

2020 Vocations Awareness Supplement

Priests
 Women Religious
 Men Religious
 Permanent Deacons
 Seminarians

Where there is love, sacrifice is easy

By Father Michael Keucher

King Solomon wrote in the Old Testament book the Song of Songs that “many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it” (Sg 8:7). There is something about love that overtakes a person. Taken over by love, or having fallen in love, a person will do anything.



Fr. Michael Keucher

Consider, for example, a man who has fallen in love with a woman he hopes will one day be his bride. He would move a mountain for her, shovel load by shovel load. It’s the same principle at work for a new mother whose child is her life. Her daily sacrifices for her child prove easy, so much has she fallen in love with her child.

If this is true in our human relationships, what about our life with God?

First, let us remember that God loved us first. Each of us is “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Ps 139:14) We were each chosen “before the foundation of the world” (Eph 1:4). Jesus took us in his heart when he went to the cross. In other words, God loved us first—and he loved us to the end.

Likewise, people who have truly fallen in love with God will do anything for him and will love him to the end. No matter what call they might receive, or what call within a call they might hear, they will always enthusiastically say, “Yes.” Their love prompts this response in them.

Where there is love, sacrifice is easy.

Naturally, this does not mean that the living out of our sacrifices is always easy. No vocation is without difficulty, without the cross. A mother of five may sometimes have a headache, but her decision to take care of her children and love them is easy.

It is similar with the martyrs. No doubt it was hard for them to pay the ultimate price, but the decision to do it was easy, for it was prompted by love.

Think of the lives of all the saints. They did great things for God. They sacrificed much—their whole lives! And why? Because they loved God. They had fallen in love with him. And they had vowed their lives to his service, no matter the call.

I often think that one of our biggest priorities as Church must be to help our youth love Jesus and Mary—I mean truly love them. That would solve the “vocations crisis” we hear people talking about. Great love for God brings about many vocations.

Blessed Carlo Acutis is a timely example of a youth who fell madly in love with Our Blessed Lord.

A native of Milan, Italy, Carlo died of leukemia at the age of 15 in 2006. He loved soccer and computer programming. He used his gifts to create a website that profiled all the known eucharistic miracles in the world. So great was his love for God that he once said, “To be always close to Jesus, that is my life plan.”

Carlo’s story and example reminds us that people of all ages, including the young millennials of our own day, have the capacity to love Jesus and Mary deeply. Though they are young, they still have the grace-driven ability—which the rest of the Church is called to encourage and foster—to consecrate their lives to God’s service.

In this year’s Religious Vocations Awareness Supplement in *The Criterion*, you will come to meet some folks who have fallen deeply in love with Jesus. Out of this love, they are laying their lives down for our blessed Lord in beautiful ways, ways that God has prepared for them. Let us pray for them. Let us be inspired by their love and each of us grow our own.

(Father Michael Keucher is vocations director of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He can be e-mailed at mkeucher@archindy.org. He also serves as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and sacramental minister of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County.) †



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CARMEHITE NUNS IN TERRE HAUTE PRAY FOR SUFFERING WORLD ‘FROM THE HEART OF THE CHURCH,’ PAGE 3B.



DEACON PATRICK BOWER AND HIS WIFE MENTOR COUPLES IN DEACON FORMATION PROGRAM, PAGE 8B.

At top, Church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Assisi, Italy. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



‘God’s guiding hand’

Seminarian sees challenges in life as a preparation for ordained ministry

By Sean Gallagher

If you spend a little bit of time with seminarian Liam Hosty, you’ll soon see that he is a cheerful, often happy-go-lucky young man with a winning smile who has an attractive love for Christ and the Church.

You might not know, though, at first glance, that he’s experienced many challenges in his life. When Hosty was 4, he was diagnosed with speech and learning disabilities and had struggles in school. More recently, his last two years of college seminary were marked by the turmoil of the renewed clergy sexual-abuse crisis in the Church and the coronavirus pandemic.

So does Hosty have such a sunny outlook on life and his possible future as an archdiocesan priest in spite of these challenges, or because of them?

Hosty thinks it’s the latter.

“My life has just been marked by a strong sense of divine providence,” he said. “God has been there every step of the way in my journey.”

Hosty is also convinced that the challenges he’s faced so far in life will help him share the mercy and compassion of God with the parishioners he would minister to if he’s ordained a priest.

“My life has been marked by people walking with me on [my] journey,” he said. “I may not necessarily have the solutions to everyone’s problems. But I can sit with them and walk with them through their journeys, in whatever challenges they face.”

‘Part miracle, part hard work’

Hosty, 23, grew up the fourth of the five children of Tom and Julie Hosty. The family moved to Indianapolis in 1999 when Liam was 2, and soon became active members of St. Barnabas Parish on the city’s south side.

He said that his faith was nurtured at St. Barnabas School and, later, at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

It was the role of faith in his family that made a lasting impression on him.

“Every night before bed, without fail, my parents would pray the ‘Angel of God’ prayer together with us,” Hosty recalled. “My dad would come to our rooms and say the prayer. If my dad was out of town, my mom would do that. It’s been deeply imprinted in my memory of faith.”

While he was growing up at home as a young child, Hosty’s parents noticed him having difficulty speaking. By age 4, he could speak only a handful of

words. That’s when he was diagnosed as having speech and learning disabilities.

Constant support from his family and the faculty and staff at St. Barnabas and Roncalli helped Hosty cope with his learning challenges that came with his condition.

“He and I have a special bond,” said his mom. She adds with a laugh, “I’m sure every time he studies for a test, he has my voice in his ear, ‘OK. You have to be organized.’”

Seeing her son succeed academically as a college seminarian at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary and Marian University, both in Indianapolis, gave her great satisfaction.

“It’s part miracle, part hard work on Liam’s part,” she said. “When he was little, I shed a lot of tears. Now I have tears of joy. It’s amazing.”

‘It kind of came full circle’

The miracle part may have come about through Hosty’s devotion to St. John Vianney, to whom he began to pray while he was in middle school.

At the time, he had learned that the 19th-century French priest was a patron saint for students with learning challenges because he experienced great difficulties with his coursework in seminary.

As Hosty discerned a possible call to the priesthood while in high school, his appreciation of St. John Vianney grew as he learned that the priest is also the patron saint of all priests, but especially of parish priests.

The preserved heart of St. John Vianney was displayed for veneration in January 2019 in SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. Hosty took time to pray before the sacred relic of the saint who played such an important role in his discernment.

“It kind of came full circle in a way for me,” he said. “Seeing the heart of a priest who loved God and loved people, who sacrificed so much for them, was a powerful encounter.”

In addition to the prayers of St. John Vianney, Hosty was also supported in high school by his peers as he considered God’s vocation for him.

At a baccalaureate Mass prior to his graduation from Roncalli, Hosty was awarded a scholarship. When he was introduced, all at the Mass were told that he was going to be an archdiocesan seminarian in the fall at Bishop Bruté.

“Pretty much all of my classmates, more than 300 people, gave me a standing ovation,” Hosty recalled. “They were overjoyed that I was going to



Seminarian Liam Hosty smiles during an Oct. 9 pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Monte Cassino near St. Meinrad made by seminarians at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad. The shrine is on a hill just outside the southern Indiana town. The seminarians prayed for an end to the coronavirus pandemic and for those whose lives have been affected by it. (Photo courtesy of Saint Meinrad Archabbey)

seminary. Many of them already knew.

“The support from my peers, as well as my teachers, was absolutely incredible.”

‘God’s guiding hand’

Support from his peers continued when Hosty joined the formation community of more than 40 seminarians at Bishop Bruté.

“I was struck by the fact that it wasn’t a monastery,” he said. “I lived with some 40 guys between 18 and 22. We played video games. We played soccer and frisbee. We went out to eat. We joked around. We watched football.

