



The

# Criterion

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See our annual Catholic Schools Week Supplement, pages 1B-20B.

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## Saved by hope

### Patient, doctor bring together hope in medicine and Christ

*Editor's note: The following is the second of two articles about how Christian hope, which was the subject of Pope Benedict XVI's recent encyclical letter, "Spe Salvi," plays an important role in the life of Catholics in the archdiocese.*

By Sean Gallagher

Hope in things both big and small keeps us going from day to day. But there are times when hope seems to disappear and life comes crashing to a halt.

Kathy Hirsch faced such dark times five years ago when she was diagnosed with stage-three ovarian cancer and was told that she only had a 20 percent chance of living for another two years.

Despite this prognosis, Hirsch, a member of St. Luke's the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, still had hope in the medical expertise of her gynecological oncologist, Dr. Hans Geisler.

But, more importantly, she integrated that hope for this world with her hope in Christ and joined her sufferings to his.

#### Offer it up

In his encyclical "Spe Salvi" ("Saved by Hope"), Pope Benedict XVI reflected at some length about maintaining hope in the midst of suffering.

"It is not by sidestepping or fleeing from suffering that we are healed, but rather by our capacity for accepting it, maturing through it and finding meaning through union with Christ, who suffered with infinite love" (#37).

But at the end of these reflections, the pope adds a practical suggestion.

He briefly discusses the hope to be found in reviving "a form of devotion ... perhaps less practiced today but quite widespread not long ago," namely, offering up the ordinary trials and inconveniences of one's everyday life in union with Christ's suffering on the cross (#40).

The pope suggested that we can "insert these little annoyances into



Photo by Sean Gallagher

Dr. Hans Geisler and Kathy Hirsch, both members of St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis, pray on Jan. 16 in Hirsch's home. From 2002-2004, Geisler treated Hirsch for stage-three ovarian cancer. They brought together in that treatment their hope in modern medicine and hope in Christ.

Christ's great 'com-compassion' [literally, to suffer with] so that they somehow [become] part of the treasury of compassion so greatly needed by the human race. In this way, even the small inconveniences of daily life could acquire meaning and contribute to the economy of good and of human love" (#40).

Hirsch's sufferings were far from common everyday annoyances. But she

and her husband, Mike, found joy in knowing that her patient bearing of her condition could, when joined to Christ's sufferings, bring about great good for others.

"That was where our joy came from, our hope came from," she said. "We were able to offer everything we went through for holiness for our children.

"... We could [also] offer it for our community, for their families and their children, and for all of these people

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## Roe v. Wade 'will not stand,' cardinal says at pro-life vigil Mass

WASHINGTON (CNS)—*Roe v. Wade*, the 35-year-old Supreme Court decision



Cardinal Justin Rigali

that legalized abortion virtually on demand, "will not stand," Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia said in his homily at a Jan. 21 evening Mass that opened the annual National Prayer Vigil for Life.

"*Roe v. Wade* is incompatible with human dignity," said Cardinal Rigali, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. "It must not stand. It cannot stand. It will not stand."

His declaration drew applause from the packed Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. It was one of five times that the cardinal's remarks during his homily were met with applause.

Cardinal Rigali, echoing the New Testament reading from First Corinthians for the St. Agnes feast day Mass of Jan. 21, told the packed church that, "Instead of choosing 'great' or impressive people in the eyes of the world, God uses the humble, the foolish, the weak and 'those who count for nothing' to accomplish his purposes.

"It is when we least expect it that the tiniest among us can humble the powerful," he said.

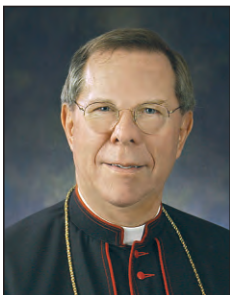
One example the cardinal cited was an embryo glimpsed by stem-cell researcher Dr. Shinya Yamanaka. The doctor was quoted in *The New York Times* as saying, "When I saw the embryo, I suddenly realized there was such a small difference between it and my daughters. ... I thought, we can't keep destroying embryos for our research. There must be another way."

Yamanaka announced in December a technique that successfully turned adult skin cells into the equivalent of human embryonic stem cells without using

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## Archbishop Buechlein diagnosed with cancer

A message from Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.



During the week of Jan. 13, I underwent a series of medical tests because I had been experiencing a lot of fatigue and had noticed a swelling under my right arm.

On Jan. 18, I received a medical report that I have Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer affecting the lymph nodes.

Hodgkin's lymphoma is also commonly known as Hodgkin's disease.

I am meeting this week with my oncologist to determine where I go from here concerning a course of treatment. I already know that chemotherapy is required and I will be undergoing a complete body CT scan to determine more precisely the extent of the problem. Chemotherapy has proven to be a highly effective method for treating this disease.

I've been told that the side effects of the chemotherapy will be further fatigue. I regret the interruption this may cause in my normal obligations.

I do not expect the day-to-day operations of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to be greatly affected. We are blessed to have so many dedicated and hardworking clergy, religious and parish life coordinators as well as an excellent administrative staff.

Our many ministries will continue as usual.

This is all the information I have at the moment. I would appreciate your prayers, and please know that I will continue to pray for all of you.

Archbishop Buechlein, D

Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Indianapolis  
Jan. 22, 2008

More stories about Archbishop Buechlein's cancer, page 3A.

# MASS

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an actual embryo.

"If God can use a helpless embryo to change a human heart, he can certainly use us with all our limitations and weaknesses," Cardinal Rigali said.

"By seeking holiness and using the gifts

## Coverage of the annual March for Life will appear in next week's issue.

God has given you to accomplish his will in your life," he continued, "you are contributing mightily to that kingdom we all long for, where there will be no more crying or pain or death. Certainly no abortion. No euthanasia. No assisted suicide. No deep-freezing of embryos as though they were merchandise. And no destruction of human life in the name of science."

Cardinal Rigali said, "Our value does not come from being so-called 'productive' members of society, but from Emmanuel, God always with us."

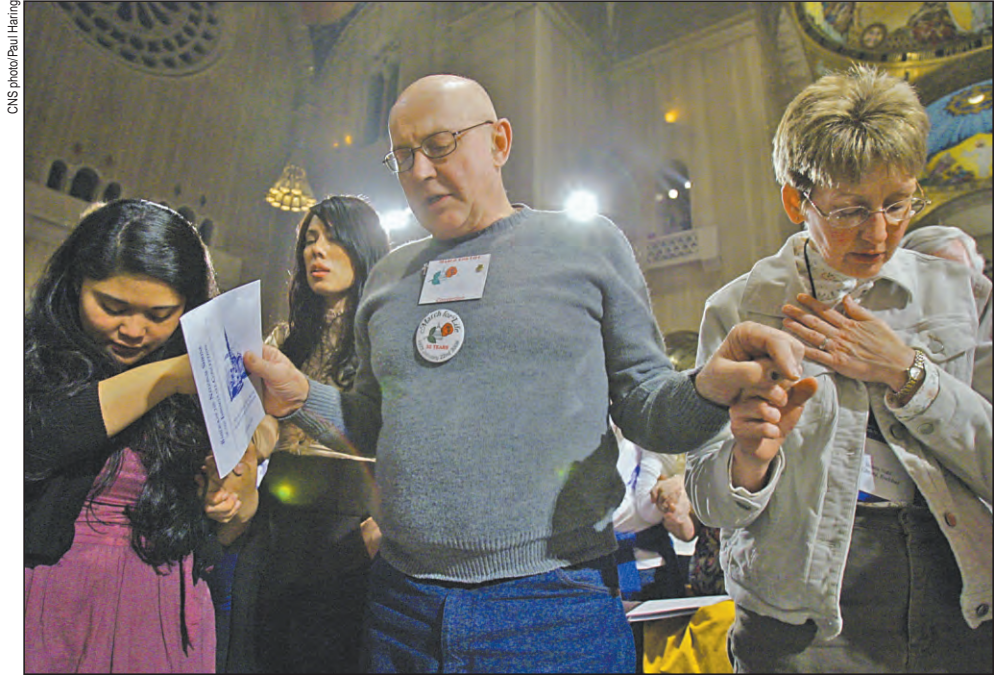
He added, "We possess, or will be given, enough time and resources to build a culture of life together."

During his homily, Cardinal Rigali drew a comparison between those attending the Mass and the new Knights of Columbus Incarnation Dome at the basilica, which required 2.4 million pieces of colored glass cut and assembled in Italy and shipped in 346 boxes for five months of installation.

"We too, dear friends, are called to a massive undertaking," Cardinal Rigali said. "This urgent project is well under way, but we know it is far from complete."

God "now sends you out, thousands upon thousands strong, to do your part in forming a vibrant mosaic on behalf of life," he added. "You must be the 'rich color' he created you to be. You must play your role in his overarching design, and be patient with others as they seek to do the same."

The earlier start of the vigil Mass—one hour earlier than in past years—did not appear to make any difference in the numbers attending, as people squeezed into every pew, aisle, vestibule and side chapel in the basilica's main church. †



People hold hands while praying the Our Father during the Vigil Mass for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on Jan. 21. Thousands attended the service at the basilica on the eve of the annual March for Life. The events solemnly marked the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion across the country.

# HOPE

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who were praying for us, for their families and for their children."

Hirsch offered it up through three major surgeries and chemotherapy treatments that went on for nearly two years.

At the end of those two years, instead of dying, she was declared clear of her cancer.

## 'It was the hand of the Lord'

Before she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer but after she knew that she was suffering from "something big," Hirsch

knew that she wanted to be treated by "a praying, Catholic doctor."

She ended up choosing Geisler, one of her fellow St. Luke parishioners.

Geisler practiced gynecological oncology in Indianapolis for nearly 40 years, retiring in 2004.

During that time, he saw his field progress by leaps and bounds.

