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Criterion

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Transitional Deacon Jack Wright teaches a faith formation lesson concerning the Gospel of John at St. Boniface Parish in Fulda on April 20, 2022. He will be ordained a priest for the archdiocese on June 3. (Photo courtesy of Saint Meinrad Archabbey)

Deacon Wright's path to the priesthood is marked by gifts—given, received and lasting

By John Shaughnessy

In all of our lives, there are gifts of experiences and people that eventually lead us to the place where we are supposed to be, to the person we are meant to be.

That's certainly true of transitional Deacon Jack Wright as he prepares to be ordained a priest in the archdiocese by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson on June 3 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

One of the defining experiences for Deacon Wright on his path to the priesthood occurred during a summer stint as a student chaplain at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital Indianapolis.

"The way I look at that summer was Jesus said we should visit the sick, and that was what I was doing," he says. "It helped me to be comfortable to go up to people and start a conversation with them. That isn't natural for me. In a parish, a priest needs to be able to approach people and talk with them. That's how he gets to know people, and that's how they get to see that he loves them."

One specific moment from that summer showed him how the gifts of compassion and presence are needed in times of heartbreak for people.

"There was one time on a Saturday where I was on call, which meant I was the only chaplain in the hospital at that

See **WRIGHT**, page 9

Pope Francis asks Cardinal Zuppi to lead peace mission for Ukraine

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis has asked Italian Cardinal Matteo Zuppi of Bologna to lead a mission "to help ease tensions in the conflict in Ukraine," the Vatican press office said.



Cardinal Matteo Zuppi

The appointment of the cardinal, who is president of the Italian bishops' conference and a longtime member of the Sant'Egidio Community, was confirmed on May 20 by Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office.

While Bruni said "the timing of such a mission and its modalities are currently being studied," he said Pope Francis has never lost hope that some kind of dialogue could "initiate paths of peace."

By referring to Cardinal Zuppi's task as a "mission," Bruni appeared to affirm that it was the same peace mission Pope Francis was referring to April 30 when he told reporters returning to Rome with him from Budapest, Hungary, that he had a plan underway.

Spokesmen for the Ukrainian and Russian governments denied knowing anything about the pope's plan, although Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, insisted they had been informed.

Pope Francis met on May 13 at the Vatican with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who tweeted that he asked the pope "to condemn Russian crimes in Ukraine. Because there can be no equality between the victim and the aggressor." The Ukrainian leader also said he reiterated his insistence on a "just peace" that involves Russia leaving all the Ukrainian territory it occupies.

Il Sismografo, an Italian blog that closely follows the Vatican, had reported on May 18 that Zelenskyy and President Vladimir Putin of Russia "each agreed to

See **UKRAINE**, page 8

God offers a plan for making the most of our lives, readers say

(Editor's note: The Criterion invited our readers to share a favorite Bible verse or a favorite quote that helps remind them of God's presence in their lives and/or helps center them in their relationships with other people. Here is part seven of their responses.)

By John Shaughnessy

It was a tough time in Joan Greiwe's life when she attended the retreat for women who were struggling with their plans for the future.

She had just lost her job, which had helped pay the bills for her, her husband and their four children. And since her husband did seasonal work, the loss of her

job also meant that her family no longer had health insurance. There was also the challenge that their oldest child had just been accepted to a college in the fall.

Filled with worry, Greiwe was given a Bible quote on a piece of paper as she left the retreat. The verse was from the Book of Jeremiah: "For I have a plan for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope" (Jer 29:11).

Greiwe tucked the quote into her purse, focusing instead on the meeting that she soon attended with her college-bound son to choose his classes.

See **READERS**, page 12

At right, Joan Greiwe holds a painting she created during an outing with six of her sisters. (Submitted photo)





A mother and her three sons take part in a 2021 Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. (Criterion file photo by Natalie Hoefler)

Saint Meinrad seminary seeks to revive children's participation at Mass through new project

Criterion staff report

In the midst of the three-year National Eucharistic Revival, Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad is starting an initiative to help revive the involvement of children in Sunday Mass.

The "Children's Revival of Participation at Sunday Mass" is funded by a \$1.25 million grant from the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment, Inc., and its Nurturing Children Initiative, which involves 26 organizations, including Saint Meinrad.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, which operates the seminary and school of theology, is the recipient of the grant.

Saint Meinrad's project aims to increase the capacity of parishes to incorporate children's leadership and children's ways of worship into its regular Sunday Masses.

Experts in liturgy, catechesis and child development will help parishes invigorate music, movement, preaching and praying in ways that invite children to lead the whole congregation from worship into witness.

To pilot concrete efforts, Saint Meinrad will seek 10 to 15 partner parishes eager to make their Sunday Eucharist the source and summit of all activities that nurture the faith of children.

Parishes will plan and implement their first Children's Revival efforts in 2024, just as the National Eucharistic Revival is moving from its Year of Parish Revival in 2023-24 to its Year of Mission in 2024-25.

"Intergenerational parishes thrive and our eucharistic faith shines forth when children are seen, heard and valued in

the Church's central act of corporate worship," says project supervisor Nathaniel Marx, a faculty member at Saint Meinrad.



Nathaniel Marx

In comments made to *The Criterion*, Marx emphasized how the "Children's Revival of Participation at Sunday Mass" can ultimately bring parishioners of all ages to a deeper encounter with Christ in the Eucharist, which is a primary goal of the National

Eucharistic Revival.

"Young and old alike, we're all on the same pilgrimage, including the young disciples still waiting to receive their first Communion," Marx said. "But Jesus tells us that we all must 'become like children' if we want to reach our heavenly destination, and that whoever welcomes a child in Jesus's name welcomes Jesus himself" (Mt 18:1-5).

"So, by renewing how our parishes welcome children into the celebration of Sunday Mass, we're renewing how we welcome Christ in the Eucharist and journey with him 'to become the children of God' and to inherit the kingdom of God as the bishops urge" (Jn 1:12).

(Sean Gallagher contributed to this article. For more information or to inquire about becoming a partner parish in the Children's Revival project, contact Nathaniel Marx at nmarx@saintmeinrad.edu.) †



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

May 28–June 4, 2023

<p>May 28 – 9:30 a.m. Indianapolis 500 Mass at Trackside Garage 19, Indianapolis Motor Speedway</p> <p>May 28 – 12:18 p.m. Invocation for the 107th Indianapolis 500, Indianapolis Motor Speedway</p> <p>May 30 – 7 p.m. Confirmation Mass for youths of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis</p> <p>May 31 – 3 p.m. Finance Council meeting, Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis</p> <p>May 31 – Noon Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary in Blessed Sacrament Chapel at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis</p> <p>May 31 – 7 p.m. Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Malachy Parish, Brownsburg, and St. John the Evangelist Parish, Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral</p> <p>June 1 – 10 a.m. Leadership Team meeting, Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center</p>	<p>June 1 – 10:30 a.m. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, virtual Evangelization and Catechesis Committee meeting</p> <p>June 1 – 2:30 p.m. Archdiocese school presidents' and principals' meeting, Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center</p> <p>June 1 – 7 p.m. Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Lawrence and St. Matthew the Apostle parishes, both in Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral</p> <p>June 2 – Noon Pre-Ordination Brunch with transitional deacons, Indianapolis</p> <p>June 2 – 7 p.m. Providence Cristo Rey High School graduation, Indianapolis</p> <p>June 3 – 10 a.m. Mass of Priesthood Ordination, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral</p> <p>June 4 – 2 p.m. Adult confirmations, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral</p>
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Pope appeals for cease-fire, international assistance in Sudan

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis has appealed for a cease-fire in Sudan and for the international community to help promote dialogue.



Pope Francis

The pope has been expressing his concern about Sudan after the midday prayer for weeks; fighting between forces loyal to two different generals has led to the deaths of hundreds of civilians and the displacement of hundreds of thousands more since April 15.

Several humanitarian cease-fire agreements have been reached by the two sides engaged in the power struggle, but the fighting has continued.

Pope Francis said on May 21, "While encouraging the partial


agreements reached so far, I renew my heartfelt appeal for the laying down of weapons, and I ask the international community to spare no effort to make dialogue prevail and to alleviate the suffering of the people."

Food and fuel prices have skyrocketed and access to basic necessities has been cut off for many of the people.

The humanitarian emergency also has spilled onto neighboring countries such as Chad, South Sudan and Egypt, where people have been fleeing to seek safety, according to the U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR.

The UNHCR reported, "Without a resolution to the crisis, many hundreds of thousands more people will be forced to flee in search of safety and basic assistance. UNHCR and its partners estimate that the number of refugees and returnees could reach 860,000 by October."

After praying the "Regina Coeli," the pope also asked people to continue to "be near the beleaguered Ukrainian people." †



Pope Francis' prayer intentions for June

- **For the abolition of torture**—We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

See Pope Francis' monthly intentions at archindy.org/popesintentions.



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Do you have something exciting or newsworthy you want to be considered to be printed in The Criterion?

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Revival a call to accompany those with mental illness, says expert

(May is National Mental Health Awareness Month.)

(OSV News)—With Catholics in the U.S. in the midst of the National Eucharistic Revival, the call to accompany those with mental illness is stronger than ever, a Catholic mental health counselor and researcher told OSV News.



Beth Hlabse

"To live out eucharistic communion means not only the reception of the sacrament," said Beth Hlabse, program director for the Fiat Program on Faith and Mental Health at the University of Notre Dame's McGrath Institute for Church Life. "We are called to then live out that communion in our daily lives—a communion that knits us to Christ himself and to one another."

Launched in 2022 by the U.S. bishops to increase devotion to Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, the revival coincides with a sharp rise in anxiety, depression and other mental health issues among large segments of the nation's population.

Surgeon General Vivek Murthy has issued advisories regarding "alarming increases" in sadness and hopelessness among young people, and in what he called a broad "epidemic of loneliness and isolation."

Those trends urge Catholics to ask "how we as a Church can better support one another and live out this call of caring for one another as one body," said Hlabse.

She cited St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

(1 Cor 12:12-31), in which the Church is depicted as one body, with Christ as the head and faithful as its members.

"St. Paul reminds us ... that when one member of the body suffers, all suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all share its joy," said Hlabse. "That means if a member of my parish community is experiencing mental illness or disability, my flourishing is bound up in theirs."

Mental illness and disabilities can be inherently isolating for both those directly affected and their families, she said.

"They're both often too great a burden for one person or family, and yet so often the burden rests on that person or family to seek additional support and outreach," Hlabse said.

She pointed to the "great need to shift that burden so that falls more upon all of us, as people of the body of Christ, so that we can better support those families with children or loved ones who have mental illnesses or disabilities.

"How can we better involve them in the fabric of parish life?" she asked. "What are the barriers for them in finding fellowship, information and catechesis, and in participating in the sacramental life of the Church?"

Hlabse noted that "some beautiful fruits" have emerged through a number of mental health and disabilities ministries at national, diocesan and parish levels.

She stressed that such initiatives "must not be relegated to ministers or priests," but instead be shared by "the people of God."

Hlabse said an array of resources for accompanying those with mental illness and disabilities are available through Notre Dame's Fiat program, the National Catholic Partnership on Disability and the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers, as well as the Catholic Psychotherapy Association.

She also highlighted the model established by the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv, Ukraine, where persons with mental illness—recently described by UCU president Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia as "arguably the most marginalized" in society—are integrated into UCU campus life.

Catholics can extend that same sense of belonging and connection to those they encounter both in the pew and in the wider community—and fear of those with mental illness and disabilities can be overcome by faith, said Hlabse.

"Practice the presence of God," she said. "When you feel anxious [about someone with mental illness], breathe and ask the Lord's help. So many people need to be known and acknowledged ... [in this] pandemic of loneliness."

Hlabse also underscored the need to remember the gifts those with mental illness and disabilities can offer.

"Let's open ourselves to the gift of friendship, and learn from the unique voices of those with mental illness," she said. "Let's learn to walk with them, because we don't express our vocations in isolation. We need to be able to share them with each other." †

Pope to meet with Nobel winners, young people, to promote human fraternity

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis will meet with 30 Nobel Prize winners and thousands of young people from around the world at the Vatican to promote human fraternity, a Vatican foundation announced.

The pope will participate in the International Meeting on Human Fraternity, under the theme "Not Alone," scheduled to take place in St. Peter's Square and eight other squares around the world simultaneously on June 10.

The initiative, organized by the Vatican "Fratelli Tutti" Foundation, is inspired by Pope Francis' 2020 encyclical "Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship." It is meant to promote "the culture of fraternity and peace and encourage personal commitment in choices and practices of reparation, dialogue and forgiveness" to overcome the "loneliness and marginalization that deny human dignity," the foundation said in a press release on May 23.

The Nobel Prize winners who have joined the initiative—who were not named by the foundation—will meet with leading figures from science, culture, law and international organizations to draft a document calling for a greater

commitment to human fraternity, and will present it to Pope Francis and "all the people in the world who feel called to take up the appeal to build social friendship and the new paradigm of fraternity, justice and peace." †

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Editorial

Religion's declining impact in society and the courage to share our faith

Two recent stories about faith in the United States piqued our interest, and we felt it important as we near Pentecost to reflect on them.

The first, an analysis of several Pew Research Center surveys, found that parents are more likely to prioritize passing on their religious views to their children rather than their political views.

The second, in a new report from the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI), shares a concern about faith in America because only 16% of those who responded to PRRI said that religion is the most important thing in their lives.

In an article recently published by OSV News, one survey by the Pew Research Center found that 35% of U.S. parents said it was “extremely or very important” that their children share their religious views, while fewer than half as many—16%—said the same of their political views.

However, the survey found that parents ranked passing on both religious and political views as less important than passing along other values, “such as being honest and ethical, hardworking, and ambitious.”

We are taught that parents and family members are the primary educators of faith for their children, so the statistics shared in the Pew survey about religion are a bit surprising. But it may be even more surprising for some that religious views are not as important as being honest, ethical, hardworking and ambitious.

Still, there is potential here for the Church, because these values, to varying degrees, are part of the Catholic moral vision and certainly can be strengthened and purified through faith.

Titled “Religion and Congregations in a Time of Social and Political Upheaval,” the PRRI report—which was also highlighted in an article by OSV News—stated those with no religious affiliation represented 27% of the population. Likewise, a majority of Americans either seldom (28%) or never (29%) attend religious services; and more than one-third (37%) of those who exited a religion identified themselves as having previously practiced the Catholic faith.

That more than one-third of the respondents were inactive Catholics should come as no surprise. Most, if not all of us, have family members who have left the faith, and the reasons they cite—a bad experience in a parish, a

disagreement with Church teaching, the priest-abuse scandal and other things—could fill this space.

“One of the meta trends in the American religious landscape over the last 20—even 30—years has been the precipitous decline in religious affiliation and a decline in other indications of religiosity,” said David Campbell, the Packey J. Dee Professor of American Democracy at the University of Notre Dame in northern Indiana. While there is

some debate about underlying reasons, “research that I and others have done has demonstrated that America does seem to be secularizing in a way that it had not previously,” Campbell explained.

For context, Campbell said almost since “the beginning of public opinion polling—going back many, many decades up until roughly 1990—no more than 5% of Americans ever said they had no religious affiliation. And then in the last 30 or so years, you’ve seen this dramatic rise in religious non-affiliation that’s now been accompanied by

other indications that people are less and less religious.”

We share these findings as we approach Pentecost this weekend, known as the birthday of the Church. It commemorates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, which marked the start of the Church’s mission on Earth.

The feast reminds us that the Holy Spirit, known as the advocate of truth, is available to stir within each of us a great desire for God. Like the Apostles and saints of our time, we need to remember we are lifelong learners and must allow God to work through us in our call as missionary disciples.

We must have the courage to share our faith with others—family, friends, strangers, those who have fallen away from the faith, and those who have no faith—in our mission of evangelization.

That might mean, in some cases, that we help individuals see that values they hold dear and try to pass on to others are rooted in the Gospel, and that the Church can help them deepen those values in their lives.

As we celebrate Pentecost and continue on our journey of faith, let us rededicate our lives to Jesus. And may we plant seeds, let our Creator water them, and let God gather the fruit.

—Mike Krokos



A stained-glass window at St. Mary Church in Luxemburg, Wis., depicts the Holy Spirit descending upon the Apostles at Pentecost. The feast of Pentecost, often referred to as the birthday of the Church, is celebrated on May 28 this year. (OSV News photo/Sam Lucero)

Reflection/John Shaughnessy

Celebrating the gift of a life in the Spirit on the Church's birthday

There is always work to do, to be better, but there are times to celebrate, too.

So it is with Pentecost, the day that recalls God's gift of sending the Holy Spirit to descend upon the Apostles. Considered as the birthday of the Church, Pentecost begins the fulfillment of Christ's call to “make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19) and reveals the presence of the Holy Trinity in the world for the first time.

