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Criterion

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See our annual Fall Marriage Supplement, pages 11-15.

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Faith, trust and 'grace in sacrament of marriage' guide couple in cancer journey

By Natalie Hoefler

As far as memorable days go, they just didn't get much more remarkable than July 20 this year for Benjamin "Ben" and Leigh Sargeant.

That day, Ben and the couple's 8-year-old son Dominic walked among a group of first Communicants, leading a eucharistic procession of 50,000-plus participants in downtown Indianapolis during the National Eucharistic Congress.

"We got to wave to the rest of the family as we walked by, and then they followed along with the rest of the procession," Ben says of Leigh and their four other children, ages 10 and younger.

Then came the experience of adoring Christ in the Blessed Sacrament together with tens of thousands of Catholics in the city's outdoor Memorial Plaza.

Afterward, the family—members of St. Peter Parish in Huber Heights, Ohio, in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati—enjoyed a picnic in the grassy plaza, by then mostly emptied of the worshipping throng.

See MARRIAGE, page 15

Leigh and Benjamin Sargeant and their five children—Rose in front with Peter (left), Dominic and Samuel behind her, and Isaiah, held by Leigh—pose in Memorial Plaza in Indianapolis on July 20 after worshipping the Blessed Sacrament with more than 50,000 people during the National Eucharistic Congress. The day marked the couple's 11th wedding anniversary. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)



Seminarians gather at convocation to grow in faith and fraternity

By Sean Gallagher

When Isaac Siefker attended his first archdiocesan seminarian convocation in 2017, he couldn't have imagined that, seven years later, he would walk at the head of a eucharistic procession of more than 50,000 Catholics through the streets of downtown Indianapolis.



Isaac Siefker

Yet that is exactly what he did a month ago at the culminating event of the 10th National Eucharistic Congress held in the city.

Siefker, a member of St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington entering his final year of priestly formation at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, was the cross-bearer at the front of the massive eucharistic procession that took place on July 20 in Indianapolis.

He reflected on the procession and the congress during the recent archdiocesan seminarian convocation on Aug. 11-14 at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis. It was the last convocation for Siefker before he expects to be ordained a priest for the Church in central and southern Indiana next June.

As he ascended the steps of the Indiana War Memorial where a monstrance holding the Blessed Sacrament was placed at the end of the eucharistic procession, he was able to look back and view those who had been walking behind him.

"It was incredible, so awesome to see all those priests, all those religious sisters in their habits, deacons, bishops, hundreds of seminarians, slowly filling up" the seats in the grassy plaza below, Siefker recalled. "I almost have no words for it. It was truly awesome. Being together with that many other Catholics who all have a strong faith in the Eucharist, seeing their

See SEMINARIANS, page 10

An invitation for college students: Keep the faith during this exciting time of life

By John Shaughnessy

As another college school year begins, first-year students especially have an intense desire to be welcomed, accepted and embraced by their peers as they begin this exciting and anxious turning point in their lives.

In her work with college students the past

See COLLEGE, page 17

Meagan Morrissey, left, the current director of the archdiocese's young adult and college campus ministry, shares a moment of joy with students at Tulane University in New Orleans while she served there as a FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionary from 2018-21. (Submitted photo)



Faith and gratitude led Guy Neil Ramsey to a life of stewardship

By Sean Gallagher

Guy Neil Ramsey, a longtime Catholic philanthropic leader in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, died on July 30. He was 96.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Aug. 2 at St. Paul Church in Tell City. Burial followed at St. Mary Cemetery in Tell City.



Guy Neil Ramsey

Ramsey was born on Aug. 8, 1927, in Cloverport, Ky., and later grew up in southern Indiana. He graduated from the former Cannelton

High School in Cannelton and studied at Indiana University before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1945 shortly after the end of World War II.

He married LaVerne Roose in 1951. The couple was married for 68 years before LaVerne's passing in 2019.

While Ramsey was not raised in the Catholic faith, it was LaVerne's witness of her own faith that led him to be received into the full communion of the Church.

Of her influence on him, Ramsey said, "I married a super Catholic. She is Catholic through and through. And she and the Church have really made my life what it is today. I have nothing but appreciation for what God has done for me and the kind of life I've been able to live."

The couple had six children together, all of whom survive.

Ramsey had a long and successful career in commercial construction and real estate development.

His success in business and his embrace of the Catholic faith led Ramsey to contribute much to the ministry

of both St. Paul Parish in Tell City, where he and LaVerne were longtime members, and to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He also provided leadership in stewardship in the archdiocese, previously serving on the Catholic Community Foundation's board of trustees and the United Catholic Appeal's steering committee.

"He was a man of tremendous faith who sought to lead his family and others to a personal encounter with Jesus," said Archbishop Charles C. Thompson. "As such, he was fully committed to the mission of salvation in Christ. He truly lived his baptismal call to holiness and mission through both worship and service.

"His life was marked by great courage, integrity, generosity and conviction as a devout Catholic. He will be greatly missed but not forgotten. We keep his family in prayer."

Jolinda Moore, executive director for the archdiocesan Secretariat for Stewardship and Development, described Ramsey as "a philanthropist who openly shared that his ability to give so generously was a gift from God."

"Guy Neil and his late wife made giving to the Church a priority as they witnessed how seeds of generosity and grace could impact change," Moore continued. "The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has been blessed by Mr. Ramsey's deep faith and love of community. He will truly be missed."

Surviving are Ramsey's six children: Lisa Acchiardo, Mary Grace, Chris, Dennis, Mark and Neil Ramsey. Also surviving is a sister, Jean Zellers, and 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made to St. Paul Parish, 814 Jefferson St., Tell City, IN 47586. †



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

August 23–September 5, 2024

August 23 – 4 p.m.
Priesthood ordination of Franciscan Brother John Barker at Holy Family Church, Oldenburg

August 24 – 11 a.m.
Confirmation for youths of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish, Bright; St. Lawrence Parish, Lawrenceburg; St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Aurora; St. Joseph Parish, Shelbyville; and St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Shelby County, at St. Louis Church, Batesville

August 24 – 2 p.m.
Listening session for pastoral planning at St. Louis Parish, Batesville

August 25 – 2 p.m.
Archdiocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

August 27 – 1 p.m.
Council of Priests meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

August 27 – 7 p.m.
Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Barnabas Parish, Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

August 28 – 11 a.m.
College of Deans meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

August 28 – 6 p.m.
Dinner with IndyCatholic volunteers, Indianapolis

August 29 – 10 a.m.
Leadership Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

August 29- September 1
Bishops' Support Group meeting at Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad

September 3 – 10:30 a.m.
Priest Personnel Board meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

September 3 – 5:30 p.m.
Echo, ACE, FOCUS Fall Gathering at Archbishop's residence, Indianapolis

September 4 – 11 a.m.
Mass and lunch at Evangelizing Catechesis Secretariat Day of Formation at St. Rita Parish, Indianapolis

September 5 – 10 a.m.
Leadership Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

September 5 – 2 p.m.
Legal Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

September 5 – 6 p.m.
Mass with Missionaries of Charity at St. Philip Neri Church, Indianapolis

Eucharist satisfies hunger for hope, truth, salvation, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—When receiving the Eucharist, Catholics should respond with gratitude and awe that Jesus offers himself as nourishment and salvation, Pope Francis said.

Jesus "becomes true food and true drink," the pope said. "Thank you, Lord Jesus! Let's say, 'Thank you, thank you' with all our heart," he told visitors and pilgrims who joined him in St. Peter's Square on Aug. 18 for the midday recitation of the *Angelus* prayer.

In the day's Gospel reading from St. John, Jesus tells the crowd that he is "the living bread that came down from heaven" (Jn 6:51) and that whoever eats his flesh and drinks his blood will have eternal life.

Some were surprised by Jesus' words, and not in a good way, the pope said. But for Catholics, "the bread from heaven is a gift that exceeds all expectations.

"The heavenly bread, which comes from the Father, is the Son himself made flesh for us," he said. More than the bread

that human beings need to survive, the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist "satisfies the hunger for hope, the hunger for truth and the hunger for salvation that we all feel not in our stomachs, but in our hearts.

"Every one of us needs the Eucharist," Pope Francis said.

"He saves us, nourishing our lives with his own, and he will do this forever," the pope continued. "And it is thanks to him that we can live in communion with God and with each other."

The Eucharist, he said, is not "something magical, no. It is not something that will immediately solve all problems, but it is the very body of Christ that gives hope to the poor and overcomes the arrogance of those who gorge themselves at their expense."

Pope Francis asked Catholics to ponder two questions: "Do I hunger and thirst for salvation, not just for myself, but for all my brothers and sisters? When I receive the Eucharist, which is the miracle of mercy, do I stand in awe before the body of the Lord, who died and rose again for us?" †

Nominations sought for Respect Life and Pro-Life Youth awards through Sept. 5

The archdiocesan Office of Human Life and Dignity is accepting nominations for the Archbishop O'Meara Respect Life Award and the Our Lady of Guadalupe Pro-Life Youth Award through Sept. 5.

The Archbishop O'Meara Respect Life Award honors an adult or married couple who demonstrates leadership in promoting the dignity and sanctity of human life from birth to natural death in a parish community and in the archdiocese.

The Our Lady of Guadalupe Pro-Life Youth Award honors a high school student who demonstrates leadership in promoting the dignity and sanctity of all human life in a parish community, school community and in central and southern Indiana.

The awards will be presented at the Respect Life Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, at 10 a.m. on Oct. 6.

Printable nomination forms can be found at tinyurl.com/RespLifeNom2024.

Completed forms should be mailed to the Office of Human Life and Dignity, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202, or e-mailed to bvarick@archindy.org.

For more information, call Brie Anne Varick, director of the archdiocesan Office of Human Life and Dignity, at 317-236-1543 or bvarick@archindy.org. †



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Women in All Saints Parish share faith by making Last Supper earrings

By Sean Gallagher

When the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics took place on July 26 in Paris, many people around the world, believers and non-believers alike, were shocked by what appeared to many to be a mocking of the famous fresco, "The Last Supper," by Renaissance artist Leonardo da Vinci.

Countless people quickly took to social media to either condemn the event or to defend it. Bishops in many countries and the Vatican itself issued statements expressing dismay.

The response at All Saints Parish in Dearborn County to the opening ceremony was a little different.

Father Jonathan Meyer, who serves All Saints and the other three parishes in Dearborn County, preached a homily on July 28 reflecting on the meaning of the famous fresco and reiterating the importance of the Eucharist in the Catholic faith.

All Saints parishioner Sara Yunger, knowing of the opening ceremony and having heard Father Meyer's homily, didn't go to her computer keyboard or her smartphone.

She instead turned to a favorite craft of hers—making handmade earrings with a flare of faith.

In a short time, she designed a set of earrings featuring the image of the famous Last Supper fresco and gathered about 30 women she knew to make close to 500 sets of them.

All Saints Parish funded the \$200 project, and all of the earrings were distributed at no cost to parishioners on the weekend of Aug. 10-11, the last weekend of the Paris Olympics.

Yunger, 46 and a mother of seven, was glad to respond to this cultural challenge to the faith in "a positive, peaceful and creative way."

"By wearing the earrings, we are showing everyone that we love and revere the precious gift that Jesus gave us in the most Holy Sacrament," she said.

Yunger was also excited by seeing so many women come together so quickly to share the Gospel in a positive way.

"It brought me a lot of joy to see so many people who truly love their faith be willing to sacrifice their time to make something like this happen," she said.

Father Meyer saw the work of the Holy Spirit in making this project go from a

simple after-Mass conversation he had with Yunger to it involving dozens of women making and disturbing nearly 500 sets of earrings in a matter of days.

"God calls us to use our gifts and talents," he said. "Most gifts and talents are positive and can, with the Holy Spirit, be used to glorify God and his Church. There are countless ways we can use our talents for good.

"Fashion and art have been used for generations to communicate a message. I am proud of my ladies for owning the moment."

Although the earring project came to fruition and was completed in about two weeks, Father Meyer hopes the lessons from it will be long lasting.

"In the midst of trial and difficulty, there is always a positive choice that can be made," he said. "Preaching



A group of about 30 women in All Saints Parish in Dearborn County made about 500 sets of earrings featuring an image of Leonardo da Vinci's fresco "The Last Supper" in a positive response to the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics in Paris that was interpreted by many as mocking the image. (Submitted photo)

the Gospel in difficult situations does not always involve debate, yelling or confrontation, but can be silent, simple and creative.

"I think this also speaks volumes about the power of a group of women getting together, sharing their faith and setting a tone and example of joy." †



Pope's prayer intentions for September

- **For the cry of the Earth**—We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

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

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.

Last Will and Testament

WHY IS A WILL IMPORTANT?

Did you know that August is National Write a Will Month? It bears its own month because a will is a vitally important document. A last will and testament is a legal document that lets you decide what happens with your estate after you die. Yet, according to a recent survey, almost two-thirds of all Americans don't have a will. When you die without a will, you leave important decisions up to a local court and your state's laws. You won't have a say in who receives your property and other assets. Plus, not having a will can make it more difficult for your loved ones after you pass. Some important reasons to have a will in place:

- Save time, money, and stress for your loved ones.
 - Determine who will manage your estate.
 - Decide who gets your assets and property — and who does not.
 - Choose who will take care of your minor children.
 - Lower the potential for family disputes.
 - Provide funeral instructions.
 - It's easy to make a will and you will gain peace of mind.
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Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, *Publisher*Mike Krokos, *Editor*

Editorial



Pope Francis greets children of Vatican employees attending a summer camp at the Vatican on July 18. Also in the photo are, to the pope's left, Cardinal Fernando Vergez Alzaga, president of the commission governing Vatican City State, and, to the pope's right, Sister Raffaella Petrini, secretary-general of the commission and a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

We are called to bring love to a world where it often seems missing

It's hard to love the world we live in. We see nations at war overseas, resulting in the death of innocent civilians.

Religions are at odds, where one faith tradition wants to eliminate another faith tradition and is vocal about saying the other's extermination is a priority.

Leaders in Central and South America continue to rule with iron fists—which are increasingly coming down hard on the Church—and do little to address the unhealthy political and economic situations that grip their countries.

And with November on the horizon, we cannot forget the partisan politics in the U.S. that are heating up and providing non-stop advertising, biased commentary and vitriolic rhetoric that leave many wondering where civility has gone in society.

It's easy for us to say, "that's the world we live in today," but should that be our response? If it is, maybe we Christians are part of the problem.

As we see the chaos unfolding, are some responding by sheltering in a cocoon where they don't allow outside things to influence their lives?

Are others responding by wearing blinders so they cannot see beyond what's directly in front of them?

An exhaustive list with more reasons could be compiled, but we cannot forget: our faith teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mt 22:39). And that tenet extends across political ideologies, cultures and faith traditions around the globe.

As the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops says on its website when addressing solidarity: "We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the

pursuit of justice and peace.

"Pope Paul VI taught that 'if you want peace, work for justice.' The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict," the bishops continued.

Violence and conflict have become too common, and we cannot forget the repercussions those situations have beyond their borders.

Loving our neighbor in committed loving service and fraternity has been a constant theme of Pope Francis for more than a decade now.

During an *Angelus* address in 2014, the Holy Father noted that "the whole of divine law can be summed up in our love for God and neighbor."

These two commandments, he continued, "are, in fact, inseparable and complementary, two sides of the same coin. You cannot love God without loving your neighbor, and you cannot love your neighbor without loving God."

Many, if not all of us, pray for peace in the world, for justice where injustice is prevalent on the globe, and for our nation's leaders to be people of character who are committed to building a just society where all—from conception to natural death—are treated with dignity and respect. In these days and times, those petitions may seem unrealistic, but they must continue.

Sadly, there are some in society who feel called to judge others instead of praying for them. They allow political ideology to be their religion of choice. They, too, need our prayers.

We are called to be ministers of love, seeing Jesus in others and being Jesus to others, meant to go out in the world as agents of peace and reconciliation.

In the process, we pray that we, in our call to discipleship, become part of the solution.

—Mike Krokos

Reflection/John Shaughnessy

Cole Hocker wins Olympic gold: 'I just let God carry me to the finish line'

When Cole Hocker raced to a gold medal and an Olympic record in the 1500-meter run in Paris on Aug. 6, a television commentator called it a moment that "shocked the world."

All hype aside, the thrilling surge by the 2019 graduate of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis past previous world- and Olympic champions in the final stretch of the race was breathtaking and historic—making him just the fourth American in Olympic history to win this signature race.

And while the 23-year-old Hocker believes he can win any race he runs—and he had that belief about the 2024

See related story, page 18.

Olympics—the fire and joy he showed immediately after crossing the finish line also soon turned

to a stunned expression of awe, reflecting that what he had just done was true, that the dream he was now living was real.

So were the words of thanks and praise that he shared in a post-race interview at the stadium where more than 70,000 fans—including his parents, Kyle and Janet Hocker—had risen to their feet and roared for his gutsy, dramatic win.

Recalling the moment when he found the homestretch opening along the rail of the track to sprint past the two heavy favorites in the race, Hocker said, "When it opened up, I just let God carry me to the finish line."

In a later interview, hours after the race on the NBC television network, Hocker also used the words "divine intervention" to describe that defining moment.

Those references to God recalled some of the comments he made in a conversation with *The Criterion* in 2021, after having just qualified to represent the United States in the 1500-meter run in the Olympics in Tokyo that year.

Letters to the Editor

Tribute to Hilda Buck offers a valuable reminder to see beauty in our world

I'm a little behind in my reading, but this letter is in reference to the May 17 issue of *The Criterion*. I wanted to say how much I appreciated reading a reflection about the beautiful life of our sister in faith, Hilda Buck, who died in late April at the age of 106.

The story behind Hilda's reflections for

Recalling the 2021 qualifying race that led him to represent the United States for the first time as an Olympian, Hocker talked about how he had followed his usual pre-race routine of saying a prayer, asking God to be with him as he pursued his goal.

He also noted, "The reason I run is because I have a God-given talent. I just feel God has given me the gift of running, and my job is to give it my best."

"On top of that, because I've been given that, I want to take advantage of it. And it's more gratifying because of how hard I have worked. This year, more than ever, I've held myself to a higher standard. Every race I've entered, I thought I could win. After years of thinking about running in the Olympics and dreaming about it, to have it all come to fruition is awesome."

Three years later, that dream took on another dimension as he continued to follow a routine that he began as a child—writing down his goals on a piece of paper.

"Winning gold was my goal this entire year," Hocker said after his gold medal victory in Paris. "I wrote that down, and I repeated it to myself even if I didn't believe it."

"I knew I was a medal contender, and I knew that if I get it right, it would be a gold medal. I've been saying that."

Talking about the moment when the goal became realized, Hocker smiled and said, "It felt like a dream."

It's a dream-come-true that involved celebrating with an American flag draped around his shoulders, ringing the ceremonial "Paris 2024" bell that will eventually be placed in the rebuilt Notre Dame Cathedral, and standing in awe as "The Star-Spangled Banner" was played in his honor.

Most of all it's a dream-come-true built on the foundation of a desire to make the most of a God-given gift—and a deep appreciation for the source of that gift.

"When it opened up, I just let God carry me to the finish line."

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

Colette Fike
Indianapolis

Security worker: Parishes offer kindness, generosity and support at festivals

I am a police officer in Indianapolis, and I have worked off-duty security work for St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis and Our Lady of Greenwood Parish in Greenwood at their summer festivals.