At first, he said he was tempted, in a sense, to place hope in medical knowledge over and against hope in Christ instead of seeking to integrate the two, an approach the pope suggested in his encyclical.

But as the years went on, Geisler's life of faith increased to a point where he felt

humbled when patients would return to him to thank him for healing them.

"I would tell them that it wasn't I that affected the cure, that it was the hand of the Lord," Geisler said. "God works through physicians and works through modern science, and that all of these things are good, but ultimately it's God."

"If we don't have any belief in a life hereafter and a final union with God, all of life is fairly meaningless."

This faith-filled perspective on his profession led him to be willing to pray with his patients, something he did regularly with Hirsch.

But Geisler learned lessons in hope as

much, if not more, from patients who died while under his care than from those who ultimately survived.

"I think that patients, especially when they're dying, taught me an awful lot," he said. "They taught me how to go through suffering and how you can handle that as a human being."

Whether she survived her own cancer or not, it was hope that kept Hirsch going.

"I think hope was everything," she said. "I honestly, deeply believe that hope not only incites my desire for Christ, it fulfills my desire for Christ ... " †

# Ethicist says science and Christian hope are compatible

By Sean Gallagher

The relationship of Kathy Hirsch and Dr. Hans Geisler was based in part on Geisler's medical expertise.

But it was also rooted in each others' hope in Christ.

Dr. Gary Wright, an ethicist and anesthesiologist at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis and a consultant in palliative care, said in

a recent interview with *The Criterion* that bringing hope in science and hope in Christ together "creates a deep bond between patient and doctor" and is indicative of the doctor's recognition of the limits of his profession.

"When a physician has that humility, it is greatly appreciated," Wright said.

In his encyclical letter "*Spe Salvi*" ("Saved by Hope"), Pope Benedict XVI acknowledged that many thinkers over the past 400 years have sought to

separate these two hopes and even put them in opposition to one another.

In contrast, the pope argued that the two actually need each other.

"Reason ... needs faith if it is to be completely itself: reason and faith need one another in order to fulfill their true nature and their mission" (#23).

Wright has found in research that some people have what might be termed an irrational hope in scientific progress.

In one study, he sought to learn the motivations for people with a terminal disease to enter into a clinical investigation of a medicine.

The patients were told in advance that the reason for the study was for the "sole reason for scientific discovery" in order to determine "the toxic or lethal dose" of the drug in question.

But even in the face of such a goal, Wright learned that nearly all of the patients were still motivated to participate in the investigation because they thought they would be cured.

"This was insightful to me and helped me in kind of framing this issue [of hope in scientific progress]," Wright said.

"What is faith in light of a serious medical

illness or a life-threatening illness? How do we define hope in the framework of a Christian or a Catholic view of the tradition of faith?"

Without Christian hope to give meaning to suffering, the dignity of those with chronic, debilitating diseases can easily be ignored in today's society, according to Wright.

"You have political and economic forces right now that are driving a social Darwinism ... that says that these individuals who are dying these slow, painful deaths are not a value to society," Wright said. "[It's saying] that there is a high cost to dying and ... that there are some individuals who have an obligation to die and get out of the way."

Wright said that viewing those who suffer in this way through the lens of Christian hope makes the situation look altogether different.

"We, with Christian hope and faith, believe that we are redeemed and that we are going to go to a better place when our physical lives are over," Wright said. "So even the suffering itself is self-limited by the duration of our illness."

"And I think that those individuals who

have that kind of sense and framework don't request foreshortening of their physical suffering to any degree like those that don't have that faith or that hope because, to them, the suffering has absolutely no meaning."

At the same time, Wright said that end-of-life palliative care fits within the perspective offered by Christian hope.

"I believe that it's consistent with a Catholic mission as a hospital to incorporate good palliative measures and, at the same time, fostering as much hope as you possibly can in individuals." †

## Official Appointment

**Rev. David Kobak, O.F.M.,** associate pastor of Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg, to temporary administrator of Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg, effective Jan. 14, 2008.

*This appointment is from the office of the Most. Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., Archbishop of Indianapolis. †*



1/25/08

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# Professor offers insight to lawmakers on moral tax policy

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

Each year, the Indiana Catholic Conference hosts a legislator luncheon and brings an expert from the Catholic



community to Indianapolis to help try and form the hearts and minds of state lawmakers

on a pressing public policy issue facing the state.

This year's expert, University of Notre Dame Law School Professor Matthew J. Barrett, was given the task of enlightening legislators on effective yet morally acceptable ways they could deal with the looming issue of property tax reform.

It is the goal of the Indiana General Assembly to reduce or eliminate property taxes this year.

Currently, property taxes fund a wide range of state and local programs that support the common good. They fund public schools, police and fire protection, and a safety net for the poor.

When taking into account this broad range of programs, it is generally acknowledged that a reduction or elimination of property taxes would need to be made up in other ways for those programs to continue at their current funding level.

To address this concern of the Church, Barrett provided legislators with a "macro" perspective of forming morally and fiscally sound taxation rather than a single approach to property tax reform.

"Render unto Caesar in Indiana and Catholic Social Teaching on Taxation," the title of Barrett's talk on Jan. 16, covered basic concepts in Scripture and Church teaching which recognize the role of government and the obligation that people have to pay taxes.

More importantly, his presentation stressed the words in Luke's Gospel that "much will be required of the person entrusted with much" (Lk 12:48).

Barrett began his talk by saying, "I come to you because of my faith and 25 years of experience. ... I come on behalf of the poor."

Quoting from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' 1986 pastoral letter, "Economic Justice for All: Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the

U.S. Economy," Barrett said that in order to accomplish basic economic justice, the U.S. bishops refer to "a system of taxation based on assessment according to ability to pay" as a "prime necessity."

The 1986 pastoral letter uses three principles to evaluate the U.S. tax system, saying it should: 1) raise adequate revenues to pay for society's needs, especially the basic needs of the poor; 2) use a progressive structure so that those with greater resources pay a higher tax rate; and 3) not require families living below the poverty level to pay income taxes.

The Iowa Catholic bishops in 2003 issued a statement on taxation which Barrett said could be used as a guide for Indiana.

"Catholic moral teaching raises two essential questions that apply to all economic policies including tax policy," Barrett said.

"First, does this policy maintain or enhance the life and dignity of the human person? And secondly, how does this policy affect the poorest and the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters?"

Barrett explained that Catholic teaching offers two basic principles which should govern tax policy—contributive and distributive justice.

Contributive justice requires everyone to contribute based on their ability to pay. Distributive justice requires that wealth be allocated in such a way to ensure that the basic material needs of people are met.

In evaluating Indiana's current tax system, Barrett told lawmakers he gave them "a passing grade" on the contributive justice aspect since everyone contributes to sales taxes, income taxes and all homeowners pay property taxes.

However, he pointed out that on the issue of ability to pay, while the poor do receive some tax breaks, "the state does not ask the rest of us—the non-poor, the blessed—to pay progressively more."

Barrett challenged legislators to adopt tax policies that were "both in fact and in appearance" more progressive. He recommended progressive income tax rates, increases in standard deductions and personal exemptions; progressive local option taxes rather than a flat tax; exemptions from sales tax for residential utilities and school supplies; and a variable homestead exemption that decreases as the assessed value increases.

In his closing remarks, Barrett said that



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein shares a moment with University of Notre Dame Law School Professor Matthew J. Barrett. Barrett was the keynote speaker at the Indiana Catholic Conference's annual legislator luncheon on Jan. 16.



Rep. Philip Giaquinta (D-Fort Wayne), left, Sen. John Broder (D-South Bend) and Sen. Richard Young Jr. (D-Milltown) listen to Notre Dame Law School Professor Matthew J. Barrett's presentation on Jan. 16. Sen. Young is also the Senate Minority Leader.

Speaker of the House B. Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend) was quoted recently in *The South Bend Tribune* on this year's property tax reform outcome, saying that "he hoped there were more winners than losers."

Barrett said he would offer a friendly addition to Rep. Bauer's comments: "If the poor win, we all win."

Reacting to Barrett's presentation, Rep. Bauer said, "I applaud Professor Barrett's work and the ICC for bringing him here for this legislator luncheon. The presentation offered a realistic approach to

tax reform.

"His suggestion to include sales exemptions for the poor is something we actually did in 1973," Rep. Bauer said. "We exempted food and medicine from sales tax."

"Increasing certain standard deductions, giving utility exemptions for the poor and giving sales tax exemptions, I advocate all of the above. ..."

(Brigid Curtis Ayer is a correspondent for The Criterion.) †

## Archbishop asks for prayers for his recovery

**When did Archbishop Buechlein learn that he had cancer?**

During the week of Jan. 13, Archbishop Buechlein sought medical attention after experiencing an unusual amount of fatigue and noticing a swelling under his right arm. After several medical tests, he received a report on Jan. 18 that he has Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of cancer affecting the lymph nodes.

**What is the prescribed treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma?**

After further tests are conducted to determine the extent that the lymph nodes are malignant, it is expected that chemotherapy will be used to destroy the malignant cells and tissue. This has been a highly effective method of treatment.

## Hodgkin's lymphoma is a rare form of cancer

Hodgkin's disease or Hodgkin's lymphoma is one of a group of cancers called lymphomas. Lymphoma is a general term for cancers that develop in the lymphatic system. Hodgkin's disease, an uncommon lymphoma, accounts for less than 1 percent of all cases of cancer in the United States. Other cancers of the lymphatic system are called non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The lymphatic system is part of the body's immune system. It helps the body fight disease and infection. The lymphatic system includes a network of thin lymphatic vessels that branch, like blood vessels, into tissues throughout the body. Lymphatic vessels carry lymph, a colorless, watery fluid that contains infection-fighting cells called lymphocytes. Along this network of vessels are small organs called lymph nodes. Clusters of lymph nodes are found in the underarms, groin, neck, chest and abdomen. Other parts of the lymphatic system are the spleen, thymus, tonsils and

**What are the expected side effects of chemotherapy?**

Each person responds differently to treatment, but it is expected that one of the main side effects will be fatigue.