As the Church celebrates its birthday on this Sunday, May 28, and in appreciation of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, here are seven of the special ways that the Catholic faithful of central and southern Indiana strive to live the meaning of Pentecost across the archdiocese—to lead others to Christ and to live his commandment to love God and one another.

A life in community

In the 126 parishes across the archdiocese—representing small towns, large cities, growing suburbs and rural areas—there is the offer of life in community, from the spiritual connection of celebrating the faith and the sacraments together to the social bonds that form in planning, volunteering and enjoying parish festivals together.

Our parishes are faith-based communities that offer a presence and a commitment to one another at every point of life, from the welcoming of a child being baptized to families being comforted at the loss of a loved one.

A hand extended in compassion and hope

With agencies in Bloomington, Indianapolis, New Albany, Tell City and Terre Haute, Catholic Charities in the archdiocese touches the lives of many people in need across central and southern Indiana, many of whom aren't Catholic.

In serving 195,000 meals to people who are hungry, providing shelter and crisis relief services for 40,000, and helping 2,800 people with pregnancy and adoption services, the approach of Catholic Charities' staff members and volunteers in the archdiocese is to be the hands of Christ in lifting people up and leading them to a better life filled with hope.

An education for life and eternity

When Brian Disney talks about the 67 Catholic schools across the archdiocese, the superintendent of Catholic schools starts with an appreciation of the families from all walks of life who have entrusted their 21,000 children to a Catholic education. And his appreciation continues for the 2,300 staff members who have chosen to live their professional lives in the hope of impacting students spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

At the same time, Disney always focuses on the one quality that is at the heart of Catholic schools: “Catholic school education fosters personal relationships with Jesus Christ and a communal witness to the Gospel message of love of God and neighbor.”

It's a focus that's also embraced by many religious education efforts in parishes across the archdiocese.

A welcome to all

The miracle of Pentecost is that people of different countries and different languages could all hear the Apostles inviting them to share in a life rooted in Christ.

In its liturgies, parishes in central and southern Indiana celebrate Masses for people who speak French, English, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, Burmese and other languages. In its outreach, the archdiocese has programs that strive to reach the homeless, the poor, the imprisoned, immigrants and refugees.

An invitation to grow, to go deeper

Within nine months—from November of 2023 to July of 2024—the archdiocese will host two of the largest Catholic events in the United States.

In November, Indianapolis will once again be the site of the National Catholic Youth Conference, drawing more than 20,000 youths from across the country.

In July of 2024, Indiana's capital will also be the site of the National Eucharistic Congress, which is expected to draw 80,000 people from across the country.

Both events will rely heavily upon volunteers from the archdiocese. And both will end with a celebration of the Eucharist in the Mass.

A call to serve God

Each of us has a call to serve God. It can be as a single person, a married couple, a religious, a priest. And parishes and the archdiocese have resources and ministries to help people grow in whatever vocation to which God has called them. There are also resources and ministries that can help people bring others closer to God.

One of the more remarkable vocations in the archdiocese was celebrated on May 3 when Father Paul Landwerlen marked the 69th anniversary of his ordination. At 95 and officially retired, he is still amazingly active in his priesthood at the parish level. He soon will be joined in his service to God and the archdiocese by two new priests, as transitional deacons José Neri and Jack Wright are scheduled to be ordained by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson at 10 a.m. on June 3 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

A gift of life in the Spirit

All of us have been blessed with the gift of life. God has also blessed us with the gift of a life with the Holy Spirit as we try to live Christ's commandment to love God and our neighbor. Of course, the reality is we are often far from perfect in that effort. Still, as we continue to make that effort on Pentecost Sunday and beyond, there's value in recalling the wisdom of the late Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, longtime president of the University of Notre Dame.

In our tough times, in our times when we need to find clarity in our life, Father Hesburgh always recommended this simple, powerful prayer:

“Come, Holy Spirit.”

(John Shaughnessy is assistant editor of The Criterion.) †

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are welcome and every effort will be made to include letters from as many people and representing as many viewpoints as possible.

The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to edit letters from readers as necessary based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content (including spelling and grammar). In

order to encourage opinions from a variety of readers, frequent writers will ordinarily be limited to one letter every three months.

Letters must be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld.

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ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO CHARLES C. THOMPSON



Christ the Cornerstone

The Holy Spirit fills our hearts with God's love

"The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us" (Rom 5:5; Rom 8:11).

On Pentecost Sunday, which we celebrate this weekend, the incredible, self-sacrificing love that Jesus poured out for us on the cross is poured out once again through the gift of the Holy Spirit. God's love transforms the disciples of Jesus from timid, self-centered people into bold and courageous witnesses to the Gospel.

The "tongues of fire" and the "noise like a strong driving wind" (Acts 2:1-11) that descend on the disciples when they are gathered together behind locked doors empowers the followers of Jesus. God's love sets their hearts ablaze, and it strengthens them, making them true missionary disciples.

The Church is born at Pentecost. Through the intervention of the Holy Spirit, individuals who are frightened, lonely and unable to act become an *ecclesia*, an assembly of believers with one mind and heart. It can be argued that the Holy Spirit's most important gift—among so many gifts—is this unity-in-diversity. The divided disciples become one. By the grace of God, the

sinful tendency to "divide and conquer" is overcome by the Holy Spirit, who brings all things together in love and in truth.

The Solemnity of Pentecost celebrates unity in diversity. Gathered in Jerusalem at the time of the first Pentecost were people from many different places with diverse languages and cultures and, we can assume, many different, even contradictory opinions on every subject imaginable. As we read in the Acts of the Apostles:

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God." (Acts 2:5-11)

The amazing thing is not that there was some kind of "simultaneous translation" that miraculously occurred, but that those diverse individuals who heard God's word proclaimed by the disciples were united in love. They did not lose their individuality or their uniqueness, but they came together as one.

This is why our creed affirms that our Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic. In spite of our many differences, and the disagreements that tend to divide and conquer us, we are, in fact, one in the Spirit.

As St. Paul tells us so beautifully, "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone" (1 Cor 12:4-6).

What the Holy Spirit reveals at Pentecost is the fact that God's love transcends our ideas about unity and diversity. The triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) cannot be divided into separate categories or factions. God's love is absolute unity and fullness, and when this love is poured out into our hearts, it brings us together—not in some vague, amorphous way, but as robust, individual

persons who are one with God and each other by the miracle of God's grace.

Anyone who looks at our world (and our Church) today, will have to admit that it takes a miracle to bring our argumentative, divisive and too often warring tribes together as one.

Without the gifts of the Holy Spirit, true unity in diversity is unthinkable. But the miraculous event that we celebrate on Pentecost Sunday has accomplished the unimaginable by the power of God's love "poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us" (Rom 5:5).

The Gospel reading for Pentecost Sunday captures this miracle as follows:

The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (Jn 20:20-23)

From this moment on, we are one Church, united in the Holy Spirit and sent to proclaim the Good News of our salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A blessed Pentecost to all! †



Cristo, la piedra angular

El Espíritu Santo llena nuestros corazones del amor de Dios

"Dios ha derramado su amor en nuestro corazón por el Espíritu Santo que nos ha dado" (Rom 5:5; Rom 8:11).

En el Domingo de Pentecostés, que celebramos este fin de semana, el increíble amor abnegado que Jesús derramó por nosotros en la cruz se derrama una vez más mediante el don del Espíritu Santo. El amor de Dios transforma a los discípulos de Jesús quienes pasan de ser personas tímidas y egocéntricas a testigos audaces y valientes del Evangelio.

Las "lenguas de fuego" y el "estruendo como de un viento fuerte" (He 2:1-11) que descienden sobre los discípulos cuando están reunidos a puerta cerrada dan poder a los seguidores de Jesús. El amor de Dios enciende la llama en sus corazones y los fortalece, convirtiéndolos en verdaderos discípulos misioneros.

La Iglesia nace en Pentecostés. Gracias a la intervención del Espíritu Santo, hombres temerosos, solos e incapaces de actuar se convierten en una *ecclesia*, una asamblea de creyentes con una sola mente y un solo corazón. Podríamos argumentar que, de los muchos dones del Espíritu Santo, el más importante es esta unidad en la diversidad. Los discípulos divididos se convierten en uno, y por la gracia de Dios, la tendencia pecaminosa a "dividir y vencer" es superada por el

Espíritu Santo, que une todas las cosas en amor y en verdad.

La solemnidad de Pentecostés celebra la unidad en la diversidad. Reunidas en Jerusalén en el momento del primer Pentecostés había personas de distintos lugares, de lenguas y culturas diversas y, podemos suponer que también divergían en opiniones que podrían llegar a ser incluso contradictorias, sobre todos los temas imaginables. Como leeremos en los Hechos de los Apóstoles:

En aquel tiempo vivían en Jerusalén judíos piadosos, que venían de todas las naciones conocidas. Al escucharse aquel estruendo, la multitud se juntó, y se veían confundidos porque los oían hablar en su propia lengua. Estaban atónitos y maravillados, y decían: "Fíjense: ¿acaso no son galileos todos estos que están hablando? ¿Cómo es que los oímos hablar en nuestra lengua materna? Aquí hay partos, medos, elamitas, y los que habitamos en Mesopotamia, Judea, Capadocia, el Ponto y Asia. Están los de Frigia y Panfilia, los de Egipto y los de las regiones de África que están más allá de Cirene. También están los romanos que viven aquí, tanto judíos como prosélitos, y cretenses y árabes, ¡y todos los escuchamos hablar en nuestra lengua acerca de las maravillas de Dios!" (Hechos 2:5-11).

Lo asombroso no es que se

produjera milagrosamente algún tipo de "traducción simultánea," sino que aquellos individuos tan diversos que escucharon la Palabra de Dios proclamada por los discípulos se unieran en el amor. No perdieron su individualidad ni su singularidad, pero se unieron en uno solo.

Por eso nuestro Credo afirma que nuestra Iglesia es una, santa, católica y apostólica. A pesar de nuestras muchas diferencias, y de los desacuerdos que tienden a dividirnos y conquistarnos, somos, de hecho, uno en el Espíritu.

Tal como lo expresa tan hermosamente san Pablo: "Ahora bien, hay diversidad de dones, pero el Espíritu es el mismo. Hay diversidad de ministerios, pero el Señor es el mismo. Hay diversidad de actividades, pero Dios, que hace todo en todos, es el mismo" (1 Cor 12:4-6).

Lo que el Espíritu Santo revela en Pentecostés es el hecho de que el amor de Dios trasciende nuestras ideas sobre la unidad y la diversidad. El Dios trino (Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo) no puede dividirse en categorías o facciones separadas. El amor de Dios es unidad y plenitud absolutas, y cuando este amor se derrama en nuestros corazones, nos une, no de una manera vaga y amorfa, sino como personas robustas e individuales que son una con Dios y entre sí por el milagro de la gracia divina.

Cualquiera que mire nuestro mundo (y nuestra Iglesia) hoy en día, tendrá que admitir que se necesita un milagro para unir a nuestras tribus contenciosas, divisivas y, con demasiada frecuencia, beligerantes.

Sin los dones del Espíritu Santo, la verdadera unidad en la diversidad es algo impensable. Pero "Dios ha derramado su amor en nuestro corazón por el Espíritu Santo que nos ha dado" (Rom 5:5), el acontecimiento milagroso que celebramos el domingo de Pentecostés y que logra precisamente aquello que nos resulta impensable.

La lectura del Evangelio del domingo de Pentecostés recoge este milagro de la siguiente manera:

Los discípulos se regocijaron al ver al Señor. Entonces Jesús les dijo una vez más: "La paz sea con ustedes. Así como el Padre me envió, también yo los envío a ustedes." Y habiendo dicho esto, sopló y les dijo: "Reciban el Espíritu Santo. A quienes ustedes perdonen los pecados, les serán perdonados; y a quienes no se los perdonen, no les serán perdonados." (Jn 20:20-23).

Desde este momento, somos una sola Iglesia, unida en el Espíritu Santo y enviada a proclamar la Buena Nueva de nuestra salvación en Cristo Jesús, nuestro Señor.

¡Un bendecido de Pentecostés para todos! †

Events Calendar

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

May-August

Marian University, 3200 Cold Spring Rd., Indianapolis. **Summer Youth Camps**, Innovation Through Engineering, Missionary Disciples Institute, theatre, Launch Your Future 21st Century Scholars, SYO Summer Music, athletic camps; age levels, final registration deadline June 12, fees vary. Information: 317-955-6102, camps@marian.edu, cutt.ly/mariancamps23.

May 29

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. **Memorial Day Mass**, 11 a.m. Information: 317-574-8898, catholiccemeteries.cc.

Calvary Mausoleum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. **Memorial Day Mass**, noon. Information: 317-784-4439, catholiccemeteries.cc.

May 30

Virtual Come and See Retreat: Learn What it Means to be a Providence Associate, 7 p.m., sponsored by Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, free. Registration,

information: PAComeandSee.SistersofProvidence.org.

June 2

Women's Care Center, 4901 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. **First Friday Mass**, 5 p.m., optional tour of center to follow. Information: 317-829-6800, womenscarecenter.org.

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **First Friday bilingual celebration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**, Mass 6 p.m. followed by adoration until 9 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation available. Information: 317-750-7309, msross1@hotmail.com.

St. John Paul II Church, 2253 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. **First Friday Devotion**, 11:45 a.m., litany, consecration to the Sacred Heart, Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by noon Mass. Information: 812-246-2512.

June 3

St. John Paul II Church, 2253 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. **First Saturday Devotion**, 8 a.m., rosary, litany, consecration to the Immaculate

Heart of Mary, confessions 8:10-8:30 a.m. followed by 8:30 a.m. Mass. Information: 812-246-2512.

Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **Day of Discernment Retreat**, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m., sponsored by Our Lady of Greenwood Young Adult Ministry, geared for ages 18-39 but all are welcome, includes talks, discussion, Mass, adoration, confession, breakfast and lunch, \$20. Information, registration: 217-220-5744, cutt.ly/OLGDoD23.

June 4

St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. **African Liberation and Unity Mass**, 2 p.m., celebration of Africa Day, Mass in English, French and several African dialects, pitch-in reception afterward in gym, free. Information, pitch-in offerings: 317-523-4193, pspringer@archindy.org.

St. Vincent de Paul Love Your Neighbor Center, 2500 Churchman Ave., Indianapolis. **Open House**, noon-4 p.m., 2 p.m. blessing

by Father Jeff Godecker, tours of men's transitional shelter, light refreshments, free. Information: cwiley@svdpindy.org.

June 7

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

June 9-10

Virtual Catholic Homeschool Conference, Fri. 12:30-9 p.m., Sat. 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m., speakers include Greg and Lisa Popcak, Father Joseph Gill and Jennifer MacIntosh, \$29.95. Information, registration: 410-620-3622, rwatkins@catholichomeschoolconference.com.

June 10

St. Barnabas Parish, 8300 St. Barnabas Rd., parking lot, Indianapolis. **St. Vincent de Paul Stuff A Truck**, 9-11 a.m., accepting clothing, household goods, linens, furniture,

bicycles, helmets locks and backpacks. List of items most needed: cutt.ly/ItemsNeeded. Information: dsweeney@svdpindy.org.

June 11

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

June 13

Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Taizé Prayer at the Woods**, 7-8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence, virtual option available. Information: Taize.SistersofProvidence.org, 812-535-2952.

June 15

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

Registration deadline for Sept. 17-26 Pilgrimage to

France, Portugal and Spain, sponsored by Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, spiritual director Msgr. Mark Svarczkopf, \$4,499 per person double room occupancy, does not include lunches or driver/guide tips. Information, registration: 317-414-9063, vlspierka@gmail.com.

June 16

Northside Events and Social Club, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, presenter TBA, rosary 6:35 a.m., Mass 7 a.m., buffet breakfast and program following, \$18 members, \$24 non-members. Register by 4 p.m. on June 13. Information, registration: cutt.ly/CBE-Reg.

June 17

Griffin Bike Park, 10700 Bono Rd., Terre Haute. **Quick Quack 5k Trail Run**, 6:30-7:30 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. 5k race, benefitting Terre Haute Catholic Charities, chip timing, refreshments, register by June 11 for T-shirt; \$30 individual, walk-ups welcome; \$100 families of four to eight members, register by June 16. Information and registration: cutt.ly/QuickQuack. †

Retreats and Programs

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

June 9

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **A Day of Quiet Renewal**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$20, \$70 with spiritual direction. Information, registration: 812-933-6437, oldenburgfranciscancenter.org.

June 9-11

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guesthouse, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. **Unpacking the Vocation of Marriage through Scripture and Married Saints**, married couples retreat, Angie and Josh Greulich presenting,

\$425 double. Registration: saintmeinrad.org/retreats.