“Formation isn’t just prayer and study. It formed me to be the man that God wants me to be. It brought forth the gifts that God gave me in my human nature.”

Hosty’s parents weren’t sure at first, though, if college seminary was the right

place for their son, thinking that it might be better for him to continue his discernment as an ordinary college student.

But his quick adjustment to life at the seminary and the happiness he found there convinced them he had made the right choice.

“It was very much hand-in-glove,” said his dad. “You could see that it was a perfect formation process for Liam. He thrived within that process. It helped his discernment. Any doubt I had was erased as I watched him go through his four years at Marian and at Bruté.”

That tight-knit community among his fellow seminarians and the priests on the formation staff proved to be invaluable for Hosty in his junior year at Bishop Bruté when the clergy sexual-abuse crisis flared up again at the same time that Jesuit Father

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Seminarian Liam Hosty joins other seminarians in praying Morning Prayer on Oct. 5 at the St. Theodore Guérin Chapel at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad. (Photo courtesy of Saint Meinrad Archabbey)

Vocations Awareness Supplement highlights the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life

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

It is ordinarily published during the U.S. bishops’ annual Vocations Awareness Week, which this year is on Nov. 1-7. It has been renamed the “Vocations Awareness Supplement.”

From the beginning, the Church has recognized that marriage is also a vocation, a pathway to holiness, to

which God calls people. *The Criterion* publishes two marriage supplements annually, usually in February and July.

In addition, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis has three offices which promote vocations. For information on the Office of Marriage and Family Life, visit www.archindy.org/marriageandfamily. For information on the diaconate, go to www.archindy.org/deacon. For information on the priesthood and consecrated life, visit www.archindy.org/vocations. †





Carmelite nuns pray for suffering world 'from the heart of the Church'

By Sr. Clare Joseph Daniels, O.C.D.

Special to *The Criterion*

Stay safe; unusual and troubling times; masks, social distancing, quarantine, lockdown.

These are all new catch-words introduced into our everyday vocabulary since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Uncertainty in a world that was once predictable.

The world as we knew it has drastically changed since the earlier part of this year. We have all been inundated with news of COVID-19—what it is and how it spreads. We have been instructed in how to self-protect and move about safely within society, being given new mandates and restrictions.

So, what does any of this have to do with the life of cloistered, contemplative nuns? Nuns who, by vows, are socially distanced from the world anyway? How have our lives changed? Have our lives changed? And, if so, in what way can those changes begin to compare with the changes those who live in society have had to make?

These are fair questions. It is true that we are enclosed religious sisters where we are accustomed to praying, working, socializing and otherwise engaging ourselves within a restricted environment, within the home of our monastery. Our engagement with those in society is limited.



Members of the Discalced Carmelite Monastery of St. Joseph in Terre Haute pray in May around a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Christ Child on the grounds of their monastery during a May crowning ceremony. The sisters have prayed daily to the Blessed Virgin Mary for an end to the coronavirus pandemic. (Submitted photos)

The Carmelite vocation is unique in that we live cloistered—enclosed—lives. As a small group of women, we live in community and through the profession

of vows, we each responded to the call from God to give our whole lives to prayer, for his people and for our world.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have had to suspend public Mass here at the monastery, cancel our annual public novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and our Monastic Experience Weekend, and forbid visitors, including our families who visit only once a year. And so, our lives, too, have changed.

We at the Carmelite Monastery of St. Joseph in Terre Haute remain

available, however, for discernment with young women via e-mail, phone or Skype until it is safe to receive in-person visits. The changes introduced into our world came upon us as though overnight this year of 2020. And, unlike 20/20 vision, we cannot, at this time, see or predict what the future holds for any of us.

Certainly, since the beginning of the pandemic, the changes to our way of life and the sacrifices we have had to make cannot begin to compare with the changes and sacrifices of those who have not chosen to live enclosed lives. We are acutely conscious of this, especially as sacrifice is woven into the fabric of lives of prayer.

Our Holy Mother, St. Teresa of Avila, taught us to nurture an intimate relationship with Christ because it is this relationship that sustains and strengthens our lives of prayer. Here in Carmel, which is what we call our monastic communities, we pray from the heart of the Church. We take the needs of all people into our hearts and intercede to God in unceasing prayer, as a lamp that shines in darkness.

Our lives of prayer are grounded in the reality of our humanity, and we encounter Christ in his humanity. We recall the words from St. John's Gospel: "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (Jn 1:14).

God threw in his lot with all of humanity by becoming flesh. As contemplatives, we also have thrown in our lot with the people of our world. It is through our close communion with Christ that we unite in a solidarity that transcends what the human mind can grasp. We pray for the concrete needs that people have—the daily bread that sustains life and well-being—as well as for the spiritual and psychological needs that people have, most especially during these very tough times.

In *The Way of Perfection*, St. Teresa of Avila assures us that God "never fails to help anyone who is determined to give up everything for him." And so, like her, we confidently trust that God hears our prayers and that he will respond to them in his own time and in his own way.

We pray continuously because we know that human effort alone is not enough. "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because

without me you can do nothing" (Jn. 15:5). Remaining ever vigilant, we provide a beacon of hope to all who struggle to carry their burdens.

While the future may be unpredictable, our trust that God is near and in our world is unwavering. In good or in troubling times, his Spirit is ever-present to guide, support and sustain us. When human ingenuity falls short or fails altogether, we are confident in God's great love and mercy for all of humanity. Although we cannot see the road ahead, we believe that he will respond to our needs as a people.

In closing, I would like to recall for all of us the words of the risen Lord in St. Matthew's Gospel. "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:20).

(Discalced Carmelite Sister Clare Joseph Daniels is the vocations director of the Carmelite Monastery of St. Joseph in Terre Haute. To learn more about the community, visit heartawake.org.) †



With members of the Discalced Carmelite Monastery of St. Joseph in Terre Haute facing him, Benedictine Father Mark O'Keefe holds a paschal candle during a celebration of the Easter Vigil on April 11 in the monastery chapel.



Members of the Discalced Carmelite Monastery of St. Joseph in Terre Haute pose for a photo in February in their monastery.

'CERTAINLY, SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PANDEMIC, THE CHANGES TO OUR WAY OF LIFE AND THE SACRIFICES WE HAVE HAD TO MAKE CANNOT BEGIN TO COMPARE WITH THE CHANGES AND SACRIFICES OF THOSE WHO HAVE NOT CHOSEN TO LIVE ENCLOSED LIVES!'

SR. CLARE JOSEPH DANIELS, O.C.D.





From missionary call to death threats, Father Kalapurackal embraces priesthood

By Natalie Hoefler

When thinking about his native country of India, there are certain aspects Father Francis Joseph Kalapurackal misses.

Death threats are not among them.

Nor is having his church targeted by gunfire, nor working to buy back parishioners' farmland usurped by tribal lords, nor avoiding extortion by insurgents.

Such challenges are nonexistent here, where Father Kalapurackal serves as pastor of St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville and St. Ann Parish in Indianapolis.

"God has blessed me abundantly," he acknowledges.

But he applies that statement to the entirety of his priesthood—from choosing to stay in seminary, to walking as much as 14 hours between small churches of a large parish, to taking a nursing school project from concept to extraordinary success, to encouraging vocations in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

"I could always feel God walking me through all those journeys," he says.

Those journeys began in India at age 15, when he met with the head of an archdiocese 2,000 miles away from his home.

'That week lasted 12-and-a-half years'

That meeting took place in Kerala State at the southwestern tip of India. Father Kalapurackal grew up in a village there, baptized and raised Catholic at St. Ann Parish. It was in that church where, at the age of 12, he participated in his cousin's ordination.