Knowing that I am getting paid to be there, their kindness, generosity and

support to the officers at these events is far and above any compensation we may have received.

They all showed Christ-like behavior and made us feel blessed to be there.

Scott Davis
Seymour

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. Letters should be informed, relevant, well-expressed and temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect.

The editors reserve the right to select

the letters that will be published and to edit letters from readers as necessary based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content (including spelling and grammar)

Send letters to "Letters to the Editor," *The Criterion*, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org. †

ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO CHARLES C. THOMPSON



Christ the Cornerstone

Embrace—and share—the joy of God's grace

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him up on the last day" (Jn 6:54).

The Gospel reading for the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Jn 6:60-69) tells us a hard truth about Christian discipleship: It requires extraordinary faith and courage. Not everyone has what it takes to accept the challenging message that Jesus delivers in his teaching and by his example.

The Gospels are filled with counter-intuitive wisdom. We are challenged to "turn the other cheek" when attacked, and to "love your enemies." We are asked to give up our worldly ambitions, to "sell everything," give to the poor, and follow Jesus on the Way of the Cross. And, perhaps most important (and difficult) of all, we are told that if we eat Christ's body and drink his blood, we will live forever.

Sunday's Gospel reading tells us that many who heard this particular saying of Jesus couldn't accept it. It was evidently too much for them, and as a result, they left him.

St. John tells us that many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This

saying is hard; who can accept it?" As a result, "Many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him" (Jn 6:60, 66).

This is a great paradox. The way of life that Jesus invites us to embrace is difficult. But if we accept his teaching and follow him, the result is unimaginable joy. Death to self (the Way of the Cross) leads to eternal life and a share in the joy of Christ's resurrection. If we surrender our self-centeredness, we will win the race and experience untold happiness. Dying to self, we will be raised to new life.

Many disciples found Jesus' claim to be the Bread of Life too difficult to accept. But those who believed in him responded to his question, "Do you also want to leave?" with faith and courage: "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God" (Jn 6:68-69).

Jesus is the Holy One of God who gives himself to us—body and blood, soul and divinity—in the Eucharist. He is the "source and summit" of our Christian faith. If we allow this fundamental belief to fade from our

consciousness, we weaken our ability to accept God's grace into our minds, hearts and bodies. We succumb to a form of soul sickness that robs us of the spiritual strength necessary to live fully and to serve as missionary disciples called to proclaim the good news and transform the world.

Just a month ago, our archdiocese hosted an estimated 50,000 people from all over our country and beyond in a joy-filled celebration of the holy Eucharist. The three-year National Eucharistic Revival, which included the 10th National Eucharistic Congress held here in Indianapolis on July 17-21, is a direct response to the reports that belief in the real presence of Jesus Christ has diminished among Catholics in the United States. We bishops of the United States are determined to raise awareness of the absolutely unique nature of the Eucharist as a sacred meal, as a reliving of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, and as the real presence of the Lord in the miraculously transformed substance of ordinary bread and wine.

Anyone who attended the Eucharistic Congress will attest to the moments of pure joy that filled the stadium and

convention center, the reverence evident in St. John the Evangelist Church and SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, and the enthusiasm that overflowed onto the streets of downtown Indianapolis, especially during the eucharistic procession.

The sacred mystery of the Eucharist was celebrated with great joy, and the real presence of the Lord was affirmed and embraced in many powerful ways as the week unfolded. Those who participated joined with our sisters and brothers throughout the United States in thanking God for the awesome gift that is Christ's body and blood freely given to us each time we receive holy Communion at Mass and when we adore the sacred host truly present to us in the Blessed Sacrament.

We are now in the third year of the National Eucharistic Revival, the year of "being sent on mission." Let's pray that something of the enthusiasm and joy of the eucharistic congress will remain with us in the weeks and months ahead. Let's pray for the faith and courage to accept the truth about Jesus—the source and summit of all life—so that we can share this good news with our brothers and sisters everywhere! †



Cristo, la piedra angular

Abrazar y compartir la alegría de la gracia de Dios

"El que come mi carne y bebe mi sangre tiene vida eterna, y yo lo resucitaré en el día final" (Jn 6:54).

La lectura del Evangelio del vigésimo primer domingo del tiempo ordinario (Jn 6:60-69) nos relata una verdad difícil de asimilar sobre el discipulado cristiano: requiere una fe y un valor extraordinarios. No todo el mundo tiene lo que hace falta para aceptar el reto que transmite Jesús en sus enseñanzas y con su ejemplo.

Los Evangelios están llenos de sabiduría que contradice lo que vemos a nuestro alrededor. Se nos desafía a "poner la otra mejilla" cuando nos atacan y a "amar a nuestros enemigos." Se nos pide que renunciemos a nuestras ambiciones mundanas, que "vendamos todo," demos a los pobres y sigamos a Jesús en el vía crucis. Y, quizás lo más importante (y difícil) de todo, es que se nos dice que si comemos el cuerpo y bebemos la sangre de Cristo, viviremos para siempre.

La lectura del Evangelio del domingo nos dice que muchos de los que escucharon estas palabras de Jesús no pudieron aceptarlas; evidentemente se les hizo demasiado y, en consecuencia, se alejaron de él.

San Juan nos dice que muchos de los discípulos de Jesús que estaban escuchando dijeron: "Dura es esta

palabra; ¿quién la puede oír? Desde entonces, muchos de sus discípulos volvieron atrás y ya no andaban con él" (Jn 6:60, 66).

Esto es una gran paradoja: la forma de vida que Jesús nos invita a llevar es difícil; pero si aceptamos su enseñanza y lo seguimos, el resultado es una alegría inimaginable. La muerte del yo (el Camino de la Cruz) conduce a la vida eterna y a participar en la alegría de la resurrección de Cristo. Si renunciamos a nuestro egocentrismo, saldremos vencedores y viviremos una felicidad incalculable. Con la muerte del yo, resucitaremos a una nueva vida.

Muchos discípulos encontraron demasiado difícil de aceptar la afirmación de Jesús de que él es el Pan de Vida. Pero los que creyeron en él respondieron con fe y valor a su pregunta "¿Quiéren acaso irse ustedes también?" y le dijeron: "Señor, ¿a quién iremos? Tú tienes palabras de vida eterna. Y nosotros hemos creído, y conocido que tú eres el Santo de Dios" (Jn 6:68-69).

Jesús es el Santo de Dios que se entrega a nosotros en cuerpo y sangre, alma y divinidad en la Eucaristía. Él es "la fuente y la cumbre" de nuestra fe cristiana. Si permitimos que esta creencia fundamental se desvanezca de nuestra conciencia, debilitamos nuestra capacidad de aceptar la

gracia de Dios en nuestras mentes, corazones y cuerpos. Sucumbimos a una forma de enfermedad del alma que nos roba la fuerza espiritual necesaria para vivir plenamente y servir como discípulos misioneros llamados a proclamar la Buena Nueva y transformar el mundo.

Hace apenas un mes nuestra Arquidiócesis acogió a unas 50,000 personas de todo el país y del mundo en una celebración llena de alegría de la sagrada Eucaristía. El Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional de tres años de duración, que incluyó el 10.º Congreso Eucarístico Nacional celebrado aquí en Indianápolis del 17 al 21 de julio, es una respuesta directa a los informes que señalan que entre los católicos de Estados Unidos ha disminuido la convicción de que Jesucristo está verdaderamente presente. Los obispos de Estados Unidos estamos decididos a crear conciencia sobre la naturaleza absolutamente única de la Eucaristía como comida sagrada, como una representación viva del sacrificio de Cristo en la Cruz y como presencia real del Señor en la sustancia milagrosamente transformada del pan y el vino ordinarios.

Cualquiera que haya asistido al Congreso Eucarístico dará fe de los momentos de pura alegría que llenaron el estadio y el centro de convenciones,

de la reverencia evidente en la iglesia de San Juan Evangelista y en la Catedral de San Pedro y San Pablo, así como el entusiasmo que se desbordó por las calles del centro de Indianápolis especialmente durante la procesión eucarística.

El sagrado misterio de la Eucaristía se celebró con gran alegría, y la presencia real del Señor se afirmó y se recibió de muchas maneras poderosas en el transcurso de la semana. Los participantes se unieron a nuestras hermanas y hermanos de todo Estados Unidos para dar gracias a Dios por el impresionante don que es el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo que se nos entrega libremente cada vez que recibimos la sagrada Comunión en la misa y cuando adoramos la hostia sagrada presente ante nosotros en el Santísimo Sacramento.

Nos encontramos en el tercer año del Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional, el año en que se nos "envía en misión." Recemos para que algo del entusiasmo y la alegría del Congreso Eucarístico permanezca con nosotros en las próximas semanas y meses. Recemos para tener la fe y el valor de aceptar la verdad sobre Jesús—la fuente y la cumbre de toda la vida—para poder compartir esta buena nueva con nuestros hermanos y hermanas de todo el mundo. †

Events Calendar

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

August 29

Union Station Crowne Plaza Grand Hall, 123 W. Louisiana St., Indianapolis. **Love Your Neighbor Summer Soirée**, 6 p.m., benefitting St. Vincent de Paul Society of Indianapolis, cocktails, dinner, live music, games and table activities, live auction, \$75, \$600 for table of eight. Information, registration: svdpindy.org/summer, 317-924-5769.

August 31

First Baptist Church, 525 Hayden Pike, North Vernon. **Missy's Hope Jeep, Side-by-Side & Motorcycle Ride**, 9 a.m., benefitting Missy's Hope Maternity Home, drivers \$40, riders \$10, includes dinner, ride and shirt. Information, registration: www.supportmissyshoppe.org, 812-767-2897, peggydyerbland@yahoo.com.

August 31-Sept. 2

Sacred Heart Parish, 558 Nebeker St., Clinton. **Spaghetti Fiesta**, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., part of Clinton Little Italy Festival, spaghetti dinner with salad, bread and drink, desserts available, carry out available, \$12 adults, \$6 ages 12 and younger. Information: 765-832-8468, shbusinessclinton@gmail.com.

September 1

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Decatur County, St. John the Evangelist Campus, 9995 E. Base Road, Greensburg. **86th Annual Church Picnic**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Fireside Inn fried chicken and roast beef dinners \$15 adults, \$7 ages 11

and younger, games, raffles, basket booth, mock turtle soup, country store, silent auction, beer garden, pies, free admission. Information: 812-934-2880, stcatherine47240@gmail.com.

September 2

St. Peter Parish, 1207 East Road, Brookville. **Labor Day Festival**, 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m., 10:45 a.m. dining room seating opens, fried chicken dinner, air-conditioned hall, children's games, quilt raffles, \$100 raffle tickets for chance at \$30,000, country store, basket booth and raffles, bingo, turtle soup, beer garden, free admission, dining room reservations taken until Aug. 30 at 812-623-2950. Information, raffle tickets: 812-623-3670, brookvilleparishes@gmail.com.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 4773 Church Road, Morris. **Labor Day Festival**, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., raffles, chicken dinners, games, beer garden, free admission. Information: 812-934-6218, parishoffice@stanthonymorris.org.

September 6

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**, 11:40 a.m., litany, consecration to the Sacred Heart, Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by noon Mass. Information: 812-246-2512.

September 6-7

St. Mary Parish, 629 Clay St., North Vernon. **Community Festival**, Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. noon-9:30 p.m., both days: free admission, games, food tent, sweet shoppe, beer garden, carnival rides; Fri. only: music by Dog Will Hunt 5-6:30 p.m. and Hoosier Daddy 8-11 p.m.; Sat. only: 1 p.m. cornhole tournament, music by Brothers Footman 3-6 p.m. and Soul Street 7-11 p.m., 7 p.m. casino night, 9:30 p.m. 50/50 raffle drawing. Information: 812-346-3604, parish@stmarysnv.com.

September 7

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, confession 8-8:30 a.m. followed by 8:30 a.m. Mass. Information: 812-246-2512.

St. Joan of Arc Parish, 4217 Central Ave., Indianapolis. **French Market**, noon-10 p.m., live music, 50 artisan booths, French food, beer and wine, bake sale, raffle, church tours,

children's games and food until 5 p.m., Club d'Arc for grades 5-10 6:30-9:30 p.m., Mass 5:30 p.m., free admission. Information: 317-283-5508, sjoa.org/about-french-market.

September 8

St. Mary Parish, 512 N. Perkins St., Rushville. **Fall Celebration**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner, grand raffle, quilt raffle, vendors, craft booths, free admission. Information: 765-932-2588, dspaeth@stmaryrush.org.

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. Monica Parish, 6131 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis. **Mass in French / Messe en français**, 5 p.m. / 18h, coordinated by ACFADI (Apostolat des Catholiques Francophones de l'

Archidiocèse d'Indianapolis), second Sunday of each month / le deuxième dimanche de chaque mois. Information: acfadi2014@gmail.com, rvermett@iu.edu.

September 9

Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, Madonna Hall, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **Confraternity of Christian Mothers**, 6 p.m. Mass followed by meeting, for all Catholic women whether a parent or not, free. Information: 217-638-7433, paulabeechler@gmail.com.

September 10

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.

September 12

Ritz Charles, 12156 N. Meridian St., Carmel, Ind.

Women's Care Center Luxury Bingo, 6-8:30 p.m., fundraiser for Women's Care Center in Indianapolis, high-end prizes, food, drinks, \$100, register by Aug. 29. Information, registration: luxurybingoindy.com, 317-509-9596.

September 13-14

St. Thomas More Parish, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville. **Church Festival**, 5-10 p.m., hot air balloon rides Sat., bingo, live southern rock band, kids' games, basket raffles, pull tabs, 50/50 raffle, beer and wine garden, hand-breaded pork tenderloins, corn dogs, Philippine homemade dish Sat., free admission. Information: 317-831-4142, pweber@stm-church.org.

St. Bartholomew Parish, 1306 27th St., Columbus. **St. B Fest**, Fri. 6-11 p.m., Sat. 4-11 p.m., live entertainment, multicultural food, Sat. PTO carnival, free admission. Information: 812-379-9353, stbartholomewfestival@gmail.com. †

Retreats and Programs

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

Events and retreats can be submitted to The Criterion by logging on to www.archindy.org/events/submission, or by mailing us at 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202, ATTN: Ann Lewis, or by fax at 317-236-1593.

Marriage conference is set for Sept. 7 in Greenwood

A Celebrate Marriage Conference will take place at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., in Greenwood, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sept. 7.

The conference, sponsored by the parish's Celebrate Marriage Ministry, will feature keynote addresses from archdiocesan director of vocations Father Michael Keucher; Peter and Theresa Martin, authors of *The Rule: St. John Paul II's Rule for a Joy-filled Marriage of Divine Love*; Daniel and Maria Cabrera, founders of the online ministry *Daniel y Maria Online: Defendemos la Vida y la Familia* (Daniel and Maria Online: Defending Life and the Family); and Celebrate Marriage founders Marcy and Tom Renken.

Attendees can expect practical insights, inspirational talks and break-out sessions designed to deepen their marital bond and renew their commitment to each other.

Couples are invited to worship at the parish's daily Mass at 7:30 a.m. or the Saturday vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m.

The cost is \$100 per couple, which includes a continental breakfast, lunch and materials. Registration is required by Sept. 2.

For more information or to register, go to tinyurl.com/celebratemarriage24. For questions, contact Marcy and Tom Renken at 317-489-1557 or info@celebratemarriageministry.com. †

Sensory-friendly Mass will be held at St. Pius X Church in Indianapolis on Sept. 8

A sensory-friendly Mass will be celebrated at St. Pius X Church, 7200 Sarto Dr., in Indianapolis, at 12:45 p.m. on Sept. 8.

The Mass will be celebrated in ways respectful of those with sensitivities to light, sound and smell. Picture Mass aids will also be available. A reception at the

parish will take place after the Mass.

All are welcome to worship and to enjoy the fellowship following the Mass.

For more information, contact Jenny Bryans, archdiocesan disabilities ministries coordinator, at 317-446-5507 or jbryans@archindy.org. †

Wedding Anniversaries

RICHARD AND HELEN (LITZELMAN) DOWNTON, members of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on July 18.

The couple was married in St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis on July 18, 1959.

They have two children: Laura Brenner and Dick Downton.

The couple also has four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



DAVID AND RITA (WILLHELM) ERLEWEIN, members of St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Aug. 8.

The couple was married in St. Gabriel Church in Connersville on Aug. 8, 1959.

They have four children: Kimberly Hinners, Jane Wesling, Chris and the late Joseph Erlewein.

The couple also has 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

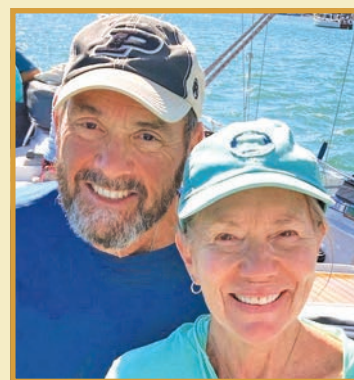


JIM AND TONI (HAWKINS) PAGE, members of St. Agnes Parish in Nashville, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 17.

The couple was married in St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church in Indianapolis on Aug. 17, 1974.

They have three children: Lindsey England, Kelly Pata and Jeff Page.

The couple also has 13 grandchildren.



JOHN AND MARTI (BANTLE) SZOSTAK, members of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 24.

The couple was married in St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Indianapolis on Aug. 24, 1974.

They have seven children: Emily Wimp, Adrienne, Erika, Gretchen, Renee, Damian and Peter Szostak.

The couple also has 14 grandchildren.



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.

'Reflecting God's mercy': Sculptor completes his tribute to an American hero

By John Shaughnessy

The evening was both an ending and a beginning for Forrest Tucker in his unlikely journey of humbly trying to shine a more brilliant spotlight on the life of an American hero of tremendous faith.

For the past 2 1/2 years, Tucker has devoted his life to creating two bronze sculptures of Father Augustus Tolton, the first recognized priest of African descent in the United States who was born into slavery and overcame the racism of his country and his Church to become a boundless source of hope, humanity and Christ's love in the slums of Chicago in the late 19th century.

Having finished the sculptures, Tucker shared them for the first time in public on the evening of July 16. It was during an event at Marian University in Indianapolis honoring Father Tolton, whose sainthood cause progressed in 2019 when Pope Francis declared him "venerable"—a sign that the Church recognizes that he lived a life of heroic virtue.

Tucker knows the next step in Father Tolton's path to sainthood would be for him to be declared "blessed," which usually happens when the Church believes an intercession has led to a miraculous healing. A second such intercession would lead to Father Tolton being declared a saint.

"I was super happy the sculptures could be seen," says Tucker, a member of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Danville who is retired from his lengthy career as a welder at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. "It's been such a long journey—2 1/2 years. It took me four months to take them from clay to bronze. That was a full-time endeavor, all week, every day."



"Reflecting God's Mercy" is the title that sculptor Forrest Tucker has given to his image of Father Augustus Tolton offering his hand of help to a grieving woman.

(Photo by Ann Margaret Lewis)

While the artistic process has ended, his desire to share the sculptures is just beginning.

"A lot of people in the inner-city know Father Tolton, but you get out in the suburbs and people don't know who he is," says the 65-year-old Tucker. "That's where I see a need. I want people to be introduced to him so they can look further into his story. If a church or a parish or school would like it, I could put the sculptures on loan for a few weeks."