June 10

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **Wizard of Oz: Struggles in the Soul's Journey to God**, 9:30-

11:30 a.m., Franciscan Sister Olga Wittekind and Claire Sherman facilitating, \$30, \$45 with CEU. Information, registration: 812-933-6437, oldenburgfranciscancenter.org.

June 12, 19

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"The Chosen" Season 3: Discussion and Dinner Series**, 5:30-8:30 p.m., second and third of eight Monday sessions (June 26 July 10, 17, 31; Aug. 7), episode

viewing and discussion, \$16 per session includes dinner, popcorn and refreshments. Registration: ftm.retreatportal.com/events, 317-545-7681, lcoons@archindy.org.

June 16

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Day of Silence**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$40, includes room, lunch and use of common areas and grounds, overnight stay available

for additional \$30, dinner additional \$10. Registration: ftm.retreatportal.com/events, 317-545-7681, lcoons@archindy.org.

June 16-18

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guesthouse, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. **A St. Paul Sampler**, Benedictine Father Eugene Hensell presenting, \$300 single, \$425 double. Registration: saintmeinrad.org/retreats. †

Purchase rubber ducks now for July 4 Terre Haute Catholic Charities Duck Regatta

Rubber ducks are now available for "adoption" for Catholic Charities Terre Haute's Wabash Valley Rubber Duck Regatta, which will take place near the fishing dock at Fairbanks Park, 1100 Girl Scout Lane, in Terre Haute, at 7 p.m. on July 4.

The "adoption fee" of a single \$5 rubber duck for the race will provide 20 meals through the Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank. A \$25 six-duck "quack pack" will provide a month of snacks, evening meals, mentoring and afterschool activities for a child through the organization's

Ryves Youth Center. A \$50 "flock" of 12 ducks will fund the traditions of Christmas with gifts under the tree for a family through the agency's Christmas store, and the "waddles winning pack" of 24 ducks for \$100 will pay for one-and-a-half weeks of lodging and three meals a day for a family at the non-profit's Bethany House.

The owner of the race's winning duck wins \$10,000 cash and a chance to win \$1,000,000. For more information, including a list of dates and locations to adopt ducks for the race, go to duckrace.com/terrehaute. †

Wedding Anniversary Mass with Archbishop Thompson is set for Aug. 27

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson will celebrate the 39th annual archdiocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass at 2 p.m. on Aug. 27 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis. It will be a bilingual liturgy.

The Mass is for all couples of the archdiocese married sacramentally in the Catholic Church. A certificate of recognition will be awarded to all couples who register by Aug. 5.

A reception will follow across the street at the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., from 3-5 p.m.

The reception includes appetizers,

drinks, music and the opportunity to greet the archbishop. There is a five-seats per family limit at the reception, and preference will be given to couples celebrating 25 or more years of sacramental marriage.

The Mass and reception are sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life.

The event is free, but space is limited, and registration is required by Aug. 5.

To register or for more information, go to cutt.ly/AnniversaryMass.

For additional information, contact Claudia Corona at 317-236-7310 or ccorona@archindy.org. †

Wedding Anniversaries

JOHN AND SUSAN (GOOD) SABOL, members of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on May 11.

The couple was married in St. Mary of the Falls Church in Olmsted Falls, Ohio, on May 11, 1968.

They have two children: Amy Jo and John Sabol.

The couple also has two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

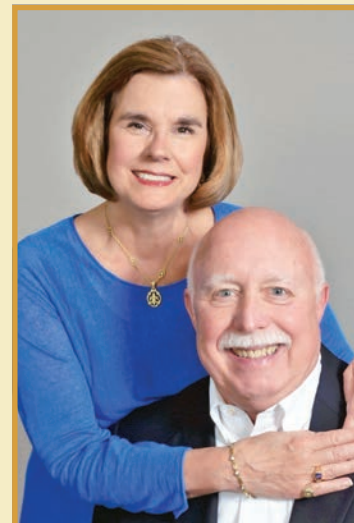


STEVE AND MARIANNE (HIELSCHER) UNDERHILL, members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 2.

The couple was married in St. Philip the Apostle Church in Northfield, Ill., on June 2, 1973.

They have two children: Jennifer Garbarino and Marc Underhill.

The couple also has one grandchild.



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

St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities ‘walks alongside’ people in need

By Natalie Hoefler

LOUISVILLE—For nearly 45 years, St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities (SECC) in New Albany has been giving hope and changing lives. The positive impact of the organization was celebrated at its annual Giving Hope-Changing Lives fundraiser gala on April 20 in Louisville, Ky.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson was on hand to celebrate.

“So often the great works of the [St. Elizabeth] Catholic Charities—the lives it touches, the effects it has on individuals, on families, on the community beyond what we’ll ever be able to measure—so often goes unnoticed,” he said.

“But it’s not lost in the eyes of the Church, not lost on the people whose lives you touch. You are such great ambassadors, such great witnesses, such great disciples of Jesus Christ.

“And so, whether you’re a staffer, a volunteer, a benefactor or just someone associated with someone else who is connected, you make a difference.”

The reality of that difference was shared through the testimony of three people for whom St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities made a life-changing impact.

‘Having faith that people can change’

Take Jessica Schaap, who with her husband Ben struggled with infertility.

“When that door closed almost permanently, we were left with empty arms and broken hearts,” she shared.

They heard about Adoption Bridges of Kentuckiana, a service of SECC. Adoption Bridges is the only nonprofit, licensed adoption agency to provide adoption services in both Kentucky and Indiana.

The couple met with a staff member, “and it just felt right,” said Schaap. “We knew this smaller, local agency was the one for us.”

Twice the couple bore the pain of a birth mother they were matched with changing her mind and keeping her baby.

Both times were challenging. But each was “made so much easier by the exceptional care of our agency,” Schaap said. “We felt seen, heard, understood and loved in a very difficult time.”

But the couple’s journey with Adoption Bridges brought them the joy of first a son and then a daughter.

“Having the support of a wonderful, ethical, caring agency who walks alongside you during such a challenging process is priceless.”

Then there’s Jimmy Richardson, one of 17 people assisted between July 2021 through June 2022 by SECC’s Supported Living Program. The service helps those with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Floyd and Clark counties live independent lives.

Richardson told his story via video, with photo after photo of a smiling, joyful man.

He spoke of help he’s received cleaning his home, making grocery lists, going to the store, and social outings to museums, picnics and holiday dinners.

“They help me meet benchmarks, help me keep in line,” he said. “If I have a problem, I can come to them and they can direct me which way to go.”

SECC also offers “four housing programs that can house an average of 65 women and children at any given time,” said agency director Mark Casper. “St. Elizabeth has literally helped thousands of women over the years get back on their feet.”

One of those women, Andrea Gresham, shared her story at the gala.



This photo of Jimmy Richardson, who receives assistance from the Supported Living Program of St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities in New Albany, was shown on a large screen as he spoke via video at the organization’s annual fundraiser gala on April 20. (Photos by Natalie Hoefler)

“It was just four years ago I was homeless, full of despair and into drugs, incapable of being a mother and considered by society as being just another hopeless cause,” she said.

She found faith in God while incarcerated and “realized that my life was worth fighting for.”

After being released from jail, Gresham entered a recovery program called Breakaway. Upon completion, she was “ready to take the next step,” with “goals of getting my children back full time, saving money and moving forward with my life.

“It was then I was connected to St. Elizabeth. ... I was told I was the first person to enter into the Affordable Supportive Housing [ASH] program through a partnership St. Elizabeth had with Breakaway.”

Founded in 2012, the ASH program helps families facing homelessness by providing rent on a sliding scale fee, as well as access to case managers, mental health therapists and other resources SECC offers.

Gresham and her children moved into their ASH unit in 2021.

“The case managers helped me set goals,” she said. “They showed me how to rebuild my credit, and there were so much more resources and help that I received—food from the pantry and assistance with budgeting.”

She was soon able to buy a car. A year later she was pre-approved for a mortgage to buy a home. She and her children moved into their new home in June of 2022.

“I’m so grateful for St. Elizabeth,” she said. “You’ve become family to me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for having faith that people can change.”

Meeting ‘the changing needs of our community’

Schaap, Richardson and Gresham are just three of the hundreds helped by SECC between July 2021 and June 2022.

Their residential housing programs served 58 women and 91 children, and helped 253 women facing homelessness.

Among Adoption Bridges of Kentuckiana’s accomplishments, the agency helped 161 pregnant mothers and provided nearly 600 various professional adoption services.

SECC counselors in five local schools served 1,233 students, as well as provided community training sessions and parental support.

Finally, Marie’s Community Distribution Program encountered more than 700 family visits, up more than 55%



During a fundraiser gala for St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities on April 20, Jessica Schaap shares how the New Albany organization’s Adoption Bridges of Kentuckiana service led to the joy of her and her husband Ben becoming the parents of two children.

from the prior year, with the number of new families served increasing more than 36%. Overall, the diapers, baby food, formula, clothing, car seats, baby beds, appliances and furniture distributed totaled nearly \$100,000.

During the gala, volunteers were commended for providing almost 4,000 hours of service. Two of them—SECC Advisory Council member Fran Brown and retired Father Wilfred “Sonny” Day—were honored with the agency’s Spirit of Hope Award. (See the article in the March 17 issue of *The Criterion* at hurrey.lnkiy.in/BrownDay.)

“The city is very fortunate to have St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities here,” said New Albany mayor Jeff Gahan in an interview with *The Criterion*. “They are eager to serve. As mayor, I’m very thankful that they’re in our city, and very fortunate. They reach out to people in a way that makes us all proud.”

With growing needs, increasing costs and, “like other organizations, difficulty in finding staff,” the last fiscal year “was not without its challenges,” said Casper.

“But while it’s been a tough year, let me assure you—our staff, volunteers and all of our stakeholders have responded to these challenges every day. They meet the changing needs of our community while maintaining our core offerings.

“We are what this community makes it possible for us to be, and I couldn’t be more proud.”

(For more information on St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities or to donate, go to stcharities.org.) †



Mark Casper



Andrea Gresham smiles with her children in a photo montage displayed on a large screen as she spoke of the life-changing help she received from St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities during the organization’s fundraiser gala on April 20.

Nebraska passes bill protecting children from abortion, gender-altering procedures

LINCOLN, Neb. (OSV News)—Nebraska lawmakers passed a measure on May 19 prohibiting abortion at 12 weeks gestation and banning gender-altering surgeries for minors.

The Let Them Grow Act, LB574, overcame a continued filibuster effort by abortion rights and transgender ideology advocates and was sent to the desk of Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen, who was expected to sign it.

The act marks the first restriction on abortion in Nebraska since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* last summer and the most significant step to protect the unborn in the state since 2010 when lawmakers outlawed abortion at 20 weeks. It also represents the first state effort to govern gender-altering procedures for children.

Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha, Neb., along with Bishop James D. Conley of Lincoln and Bishop Joseph G. Hanefeldt of Grand Island issued a joint statement in response to the vote on May 19.

“God made us as male and female, in his image and with an inalienable dignity infused in our being from the moment of our conception. We are entrusted by God with a noble mission to defend innocent life from conception to natural death,” the bishops said.

“The Let Them Grow Act ensures that the futures of hundreds of Nebraska

children will be safeguarded each year and legally protected so they may grow and flourish,” they continued. “We’re reminded of our call to help be Christ to our neighbors by accompanying them in times of need.”

Sen. Ben Hansen, who represents Blair, Neb., introduced an amendment on May 8 after a measure that would protect life at six weeks gestation failed to defeat a filibuster in April.

Following a vote earlier in the week to adopt the amendment, lawmakers on a 33-15 vote adopted the bill Friday with an emergency clause, which makes the law effective the day after the governor signs it.

State law had allowed abortion until 20 weeks gestation. In 2020 and 2021, nearly 300 preborn babies were aborted between 12 and 20 weeks each year, according to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

The act retains exceptions allowing abortions in cases of rape and incest and where it is deemed medically necessary to save the life of the mother.

LB574 will also protect minors from gender-altering surgeries and direct the state to develop rules and regulations for non-surgical interventions such as cross-sex hormones and puberty blockers.

Earlier in the week, Pillen called LB574 an important step in protecting the future. “I applaud the senators who voted for

LB574 and stood up for our commonsense, conservative values,” he said. “I am proud to have partnered with conservative senators in this fight and look forward to signing the bill upon final passage.”

In a May 19 statement, Pillen said, “All children deserve a chance to grow and live happy, fruitful lives. This includes pre-born boys and girls, and it includes children struggling with their gender identity. These kids deserve the opportunity to grow and explore who they are and want to be, and they can do so without making irreversible decisions that should be made when they are fully grown.”

In their statement, Nebraska’s bishops thanked Pillen along with the state senators, including Sen. Joni Albrecht, Sen. Kathleen Kauth and Sen. Ben Hansen, who fought for the measure to protect children—born and preborn—from harm.



A pro-life advocate shows support for a pro-life bill before the Nebraska legislature at the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln on April 12. (OSV News photo/Susan Szalewski, The Catholic Voice)

“Please join us in prayer for the unborn, for mothers facing under-supported pregnancies, for children experiencing gender dysphoria and for their families,” they said. “May all Catholics in Nebraska, by their words and their actions, be a living witness of God’s love and mercy to mothers and families in need.” †

UKRAINE

continued from page 1

talks with the Holy Father’s two special envoys to discuss and achieve a truce.”

The blog had said there were “preliminary agreements” from the Vatican, Kyiv and Moscow that Cardinal Zuppi would go to Ukraine and Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, the Russian-speaking prefect of the

Dicastery for Eastern Churches, would serve as papal envoy to Moscow. However, the archbishop’s office on May 19 denied that he was involved.

Cardinal Zuppi, 67, has been involved with the lay Community of Sant’Egidio for almost 50 years. The community serves the poor, the elderly and has served as a mediator and hosted several formal peace talks, including the talks that in 1992 led to the end of a civil war in Mozambique. Cardinal Zuppi, a parish priest at the time, was involved in the negotiations.

At the Sant’Egidio Community’s annual Religions for Peace meeting in October, Russia’s war on Ukraine was the key focus.

Cardinal Zuppi told the gathering that “without dialogue, only weapons remain.”

However, “dialogue by no means treats all motives as equal, it does not avoid the question of responsibility, and it never confuses the aggressor and the victim,” he said. “Stopping the exponential spiral of war is possible only by recognizing the truth.” †



In their pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response* (USCCB), the U.S. Catholic bishops encouraged us as Christ’s disciples to be good stewards of the many blessings God gives to each of us by sharing them in love and justice with others. We demonstrate this, for example, by our weekly offering to God through our parish, legacy gifts, as well as our ministry and volunteer activities.

For all the ways the Catholic Church, and your parish specifically, have impacted your life, wouldn’t you want your support to last even after your passing? By including a charitable bequest in your will, you can direct some of your financial blessings to continue on the good work of your church and pay it forward to future generations.

It is important that every Catholic have a valid will to take care of their loved ones and specify their charitable gift intentions. Without a will, your possessions will be left to the state probate court to decide who receives your wealth. Bequests are tax deductible and can enable you to leave a far greater gift than during your lifetime.

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WRIGHT

continued from page 1

time. So if anything happens, they call you. There was a man and his wife who had just lost their daughter. I went and met them in the emergency room. We went into the room where their daughter was. I prayed with them. We went back into the lobby, and I talked with them.”

He stayed with them for a long time as they grieved.

“It was an experience of witnessing the grief of losing a child,” he says. “And being able to be present with them, pray with them and just be with them.”

Deacon Wright’s journey to becoming a priest has been marked by many gifts—some received, others given, and all lasting. Here are some of the other gifts that have impacted his path to the priesthood.

The gift of God’s patience

In preparation for his priesthood, Deacon Wright has inscribed the chalice he will use with this interpretation of the first two lines of Psalm 23: “The Lord ruleth me. And I shall want nothing.”

Deacon Wright’s embrace of that approach to life is in stark contrast to a moment during his sophomore year at Marian University in Indianapolis in 2009. In the middle of the night, he woke up in a panic—because he had a powerful awareness that God wanted him to be a priest. It was a prompting that he immediately rejected. And later, he even strayed from his faith.

It wouldn’t be until 2016—after graduating from Marian and working for five years for a chemical company in Indianapolis—that Deacon Wright opened his mind and his heart to becoming a priest.

It’s a vocation he completely embraces now, just as he does the words he had inscribed on his chalice.

“I think our Lord wants me to surrender myself to him, and that’s what I want to do,” he says. “That’s what I’m trying to do. And I know he’s leading me. I know he loves me. And I know he will support me in my priesthood.”

The gift of, well, a gift

Deacon Wright’s transition from rejecting God’s plan to embracing it was helped along by a gift from the grandfather he is named for, Jack Wesley Wright.

His grandfather has long been influential in Deacon Wright’s faith life, especially in passing along his devotion to—and his love for—the Blessed Mother.