"My inspiration to become a priest started with [that] ordination," he says.

Having an archbishop-led ordination in his home parish "allowed more [people] to attend and more young people to participate. It allowed young men to see how beautiful [the ceremony] is and the grace of the sacrament celebrated right before their eyes."

From that point, Father Kalapurackal "liked the idea" of becoming a priest. "But I didn't feel I was worthy, how holy that position is."

His mother encouraged him, though. Three years later, when he saw a



Father Francis Joseph Kalapurackal celebrates Mass in person and via livestream at St. Thomas More Church in Mooresville. (Submitted photo)

notice for interviews with an archbishop for a spot at St. Thomas Seminary 2,000 miles away in Manipur State, he went. The meeting went well, and he was immediately accepted.

Father Kalapurackal began his priestly trek quite literally, traveling five days by train from the southwestern to the northeastern tip of India.

From the start, the young teen was miserable.

"It was a different culture," he recalls of Manipur State—and the seminary. "I didn't like the food. I never lived away from home. The seminary schedule was hard. I was so

homesick I wanted to leave."

But a mentor suggested he try the seminary for just one week.

"That week lasted for 12-and-a-half years," says Father Kalapurackal. He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Imphal, Manipur, in 1997.

'I had to walk sometimes 12-14 hours'

He spent his first two years as a priest at St. Thomas Seminary serving as dean of students.

In 1999, Father Kalapurackal was assigned as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Kholian in Manipur, not far from the Myanmar border. The faith community was large—and not just in terms of its 2,000-family membership.

"It had 28 small village churches and one large church," he describes. "I had to walk to the villages—sometimes 12-14 hours. There was no electricity, no paved roads. It was a very poor parish in a poor setting."

In the village of Gelnai, a tribal lord had taken ownership of all the land and banished the village's chief and 32 families. They were reduced to living in a single hut on one acre of land.

"My heart broke the first time I went to Gelnai," says Father Kalapurackal. "I got funding and bought back the land. I brought the families back to the village and brought a stream in to help with agriculture."

He says his archbishop "had a plan for me that I should have a missionary experience there," he says. "It was a great missionary experience."

'Wherever I knocked, the Lord opened more doors'

Father Kalapurackal's archbishop also had a specific purpose for the priest's next assignment in 2001 as director of the archdiocese's 150-bed Catholic medical center in Imphal, the capital of Manipur.

"He wanted me to grow it into a better organization," he says. "It wasn't in good shape [and] had a lot of financial issues."

When he left in 2011, much had changed.

"When I started, we had 48 staff [members]," he says. "I had the joy of seeing the institution grow into a full-fledged hospital. When I left, we had over 200 staff with a multi-facility hospital and a college of nursing school being built."

The nursing school was a project dear to Father Kalapurackal's heart.

"The situation was one nurse for 10,000 people" when he started, he says. "I felt there was a huge need to train more nurses."

"I'm told that today it's a flourishing institution, probably the best in the state, ... with 150 total studying there every year."

He gives God credit for the school's success.

"When I started the college, we had no land, no money," he recalls. "But wherever I knocked on a door, the Lord opened more doors. People were so generous. I praise God for [the school]"

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Father Francis Joseph Kalapurackal poses with catechist Kim Carlisle, left, Kayla Carlisle, Sadie Bond, Kendall Swinney and catechist Dottie O' Connor in May 2019 in St. Thomas More Church in Mooresville. (Submitted photo)

'EVERY ASPECT OF THE PRIESTHOOD IS IMPORTANT—OFFERING THE SACRAMENTS, TEACHING, ADMINISTERING. I LOVE EVERY PART OF MY PRIESTHOOD!'

FR. FRANCIS KALAPURACKAL





Benedictine sisters stay connected in prayer to broader world during pandemic

By Katie Rutter

Special to *The Criterion*

When the monastery stopped receiving visitors in March, the sisters felt the void. As a community built on the *Rule* of St. Benedict, hospitality is engrained into the mission of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove.

“St. Benedict says that guests are to be received as Christ and that there will always be guests in the monastery,” explained Benedictine Sister Mary Luke Jones, the monastery’s director of development.

The spread of COVID-19 was too great a risk in a place where all the sisters live in community, share meals and bathrooms. There are 43 Benedictine sisters at Our Lady of Grace; the oldest is 97.

Several of the sisters also serve in their on-campus retirement and nursing facility, St. Paul Hermitage, which houses about 100 elderly residents.

But it will take more than a pandemic to prevent the Benedictines from living their vocation. The sisters are finding ways to live out their call to hospitality, prayer and social justice even while the monastery is closed to visitors.

First, they began to digitally host guests by livestreaming their regular communal prayer. Those broadcasts have continued to grace Facebook daily since March 21, the day on which they and other Benedictines celebrate the feast of St. Benedict.

“We’re all connected to one another through the Holy Spirit. We hope that the positive nature of our coming together will go beyond our walls and that our prayer goes beyond our walls,” explained Benedictine Sister Marie Therese Racine, the community’s director of liturgy.

As their prayers go beyond the walls, the sisters have also discovered ways to bring the sufferings of the world back into their prayer.

Deeply concerned by the disease’s deadly spread, Sister Mary Luke looks up the number of Indiana residents who, during the previous day, passed away from COVID-19. She posts that number at the entrance to the sisters’ chapel. At the end of each evening prayer, one of the sisters tolls a hand bell for each



Benedictine sisters process in prayer on Aug. 25, the date of a federal execution, outside Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove. The monastery is closed to visitors due to the coronavirus pandemic, but the sisters are finding ways to continue the work of prayer and social justice. (Submitted photo)

Hoosier lost.

As she listens to the haunting toll, Sister Mary Luke prays at each chime, “May you rest in peace.”

“I sit with my palms open, and as the last bell tolls I close my fists and I say, ‘and may God embrace your families,’ ” she recounted, speaking on Sept. 30 to *The Criterion* in an interview via Zoom.

Evening prayer on Oct. 20 marked the highest number of Hoosiers lost to that date. The bell tolled 48 times.

“Our hearts cry for them and their families,” the sisters posted on their Facebook livestream. “Let us remember all those who have died and who continue to suffer during this pandemic.”

For Sister Marie Therese, a phrase found in Psalms 75:5 and 89:47 are especially relevant in light of all these sufferings: “How long, Lord?” The sisters pray psalms during each prayer service, and Sister Marie Therese uses the biblical words to bring the world into her prayer.

“I ask God to show me, ‘Whose words are these today?’ and then pray in their voice,” she explained on Oct. 8 via Zoom. “So, we pray for the world, but ‘for’ can be understood in a different way. Pray for, as intercession, but we pray for, in their place.”

Even more petitions are uttered by these Benedictines as they pray to God for the end of racism, the protection of refugees and that the recently restarted federal executions will be halted. Special prayer services, in addition to their daily prayer, have been held for each of these intentions.

“Now we are educating ourselves on racism, seeing what steps we need to take as a community,” explained Benedictine Sister Julie Sewell, vocations director at Our Lady of Grace. “I would call this part of a cycle for us—prayer, study, more prayer, action.”

Small actions were possible even in the most restrictive lockdown: cleaning the windows of St. Paul Hermitage to allow for window visits with friends and loved ones, processing in prayer through the gardens, contacting those who live alone to offer digital company and holding up signs to encourage the health care workers.

Now the sisters have cautiously opened their doors to allow private individuals to spend time at their retreat center, the Benedict Inn, though communal spaces are still closed to guests.

Yet the prayers and the hospitality continue.

The sisters invite Catholics across central and southern Indiana to participate in a special upcoming service related to All Souls Day. On Nov. 14, the Benedictines will livestream a

holy hour held to remember all those who have died. Everyone is invited to virtually join the sisters, and donations can be made to memorialize a deceased loved one.