"The whole point of sacred art is to bring an image or a story to the minds of people. If a person is drawn to Father Tolton, they can get their phone out, do a Google search and look into his story. And maybe that takes them deeper. I think that's what beautiful sacred art does—it takes people from the beautiful to the truth."

The truth and the story of Father Tolton is both painful and uplifting.

Keeping the faith and the love of God

Tucker was shocked and dismayed to learn that when Father Tolton was born into slavery in 1854, it was also on a plantation owned by Catholics.

"They educated their slaves and catechized their slaves," Tucker says. "They went to Mass. Father Tolton learned how to read Scripture. His mother was a very faithful and devout Catholic, and she had an influence on him to not lose his faith, his love of God."

Tucker is also touched by the bravery of Father Tolton's mother, the bravery she showed in gaining freedom for herself and her three children. Escaping from the slave owners during the Civil War, she led her children across the Mississippi River and into Quincy, Ill., with the help of Union soldiers in 1862.

"The first place they went was to a Catholic church," Tucker marvels. "And the church helped them."

Embracing the faith that his mother loved, he sought to serve God and the Catholic Church as a priest. Yet no seminary in the United States at the time would accept a Black man. Still, through the influence of priests in Quincy, a seminary in Rome invited him to pursue priestly formation, leading Father Tolton to be ordained on April 24, 1886.

Assigned to return to Quincy, the then-31-year-old Father Tolton ministered to both Blacks and whites, seeking to draw them closer to God and each other, even in the face of continued racism. Later transferring to Chicago, he served in the city's slums, caring for the spiritual and physical needs of the poor and the sick until his death due to heat stroke in 1897 at the age of 43.

Tucker didn't know Father Tolton's

story at the time he experienced a personal moment of doubt and fear in 2021.

'Reflecting God's Mercy'

At the time, Tucker's friend, Cheryl Shockley, had organized a blood drive in honor of her youngest child, Jack Shockley, who had been murdered in 2020, at the age of 24, outside a McDonald's restaurant in Indianapolis.

There were a few reasons why Tucker was reluctant to go to the blood drive. His wife of now 47 years, Dawn, has struggled with multiple sclerosis for most of their married life, and Tucker doesn't like to leave her on weekends when he doesn't have caregiver help. And the blood drive was in the gym at Christ the King Parish on the north side of Indianapolis, a long drive from Danville.

Still, the pull of friendship with Cheryl and her husband Steve made him go.

"Cheryl was greeting people as they came in," Tucker recalls. "She had a table full of prayer cards and pictures of saints. And one of the prayer cards was Father Tolton. She asked me if I'd ever heard of Father Tolton. I said no. She said, 'Forrest, I think we need to pray to Father Tolton. We need prayers for this country, for the healing—because there's so much violence being done.'"

Tucker took a prayer card and prayed to Father Tolton, which led him to have "the strongest image" of the priest reaching out to a grieving woman. Tucker has captured that powerful scene in one of the sculptures, a piece he calls, "Reflecting God's Mercy."

"Her expression is at the exact moment when she turns to God," Tucker notes about the grieving woman. "She doesn't have any strength in her body but to lift her hand. Tolton's hand, his palm is up. She has to put her hand in his. She turns and looks at God through the eyes of Tolton."

'The Holy Spirit chooses people for a reason'

Tucker believes the Holy Spirit has guided him in the creation of the sculptures. At the same time, he smiles and shakes his head in wonder that the Holy Spirit chose him—a white person who lives in a rural area—to create them.

"I have to say if I had to pick someone to do that, I wouldn't pick me," Tucker



Forrest Tucker, a member of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Danville, unveiled his sculptures of Father Augustus Tolton, the first recognized priest of African descent in the United States, during an event at Marian University in Indianapolis on July 16.

(Photo by Ann Margaret Lewis)

says. "I've had other instances in life where if I had to choose somebody as the right person to do the job, I would look over myself and try to find somebody else. One of them is caring for my wife. Her disability was something that was handed to her and me."

"We were married when we were 18. As an 18-year-old, I didn't see myself being a caregiver for somebody. But the Holy Spirit saw it differently. And looking through biblical history, there's a lot of instances where people are chosen who wouldn't be the obvious choice. When you read the stories of the 12 Apostles and a lot of the saints, they just weren't the people you'd think would be the likely candidates. But they are. The Holy Spirit chooses people for a reason."

It's one more way Tucker feels a kindred spirit to Father Tolton.

"In suffering and trial, I've come to know those things can strengthen your faith. If I tell somebody that my wife and I both feel we are blessed—and they look at her disability or our struggle in life—they kind of look at you strange. They can't understand why you say you are blessed when you've been given these extremely difficult life challenges."

"Once you understand your dependence on God, it draws you close to him. It makes your life easier to know that Christ is with you. You can endure like the saints and Father Tolton. They just knew that Christ was with them."

(For more information about Forrest Tucker's sculptures of Father Tolton, visit the website, www.tuckersculptures.com.) †

In documentary, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton's words reveal struggles

By Ann Margaret Lewis

On July 16, Marian University hosted the Indianapolis premiere of a new documentary titled *Tolton Speaks: The Life and Letters of Fr. Augustus Tolton*, a film about the life and writings of America's first Black priest, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton.

Venerable is a title used in the Catholic Church to indicate that an individual is on the second step toward possible canonization as a saint.

Sponsored by Jack Shockley Warriors for Peace, the event included a reception that exhibited, for the first time, new bronze sculptures of Father Tolton by sculptor Forrest Tucker, a member of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Danville.

The documentary recounts Father Tolton's story as a child born as a slave whose mother managed a daring escape to the free state of Illinois during the Civil War, and how he eventually became the first priest of African descent in the United States, ministering in Chicago and Quincy, Ill.

(Photo by Ann Margaret Lewis)

What makes *Tolton Speaks* especially interesting is that it features Father Tolton's own words shared through his 13 surviving private letters.

The reality that he had so few written works is not surprising. In his comments following the viewing of the documentary, retired Bishop Joseph N. Perry of Chicago, postulator for Father Tolton's sainthood cause, said the priest did not leave behind more writing due to his race and the bigotry against Catholics at the time.

"[Catholics in general] were not accepted in this country as citizens or imagined as citizens," Perry said. "And that lasted at least until [President] John F. Kennedy."

Bishop Perry, who is Black, explained that the Church was in double jeopardy, sandwiched between laws and prevailing attitudes, "settling in a country that didn't want us."

Father Tolton's racial challenges made his writing efforts scarce.

"With the Ku Klux Klan, you did not want to leave a paper trail behind," Bishop Perry said. "You did not want to do that. You [would be] considered to be uppity and out of your realm."

The few letters Father Tolton did leave behind display his unique faithfulness, his pursuit of charity in the face of rejection and his desire to serve people in spiritual and physical need. The letters are read throughout the documentary in character, with bits of humor and, often,

despondency at his rejection by other Catholics, including a fellow priest.

Ultimately, Father Tolton was buried in Quincy, Ill., even after his rejection by a large portion of that community.

"That was probably the largest indication that Father Tolton had forgiven everything that took place in Quincy," Bishop Perry said. "I find that very inspirational."

Viewers in the audience found the film itself inspiring.

Adam Hamilton particularly liked hearing Father Tolton's own words.

"It was insightful. I liked the writing because you could see his personality," said the member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis.

He also appreciated the example of Father Tolton's life and that he was confident enough to write to people who are now saints for help, especially St. Katharine Drexel of Philadelphia.

"I really enjoyed how he addressed his bishops and how he appealed to Rome for the authority to relocate [to Chicago] rather than appealing to any lesser authority to honor his oath," Hamilton added.

Future showings of the documentary are yet to be scheduled, but there are plans for it to be available on streaming services in the future. The trailer for *Tolton Speaks* and other information on Father Augustus Tolton can be found on the production company's website at stellamarisfilms.com. †



Adam Hamilton

Retired Bishop Joseph N. Perry of Chicago, postulator for Father Augustus Tolton's sainthood cause, speaks with Tolton film viewers outside Marian University Theater in Indianapolis on July 16.

Three women receive Sisters of St. Benedict's Angels of Grace awards

By Natalie Hoefer

Throughout the Bible, three archangels are listed by name: Gabriel, messenger of good news to Mary and Zechariah; Michael, defender of heaven who cast the devil into hell; and Raphael, the traveling companion of Tobias.

The Sisters of St. Benedict of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove have annually identified three women who have heroically served in the roles of messenger, defender and companion, and recognized their service with an "Angels of Grace" award.

The 2024 winners are Whalen's Heroes, Inc., founder and president Dawn Whalen for the "defender" Angel Michael Award; The Chris Center, Inc., founder Nancy Elbert for the "companion" Angel Raphael Award; and Gabriel Project and ProVida volunteer Donna Kelker for the "messenger" Angel Gabriel Award.

The recipients will receive their awards at the Angels of Grace Awards Luncheon at Primo Banquet and Conference Center in Indianapolis on Sept. 28.

Following is more information about the 2024 messenger, defender and companion award winners.

Angel Michael Award: Dawn Whalen

In May of 2022, Whalen, a professional realtor since 2006, attended a continuing education class designed to help realtors in assisting military clients.

Inspired by their sacrifices—and those of first responders—she became inspired to help them beyond the realty realm.

Just one month later in June, Whalen launched a non-profit organization called Whalen's Heroes, Inc.

According to its website, the goal of the New Palestine-based organization "is to improve the mental health and well-being of [veterans and first responders]

serving our community. Whalen's Heroes will assist with the fundraising for, the training, successful placement and support of service animals to show gratitude and support to those individuals who endure countless sacrifices to protect our community."



Dawn Whalen

As noted in her biography at benedictinn.org/angels-of-grace, Whalen chose this mission knowing that a service dog

"not only helps the veteran, but in turn helps the entire family of that veteran. So, in many cases we aren't just changing/helping one life—it's many who will reap the benefits."

Whalen, a married mother of two and grandmother of four, was raised in the former St. Bernadette Parish in Indianapolis, is a graduate of Father Thomas Seecina Memorial High School and now worships at Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove. She still works as a realtor and also serves as president of the Greater Beech Grove Chamber of Commerce.

For more information on Whalen's Heroes, go to whalensheroes.com.

Angel Raphael Award: Nancy Elbert

Elbert knows firsthand the agony of watching a teenage family member suffer from mental health issues.

So, armed with her professional experience as a business entrepreneur and recruiter for leaders of corporations and non-profits—and with the help and wisdom of experts in the medical, mental health and animal therapy fields—she founded The Chris Center in Carmel, Ind., in 2021.

The non-profit organization provides "a place where teens can come to take a break from everyday challenges of life and find joy in the simplistic presence of animals and nature," according to its website. "The Chris Center offers an innovative approach to teen wellness by connecting adolescents to nature and providing opportunities for human-animal interaction."



Nancy Elbert

It is named in memory of Elbert's brother, who died in 2019 at the age of 55.

She officially retired from The Chris Center in January, but continues to serve as an *ex officio* member of the organization's board.

The mother of three adult children is working on a master's degree in counseling from Loyola University in Chicago and serves as a board of trustee member for University High School of Indiana in Carmel.

For more information on The Chris Center, go to www.chriscenterpaws.com.

Angel Gabriel Award: Donna Kelker

Starting in 1973, Kelker began work as a registered nurse in hospital departments from coronary care to intensive care to the recovery room, and as a surgical office registered nurse for 17 years.

She retired in 2013. Since then, she has used her nursing knowledge to help mothers and babies as a volunteer for the Gabriel Project at her home parish, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi in Greenwood.

Since 1999, the Gabriel Project has striven in its mission "supporting women in unplanned pregnancies and conducting activities that promote the recognition of the dignity and sanctity of human

life from conception to natural death," according to its website.

Kelker has helped the organization in many ways, both in her parish and in general—including serving as a fetal ultrasound nurse on Gabriel Project's mobile RV unit.



Donna Kelker

In her biography at benedictinn.org/angels-of-grace, she speaks proudly of her parish's contributions to help babies and mothers

through Gabriel Project, "including [donating] 10,000 diapers last year. The ministry has grown and works with local agencies and nearby parishes. We have also formed an active partnership with ProVida ["pro-life"] of St. Patrick Parish in Indianapolis," for which Kelker serves as a board member.

When she is not volunteering with the Gabriel Project and ProVida, Kelker enjoys spending time with her grandchildren.

For more information on Gabriel Project, go to goangels.org. For more information on ProVida, go to cutt.ly/ProVidaIndy.

(The Angels of Grace luncheon will be held at Primo Banquet and Conference Center, 2615 E. National Ave., in Indianapolis, from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sept. 28. The cost is \$45, or a table of eight for \$360. The event includes lunch, an awards ceremony, a fashion show, raffles for gift baskets and for a vacation at Lake Michigan, and a pop-up shop by Secret Ingredient Boutique. Proceeds benefit the Sister of St. Benedict of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove. To register or to make a donation, go to benedictinn.org/angels-of-grace or call 317-787-3287, ext. 3033.) †

Benedictine novice professes vows at Saint Meinrad Archabbey

Benedictine Novice Andrew Levering professed temporary vows as a monk



Br. Isaac Levering, O.S.B.

of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad in an Evening Prayer liturgy on Aug. 6 in the monastery's Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln.

He had completed his novitiate, a year of prayer and study of the Benedictine

way of life. As is the custom during the profession of vows, he was given a

religious name. Novice Andrew is now Brother Isaac.

Brother Isaac, 25, is a native of Libertyville, Ill., where he was a member of St. Joseph Parish. He earned a bachelor's degree in Christian theology at Hope College in Holland, Mich.

After graduating from college, Brother Isaac worked as a forklift driver before entering into formation at Saint Meinrad.

Temporary vows are typically for three years. This period offers a continuing opportunity for the monk and the monastic community to determine whether monastic life is, indeed, the right vocation for this individual. †

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Catholic Conference directors meet after National Eucharistic Congress

By Victoria Arthur

Hours after 50,000 people experienced the closing Mass of the historic National Eucharistic Congress in downtown Indianapolis, a smaller gathering of the Catholic faithful was just beginning a few blocks away.

Dozens of Catholic public policy directors from across the United States converged in Indiana's capital city on July 21-24 at the annual summer meeting of the National Association of State Catholic Conference Directors (NASCCD). Indianapolis was chosen as the site for this year's gathering to give the directors the opportunity to attend the eucharistic congress before reaffirming their mission to represent the Catholic Church in the public arena nationwide.

The timing was also significant for the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) in hosting the meeting, as its leadership was in the midst of a transition. Alexander Mingus had officially become executive director of the ICC—the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana—the week before welcoming his counterparts to Indianapolis.

"We were happy to host the NASCCD meeting this year, particularly because it gave some of our members a chance to experience all that the eucharistic congress had to offer," Mingus said. "As it was my first meeting in my new role, I was blessed to be able to meet so many Catholic Conference directors who each do incredible work for the Church in their states."

Mingus was joined at the meeting by Angela Espada, who was days away from retirement following a noteworthy five-year tenure at the helm of the ICC—one of the nation's first Catholic conferences when it was established in 1966. Participants at the meeting say they appreciated the opportunity to welcome Mingus, while thanking Espada for her contributions and her collaboration.

"We all form a bond through this work," said Matt Brower, executive director of the Montana Catholic Conference. "It's always sad for those of us who work as Catholic Conference directors when one of the other directors moves on, whether it be for a new opportunity, a retirement or a new chapter in life. So, I was happy that I could be there as everyone honored Angela and welcomed Alexander into the association as executive director."

"It was very meaningful for me to be present for that and to see just how much Angela meant to the conference and to her bishops and how much good she did," he added.

Like his counterparts across the country, Brower represents the Catholic bishops in his state in matters of public policy. He said he especially appreciated attending Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church and hearing from Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson about the ICC's impact under the leadership of Espada and Mingus, who had served as associate director for four years prior to being selected as the new director.

Espada noted the providential timing of events last

month as she reflected on her tenure with the ICC.

"Indianapolis was fortunate to have so many of the faithful in town," said Espada, who was the first woman to lead the ICC and the first Black woman to hold a Catholic conference directorship in the nation.

"First, there was the Asian and Pacific Islander Catholic Encounter meeting, then the eucharistic congress. These gatherings prior to the Catholic Conference directors' meeting served as a reminder of why the directors work across the country to make sure that the Church has a voice. Representing the faithful on issues of dignity of the person, respect for life, care for creation and the common good continue to be incredibly important."

Glenn Tebbe, longtime ICC executive director prior to Espada, underscored that point as he was preparing to help launch the four-day conference.

"The issues remain the same year after year, but the dynamics and politics are always different," said Tebbe, who led the ICC for 16 years. "I always appreciated the chance at the annual summer meeting to absorb so much wisdom from such smart people. It was always a great opportunity, too, to build relationships and to get to know the families of our colleagues around the country."

Tebbe and his wife, Laura Jo, were on hand for the July 21 conference opening at the Crowne Plaza in downtown Indianapolis to greet and check in the attendees, many of whom were accompanied by their spouses and children.

"It's like a family reunion," Laura Jo said of the NASCCD summer meeting, always held in a different city and combining business, social and spiritual elements. "Many people get hired [as Catholic Conference directors] at Alexander's age, and we really get to know their families over the years."

Illustrating that point, Mingus, 28, greeted conference participants at the opening reception with his wife Emily and their two young children, Cecilia and Gabriel, close by.

His counterpart from Texas, Jennifer Allmon, also was in attendance with her family and looking forward to a productive and meaningful few days with her colleagues from around the country.

"Catholic moral and social teaching is at the foundation of everything we do," said Allmon, executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops. "We engage in proactive social justice and speak the truth in love to our many audiences, from legislators to the general public."

Throughout the meeting, Catholic conference directors shared experiences and strategies with one

another and attended workshops led by subject matter experts on issues of common interest and importance. School choice was one of those topics. Attendees heard directly from Robert Enlow, president and chief executive officer of EdChoice, an Indianapolis-based advocacy group that is one of the nationwide leaders in the movement.

The group also nominated new leadership for the NASCCD, which was formed in 1968 and now includes members from the majority of states and the District of Columbia.

Michael Sheedy, executive director of the Florida Catholic Conference, was elected the organization's new president. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame in northern Indiana, Sheedy said he was thrilled to return to Indiana both for the annual meeting and the eucharistic congress that preceded it.

"My wife and I both went to the eucharistic congress, and it was spectacular," said Sheedy, now in his 11th year at the helm of the Florida Catholic Conference. "We were so glad we made the trip."

"A lot of my other colleagues did the same thing, and everyone who went came away with their expectations more than exceeded," he continued. "People really relished the opportunity to be there. I know we did. It was a real blessing, and I don't think I'll ever forget it."

His fellow Notre Dame graduate, Brower of the Montana Catholic Conference, had high praise for the NASCCD meeting. Ten years ago, he was in Mingus' shoes as he hosted the annual summer meeting in Helena, Mont., as a new Catholic Conference director.

His words of wisdom for the new leader of the ICC? "Remember that you have an association full of people who have been doing this work in various settings, in different ways, for many years," Brower said. "This is a group of wonderful, committed people seeking holiness who serve the Church, serve our bishops, and who are a wealth of not only information but inspiration."

(Victoria Arthur, a member of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus [Little Flower] Parish in Indianapolis, is a correspondent for The Criterion. For more information about the ICC and ways to get involved with its mission, visit www.indianacc.org.) †



Lafayette, Ind., Bishop Timothy L. Doherty, left, Angela Espada, Alexander Mingus and Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson pose for a photo in St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis after a July 23 Mass for the annual summer meeting of the National Association of State Catholic Conference Directors. (Submitted photo)



'I always appreciated the chance at the annual summer meeting to absorb so much wisdom from such smart people. It was always a great opportunity, too, to build relationships and to get to know the families of our colleagues around the country.'