**How will the Hodgkin's lymphoma affect Archbishop Buechlein's ministry?**

This will depend in part on how well Archbishop Buechlein responds to the treatment. To some degree at least, the archbishop's normal routine will be curtailed, but it remains to be seen to what extent. Arrangements are already being made to make sure that, for the most part, life in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis goes on as usual.

**What can I do?**

Archbishop Buechlein has asked that people pray for his recovery. †

bone marrow. Lymphatic tissue is also found in other parts of the body, including the stomach, intestines and skin.

In Hodgkin's disease, cells in the lymphatic system become abnormal. They divide too rapidly and grow without any order or control. Because lymphatic tissue is present in many parts of the body, Hodgkin's disease can start almost anywhere. Hodgkin's disease may occur in a single lymph node, a group of lymph nodes, or, sometimes in other parts of the lymphatic system, such as the bone marrow or spleen.

This type of cancer tends to spread in a fairly orderly way from one group of lymph nodes to the next group. For example, Hodgkin's disease that arises in the lymph nodes in the neck spreads first to the nodes above the collarbones, and then to other nodes under the arms and within the chest.

Eventually, if left untreated, it can spread to almost any other part of the body.

Source: National Cancer Institute

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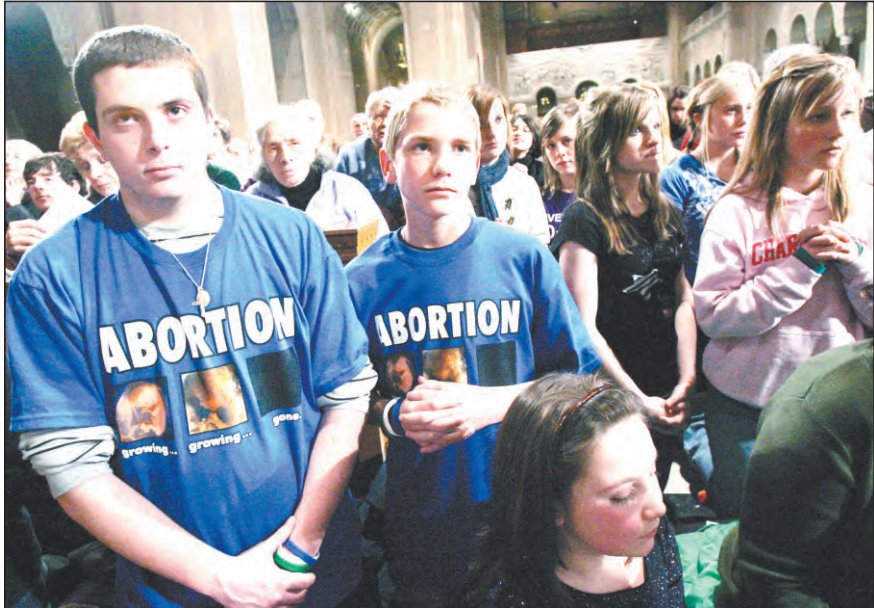
# The Criterion

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## Editorial



Billy Stecher, 15, and Jeff Jones, 13, both of Lehigh Acres, Fla., kneel in prayer during the Vigil Mass for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on Jan. 21. Thousands attended the service on the eve of the annual March for Life. The events mark the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion across the country.

## Young people stand up to be voices for the voiceless

Worried about the world that your children will encounter as they grow older?

As a parent, grandparent or adult with a vested interest in today's young people, you should be.

It's been said often in recent years, but it's worth repeating: This generation of young people is facing challenges like no other generation.

A "me first" attitude, a society that has weakened and even done away with some of the moral standards that many older adults grew up with, and the effects of the Internet and all its potentially troubling influences (think [myspace.com](http://myspace.com), other chat rooms without appropriate supervision and pornography only a mouse click away).

All these factors make many parents—and other caring adults—extremely concerned about life's challenges and the resulting decisions that await today's youths.

Here's another cliché to reflect on: *Life is no picnic*. There are challenges we will all face in life and, hopefully, as we work through them, we will come out better people as a result of the experience.

As we've learned in recent times, that cliché has no age parameters. But in looking back, wasn't there a time when those challenging life experiences were usually reserved for adults?

In today's world, the message that many young people take to heart is that you need to do as much as possible, as early as possible, to get ahead in life.

For many youths, it's the mantra that sticks out in the academic world. It plays a role in athletic endeavors and where extracurricular activities are concerned, too.

Unfortunately, many young people get the impression—rightly or wrongly—that they can never do enough to get ahead in life. Even at a young age.

As caring adults, it is our duty to nurture young people. In the process, we need to reassure them that there is

nothing wrong with taking a healthy, measured approach to living life.

Most parents and caring adults do impart that message. And, thankfully, there are still plenty of instances where kids are allowed to be kids.

While kids can indeed still be kids at times, it is just as affirming to see young people take "adult" issues that concern them to heart and take steps to make a difference in today's world.

At the Jan. 21 and Jan. 22 activities in Washington, D.C., surrounding the 34th annual March for Life, thousands of youths took center stage to show their commitment to the unborn.

A Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in our nation's capital drew thousands of teenagers on Jan. 21.

Despite the cold, the annual March for Life on Jan. 22 to Capitol Hill in Washington included thousands of young people, too.

Both events included several hundred teenagers from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Thirty-five years after the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion in the United States, young people were standing up for life and remembering the more than 47 million unborn children who have died as a result of that horrific court decision.

It was truly a powerful statement.

Who thinks the youths of today's America don't care about their future?

If you fall in that camp, think again.

As demonstrated in our nation's capital, young people understand that people of faith—adults and teenagers alike—are called to respect all human life from conception until natural death.

Indeed, they are ready to stand up and let others know how wrong it is to end an innocent human life.

May we never take for granted how even the youngest among us can be voices for the voiceless.

—Mike Krokos

## Making a Difference/Tony Magliano

# Abortion: America's holocaust that we must not be afraid to help end

In 1933, many of the people living in Dachau knew that something evil had started to happen in a camp just outside their German town.



But most were too afraid to ask questions. They were even afraid to question their consciences because their consciences might have compelled them to act.

So, instead, nearly everyone looked the other way and ignored the first permanent Nazi concentration camp in Germany.

By the end of World War II, more than 3,500 Jewish and political prisoners had become victims there of brutal medical experiments. And thousands more were executed or died of starvation.

Considering the grave risks associated with questioning such a ruthless regime, it's not hard to understand how fear paralyzed many Germans from engaging in nonviolent actions of resistance.

But in 2008 America, grave risks rarely befall those working to end a different holocaust. So, instead of fearing torture and death, the vast majority of Catholic Americans simply allow apathy to prevent their involvement in serious efforts to end the holocaust of abortion.

This, however, is not understandable.

Considering Joan Andrews Bell—the famous pro-life activist—spent years in jail for participating in nonviolent rescues at abortion mills, efforts like praying in front of these killing centers, sidewalk counseling and writing letters to legislators is really quite easy.

Yet, like most of the people living around the Dachau concentration camp, millions of U.S. Catholics choose to look the other way while unborn babies are tortured and murdered by abortion in their very own cities.

Everyday believers in the God of life pass by these contemporary extermination camps, euphemistically called women's health clinics, without giving even a notice of concern.

Real concern leads to action. But sadly,

large scale, ongoing Catholic action on behalf of the unborn is seriously lacking.

It was good that 100,000 people marched in the nation's capital on Jan. 22 to protest against legal abortion. I have participated in more than 15 of these marches, but our participation in an annual demonstration in Washington or a state capital is simply not enough.

Until the consciences of millions of American Catholics are aroused to the point of passionate action, 4,000 unborn babies will continue to be brutally murdered through legal abortion every day, and vulnerable women will be harmed—physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Surely, the Creator is calling all of us to do everything possible to end this contempt for our smallest brothers and sisters. Embryonic stem-cell research and cloning have become added threats to the unborn.

Deeply committed private and liturgical prayer is essential for ending all assaults on unborn human life. Regular respect life homilies and a petition for the unborn in the prayer of the faithful at Mass should be a given.

Ongoing lobbying of our state and national political leaders is another essential. To learn about statewide legislation affecting the unborn, get on your state Catholic conference's mailing list. And to make a difference on the national level, log onto the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Web site at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) and click "life issues."

Other good organizations to contact are Priests for Life, Helpers of God's Precious Infants and Feminists for Life.

And, finally, imagine if every day, at every abortion center nationwide, large numbers of Catholics were praying, peacefully demonstrating and conducting sidewalk counseling. What a powerful witness that would be!

More praying, challenging preaching, committed teaching, intensive lobbying and courageous witnessing are urgently needed.

There's no time to lose!

(Tony Magliano writes for *Catholic News Service*.) †

## Letters to the Editor

### Reader shares thoughts on absolutizing the Mass

It is with considerable reticence that I plunge into the maelstrom concerning the Tridentine Mass.

But I think some clarification can be brought to the issue with an examination of one's "below-the-iceberg" sensibility concerning the value and inevitability of change.

To the traditionalist who favors the Latin Mass out of an aesthetic or devotional preference, I (and the Church) don't have any qualms since the maxim "to each his own" is operant.

However, I would take issue with the perspective that rejects the *Novus Ordo* Mass as a violation or denigration of the Mass based on absolutizing the Tridentine rite. The sub-iceberg premise that begs scrutiny is one's understanding of what should and should not be absolutized.

That the Church changes is uncontested by history. The native tongue for Jesus was Aramaic. The principal source of the Old Testament for the early Church was the Greek *Septuagint*. The liturgical language of the Church for the first few centuries was Greek. The New Testament was written in Greek. Latin was a later vernacular adaptation for the liturgy.