As part of that shared love, his grandfather gave him the book, *To the Priests, Our Lady’s Beloved Sons*.

“He told me I should read the book,” Deacon Wright says. “I pretty much put it on my bookshelf and didn’t really ever look at it until I was 24 or 25. I decided I might as well pick this up and start reading it.”

“I think it was at a time in my life when I was searching for direction. I was searching for purpose and meaning. I started to come back to the faith and take my faith seriously again. And I always felt a connection to Our Lady. When I first decided I wanted to be a priest, she was really important for me. I really wanted to give my life to her and be a priest-son of her. It was really through that book that I finally found the meaning and the purpose I was looking for.”

On June 3, Deacon Wright will give his grandfather one of the great gifts of his life.

“To have a grandson who is going to be a priest—it doesn’t get any better than that,” the elder Jack Wright

says. “The whole family is excited. We feel like we’re really blessed. We’re very proud of him. And I think Jack is going to be a good priest.”

The gift of example

Besides his grandfather, Deacon Wright focuses on two individuals who strongly impacted his faith life as he grew up in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond.

“First of all, it would be my dad,” says Deacon Wright, the second oldest of six children of John and Dotty Wright.

“When I was growing up, he would always pray with me and my sisters before we would go to sleep. We would say the rosary a lot together as a family. Driving in the car, we would pray the rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet. I also went on retreats with my dad and sometimes my siblings. And he would take us to Mass before school on Tuesdays and Fridays.”

Another strong influence was a priest who was a friend of his grandfather—Father Charles Caserta from the nearby Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

“He would come over to Richmond and help out at our parish. My family got to know him really well. He was just full of joy, and also very devoted to Mary and the Eucharist. He was the best priest friend I had growing up.

“When I first started to think about becoming a priest, I told my grandpa, and we went over to Father Caserta’s house. Father Caserta told me I was just afraid of doing it, and what was holding me back was fear. When he said that, it made a lot of sense to me. It wasn’t long after that that I entered the seminary.”

Father Caserta has died, but Deacon Wright expects to feel his presence during his ordination—and into his priesthood.

“I’ll be thanking him for his influence in my life and the life of my family. I think he’ll be happy to see me get ordained. I hope to bring joy to people like he did.”

The gift of friendship

There are lessons to be learned about people in the friends they make and the friendships they continue to nurture. The friendship between Deacon Wright and transitional Deacon Hung Van Tran is enlightening about both of them.

They met six years ago as they started their priestly formation at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad—one from the heartland of the United States and the other from the Diocese of Hanoi in Vietnam.

Transitional Deacon Jack Wright

Age: 33

Parents: John and Dotty Wright

Home Parish: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond

Education: Centerville High School in Centerville, Ind.; Marian University in Indianapolis; Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad

Favorite Scripture passage: Psalm 23

Favorite saints: St. Joseph and St. Teresa of Calcutta. “St. Teresa has such a love for the unloved, and that’s something else I hope to bring to my priesthood—having an eye for the unloved and paying special attention to them and caring for them.”

Favorite prayer or devotion: The Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet

Favorite book: *The Reed of God* by Caryll Houselander

Favorite movie: *Into the Wild*

Hobbies: Reading, walking outside and playing basketball



Transitional Deacon Jack Wright shares the Gospel during a Mass for seminarians in St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad on April 28, 2022. He will be ordained a priest for the archdiocese on June 3.

(Photo courtesy of Saint Meinrad Archabbey)

“He’s a very gentle man, kind and a very devout man,” Deacon Van Tran says about Deacon Wright. “He’s a cheerful man. Welcoming. I could see that with the international students. He spends much time to talk with international students. His heart is very big.”

“I have been with him for six years. In the first years, my English was not that good. He helped me a lot with English. I was assigned with him to do ministry at St. Boniface [Parish in Fulda.] Every Wednesday, he would drive me. He taught me a lot while driving with me.”

Amid all the sincere compliments, Deacon Van Tran also has a joy in his voice as he talks about another quality of their friendship.

“We make fun of each other quite often,” he says with a laugh. “He’s a funny person to live with. Sarcastic sometimes. He mimics me and makes fun of me at times, and I make fun of him as well.”

Asked to sum up their friendship, Deacon Van Tran says it is hard to describe it in a few words. Then he does.

“It’s very precious. I treasure our friendship,” Deacon Van Tran says. “I firmly believe he will be a good priest. He’s a very prayerful man, and with prayer he will be able to conquer every unexpectedness.”

The gift of sharing joy and faith

When Deacon Wright served last summer at St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville, he was thrilled to see how active and faith-filled the youths of the parish are.

“That was really good for me because I hadn’t been able to have that experience so much in my time at seminary,” he says.

He also enjoyed the opportunity to connect with the Hispanic members of the parish, proclaiming the Gospel and preaching in Spanish during Masses—and visiting families in their homes with Father Michael Keucher, the parish’s pastor.

Seeing Deacon Wright in all his capacities at the parish has left Father Keucher convinced about the difference his friend will make as a priest, starting with his first assignment at St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis.

“He is a prayerful, humble, joyful man, and that is the recipe for a good priest in my book,” says Father Keucher, who is also director of vocations for the archdiocese. “He exudes those qualities, and that’s why people love being around him so much. As a priest, those qualities will be a great bridge between people and God.”

“He also has an incredible gift when it comes to preaching. He preaches from the heart, and to the heart of the people. His homilies make people want to be holier—and they teach them how.”

They’re all among the gifts that Deacon Wright hopes to bring to his priesthood—the vocation where he now knows he is meant to be, where God wants him to be.

“Simplicity is important to me. Humility, too. And excitement for the faith,” Deacon Wright says. “I hope that people can see that I’m happy as a priest.”

“I want to be as available as I can to my people. I want them to know that my priesthood is for them, my life is for them.”

(The public is invited to attend the priestly ordination of transitional Deacons Jack Wright and José Neri, which will be at 10 a.m. on June 3 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis. For more information on a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, visit www.HearGodsCall.com.) †

Parish FESTIVALS

June 1-3

St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oaklondon Rd., **Indianapolis**. Parish Festival, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, rides, live music, food, beer garden, rides, games, kids' zone, Vegas room (ages 21 and older), \$10 food/drink ticket per person or per family required for admission. Information: chair@saintsimonfestival.com, 317-826-6000, saintsimonfestival.com.

St. Jude Parish, 5353 McFarland Rd., **Indianapolis**. Summer Festival, 5-11 p.m., children's games, prizes, bands, food, Ferris Wheel, silent auction, bingo, Monte Carlo games, beer tent, Sat. evening live music with Josh Kaufman, free admission. Information: 317-786-4371.

June 2-3

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., **Indianapolis**. International Festival, 5 p.m.-midnight, carnival rides, food, music, \$5,000 raffle, beer garden, free admission, prices for food, drinks and rides vary. Information: parish@stgabrielindy.org, 317-291-7014.

June 2-4

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, 4720 E. 13th St., **Indianapolis**. Summerfest, Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 3-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., \$4,000 grand prize raffle, bingo Fri. and Sat., midway rides, silent auction, live entertainment, food, beer, wine, games for kids and adults, \$10 admission for \$10 in event coupons. Information: 317-357-8352, littlesflowerparish.org.

June 4

St. Paul Parish, 814 Jefferson St., **Tell City**. Parish Picnic, 11 a.m., eat-in or carry-out dinners, music, cash/quilt raffles, free admission. Information: 812-547-7994, stpaulch@psci.net.

June 8-10

Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., **Greenwood**. Parish Festival, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, rides, games,

Monte Carlo, bingo, cake wheel, grand raffle, quilt raffle, children's games, jewelry auction, live music, beer tent, fair food, free admission. Information: 317-888-2861, info@olgreenwood.org.

June 9-10

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., **Indianapolis**. Italian Street Festival, 5-11 p.m., more than 25 Italian meats, pastas, salads, desserts, homemade spaghetti sauce, pizza, cannoli, cheesecake, Italian beer and wine, live music, dancing, rides, religious procession Sat. 6:45 p.m. before 7 p.m. Mass, free parking in Eli Lilly lots on East and New Jersey streets, free admission. Information: -636-4478, kfcpublicrelations@gmail.com, indyitalianfest.org.

June 23-24

Christ the King Parish, 5884 N. Crittenden Ave., **Indianapolis**. Summer Social, 6 p.m.-midnight, live music, kid's area, food, beer and wine, \$1 admission. Information 317-255-3666.

July 15-16

All Saints Parish, St. John the Baptist Campus, 25743 State Route 1, **Guilford**. Chicken Dinner and Summer Festival, Sat. 5-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., food, beer garden, B&G ice cream, kiddie land, 14 Stations of the Eucharist religious exhibit, \$10,000 raffle, Sat. music by Yorkridge Boys, chicken dinner served Sun. beginning at 11 a.m., free admission. Information: 812-576-4302, emilyalig.asp@gmail.com.

July 22-23

All Saints Parish, St. Martin Campus, 8044 Yorkridge Rd., **Guilford**. Chicken Dinner and Summer Festival, Sat. 5-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., food, beer garden, B&G ice cream, kiddie land, 14 Stations of the Eucharist religious exhibit, \$10,000 raffle Sat. music by Misty Creek, chicken dinner served Sun. beginning at 11 a.m., free admission. **5K Country Run**, Sun. 9:30 a.m., register by July 19 to receive T-shirt, \$22.34 with T-shirt, \$17.02 without T-shirt, register at inky.in/StMartin5K23. Information: 812-576-4302.

July 30

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

August 3-5

Holy Spirit Parish, 7243 E. 10th St., **Indianapolis**. Holy Spirit Festival, Thurs. 6-11 p.m., Fri. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 1 p.m.-midnight, live music, midway rides, food, beer and wine, bingo, Monte Carlo, Texas Hold 'Em, silent auction, rummage sale, parking shuttle

available at 7140 E. Washington St., free wrist bands provided to parishioners after Masses, non-parishioner admission \$10 in festival tickets, children younger than 12 free, minors under 18 unaccompanied by an adult not admitted. Information: holyspiritfestival.org, festivals@holyspirit.cc, 317-353-9404.

August 4-5

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

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

August 6

St. Boniface Parish, 11715 E. County Road 1550 N., **Fulda**. Annual Summer Picnic, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. CT, live music, indoor and outdoor dining, quilts, raffles, Fulda's famous soup, food court, family fun center, free admission. Information: 812-357-5533, myparishfamily.church.

August 11-12

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7225 Southeastern Ave., **Indianapolis**. Augustravaganza, 4 p.m.-midnight, rides, catered dinner, food tent, beer/wine tent, Monte Carlo, raffle, live entertainment, kids' games, free admission. Information: 317-357-1200.

August 12-13

All Saints Parish, St. Paul Campus, 9788 N. Dearborn Rd., **Guilford**. Summer Picnic, Sat. 5-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., pork-loin dinner and live music Sat., lunch stand, beer gardens, ham stand, split-the-pot, raffles, gaming, Hoffman Mini Donuts, quilts, \$10,000 raffle, 14 Stations of the Eucharist religious exhibit, chicken dinner served Sun. beginning at 11 a.m., free admission. Information: 812-576-4302.

August 13

St. Mary Parish, 2500 St. Mary Dr., **Lanesville**. Parish Picnic, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., fried chicken or ham dinner, dine-in or carry-out, instant bingo, capital prize raffles, handmade quilt raffles, linens, crafts, online auction, free admission. Information: 812-952-2853, communications@catholic-community.org.

August 18-19

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 4625 N. Kenwood Ave., **Indianapolis**. SausageFest, 5:30 p.m.-midnight, Kincaid's sausages, Sun King beer, sides from Illinois Street Food Emporium, Byrne's pizza, live music, wine, snack shack, kids' zone, teen zone with DJ, free admission. Information 317-253-1461.

August 19-20

St. Mary of the Knobs Parish, 5719 St. Marys Rd., **Floyds Knobs**. Knobfest, Sat. 5:30 p.m.-midnight, music, beer garden, food trucks, dance 9 p.m. featuring Juice Box Heroes; Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., games of chance and skill, fried chicken dinner with all the fixings, family fun zone, free admission. Information: 812-923-2492, mhartlage@yoursmk.org.

August 24-26

St. Ann Parish, 6350 S. Mooresville Rd., **Indianapolis**. Summer Festival, Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 5-11:30 p.m., Amish sweet corn, casino, midway rides, games, silent auction, homemade sweets, gambling, beer garden, food booths, bake sale, beer tent, entertainment, free admission, Thurs. ride wristband price TBA. Information: 317-821-2909.

August 25-27

St. Joseph Parish, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., **Indianapolis**. Fall Festival, Fri. and Sat. 5-11 p.m., Sun. 12:30-7:30 p.m., rides, food, bingo, gaming, silent action, beer garden, Texas Hold'em contest Sun., free admission. Information: 317-244-9002.

August 26

St. Monica Parish, 6131 N. Michigan Road, **Indianapolis**. International Festival, 5-11 p.m., foods from around the world, live music, children's bounce houses, raffle,

free admission. Information: 317-253-2193, parishoffice@stmonicaindy.org.

August 26-27

St. Mary Parish, 1331 E. Hunter Robbins Way, **Greensburg**. Parish Festival, Sat. 5:30-11 p.m.: adult night, games, beer garden, live music, pork burger, pork chop or pulled pork dinners, basket silent auction, concessions; Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.: Family Day, kids' games, live music, fried chicken and pulled pork dinners; free admission. **On Eagles Wings 5K Run/Walk**, Sat. 8 a.m. registration, 9 a.m. race, \$20 adults, \$15 children (\$25/\$20 after Aug. 8), optional kids' Fun Run obstacle course at 10 a.m. for \$15. Information, registration: 812-663-8427, oneagleswings5k.com.

August 27

St. Patrick Parish, 950 Prospect St., **Indianapolis**. Festival '23, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., raffle, music, food, St. Patrick Queen & King, games. Information: 317-631-5824, office@stpatrickindy.com.

September 4

St. Peter Parish, 1207 East Rd., **Brookville**. Labor Day Picnic, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., fried chicken dinner, air-conditioned hall, children's games, raffles, beer garden, free admission. Information: 765-647-5462, brookvilleparishes@gmail.com.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 4773 Church Rd., **Morris**. Labor Day Picnic, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., live music, beer garden, kids' games, grand raffle, fried chicken dinners \$14, free admission. Information: 812-934-6218, communications@stanthonymorris.org.

September 8-9

Prince of Peace Schools, 201 W. State St., **Madison**. Shawe and Pope John Summer Festival, 5 p.m.-midnight, carnival rides, family games, concessions, live music, \$5 admission. Information: 812-273-5835.

September 9

St. Joan of Arc Parish, 4217 Central Ave., **Indianapolis**. French Market, noon-10 p.m., ten hours of live music, 50 artisan booths, French food, bake sale, raffle, children's games until 5 p.m., Mass 5:30 p.m., free admission. Information: 317-283-5508, sjoa.org/about-french-market.

September 10

St. Michael Parish, 145 St. Michael Blvd., **Brookville**. Chicken Dinner Festival, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., fried chicken dinner, raffles, drive-thru or carry-out, food item prices vary, free admission. Information: 765-647-5462, brookvilleparishes@gmail.com.

St. Pius V Parish, 330 Franklin St., **Troy**. Fall Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., eat-in or carry-out dinners, concessions, soup by the gallon, cash raffle, quilt raffle, prizes, games, free admission. Information: 812-547-7994.

September 15-16

St. Bartholomew Parish, 1306 27th St., **Columbus**. Fall Festival, Fri. 6-10 p.m., Sat. 4-10 p.m., live music, food, games, free admission. Information: 812-379-9353, stbartholomewfestival@gmail.com.

September 16

St. Mary Parish, 415 E. Eighth St., **New Albany**. Multicultural Festival, 5-11 p.m., Mass 4 p.m. followed by live entertainment, DJ, ethnic food vendors, kids' games, prize booth, free admission. Information: 812-944-0417, info@stmarysna.org.

St. Bridget of Ireland Parish, 404 E. Vine St., **Liberty**. Oktoberfest, 4-10 p.m., German food served 4-7 p.m., Mass at 4 p.m., country store, children's games, beer/wine garden, cash raffle, poker, games of chance, free admission. Information: 765-825-8578, secretary@stgabrielconnersville.org.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus School parking lot, 1840 E. Eighth St., **Jeffersonville**. Street Dance, 7-11 p.m., school fundraiser, live music, food trucks, kids' area, \$10 admission. Information: 812-283-3123, info@sacredheartsschool.us.

September 17

St. Michael Parish, 101 St. Michaels Dr., **Charlestown**. Septemberfest, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner, games, quilt and cash raffles, silent auction, free admission.