—Glenn Tebbe, former Indiana Catholic Conference executive director

Providence Sister Leslie Dao professes first vows

On June 30, Providence Sister Leslie Dao, a member of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the Woods, professed first vows in a ceremony



Sr. Leslie Dao, S.P.

in the religious community's Church of the Immaculate Conception on the grounds of its motherhouse in St. Mary-of-the-Woods.

A native of Vietnam, Sister Leslie, 46, emigrated to the United States with her family in 1990, settling in Kansas City, Kan. She is the youngest of 15 children.

After her family moved to California, she earned a bachelor's degree in

sociology at California State University. She also earned a bachelor's degree in social work at the University of Missouri.

Prior to joining the Sisters of Providence, Sister Leslie was in formation with another religious community, ministered with Catholic Charities in Texas and served in a parish in Missouri.

She entered into formation with the Sisters of Providence in September 2021 and entered the novitiate in August 2022.

Sister Leslie currently ministers in Chicago as a community organizer with the Coalition for Spiritual and Public Leadership.

(For more information about the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, visit www.SistersofProvidence.org.) †

Saint Meinrad Archabbey receives new novice on Aug. 5

In a recent ceremony at Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, a new novice was received by the monastic community.



Nov. Owen Meredith, O.S.B.

Benedictine Novice Owen Meredith was clothed in the Benedictine habit on Aug. 5. He now begins a year of monastic formation, including study of the Rule of St. Benedict and monastic history.

Novice Owen, 34, a native of Forest City, Ill., was a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Manito, Ill.

He earned a bachelor's degree in 2014 in theater technology with minors

in music and religious studies at Blackburn College in Carlinville, Ill.

Before entering the monastery, Novice Owen worked as a handyman for the Hermits of St. Mary of Carmel in Houston, Minn. He has experience as a contractor, general laborer and landscaper and built a home for his parents in Manito.

Novice Owen was also a seminarian for the Diocese of Springfield, Ill., receiving priestly formation at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis.

As a novice, he takes a year off from formal studies and trades. The novitiate is a time of prayer and learning intended to help a novice discern his vocation as a monk. At the end of this year, a novice may be permitted to profess temporary vows of obedience, fidelity to the monastic way of life and stability in the community of Saint Meinrad. †

SEMINARIANS

continued from page 1

love for the Eucharist, their faith, devotion and piety really strengthened my own.”

Building ‘bonds of brotherhood’

Father Eric Augenstein, archdiocesan director of seminarians, said the congress also strengthened the bonds of the archdiocese’s seminarians who worked together at the national event, noting that it was “one of the unanticipated results of the congress.”

He noticed that strengthened bond during the convocation.

“I think we’ve had that for a while, but it seemed even stronger,” said Father Augenstein, who also serves as pastor of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis. “I think I would attribute that to the congress, to the opportunity for our seminarians to work together to support a major event here locally in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.”

The annual seminarian convocation is a time, Father Augenstein said, for seminarians “to build those bonds of brotherhood” before they go off to their respective seminaries for a new year of priestly formation.

At the start of this formation year, the archdiocese has 29 seminarians, with 12 enrolled at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary and Marian University, both in Indianapolis, 16 enrolled at Saint Meinrad and one enrolled at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary and School of Theology in Cincinnati.

Siefker said this last seminarian convocation for him before he is ordained a priest next year was “bittersweet.”

“The convocation is one of the annual things that I always look forward to and enjoy,” he said. “Meeting the new guys is always exciting. It’s good to have days to relax after the summer is over to brace yourself for the coming semester.”

While this convocation was the last one for Siefker, it was the first one for new seminarian John Fritch, a member of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville.

He graduated in May from Indiana State University in Terre Haute, where he majored in business administration. During his time there, he discerned for more than two years whether God might be calling him to the priesthood.

“When you’re by yourself at a secular



Transitional Deacon Liam Hosty, second from left, and Archbishop Charles C. Thompson elevate the Eucharist during a Mass on Aug. 12 at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis. Concelebrating the Mass are Father Eric Augenstein, left, Father Timothy Wyciskalla and Father Michael Keucher. The liturgy took place during the annual convocation of archdiocesan seminarians. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

university, you feel way more alone,” said Fritch, who is starting priestly formation in Saint Meinrad’s propaedeutic program. “When you get to be in the same room with about 30 other guys who are all striving for the same thing, it helps everyone to feel more encouraged. We’re together in this. There’s a sense of brotherhood.”

Father Augenstein said the convocation can be an important moment for men new to priestly formation

“The challenge for a new seminarian is entering into a group that already exists,” he said. “For them, it’s new and unfamiliar. So, it becomes the role of the more experienced seminarians to be almost like big brothers and to welcome the new guys in, to show them the ropes and invite them into the community.”

‘Better because of them’

Seminarians didn’t just build up fraternity among themselves at the convocation. They also spent time with archdiocesan priests during a cookout on July 20 at Fatima.

One of the priests who attended was Father Anthony Armbruster, ordained a priest on June 1 after six years of priestly formation at Saint Meinrad.

“I’ve had to keep reminding myself that I’m not going back to seminary in a few days,” said Father Armbruster with a laugh. “I kept psyching myself up for packing up and going back again.”

The newly ordained priest is now serving as parochial vicar for SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville.

Visiting with the seminarians—most of whom he knows well because he was one of them just a year ago—was for Father Armbruster “a nice way to see that movement from seminary life to now the priesthood.”

Father Dustin Boehm, pastor of St. Bridget of Ireland Parish in Liberty, St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville and St. Mary Parish in Rushville, also attended the cookout at the convocation.

He was especially glad to attend because one of the new archdiocesan seminarians there was Jack Fraley, a member of St. Gabriel who was only 8 when Father Boehm began ministry there a decade ago.

Seeing a young man from one of his parishes entering priestly formation is a sign to him that “somehow God has been working” through his ministry.

The first graduate of Seton Catholic High School in Richmond to become a seminarian, Fraley said Father Boehm is “one of my biggest role models, not just in my faith, but in my life.”

In his first year at Bishop Bruté, Fraley will enter more fully into discerning God’s will for him in the seminary’s propaedeutic program.

“If I become a priest, then that will be God’s will,” he said. “If I discern out, I want that to be God’s will, too.”

Father Boehm was gratified to see at the convocation that God was working in the lives of young men like Fraley from across central and southern Indiana.

“Every man here has their own story, their own struggle of saying yes to discernment,” he said. “Whether or not all these guys end up as priests or not, our archdiocese will be better because of them.”

Called ‘to holiness and mission’

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson spent time with the seminarians on Aug. 12 during the convocation, including celebrating Mass and blessing Fraley,



Seminarians Nathan Huynh, left, and John Fritch play a game of cornhole on Aug. 12 on the grounds of Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis during the annual archdiocesan seminarian convocation. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Fritch and two other new archdiocesan seminarians—Adam Hermes and Dominic Pavey.

In his homily at the Mass, the archbishop told the seminarians that any ministry they might ultimately carry out as priests is rooted in the call they received at baptism “to holiness and mission.”

“That should be our focus from the beginning to the end,” Archbishop Thompson said. “For us who are called to be priests, it’s our focus to be shepherds who lead others to fully realize their call to holiness and mission. Know that this is our priority and do not let other things get in the way.”

Acknowledging that the life of a priest can be challenging and hectic, Archbishop Thompson reminded the seminarians before him that “God’s victory will not be denied.”

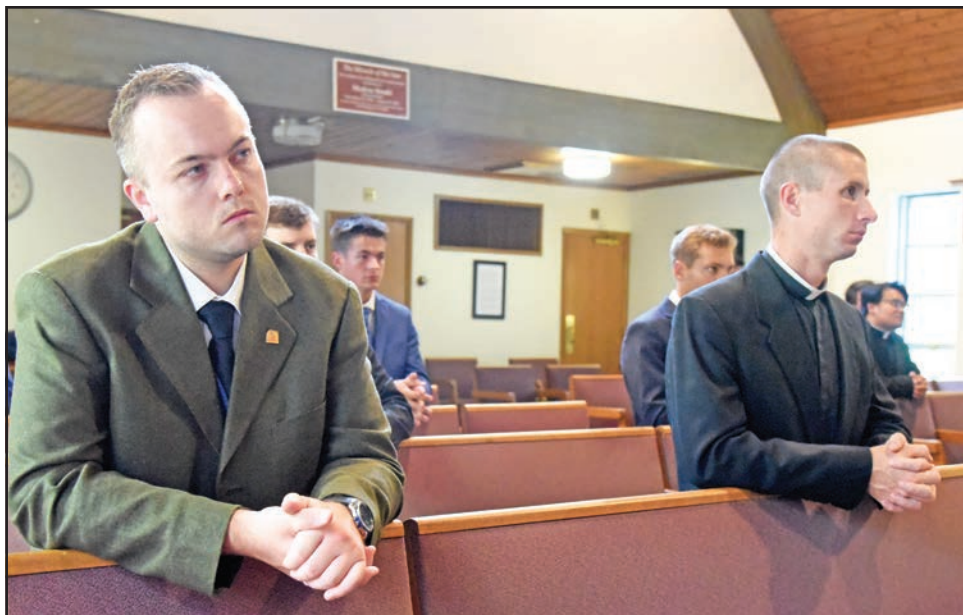
In chaotic moments of life, he encouraged them to look at a crucifix and remember that “God transformed it into the sign of our victory, the victory of salvation.”

“That is the same God who continues to work in our Church, work in our lives and assures our victory over sin and death,” Archbishop Thompson said. “We just have to keep our priority and our focus on our call to holiness and mission so we can fully realize the joy that comes with being willing to take up our cross with him to share in his victory.”

(For more information about the archdiocese’s seminarians and about a vocation to the priesthood in the archdiocese, visit www.HearGodsCall.com.) †



With other seminarians looking on, seminarian Casey Deal hits a golf ball on Aug. 13 at a Topgolf recreational facility in Fishers, Ind., during the annual archdiocesan seminarian convocation. (Submitted photo)



Seminarians Aidan Hauersperger, left, and Isaac Siefker kneel in prayer on Aug. 12 during a Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis during the annual archdiocesan seminarian convocation. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Fall Marriage Supplement

A special section of The Criterion celebrating sacramental marriage

Eucharistic Congress sessions advise on building faith-filled families

By Natalie Hoefler

During the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis on July 17-21, seven morning “Impact” tracks were offered on days two through four. *The Criterion* followed several of them, including the Cultivate Impact Sessions for families.

Following is a summary of those talks. From prayer to healing to building a family tribe—with well-known speakers like Father Leo Patalinghug, Bob Schuchts and Damon and Melanie Owens—the information shared is helpful to building faith-filled families.

Heroes, drowning and ninja moves

Father Leo Patalinghug, a priest member of Voluntas Dei (The Will of God), a community of consecrated life, engaged children and parents in the first morning of the Cultivate Impact Session of the National Eucharistic Congress by focusing on three main points: superheroes, what to do when drowning, and the four first moves of a ninja—all beautifully tied to the Eucharist and living lives of faith.

“My favorite superheroes are Yoda and hobbits—because they’re small, like me,” he joked.

But Jesus makes himself small in the Eucharist, Father Leo noted.

“He became small so he could enter into our busy lives, into our hearts,” he said. “He puts himself into us so we can be saved from the inside out and live supernatural lives.”

Father Leo next shared the tactics lifeguards use to save a drowning victim. The hold they use “might not be comfortable, but it’s important that you don’t fight the lifeguard,” he said. “If you relax, they can get you to the shore safely.

“And that’s what Jesus does. If we don’t fight him, if we trust him, if we let him guide us, he will get us to the shore to safety, and that shore is heaven.”

Last, the martial-arts-expert priest cited the four first moves he learned and compared them to prayer. First, come to attention—put yourself in God’s presence. Next, bow—give honor and praise to God. Third, cross your arms and take a deep breath—open your heart to God. And finally, stand in a relaxed stance—rest in God.

The Eucharist heals hearts and families

The featured speaker for the second Cultivate Impact series was Bob Schuchts, founder of the John Paul II Healing Center in Tallahassee, Fla., and author of *Be Healed: A Guide to Encountering the Powerful Love of Jesus in Your Life* (Ave Maria Press, 2014).

“Healing is an ongoing encounter with God’s love that brings us into wholeness and communion,” he explained.

“Think about the little girl that Jesus brought back to life,” Schuchts said. “Think how joyful her parents were and how their faith in God might have been restored.”

He encouraged children to “believe everything in the Bible, including the healings.”



A family lays their hands on each other in prayer as part of a family-focused session on July 19 during the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. (Photos by Natalie Hoefler)

Schuchts referred to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, noting it says “the sacraments are the ‘powers that come from the body of Christ’ to heal us [#1116], and that Jesus is the ‘physician of our souls and bodies’ [#1421], and that he gives his power, especially the sacrament of the Eucharist [#1353].

“Every time we receive Jesus in the Eucharist, we can say, ‘Jesus, heal this part of me that’s dead inside, this part that’s grieving, heal this relationship I have,’ and he answers those prayers. If he’s really, truly present, is there anything he can’t do now that he did back then?”

It might happen as a miracle, or it might happen over time—such as for him and his siblings decades after their parents’ divorce.

“When you lose the love in families, hearts get broken,” said Schuchts. It was only after returning to the sacraments that he and his family experienced healing and peace.

Create a ‘tribe’ to ‘life with’

At the Cultivate Impact Session on July 20, Damon and Melanie Owens spoke about the communal relationship of families and the need for families to create “tribes” of like-minded families to “life with.”

The couple of 31 years and parents of eight are the

co-founders of the Joy Ever After marriage and family ministry.

“When we don’t find others to share with, we turn in to ourselves,” said Damon. “I invite you to consider that just as your wedding was a community event, the forming of our children and growing in holiness is also essentially communal.”

For that reason, he said, “It’s essential to build a tribe, those families you can trust to share in forming your children, your family with.

“Yes, kids provide opportunities to meet families with other kids. But it’s about finding those who really share your faith, your values and mission, and making the decision to share with them.”

It isn’t necessary for each person in each family to connect perfectly, Damon continued.

“Each family complements a different part of your family,” he said. “With some families, the dads may click, or the mothers or the children.”

Melanie cautioned moms, especially in homeschooling families, to find a “collective of women to open up your heart with, where you can trust and support each other.

“I wanted Damon to fulfill me and make me happy, especially after I’d been with the kids all day. But I needed to form a collective of women to do that. That helps create better families.” †



Father Leo Patalinghug demonstrates a ninja move—and correlates it to prayer—as part of a family-focused session on July 18 during the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis.

Editor’s Note:

(Editor’s note: Twice a year, The Criterion offers a special Marriage Supplement announcing recent engagements and weddings submitted to the newspaper,

accompanied by marriage-related articles. For more information on the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life, go to marriageandfamily.archindy.org.) †

Apostolate helps married couples grow in faith, develop supportive community

By Natalie Hoefler

The word “domestic” issues a calm vibe, one of tameness and order.

Sometimes, family life can seem far from that ideal with its busy schedules, sibling tiffs and moments of chaos.

Yet the Second Vatican Council’s “*Lumen Gentium*” (“Light of the Nations”) refers to the family as the “domestic Church” (#11).

The term has nothing to do with being perfect or ideal. Rather, the phrase acknowledges the truth that the family is where we first learn who God is, how he loves us, how to love and serve him and how to seek his will.

That might sound like a tall order. But an experience available at the National Eucharistic Congress in July provided ideas and actions to help families fulfill their mission as the domestic Church.

It was offered by an online ministry called CatholicHOM (“HOM” is pronounced “home” and stands for Households on Mission), founded by Lisa and Greg Popcak. Its mission is “helping Catholic families encounter Christ more meaningfully at home and draw closer to each other” by living out what it calls the “Liturgy of the Domestic Church Life.”

That liturgy—or way of worshipping God—can be broken down into three actions.

The first involves family members showing Christ’s love to each other every day—even when doing so might be difficult.

Next is developing family “rituals” in four areas: working, playing, talking and praying. The key here is that these practices be shared together as a family to cultivate bonds and instill values.

Finally, families are called to share Christ’s love through service to each other and to those outside of the family.

Parents and children had the chance to practice these concepts at the congress’ CatholicHOM experience.

At one station, families moved forward together through five stops. At each stop, one person shared something another family member did that made them feel loved.

Anu Varghese of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Texas, smiled when asked what was shared in her family at this station.

“I asked my little girl when she feels loved the most, and she said she feels loved when I hug her,” Anu said.

Next, families played a game creating a puzzle with four pieces, listing on each piece one way their family works, plays, talks or prays together.

One mom prompted her young son regarding the “work” piece: “What do you help me do in the



Anu and Thomson Varghese pray a family prayer with their children as part of a CatholicHOM experience on July 19 during the National Eucharist Congress in Indianapolis. The Vargheses live in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Texas. (Photos by Natalie Hoefler)

kitchen?” His look of concentration changed to one of revelation as he said, “Load the dishwasher!” They also noted praying a family rosary, sitting on his bed and talking before he’s tucked in for the night, and taking garden vegetables to their neighbors.

A sign at a third station noted that “we reign with Christ when we serve with Christ.” Family members each made a paper sash with their name and words or pictures describing ways they help or serve each other and those outside the home.

The final station invited participants to take a few quiet moments to pray a prepared family commitment prayer together.

Standing next to her husband and their four children, Jacinta Eickholt of the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio, said she appreciated CatholicHOM’s “explanations of the faith and basics of the faith, especially about the domestic Church and how we can live our faith at home.”

“It was a good reminder of the things that we do every day and can do every day, and actually verbalizing them. I think that’s helpful and makes [living the faith as a family] more real.”

(CatholicHOM offers material through a digital app. For more information, go to catholicom.com. For a list of suggestions on how to build your family into a domestic Church, go to cutt.ly/USCCBDomesticChurch.) †



Matt and Jacinta Eickholt pose with their four children after enjoying the CatholicHOM experience on July 19 during the National Eucharist Congress in Indianapolis. The family lives in the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio.



A family creates a puzzle listing how they work, play, talk and pray together as part of a CatholicHOM experience on July 19 during the National Eucharist Congress in Indianapolis.

MARRIAGE

continued from page 1

A warm, sunny day with a few lacy clouds above made for the whipped cream. And the cherry on top?

“Today is our 11th anniversary,” says Leigh, as Ben smiles and gives her a side hug. “Getting to celebrate it today is really a blessing.”

Part of that blessing is seen in the couple’s five healthy children playing nearby in the grass.

Part of that blessing is in a positive medical imaging scan Leigh recently received.

And a tremendous part of that blessing is the very existence of Leigh and the couple’s 1-year-old son Isaiah, with whom she was just nine weeks pregnant when she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

“It can be hard to keep going,” Leigh admits. “We still have doctor’s appointments and lots of scans and side effects and everything.”

But through the suffering, the couple has learned much about faith, trust—and the powerful grace that comes through the sacrament of marriage.

‘Shouldn’t we invite the other girl?’

Leigh and Ben, both lifelong Catholics, met through a Catholic student ministry at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va., the summer before their senior year at the school.

The group dwindled down to “me, Ben and this one other girl,” says Leigh. “We went to movies, peach-picking and other random things.”