Various rites, such as the Ambrosian and Mozarabic rites of the Mass, were validly

celebrated along with the supposedly universal Roman Rite of Pope Pius V. The Roman Rite itself has undergone changes over the centuries.

Although Vatican Council II promoted inculturation, adaptation of liturgy to culture, oftentimes controversial, has prevailed throughout Church history.

All of these events, and many others, speak to the processes of change and renewal in the Church.

The Church is a living, maturing organism and not a fossilized relic. As Cardinal Newman has expressed, "to live is to change, to be perfect is to change often."

This is not to infer that there are no absolutes, but rather that there are beliefs and practices that are knowingly subject to change.

With changes, aberrations in orthodoxy and in orthodoxy will undoubtedly afflict the Church, and so prudent discretion is required to safeguard the central core of Catholic faith and practice.

In this regard, distinctions need to be understood between Tradition (with a capital T) and tradition (with a small t), between authoritative and infallibly sanctioned teachings, and authoritative but not infallibly sanctioned teachings as well as an appreciation for the development of doctrine.

Does not our sub-iceberg assumption concerning the absolute character of the Mass liturgy need to be chiseled away?

**Ben Cerimele Greenwood**

ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO DANIEL M. BUECHLEIN, O.S.B.



# SEEKING THE FACE OF THE LORD

## BUSCANDO LA CARA DEL SEÑOR

### Students' letters give flavor of good things going on in Catholic schools

As I was thinking about writing about our Catholic schools this week, I remembered that I had a packet of letters from eighth-graders at Holy Name of Jesus School in Beech Grove. Their religion teacher, Benedictine Sister Nicolette Etienne, accompanied them with a letter of her own.

She probably wouldn't want me to do so, but I want to quote part of her letter as an example of the commitment of our many teachers.

She wrote: "This is my third year of teaching sixth- through eighth-grade religion. The eighth-graders have had me for three years now.

"I am so impressed with all they have learned. Archbishop, I can honestly say that these students are the most respectful and reverent students I have ever had the privilege to teach.

"They strive daily to do their personal best. ... I can't thank God enough for allowing me to minister to the students at Holy Name even if only for three mornings a week.

"I find great joy in teaching religion to these precious children of God. Actually, teaching at Holy Name gives me energy to do vocation work."

The eighth-graders appreciate their religion teacher. They are also in high spirits because their football team won the CYO city championship. They express their appreciation for their education at Holy Name of Jesus School.

They speak for themselves in the following excerpts:

"I am really glad that I go to a Catholic school. I get so many advantages that I sometimes might take for granted. Going to a Catholic school teaches me so much that I would not know if I went to a public school. Did you know that in some public schools the teachers cannot even mention God? I know that would be hard because even in our history class we talk about God. Did you go to a Catholic school when you were younger?" (The answer is yes. Some other time, I will answer this and other questions some students included in their letters.)

"One thing I love about Holy Name is religion class and going to church. I like this because it makes me a better person, and everyone at Holy Name better people than they already were!

"Some of the things we do in religion are first we do "Lectio Divina," and we highlight all the sentences that we think jump out to us and that mean the most to us.

"Then we either have a test over the chapter that we read in our textbook, or we have tests over vocabulary words that Sister Nicolette gives us every other day.

"Sometimes we listen to the rosary on CD, and we color a picture of Mary.

"Something that I really love in religion is Sister Nicolette's 'Magic Monastery Cookies.'

"This week, she is selling them for one dollar for a good cause, which is for this lady who is deaf. Her hearing dog died. Now she needs to buy another dog. However, they

cost \$15,000. We are trying to help St. Matthew School raise money so Mary can purchase a new hearing dog. I love religion class, and I hope I learn as much at Roncalli that I did at Holy Name."

"We have been doing a lot of different things in religion. From "Lectio Divina," Scripture reading, saint videos and profiles, famous (and religious) history, (and people) terms (like vocabulary/catechumen, magisterium, etc.) and traditions.

"This period is on apostolic succession, meaning 'the term used to describe the authority to lead and teach the Church can be traced through out the centuries from the Apostles to their successors, the bishops.'

"I think that the chain has never been broken, that's crazy. [Or amazing.] It's cool that it can go for so long through out history, neat!"

"In religion class, we are learning and studying 132 vocabulary words and the Catechism of the Catholic Church and we also do "Lectio Divina." We have a very good teacher that will teach you as long as you want to learn.

"Other things we learn about are things straight out of the textbooks. We also study the reading before Mass so that we can participate in the liturgy more.

"In addition to being a teacher, Sister Nicolette makes the best 'Magic Monastery Cookies.' You really should try one. I would also like to thank you for all the hard work you have been doing to keep our churches running strong."

One of the students mentioned that "even the principal needs a little word of encouragement."

I add to his note that I agree: Our teachers, principals, pastors and our parents all deserve a word of encouragement.

These excerpts from student letters give a flavor of the good things that happen in our schools.

Congratulations to all who make this possible! †

Do you have an intention for Archbishop Buechlein's prayer list? You may mail it to him at:

Archbishop Buechlein's  
Prayer List  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis  
1400 N. Meridian St.  
P.O. Box 1410  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

#### Archbishop Buechlein's intention for vocations for January

**Parents:** that they may remain faithful to their vocations and encourage their children to consider God's call to service in the Church, especially as priests and religious.

## Las cartas de los estudiantes llevan plasmadas la buena labor que se lleva a cabo en las escuelas católicas

Esta semana, mientras pensaba en escribir sobre nuestras escuelas católicas, recordé que tenía un paquete de cartas de alumnos del octavo grado de la escuela Holy Name of Jesus en Beech Grove. Su maestra religiosa, la hermana benedictina Nicolette Etienne se unió a ellos enviando su propia carta.

Probablemente no le gustaría que lo hiciera, pero quisiera citar parte de su carta como un ejemplo del compromiso de nuestros numerosos maestros.

Escribió: "Este es mi tercer año como docente de religión para los cursos del sexto al octavo grado. Los estudiantes del octavo grado me han tenido ya por tres años.

"Estoy muy impresionada con todo lo que han aprendido. Arzobispo, puedo decir con sinceridad que estos estudiantes son los más respetuosos y obedientes que jamás haya tenido el privilegio de enseñar.

"Ellos se esfuerzan a diario para dar lo mejor de sí. ... No puedo agradecerle a Dios lo suficiente por haberme permitido cuidar de los estudiantes de Holy Name, aunque sea sólo durante tres días por semana.

"Encuentro enorme alegría en enseñarle religión a estos hermosos hijos de Dios. En efecto, la docencia en Holy Name me llena de energía para realizar trabajos vocacionales."

Los estudiantes de octavo grado estiman a su maestra de religión. Asimismo, están muy contentos porque su equipo de fútbol americano ganó el campeonato de la ciudad. Ellos expresan su agradecimiento por la educación recibida en la escuela Holy Name of Jesus.

Los estudiantes hablan por sí mismos en los siguientes extractos:

"Estoy verdaderamente contenta de ir a una escuela católica. Recibo muchos beneficios que a veces no les doy la importancia que tienen. Asistir a una escuela católica me enseña muchas cosas que no sabría si asistiera a una escuela pública. ¿Sabía usted que en algunas escuelas públicas los maestros no pueden ni siquiera mencionar a Dios? Sé que eso debe de ser difícil porque incluso en nuestra clase de historia hablamos de Dios. ¿Asistió usted a una escuela católica cuando era más joven?" (La respuesta es sí. En alguna otra ocasión responderé esta y otras preguntas que algunos de los estudiantes incluyeron en sus cartas.)

"Una de las cosas que me encanta de Holy Name es la clase de religión e ir a la iglesia. Me gusta porque me hace una mejor persona y hace que todos en Holy Name ¡sean aun mejores personas de lo que ya son!

"Algunas de las cosas que hacemos en religión es primero la "Lectio Divina" y subrayamos todas las oraciones que creemos que nos llaman la atención y significan mucho para nosotros.

"Después tenemos un examen sobre el capítulo que leímos en el libro de texto o tenemos exámenes sobre las palabras del vocabulario que la Hermana Nicolette nos da todos los días.

"A veces escuchamos el rosario en CD y coloreamos una imagen de María.

Algo que me fascina en religión son las "galletas de monasterio mágicas" de la Hermana Nicolette.

"Esta semana la está vendiendo por un dólar para una buena causa: por una señora que es sorda. Su perro asistente murió. Ahora tiene que comprar otro perro. Sin embargo,

cuestan \$15,000. Estamos ayudando al colegio San Mateo a recaudar fondos para que María pueda comprar un nuevo perro asistente. Me encanta la clase de religión y espero poder aprender tanto en Roncalli como en Holy Name."

"Hemos estado haciendo muchas cosas en religión. Desde la lectura de las escrituras en "Lectio Divina," videos e historias de santos, historia famosa (y religiosa), y términos (tales como vocabulario/catecúmeno, magisterio de la Iglesia, etc.), y tradiciones.

"Este lapso es sobre sucesión apostólica, es decir 'el término utilizado para describir la autoridad para guiar y enseñar la Iglesia cuya huella puede seguirse por siglos, desde los Apóstoles hasta sus sucesores, los obispos.'

"Creo que esta cadena nunca se ha interrumpido, es una locura. [O fantástico.] Es estupendo que recorre tanto de la historia, ¡barbaro!"

"En la clase de religión estamos aprendiendo y estudiando 132 palabras de vocabulario y el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica y también hacemos "Lectio Divina." Tenemos una maestra excelente que te enseña todo lo que quieras aprender.

"Otras de las cosas que aprendemos son cosas sacadas directamente de los libros de texto. También estudiamos las lecturas antes de la Misa para poder participar más en la liturgia.

"Además de ser maestra, la Hermana

Nicolette hace las mejores "galletas de monasterio mágicas." De veras debería probar una. También quiero darle las gracias por toda la ardua labor que realiza para mantener nuestras iglesias funcionando activamente."