All submitted names will be projected on the wall of the sisters’ chapel during the holy hour and held by the sisters in prayer.

“This is our way of supporting [others]. What we do as Benedictines is pray,” summarized Sister Marie Therese.

“It’s the best thing that we do,” concluded Sister Mary Luke. “It’s our first and primary work, the work of God, the *Opus Dei*.”

(Katie Rutter is a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington. More information about the service, called the *Celebration of Light*, and a link to the sisters’ Facebook page can be found on their website, benedictine.com.) †



Sister Jeanne Voges, left, Sister Alice Marie Gronotte, Sister Mary Carol Messmer and Sister Lucia Betz, all members of the Benedictine Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, pray the rosary at the monastery. It is closed to visitors due to the coronavirus pandemic, but the sisters are holding the world’s intentions in prayer. (Submitted photo)

**‘WE’RE ALL
CONNECTED TO
ONE ANOTHER
THROUGH THE HOLY
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THAT THE POSITIVE
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OUR WALLS AND
THAT OUR PRAYER
GOES BEYOND OUR
WALLS!’**

**SR. MARIE
THERESE RACINE,
O.S.B.**



ARCHDIOCESE of INDIANAPOLIS

2020-2021 Seminarists

Saint Meinrad Seminary

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 Sr. Maria Nguyen of the Holy Family, OCD Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Terre Haute, IN Temporary Professed	 Sr. Marie Therese Miciano of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, OCD Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Terre Haute, IN Temporary Professed	 Sr. Arianne Whittaker, SP Sisters of Providence Saint Mary of the Woods Temporary Professed	 Sr. Joni Luna, SP Sisters of Providence Saint Mary of the Woods Temporary Professed	 Sr. Anna Fan, SP Sisters of Providence Saint Mary of the Woods Temporary Professed	 Sr. Tracey Horan, SP Sisters of Providence Saint Mary of the Woods St. Jude, Indianapolis Temporary Professed	 Sr. Emily Marie Tekolste Sisters of Providence Saint Mary of the Woods St. Anthony, Indianapolis Mission Novice	 Jessica Vitente Sisters of Providence Saint Mary of the Woods Mission Novice	
 Sr. Teresa Kang Sisters of Providence Saint Mary of the Woods Temporary Professed	 Sr. Ashley Barnett, SOLT Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity St. Charles Borromeo Bloomington Novice	 Sr. Mary Lily among Thorns McCann, SSVM Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara All Saints, Dearborn County Temporary Professed	 Sr. Evelyn Lobo, SSps Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters St. Monica Indianapolis Temporary Professed	 Sr. M. Evangeline Rutherford, OSP Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration St. John the Evangelist Indianapolis Temporary Professed	 Sr. Mary Peter Ruschke, OSF Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Batesville Temporary Professed	 Sr. Mary Amata Naville, OSF Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration St. Mary, Navilleton Temporary Professed	 Sr. Lucia Christi Zetzel, SV Sisters of Life St. Gabriel Indianapolis Temporary Professed	
 Sr. Gabriel Marie Trimble, MICM, Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, MA, Oratory of Sts. Philomena and Cecilia, Brookville Temporary Professed	 Sr. Agnes Mary Graves, RSM Religious Sisters of Mercy, Alma, Michigan St. John the Evangelist, Indianapolis Novice	 Fr. Mateo Zamora, OSB Saint Meinrad Archabbey St. Meinrad, IN Temporary Professed	 Br. Basil Lumdsen, OSB Saint Meinrad Archabbey St. Meinrad, IN Temporary Professed	 Br. Michael Reyes, OSB Saint Meinrad Archabbey St. Meinrad, IN Temporary Professed	 Novice Simon Holden Saint Meinrad Archabbey St. Meinrad, IN Novice	 Br. James Henke, CSC Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood Temporary Professed	 Benjamin Sasin Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers St. John the Evangelist, Indianapolis Postulant	 Josh Amodeo Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers Ss. Francis and Clare, Greenwood Old College
 Br. Alberic Henry, OCSO Gethsemani Abbey Trappist, KY Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood Novice	 Br. Joseph Michael Kraemer, SJ Society of Jesus - Jesuits West St. Andrew, Richmond Theology	 Br. Taylor Fulkerson, SJ Society of Jesus - Midwest Jesuits St. Mary, Lanesville Regency	 Br. Jeffrey Sullivan, SJ Society of Jesus - Midwest Jesuits Holy Name, Beech Grove Theology	 Ben Jansen, nSJ Society of Jesus - Midwest Jesuits Ss. Francis and Clare, Greenwood Novice	 Mike Rushka, nSJ Society of Jesus - Midwest Jesuits St. Barnabas, Indianapolis Novice	 Br. Nicholas Green, nLC Legionaries of Christ St. Bartholomew, Columbus Novice		

Religious Communities

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Sisters of St. Benedict
Beech Grove
benedictine.com | Sisters of Providence
Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods
spsmw.org | Sisters of St. Benedict
Ferdinand
thedomo.org | Order of St. Benedict
Saint Meinrad Archabbey
saintmeinrad.org | Dominican Friars Central Province
domcentral.org | Missionaries of Charity
motherteresa.org |
| Congregation of the Sisters of the
Third Order of St. Francis, Oldenburg
oldenburgfranciscans.org | Sisters of St. Francis of
Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka
ssfa.org | Discalced Carmelite Nuns
Terre Haute
heartsawake.org | Marian Friary
Franciscans of the Immaculate
maryschildren.com | Conventual Franciscan Friars
franciscanususa.org | Society of Jesus Midwest Province
jesusmidwest.org |
| | | | | Little Sisters of the Poor
littlesistersofthepoor.org | Order of Friars Minor
St. Louis Province
thefriars.org |

Deacon and his wife mentor couples in deacon formation program

By Victoria Arthur

Special to *The Criterion*

Growing up in northwest Indiana in a devout Catholic family, Patrick Bower and his five siblings sometimes pretended to celebrate Mass during playtime, complete with vestments from assorted articles of clothing they had on hand.

Aside from those childhood moments, the thought of pursuing a vocation to ordained ministry never crossed Bower's mind—until a series of articles in *The Criterion* changed everything.

Bower was an insurance salesman with two grown children when his wife, Lynn, brought the articles to his attention in 2003. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis was exploring the idea of starting a deacon formation program, and she immediately thought that her husband would be perfect for the role.

Bower was skeptical, but thanks to his wife's persuasion and the almost ceaseless prompting of others, in June 2008 he was among the first group of men to be ordained as permanent deacons in the history of the archdiocese.

"I put everything in the Holy Spirit's hands," Deacon Bower said, speaking not only of his years of formation but every day since his ordination. "I have become a complete believer in the Holy Spirit to help me carry out what I need to do in every situation."

He is grateful for that divine guidance, because a deacon's work is never done.

Permanent deacons are distinguished from transitional deacons, who are men in the final stage of formation for the priesthood. Most permanent deacons are married when they are ordained, with families and full-time careers.

In their ministry, they assist priests and serve their parishes in myriad ways. They proclaim the Gospel and preach homilies at Mass, officiate at weddings and funeral services that do not involve the Eucharist, and celebrate the sacrament of baptism. They also dedicate themselves to the service of charity in the broader community.

Deacon Bower was no stranger to service when he embarked on his journey to the permanent diaconate. He had begun bringing the Eucharist to patients at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis in 1999. Today, he continues to oversee all extraordinary ministers of holy Communion ministers

at Methodist, IU and Riley hospitals, all in the capital city.

It was his hospital ministry that opened his eyes to the spiritual needs of people from all walks of life and often facing dire circumstances—and opened his heart to the possibility of doing more for the Church.