One day, Ben invited Leigh to dinner.

“Shouldn’t we invite the other girl?” Leigh recalls asking, clearly missing Ben’s intention.

The two dated during their senior year. Then they maintained a long-distance relationship after Ben accepted a job at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, while Leigh continued with two more years of education for her master’s degree in speech pathology.

The second year of the degree involved an internship. She applied for one in Colorado and one in Cincinnati, and by “divine intervention” was accepted for the Ohio internship. She later accepted a job in Dayton.

“Now we lived closer, but I didn’t think we were seeing each other as much,” Leigh recalls.

“By that, she means we only got together four nights instead of five, or five instead of six,” Ben jokes.

Leigh didn’t know he was already shopping for a ring. He proposed while on a backpacking trip he’d planned through the Red River Gorge in Kentucky.

The couple was married on July 20, 2013, in St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlottesville.

‘It came down to a lot of trust’

After their wedding, Ben and Leigh wasted little time starting their family, naming each child for a saint or biblical figure: Samuel, 10; Dominic, 8; Peter, 6; Rose, who was 3 at the time of the congress but recently turned 4; and Isaiah, 1.

Their youngest child’s first name is in honor of the biblical prophet from whom “so many wonderful Scripture passages come,” says Ben.

His middle name is Raphael, in honor of the archangel. There is meaning behind the choice of that name, too.

“He is the patron of healing,” Leigh explains, a patron they “leaned a lot on in prayer” after she was diagnosed with cancer.

“I had this little cyst I noticed about two months” prior

to her first obstetrics appointment, she says. “Everything I read online said if you’re young or pregnant or have kids, you don’t have to worry. But I just wasn’t sure. [The nurse practitioner] felt it and said, ‘I wouldn’t worry, but we’ll order an ultrasound just in case.’”

The ultrasound led to a biopsy. Leigh says the doctor was “just as shocked as we were” by the diagnosis of cancer.

“It was so scary,” says Ben. “We were balancing risks as we treated two patients. You can minimize risk, but not eliminate it.”

The couple and their doctors found a suitable chemotherapy treatment through a database built on studies of women with cancer while pregnant.

Still, says Ben, “I remember feeling, especially in the first few days, how fragile our lives are, and how we have this illusion of control. That all comes crashing down when suddenly you’re meeting a different doctor every day, reading lots of medical journals to understand what the optimal treatment might be or to ask the right questions.

“What it came down to was a lot of trust.”

‘The struggle really has helped us to be stronger’

The Sargeants found physical, emotional and spiritual support from their homeschool community and a Caring Bridge site the couple created.

There were other spiritual sources to help cope with the suffering as well. Ben recalls watching a video with a comforting message involving the story of Christ asleep in a boat with the Apostles, who feared for their lives as a storm churned the sea.

“The speaker said there are times when [Jesus] wakes up and he calms the storm in our lives,” Ben recalls. “And there are other times when he doesn’t calm the storm, but he’s still there with us in the boat.

“That’s something we’ve experienced the last couple of years going through the suffering of cancer treatment, especially times when we thought there was a setback.

“In the midst of that, we’ve felt his presence. No matter what, God is with us through all of this, teaching us to rely on him.”

Leigh agrees.

“The struggle really has helped us to be stronger in our faith, stronger as a family, stronger with our mission,” she says. “Because when you’re going through suffering, especially when you’re confronting your own mortality, it really just makes you think, ‘Do we believe our faith?’ And we decided we do.”

‘I love you even more now’

The words “we do” is a sign of the couple’s move from “I do” 11 years earlier in their nuptial Mass—another source of strength for the couple.

Ben recalls words the priest said during the homily of that Mass: “There’s enough grace in the sacrament of matrimony for everything life is going to bring, so continue going back to that grace. Don’t underestimate the grace of the sacrament.”

In their suffering, they’ve turned to that grace together in prayer as a couple, including completing a Marian consecration during 33 active days of radiation treatment.

The couple also prays every evening with their children. And more than once, Ben took “one or more of the children [to church] to light candles for Mommy and baby.”

“Our faith, this sacrament [of marriage] gave us the foundation of, ‘We’re in this together, no matter what,’” says Ben.



Leigh and Benjamin Sargeant smile after their wedding Mass in St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlottesville, Va., on July 20, 2013. (Submitted photo)

Leigh is overwhelmed by the sacrament’s power to increase love.

“It reminds me of [country singer] Brad Paisley’s song ‘Then,’ the words ‘I always thought I loved you then,’” she says before inserting her husband’s name into a summary of the lyrics: “Ben, I definitely loved you on the day we got married, but I love you even more now.

“Especially going through the births of all our children, being there through parenthood together, and now cancer together. It just makes me appreciate and love him even more.”

‘Jesus has always been there’

That love is obvious as Ben pauses at one point to hold Leigh when tears well in her eyes.

And it’s obvious again as Leigh scurries off in a scene every parent can appreciate: In the midst of serious talk about suffering and faith, 10-year-old Samuel politely interrupts to say, “Excuse me, but baby is taking off his diaper.”

“And that’s how life goes with five children,” Ben says with a hint of a grin.

The diaper debacle is all part of the day’s blessings.

So is Leigh’s current health: she finished her chemotherapy and radiation treatments in December and is in the midst of five years of hormone therapy.

“There was a worrying image in January, but on follow-up everything was OK,” says Ben. “We had another good scan recently, so we’re good for the next six months.”

The couple decided to “be more thankful and praise God for these [good] times and celebrate each positive result in a special way—take a trip, see family,” says Leigh.

Still, “It’s been a long journey,” Ben admits. “There are a lot of ups and downs.

“But whether in difficult moments or in times of celebration, Jesus has always been there.” †

Pre-Cana Retreats, Tobit Weekend and One in Christ program prepare engaged couples for marriage

Criterion staff report

Three marriage preparation programs offered in the archdiocese—the Pre-Cana Conference, Tobit Weekend and One in Christ—help prepare engaged couples for the sacrament of marriage as well as the challenges of married life.

Early registration is recommended for all programs, as each fills up quickly.

Pre-Cana Retreats cover skills for marriage, a catechesis on the sacrament of marriage and an introduction to the science and morals behind natural family planning. They are offered in English in Indianapolis and New Albany, and in Spanish in Columbus. The upcoming Pre-Cana Retreats are as follows:

Indianapolis—Sept. 21-22 at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. each day, \$200 per couple. More information and registration are available at cutt.ly/IndyPreCana2024.

Tobit Weekend retreats take place at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, and are offered in English. The cost is \$330, which includes program materials, meals, snacks and two rooms for two nights.

The next retreat will take place on Jan. 17-19, 2025.

Registration is available at www.archindy.org/fatima/calendar/tobit.html. For registration questions, contact Lisa Coons at lcoons@archindy.org or 317-545-7681. For more information about the program and its contents, contact Jennifer Burger at jburger@archindy.org or 317-545-7681, ext. 106.

One in Christ marriage preparation, which includes a medical panel to address questions on reproduction and fertility, is a three-day program spanning a weekend and the following Saturday. On Saturdays, the program runs from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and on Sunday it runs from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The cost is \$399 per couple, which covers meals and materials. Scholarships are available for those with financial difficulty.

There are three upcoming One in Christ opportunities:

—Oct. 5, 6 and 19 at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, 10655 Haverstick Road, in Carmel, Ind. (Lafayette Diocese).

—Jan. 4, 5 and 18, 2025, at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish.

—Feb. 15, 16 and March 8, 2025, St. Elizabeth Seton Parish.

To register, go to oicmarriage.org/seminar-info. For more information call 317-600-5629, e-mail info@OICIndy.com or go to oicmarriage.org.

Live retreats offer an invaluable experience for engaged couples and are the expected formation option.

However, for couples who experience significant difficulties attending a live retreat, including but not limited to preparing for marriage while out of state or country, being deployed in the armed forces or inflexible shift work at a hospital or factory, the online and self-paced Joy-Filled Marriage course ensures that no one misses out on valuable and comprehensive marriage formation. It is available in English and Spanish, and the cost is \$105.

For more information or to register, go to cutt.ly/IndyPreCana2024. †

A joyful guide for high school students: Draw closer to Christ in your daily life

By John Shaughnessy

The joy that Rachel Gilman and Megan Lauritsen show in their work—and their relationships with God—shines through in the advice they have for high school youths to draw closer to Jesus Christ in their daily lives.

In moments of laughter and reverence, the two leaders of youth ministry in the archdiocese shared the following tips to help students in Catholic and public high schools embrace God during their classes, their sports and other activities in this new school year.

Embrace the best way to start the day

“Create an intentional space for prayer every day and carve out five minutes at the beginning of every school day,” advises Gilman, the director of youth ministry for the archdiocese.

“For instance, if someone is taking the bus to school and they’re waiting at the bus stop, there’s five minutes there. Or if you go to a Catholic school and they have a chapel in the school, it’s a great opportunity to get to school five minutes early, pop in, sit down and spend some time with Jesus. That moment can also be done at home, the moment they wake up.

“That takes commitment, for sure, but carving out that time at the beginning of the day—especially for school where everything is thrown at them—can be a great way to start. And the more we pray, the closer we become to Christ and the more we’re in tune with our faith.”

Get nourishment for the soul

“Another crucial part is Sunday Mass—connecting with Christ and receiving his body and blood in the Eucharist,” Gilman says. “It’s nourishment for the soul. And it’s also being part of a community. There is something really powerful about starting the week with Jesus, having that moment and preparing for the week ahead.

“All those times when we’re feeling burnt out by school, by sports, by fighting with our siblings, coming back to the Mass every week is where we need to be

to find and re-establish and reinvigorate our relationship with Christ, especially in the Eucharist.”

Draw inspiration from ‘a horrible test-taker’ who passed the ultimate test

“The patron saint of test-takers is St. Joseph of Cupertino,” says Lauritsen, the coordinator of youth ministry in the archdiocese. “He was always my guy before a math test.”

With a laugh, she adds, “He’s the patron saint of test-takers because he was a horrid test-taker. School was not his thing. It was very peaceful for me because if he was a horrible test-taker and he’s a saint, then there’s hope. ‘Will I do well on this test? Maybe not, but there’s still a chance for heaven.’”

‘Turn to God even in what feels like a funny instance’

“I played volleyball, and I was also in musicals in high school. And both of them have a lot of aspects of high pressure of performance. I would pray before a lot of things, like even that my serves would go over the net,” Gilman says with a laugh.

“Having the ability to turn to God even in what feels like a funny instance, I remember relying on that so much. Especially going on stage. As I was working on singing and getting over my nerves, I would spend time saying, ‘Alright God, here we go! Help me to do well.’ That got really ingrained in a lot of high-pressure situations for me. And that really calmed me a lot.”

Look for Jesus in the everyday moments

“All throughout the day, be aware of your surroundings and constantly keep yourself oriented toward prayer,” says Lauritsen, a 2019 graduate of Pontiac Township High School in Pontiac, Ill. “When you’re driving past a church, maybe you don’t have time to stop, but take the time—even if it’s a quick, 30-second prayer—to say, ‘Thank you, Jesus, for this day. Please help me as I continue on.’”

“It can be easy to think prayer has to be big and elaborate. Just take time to



Rachel Gilman, left, and Megan Lauritsen work together as the leaders of youth ministry in the archdiocese. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

orient your mind toward God throughout the course of the day.”

Tap into the power of the Holy Spirit

“Pray before tests or presentations, those moments when you can say, ‘Come, Holy Spirit, come,’” says Gilman, a 2010 graduate of Marian High School in Mishawaka, Ind., in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. “It’s such a quick and easy thing, but it does orient you to know God is with you. I know I enjoyed doing that, and it made me feel more calm.”

Take advantage of an ‘incredible’ opportunity

“This is a bigger commitment, but I do think if students can find one time during the year when they can go on a retreat, it is so crucial,” Gilman says. “There is so much value to getting away for the weekend and having an excuse to let go of the pressures of school, sports, music, whatever, and to focus on your relationship with Christ.

“It’s incredible the influence it has, not only on your faith and your relationship

with God but also in being able to come out of that with a lot more peace—to understand priorities, what’s really important, and that you’re loved and cared for. I highly recommend a weekend retreat. If someone could build that into their life every year, the impact that would have is pretty amazing.”

Enjoy the rewards of making prayer an important part of your life

“In a physical sense, prayer is very calming. It can help with anxieties, as a coping practice,” Gilman says. “And on the spiritual side, just the repetition of praying over and over again, even for small amounts of time, connects you closer and closer to Christ.

“Even if you don’t realize it, it’s true. When we have moments where we spend an entire month and we realize we haven’t invested in conversations with God in any way, we feel extremely distant. But when we have that moment of prayer each day, we’re really helping ourselves stay connected. It really gets us closer to Christ every time.” †

A three-part approach for parents, children to draw closer to each other and to God

By John Shaughnessy

As a father and a longtime educator, Brian Disney knows the bond between parents and their children benefits both their lives in many ways.



Brian Disney

So it flows naturally when the superintendent of Catholic schools in the archdiocese offers his insights on how three everyday practices can draw parents and children closer to each other while also leading them closer to God during this new school year.

“At a United States Conference of Catholic Bishops conference I attended this summer, Bishop Frank Caggiano of Bridgeport, Conn., shared three ways parents can help their children prepare for the sacrament of

confirmation. I believe these three practices will benefit all parents and children,” Disney says. “Bishop Caggiano shared: Pray with your children every day, go to Mass for yourself, and live a virtuous life.”

Regarding prayer, Disney believes there are a number of ways that parents can share that practice with their children every day.

“Say grace before family meals,” he begins. “Pray a family rosary. Offer up your thoughts, words and actions each morning to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Pray for the safety of all family members before leaving the house. Pray before going to bed. Pray special intentions for friends, family members and those in need.”

Disney also offers a different take on the importance of parents attending Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday with their children.

“The focus is often on the children. However, each one

of us is also on our own journey toward heaven,” he says. During Mass, we are forgiven of our venial sins and are fed the bread of life for our journey. At Mass, we hear the word of God and how to apply these words to our lives. Tend to *your own* spiritual growth by attending Sunday Mass with your children.”

The third practice that he encourages parents to embrace—living a virtuous life—involves striving to be a role model for children.

“Our children learn more by watching us than by listening to us,” Disney says. “Living a virtuous life does not mean being perfect. Rather, it means living life in God and striving to be the best version of oneself. Treat others with respect and dignity. Be humble and put the needs of others before your own. Do the right thing even when it is hard. Forgive others and yourself.”

For Disney, all three practices connect to one goal: “Model Christian living to your children.” †

Making the most of a new school year: Tips for parents, teachers and students

Special to The Criterion

In the hope of helping parents, teachers and students make the most of this new school year, *The Criterion* invited the archdiocese’s three assistant superintendents of Catholic education to share some helpful tips toward that goal.

Here are the slightly edited insights from Sarah Watson, Joe Hansen and Vince Aquila.

Assume the best

“The school administrators, teachers, cafeteria wizards, custodians and other staff members are all there to serve the Lord and you,” Watson says. “Many



Sarah Watson

take a substantial cut in pay to accept this ministry. When conflict arises, and it will, assume that you all share a love

for your child and for Christ. Teachers, assume the family loves their child, and this is why they want the best for them.”

Be proactive

“Take some time with your child’s teacher to share quality insights on how your child learns,” Aquila says. “This will lay the groundwork for your child to be successful during the school year.”



Joe Hansen

Find growth in the struggle

“Persevere when a child struggles—and teach your child to ‘lean into struggle.’ When we struggle, we grow,” Hansen says. “Leaning into struggle doesn’t mean overwhelming yourself. It means that you should accept difficult tasks as opportunities to grow and get better.”

Give the respect you would like to have

“Communication, poor or lack of, is often the source of many situations in a school,” Watson notes. “If we all



Vince Aquila

communicate with respect, we will receive respect. E-mail is the worst way to communicate lots of details.

Tone is lost over e-mail and text. Consider a phone call or an in-person meeting.”

Discover joy every day

“St. Pope John Paul II reminded us that, ‘God made us for joy.’ Find a piece of joy in school each day,” Hansen advises. “Encourage your child to see school through the lens of joy and to be thankful for the opportunity to go to a Catholic school.”

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CMA welcomes surgeons' questions about gender surgeries for teens

(OSV News)—A group of Catholic medical professionals is hailing recent remarks by U.S. plastic surgeons questioning surgical interventions for teens experiencing gender dysphoria.

The physician-led Catholic Medical Association (CMA)—which represents some 2,600 health care professionals—stated in an Aug. 15 press release that it “applauds the recent statements from the American Society of Plastic Surgeons [ASPS] ... regarding the treatment of gender dysphoria in adolescents.”

In an Aug. 12 article published by the Manhattan Institute’s quarterly *City Journal*, ASPS was cited extensively with regard to the performance of “chest and genital surgical interventions for the treatment of adolescents with gender dysphoria.”

The article’s author, Manhattan Institute fellow Leor Sapir, quoted a July acknowledgment he had received from ASPS that “the existing evidence base [for the practice] is viewed as low quality/low certainty,” and that there is “considerable uncertainty as to the long-term efficacy” of such procedures.

Sapir noted that “plastic surgeons are increasingly finding themselves in the hot seat of gender medicine lawsuits” filed by those seeking to reverse the interventions, with “at least seven” ASPS members named as defendants in close to two dozen lawsuits.

In 2017, one ASPS member performed a double mastectomy on a plaintiff who at the time was just 13 years old, and had received less than a total of two hours of evaluation from the surgeon and a psychologist—despite demonstrating a long history of mental and emotional distress, wrote Sapir, citing details from the legal complaint.

The *City Journal* article, titled “A Consensus No Longer,” said ASPS comments marked the “first big fracture” in the apparent U.S. medical consensus over gender interventions for teens, a unity that had been forged particularly by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) and the Endocrine Society—a consensus that has so far withstood a growing trend among European nations

to halt the use of puberty blockers, hormones and surgeries in adolescents with gender dysphoria, due to concerns over problematic evidence.

“The Cass Review”—a final report issued in April by Dr. Hilary Cass, a former president of the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health, whom the U.K.’s National Health Service appointed in 2020 to conduct an independent analysis of its gender identity services—found that evidence supporting gender interventions for children and teens was both insufficient and fraught.

Additionally, the Cass Review noted that WPATH and the Endocrine Society had engaged in a “circularity” of approach by citing each other’s statements, rather than, as Sapir wrote, “conducting a scientific appraisal of the evidence.”

In its press release, CMA said that current treatment recommendations by WPATH, the Endocrine Society and the American Medical Association “only make the suffering of these patients worse, and are contrary to the treatments now adopted by many countries including England, Scotland, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway, France, Australia and New Zealand.

“These countries have prioritized psychological care over medical gender affirming interventions,” said CMA.

While “gender dysphoria is a psychological diagnosis,” said CMA, “gender ideology is a belief system based on a false human anthropology which undermines the intrinsic value and uniqueness of the human person.”

Dr. Michelle Stanford, CMA president, said in the press release that “gender ideology is blind to the abundant scientific data already published on the treatment of gender dysphoria.”

She added that “physicians promoting it ignore the harms this belief causes to thousands of confused young patients.”

CMA said in its release that it “understands that these patients are indeed suffering and deserve the most compassionate and best medical care, as was noted in CMA’s position paper, ‘The Ideology of Gender Harms Children,’ released last year.”