Uno de los estudiantes mencionó que "incluso el director necesita unas pequeñas palabras de aliento."

Le agregó a su nota que estoy de acuerdo: Nuestros maestros, directores, pastores y padres se merecen una palabra de aliento.

Estos extractos de las cartas de los estudiantes llevan plasmadas la buena labor que se lleva a cabo en nuestras escuelas.

¡Felicitaciones a todos aquellos que hacen que esto sea posible! †

¿Tiene una intención que desee incluir en la lista de oración del Arzobispo Buechlein? Puede enviar su correspondencia a:

Lista de oración del Arzobispo  
Buechlein  
Arquidiócesis de Indianapolis  
1400 N. Meridian St.  
P.O. Box 1410  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

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

#### La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en enero

**Padres:** Que ellos puedan permanecer fieles a su vocación y puedan alentar a sus hijos a considerar la llamada de Dios para ser vir en la iglesia, especialmente como sacerdotes y gente religiosa.

# Events Calendar

## January 25

Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange, James T. Morris, former executive director of United Nations World Food Programme,** speaker, Mass, 6:30 a.m., buffet breakfast and program, \$12 per person. Information: [www.catholicbusinessexchange.org](http://www.catholicbusinessexchange.org).

SS. Francis and Clare Parish, 5901 Olive Branch Road, Greenwood. **Program for young adults, "Friday Night at the Movies,"** 7 p.m., Father Rick Nagel will host small-group discussions, child care provided. Information: 317-289-8489.

## January 26

St. Mark School, 535 E. Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis. **PTG spaghetti dinner,** 5-8 p.m.,

\$7 adults, \$4.50 children ages 4-12, children under 4 free. Information: 317-319-3061.

Cordiafonte House of Prayer, 3650 E. 46th St., Indianapolis. **Silent prayer day,** 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., brown bag lunch, free-will offering. Registration: 317-543-0154.

St. Francis Hospital, 8111 S. Emerson Ave., Indianapolis. **Mini-Marathon training program,** 8 a.m. Information: 317-884-4001 or e-mail [klong@kenlongassoc.com](mailto:klong@kenlongassoc.com).

## January 27

St. Matthew School, 4100 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Open house, kindergarten to eighth-grade,** 12:30-2 p.m. Information: 317-251-3997.

St. Matthew School, 4100 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Pancake**

**breakfast,** 8-11 a.m. Information: 317-251-3997.

St. Barnabas School, 8300 S. Rahke Road, Indianapolis. **Open house,** 10 a.m. Information: 317-881-7422.

Our Lady of Lourdes School, 30 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis. **Open house and registration,** 1-3 p.m. Information: 317-357-3316.

Indiana War Memorial, 431 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Right to Life of Indianapolis, pro-life prayer service followed by memorial walk to Monument Circle,** 2-3 p.m. Information: 317-585-1526.

MKVS and Divine Mercy Center, Rexville, located on 925 South, .8 mile east of 421 South and 12 miles south of Versailles. **Confession, 1 p.m.,**

**followed by holy hour, Mass, 2 p.m.,** groups of 10 pray the new Marian Way, 1 p.m., Father Elmer Burwinkel, celebrant. Information: 812-689-3551.

## January 28

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Mass,** 9 a.m., continental breakfast, no charge. Information: 317-545-7681 or [www.archindy.org/fatima](http://www.archindy.org/fatima).

## January 29

St. Athanasius the Great Byzantine Church, St. Mary Hall, 1117 Blaine Ave., Indianapolis. **Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana, prayer meeting,** 7:15 p.m. Information: 317-592-1992, [www.inholyspirit.org](http://www.inholyspirit.org) or [ccrci@inholyspirit.org](mailto:ccrci@inholyspirit.org).

## January 30

St. Christopher Parish, 5301 W.

16th St., Indianapolis. **"Come Home for Another Look,"** gathering for those who feel alienated from the Church, 7 p.m. Information: 317-241-6314, ext. 114.

## February 1

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. **Lumen Dei meeting,** Mass, 6:30 a.m., breakfast and program at Priori Hall, "Faith and Business—Can They Co-Exist?" Andy Ording, Zipp Speed cycling components company, presenter, \$10 members, \$15 guests. Information: 317-919-5316 or e-mail [LumenDei@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LumenDei@sbcglobal.net).

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Providence Center, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Woods Day Care/Pre-School, chili supper,** 4-7 p.m. Information: 812-535-2810.

## February 2

St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. **"Fat Tuesday Party,"** 6-10:30 p.m., \$15 per person includes dinner. Information: 317-926-8759.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **Bloomington Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and musicians from Indiana University, concert,** 7 p.m. Information: 800-682-0988 or e-mail [news@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:news@saintmeinrad.edu).

## February 6

Holy Cross Church, 125 N. Oriental St., Indianapolis. **Lenten series, "Scripture and Our Environment,"** Mass, 5:30 p.m., program following Mass, Dr. Jay Southwick, presenter. Information: 317-637-2620, ext. 402, or e-mail [epaige@holycrossindy.org](mailto:epaige@holycrossindy.org).

## Regular Events

### January 26

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **Women at the 'Burg, "Disciplines of a Beautiful Woman,"** 9-11:30 a.m. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com).

### January 27

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Pre-Cana Program"** for engaged couples. Information: 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

### January 28

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Mass,** 9 a.m., continental breakfast, no charge. Information: 317-545-7681 or [www.archindy.org/fatima](http://www.archindy.org/fatima).

### February 1-3

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Tobit Weekend"** for engaged couples. Information: 317-545-7681 or [www.archindy.org/fatima](http://www.archindy.org/fatima).

### February 2

St. Christopher Church, 5301 W. 16th St., Indianapolis. Seventh annual **Indianapolis Catholic Men's Conference, "Unity and Diversity in the Catholic Church,"** 8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Information: 317-241-6314, ext. 126, or e-mail [djb@saintchristopherparish.org](mailto:djb@saintchristopherparish.org).

### February 8-10

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **"Weekend Retreat on John's Gospel,"** Franciscan Sister Barbara Leonhard, presenter. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com).

### February 10

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Reconciliation 101,"** Father Don Schmidlin, presenter, 7-9 p.m. Information: 317-545-7681 or [www.archindy.org/fatima](http://www.archindy.org/fatima).

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg.

**"Evensong,"** 4-5 p.m. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com).

### February 12

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Morning for Moms,"** Father John McCaslin, presenter, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Information: 317-545-7681 or [www.archindy.org/fatima](http://www.archindy.org/fatima).

### February 13

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Spring Planting for Spiritual Growth,"** Benedictine Sister Mildred Wannemuehler, Mass, 5:30 p.m., dinner and presentation following Mass, \$30 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or [www.archindy.org/fatima](http://www.archindy.org/fatima).

### February 14

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **Lenten Lecture Series, "Bread Blessed,"** Franciscan Sister Olga Wittekind, presenter, 2-3:30 p.m. and 7-8:30 p.m., \$10 per session. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com).

### February 15-17

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Loving and Forgiving,"** Father Jim Farrell, presenter, \$150 per person or \$280 per couple. Information: 317-545-7681 or [www.archindy.org/fatima](http://www.archindy.org/fatima).

### February 16

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **"Fully Alive! Fully Franciscan!,"** 9-11:30 a.m., Franciscan Sister Diane Jamison, presenter, \$20 per person. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com).

### February 17

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Pre-Cana Program"** for engaged couples. Information: 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

### February 19-21

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. Midweek retreat, **"A Personal**

**Preparation for the Paschal Mystery,"** Benedictine Father Jeremy King, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or e-mail [MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu).

### February 21

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **Lenten Lecture Series, "Bread Blessed,"** Franciscan Sister Olga Wittekind, presenter, 2-3:30 p.m. and 7-8:30 p.m., \$10 per session. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com).

### February 23

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **Women at the 'Burg, "Poems, Prayers and Promises,"** 9-11:30 a.m. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com).

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **"Lectio Divina: A Contemporary Connection to an Ancient Form of Christian Prayer,"** 10 a.m.-6 p.m., registration deadline Jan. 28, \$60 includes lunch. Information: 317-788-7581 or e-mail [benedictinn@benedictinn.org](mailto:benedictinn@benedictinn.org).

### February 24

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Pre-Cana Program"** for engaged couples. Information: 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

### February 25

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Mass,** 9 a.m., continental breakfast, no charge. Information: 317-545-7681 or [www.archindy.org/fatima](http://www.archindy.org/fatima).

### February 28

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Silent reflection day, "Make Time for the Quiet Moments for God Whispers and the World Is Loud,"** 8 a.m., \$25 per includes continental breakfast and lunch. Information: 317-545-7681 or [www.archindy.org/fatima](http://www.archindy.org/fatima).

### February 29-March 2

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. Retreat, **"Reflections on the Life**

**and Message of Jeremiah the Prophet,"** Benedictine Father Eugene Hensell, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or e-mail [MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu).

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **"Lovers Leap! Twists and Turns of Married Life,"** Father Clem Davis, pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, and Small Church Community Team presenters from St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, registration deadline Feb. 15, \$280 per couple. Information: 317-788-7581 or e-mail [benedictinn@benedictinn.org](mailto:benedictinn@benedictinn.org).

### March 1

Batesville High School, auditorium, 1 Bulldog Blvd., Batesville. **"Go and Make Disciples of All Nations,"** registration deadline Feb. 22. Information: 812-623-8007.

### March 8

St. Christopher Church, 5301 W. 16th St., Indianapolis. Sixth annual **Catholic Women's Convocation, "God's Work of Art,"** 8 a.m.-3 p.m., \$40 per person. Information: 317-241-6314, ext. 122, or e-mail [nmeyer@saintchristopherparish.org](mailto:nmeyer@saintchristopherparish.org).

