said, but they do need to accept and respect their differences.

Pope Francis asked those in the underground hall to join him in a moment of silence, "imploring from on high" the gift of peace "in all those places where war never seems to end," but also "peace for those faces which have known nothing but pain."

"Simply peace," he said,



Pope Francis places a rose at the South Pool of the National 9/11 Memorial and Museum on Sept. 25 in New York. (CNS photo/Tony Gentile)

speaking in Spanish.

More than 400 people, including religious leaders from various faiths, gathered in the Foundation Hall at the 9/11 Memorial Museum for the interreligious faith service.

Before the pope's arrival, some of the 400 people who gathered in Foundation Hall took photographs together near the "Last Column," a 36-foot high steel column that holds inscriptions and other mementos, and rises toward the 60-foot ceiling in the middle of the hall. This column was the last piece of steel hauled from the site at the end of the nine-month recovery effort in May 2002.

Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio

of Brooklyn said that New York was the perfect setting for such an interreligious prayer service because of the social and religious demographics of the area.

"We have representatives from all of the religions here today," he said. "They are willing to work together, pray together and take some leadership steps together."

"This is the United States, where we can dialogue with one another because here we have religious freedom where everyone is free to worship the way that they wish and believe the way that they wish," the bishop said. "I don't think this prayer service could happen in any other place than New York." †

Pope Francis goes back to school, meets students, community in Harlem

NEW YORK (CNS)—Pope Francis encouraged an audience of Catholic school students and immigrants to live with joy and dare to dream. He also highlighted the immigrant experience—in a way children could understand, comparing it to seeking acceptance and making friends in school, not always an easy place for them to fit in or find their way.

"They tell me that one of the nice things about this school is that some of its students come from other places, even from other countries," Pope Francis told students and a group of immigrants at Our Lady Queen of Angels School, where he visited on Sept. 25.

"I know that it is not easy to have to move and find a new home, new neighbors and new friends," the pope said. "At the beginning it can be hard. ... Often you have to learn a new language, adjust to a new culture. ... There is so much to learn! And not just at school."

The message, spoken simply, continued the pope's call for inclusive attitudes and

actions in favor of immigrants, who often occupy the peripheral places to which he has called on Catholics to carry the Gospel. Immigrants at the school greeted him personally, engaged in small talk and read from the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25. "I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Mt 25:35).

Our Lady Queen of Angels School serves Spanish Harlem, a section of New York previously home to African-Americans, then newcomers from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Mexicans have arrived in large numbers of late.

Some residents expressed hope the pope would speak to the immigration issue, and bring about better relations between immigrant groups in the area.

"We're all immigrants here. We came searching for a better life," said Vianel Garcia, manager of a hair salon across the street from the school—which was adorned with posters asking the pope to "come and bless us."

"I'd like to hear a message of unity between all Hispanics," she added.

While at the school, the pope spoke of dreams and invoked another religious leader, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., whom he had also highlighted in his speech to Congress.

"One day he said, 'I have a dream.' His dream was that many children, many people could have equal opportunities. His dream was that many children like you could get an education," the pope said.

"Wherever there are dreams, there is joy, Jesus is always present," he said.

Pope Francis and the students prayed the Hail Mary; students then showed him science projects highlighting environmental themes. They even showed him a touch screen device, with one girl advising the pope to double-click. †

'Wherever there are dreams, there is joy, Jesus is always present.'

—Pope Francis



A student shows Pope Francis a lesson on the environment during his visit to Our Lady Queen of Angels School in the East Harlem area of New York on Sept. 25. (CNS photo)

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6:45-7:45 p.m.
 Reception and Dinner
 Assembly Hall, Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center
 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis

7:45-8:30 p.m.
 Program
 Assembly Hall, Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center

RSVP

Register online at www.archindy.org/stewardship/10202015 or by scanning the QR code to the right. For questions or help with registration, contact Mary Shepherd at mshepherd@archindy.org or 800-382-9836, ext. 1482. In the spirit of good stewardship, please register by October 15.

Catholic Education

Parish Growth & Sustainability

Vocations

Seminarian Education

Ministries of Catholic Charities

Vocations

Priests' Retirement

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.