Nurses review information at a workstation on May 10, 2023, at St. Catherine of Siena Hospital in Smithtown, N.Y. The Catholic Medical Association recently applauded statements from the American Society of Plastic Surgeons regarding the treatment of gender dysphoria in adolescents. (OSV News photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

The association said “systematic studies show that compassionate psychological care allows up to 85-90% of these adolescents to resolve their dysphoria without the harmful and irreversible effects of pubertal blockers, cross-sex hormones and mutilating surgery.”

CMA’s upcoming annual educational conference, which will be held on Sept. 5-7 in Orlando, Fla., will include speakers “who have been hurt by this ideology and the long-term health problems they now suffer as a result,” said the organization in its release.

“From our first days in plastic surgery residency training, we were taught that there are no surgical solutions to psychological problems, and that remains true today,” said CMA board member and plastic surgeon Dr. Al Oliva, who is also a member of ASPS, in the press release.

“CMA stands with ASPS and other medical associations that bravely speak the truth about evidence-based treatment of gender dysphoria in adolescents,” said CMA in its release. †

COLLEGE

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six years—and from her own college experience—Meagan Morrisey understands that desire for a feeling of *belonging*. At the same time, the director of the archdiocese’s young adult and college campus ministry has a poignant reminder for all college students.

“I think a really big question that people in that age group have relates to identity. Who am I? Who is God? And what does that mean for my life?” says Morrisey, a 2018 graduate of Auburn University in Alabama.

“A college campus is constantly trying to give you an identity or tell you that you can make your own identity. But your identity is not in your Greek house, in your grades or your major or your résumé. It’s not in your friend group, the organizations you join or the activities you’re choosing to pursue on the weekend. It’s really easy to fall into that. But really our deepest identity is in relationship to the Lord.

“When you put Jesus at the center of your life, it gives you your identity of who you are, as a beloved son or daughter of God. When that is rightly ordered and everything else flows from that, it’s not that you don’t have strife or tribulation in your life—you’re still going to have problems—but you have the security of knowing that’s what your identity is, this relationship with God. When I’ve been living out of that, that’s a time in my life when I’ve been most peaceful.”

Knowing the difference it makes,

Morrisey hopes that college students will embrace a relationship with Christ as the foundation of their college experience. And she offers the following tips to help them deepen their faith.

‘Take that first step’

Morrisey advises that either before you arrive on campus or soon after you do, find the Catholic center or the Newman Center and register with the center so you are connected regarding e-mails, Mass times and other communications throughout the coming months.

‘Be bold’

“One thing I’ve seen that can be a real challenge for people is they’re really faithful in high school about going to Mass, and then they get to college and there’s a social hurdle. ‘If I go to Mass on Sunday, I have to go by myself.’ That’s a really hard thing to do,” Morrisey says. “It takes a lot of courage to show up by yourself. ‘Who am I going to talk to? Will people be nice? Will they be weird?’

“There’s a lot of social anxiety today. But just showing up goes a long way. Be bold. If you can find other people who are willing to go to Mass with you, that goes a long way. And just take that first step to whatever [the Catholic center or Newman Center] is offering, whether it’s a welcome Mass or a dinner after Mass. Stay for the dinner. Everybody is going to feel a little awkward about it, but that’s how you meet people. Be willing to put yourself out there a little bit.”

Find an accountability partner

“Having an accountability partner can

be helpful. ‘OK, me and Susie are both going to IU [Indiana University], and we both said we want to go to Mass on Sunday when we get there.’ Find someone so you can hold each other accountable to doing that. Hopefully, strength in numbers goes a long way.”

Join a Bible study group

“One thing I’d absolutely recommend is joining a Bible study right away,” Morrisey says. “I started attending my first Bible study my first year of college. There’s something about getting with a small group of people every week and building relationships. On a college campus, something that’s really challenging is that people aren’t even talking to each other. And if they are, it’s very superficial.

“You’re on your phone. Everybody else is on their phone. Nobody talks to each other. Bible study is a welcome alternative to that. People are actually talking about what’s going on in their lives. You can ask hard questions and talk about what’s real—about your roommate situation, how you really miss home. There are so many things you encounter as a college freshman, and it’s really important to have other people, who aren’t your parents, to process those things with.

“Outside of that social and conversation component, a Bible study is transformational. You are reading Scripture, the word of God. And when we read the word of God, Jesus is present with us, and he’s transforming us and working through us. That is something I’ve seen happen over and over again—where the people who consistently come

to Bible study are transformed by the word. And they are also transformed by the other people in the group that they are being vulnerable with and trusting.”

Try to avoid making this mistake

“One mistake I see college students make is this: ‘I can live a certain way these four years and when I graduate I’ll be mature and live my life the way I really want to,’” she says. “That works for some people, but the habits you make in college tend to stick with you a very long time. It’s a time when people are asking really big questions, deciding who to spend time with, what’s important to them, and deciding how they’re going to live their life.

“When you choose to make Jesus the center of that, it’s so much easier to continue to do that after you graduate—especially when you get in a habit of praying every day, going to Mass every week, and living a life that Jesus wants you to live.”

Strive for consistency, not perfection

“One thing that is really important is consistency. You have to keep showing up in relation to your faith. Nobody is expecting you to be a perfect person, or to always get it right or always make good decisions. But keep making a commitment to yourself and follow through. Make a commitment to go to Mass every Sunday even when you don’t want to go. Sign up for a Bible study and go every week, trusting that the Lord shows up when we show up.

“Have that relationship with the Lord and want to go deeper in that friendship.” †

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Be open

“If your child comes home with a possible issue, remember to be open to what insights your teacher will share,” Aquila notes. “Open communication between teacher, student and parent can get to the root of the difficulty in the classroom, and positive adjustments can be made.”

Be a good sport

“Athletic events are a prime opportunity for students and parents to give glory to God,” Hansen says. “The

Catholic Youth Organization’s *Code of Conduct* asks everyone in attendance to provide positive support and encouragement for all participants, including the opposing team, coaches and referees. Take seriously the call to model good behavior at all sporting events.”

Embrace challenges

“Partner with your child’s teacher to support and encourage your child to learn to accept challenges,” Aquila says “The classroom is a laboratory for learning, so encourage your child to face a challenge head-on and not be discouraged by harder tasks. The process of learning is as important as the

content of the learning a student will do.”

Create a true learning environment

“Electronic grade books can be a strength and a weakness. Grades are meant to show knowledge gained. In a true learning environment, that fluctuates,” Watson says. “Living and dying by an electronic gradebook should be done cautiously.

“Teachers, know your children. They may need to use several methods to show mastery. In the end, our goal is to prepare every student academically for the next year. This sometimes takes a whole year. Ultimately, we are also preparing them for heaven, and this takes a lifetime.” †

Cathedral, coaches celebrate Cole Hocker's golden Olympic run

By John Shaughnessy

It was one of those exciting, tense moments in sports that leads a school community to hope, pray and cheer for their own—a moment that also leads a coach to pace in front of the television, yell instructions through the TV and cry in complete joy for what one of his former runners has done on the largest stage in the world.

That moment involved Cole Hocker, a 2019 graduate of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, surging in the final straightaway of the 1500-meter run of the Paris Olympics to breathtakingly capture the gold medal.

Hocker's stunning run set off an explosion of joy at Cathedral High School on Aug. 6 where more than 250 people—teachers, students, board members and parents—had gathered in the dining hall to cheer for Hocker as they watched him race on several television screens.

"It was just beautiful and electric in the dining hall," said Grace Trahan-Rodecap, the school's director of marketing. "Then to see him accomplish what he did, I started crying and hugging my colleagues. There was such a sense of pride and such a sense of joy. There's no greater feeling than seeing a good person who's kind

and humble achieve greatness on a world stage. It was phenomenal."

As one of Hocker's coaches at Cathedral, Jason Moyars had a similar reaction

"I was watching the race at home with my wife Anne Marie and my son Brayden," said Moyars, an assistant coach in track and cross country at Cathedral from 1999 to 2023. "I was pacing around, yelling at the TV as if I was there coaching him. When he crossed the finish line, I actually cried. People who know me know I don't show emotion a lot, but it did bring tears to my eyes.

"It was just the overall excitement of the finish, knowing all the hard work he had put in—and just the pure joy in feeling that I was just a small piece of the overall puzzle that he has become as a runner."

Moyars paused before adding this insight about Hocker, "He is a very down-to-earth person. I've never seen him be cocky. He's very determined and super competitive. I'm not sure I've seen anybody more competitive than he is."

Hocker's achievement is rare on so many levels, according to John O'Hara, Cathedral's head track coach who also served in that role when Hocker competed in high school.



During a "watch party" at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis on Aug. 6, fans celebrate the gold-medal victory of Cole Hocker, a 2019 Cathedral grad, in the 1500-meter run in the 2024 Olympics in Paris. (Submitted photo)

"The odds of a high school runner to go on and compete collegiately is extremely rare," O'Hara said. "Then to go pro is another rarity. To make an Olympic team, another rarity. To make the Olympic finals, another rarity. It just kept going on and on.

"But just knowing the type of person Cole is and the things he keeps important in his life—his family, his faith, hard work and dedication—and just what he

and his current coach, Ben Thomas, have been able to do the last four, five years is nothing less than remarkable."

O'Hara believes the current track and cross-country runners will draw inspiration from Hocker's victory.

"When you have someone like Cole achieving what he does not only as an athlete but as a person, you have someone the kids can look up to." †

On Assumption, pope entrusts war-torn countries to the care of Mary

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Mary is not a "motionless wax statue," but a disciple who wants to share the good news of Jesus with everyone and reaches out to help and comfort them, Pope Francis said.

Reciting the *Angelus* prayer with visitors in St. Peter's Square on Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption, the pope entrusted to Mary's care the people around the world experiencing war.

"To Mary, queen of peace, whom we contemplate today in the glory of paradise, I would like once again

to entrust the anxieties and sorrows of the people in so many parts of the world who suffer from social tensions and wars. I am thinking particularly of the tormented Ukraine, the Middle East, Palestine, Israel, Sudan and Myanmar.

"May our heavenly mother obtain for all consolation and a future of serenity and concord," the pope said.

As the pope was reciting the prayer, the Vatican press office issued a statement saying that Cardinal Matteo Zuppi of Bologna, the pope's envoy for peace in Ukraine,

had a telephone conversation on Aug. 14 with Li Hui, the Chinese government's special representative for Eurasian affairs. The two had met in person in Beijing last September to discuss ways China could contribute to peace between Russia and Ukraine.

"During the phone call, great concern was expressed about the situation and the need to foster dialogue between the parties, with appropriate international guarantees for a just and lasting peace," the Vatican statement said. †

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SIMPLY CATHOLIC

Authentic Catholic education is rooted in a ‘Catholic worldview’

By Kevin Peloquin

(OSV News)—As a Catholic school principal, prospective families often ask me about the Catholic identity of the school.

My initial reaction is often to name the distinctly Catholic practices that we engage in—weekly Mass, regular confessions, school-wide rosaries, eucharistic processions, etc.

Celebrating the sacraments and engaging with the faith in these tangible ways should all be regular features of any authentic Catholic education. After all, these things are important in shaping the hearts, minds and souls of our students.

Yet, as Brett Salkeld rightly suggests in his new work, *Educating for Eternity: A Teacher’s Companion for Making Every Class Catholic* (OSV), these tangible manifestations of a school’s Catholic identity should not be the only way in which a Catholic school lives out its mission. According to Salkeld, what makes a Catholic education truly Catholic is “the way in which a Catholic worldview informs academic instruction in every subject area.”

At first glance, this may sound like suggesting if we just “sprinkle in” some Catholicism in each subject area—mention a few Catholic scientists in chemistry class or teach a lesson on Catholic historical figures in social studies—the school will become more authentically Catholic.

However, Salkeld is quick to dismiss this surface-level approach. Instead, he calls Catholic educators to a higher standard. “We need to teach not merely Catholic content,” he writes, “but teach from within a Catholic context for making sense of all life and learning.” That is to say that schools who truly live their Catholic mission approach all of education from a distinctly Christian understanding of the human person, “built upon the premise that people are for God.”

Working from this principle, Salkeld then utilizes Part I of *Educating for Eternity* to outline the essential tenets of this Christian understanding of the human person, also known as a Christian anthropology, in relation to the Catholic classroom. Specifically, Salkeld delves into what it means to “educate the whole person” within a Catholic school setting.

While this phrase has perhaps become so overused that it has lost its meaning, Salkeld does well to parse out what “educating the whole person” truly entails. Unlike the utilitarian approach common in secular schools, Catholic schools seek to develop the whole person by purposefully assisting students in their lifelong search for joy and quest for truth—two concepts that are closely linked.

Regarding joy, Salkeld writes that “a Catholic education seeks to form a student into someone who can live well . . . because becoming who God calls us to be is where eternity touches this world right now.” In other words, when we become who God calls us to be, when we become holy, then our search for authentic joy reaches its fulfillment.

Yet, this does not just occur miraculously. It is the role of Catholic schools, Salkeld asserts, to form students and instruct them in the practices of a truly “good life” that will lead them to joy.

Similarly, Salkeld notes, it is the role of Catholic educators to guide students in their quest for truth and, in that truth, freedom.

The first step in this process is to acknowledge that there is truth at all. This is particularly noteworthy in our current culture in which students often think that



Students work on a classroom project at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School in Henderson, Ky. An authentic Catholic education is grounded in a Catholic understanding of the human person, writes Kevin Peloquin. (OSV News photo/Tyler Orsburn, CNS)

“everything is up for grabs and no real answers exist” and, as a result, “all they can really strive for is to learn some technical skills that will give them a decent salary so they can afford a few creature comforts.”

Recent educational trends certainly bear this out, with an emphasis on “teaching students how to think, not what to think.” This is demonstrated, for example, by “common core” standards that lack specific content recommendations, but list innumerable “critical thinking” skills students must develop.

Where this misses the mark, as Salkeld rightfully notes, is that before students can think critically, they must first be provided with content to think critically about. And what this content is matters. Not inasmuch as it all must be distinctly Catholic, but that it must be rooted and framed in a truth that “satisfies the human heart,” as Salkeld writes. A truth that is good and beautiful. A truth that is incarnated in the person of Jesus Christ.

Having presented a detailed sketch of Christian anthropology and its main touchpoints with Catholic education, Salkeld utilizes Part II of his work as a more concrete exploration of how this anthropology impacts eight specific subject areas. Yet if, as Salkeld suggests, this book is “first and foremost a professional development resource for Catholic teachers,” I would suggest that Part I is perhaps the more essential read for all Catholic educators.

In my own anecdotal experience as a Catholic school principal who is frequently tasked with hiring new teachers, many candidates can identify the actions that make up a school’s Catholic identity—things like attending Mass or praying to start class and before meals. Yet, few can articulate what it means to have a Catholic worldview and, more importantly, detail the ways in which this worldview should shape instruction in the classroom.

Most often this is because they do not have a strong understanding of what this worldview entails. Or, perhaps more alarmingly, they have not been convinced of its truth. You cannot give what you do not possess. These educators, then, would benefit most from delving deeply into the content of Part I. Without doing so, Part II would merely serve as a superficial solution to a deep-seated problem.

After all, if one comes to understand, truly and deeply, a Christian anthropology, and in turn lives out a distinctly Catholic worldview in his or her own life, the ideas and concepts included in the subject-specific guide in Part II will come almost naturally. Indeed, Salkeld acknowledges this at the start of Part II, writing that, “when seeking to teach from a Catholic point of view, there is no substitute

for being steeped in that worldview yourself. And so, the most important prerequisite for teaching all subjects from a Catholic point of view is to take interest in our own intellectual [as well as spiritual!] formation as Catholics.”

Now, this is not to say that Part II of *Educating for Eternity* is not without merit. It is certainly still worth a careful read, even if it is at times short on specifics. Also, “the subject-specific chapters can, despite occasional references to previous chapters, be read in any order,” meaning teachers are free to skip around to the sections that apply most to their content areas.

As a literature and history teacher prior to taking on an administrative role, I jumped to these sections first and found them insightful, though occasionally lacking in practical advice.

The section on literature focuses largely on the essential role language plays in our faith and, as Salkeld writes, “any worldview that takes language this seriously is bound to produce great literature.” He goes on to outline connections between language and creation and the incarnation, which, while sound in principle, may not be the specific, practical wisdom some teachers are seeking, particularly teachers of elementary or middle school students who would find these ideas difficult to grasp.

In the section on history, Salkeld does provide some helpful, specific touchpoints for adding Catholic content to history courses, including the roles of potentially lesser-known figures, from Kateri Tekakwitha and Paul Miki to Charles Lwanga and Mark Ti Jianxiang.

In addition, Salkeld’s repeated emphasis that “the Bible’s vision of a transcendent God makes history as we understand it—open-ended, responsive to genuine freedom—possible” is a simple, strong foundation for teaching history from a Catholic worldview and is worth pondering for any Catholic history teacher.

Unfortunately, he spends much of the remainder of the chapter dispelling common historical myths relating to Catholicism and religion at large (i.e., the myth of religious violence, religion as a tool to oppress the masses, etc.), which, for those educators interested, may be better explored through more complete works on these topics.

Overall, *Educating for Eternity* provides much-needed insight into the challenges faced in the world of Catholic education today. If we truly want to educate our students for heaven, we must do more than sprinkle in Catholic content when convenient.

Catholic educators must, first and foremost, adopt a Catholic worldview themselves, a uniquely Christian anthropology “built upon the premise that people are for God.”

It is only when Catholic educators are steeped in this worldview personally that it will permeate not only the selection of content in their classrooms, but also the way in which they guide students in thinking about and engaging with this content. Salkeld gets this right, and his work is an excellent starting point for all Catholic educators seeking to deepen their understanding of how our faith calls us to view the world around us with an eye, always, on eternity.

(Kevin Peloquin is the principal of Father John V. Doyle School in Coventry, R.I.) †



A teacher works with a student in science class at St. Michael Indian School in St. Michaels, Ariz. A Catholic school has the mission to form its students in a Catholic view of the world and of life as a whole, writes Kevin Peloquin. (OSV News photo/CNS file, Bob Roller)

Journey of the Heart/Jennifer Burger

Brilliant weekend sunset offers a reminder of God's great glory

We were recently with friends in South Haven, Mich., and they were eager to take us out on their boat one evening to watch the sunset.



Moving toward the horizon, we were treated to a dazzling show of yellow and orange brilliance with the backdrop of blue and purple hues in the sky. The sun's light hit the waves, creating a golden path before us, as if calling us to draw closer.

I have seen many spectacular sunsets in my life, and on each occasion, it has been like I am

experiencing it for the first time. This one felt no different.

These moments leave me speechless as my heart is overwhelmed and in awe of the beauty before me. As I have done so many times before, I pulled out my phone to take a picture, a feeble attempt to capture a moment for which a photo does not—nor cannot—do justice. Yet, I continued to take pictures, trying to catch each variation of the same beauty.

As I was standing on the deck of the boat looking at

the series of photos and videos of this particular sunset on my phone, I asked myself what I was going to do with them? I have never intended to post such pictures on social media or put them in a frame to display on my wall—they have always been just for me. I suppose this is somewhat of a compulsion, but it is an honest response of wanting to preserve something that touches me deeply.

Looking up, I realized that I had lost precious moments of the sun setting, putting my time and effort into capturing a perfect moment, rather than letting the moment perfectly capture me.