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **"Fully Alive! Fully Franciscan!,"** 9-11:30 a.m., Franciscan Sister Diane Jamison, presenter, \$20 per person. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com).

### March 9

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **"Evensong,"** 4-5 p.m. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com).

### March 13

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **Lenten Lecture Series, "Bread Blessed,"** Franciscan Sister Olga Wittekind, presenter, 2-3:30 p.m. and 7-8:30 p.m., \$10 per session. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com).

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## World Day of Consecrated Life Mass to be celebrated on Feb. 2

A Mass in observance of the annual World Day of Consecrated Life will begin at 11 a.m. on Feb. 2 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis.

All men and women religious serving in the archdiocese are invited to participate in the liturgy. Those celebrating jubilees of entrance into religious life or of profession of religious vows during 2008 will be honored at the Mass.

A reception in the assembly hall of the Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center, across the street from the cathedral, will follow the Mass.

Those religious planning on attending the Mass are asked to contact Carolyn



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein receives offertory gifts from members of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy who minister in the archdiocese during the 2007 World Day of Consecrated Life Mass celebrated on Feb. 4 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

Noone, associate director for special events for the archdiocese, at 317-236-1428 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1428, or by e-mail at [cnoone@archindy.org](mailto:cnoone@archindy.org).

# 'Catholic Schools Light the Way'



Submitted photo

20 reasons to celebrate Catholic schools, page 2B.



Photo by Mary Ann Wyand

St. Theodora's vision continues for a new generation, page 4B.



National convention in Indianapolis showcases Catholic education, page 18B.

Ivy Schafer lights the Advent wreath during a weekly Advent prayer service at Pope John XXIII School in Madison in December of 2007. A fifth-grade student at the school, Ivy is also a member of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison.

(Photo courtesy of Pope John XXIII School)

By Annette "Mickey" Lentz

Catholic Schools Week is the time set aside each year to celebrate what makes Catholic education special. Indeed, it is special!



Since 1974, we have spent this week shedding light on the success of our schools, the excellence of our students and the difference we make in our communities. We also focus on the high-quality, faith-filled education that our schools provide.

I love this year's theme, "Light the Way." It combines the teachings of God as the light of the world and the light of knowledge that our schools enflame in our youth. It also represents the special role of Catholic schools and teachers in lighting the way through an education

which supports the whole child in leading a fulfilled life.

In turn, our students will "light the way" to a brighter future through leadership in their communities and families.

There are many moving quotations about light from many important people, including this one from Helen Keller: "Knowledge is Love and Light and Vision." How true that is of our Catholic schools!

In celebrating Catholic Schools Week, there is much good news to share. Our schools—here and across the nation, from the elementary level to the university level—have an excellent reputation and are valued in so many ways. Here are three major contributions that our Catholic schools provide:

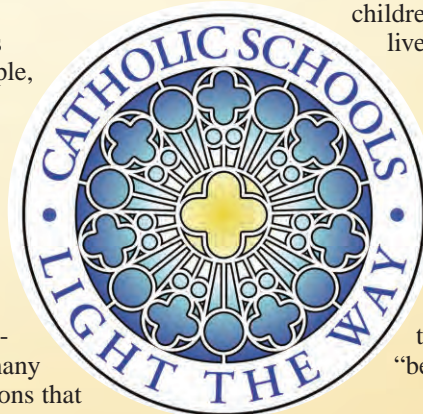
- Top-notch teaching and learning in the core disciplines and, more importantly, in the areas of Scripture,

ethics, morality and theology.

- A brighter future for individuals and for society because we educate children of all faith backgrounds, children of diverse origins and children whose lives are challenged by poverty.

- A light for those on the journey of discipleship because our students, parents, faculty and board members—led by our pastoral and school leadership—daily put their faith into action.

Congratulations to all of our Catholic schools in the archdiocese. And thank you to those who teach in our schools, lead them and support them. May our schools remain "beacons of hope" now and forever.



(Annette "Mickey" Lentz is the executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Catholic Education and Faith Formation) †

**1** Two Catholic high schools in the archdiocese won Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) state championships in the fall of 2007. Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis won the 3A state championship in football, tying a record with its ninth state championship in the sport. Cathedral High School in Indianapolis won the state championship in girls' soccer.

**2** Twenty-five of the 71 Catholic schools in the archdiocese have now earned recognition as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. No other diocese in the country has matched that distinction.



**3** In 2007, St. Pius X School in Indianapolis was selected as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.

**4** In the spring of 2007, the softball team at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis won the IHSAA 2A state championship while the Cathedral baseball team won the IHSAA 4A state championship.

**5** For her lifelong dedication to Catholic education and the Church, Annette "Mickey" Lentz will receive the 2008 F. Sadlier Dinger Award during the National Catholic Educational Association Convention in Indianapolis in March. As the archdiocese's executive director of Catholic Education and Faith Formation, Lentz has served for 46 years as a teacher, principal and administrator.

**6** In the past 12 years, about \$3.9 million has been raised to provide need-based scholarships for economically disadvantaged students to attend schools in the archdiocese. The money has benefited more than 4,000 students.

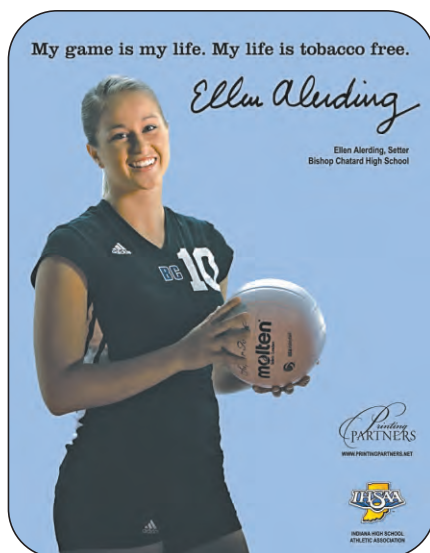
**7** The Catholic high school graduation rate in the archdiocese is 97 percent.

# Making their mark

## 20 reasons to celebrate Catholic schools

Story by John Shaughnessy, design by Ann Sternberg

In their emphasis on faith, service and quality education, Catholic schools in the archdiocese have left their mark in the past year. Here are 20 reasons to celebrate Catholic schools, teachers, students and administrators in the archdiocese.



**8** Three individuals from Catholic high schools in the archdiocese were chosen as part of the Role Model Program of the Indiana High School Athletic Association for the 2007-08 school year: Ellen Alerding of Bishop Chatard, Katie Zupancic of Cathedral and Ivie Obeime of Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, all in Indianapolis.

**9** Susan McGregor of St. Simon the Apostle School in Indianapolis is one of 12 teachers from across the U.S. to receive the 2008 Distinguished Teacher Award from the Department of Elementary Schools of the National Catholic Educational Association.

**10** About 94 percent of Catholic high school graduates in the archdiocese attend college.

**11** In the 2007 Bridge Building Competition at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis for junior

high students, teams from St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis earned first-place honors in each of the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade divisions.



**12** Immaculate Heart of Mary School principal Annette Jones of Indianapolis was chosen to participate in the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. As part of the program, she traveled to Finland and Ireland in the fall of 2007.

**13** In the ISTEP—Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress—students in the archdiocese continue to improve at significant rates. Scores for archdiocesan students range above state averages by 14 percent in third grade to 25 percent in 10th grade.

**14** This year, Seton Catholic High School, which opened in 2002, will reach another landmark for Catholic education in Richmond. The 2008 graduating class will be the school's first class to be together

from seventh grade through grade 12.



**15** In August, about 100 students entered the first class of Providence Cristo Rey High School in Indianapolis, the latest school in a national network that is building a reputation for helping students from low-income families through a work-study program that is challenging lives.

**16** Roncalli High School volleyball coach Kathy Nalley-Schembra became the second coach in the history of Indiana high school volleyball to surpass 900 wins. In 36 years of coaching, she has won 911 games.

**17** Enrollment in the Indianapolis center-city Catholic grade schools—known as the Mother Theodore Catholic Academies—increased for the 2007-08 school year by about 170 students.

**18** Cardinal Ritter principal Jo Hoy has been chosen as one of six people in the country to receive the Catholic Secondary Education Award from the National Catholic Educational Association.

**19** Bishop Chatard students raised more than \$29,000 for Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis through the school's dance marathon program. The programs at Cathedral and Roncalli each raised about \$10,000.

**20** Ben Ivers, a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis and a senior at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis, was selected as Indiana's male winner of the 2007 Wendy's high school Heisman Award. The program "recognizes the nation's most



esteemed high school senior men and women for excellence in academics, athletics and community/school involvement." †



# Building for the future

## Improvements add to foundations of high schools

By Bryce Bennett

The landscape of high school always changes—whether it involves the students that walk through the halls, the teachers that serve the students or the buildings that shape the learning experience.

This is no different for the archdiocesan high schools. In order to accommodate the changing needs of today's world, many schools are improving their facilities to enhance the educational experience for students.

Here is an update of the physical changes and developments involving the archdiocesan high schools:

### Bishop Chatard High School

Starting in the summer of 2006 and continuing today, Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis has seen changes on many fronts.

Renovations have been made to the main gymnasium, the cafeteria, the student publications center and several classrooms. The school has also added new lockers, a writing lab and ceiling-mounted projectors.

Still, the biggest improvement to Bishop Chatard has been the addition of a new activity center—which also serves as a second gymnasium—that was completed in the fall. This new facility improves the Indianapolis North Deanery school beyond sports, says Bishop Chatard president William Sahn.

“Our new activity center has significantly improved our fine arts program,” Sahn says. “Our performances will now have a more professional look and feel to them. We can also hold graduation at the school now, which is obviously very

important.”

Sahn is also excited about how the new activity center changes the school's ability to host large, youth-oriented programs.

“With the addition, we're now able to host the Archdiocesan Youth Rally, which really allows us to [reach] the youth throughout the community,” he says.