Children enjoy a swing ride during the annual Italian Festival at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Wilmington, Del., in this file photo. (CNS photo by Don Blake, The Dialog)

Information: 812-256-3200, stmichaelsecretary@northclarkcountycatholic.org.

St. Meinrad Parish, 19570 N. 4th St., **St. Meinrad**. Annual Fall Picnic, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. CT, outdoor dining pavilion, food court, famous soup, German tenderloins, fried chicken dinners, live music, raffles, free admission. Information: 812-357-5533, info@myparishfamily.church.

September 22-23

St. Malachy Parish, 9833 E. County Rd. 750 N., **Brownsburg**. Country Fair and Hog Roast, Fri. 4-11 p.m., Sat. 3-11 p.m., food, drinks, midway, beer tent, silent auction, kids' games, live music: Fri. My Yellow Rickshaw, Sat. Trace Thompson. Another Round and 45 RPM, free admission. Information: 317-852-3195.

September 23-24

St. Gabriel Parish, 232 W. 9th St., **Connorsville**. Fall Festival, Sat. 5-11 p.m. (Mass at 4 p.m.), Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (Mass 10:30 a.m.), kids' games, big kid games, youth group bake good and craft sale, wine bingo, axe throwing, basket raffle, live bands, Sat. German food, Sun. chicken dinner, free admission. Information: 765-825-8578, secretary@stgabrielconnersville.org.

September 24

St. Mark Parish, 5377 Acorn Rd., **Tell City**. Shooting Match and Festival, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., ham and beef shoot, raffle, handmade quilts, country story with produce, chili, homemade pies, hamburger, chicken sandwiches, brats, food prices vary, free admission. Information: 812-836-2481, stmark@psci.net.

St. Michael Parish, 11400 Farmer's Lane NE, **Greenville**. Turkey Chicken and Homemade Dumpling Dinner, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Mass at 11 a.m., meal service ends at 2:30 p.m., dine-in or carry out, fried chicken with homemade dumplings, slaw, choice of pie, meal price

TBD, raffles, handmade quilts, cake booth, children's corner, silent auction, Nanna's Attic, free admission. Information: 812-364-6646, katieeelderst.michaels@gmail.com.

September 27

St. Mary Parish, **Mitchell**. Food Tent at Persimmon Festival, corner of 7th and Main St., 4:30-7 p.m., Italian dinner, meal cost TBD. Information: 812-849-3570, stmarysmitchell294@gmail.com.

September 29-30

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 89 N. 17th Ave., **Beech Grove**. Oktoberfest, 5-11 p.m., kids' zone, beer garden, food, health fair, raffle, live music: Fri. Monarch Band and the Woombles Rock Orchestra, Sat. Colin Hawk and Trainwreck, free admission. Information: parishadmin@holyname.cc or 317-784-5454.

September 30

St. Augustine Parish, 315 Chestnut St., **Jeffersonville**. Oktoberfest, 3-10 p.m., dance in parking lot, live music by The Louisville Crashers, food and beer trucks, free admission. Information: 812-282-2677, kueding@jeffersonvillecatholic.org.

October 1

Holy Family Parish, 3027 Pearl St., **Oldenburg**. Parish Festival, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., fried chicken dinners, turtle soup, adult and kids' games, money raffle, quilt raffle, basket raffle, silent auction, country store, pet blessing, free admission. Information: 812-934-3013, holymfamilycheryl@gmail.com.

St. John Paul II Parish, 2253 St. Joe Rd., W., **Sellersburg**. Turkey Shoot/Chicken Dinner/Fall Festival, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner with homemade dumplings, booths, raffles, handmade quilts, kids' games, country store, free admission. Information: 812-246-2512. †



Kyle Kujawa, 6, waves to family members as his cousin Matthew Kusbel, 11, steers a ride during "Sharing Your Blessings Day" at St. James the Less Parish festival in Highland, Ind., in the Gary Diocese, in this file photo. (CNS photo by Karen Callaway, Northwest Indiana Catholic)

READERS

continued from page 1

“I saw this paper in my purse, and suddenly it occurred to me that I had always wanted to go to college and become a teacher, but in my family only my brothers went to college,” recalls Greiwe, a member of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg. “I checked at the local high school with the counselor to see if it was possible, and he said it certainly was.”

Her dream and her hope now had a plan. “After attending night classes for the next four years, I graduated and opened my own pre-school,” she says. “The college provided health insurance for my family, and God provide a part-time job for me to help with the bills.

“The best part was God also provided enough children so that my pre-school was very successful for the next 20 years.”

A short note, a powerful reminder

In her short, handwritten note, Judith Mang immediately focused on the one Bible verse that’s most meaningful to her—the part of Matthew 25 in which Christ tells us how our lives will be measured.

“For I was hungry, and you gave me to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me to

drink. I was a stranger, and you took me in. Naked and you covered me, sick and you visited me. I was in prison, and you came to me” (Mt 25:35-36).

“... Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me” (Mt 25:40).

A sense of perspective—and humor

Paul Sifuentes has a sense of perspective—and a sense of humor—as he shares his favorite Bible verse.

The verse shapes his approach to his family as a husband and a father of six. It also guides the way he approaches his role as the director of pastoral ministries for the archdiocese.

“I love Acts 2:42. ‘They devoted themselves to the teaching of the Apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to prayers.’” Sifuentes says, reciting the passage.

“Right after the Apostles do their thing, Peter comes out and gives the best speech. Three thousand people are baptized after he talks. Not one person has ever gotten baptized after I talked! Just saying!” he says with a laugh before turning serious again.

“Those four things are the things we need to make sure that our communities are. Even as a nuclear family, how are



‘Even as a nuclear family, how are we continuing to teach our kids about the faith, and how are we growing in our faith? How are we intentionally living life as a community? We live in community, and we need to share that.’

—Paul Sifuentes, the director of pastoral ministries for the archdiocese

we continuing to teach our kids about the faith, and how are we growing in our faith? How are we intentionally living life as a community? We live in community, and we need to share that. As a minister, those four things have always rooted me.”

‘I say it often to calm me’

At 80, Sally Yates has known the joys of life. The member of St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville has also experienced the hard and heartbreaking times of life. Through it all, she has always relied on Psalm 23 to give her peace.

“I still say all of the 23rd Psalm when I need to be with God,” she says. “I say it often to calm me.”

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.

In green pastures he makes me lie down; to still waters he leads me; he restores my soul.

He guides me along right paths for the sake of his name.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me.

You set a table before me in front of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the Lord for endless days. (Ps 23:1-6) †

Wanted: Your nominations for Excellence in Catechesis award

Criterion staff report

Do you think your parish catechetical leader (PCL) is awesome? Would you like to nominate him or her for an award?

The Archbishop Daniel Buechlein Excellence in Catechesis honor has been awarded by the archdiocesan Office of Catechesis since 1996. To nominate someone, take a few minutes to provide brief answers to the questions below:

- How do your nominee’s efforts help parishioners grow as disciples of Jesus, experiencing intimacy with

him and enjoying participation in his holy, Catholic Church?

- In what ways does your nominee’s ministry encourage parishioners to bridge the gap that can be present between knowledge of our faith and practicing it in everyday life—making religion a way of life and a virtue that benefits communities?

- Providing meaningful experiences of formation for catechists helps bring about excellence—by God’s grace! How does your nominee encourage and motivate those who teach the faith with ongoing affirmation in the form of certification, recognition and commissioning?

Brief answers—two or three sentences—are sufficient to let us know the reasons you are nominating your parish catechetical leader. If you’d like to provide additional information, feel free to do so.

Please include the name of the nominee; his or her parish; your name; and the best way of contacting you. Each nominee’s pastor, administrator or parish life coordinator will be contacted to affirm nominations. Call 317-236-1446 or e-mail catechesis@archindy.org for more information on nominating your PCL for this honor.

The deadline for nominations is June 2. †

Little Flower SUMMERFEST

(Corner of Nowland and Bosart Streets)

LFsummerfest.com

June 2, 3, and 4

Friday 5pm-11pm	Saturday 3pm-11pm	Sunday 11am-5pm
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Fun

BINGO Friday AND Saturday (register 6pm before 7pm start)

Silent Auction—Register at <https://lffway.cbo.io>

Raffle with \$4,000.00 grand prize

50/50, Tip Boards and more

Saturday Night is Little Flower School Alumni Night

Family Day on Sunday with family friendly entertainment

Food

Outdoor Food Court

Beer and Wine with Daily Specials

Indoor Dinner provided by Steer In on Saturday 5-7pm

Indoor Sunday Brunch 10:30am-12:00pm

Entertainment

Friday

Arisan Maru (Scecina) at 5:00 pm

Wooly Bullies at 6:30 pm

Bigger is Better Band at 8:00 pm

Saturday

Mike Archer at 4:00 pm

Sherwood Club at 6:30 pm

Black Belt Jones at 9:00 pm

Sunday

Silly Safaris at 12:00 pm

Jaylen Koehl at 1:00 pm

Little Flower musical numbers at 2:30 pm

Rides & Games

Poor Jacks Amusements on the Midway

Ride the carnival rides all day Sunday for just \$15.00

No one under age 18 admitted unless accompanied by adult.
Minimum \$10 purchase per person age 13 and above required.

Indiana Festival License #002626

Marriage ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be a part of our Fall Marriage Edition

Aug. 11 issue of *The Criterion*

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

Announcements can be submitted by mail using the form below or electronically at www.archindy.org/engagements.

E-mailed photos

Photos should be saved in jpg format and be at least 500 kb. Color photos are preferred. We recommend sending a photo where the couple’s faces are close to each other. Please send the photo as an attachment to the e-mail:

alewis@archindy.org. Subject line: Fall Marriage (Last name). In the e-mail, please include the information in the form located below.

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

Deadline

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

— Use this form to furnish information by mail —

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

Please print or type:

Name of Bride (first, middle, last)		Daytime Phone	
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code
Name of Bride’s Parents (first, last)			
City		State	
Name of Bridegroom (first, middle, last)			
Name of Bridegroom’s Parents (first, last)			
City		State	
Wedding Date	Church	City	State
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo Enclosed	Signature of person furnishing information		Relationship
<input type="checkbox"/> Return photo			Daytime Phone
<input type="checkbox"/> No Picture			

ENCOUNTER

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

This will be one of the largest Eucharistic processions in history. Just as throngs followed Christ throughout his earthly ministry, our nation will process with our Eucharistic Lord through cities, along highways, and past rural towns—echoing his travels 2,000 years ago—on the way to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress.

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will express Christ's desire to draw close to each one of us and, like Zacchaeus, many who encounter Christ by the roadside will be converted. An outpouring of healing grace will remind our world that the same Jesus who gave sight to the blind and life to the dead is active today in our midst!

SERRA ROUTE San Francisco, CA

From our Pacific coast, the western arm of the Pilgrimage will cross the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains. This will be the longest and most challenging route—covering over 2,200 miles!



JUAN DIEGO ROUTE Brownsville, TX

The southern arm of the Pilgrimage will depart from the tip of Texas, wind around the Gulf of Mexico, and pass through the southeastern region of the United States on its way to Indianapolis.

MARIAN ROUTE

Mississippi Headwaters, Lake Itasca, MN

Departing from the headwaters of the Mississippi, the northern arm of the Pilgrimage will descend through the midwestern United States, pass through Wisconsin and Illinois, and meet up with the other three processions at the Congress in Indianapolis.

SETON ROUTE New Haven, CT

The eastern arm of the Pilgrimage will begin near the Atlantic coast, journey through our nation's oldest diocese, and cross the Appalachian Mountains.

If I but touch his clothes

I shall be cured.

- MATTHEW 9:21

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage connects Catholics across U.S. to 2024 Congress

ST. PAUL, Minn. (OSV News)—Mike Wavra thinks of the 2024 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage as “an opportunity to walk with the Lord.”

He and his wife Cindi, both 65-year-old retirees, plan to join the pilgrimage at its northern launch point in Minnesota in May 2024, and then walk for about a week, before rejoining the pilgrims seven weeks

later in Indianapolis for the 10th National Eucharistic Congress.

The Wavras are among thousands of Catholics from across the United States anticipated to participate in next year's pilgrimage to the Congress, part of the U.S. bishops' three-year National Eucharistic Revival that began in 2021. The pilgrimage has four routes, with one beginning in the north, south, east and west of the country.

Pilgrims traveling in the “Eucharistic caravans” on all four routes will begin their journeys with Pentecost weekend celebrations on May 17-18, 2024, leaving on May 19. They will all converge in Indianapolis on July 16, 2024, the day before the five-day Congress opens.

The pilgrimage is an opportunity for prayer and evangelization, as well as a way to engage Catholics unable to attend the Congress, said Tim Glemkowski, the National Eucharistic Congress' executive director.

“What the pilgrimage does is it builds us in prayerful anticipation for what God is going to do at the Congress,” he told OSV News on May 5. “It's two months of us pilgrimaging, fasting, praying, interceding, asking the Lord to renew his Church, his bride, in those five days. ... They're not two different things. It's one pilgrimage: five days of which happen in ... Indianapolis, and two months of which happen across our country on the way there.”

Weekend stops in major cities will include special liturgies, eucharistic adoration, processions and service opportunities, Glemkowski said.

The northern “Marian Route” that the Wavras plan to take begins in northern Minnesota at Lake Itasca, the headwaters of the Mississippi River. The route follows the river to St. Paul and Minneapolis, its first weekend stop. Then the route heads south to Rochester, Minn., and then east through La Crosse and Green Bay, Wis. It continues through Milwaukee, Chicago and Notre Dame, Ind., before arriving in Indianapolis.

The “Juan Diego Route” begins more than 1,600 miles south of Lake Itasca in Brownsville, Texas, at the U.S.-Mexico border. It will follow Texas' eastern border through Corpus Christi and Houston, and continue through New Orleans; Mobile, Ala.; Atlanta; Nashville, Tenn.; and Louisville, Ky.

The “Seton Route”—named for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first U.S.-born saint—begins in New Haven, Conn., and continues through New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Pittsburgh, and Steubenville, Columbus and Cincinnati, Ohio.

The “Junipero Serra Route” begins in San Francisco—with hope of walking over the Golden Gate Bridge—and continues through Reno, Nev.; Salt Lake City; Denver; North Platte and Omaha, Neb.; Kansas City, Kan. and Mo.; and St. Louis.

At more than 2,200 miles long, the Junipero Serra Route is the longest and most rigorous route. Pilgrims will use transport to cross sections of their route, but some of the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains are expected to be crossed on foot. In an interview with Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minn., for a February episode of the popular podcast “Catholic Stuff You Should Know,” co-host Father John Nepil said he wanted to walk with the Eucharist and fellow priests in the Rockies over the highest elevation the pilgrimage routes will reach.

Bishop Cozzens is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, which oversees the revival.

Besides the thrill of the physical challenge, “there's always been a close connection for me between thinking of the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith, and the ways we reflect on the eucharistic high points as a place of transcendence, and then the way it connects to the mountains,” Father Nepil, a priest of the Archdiocese of Denver and vice rector of St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, told OSV News on May 8.

Modern Catholic Pilgrim, a pilgrimage nonprofit with offices in Minnesota and California, is organizing the national pilgrimage. Its founder and president, Will Peterson, connects the pilgrimage to the scriptural journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus, where two of his disciples met Jesus after the resurrection. Luke 24 recounts how Jesus comforted them, and then revealed himself in the breaking of the bread.

The routes include important Catholic sites in the United States, such the 18th-century ministry of St. Junipero Serra in what is now California, the Philadelphia tombs of St. John Neumann and St. Katharine Drexel, and in Wisconsin, the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, the only approved Marian apparition in the United States.

“People are going to reach an ‘Emmaus point’ at these spots along the way, and we want to support the local Church,” Peterson said on May 9. “That's where it's such a great gift to coordinate with like 65 dioceses to say, ‘How can we really highlight the great sacred sites of your diocese?’”

Each pilgrimage route is expected to have 12 “perpetual pilgrims,” young adults, including two seminarians, committed to traveling the entire route, from their launch points to Indianapolis. Each route also will include priest chaplains who will carry the Eucharist,

usually in a monstrance specially designed for the pilgrimage. While some chaplains may join the entire pilgrimage route, others may join for segments of the journey, Glemkowski said.

The faithful are invited to join the pilgrimage for hours, days or weeks. Each day of the pilgrimage will begin with Mass and a eucharistic procession with the local community before pilgrims continue the trek to their next stopping point. Pilgrims joining the eucharistic caravans for short stretches will be responsible for arranging their own food and overnight accommodations, although some parishes along the routes may provide meals and lodging.

Members of St. Bernard Parish in Thief River Falls, Minn., the Wavras have worked out their own logistics: They plan to take their truck with a camper and two motorized bicycles, and “hopscotch” their way along the route, taking their truck each morning to drop off their bikes at that evening's stop, driving back, walking the pilgrimage route, and then taking their bikes to pick up their truck.