Putting my phone away, I allowed myself to enter into the fullness of all the moments that were unfolding before me—the sun's descent below the surface, the changing colors of the sky, the sailboat in the distance, the fresh evening air, my husband sitting beside me. Connected to all of the beauty and life around me, this sunset no longer felt “just for me” but “for all!”

The glory in this belongs wholly to God. I cannot create nor can I preserve such perfection. It is pure gift.

Yes, we are certainly called to “be perfect, just as our heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt 5:48)—this is our

call to holiness—but when “getting it right” becomes *my* work and *my* preoccupation, I've taken ownership of what God intends to help me with and to show me face to face.

Our compulsions and desires for such perfection, although perhaps well-intentioned, can often distract or set us apart from seeing the larger picture, thus limiting ourselves to singular and self-serving moments: this can be the very “thief that comes only to steal, slaughter and destroy” (Jn 10:10).

Surrendering them and fully engaging in a relationship with our Lord, we are afforded a living and moving encounter of grace that leaves a lasting impression on our hearts. We are given access to the life for which Jesus came and “so that we would have it abundantly” (Jn 10:10)—a life that has meaning, purpose and beauty, and is ever new and eternal.

Let us keep our eyes—and hearts—directed toward this horizon and all his glory.

(Jennifer Burger is program manager at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis and is a member of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis. She is also a spiritual director.) †

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

Olympics create many lasting memories that strengthen life lessons

I know from experience how the Olympics create memories for a lifetime.

I was just 5 when American Dorothy Hamill won the gold in ladies single figure skating in 1976 at the Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria.

Maybe part of that memory has to do with my sister Kelly, and so many other girls around the country then, rushing to get a bobbed hairstyle just like Hamill's.

Then there are the memories of the gold medal-winning U.S. men's hockey team and its “Miracle on Ice” at the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, N.Y., when I was 9.

And for this generation's Simone Biles, there's Mary Lou Retton for mine. In 1984, she memorably became the first American to win gold in the women's gymnastics individual all-around competition.

Memories that stand the test of time often remain in our hearts and minds because of the beautiful and profound truths they powerfully illustrate about who we are as followers of Jesus Christ and, more broadly, as human beings.

The 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris did just that in more ways than I can describe in this short column. So, I'll limit myself to two events in men's track and field: the gold-medal win on Aug. 4 in the 100-meter dash by American Noah Lyle, and the gold medal win on Aug. 6 in the 1500-meter race by Indianapolis native and 2019 Cathedral High School graduate Cole Hocker.

The men who won both events only took the lead at the end, with Lyle literally getting out front for the first time in his last step. Leaning his torso forward at just the right instant, he crossed the finish line a thousandth of a second

ahead of the silver medalist Kishane Thompson of Jamaica.

Similarly, Hocker was in the back half of the 12-man, 1500-meter final

field for much of the first half of the race. Although he started moving up, he was still in third place with only about 100 meters to go. Finally, Hocker, seemingly gaining more energy as the race concluded, surged to the front for the first time about five steps before crossing the finish line.

These races were amazing and memorable by themselves. But they were also dramatic reminders of realities at the heart of life: Never presume that all is lost—or won. And always have hope.

Hopefully, my sons will gain Olympic memories this summer like I did when I was their age and learn important life lessons in the process.

To even qualify for the Olympics—let alone win a medal—you know full well that you're going up against the best of the best and could easily end up last. But you're also fully confident that you're able to come out on top. Never presume. Always have hope.

These are two attitudes that each of us in families—parents and children alike—need to bring to our daily lives. That's because our lives have been transformed by the grace of baptism into a race to our heavenly home. No worries, though. This is a race that each of us is empowered by that same grace to win each day.

Grace by itself, though, won't get us across the finish line. We have to cooperate with it. So, never presume that victory is yours. But, at the same time, always live in the hope that this grace, if we embrace it each day of our lives, will give us the power to receive the ultimate victory in heaven. †

These races were amazing and memorable by themselves. But they were also dramatic reminders of realities at the heart of life: Never presume that all is lost—or won. And always have hope.

Joyful Witness/Kimberly Pohovey

Congress illustrates there's a place for everyone in our universal Church

I sat at home, my eyes glued to my laptop screen, transfixed on the monstrosity. The camera slowly zoomed in, engaging me deeper and deeper into a prayerful conversation with our Lord.

To be honest, I wasn't all that thrilled about attending the National Eucharistic Congress (NEC) held in Indianapolis in July. While I understood the need for it as well as its historic significance, I felt the weight of having to spend an entire weekend in attendance. In my role at the archdiocese, I attend many evening and weekend events and meetings. My time off feels sacred. However, I quickly experienced an about-face.

A few days prior to the start of the NEC, I injured a foot and ended up in a shoe boot. It was not advisable that I attend the event due to the amount of walking, standing and climbing stairs I would do. Feeling the obligation to participate, however, I resolved to watch as many of the live-streamed events as possible from home. I knew it wouldn't be the same, but it was the best I could do given the circumstances.

All it took was the opening revival session on the evening of July 17 for me to be hooked. The music was inspiring, the speakers' messages were unbelievable,

and I couldn't help but be moved watching the camera pan the audience of approximately 50,000 Catholics from all over the country gathered for the purpose of renewing their devotion to the Eucharist. I couldn't wait for the next live stream I could view.

During the course of the next four days, I watched liturgies, adoration and a whole lot of inspiring speakers from the likes of Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens, chairman of the National Eucharistic Congress, Inc.; to Holy Family of Nazareth Sister Josephine Garrett and Mother Mary Olga of the Sacred Heart; to popular Bible in a Year podcaster Father Mike Schmitz, to Word on Fire founder Bishop Robert E. Barron, to Jonathan Roumie, the actor who portrays Jesus in the series “The Chosen.” Each had a message that resonated with me.

Each day I watched, I observed more and more details that, frankly, renewed my faith in the Catholic Church. There were so many cultures represented throughout the congress—Latino, Asian, African-American, eastern European and many more. The music ranged from traditional to Gregorian chants to contemporary—a wonderful mix of music genres to appeal to everyone. The liturgies were as diverse as our Church: Masses said in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, the Roman Rite, the Eastern Rite and the traditional Latin Mass. Again, there were many options to appeal to those who normally attend one type of Mass or wanted to learn about the

others. And I was pleasantly surprised to see so many religious and lay women appear front and center as emcees and speakers.

As the congress concluded, I was struck by two points. The first is that, as the congress progressed, I longed to be at the events in person. But I have to say I felt unbelievably engaged just by watching from home as well. The live-streamed coverage was outstanding. If you were unable to attend all or missed certain events at the congress, it's not too late. Visit www.eucharisticcongress.org/streaming. Many videos are offered free of charge; others require a subscription.

The second and most important takeaway for me is that there is a place for everyone in the Catholic Church. No matter your political persuasion, your Mass or music preferences or your personal story, everyone can find a place to belong. I can't say I have felt that way in recent years, but this gathering of energetic, faith-filled Catholics illustrated to me that our universal Church is comprised of many people celebrating their faith in different ways, but all worshipping the same God and rejoicing in the gift of the Eucharist.

In this respect, we couldn't be more united.

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

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

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, August 25, 2024

- Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b
- Ephesians 5:21-32
- John 6:60-69

The Book of Joshua provides the first reading for Mass this weekend. The book draws its name from the ancient Israelite leader, Joshua, who followed Moses and guided the Hebrews into the land God had promised them.



Fleeing from slavery in Egypt to settlement in the promised land was long, difficult and, at times, chaotic.

Natural problems, such as a lack of water and food in the Sinai desert, accounted for much of the trouble. Another serious problem was the restlessness of the people who were apt to stray away from the path given them by God.

The greatest task before Moses, and later Joshua, was to reinforce the people's trust in God's guidance.

In this weekend's reading, Joshua summons the leaders of the people. He bluntly calls them to be true to God.

The people respond by declaring their will to follow God. They realize that God alone led them out of the misery of Egypt. They trust that God will lead them until they are secure in the promised land.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians supplies the second reading. This reading often is misunderstood in the modern context, in which the human rights of women are much noticed and appropriately demanded. To understand Paul's message, it helps to know the environment in which the New Testament was written.

The Jews at the time of Jesus had a better sense of the fact that all persons, male or female, share human dignity although the Jewish culture of the time is criticized for having a paternalistic attitude toward women.

This Epistle, however, was not written for Jews only, or just for Jews living in the Holy Land. It was written instead for Christian converts, generally from paganism, who lived in Ephesus, a great center of Roman culture and especially of the Roman pagan religion. Indeed, it was the location of a Roman pagan religious shrine, as important as Lourdes and Guadalupe are important to Catholics today.

In this Roman culture, women were little better than livestock. Elders arranged marriages. Brokers negotiated prices for brides. Love in marriage was accidental, if ever. Wives had few rights. Abuse and infidelity were to be expected. Paul's message, then, was utterly revolutionary, calling upon spouses, male or female, to see marriage as a true union, characterized by mutual love, existing to give both spouses the means to happiness and eternal life amid the realities of the times.

St. John's Gospel, the source of the last reading, makes a point often forgotten. Jesus never met total acceptance. He was disputed, ignored, rejected and criticized. But those who believed in and followed him found in the Lord the answers to all their deepest questions.

Thus, the Gospels, and this reading, do not end with reporting opposition to Jesus, but by proclaiming the rewards of faith.

In answer to the Lord's question as to their faith, the Apostles profess their trust. Their absolute faith was crucial in their roles as builders of the Church. It also is important to note that St. Peter spoke for them.

Reflection

"Whoever promised anybody a rose garden?" Life upon Earth always has been hard and will always be so, whatever the age, wherever the geographic location. But no one is doomed to despair and helplessness. God provides guidance, hope and ultimately an eternal reward of peace and security.

God speaks in the Gospels, related to us by the Church, the ancient guardian of the Scriptures, commissioned by Christ to proclaim the words of salvation.

The three readings remind us that the Gospel will never universally be accepted.

Nevertheless, God's love has come to people in need again and again. He offers us strength and guidance each day to cope with the reversals and uncertainties of earthly existence.

The Criterion will not have an issue next week due to its summer schedule. The reflection of Msgr. Owen Campion for Sunday, September 1, will be posted at www.archdindy.org/campion. †

Daily Readings

Monday, August 26

2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12
Psalm 96:1-5
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday, August 27

St. Monica
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a, 14-17
Psalm 96:10-13
Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday, August 28

St. Augustine, bishop and doctor of the Church
2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18
Psalm 128:1-2, 4-5
Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday, August 29

The Passion of St. John the Baptist
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Psalm 145:2-7
Mark 6:17-29

Friday, August 30

1 Corinthians 1:17-25
Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11
Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday, August 31

1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Psalm 33:12-13, 18-21
Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, September 1

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
Psalm 15:2-5
James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

See READINGS, page 24

Question Corner/Jenna Marie Cooper

Processes exist to help divorced, civilly remarried Catholics return to sacraments

QI am a baptized Catholic and was married in a Catholic church.

Then I was divorced and remarried in a Methodist church.



My wife is a baptized Methodist. Then she recently participated in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and was received into the Catholic Church. How can I receive Communion again?

What are the steps? (Location withheld)

AFor complex marriage scenarios like the one you describe, there are many factors and specific nuances to take into account. Each case needs to be addressed individually.

Therefore, it's not that there is one set of steps to follow, as much as it is that there are different pathways to resolving this kind of complicated situation.

For some general background, we as Catholics do not believe that divorce is truly possible in a real sense. Of course, people might find themselves civilly divorced for a variety of reasons, but the Church would see a secular divorce

decree as ultimately having no effect on the state of a valid marriage. At the end of the day, while there might be civil effects like division of property or child custody arrangements that need to be honored, a divorced person would still be bound spiritually to their "ex" spouse in marriage.

Following this line of reasoning, a Catholic who divorces and then remarries civilly cannot have a valid second marriage, because they are

still actually married to their original spouse.

And while most divorced-and-civilly remarried Catholics may not subjectively view their own situation this way, living as husband and wife with a new person while still married to someone else is living in adultery according to the Church. Because this kind of adultery is by nature public and ongoing, a divorced and remarried Catholic cannot receive Communion. (See canon 915 of the *Code of Canon Law* for reference.)

This can be a hard truth, but it is good to understand that this inability to receive Communion is part of a consistent theological rationale that is part of the Church's upholding of the dignity of marriage and the rights of spouses, as opposed to being something arbitrary.

One possible way forward in your situation is to approach the Catholic marriage tribunal in your diocese to investigate whether your first marriage was valid in the first place. It is possible that there could have been some problem in your first marriage that was so serious that it prevented a valid marriage coming about. If that seems to be the case, the tribunal can begin the formal process for investigating your first marriage and possibly declaring it null, which would then leave you legitimately free to marry your current civil wife.

However—again, depending on a lot of specifics—the marriage nullity process can often take a year or longer. And since the Church presumes that a marriage is valid until proven otherwise, there is no guarantee that you will be granted a declaration of nullity (popularly called an "annulment") at the end of the process.

Another option, albeit a challenging one, for potentially returning to the sacrament more quickly is to resolve to live a chaste life as "brother and sister" (i.e., abstaining from marital relations). Depending on the local spiritual needs and the feasibility of avoiding scandal, parish pastors can allow divorced and civilly remarried Catholics who are committed to this kind of chastity to receive Communion again.

In any case, my advice would be to speak with your parish priest about your marriage and your desire to return to the Eucharist. A priest who knows you would be best able to help discern your own most appropriate next steps.

(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

Eucharist

By Linda Abner

Small child in church
Takes grape juice and bread
Symbol of Jesus
The grown-ups said

How this can be
I cannot say
But where You will
Is found a way

Teenager reads Scripture
Words start to glow
Hints of some promise
More there to know

True food for the journey
Intimate grace
Healing and mercy
Beyond time and space

Time yields its lessons
Life everywhere
Growth and conversion
Have led me here

Gift freely given
Unique to each soul
Help for each hidden need
You alone know

Now kneeling unholy
But by You redeemed
Communion now so much
More than it seemed

Communion now Eucharist
Sacrament sweet
Transformative power
As Faith and Love meet

Christ in the wine
Christ in the bread
Not just a symbol
True Presence, You said



(Linda Abner is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis. Photo: The Blessed Sacrament is carried in a monstrance held by Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of the Diocese of Crookston, Minn., in a eucharistic procession in Indianapolis on July 20 during the National Eucharistic Congress.) (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.

ALVEY, Jr., Charles W., 74, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, July 14. Husband of Janet Alvey. Father of Angie Tevis, Gary and Kevin Alvey. Brother of Karen and Tammy Campbell, Melynda Nash and Sheila Pennington. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of five.

ARMOUR, Joseph, 78, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, June 28. Brother of Margaret Frank, Kathleen, Harry, Mark, Mike and Timothy Armour. Uncle of several.

BARKER, Joanilla, 57, St. Gabriel, Connersville, June 10.

BELL, Jane A., 73, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, July 11.

BLACKWELL, Merrill A., 88, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, July 8. Husband of Marylyn Rose Blackwell. Father of Deacon Gary, Donnie and Mike Blackwell. Brother of Janice Stevenson and Ronald Blackwell. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of 10.

BRETT, Marie (del Carmen), 92, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Bright, July 28. Wife of Howard Brett. Mother of Teresa and Michael Brett. Sister of Ramon de Benito. Step-grandmother of one.

BRIDGES, Jerry M., 82, St. Joseph, Jennings County, July 18. Father of Ann Colaco, Jane, Lee and Mark Bridges. Brother of Joyce Allen. Grandfather of four.

BULTMAN, Jean, 94, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, July 28. Mother of Janet Albers, Debra McCoy, Cheryl Perry and Ronald Bultman. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of 13.

COX, Rosemary, 97, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, July 17. Mother of Mary Anne Homan, Gary and Kevin Cox. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of six.

CURD, Jacquelyn L., 88, St. Augustine, Leopold, July 10. Wife of Robert Curd. Mother of James, Robert, Steve and Terry Curd. Sister of Marijo Rigsby. Grandmother of four.

ETIENNE, Frederick, 73, St. Augustine, Leopold, July 21. Husband of Nancy

Etienne. Father of Adam and Ryan Etienne. Brother of Donna Briggeman, Margie Edwards, Ruth Ory, Monica Richard, Doyle, Justin and Phil Etienne. Grandfather of four.

EVAN, Steven L., 81, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, July 19. Father of Dawn, Misty and Steven Evan. Brother of Judy Page. Grandfather of 17. Great-grandfather of 20.

FOLEY, Victoria J. (Isenhart), 76, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, July 12. Wife of Mike Foley. Mother of Jeni Weaver and Jeff Foley. Sister of Barb Beres, Ellen Liebert, Sara Schroder, Bill and Jon Foley. Grandmother of seven.

FUSSNER, Jane C., 72, St. Peter, Franklin County, July 4. Wife of Bob Fussner. Mother of Debbie Miller-Pugh, Beth Weingart, Cindy and Doug Fussner. Sister of Lois Bohman, Joan Nobbe and Lawrence Bedel. Grandmother of 18. Great-grandmother of 17.

GEORGESCU, Sr., Paul F., 88, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, June 4. Husband of Georgie Georgescu. Father of Ann Marie and Paul Georgescu, Jr. Grandfather of three.

GISLER, Leslie P., 76, Christ the King, Indianapolis, July 14. Husband of Margaret Gisler. Father of Ann Martin, Maria Olson, David and Mark Gisler. Grandfather of seven.

GOLUB, Lisa, 60, Christ the King, Indianapolis, July 5.

Mother of Page and Tyler Golub. Sister of Kathryn Carlen Brehm, Ann Gardner, Linda and Rich Carlen, Jr. Grandmother of one.

HARDING, Pamela A., 75, St. Augustine, Leopold, July 11. Wife of Danny Harding. Mother of Cheri Harpenau, Kelli Mace and Vicki Queck. Sister of Larry Carrico. Grandmother of seven.

HELKEMA, Sharon S., 87, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, July 16. Mother of Brett Helkema.

HELMING, Carrol M., 84, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, June 17. Wife of Donald Helming. Mother of Cindy Bechman and Steve Helming. Sister of Nancy Tritch. Grandmother of six. Great-grandmother of six.

HOTEL, Fred J., 87, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, July 17. Husband of Janet Hotel. Father of Jane Crotty, Jeannie Jansen, Anne Willmann, Katherine, Daniel, David, Fred, Joseph, Michael, Paul and Steven Hotel. Grandfather and great-grandfather of several.

JOHNSON, Donald S., 83, Holy Angels, Indianapolis, June 1. Father of Lorraine Johnson. Grandfather of two. Great-grandfather of one.

KENNEDY, Mary M., 93, Christ the King, Indianapolis, July 15. Mother of Fran Kendall, Kathy McCaw, Steve and Tim Farley, Bill, Jim, John and Mike Kennedy. Grandmother and great-grandmother of several.

KENNEDY, Terri E., 72, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, June 2. Stepmother of Katie Allen. Sister of Kristi Hromek. Grandmother of three.

LAMPING, Donna K., 80, St. Catherine of Siena,

Decatur County, July 11. Wife of Carl Lamping. Mother of Barb Richardson, Karla Schumacher, Don and Ron Lamping. Sister of Sandy Elsner, Patsy Killgore, Erma Moore, Suzie Wood and David Black. Grandmother of 14. Great-grandmother of five.

MOORE, Diana C., 54, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Aurora, July 23. Daughter of Glenn Moore. Sister of Monica Begley, David, Ronnie and Terry Moore. Aunt and great-aunt of several.