"There are so many of what I would call Holy Spirit moments," said Deacon Bower. "You realize that you may be the last person to talk to someone about Christ. You encounter people who have been away from the Church or families who just want someone to pray with them. Mostly, you are there to listen and meet people where they are."

Those qualities and strengths—the ability to listen and to accompany people on their individual faith journeys—have been equally valuable in one of Deacon Bower's most important roles since ordination. It is a role that he shares with Lynn, his wife of 52 years, who continues to walk with her husband every step of the way.

For the past 12 years, the Bowers have served as the mentor couple to other men in the deacon formation program and their wives. They know the long, sometimes arduous road to the permanent diaconate and its effect on the family.

That process begins with a year of inquiry, in which men considering the permanent diaconate attend monthly information sessions held across central and southern Indiana. Spouses are not only welcome but encouraged to join them.

The Bowers were longtime members of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis when this journey began, and Lynn says that their intense discussions during countless long car rides to and from the inquiry sessions solidified their resolve to move forward. They then embarked on four years of formation, which involved a commitment of one weekend



Deacon Patrick Bower, center, elevates a chalice during the eucharistic prayer of the June 24, 2017, Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis in which 21 men were ordained as permanent deacons for the archdiocese. Then-Archbishop-designate Charles C. Thompson elevates a host at right and Father Joseph Feltz concelebrates at left. (File photo by Sean Gallagher)

per month of college-level theology classes and other training.

"Despite both of us growing up Catholic, we learned so much through this program," said Lynn, a graduate of the former Chartrand High School in Terre Haute and a longtime preschool teacher and spiritual director. "We both grew tremendously. This entire experience is beyond anything we could have imagined for our lives."

Deacon Bower, a graduate of Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis, says that, from the beginning, he could not envision the formation process without his wife at his side.

"It is such a commitment and so life-changing that I believe it was essential for us to experience it together," Deacon Bower said.

In their capacity as a mentor couple, they are completely dedicated to the spiritual and practical needs of men in the deacon formation program and their wives, particularly during the monthly weekend formation sessions held at various locations around the archdiocese.

There are currently 21 men in formation for the diaconate, but the Bowers have journeyed alongside nearly 40 others since 2008.

"I don't think I could pull off a formation weekend without them," said Deacon Kerry Blandford, director of deacon formation for the archdiocese and another member of the first class of permanent deacons ordained in 2008. "Pat and Lynn are so dependable, and more importantly, they are so approachable for the candidates and their wives. They're always there to listen, and even after ordination, the deacons often go to Pat for advice.

"Theirs is a ministry of presence."

Deacon Bower recently began ministry at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Franklin. He also serves the spiritual needs of inmates at the nearby Johnson County Jail.

There, and everywhere he goes, Deacon Bower says he will always place his trust in the Holy Spirit. And he looks forward to continuing to accompany others on their own paths to the permanent diaconate—a vocation that is strictly voluntary, with no monetary compensation but nevertheless immeasurable rewards.

"There are so many blessings,"



Deacon Patrick Bower is pictured in early 2020 prior to the emergence of the coronavirus pandemic at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. As part of his ministry of charity as a deacon, he oversees extraordinary ministers of holy Communion at Methodist, IU and Riley hospitals, all in Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)

Deacon Bower said. "And I am so grateful that my wife and my entire family have been part of this journey."

(Victoria Arthur is a freelance writer and member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg.) †

'THERE ARE SO MANY BLESSINGS. AND I AM SO GRATEFUL THAT MY WIFE AND MY ENTIRE FAMILY HAVE BEEN PART OF THIS JOURNEY!'

DEACON PATRICK BOWER



Then-deacon candidate Patrick Bower and his wife Lynn process on June 28, 2008, into SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis at the start of the Mass in which he and 24 other men were ordained as the first class of permanent deacons in the history of the archdiocese. (File photo by Mary Ann Wyand)



Sister gives up her fight with God and finds the joy of seeking 'the more' in life

By John Shaughnessy

Just 5 years old at the time, Kathleen Branham was hemorrhaging so badly that a doctor told her parents to call a priest because she wouldn't survive.

Yet as the priest anointed her forehead, the little girl had a comforting feeling deep in her heart.

"I knew—I knew—I would be OK," she says now, 59 years later. "Whether it was the Holy Spirit, I'm not sure. I just knew I would be OK."

She was also convinced about another future prospect for her life during that time in 1961 when she was rushed to a hospital to take out her spleen, which had become enlarged because of a blood disorder.

The religious sisters who helped her during her stay in the hospital stood out to her, partly because they had an air of mystery around them in their habits and mostly because "they were so happy and joyful."

They left such an impression that she decided then she would become a religious sister one day. And that belief intensified during the 12 years of her Catholic education in Indianapolis under the guidance of the Franciscan sisters of Oldenburg.

"When I was in the first grade, I told my family I was going to be a sister," she says. "But life got in the way."

In fact, nearly 40 years passed before she finally embraced that childhood call to vocation. And the reality of Sister Kathleen's later-in-life commitment reflects the choice made by several women who are now members of the Oldenburg Franciscan community.

"I did not want to fight God anymore," she says.

'It's time to come home'

Her fight with God began shortly after she graduated from Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis in 1974, after spending the first three years of her secondary education at the former St. Mary's Academy, also located in the city.

"When I got to be 19, 20, I put God on the back burner to figure out who I was. I moved to Evansville because I wanted my independence. Then I thought, 'Maybe I should get married and have children.' I was in and out of relationships, but I never made the commitment."

She did make a lot of money during

the next two decades, from the late 1970s to the late 1990s.

"I had an awesome-paying job as an operations manager in the transportation industry," she says. "I filled my life with material possessions. I had a five-bedroom home, just for me. I had a sports car—a Mustang—and a place on the lake. And a boat."

Yet in the midst of this time, even when she felt she was fighting God, she still believed he was talking to her. Finally, she listened.

"God said, 'I have better plans for you.' I knew something was missing. I was in my '30s when my parents died. I knew I didn't want to miss out on the 'What if?' in life. I went back to church. That's when I realized I was filling my life with material possessions instead of filling my life with God."

"God was the big part missing in my life. I felt God was saying, 'It's time to come home.'"

'Seeking the more in life'

When she thinks of "home," Sister Kathleen remembers her days in Catholic grade schools and high schools when students boarded a bus for Oldenburg for the funeral of a Franciscan sister who had been their teacher.

"Oldenburg has always felt like home," she says.

She entered the Franciscan community there in 2000 at the age of 43, believing it's where God wanted her to be, knowing it's where she wanted and needed to be, remembering it's where a 5-year-old girl once dreamed she would eventually be.

"The moment I drove through the gates of Oldenburg, I just felt like [I was] home. I've been here 20 years now, and I'm not going anywhere."

"I'm the vocations director now. Our last six women who entered our community were older—anywhere between 40 and 50 when they entered. They're very gifted women. A lot of them felt the same thing I did. They were seeking the more in life."

At the same time, she's looking forward to the arrival of a young woman in her 20s who is expected to enter the community next spring.

"More and more young women are seeking religious life once again," she says. "We welcome them with open arms. In the past year, I responded to over 30 requests regarding religious life and 90% were in their 20s."



As the vocation director of the Franciscan Sisters of Oldenburg, Franciscan Sister Kathleen Branham, left, works to draw women to the wonderful life she has known as a religious sister. Here, she poses for a picture with Franciscan Sister Olga Wittekind and Franciscan Brother Joseph Bach during a Vocation Fair in Brooklyn, N.Y. (Submitted photo)

'When we laugh, we laugh hard'

As vocations director, Sister Kathleen makes sure that women get the "behind-the-scenes" look at the Franciscan community when they come to Oldenburg to discern a possible calling to religious life.

"I want them to see 100 percent of us," she says. She also shares her experience.