The Wavras expect the pilgrimage to include camaraderie with fellow Catholics and their shepherd, Bishop Cozzens, whose Diocese of Crookston is home to Lake Itasca and the first stretch of the Marian Route.

The pilgrimage “brings Jesus out of our churches and out into the public,” Mike Wavra told OSV News on May 4. “This is just an opportunity for people to see the Jesus that we know and love.”

Wavra also expects the pilgrimage to attract interest and curiosity from non-Catholics. “They wonder what some crazy Catholics are doing, following a piece of bread,” he said. “It's not a piece of bread, it's the Lord himself. What an opportunity for us to share that.”

(If you are interested in attending next summer's National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis on July 17-21, 2024, sign up at the website, www.eucharisticcongress.org.) †

In sharing story of own leg amputation, Trenton bishop bolsters 11-year-old as she faced similar surgery

(OSV News)—To many, it could seem that Emma Close has lived a lifetime in her 11 years: awaiting an adoptive family in China for eight years while receiving no formal education, her 2019 adoption just before COVID-19 shut down her country of origin, and a birth defect that required an amputation shortly thereafter.

However, Emma has kept a positive spirit and embraced her new parents—Sandy and Bob Close, her education in St. Mary Academy in Manahawkin, N.J., and her Catholic faith, culminating in her baptism on April 23. And the support she has received even extends to a notable diocesan figure: Trenton Bishop David M. O’Connell.

The bishop recently wrote a letter to the third-grader, upon hearing of Emma’s leg amputation and prosthesis. He also shared some photos of his leg, his learning to walk again and one of him with Pope Francis.

“We both share something in common: You and I each have a prosthetic leg below the knee,” Bishop O’Connell wrote. “Although it is not the same as having my natural leg, I manage to get around pretty well and can perform my duties as bishop of the Diocese of Trenton without any real problems.”

“Just like me, Bishop O’Connell had to learn to walk again,” Emma told the TrentonMonitor.com, the diocesan news outlet. “I think he was very brave. I know it hurt a lot when he had his operation, because I remember how I felt.”

On Dec. 29, 2014, Bishop O’Connell had to undergo an emergency amputation of his left leg midway between knee and ankle due to serious infections caused by diabetes. He responded well to physical therapy, learning to walk again using a

prosthetic leg. He was able to return to public ministry by Holy Week of March 2015, which was his goal.

Sandy said that although her daughter was a bit anxious about what others would think of her leg, “when she learned [about] Bishop O’Connell ... she realized that she was not alone and was so excited when he shared his story and photos with her,” Sandy recalled.

Emma’s journey began in an orphanage, in a country that has long limited the number of children to one per family. When she was in graduate school, Sandy had researched China’s one-child policy (in place from 1970 to 2016); she and Bob knew they would eventually adopt a child from China. The couple have six children older than Emma, four of whom also are adopted.

A medical condition called fibular hemimelia caused Emma’s right lower leg and foot to form improperly in the womb. Her surgery allowed her to learn to walk on a prosthetic leg just a few weeks afterward, and “at five weeks post-op she was able to skip!” Sandy exclaimed. “She has shown us that she can overcome any obstacle. ... This disability will not slow her down.”

“I love going to St. Mary Academy,”



Daniel T. O’Connell, Trenton, N.J.’s diocesan associate director for curriculum and instruction, and Emma Close pose at her school, St. Mary Academy in Manahawkin, N.J., on May 18. Because of a birth defect, some months prior she had to undergo amputation of her right lower leg and foot. At right, after a three-year pandemic delay, Emma was baptized on April 23 and poses for a photo outside St. Mary Church in Barnegat, N.J. (OSV New photos/courtesy the Close family)



Emma said, “because I love the principal Ms. [Lizanne] Coyne and love learning about Mary and baby Jesus and God. I have made a lot of new, good friends who care about me. My teacher, Mrs. [Pamela] Kovacs, has taught me that I can count on God’s love every day.”

Her baptism was very important to her,

she said, “because then I knew I would someday go to heaven and be with God.”

“We are so grateful for all that Bishop O’Connell has done for our daughter,” Sandy said. “He helped her feel better about herself and showed her that being different does not have to ... limit what she can accomplish.” †



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CATHEDRAL CLASS OF 2023 HONOR GRADUATES

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Antonio Enrique Arroyo, Mr. & Mrs. Martin & Rosie Arroyo, *St. Simon the Apostle Parish* • **Liam Roger Eifert**, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Eifert, *Our Lady of Lourdes Parish* • **Sarah Anne Elliott**, Mr. & Mrs. Scott & Jane Elliott, *St. Pius X Parish* • **Anna Marie Elpers**, Mr. John & the late Mrs. Karey Elpers, *St. Jude Parish* • **Erin Kathleen Emmick**, Drs. Jeff & Susan Emmick, *Christ the King Parish* • **Rachel Claire Henry**, Ms. Jill Henry • **Megan Victoria Hoppes**, Mr. & Mrs. Bob & Kim Hoppes, *St. Luke’s Methodist Church* • **Nya Simone Huff**, Mr. & Mrs. Carvis Herron, *Holy Name Catholic Church* • **Cade Cooper Johnston**, Mr. & Mrs. William & Maura Johnston, *St. Jude Parish* • **Joseph Peter Mariani**, Mr. & Mrs. Tom & Myra Mariani, *Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish* • **John Joseph Schneider**, Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Sheila Schneider, *Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish* • **Robert Donald Whelan**, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & JoAnne Whelan, *Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish* • **Lea Catherine White**, Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Jill White, *St. Pius X Parish*

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Hannah Kathryn Barbee, Mr. & Mrs. John & Katie Barbee, *St. Pius X Parish* • **Sally Patricia Bradshaw**, Mr. & Mrs. John & Elizabeth Bradshaw, *St. Joan of Arc Parish* • **Lucy Jean Clark**, Mr. & Mrs. James & Amy Clark, *St. Pius X Parish* • **Leah Rose Craver**, Mr. & Mrs. Ty & Sarah Craver, *St. Matthew Parish* • **Benjamin David Dravis**, Mr. & Mrs. Bryan & Barbara Dravis, *St. Simon the Apostle Parish* • **Benjamin Luis Jones**, Mr. & Mrs. Chris & Adriana Jones, *St. Simon the Apostle Parish* • **Bronson Patrick Keehn**, Mr. Alva Keehn & Ms. Tracey Gillespie, *St. Jude Parish* • **Caroline Emma Keltner**, Mr. & Mrs. Richard & Kristin Keltner, *Northminster Presbyterian & St. Matthew Parish* • **Luke Michael Pehlman**, Mr. & Mrs. David & Christina Pehlman, *St. Simon the Apostle Parish* • **Peter Brody Snyder**, Mr. & Mrs. Pete & Kimberly Snyder, *Holy Spirit at Geist Parish* • **Anna Nicole Spellacy**, Mr. Kevin Spellacy & Dr. Alma Noreika, *St. Matthew Parish* • **Henry Joseph Staggs**, Drs. Russell & Sharon Staggs, *St. Michael Parish - Greenfield* • **Kiara Noelle Taylor**, Ms. Kenya N. Taylor • **Charlotte Harris Thompson**, Mr. Gary Thompson & Ms. Leigh Harris • **Brooke Ashley Wojcieszek**, Mr. & Mrs. William & Robin Wojcieszek, *Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish*

CUM LAUDE

Ella Grace Bundy, Mr. & Mrs. Bryce & Kari Bundy • **Nicholas William Busam**, Mr. Tom Busam & Ms. Kristina Swanson, *St. Monica Parish* • **Thomas Kellison Davey**, Mr. & Mrs. Kevin & Wendy Davey, *Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish* • **Kristyn Olivia Fisher**, Mr. Darryl Fisher & Mrs. Jamya Liggins-Fisher, *Greater St. Mark Baptist Church* • **Zachary Price Hopkins**, Mr. Timothy Hopkins & Ms. Stacia Hopkins, *Christ the King Parish* • **Carson Wade Johnson**, Mr. & Mrs. Aaron & Bridget Johnson, *St. Pius X Parish* • **Gemma Catherine Kaiser**, Mr. & Mrs. James & Nina Kaiser, *St. Matthew Parish* • **Paul Joseph McClure**, Mr. & Mrs. Steve & Colleen McClure, *Holy Spirit at Geist Parish* • **Morgan Abigail Stickney**, Mr. & Mrs. James & Kristin Stickney • **Madeline Grace Taylor**, Mr. & Mrs. Matthew & Beth Taylor, *St. Louis de Montfort Parish* • **Danna Paola Ventura**, Mr. Jose Ventura & Ms. Maribel Rodriguez, *St. Philip Neri Parish*

SIMPLY CATHOLIC



A woman sits at the bedside of her mother in 2016 at de Greeff Hospice House in St. Louis. Church teaching on death and dying strengthens the dignity of and brings compassion to those who are close to death. (OSV News photo/CNS file, Lisa Johnston, *St. Louis Review*)

Church brings compassion and dignity to the dying

By **Woodeene Koenig-Bricker and Robert Fastiggi**

(OSV News)—The Church teaches that all life, from conception to natural death, is sacred.

However, modern medical advances have made end-of-life issues increasingly difficult to sort out. Here is an overview of important moral issues surrounding life and death.

—Why should I turn to the Church when a loved one is facing an end-of-life decision?

Since such decisions are often made in times of great stress, talking to a priest can help you and your family understand Church directives, assuring that your decisions are both compassionate and morally ethical.

Moreover, the Church offers not only the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist to help the sick or dying, but also provides the special graces of the sacrament of the anointing of the sick.

—What does the Church teach about the end of life?

First, because God is the author of all life, he forbids in the fifth commandment the intentional killing of human life by direct or indirect means. Causing a life to end, even for the best of motives, is always wrong.

Second, life in all its stages is sacred, and “those whose lives are diminished or weakened deserve special respect” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* [CCC] #2276).

Third, human beings—regardless of their age, illness, social station or abilities—are never to be considered less than fully human. St. John Paul II explained:

“Even our brothers and sisters who find themselves in the clinical condition of a ‘vegetative state’ retain their human dignity in all its fullness. The loving gaze of God the Father continues to fall upon them, acknowledging them as his sons and daughters, especially in need of help.”

Finally, the Church does not say that life must be prolonged at all costs. Patients or their rightfully designated authorities may refuse “overzealous” treatments that are “burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary, or disproportionate to the expected outcome” (CCC, #2278). In short, only “ordinary means” of prolonging life are morally required in the case of illness and imminent death.

—What does the Church mean by “ordinary means?”

“Ordinary means” refer to “the normal care due to the sick person,” including those remedies “that seem necessary or useful” (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, “Declaration on Euthanasia”). The sick are to be kept clean, warm and protected from infection and pain as far as possible. They are to be given nutrition and hydration, even when these are provided by artificial means.

These “ordinary means” should be distinguished from

medical treatments that are overly burdensome, risky or painful when compared to the reasonable benefit they might offer.

Practically, this means that a procedure that is experimental, offers little hope of success or is too much to bear is not obligatory. For example, a 93-year-old grandmother who is partially paralyzed by a stroke is diagnosed with breast cancer. She may decide that the risks of a mastectomy coupled with chemotherapy are more than she is willing to endure.

For her, the treatment would constitute “extraordinary means.” On the other hand, for a 33-year-old mother in otherwise good health, such an operation may be merely the “ordinary” means of dealing with her cancer.

—Why shouldn’t I rely on medical professionals alone to make these decisions?

Medicine is an art as much as a science. Medical professionals can provide their best guesses as to the outcome of an illness, but ultimately God determines the span of our days.

After gathering all the medical facts, it is helpful to have the advice of a priest or moral counselor to determine not only what may be considered extraordinary treatment in general, but also what may be considered extraordinary treatment in your particular case. Often, people who are gravely ill become either depressed or panicky and may struggle making rational decisions. While physicians can provide options, a priest or moral theologian can help you make the right decisions.

—Why is euthanasia wrong?

Sometimes, in a misguided attempt to alleviate suffering, people believe that euthanasia, the direct ending of life, is an act of mercy. But the Church teaches that euthanasia is a “murderous act” and is always forbidden. However, a distinction must be made between euthanasia and permitting natural death. Euthanasia is “an action or an omission which of itself or by intention causes death, in order that all suffering in this way may be eliminated” (“Declaration on Euthanasia”).

It is a deliberate action (for example, an overdose) or an omission (such as withholding food or water) that seeks to end a person’s life. Permitting natural death, on the other hand, means that a person’s life is allowed to take its natural course—which, for all of us, ultimately ends in death.

Special consideration must be given to painkillers that could hasten death. The Church teaches that the use of painkillers “can be morally in conformity with human dignity if death is not willed as either an end or a means, but only foreseen and tolerated as inevitable. Palliative care is a special form of disinterested charity. As such, it should be encouraged” (CCC, #2279).

In any event, the normal care owed to a sick person (even one who is terminally ill) must be continued. Food and

fluids normally should be provided. St. John Paul II called these “a natural means of preserving life, not a medical act,” and their deliberate withdrawal constitutes murder.

—The value of suffering

Following Jesus’ example, the Church has always considered care for the sick and dying an essential part of its ministry. Accepting the suffering that comes with illness, old age and the process of dying can “make a person more mature, helping him discern in his life what is not essential so that he can turn toward that which is. Very often illness provokes a search for God and a return to him. . . . By his passion and death on the cross, Christ has given a new meaning to suffering: it can henceforth configure us to him and unite us with his redemptive Passion” (CCC, #1501, #1505).

—What should I do if I become incapacitated and dependent on others’ decisions?

According to the Patient Self-Determination Act of 1990, all hospitals and medical care facilities must provide written information about the right to accept or refuse medical treatment and the right to a living will, and/or how to designate durable power of attorney.

A durable power of attorney grants authority to a person you designate, who understands your moral considerations and wishes, to act as a proxy if you are unable to speak for yourself. A living will is a signed legal document spelling out what medical treatment and procedures you want or do not want to have done if you become incompetent.

You need to be sure before you sign a living will that it does not contain actions contrary to Catholic teaching, such as allowing euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide. In addition, it should state that you want a priest called to celebrate the sacrament of anointing of the sick if you are seriously ill. You should keep a copy of your living will in a safe place and distribute copies to your doctor and family members.

Since individual state laws vary, check with your state to see what is legal and necessary. Many dioceses have Catholic living wills on their websites. Without such advance directives, others may make decisions that do not correspond either to your wishes or to Church teaching.

(*Woodeene Koenig-Bricker is an author and editor from Oregon. Her latest book is Dinner Party with the Saints [Paraclete Press, 2021]. Robert Fastiggi is the Bishop Britt Chair of Dogmatic Theology and Christology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, where he has taught since 1999. He has authored, co-edited, or co-authored 15 books—most recently, Virgin, Mother, Queen: Encountering Mary in Time and Tradition [Ave Maria Press, 2019] with Michael O’Neill.*) †

Corrections Corner/Justin Robison

Surround yourself with people who reflect love

What comes to mind when you hear the word “reflection”? Everyone’s answer may not be the same. Actually, that is what is so amazing about life. I have struggled to see a reflection of myself that others said I displayed. For me, it was a troubled past, a few mistakes growing up, decisions I wished I had made differently, and the list could go on.



I was once told by a wise woman that what you reflect on can sometimes refine what you are wanting to see or believe. I never really understood those words, and they left me baffled and confused more than anything. Until finally I was captured by a quote that would change how I reflect on life: “Dance through your storms because a rainbow follows.”

Having a past is part of everyone’s life, but it doesn’t have to be part of the

finished product. No matter how your life has played out up to this point, you have to surround yourself with people who will reflect love, joy, understanding and so much more. Find people who will help you get back to that reflection of yourself that you know and understand that you can be. Don’t get lost on reflecting solely on one thing or one event.

Value is more than a price. Once you begin to value yourself, just watch the change that begins to unravel around you. Find support from people who are going to not try and change you, but adapt with you to help you grow. Adapting is helping someone become comfortable. Change is constant, so don’t fear change.

Support is something simple that can satisfy a heart no matter if it’s broken, lost or needs a little love. Support isn’t something that should make you feel uneasy. Support should be a mirror reflection of who you are striving to be.

I look for support from people who help me achieve my daily goal of going

to sleep a better person than when I woke up. In life, there will be ups and downs, as well as good and bad. Life is not about being praised or condemned in those moments, but reflecting on each moment as a learning experience to help you grow.

No matter your story or what you have done, find those people you can call family. Find people who support your goals and give you advice in the toughest moments to help you reflect on the brighter side rather than the gloomy one.

Remember to let your reflection be real to all who encounter you!