OLDING, John, 88, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, June 25. Husband of Mary Frances Olding. Father of Terri Roadruck, Colleen Serletti, Jack, Jr., and Jason Olding. Grandfather of 12. Great-grandfather of 14.

PETRY, Dr. Robert, 72, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, July 14. Husband of Roseanne Petry. Father of Kathryn Petry-Rich, Denise Petry-Stevenson and Robert Petry. Stepson of Susan Petry. Brother of Jana Mason and Thomas Petry. Grandfather of three.

RADEZ, Ryan J., 41, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, July 13. Son of Rich and Donna Radez. Brother of Paige Ison and Eric Radez. Uncle of two.

RICKEY, Jr., William, 92, St. Simon the Apostle, Indianapolis, July 13. Husband of Marlene Rickey. Father of Denise Bullard, Debbie Mulry, Kathy and Tim Rickey. Grandfather of seven. Great-grandfather of 10.

ROBINETTE, Marilyn A. (DuValle), 89, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, July 29. Mother of Amy Harris, Julie Mendez, Becky Reinhart, Brad and Greg Robinette. Grandmother

of nine. Great-grandmother of four.

ROHE, William G., 85, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Bright, July 19. Husband of Judy Rohe. Father of Sharon Mitchell, Mike Martin, Daniel, Dennis and William Rohe. Grandfather of 17. Great-grandfather of seven.

SWEENEY, David L., 75, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, July 5. Husband of Barbara Sweeney.

TEKULVE, Mary M., 80, St. Louis, Batesville, July 21. Wife of Thomas Tekulve. Mother of Melissa Garver, Michelle Pitstick, Ted and Todd Tekulve. Sister of Diane Arnold, Cynthia Decker and Kay Koppel. Grandmother of 10.

THOMPSON, Frank W., 84, St. Louis, Batesville, July 12. Husband of Jean Leising. Father of Jill Koch, Susan Moore, Sharon Pontius, Jennifer Whaley and Jeffrey Leising. Brother of Joanne Smart. Grandfather of 12. Great-grandfather of five.

WEBERDING, Stella F., 101, St. Louis, Batesville, July 10. Mother of Jane Keeth, Deb Mauzy, Kathy Moore, Dennis, Donald, Gary, Kenny and Tony Weberding. Grandmother of 11. Great-grandmother of 25. Great-great-grandmother of two.

WHEATLEY, Sarah L., 61, St. Paul, Tell City, July 11. Wife of Jim Wheatley. Mother of Katie, Dane and Trent Wheatley. Sister of Susan King, Denny, Randy and Scott Etienne. Grandmother of four.

WHITE, Jessie M., 57, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, July 2. Wife of Michael White. Mother of Samantha Urankar and Nathan White. Sister of Kimberly, Gregory, Keith and Vernon Koers. †

Franciscan Father Edward Boren was served in parishes and schools, Hispanic ministry

Franciscan Father Edward Born, a member of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe of the Order of Friars Minor based in Atlanta, died on July 10 at Ennive Healthcare of Beech Grove in Beech Grove. He was 87.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 23 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Indianapolis. Burial followed at Calvary Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Father Edward was born on Sept. 2, 1936, in Indianapolis where he grew up as member of Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. John the Evangelist parishes.

He was received into the former Franciscan Sacred Heart Province on June 21, 1956, professed temporary vows on June 22, 1957, and final vows on June 22, 1960. Father

Edward was ordained a priest on Jan. 19, 1964.

During his 60 years of priestly life and ministry, Father Edward served in parishes and schools in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee and Texas. During much of that time, he was involved in Hispanic ministry.

In the archdiocese, Father Edward served at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and Roncalli High School, both in Indianapolis, from 1973-74. In 2022, he returned to Sacred Heart of Jesus to live close to his family and to give sacramental assistance in the area before residing at Ennive Health Care of Beech Grove.

Surviving is a sister, Alice Halloran. Memorial gifts may be sent to FriarWorks, 129 West 31st St., New York, NY 10001-3403. †

Benedictine Father Colman Grabert was a seminary professor, retreat leader

Benedictine Father Colman Grabert, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, died on Aug. 4 at the monastery's infirmary. He was 85.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Aug. 12. Burial followed at the Archabbey Cemetery.

Father Colman was a jubilarian of monastic profession, having celebrated 64 years of monastic profession. He was also a jubilarian of ordination, having celebrated 59 years of life and ministry as a priest.

Father Colman was born on Aug. 4, 1939, in Evansville, Ind., and was given the name Glynn at his baptism.

Father Colman enrolled at the former Saint Meinrad High School Seminary in 1953 and continued as a student at the former Saint Meinrad College, graduating with a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1962.

He was invested as a novice at Saint Meinrad Archabbey after his sophomore year in college. Father Colman professed simple vows on Aug. 15, 1960, and solemn vows on Aug. 15, 1963. He was

ordained a priest on Sept. 5, 1965.

After ordination, Father Colman pursued graduate studies in theology at the Collegio Sant'Anselmo in Rome, earning a licentiate in 1967.

Returning to Saint Meinrad, Father Colman began a long period of service teaching theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology that ended in 1994.

In addition to serving at Saint Meinrad, Father Colman attended the 1979-80 Asian Benedictine Conference, taking him to Taiwan and Japan. He would also teach for periods in Puerto Rico and the Bahamas.

At the monastery, Father Colman served for many years as an organist, as secretary to the archabbot, as house prefect, gardener and in mail service. He also led many retreats for monastic and other men's and women's religious communities and at Saint Meinrad's Guest House and Retreat Center.

Memorial gifts may be sent to Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577. †

Franciscan Sister Carol Ann Mause served in Catholic schools and parishes

Franciscan Sister Carol Ann Mause (formerly Sister Rosarita) died on July 3 at the motherhouse of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in Oldenburg. She was 80.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 9 at the Motherhouse Chapel in Oldenburg. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

Sister Carol Ann was born on Jan. 23, 1944, in Cincinnati. She joined the Sisters of St. Francis on Sept. 9, 1962, and professed final vows in on Aug. 12, 1968. Sister Carol Ann earned a bachelor's degree in education at Marian University in Indianapolis and a

master's degree in administration at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa.

During her 62 years as a member of the Sisters of St. Francis, Sister Carol Ann ministered in Catholic education and parish ministry in Indiana, Missouri and Ohio.

In the archdiocese, she served at the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg from 1995-97 and St. Nicholas School in Ripley County from 2012-15.

She is survived by a sister, Dee Boehmer.

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

Franciscan Sister Barbara James served in Catholic schools and parishes

Franciscan Sister Barbara James (formerly Sister Kieran) died on July 18 at the motherhouse of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in Oldenburg. She was 83.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 23 at the Motherhouse Chapel in Oldenburg. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

Sister Barbara was born on Dec. 11, 1941, in Indianapolis. She grew up as a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and Christ the King Parish in the city and graduated from Father Thomas Sccecina Memorial High School in 1960.

Sister Barbara joined the Sisters of St. Francis on Sept. 8, 1961, and professed final vows on Aug. 12, 1967. She earned a bachelor's degree at Marian University in Indianapolis and later a master's degree in ministry.

During her 63 years as a member of the

Sisters of St. Francis, Sister Barbara ministered in Catholic education for 18 years in schools in Indiana, Ohio and Montana. She went on to serve for 27 years in pastoral ministry, nursing and as a director of religious education.

In the archdiocese, she served at St. Mary School in Rushville from 1969-74, the former St. Mary School in Aurora from 1974-75, and at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in New Albany from 1975-77. She later ministered at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis from 1996-98, St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville from 2005-06, St. Paul Parish (now part of St. John Paul II Parish) in Sellersburg from 2006-07, and St. Mary Parish in Lanesville from 2007-09.

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

Court temporarily blocks Biden administration's new Title IX rule

WASHINGTON (OSV News)—The Supreme Court on Aug. 16 declined to allow the Biden administration to enforce portions of a new regulation expanding Title IX protections from sex discrimination to include students who identify as transgender while legal challenges to the rule proceed.

In April, the Department of Education released its finalized regulation under Title IX, the 1972 federal civil rights law requiring that women and girls have equal access and treatment in education and athletics.

Department spokespersons argued the new regulation, originally scheduled to take effect on Aug. 1, will ensure that at educational institutions that receive federal funding, no person experiences discrimination on the basis of sex—which it defined as sex stereotypes, sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics—including sex-based harassment or sexual violence at such institutions.

But that regulation was challenged by several states, which argued that broadening the scope of the law could

dilute its intended purpose of protecting women's athletics.

In its unsigned opinion, the Supreme Court found that all of the justices agreed the disputed changes could remain blocked.

"[A]ll members of the Court today accept that the plaintiffs were entitled to preliminary injunctive relief as to three provisions of the rule, including the central provision that newly defines sex discrimination to include discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity," the high court said.

While four of the nine justices would have favored allowing undisputed portions of the regulation to take effect, the majority declined to do so, siding with the lower courts' view that "the allegedly unlawful provisions are not readily severable from the remaining provisions."

Jonathan Scruggs, who is Alliance Defending Freedom's senior counsel and its vice president of litigation strategy and the Center for Conscience Initiatives, said in a statement, "The

Biden-Harris administration's radical redefinition of sex turns back the clock on equal opportunity for women, undermines fairness, and threatens student safety and privacy."

In guidance on health care policy and practices issued in 2023, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Doctrine opposed interventions that "involve the use of surgical or chemical techniques that aim

to exchange the sex characteristics of a patient's body for those of the opposite sex or for simulations thereof.

"Any technological intervention that does not accord with the fundamental order of the human person as a unity of body and soul, including the sexual difference inscribed in the body, ultimately does not help but, rather, harms the human person," the document states. †

Classified Directory

For advertising rates call (317) 236-1585.

Employment

Director of Faith Formation

St. Pius X Catholic Church and School in Indianapolis IN, is currently seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation to join are team. The Director of Faith Formation will foster and nourish community in the faith, from birth through adulthood. Communion and will also function as Coordinator of Adult and children's RCIA. The ideal candidate will be able to work independently and demonstrate flexibility, creativity, and responsibility. The DFF is an active, practicing Catholic who lives a life in keeping with the teachings of the Church. We are looking for an individual who will be; Outreaching, engaging, and supporting families in their call to grow in their faith and be the first witness of Jesus to their children.

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Plan and Implement new and inviting formation programs to the parish. Supervise and assist with the Sunday Children's Faith Formation (CFF) Lead and oversee the Sacramental Preparation, Coordinate the Special Religious Education Program, Lead and coordinate the RCIA and RCIA for Children program, Coordinate and lead the Adult Education Programs, Assist the Coordinator of the Vacation Bible School program, Lead and coordinate the Children's Liturgy of the Word program, Communications to parish regarding programs, Coordinate School Masses with teachers and school staff, Coordinate Children's Masses on weekends, Coordinate Baptism prep classes, Other duties assigned by the Director of Evangelization and Discipleship.

For Immediate Consideration, Send applications or inquiries to: ralbertson@spxparish.org

Donor Relations Coordinator

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking a full-time Donor Relations Coordinator at their office in downtown Indianapolis.

Join the Office of Stewardship and Development team to help engage donors and potential donors in generously supporting the mission of the Catholic Church in central and southern Indiana. The Donor Relations Coordinator serves as the first point of contact for donors and prospective donors. This position provides support and resources to create a forward momentum for the work of major gifts as well as planned gifts held within the Catholic Community Foundation (CCF). The Donor Relations Coordinator is responsible for administrative support for staff supporting planned gift work including maintenance and consistency of internal office operations, contracts, records and files. In addition, the Donor Relations Coordinator collaborates on event-based planning efforts for donors, helps coordinate visits with parishes, schools and members of the community and special projects relating to the ongoing organization of files and records. This position will be responsible for supporting the bequest settlement process and generating impact reports for endowment holders.

Three to five years of office experience, preferably in a fundraising environment. An Associate's degree or equivalent in related area. Bachelor's degree is preferred. Must be able to understand and to comply with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Code of Conduct. Must be able to successfully complete the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Child Safety Training.

To apply, please send your resume, cover letter and three references to kpohovey@archindy.org.

Employment

Director of Intercultural Ministries

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis seeks a leader as the Director of Intercultural Ministries. This staff member will be responsible for leading, advocating for, and promoting the interests of the diverse Catholic cultural groups in the Archdiocese. The Director provides leadership to established communities among Hispanic, Black, French-speaking, and Asian/Pacific Islander Catholics, and will seek to expand Archdiocesan efforts among other cultural groups in the Archdiocese. The Director will support the Archdiocese's efforts on intercultural affairs and programs and across the individual parishes of the Archdiocese.

This is a full-time position with benefits at the Archdiocese in the Department of Pastoral Ministries, located at the Catholic Center in downtown Indianapolis. This is a ministerial and leadership position in the Catholic Church and so the ideal candidate will be a practicing Catholic and have a willingness to foster the Church's mission. The ideal candidate will have a master's degree or equivalent in theology or related field, experience in intercultural Church ministry, is bilingual in English and Spanish, and experience leading and managing staff and/or volunteers.

To apply with a cover letter and resume, please contact Deacon Tom Hosty, Director of Pastoral Ministries, at thosty@archindy.org.

Coordinator of Black Catholic Ministry

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis seeks a leader to serve as Coordinator of Black Catholic Ministry. This is a full-time position with benefits at the Catholic Center in downtown Indianapolis. The Coordinator of Black Catholic Ministry will support Archdiocesan goals and provide leadership and coordination of the Archdiocesan efforts to develop lay leadership and participation among Black Catholics across the 126 parishes of the Archdiocese. The Coordinator for Black Catholics Ministry will be a connector of resources for pastors and laity and will oversee and provide programming in support of Archdiocesan goals, which includes working to implement the 2023 Pastoral Plan for Black Catholics as envisioned by the National Black Catholic Congress.

This is a ministerial and leadership position in the Catholic Church and so the ideal candidate will be a practicing Catholic with a willingness to foster the Church's mission. The ideal candidate would preferably have a degree in theology or a related field and experience in Black Catholic or intercultural ministry.

To apply with a cover letter and resume, please contact Deacon Tom Hosty, Director of Pastoral Ministries, at thosty@archindy.org.

Retreat Director

Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, a 136-bed retreat house located in Southern Indiana, 12 miles from downtown Louisville, KY, seeks a full-time Director.

We seek a person with Franciscan ethos who is a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing with the Church. Experience in the Retreat Ministry (administration and programming), Ecumenical engagement and solid commitment to hospitality are essential. Candidates should have a master's degree or higher in Theology/Divinity, or equivalent, with experience in retreat or hospitality ministry. Strong organizational skills and excellent interpersonal and communication skills are needed. An appreciation of Franciscan values, as expressed in Fratelli Tutti and Laudato Si, would be ideal.

Interested? Submit a résumé by email to: mtstfrancisboard@gmail.com.

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Investing with Faith/Edward O. Martin

Why do you need a will? It speaks for you after you have passed

After Mass a few weeks ago, I had coffee with a friend who asked me, “Why even have a will?” It’s a common question and one that, as an estate attorney, I often get.



But it’s also a good question.

Consider the number of choices we make daily. Planning our estate, whether to ultimately benefit our family or our favorite ministry or parish, is one of the weightier decisions we face. So, I shared with him, as I’ll share with you, some practical reasons to consider creating a will.

A will is a fundamental part of any carefully considered estate plan. After we die, this document speaks for us, informing our loved ones about what we want to happen with the things we have left behind.

Specifically, a will is a legal document that identifies the new owners of your property after you die and empowers representatives to act on your behalf to execute your will. Your

will governs your “probate estate,” the property transferred to the new owners under the will. (However, it is important to know that your property can be transferred by other means, too, like payable-on-death accounts and trusts.)

Before your will takes effect over your probate estate, someone—such as a family member or your executor—must prove your will’s authenticity to a judge in probate court. After successfully probating a will, it becomes a source of legal title, or proof of ownership, for the new owners.

Simply put, the owners inherit gifts from you through your probated will. Thus, your will should clearly state your intentions regarding these gifts and those who inherit them. A well-written will should minimize (and hopefully eliminate) confusion among your survivors.

Your will also identifies the person you choose as your “personal representative,” traditionally known as your “executor.” The judge appoints this person to wind up your financial and legal affairs and to execute the instructions in your will. Your

representative will take possession of your probate estate and finalize your tax and economic matters.

For example, your representative might file insurance claims, prepare and file your tax returns, and/or pay your debts. When the court proceedings are concluded, your personal representative returns possession of the remaining probate estate to the new owners.

You should always carefully create your will to cooperate with the other parts of your estate plan. For example, parents with young children should make a will to nominate guardians to raise the children if they were to die. Your will informs the judge in the separate guardianship proceeding, which is concerned with the best interests of your children.

You can also create trusts within your will to benefit others, which are separate legal estates that can continue after the probate proceedings are concluded. These “testamentary” trusts are usually designed to help minors or persons with disabilities, but can also address other matters like tax objectives. Your will directs

the transfer of your probate estate to these trusts, which is called “funding” a trust.

Our estate plans can have many parts, including wills, trusts, payable-on-death accounts, and transfer-on-death property. A well-written will should speak for us when we cannot and help fit all these parts together to ensure the intentions of our overall plan are executed correctly. While your will only governs the probate estate, it can still inform the other parts of your estate plan, relieving confusion.

If you have questions about your estate plan, you should take steps to create or review your wills and consider seeking professional guidance from financial and legal advisors.

(Edward O. Martin is a Centerville, Ind., attorney who practices in the areas of estate planning and administration, business, and real estate. He is a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond and is currently serving on the archdiocesan Catholic Community Foundation’s Professional Advisor Group.) †

READINGS

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Monday, September 2

1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Psalm 119:97-102
Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday, September 3

St. Gregory the Great, pope and

doctor of the Church
1 Corinthians 2:10b-16
Psalm 145:8-14
Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday, September 4

1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Psalm 33:12-15, 20-21
Luke 4:38-44

Thursday, September 5

St. Teresa of Calcutta, virgin
1 Corinthians 3:18-23
Psalm 24:1-6
Luke 5:1-11

Friday, September 6

1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Psalm 37:3-6, 27-28, 39-40
Luke 5:33-39

Saturday, September 7

1 Corinthians 4:6b-15
Psalm 145:17-21
Luke 6:1-5

Sunday, September 8

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146:7-10
James 2:1-5
Mark 7:31-37

United in the Eucharist

Thank you to the 11,889 generous donors who have contributed an incredible \$5.63 million to the 2024 United Catholic Appeal. Your gifts empower ministries across central and southern Indiana, nurturing faith, supporting families, and fostering a vibrant community of believers. From the education of seminarians to compassionate care through shelters and food distribution, your support transforms lives and strengthens our shared Catholic mission. Here is a snapshot of several areas where your gift has made tremendous impact. Together, we continue to build a Church that thrives on compassion, service, and faith. Thank you for making a meaningful difference.

918

individuals served by Holy Family Shelter in FY 2023.



197 young men from within the Archdiocese of Indianapolis attended vocations events



32 seminarians from within the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and 4 from other diocese were enrolled at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary and St. Meinrad School of Theology



3.8 million pounds of food were distributed by Catholic Charities Terre Haute



1,000+ young adults attended Theology on Tap events



713 students were served through the three archdiocesan Mother Theodore Catholic Academies



37 retired priests in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis are being supported by the United Catholic Appeal