As Bishop Chatard moves forward, Sahn is quick to thank the parents, supporters and alumni who made these improvements possible.

“We're very appreciative of all the donations we received,” Sahn says. “These renovations have truly been a peak Bishop Chatard moment.”

### Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School

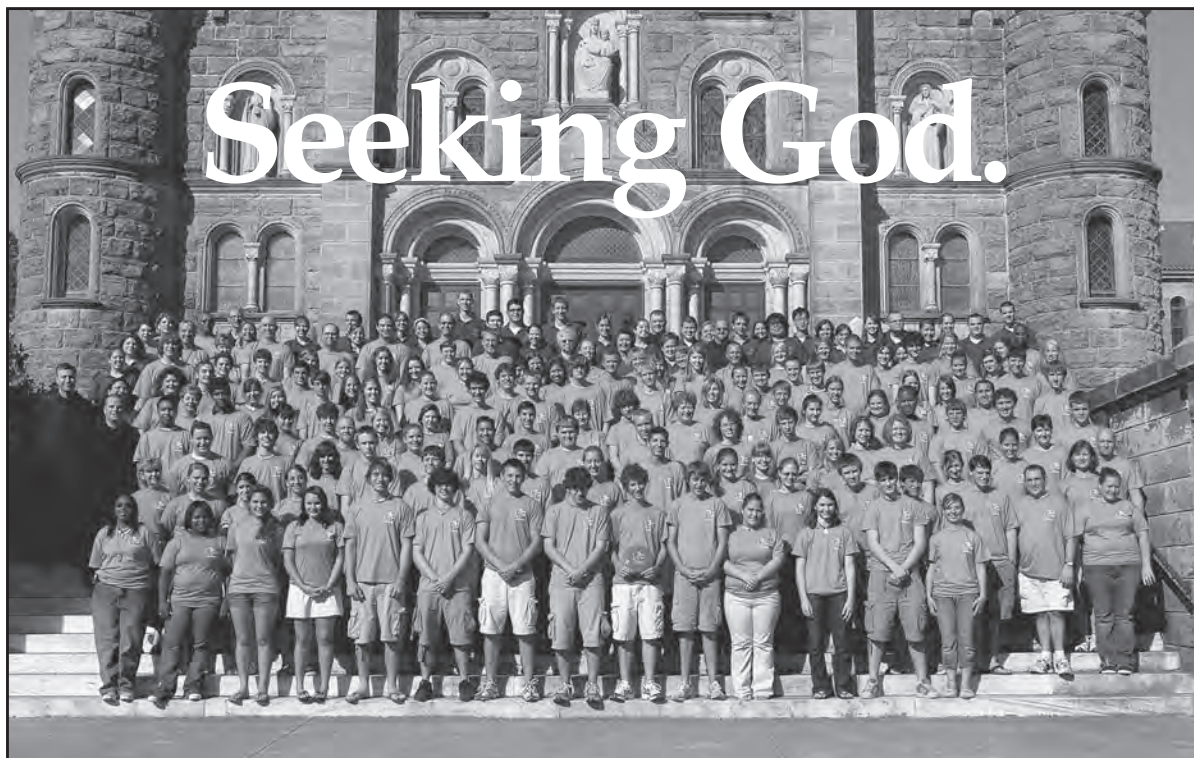
Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis recently set in place plans for the biggest renovation in the school's 34-year history.

“Our students deserve the facilities and opportunities that our sister schools around the area have,” says Paul Lockard,

See IMPROVEMENTS, page 7B



Physical improvements at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis reflect recent efforts at high schools across the archdiocese to make the campuses better for students. Roncalli added a fine arts center, above, in 2006 and is currently constructing a second gymnasium, left, to create more opportunities for students.



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*The liturgy is the Catholic Church's greatest gift. By immersing young people in the public prayer of the Church, the liturgy will form Catholic identity, along with minds of wisdom and hearts of service. "One Bread, One Cup" is a five-day conference that excites youth and their campus and youth ministers and encourages them to become more involved in their high schools and parishes.*

*The 2008 conference dates are: June 16-20, June 27-July 1 and July 7-11.*



For information, write:  
Office of Youth and Young Adult Formation  
Saint Meinrad School of Theology, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577  
or call (800) 634-6723  
Web site: [oboc.saintmeinrad.edu](http://oboc.saintmeinrad.edu)

# St. Theodora's vision continues for new generation

By Mary Ann Wyand

St. Joan of Arc students in Indianapolis study the lives of two French-born saints—the parish's 15th-century patron as well as St. Theodora Guérin, the foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

It's only fitting that all the students learn about St. Theodora during Women's History Month in March, and that fourth-graders study her life and ministries as part of their Indiana history course.

When St. Joan of Arc School was opened in January of 1922, it was staffed by Sisters of Providence who were carrying out Mother Theodore's mission of educating children.

After founding the congregation on Oct. 22, 1840, in the dense woods west of Terre Haute, Mother Theodore wrote in her journal, "Well, my daughters, ours is a preparation for the generation that will succeed us, and eminent good will be done this way by us. You may not live to see it, but you will have sown the seed, and your sisters will come to reap what will have been sown."

Providence sisters taught at St. Joan of Arc School until the late 1990s. Their legacy continues under the leadership of Mary Pat Sharpe, the principal, who is a graduate of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, one of the sisters' ministries.

"When the sisters left, the parish came together and began the Mother Theodore Guérin Scholarship about 10 years ago," Sharpe said, "to recognize all the hard work of the Sisters of Providence at St. Joan of Arc School throughout all those years."

Experienced lay faculty members have embraced the sisters' dedication and ministry, she said, by working hard to provide quality academic coursework, affirm the school's diversity, and teach the students about leadership, integrity and service.

"All the middle school students have to complete a service requirement," explained Suzi Abell, the director of curriculum and art teacher. Sixth-grade students focus on leadership, seventh-graders on service and eighth-graders on integrity.

About 48 percent of the students are non-Catholic, Sharpe said. Every student studies Catholicism in religion class and every school day begins with prayer in the gymnasium.

Students celebrate St. Theodora's feast day on Oct. 3 and participate in weekly school Masses on Thursday mornings.

All the prayers and hard work are "sowing seeds," as St. Theodora would say, for the future.

St. Joan of Arc students made significant gains in every area of the 2007 ISTEP test, Sharpe said. Their total scores increased 10 percent over the previous year's results.

School enrollment is up to 171 students, including 30 new students in pre-kindergarten through the eighth-grade.

"Our saying for the past year has been 'Very open enrollment,'" Sharpe said, "meaning we are open to every student."

That cultural diversity brings richness to the school environment, she said. The students' continuing improvement on their ISTEP test scores is on pace to enable St. Joan of Arc School to apply for the U.S. Department of Education's "Blue Ribbon School of Excellence" recognition in two years.

"We have shown a huge growth in enrollment and big improvement in ISTEP scores," Sharpe said. "We're doing a lot of great things here."

She is proud of St. Joan of Arc School's experienced and dedicated faculty.

A former pharmacist teaches middle school science classes, the principal said, and the 25-member staff is committed to academic excellence for every student.

"Love all in God and for God, and all will be well," Mother Theodore wrote in her journal. "... Love the children first and then teach them."

Sharpe exemplifies the saint's advice each year when she talks with every student about their ISTEP test scores and encourages them to do their very best in their schoolwork.

"When I would tell them, 'Look, you passed both parts of the ISTEP,'" she said, "... I was so excited to see how excited they were because if it means something [to them] they're going to work harder at it."

Sharpe's leadership has inspired staff members to focus on the success of every student, Abell said, which creates "a momentum of ownership and accountability among the students and parents and parishioners."

Other recent innovations implemented by the principal include a course on manners for students,



St. Joan of Arc School second-grader Mercedes Bickel portrays St. Theodora Guérin for the All Saints Day Mass on Nov. 1 at the Indianapolis North Deanery grade school. Students study the life of the foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

expansion of the creative arts curriculum and a variety of resident artist programs.

They have also established a new partnership with Providence Cristo Rey High School in Indianapolis—which is a ministry of the Sisters of Providence—to help middle school students explore career opportunities by visiting companies and talking with business professionals.

"We tell people [that] when there is a good school in the neighborhood," Abell said, "good things are happening in the community."

The music program offers a band and choir. Through the use of computers, the students can even compose music.

Kelly Mosley, the librarian, keeps busy checking out books to students.

"This semester, our kids have checked out 4,998 books from our school library," Mosley said. "They read a lot. We were one of the highest [users] of all the shared-system libraries [in the city]."

Katy Ditsch, the fifth-grade teacher, also teaches social studies and Indiana history to fourth-graders.

"During the first week of March, St. Theodora will be featured and the kids will read a different source about her each day," Ditsch said. "They know she is Indiana's only saint. They will learn about her past and how she became a modern-day saint." †

## Batesville Deanery Catholic Schools

Leading the Way in Southeastern Indiana



### St. Mary School, Aurora

Principal James Tush

### St. Louis School, Batesville

Principal Chad Moeller

### St. Mary School, Greensburg

Principal Nancy Schroeder

### St. Paul School, New Alsace

Principal Mike Monnig

### St. Lawrence School, Lawrenceburg

Principal Dena Steiner

### St. Nicholas School, Sunman

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Principal Joe Gressock



## Connersville Deanery

St. Michael School, Brookville  
Mr. Ken Saxon, principal

St. Gabriel School, Connersville  
Ms. Sue Barth, principal

Seton Catholic School, Richmond  
Mrs. Cindy Johnson, principal

Seton Catholic High School, Richmond  
Mr. Rick Ruhl, principal

St. Mary School, Rushville  
Mrs. Jann Metelko, principal

# Centered on Christ

## New curriculum brings unity to high school religion classes

By Sean Gallagher

Last fall, the U.S. bishops approved a new religion curriculum framework for Catholic high schools from coast to coast.