(Justin Robison is a 29-year-old Christian from Rockport, Ind. Benedictine Father Jeremy King, a member of the archdiocese’s Corrections Advisory Committee, worked with him while he was incarcerated in the Branchville Prison. Justin is doing very well after his release. He currently is working as a painter apprentice.) †

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

God doesn’t ration the gifts of the Spirit in family life

Philip, my fourth son, will receive the sacrament of confirmation in a few days. My wife Cindy and I are both happy for and proud of him



taking this important step in embracing his faith.

It’s happening just days after our second son Raphael graduated from Lumen Christi Catholic High School in Indianapolis

In preparing for the sacrament, Philip, and Raphael before him (along with our sons Michael and Victor), learned about confirmation, it’s role in their life of faith and how the Spirit empowers them to grow in holiness, do God’s will and achieve their life’s goal—being a saint forever in heaven.

They’ve also reflected on the seven gifts and 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit, which theologians and spiritual writers through the centuries have discerned in meditating on the Scriptures.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1845). The fruits of the Holy Spirit are charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1832).

I’m glad my sons have learned about how the Holy Spirit can work in their lives by exploring its fruits and gifts. They’re a time-tested and scripturally rooted way of understanding how God is intimately involved in our lives, and how we can cooperate in countless ways with his grace.

It’s important to remember, though, that the development through the centuries in the Church’s tradition of seven and 12 gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit was not intended to discern the Spirit’s working in our lives in just those distinct categories.

In the Gospel of St. John, we read that God “does not ration his gift of the Spirit” (Jn 3:34). While those words specifically relate to Christ, it’s fair to conclude that this wondrous reality applies to us, too, insofar as we receive a share of Christ’s life in baptism, which is then strengthened in the sacrament of confirmation.

In pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts in baptism, confirmation and, indeed, all the sacraments, God blesses all of us with an overabundance of the grace needed for salvation. This prodigious outpouring of the Spirit helps us bring others closer to him and the Church and to work with fellow believers to build up God’s kingdom in the world.

As Philip approaches being confirmed and in the wake of Raphael’s graduation, I’m more aware of the little ways that this can happen in the lives of Cindy and our sons than I was earlier in the life of our family. Such, for me at least, is the gift of having five sons. It’s given me a wealth of experiences in which to see God’s blessings.

But were I to have 10 sons, I could not even begin to plumb the infinite depths of the beautiful mystery of the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Five is enough, though, to make my heart swell with gratitude for this divine gift.

Confirmations and graduations are turning points that come about first through God’s grace and also a lot of work from parents and the young people who experience them. God sets before us a feast of faith in both of these moments.

While graduations and confirmation are high points in the lives of families, God adorns each day of our lives with the grandeur of his grace. Allow the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of your heart to this transfigured reality. †

That All May Be One/Fr. Rick Ginther

Building relationships must be at the heart of ecumenism

The National Workshop on Christian Unity is an annual gathering of people who work to foster a spirit of ecumenical understanding, dialogue and relationship.



Many participants are ecumenical officers. That is, they are someone assigned by a bishop or lead minister to lead this ministry in their faith tradition.

Held in Milwaukee earlier this month, workshop participants included Methodists, Catholics, Lutherans, Episcopalians and Evangelicals. Other Christian denominations were represented as well.

Our theme was “Do good; seek justice” (Is 1:17)—the same as this year’s Week of

Prayer for Christian Unity in January.

It might seem odd that the work toward unity was not the focus, but we gathered as fellow Christians rooted in biblical justice. And as Catholics, we recalled the roots of our social teaching.

The presentations of four speakers were notable for what they said.

Bishop Richard J. Sklba, the 87-year-old retired auxiliary bishop of Milwaukee, preached the opening prayer service at Redeemer Lutheran Church. His resonant voice held us to our theme: do good, seek justice.

A day later, he reminisced about Oct. 11, 1962. He related how he snuck into the opening session of the Second Vatican Council by helping carry a bishop’s luggage. There, he heard Pope St. John XXIII lay out the purpose of the council: to renew the Catholic Church, reconcile Christianity and launch a new evangelization.

He noted those purposes remain yet today. He hoped that the ecumenical movement would permeate all people. Paraphrasing St. Augustine, he concluded, “Nothing happens except through friendship.”

Friendships are strained in our world. That strain was the focus of the other three speakers, each from a different perspective.

Alexei Laushkin, an Evangelical and president of the Evangelical and Pentecostal Ecumenism and Dialogue Association, remarked that it is imperative that “I see the

divine in you.”

He urged his audience to widen the table to include a greater array of Christians in their ecumenical journey. He concluded: talk less, listen more, pray for what you don’t understand.

Rev. Jay Wittmeyer of the Church of the Brethren spoke as executive director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in Lombard, Ill. He focused on how to speak constructively amid conflict. He emphasized Eph 4:14-16, particularly the call to “speak the truth in love” (Eph 4:15).

Rev. Wittmeyer quoted several sources, but two stand out:

—“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” (Maya Angelou)

—“Mass movements can rise and spread without a belief in God, but never without a belief in the devil.” (Eric Hoffer) It reminded us we must beware of demonizing others.

Finally, Rev. Stephanie Spellers, an Episcopalian and canon to presiding Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry, spoke and focused on the signs of the times, the reality of racism and any attitude that demeans the “other.”

Regarding all relationships in this age of polarization, she cautioned about the danger of “self-centrism,” which assumes that I (or my group, my nation, my race, my religion, my kind) is at the center. It also believes the rest of humanity and the Earth itself are organized to support my/our singular needs, demands and ability to flourish.

As Christians, we understand this latter point is not found in any Scripture verse.

She asked her listeners a pointed question: “Do you want to be right? Or do you want to be in relationship?”

The speakers’ messages made it clear our gathering was truly about ecumenism throughout the entire world. Relationships and how we value another person are key to society, to equality, to human rights, for justice and doing good.

As Christian ecumenists, we all need to keep this in mind as we work toward unity.

(Father Rick Ginther is director of the archdiocesan Office of Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs. He is also the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis.) †

Amid the Fray/Greg Erlandson

Now more than ever, we need diocesan news media

When my wife bought a Subaru a few years ago, we not only got a car. We also received a company magazine called



Drive. Subaru is trying to use a “membership magazine” to build a relationship with us as well as sell us more stuff. We usually toss the magazine in our recycling bin.

I thought of this recently when I saw a diocesan advertisement

recruiting a newspaper editor. The job was clearly meant to be part of the public relations office, and the job description was to “highlight the good works of the diocese and its partners and to obtain positive coverage of diocesan programs, services and events.”

Now dioceses, like corporations, do want and need public relations efforts, especially after the past two decades of allegations and controversies. And diocesan officials can be forgiven for wanting “good news” and positive stories after the hammering they’ve gotten.

As the Church celebrated World Communications Day on May 21, however, I would argue that developing “membership magazines” is an incomplete assessment of what the people of God need—indeed, of what the Church needs.

There are many threats facing the Church, from ersatz diocesan news efforts that are really fronts for partisan political agendas, to a stressed secular media that has a shrinking number of journalists, especially religion journalists. Their reports are often sloppy, shallow or incomplete. And the polarization that

infects both Church and state also infects the third estate, making it harder for a Catholic voice to be heard unless it is found to be ideologically agreeable.

But the greatest threat may be a lack of institutional faith in the value of Catholic news media and the courage to support it at the local level.

Secular and Catholic local newspapers are both closing at a breathtaking pace. What’s left are “news deserts” where those seeking information are driven to national news organizations or whatever they find on the Internet—sources with agendas often quite different from those of the diocese.

Whether it’s “culture wars” or just “culture confusion,” Catholics often find themselves on the front lines but disarmed, lacking both information and formation.

What they need is solid, trustworthy,

See **ERLANDSON**, page 18

Pentecost Sunday/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 28, 2023

- Acts 2:1-11
- 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
- John 20:19-23

This weekend, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Pentecost, one of the most important feasts of the Church's



liturgical year. It is richly biblical in its background, and is profoundly formative in its own message and in its place in the chronology of events commemorated these past weeks: Good Friday, Easter and

the Ascension of the Lord being the most important.

Once, Christians chiefly were of Jewish origin. Christians therefore observed the Jewish holy days. Very early in Church history, this changed. Missionaries such as St. Paul took the Gospel far and wide, winning converts among the gentiles. Then, as a result of rebelling against the Romans in 70 A.D., the Jews themselves almost were annihilated.

Consequently, Christians stopped celebrating the Jewish holy days. An exception is Pentecost, although the Christian observance centers upon the distinctly Christian character of the day.

Nevertheless, the Christian character heavily draws upon the Jewish context of the day. In time, Pentecost became for Jews a celebration of Jewish identity, rejoicing in the collective role of the chosen people.

For Christians, Pentecost commemorates the initial formation of the Church by God. This event revealed the divinity of Jesus and the perfect union of the Holy Trinity in essence and in mission.

Important in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles describing the first Pentecost is the community of the Apostles and of believers with them. Together, as one, they received the power of the Holy Spirit, which had been promised by Christ.

The Holy Spirit comes as God. The imagery is strong with Old Testament associations. The divine Spirit comes as fire, an image so often used for God in the Scriptures.

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, the

Apostles have divine power itself. They are without fear. Fortified, too, are all the members of the Church.

Portrayed in the reading are people in Jerusalem from places across the Roman Empire. Salvation is offered all who love God.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians furnishes the second reading. This reading clearly states that belief in Jesus as Lord belongs only to the humble and faithful. Without humility, without faith, humans are confused and seriously subject to their own limitations.

St. John's Gospel provides the last reading. It is a Resurrection narrative. The risen Lord appears before the Apostles. He is God, possessing the Holy Spirit, able to give the life and power of the Spirit. He gives this power to the Apostles, specifically vesting them with the most divine of powers, the power to forgive sins.

Reflection

The Church concludes its brilliant story of the sacrifice and then resurrection of Jesus on this Pentecost Sunday. Jesus is the Savior. In Jesus, God offered the world salvation.

The story of salvation, then, has one central figure, Jesus the Lord. He lived a human life. God in every sense, Jesus was human and remains so. It is the mystery and miracle of the incarnation.

Jesus ascended to heaven. He did not desert us, however. To continue his mission of salvation, Jesus called the Apostles. Specially taught, present with him as no one else, they had unique lessons and revelations from the Lord.

Their task was to assist us in overcoming our human limitations and in understanding the Gospel.

The Church is not a happenstance of people standing side by side. In the Spirit they share one source of life. Thus, Christians act in communion, ideally.

Pope Pius XII three generations ago masterfully told us that the Church is the mystical body of Christ, no mere human institution. Holiness is not automatic, however, for its members. They must cooperate with the grace of God to be part of Christ's mystical body. †

Daily Readings

Monday, May 29

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
Genesis 3:9-15, 20
 or *Acts 1:12-14*
Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7
John 19:25-34

Monday, May 30

Sirach 35:1-12
Psalm 50:5-8, 14, 23
Mark 10:28-31

Wednesday, May 31

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Zephaniah 3:14-18a
 or *Romans 12:9-16*
 (Response) *Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6*
Luke 1:39-56

Thursday, June 1

St. Justin, martyr
Sirach 42:15-25
Psalm 33:2-9
Mark 10:46-52

Friday, June 2

St. Marcellinus, martyr
 St. Peter, martyr
Sirach 44:1, 9-13
Psalm 149:1b-6a, 9b
Mark 11:11-26

Saturday, June 3

St. Charles Lwanga and companions, martyrs
Sirach 51:12cd-20
Psalm 19:8-11
Mark 11:27-33
Psalm 149:1b-6a, 9b
Mark 11:11-26

Sunday, June 4

The Most Holy Trinity
Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9
 (Response) *Daniel 3:52-55*
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
John 3:16-18

Question Corner/Jenna Marie Cooper

Christ established pattern of only choosing men for the priesthood

Q Why doesn't the Church allow women to be priests?



A The reason the Church cannot ordain women to the priesthood is because of the pattern set by Jesus himself while he walked the Earth. Pope St. John Paul II mentions this historical fact as the

fundamental rationale for reserving the ministerial priesthood to men in his 1994 apostolic letter "*Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*."

The original 12 Apostles were the first bishops; the priesthood is deeply connected to and flows out from the office of bishops. All bishops start as priests, and only a bishop can ordain new priests.

We know from Scripture that Jesus called only men to be Apostles. As several saints and scholars have noted through the centuries, Jesus didn't even call our Lady to be an Apostle, even though after Jesus she was the holiest person ever to be born.

Of course, some people say that Jesus was only following the customs of his time in calling only men to ordained ministry. But Jesus was truly God, so if he wanted to call women to the priesthood, he certainly would have had the power to do that.

We also have many instances in the Gospels where Jesus did treat women as equals, even when the culture of his time would not have seen women this way. For example, in chapter 10 of St. Luke's Gospel, Jesus encourages Mary (sister of SS. Martha and Lazarus) to sit at his feet as a student, at a time when ordinarily formal studies were considered something proper to men.

And St. Mary Magdalene was the first witness of the

Resurrection—even while women under Jewish law at the time could not be witnesses in formal court cases.

Some argue that it's not fair for men to be able to be priests when women can't. But priesthood—and really, any position in the Church—is not about power or prestige, but about service to others. Priests are priests so that they can serve the rest of the Church, not so that the Church can serve them.

Even though Jesus' actions are the reason why we can't have women priests, theologians sometimes make educated guesses on why Jesus may have made that choice. There are a lot of really interesting writings out there on the idea that men and women have different but equal and complementary vocations in the Church, even if these writings aren't official Church teachings at this point.

Q We recently sold our house thanks to St. Joseph's intercession. We buried a statue in the front yard and unearthed it once the house was sold. While moving, the head of the statue broke off. Is it OK to simply glue it back on?

A Yes, it's fine just to glue it back on!

Generally, we say that devotional objects, especially blessed devotional objects, should be treated with a certain degree of respect (e.g., worn or damaged devotional objects should be disposed of reverently and not simply thrown out with the regular trash). Carefully repairing a St. Joseph statue is in line with this kind of reverence.

But devotional objects such as statues and images of saints aren't magical or holy in and of themselves. In a similar way to how family photos can help us recall our loved ones, images of saints remind us of who we are as the family of the people of God.

In terms of the specific custom of associating a statue of St. Joseph with real estate transactions, we recall St. Joseph's role as the provider and protector of the Holy Family. St. Joseph made sure that our Lord and our Lady always had a roof over their heads. So, it makes sense for us to turn to him when we need help in arranging a safe and comfortable home for our own families.

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

My Journey to God

Holy Spirit

By Br. Don Bassana, OFM Conv.

As I get up, and go about my way
 I thank you, for this new day
 Let me live in union, with our Father's Will
 May all I do, think and say
 Build His Kingdom, in some small way.

May I be ever, in your presence
 My steps illumined by thy Light
 Transforming me in essence
 To what is pleasing in thy sight.

I pray, O Holy Spirit
 My Advocate and guide
 Lead me to the Eternal banquet
 That I may dwell, ever at thy side.



(Conventual Franciscan Brother Don Bassana resides at Mount Saint Francis in Mt. St. Francis. Photo: This image of the Holy Spirit graces the sanctuary of St. Peter Church in Jaffa, Israel. May 28 marks the feast of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles.) (File photo by Natalie Hoefler)

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.

ARTHUR, Darrell L., 71, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, May 2. Husband of Susan Arthur. Uncle of several.

ASHLEY, Victoria G., 71, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Bright, May 10. Wife of Robert Ashley. Mother of Brandy, Bryan and Robert Ashley. Sister of Janet Bales, Pat Cook and Jeannie Sebastian. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of one.