"The call to serve God is not always an easy one, but it is a joyful one," she says. "These women are the most caring, most supporting group of women I've ever been around in my life."

"Like anything, there are times that can be challenging. Our vows of poverty, chastity and obedience call us to go outside of ourselves for what's in the best interests of the community. When we pray, we pray hard. When we laugh, we laugh hard. When we're challenged, we're there for each other. Being Franciscan, we're also the voice for a lot of voiceless people out there."

During her time in the Franciscan community, Sister Kathleen has served as a social worker, working with children in the foster care system and with children who have been abused and neglected.

Other sisters in the community have traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border to serve people hoping to start a new life in America.

Franciscan sisters impact lives, she says. Sister Kathleen knows the impact they have on her life.

"I feel like I've grown up in the community here, even coming in at 43. We're individual, but we're interconnected. I've never felt so much love, strength and support. That brings us closer to God."

(For more information about the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in Oldenburg, visit www.oldenburgfranciscans.org.) †

Three Saint Meinrad monks celebrate anniversaries

Criterion staff report

The Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad celebrated the jubilees of three of their confreres on July 26.

Honored were Brother Rabin Bivins and Father Colman Grabert on their 60th anniversary of profession of vows, and Father Germain Swisshelm on the 60th anniversary of his ordination as a priest.



Br. Raban Bivins, O.S.B.

Brother Rabin, a native of Owensboro, Ky., professed vows as a monk of Saint Meinrad on May 7, 1960. He came to the monastery in 1957 to attend school at its former St. Placid Hall.

In the early 1960s, Brother Rabin worked

in various assignments, including in the monastery's shoe shop, as a volunteer fire fighter and as a house

prefect in the monastery. He also served at Saint Meinrad's former monastic foundation in Peru from 1965-67.

Brother Rabin has worked as a locksmith at Saint Meinrad since 1984. In 1996, he became the first brother in the monastic community to be named subprior (third in leadership), serving in that position until 2007.

He currently serves in the monastery infirmary and is the monastery's almoner and director of community outreach.



Fr. Colman Grabert, O.S.B.

Father Colman, a native of Evansville, Ind., professed vows on Aug. 15, 1960. He received priestly formation in Saint Meinrad's high school and college (both now closed), and at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. He was

ordained a priest on Sept. 5, 1965.

Father Colman earned a licentiate in sacred theology from the Collegio di Sant'Anselmo in Rome in 1969. He then served on the faculty of the seminary from 1967-94.

For many years, he served as the monastery's principal organist, as secretary to the archabbot, house prefect, gardener and in the mail service. He currently ministers as director for guided retreats and offers preached retreats at the Saint Meinrad Guest House and Retreat Center.

Father Germain, a native of Orrville, Ohio, professed vows on Aug. 15, 1957, and was ordained a priest on Sept. 25, 1969. He later did graduate studies at Indiana University, the University of Oklahoma and San Marcos University in Lima, Peru.

He taught at St. Placid Hall from 1962-67. In 1962, he was a founding member of Saint Meinrad's monastic foundation in Peru. He taught at a seminary and high school in Huaraz,

Peru, and served as an associate pastor at San Juan Lurigancho Parish in Lima.



Fr. Germain Swisshelm, O.S.B.

He also helped develop a Quechua-Spanish dictionary and a nine-volume manuscript of the New Testament in Quechua, which is a pre-Columbian language still spoken by the natives of the mountain regions of Peru.

For about 40 years, Father Germain has celebrated the weekly Saturday morning Mass at Saint Meinrad's Shrine of Our Lady of Monte Cassino. Since 1996, he has overseen the preparing of readings for the Liturgy of the Hours in the Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einseideln.

(For more information about Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, visit www.saintmeinrad.org.) †



Conventual Franciscan vocations director journeys in faith with young adults

By Sean Gallagher

St. Francis of Assisi has become a beloved saint through the centuries. Although he lived 800 years ago halfway around the world in central Italy, thousands of men and women around the globe continue to embody his love for Christ, the Gospel, all people and all creation.

Conventual Franciscan Father Mario Serrano is one of them. A member of his order's Our Lady of Consolation Province, based in Mount St. Francis in the New Albany Deanery, Father Mario currently serves in El Paso, Texas, in campus ministry, in addition to being his community's vocations director.

For him, campus ministry and promoting vocations dovetail well. He enjoys seeing many of the young adults he ministers to at El Paso Community College and at the University of Texas in El Paso deepen their faith through their college years.

"Their faith is part of their identity," Father Mario said. "So, when they go off into the world, they seek out a place where they can work and talk about their faith. They look for a place where they can live out their vocation in regard to their gifts."

Before serving in campus ministry in El Paso, Father Mario ministered to Catholic college students in Terre Haute at Indiana State University and Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, and at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in St. Mary-of-the-Woods.

Bobbie Jo Monahan, an education professor at Indiana State, collaborated with Father Mario at St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute, which serves as a campus ministry hub for the western Indiana city.

"He had the ability to individualize what each student needed," she said. "Sometimes a student needed a shoulder and a hug, and sometimes a student needed a bit of reality."

"He had a knack for getting to know students and taking students to that next level of responsible religion. He promotes not only self-awareness for students, but a global lens through religious responsibility."

Sandra Anderson, who ministers with Father Mario in campus ministry in



Conventual Franciscan Father Mario Serrano, vocations director for his order's Our Lady of Consolation Province, which is based in Mount St. Francis in the New Albany Deanery, preaches during a March 8 Mass on the campus of the University of Texas El Paso in El Paso. (Submitted photo)

El Paso, agrees.

"He is selfless and puts students and their needs first," Anderson said. "He takes the time to sit and attentively listen to the students, something that many students need. One can truly see that this is his calling. Everything he does comes from the heart, with such humbleness and compassion for others."

This openness to and valuing of the needs and gifts of each individual person that so helps him in campus ministry, Father Mario said, is part of his identity as a follower of St. Francis.

Pope Francis recently highlighted how the saint was open to relationships with others, including those at the margins of society, in his new encyclical

letter *"Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship."*

"Human belonging is something I promote within campus ministry," Father Mario said. "We belong to each other. There is a sense of relationship that we need to become aware of. I long for brotherhood beyond borders."

Anderson has seen this Franciscan quality of Father Mario on display.

"Friar Mario is open to all, treating every student and community member the same regardless of their social status, race, and even religion," she said. "He journeys with all regardless of their situation. As St. Francis did, Friar Mario reaches out to those who are marginalized in our society. Those who are seen as the least, he treats as equals."

Building relationships far and wide with people from diverse backgrounds is a big part of Father Mario's ministry in promoting vocations for his community. He makes connections with men across the U.S. who are discerning possible vocations as Conventual Franciscans.

Such communication means that he has often lived out of his suitcase as he traveled to Michigan, Louisiana, Florida and elsewhere to meet with men interested in learning more about the Franciscan vocation.

The coronavirus pandemic has made such travel more difficult, although Father Mario said he is exploring ways to make that possible now.

However, the pandemic has not kept him from promoting vocations.

"I can't simply wait this out," Father Mario said. "There are people who are discerning and want to meet. How do we go about that?"

It still happens in one-on-one meetings when possible. He also shares information about his province through videos posted online.

"We were already starting to do that prior to COVID," Father Mario said. "We've put together videos of who we are as Franciscans, where we minister and what the hopes are for the young friars."

He's also organizing vocations

retreats that take place virtually.

"We're calling in friars to be present with us for those who aren't ready to travel, but are discerning," Father Mario said. "Some are coming here [to El Paso] from Michigan and Florida. But we'll plug in others who will join us through Zoom."

No matter the varying ways he journeys with young adults in college or those discerning their vocation, Father Mario said prayer is at the heart of his ministry.

"We friars pray for vocations daily," he said. "We pray daily for those who are discerning and are being called to our way of life. Prayer is powerful."

(For more information about the Conventual Franciscans' Our Lady of Consolation Province, based in Mount St. Francis, visit franciscansusa.org.) †



Conventual Franciscan Father Mario Serrano poses with college students after a Nov. 2, 2019, Mass at the U.S.-Mexican border in El Paso, Texas. (Submitted photo)

'HUMAN BELONGING IS SOMETHING I PROMOTE WITHIN CAMPUS MINISTRY. WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER. THERE IS A SENSE OF RELATIONSHIP THAT WE NEED TO BECOME AWARE OF. I LONG FOR BROTHERHOOD BEYOND BORDERS!'

FR. MARIO SERRANO, O.F.M. CONV.



Providence sister brings faith to medical ministry during pandemic

By Jason Moon
Special to *The Criterion*

Born in 1986 in Indianapolis, Providence Sister Arrianne Whittaker's life journey took her and her family to many different areas in the United States. By the time she was 5, the family settled in Germantown, Wis., where she graduated from high school in 2005.



Sr. Arrianne Whittaker, S.P.

"I tell people I am a Hoosier by birth, but a 'Cheesehead' by choice," Sister Arrianne said. After receiving her bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences from Marquette University in Milwaukee, she learned about the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods' volunteer ministry and elected to take a year off from school to volunteer for the congregation.

"I literally learned about Providence Volunteer Ministries on a whim, through a volunteer fair that was at Marquette," Sister Arrianne said. "I attended the fair at the last minute as I didn't have a plan for my next year and thought doing a year of volunteer service might be an interesting way to discern my next steps."

Sister Arrianne also said she wanted to make sure she still wanted to be a doctor during the year away from school. As she continued volunteering with the congregation, she knew she wanted to minister as a doctor, and become a woman religious with the Sisters of Providence.

"I really count providence as a huge part of the reason I came to Providence Volunteer Ministries," Sister Arrianne said. "I absolutely did not have any

plan to become a sister at the time, but I never realized how big of a change coming to the Woods would make in my life."

In 2012, Sister Arrianne entered the congregation and later followed her parent's footsteps by entering medical school. Her father is a medical doctor, and her mother is a nurse.

In 2019, she achieved her lifelong dream by graduating from medical school at Marian University in Indianapolis. Since graduating, she has ministered as a resident physician at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.

Then earlier this year, the coronavirus reared its ugly head. To date, more than 40 million people have been infected with the virus worldwide, including more than 8 million Americans. In Indiana, more than 160,000 people have tested positive for the virus. And in Marion County, where Indianapolis is located, more than 26,000 people have tested positive, with almost 800 deaths.

Sister Arrianne said she never thought her early experiences in the medical field would include dealing with a pandemic and with patients who were infected with COVID-19. It is in this reality that she continues to live out the congregation's core mission of collaborating with others to create a more just and hope-filled world through prayer, education, service and advocacy.

"It's a privilege and an honor to serve in this way during the pandemic," Sister Arrianne said. "But it is an extremely difficult time for medical care professionals. I fear for my colleagues who are high risk, and I'm frustrated with the stubbornness of this virus."

"However, working with COVID-19 patients has been life-giving because it feels like I really am making a difference. But it is a very difficult disease to watch people suffer through. I never would have guessed that this pandemic would coincide with my initial



Providence Sister Arrianne Whittaker, center, second row, celebrates with fellow members of her religious community after graduating in 2019 from medical school at Marian University in Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)

years as a physician, and I imagine that what I have seen and experienced in the last six months will mold me for years to come as I learn who my identity as a doctor really is."

Despite the pressures of ministering in the medical field during a pandemic, Sister Arrianne said she believes providence has "called me and my colleagues to be present in this way at this time for a reason."

"I'm trusting that as we continue to walk the unknown of this path, we will be given strength, resilience, courage, trust and knowledge needed to overcome any challenges this disease presents," Sister Arrianne continued.

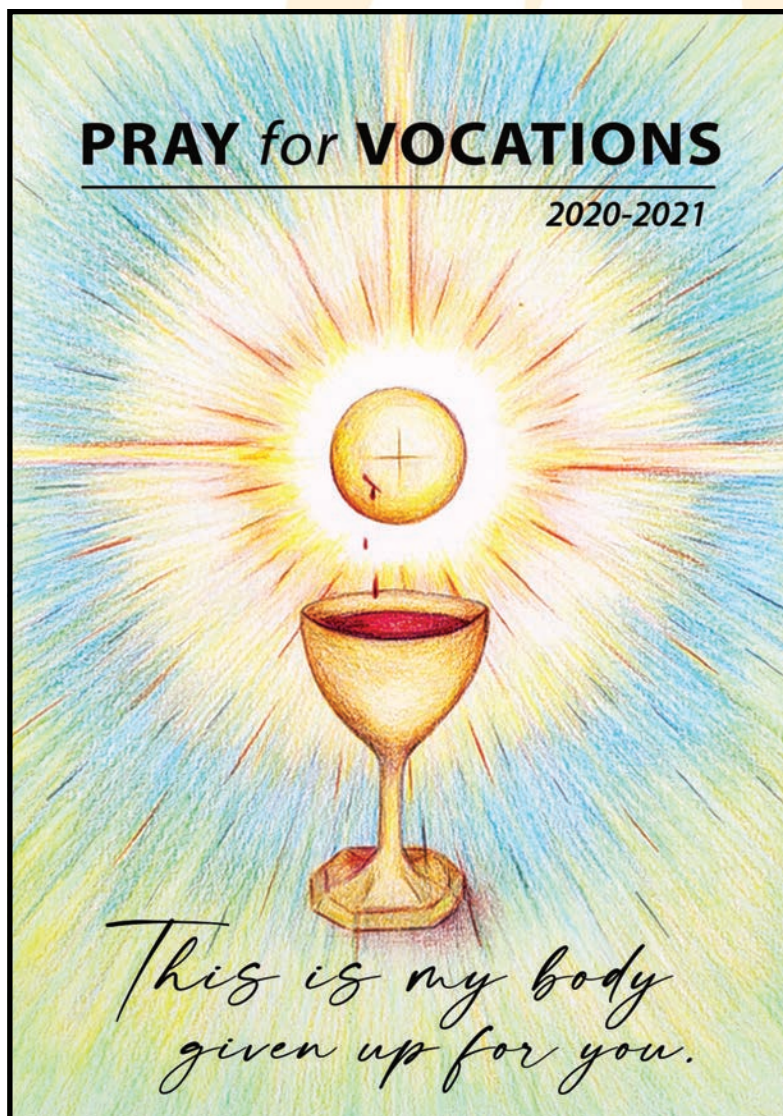
Through her initial experiences with her ministry, Sister Arrianne said she has a greater appreciation of how doctors

are "healers" and how that correlates directly with the Sisters of Providence's core mission.

"It is one thing to take care of a patient from a medical perspective, but often in these times, I've been called to be a companion through the anxiety and fear that this disease evokes," she said. "I am also very aware of how important our role is in communicating with patients' families. Oftentimes, we are the only connection they have to their loved one."

(Jason Moon is the media relations manager for the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. For more information about the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, visit spsmw.org.) †

Prayer Card and Intentions



2020-2021 Seminararian and Religious in Formation Prayer Card
Please pray for the following individuals and intentions on the corresponding day of the month.