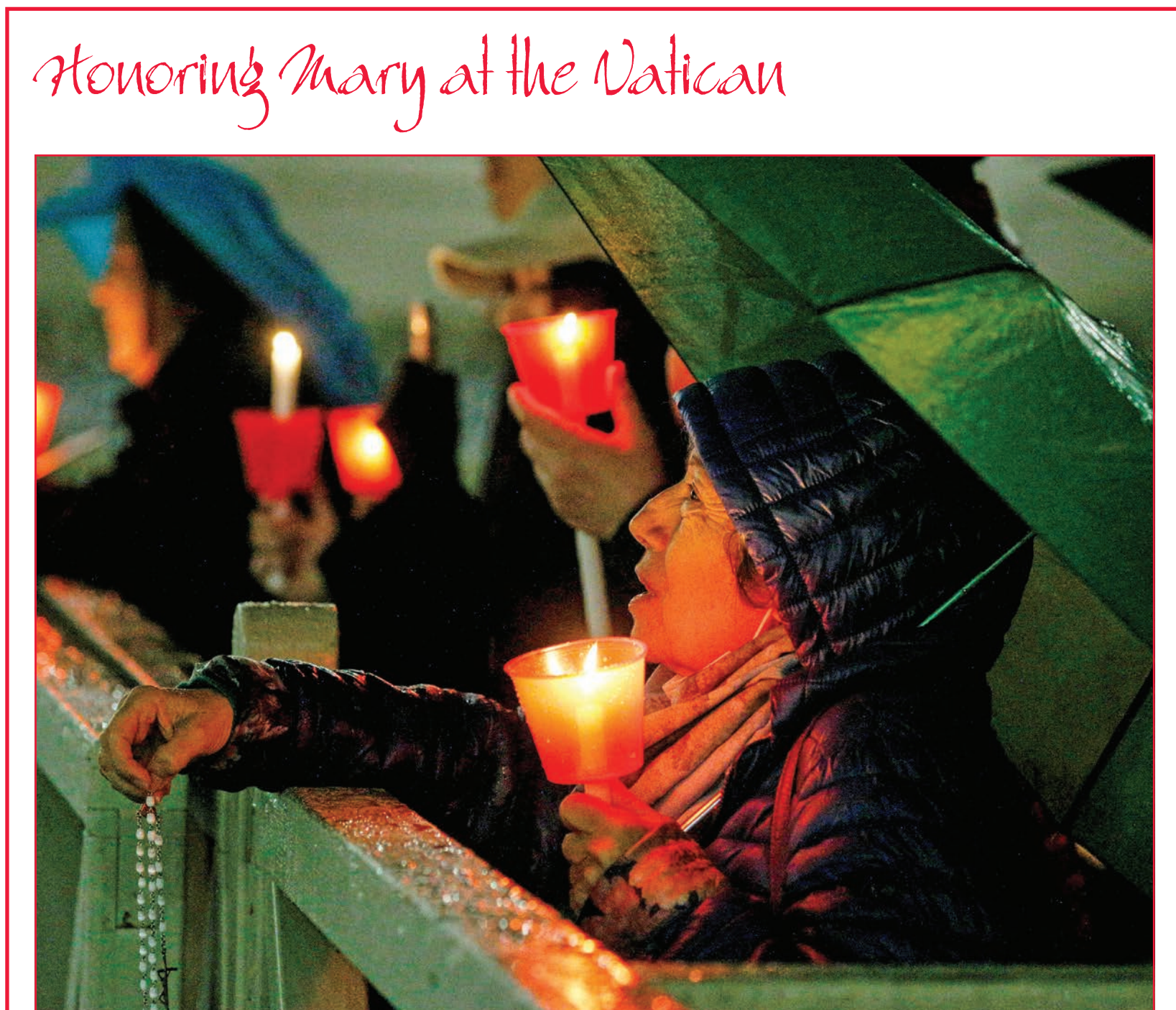
BACK, Doris M., 89, St. Michael, Brookville, May 16. Mother of Alice, Theresa, Patty and Garry Back. Sister of Alice Raab and Oscar Graf. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of four.

BAKER, Mary JoAnn, 96, St. Susanna, Plainfield, April 25. Mother of Linda Watrous and Dennis DeLong. Stepmother of Linda Hullett, Daniel, Michael, Robert and Timothy Baker. Grandmother of 25. Great-grandmother of 27.

BRODFUEHRER, Kenneth, 97, St. Mary, New Albany, April 22. Brother of Glen Brodfuehrer.

COLLINS, Marietta A. (Strobel), 93, St. Paul, Tell City, May 10. Mother of Carla Owen, Kay Ramsey, Colleen Smith, David and Jerry Collins. Sister of Leo Strobel. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of 13.

CRAMPTON, Mary Francis (Tietz), 88, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, May 11. Mother of Jane Kress and Thomas Crampton. Sister of Patricia Newman and Anthony Tietz. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of two.



People pray during a candlelight rosary on May 13 in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. St. Peter's Basilica organizes a rosary procession in the square every Saturday night in May, a month traditionally dedicated to Mary in the Church. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

CROSS, Rita O., 99, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, May 16. Mother of Margaret Cornwell, Helen James, Monica Kubick, Rita Miller, Kathleen, David and Joseph Cross. Sister of Loretta Bocast. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of 13.

DANT, Gregory C., Sr., 63, St. Jude, Indianapolis, May 3. Husband of Elizabeth Dant. Father of Mary, Evan, Gregory, Jr., and Joseph Dant IV. Brother of Elizabeth Derwin, Kathleen Henderson, George, Gerald, Gerard, Harold, Father J. Nicholas and Timothy Dant. Grandfather of four.

DUNCAN, Jean A., 93, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, April 10. Mother of Janet Hellman, Christopher, Richard, Stephen and William Duncan. Sister of Mary Hook.

Grandmother of 22. Great-grandmother of 29.

FISHER, Nancy (Beavin), 91, Prince of Peace, Madison, May 12. Mother of Carolyn VanLuchene and Charlene Zoeller. Sister of James Beavin. Grandmother of four.

FLYNN, David L., 37, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, April 13. Husband of Becca Henning. Father of Derika, Lainey and David Flynn, Jr. Son of Ronald and Virginia Flynn. Brother of Rachael Jones, Kenneth and Nathan Flynn. Grandson of Frederick and Barbara Karl, and Thomas, Sr., and Patricia Dyer.

GARRISON, Carmella, 69, St. Gabriel, Connerville, May 7. Wife of Steven Garrison. Mother of Jama Guthrie and Curtis Garrison.

Sister of Pandora Wilhelm. Grandmother of two.

HOLLAND, Emily, 93, St. Simon the Apostle, Indianapolis, May 6. Mother of Diane Burgan, Karen Hanawalt, Christine McCarley, Terry Witzerman, Brian and Joe Holland. Grandmother of 13. Great-grandmother of three.

HOLT, Patricia, 92, Prince of Peace, Madison, May 12. Mother of Gregory Holt. Grandmother of one.

KOERS, Lisa M., 51, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, May 1. Wife of Tim Koers. Mother of Kara, Brandon and Tyler Koers. Daughter of Loren and Nancy Henry. Sister of Suzanne Taggart. Aunt of several.

LEE, Angela D., 46, St. Michael, Brookville, May 11. Daughter of Vicki Lee. Sister of Mic and Rob Lee. Granddaughter of Norma Thompson. Aunt of several.

LITMER, Daniel S., 60, St. Catherine of Siena, Decatur County, May 15. Husband of Elena Litmer. Stepfather of Konstantin Litmer. Brother of Chris Litmer. Uncle of one.

MARSELLA, Shirley, 83, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, May 10. Wife of Jack Marsella. Mother of Dave, Jeff and Mike Marsella. Grandmother of 11.

MONROE, Barbara, 81, St. Michael, Brookville, May 6. Mother of Cathy Baudenistel, Becky Ketchum, Denise Rains and Annette Sizemore. Sister of Judy

Monroe, Roger and Ted Reuss. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of six.

SCHOLLE, Mary, 76, St. Maurice, Napoleon, May 3. Mother of Angela Bradley, Andrew, Christopher and Michael Scholle. Sister of Charles Massie, Jr. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of four.

SKIBBE, Doris L., 90, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, May 3. Aunt of several.

STUHLREHER, Bill, 91, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, May 12. Husband of Mary Kay Stuhldreher. Father of Carolyn Hadlock, Billy and David Stuhldreher. Stepfather of Heather, Kay, Maureen, Bill and Jim Holland. Grandfather of 18. Great-grandfather of three. †

Online Lay Ministry Formation

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has partnered with the University of Notre Dame and Catholic Distance University (CDU) to offer not-for-credit online theology classes:

- Earn certificate in Lay Ministry
- Complete 12 courses online with ND STEP program
- CDU offers classes on Catechism of the Catholic Church
- 20% discount for all employees, volunteers, and parishioners

For more information, please log on to www.archindy.org/layministry



REPORT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT NOW

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

- 1 Ethics Point**
Confidential, Online Reporting
www.archdioceseofindianapolis.ethicspoint.com or 888-393-6810
- 2 Victim Assistance Coordinator**, Archdiocese of Indianapolis
P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410
317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548
victimassistance@archindy.org

ERLANDSON

continued from page 16

courageous journalism that gets the story right, be the news good or bad. Catholic journalism that does its job well will develop a relationship of trust between the diocese and its people, between the Church and its people, providing the information necessary to withstand the bad and celebrate the good. Propaganda only suffices in a bubble, its recipients unwilling or unable to engage the world.

One advocate for such journalism is Pope Francis. Earlier this year, he told Catholic journalists that theirs "is a noble profession: to convey the truth."

The pope told his own Vatican journalists in 2021 that for a news organization to be effective, "it is necessary to make sure everyone has enough freedom to work, that they have the ability to take risks and not go and ask permission, always permission ... this is paralyzing."

To make Church communications effective, the people responsible for that communication must have the trust of, and access to, Church leaders. If every story needs to be vetted at the top, if only good news is allowed to be told, readers will get the message quickly enough. These are strategies for breaking the back of local Catholic media. Diocesan newspapers, once the pride of the Catholic

Church in the U.S., are struggling. When they disappear, all that is left are the press releases most Catholics never read. On issues like gender debates, immigration, guns, or the entire panoply of right-to-life issues, the Catholic voice is increasingly muted exactly when it should not be. And positive efforts at engagement, from synods to eucharistic revivals, need a healthy media to inform and mobilize as well.

Catholic journalism is in crisis, but crisis always signifies opportunities. Some dioceses are closing their news media, but others are investing more in their multimedia efforts.

Independent but Church-affiliated organizations are also investing more in newsgathering. *Our Sunday Visitor*, for example, stepped in to fill a vacuum left by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' closure of the domestic offices of Catholic News Service.

On this World Communications Day, it is worth saluting those diocesan news efforts that continue to do their job despite shrinking staff and shrinking resources. They strive to be both the voice and the ears of the local Church, helping to make all of us more informed and better formed.

(Greg Erlandson is an award-winning Catholic publisher, editor and journalist whose column appears monthly at *OSV News*. Follow him on Twitter @GregErlandson.) †

Investing with Faith/Jolinda Moore

Bequests are a great way to leave a legacy and remember the Church

Life is short. That's why most of us strive to be good and godly people throughout our lives. We try to do what's right, admit when we are wrong, treat everyone with respect, and love others selflessly—especially those God has entrusted to our care.



But as Catholics, we also understand that sharing what we've been given to further the Church's mission and show compassion to those in need isn't just a good thing to do—it's an essential part of living our faith.

The saints are our role models. St. Thérèse of Lisieux is known and loved for her simple approach to growing in holiness: doing small things with great love. But she also offers inspiration for those of us who hope to leave more than just the memory of our generosity behind.

Not long before her death at the age of 24, the "Little Flower" made a stunning promise: "I wish to spend my heaven doing good on Earth."

While we won't be able to watch the grandkids or volunteer at the parish

after we're gone, giving to the Church we've supported during our lives is one of the few things that can continue when we've passed from this life into the next. By making a bequest to the Church, we, too, can do precisely what St. Thérèse promised. We can spend at least some of our heaven supporting the mission of Jesus Christ here in central and southern Indiana.

Bequests are gifts made as part of a will or trust. One of the most popular and flexible ways to support the causes that are important to you and your family, bequests can be made to a person, a trust or to a nonprofit organization such as your parish, school, ministry or the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Making a bequest is easy, but there are some important things to keep in mind:

—**Bequests come in a variety of types and vehicles, each of which sustains the mission of the Catholic Church.** Donors may wish to consider an unrestricted gift that enables archdiocesan leaders to allocate funds where they are most needed. Or donors may choose to restrict their gift to a particular cause or ministry. Whether restricted or unrestricted, bequests come

in different forms, such as a donor-advised fund or charitable gift annuity.

—**Gifts come in different forms.** A bequest can be made in cash, securities, real estate or other property. After providing for heirs, a donor should specify the amount, specific asset or percentage of the estate that the Church is to receive.

—**Bequests are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes,** but a person's desire to leave a legacy gift is what matters most. In their 1992 pastoral letter, "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response—A Pastoral Letter of Stewardship," the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops acknowledge that we demonstrate good stewardship of the many blessings God gives to each of us by sharing them in love and justice with others by our weekly offering to God through our parish and legacy gifts as well as our ministry and volunteer activities.

—**For your final wishes to be honored, a valid will must be in place.** For this reason, it is very important that you arrange to have a valid will created by an attorney. This document will direct your gift intent when the time comes. The Catholic Community

Foundation can provide sample bequest language that you and/or your estate attorney can use in preparing a charitable bequest to the Church in your will.

—Lastly, informing the beneficiary of your bequest of the impending gift allows us to better steward your gift when the time comes, as well as ensure that we follow your intent. To make this process easier, we have created a form that we ask you to complete if you are leaving a bequest to the archdiocese or any of its entities. Please visit: [Inkiy.in/CCFform](https://www.archindy.org/in/CCFform). Need more information? Contact us at ccf@archindy.org or 317-236-1482. We're happy to help!

(Jolinda Moore is executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development and the Catholic Community Foundation [CCF]. Tax or legal information provided herein is not intended as tax or legal advice. Always consult with your legal, tax or financial advisors before implementing any gift plan. If you would like to learn more about including your parish in your estate plans, please contact us any time. We exist to exclusively serve you and your parish in planned giving.) †

Pope Francis adds Fatima visit to World Youth Day trip this summer

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima during his trip to Portugal for World Youth Day 2023, the Vatican said.

In a statement on May 22, Matteo Bruni, director of the Holy See Press Office, confirmed that the pope will travel to Lisbon on Aug. 2-6 and will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima on Aug. 5.

Pope Francis, who repeatedly has said he intended to be in Lisbon for World Youth Day, had not spoken publicly about also going to Fatima in August. In October 2022, he publicly registered to attend World Youth Day as a pilgrim.

The Marian shrine at Fatima is connected to Pope Francis' public prayer appeals for an end to the war in Ukraine.

In March 2022, one month after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the pope consecrated both countries to Mary's Immaculate Heart, praying before a statue of Our Lady of Fatima in St. Peter's Basilica.

Before her death, Sister Lúcia dos Santos, one of the three Portuguese children who claimed to see apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in 1917, had said Mary requested that Russia be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart by a reigning pope to bring peace to the world.

Previous popes consecrated Russia to Mary's Immaculate Heart. In 1989, Sister Lucia confirmed that Pope St. John Paul II's 1984 consecration conformed to Mary's wishes. In 2017, Pope Francis celebrated

Mass at the shrine to mark 100 years since the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima as part of a quick trip to Portugal that lasted about 24 hours. He canonized Francisco Marto and Jacinta Marto, the cousins of


Sister dos Santos, who also saw Mary at Fatima. Francisco died in 1919 at the age of 10, while Jacinta succumbed to her illness in 1920 at the age of 9. Sister Lúcia died in 2005 at the age of 97. †

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Employment



Vice President – Finance
 Our Lady of Providence High School, the high school of the New Albany Deanery, is conducting an executive search for this key leadership role to manage all aspects of the school's financial operations. This full-time ministry seeks a skilled professional with 5-10 years of financial leadership experience and appropriate professional credentials. Send CV and letter of interest to: dfackler@providencehigh.net by 6/9/2023

Employment

Youth Minister

Holy Spirit at Geist Catholic Church in Fishers

Holy Spirit at Geist Catholic Church in Fishers, Indiana is seeking candidates for the full-time position of **Youth Minister** (grades 9-12). Essential duties of the applicant:

- Coordinate the high school Confirmation program (instruction and reception of Sacrament)
- Participate in the recruitment, training, formation, supervision and empowering of core team members (adult and student)
- Build Christ-centered relationships with high school teens, their families, and volunteers
- Provide opportunities for teens to participate in retreats, service projects, mission trips, etc.
- Coordinate and implement weekly programming of the Life Teen curriculum

Applicant should be a practicing Catholic in good standing, have a thorough knowledge of Catholic teaching, have 3-5 years of experience in a related field, have experience with Microsoft Office applications, and supervisory experience with small groups and volunteers. Undergraduate degree in theology or related field preferred. Competitive salary commensurate with education and experience. Cover letter and resume should be sent to Mark Timko at: MTimko@parish.dol-in.org.

Mother Theodore Catholic Academy

Maintenance Technician

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking to hire a full-time maintenance technician. The person hired for this job will train with the Archdiocese Catholic Center Staff but will become the primary maintenance technician for the Mother Theodore Catholic Academy (MTCA). The MTCA has four schools in Marion Co., Indianapolis. This person will be responsible for the maintenance of all four schools.

The major responsibility of the person in this position is to oversee the maintenance of our four MTCA schools. This is a hands-on position, but it also requires the oversight and management of subcontractors.

- The person in this job will need to be an independent thinker.
- Responsible for the maintenance and safety of the MTCA buildings.
- Good communication skills are required
- 10 years of experience in property management or commercial building maintenance.
- GED is required.
- A valid driver's license is required.

Interested candidates apply to Daniel Herbertz at Dherbertz@archindy.org.



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GREATNESS CALLED AND THE CLASS OF 2023 ANSWERED!