1. Pope Francis
2. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson
3. Matthew Perronie
4. Michael Clawson
5. Tyler Huber / Sr. Evelyn Lobo, SSpS
6. José Neri / Sr. M. Evangeline Rutherford, OSF
7. Jack Wright / Sr. Mary Peter Ruschke, OSF
8. Anthony Armbruster / Sr. Mary Amata Naville, OSF
9. Liam Hosty / Sr. Lucia Christi Zetzl, SV
10. JJ Huber / Sr. Gabriel Marie Trimble, MICM
11. Nick Rivelli / Sr. Agnes Mary Graves, RSM
12. Sam Rosko / Sr. Magdelene Marie Schafer
13. Bobby Vogel / Br. Alberic Henry, OCSO
14. Justin Horner / Br. Dominic Jean, OP
15. Aaron Noll / Br. Macarius Bunch, OP
16. Matthew Ohlhaut / Br. James Henke, CSC
17. Khui Shing / Benjamin Sasin (CSC)
18. Isaac Siefker / Josh Amodeo (CSC)
19. Kris Garlitch / Br. Joseph Michael Kraemer, SJ
20. Khaing Thu / Br. Taylor Fulkerson, SJ
21. Samuel Hansen / Br. Jeffrey Sullivan, SJ
22. James Hentz / Ben Jansen, nSJ
23. Christopher Schneider / Mike Rushka, nSJ
24. Randy Schneider / Br. Nicholas Green, nLC
25. Sr. Tracey Horan, SP
26. Sr. Emily Marie Tekolste, SP
27. Sr. Ashley Barnett, SOLT
28. Sr. Mary Lily among Thorns McCann, SSVM
29. For the Priests and Religious of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis
30. For Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life

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



SEMINARIAN

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Thomas Widner, the seminary's beloved director of spiritual formation, died.

"That was a really challenging time," Hosty said. "A lot of guys, myself included, had to realize that we're really not in it for the glamour. There's no glory in [the priesthood] for us in the way the world defines it. I realized, too, that while this old wound in the Church was being re-opened, we can be instruments to kind of heal it."

Challenging times at Bishop Bruté continued when his senior year was abruptly cut short in March at the start of the coronavirus pandemic. Marian halted in-person classes and the seminarians returned to their home dioceses.

Hosty said he went through some mourning of what he and his classmates had lost.

"But the Lord was at work in a mysterious way because of it," he said. "I was able to have more time to spend in prayer and really looked at myself and my relationship with God. In some ways, I'm immensely grateful for God's guiding hand during all of that."

In the late spring, Hosty lived for about two months at the rectory of St. Barnabas Parish with its pastor, Father Daniel Mahan, much like the seminarian had done previously during breaks in school.

"Liam is a self-starter," said Father Mahan. "He doesn't have to wait for someone to give him instructions. During his school breaks, he took it upon himself to visit classrooms at St. Barnabas and Roncalli to talk about vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Nobody asked him to do that. His talks were very well received."

'Pull the trigger'

Now a seminarian in I Theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Hosty is still affected by the pandemic.

Although in-person classes resumed at Saint Meinrad this fall, the seminarians wear masks and practice social distancing. Trips off campus are rare, and pastoral ministry in parishes, hospitals and nursing homes has been suspended.

Still, despite the continued challenges of priestly formation, Hosty knows



Seminarian Liam Hosty proclaims a reading during an Aug. 3 Mass at the chapel of Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis. The liturgy was part of the annual convocation of archdiocesan seminarians. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

he is where God wants him to be, convinced that his struggles with speech and learning disabilities since he was a young child prepared him for ordained ministry.

"I really had to focus on mitigating challenges presented to me on writing, speaking and interpersonal relationships, which is pretty much my entire vocation now," Hosty said. "By focusing on that so much, I've really honed those skills to a T."

He encourages other young men who think that God might be calling them to the priesthood to give the seminary a try, even if they have experienced challenges in their lives.

"If you're a young guy discerning, just do it. Pull the trigger," Hosty said. "You're not wasting your life by going to seminary. You're gaining an entirely beautiful life. I have no regrets and would do it all over again."

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

MORE ABOUT LIAM HOSTY...

AGE: 23

PARENTS: Tom and Julie Hosty

HOME PARISH: St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis

EDUCATION: St. Barnabas School, Roncalli High School, Marian University and Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, all in Indianapolis; Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: Matthew 5:3-12 (the Beatitudes)

FAVORITE SAINT: St. Joseph

FAVORITE PRAYER OR DEVOTION: St. Thomas Aquinas' "Prayer before Communion"

FAVORITE BOOK: *Till We Have Faces* by C.S. Lewis

FAVORITE MOVIE: *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*

HOBBIES: Reading, running and hiking

PRIEST

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and for the opportunity for nurses to be trained to help the sick and suffering."

'They would just shoot and kill you'

But all was not smooth progress during those years at the hospital. Father Kalapurackal calls those years "unstable" as insurgents sought Manipur State's independence from India.

"There were attacks on the Church, especially for clergy and people from outside the state"—two categories that applied to him, the priest says.

At one point an insurgent group built a camp near his church in Imphal. There were times he couldn't celebrate Mass and had to lock the church due to gunfire and bombings.

One of his most frightening encounters with insurgents occurred one year on Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary—and India's Independence Day, a day the secessionist insurgents refused to acknowledge.

"They thought I was celebrating Independence Day," Father Kalapurackal recalls. "I told them I was celebrating Mass for the Assumption. They started firing on the church. It really shook me up."

So did another of the insurgents' actions—extortion, demanding payment of "taxes" to the group.

"Anyone who held responsibility in any position had to abide by them or they would just shoot and kill you," he says.

His role as hospital director placed

the priest in a vulnerable position. By 2011 there were death threats on his life, and his archbishop ordered him to return to his family's village for safety.

"That's how I left the archdiocese [of Imphal] and was looking for an opportunity to serve in different countries, including the U.S.," says Father Kalapurackal.

His friend and former fellow priest of the Imphal Archdiocese, Father Varghese Maliakkal, had emigrated to the U.S. a few years prior and had served in central and southern Indiana since 2006. Father Maliakkal recommended him to then-Auxiliary Bishop Christopher J. Coyne.

"I arrived here in the archdiocese on Aug. 23, 2013," Father Kalapurackal precisely remembers.

He served at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood until 2015 and has led St. Thomas More ever since. He was incardinated into the archdiocese in 2019, when he also became pastor at St. Ann.

'I love every part of my priesthood'

Reflecting on his journey as a priest, Father Kalapurackal goes back to that meeting with the archbishop of Imphal that led to his acceptance into the seminary.

"Twelve-and-a-half years is a long journey," he admits. "But I didn't find happiness in anything else. ... I never felt I'm worthy, but through God's mercy and love I am found worthy through Jesus, who calls me to share in his priesthood."

To those discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life, Father Kalapurackal advises patience.

"It's not always easy," he says. "But God will make it clear just like a sculptor brings out a beautiful statue

from stone. God will do that for us. We only have to allow ourselves to be chiseled by him."

He also has advice for members of a Church desperately in need of more priests: "Pray for vocations."

"Unless every family and every parish is praying for more laborers, we won't have more vocations," he cautions. "It needs to start in the family—families praying the rosary to Blessed Mother Mary, and families having a special love and devotion to the sacraments."

Father Kalapurackal practices what he preaches. Almost every Mass in his parishes, he says, includes a petition for an increase in religious and priestly vocations. Those who pray in St. Thomas More's perpetual adoration chapel are asked to pray for the same intention.

To both support the archdiocese's seminarians and possible future vocations, St. Thomas More parish hosts an annual dinner for the archdiocese's seminarians, inviting "as many young people and parishioners as possible to come."

Father Kalapurackal's love for his vocation is strong. "Every aspect of the priesthood is important—offering the sacraments, teaching, administering. I love every part of my priesthood."

Whether serving among tribes in India or the people of central and southern Indiana, he sees his call—and the call of all priests—as the same: to be a missionary for Christ.

"Priesthood is missionary by its very nature," he says. "No matter where you are, you're a missionary—I strongly believe that."

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