Kenneth Ogorek

Included in the framework are outlines for each course.

According to Kenneth Ogorek, archdiocesan director of catechesis, this effort by the bishops was in large part initiated at the request of textbook publishers.

In the past, some high schools' curriculums would cover a particular topic in the senior year that others would address in the freshman year.

This made it difficult for publishers to offer textbooks for students at such different learning levels since the market for Catholic high school religion textbooks is relatively small.

However, Ogorek said the bishops were also open to creating the framework because of the importance of forming teenagers in the faith.

"They know, as John Paul II pointed out, that one of our most basic human rights is to hear the Catholic faith proclaimed," Ogorek said. "And they know that, right now, there probably needs to be a little more unity in that effort."

Cokie Scheidler, a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, has sent four of her children to Bishop Chatard High School in the Indianapolis North Deanery and plans on enrolling another child there next fall.

She said that establishing a national framework for high school religious instruction at this time is important because more families move nowadays than in the past.

"As transient as our country seems to be now, with people relocating for jobs, it's important that [the Church] continue

to keep its faith education strong," Scheidler said. "If it's standardized when you go from state to state, you wouldn't have any type of issue with that."

As chaplain of Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in the Indianapolis East Deanery, Father Bill Williams is in the classroom teaching religion.

He said that the national unity of the framework also has a theological meaning.

"I think that it is indicative of the Church—it's universal," Father Williams said. "... It allows us to be one in our system of education as the Body of Christ is called to be one."

The core courses envisioned in the framework are themselves unified because they all are intentionally Christ-centered with such titles as: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture," "Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church," and "Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ."

Ogorek, who previously taught at two Catholic high schools in Pittsburgh, thinks that focusing the courses on Christ will sharpen students' understanding of and relationship with him.

"Teens are being exposed to many more different voices, many more different perspectives," he said. "They hear a lot about what's important, how we should live, even who Jesus is to some extent. And it's important for young people to know who Jesus really is and who he isn't."

Sarah Chumbley, a senior at Scecina and member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis, said making such a

focus on Christ intentional would be a good improvement.

"A lot of times, when we're just learning definitions and stuff and we're

memorizing things that happened, I think we forget that it's centered around Jesus," Sarah said. "If everything was focused back on Christ, then it would give us more meaning in it and kind of draw us closer to our faith more."

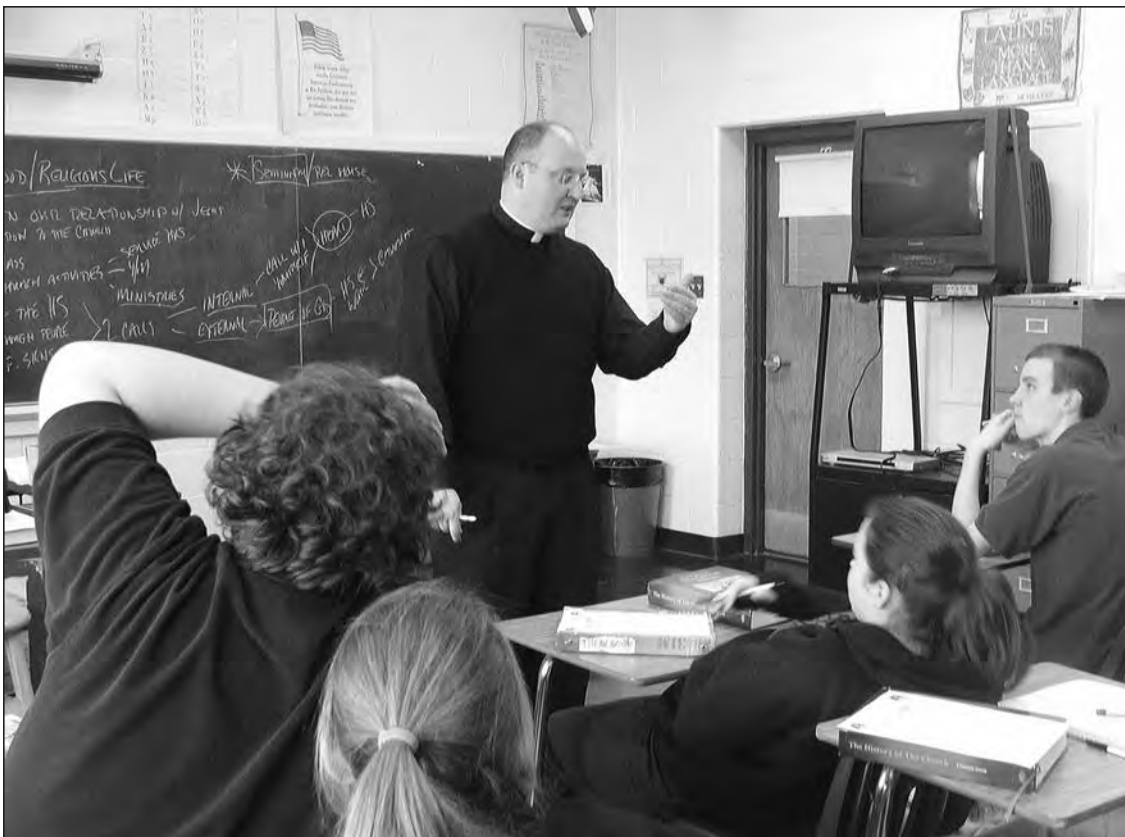
Also included in each course will be a section where students will learn how to respond to challenges

regarding the Catholic beliefs covered in the curriculum.

"As they take their faith into higher

*'The ultimate goal is to love God with our entire being, and our neighbor, and to hope in eternal life with him, and I think this curriculum strengthens one in that.'*

—Father Bill Williams



Father Bill Williams, chaplain at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis, speaks with one of his religion classes at the school about vocations on Jan. 15.

education and the work place, they're going to encounter challenges to their faith," Ogorek said. "And, by the same token, they're going to encounter opportunities to give a reason for their hope."

"That is another thing that I think is beautiful about this framework. At the end of each core course, there is a brief section that helps prepare people for possible challenges to their Catholic faith."

Ultimately, Father Williams thinks that the new national high school religion curriculum is a response to the desire of teens to learn the faith and will lead them to live it out in their lives.

"I think the teens in our high schools truly want to know the truth of our faith, and are bright enough and curious enough to be open to it and be enriched by it," Father Williams said. "The ultimate goal is to love God with our entire being, and our neighbor, and to hope in eternal life with him, and I think this curriculum strengthens one in that." †

### New Albany Deanery

Holy Family Catholic School  
Mr. Jerry Ernstberger, Principal

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School  
Mrs. Theresa Horton, Principal

Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School  
Mrs. Joan Hurley, President  
Mrs. Melinda Ernstberger, Principal

Sacred Heart Catholic School  
Sr. Mary Karen Bahlmann, CDP, Principal

St. Anthony Catholic School  
Sheila Noon, Principal

St. Joseph Catholic School  
Ms. Heidi Imberi, Principal

St. Mary Catholic School  
Mrs. Kimberly Hartlage, Principal

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Mrs. Betty Popp, *Principal*

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Mr. Ted Caron, *Principal*

#### St. Thomas Aquinas School

4600 N. Illinois St., Indpls., IN 46208 • 255-6244  
Mr. Jerry Flynn, *Principal*

# A question of faith

## Teacher's assignment connects students and priests

By John Shaughnessy

As a first-year teacher, Tyler Mayer has already learned that students don't usually like assignments that force them from their comfort zones.

Still, the 25-year-old Mayer was willing to risk any possible groans of protests for an unusual assignment that he believed would deepen the relationship that his high school freshman religion students have with God.

So, for several weeks in the fall, Mayer gave his students at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis this simple yet challenging task: After you attend Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday, introduce yourself to the priest before you leave the church and ask him one question.

Each week, Mayer shared the question he wanted the students to ask the priest. One week, it was, "How can a high school student best serve God?" Another week, the question was, "What is one piece of advice you have for a high school student to get into heaven?"

The student then wrote the priest's response on a piece of paper and asked the priest to sign it. To Mayer, the assignment was the initial step in helping the teenagers become more comfortable and familiar with their parish priests. It also addressed an issue that arose during a meeting he attended with priests from the Indianapolis North Deanery.

"They said they don't know the students. They see their faces, but they don't know them," Mayer recalls. "The assignment is something I thought about for a while. One of the missions I was told about when I came here was to have our students become actively involved in their parish ministries. I strongly feel that building those relationships with your parish priest is

vitaly important to become active members of your parish."

It's also crucial in helping students become comfortable in approaching priests in times of need or crisis, he says.

"Ultimately, the priests are there for us, to serve us," Mayer says. "We need them for the sacraments. They're a part of our lives in a special way. For us to get to know them makes that interaction even more special. For developing our faith life with God, it's better when we have that relationship with our priests."

Mayer knows that reality from his own experience as a high school student growing up in Illinois.

"I became involved in youth ministry between my freshman and sophomore years," he recalls. "I had no idea what priests were like. A young priest came to our parish, Father Jerry Simonelli. He went on this mission trip with us. He ended up being an awesome guy. He was a mentor to a lot of us.

"I wouldn't have gone to confession as much or on as many service trips if it wasn't for him. I went into the seminary for the first year and a half of college. I never would have had the courage to do that if it wasn't for Father Jerry. I still see him about once a year. I make a point to stop by his parish."

Mayer's idea is a good one, says Father Paul Shikany, the pastor of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.

"For some kids, it gives them an opportunity to talk to a priest and feel comfortable, and it allows priests to interact with the kids," Father Shikany says. "Anything that keeps open avenues of interacting and connecting with people is good."



Through a simple yet challenging assignment, Tyler Mayer tries to move his students to a closer relationship with God.

Mayer plans to continue the assignment in the second semester.

"Now they know who their priests are,"

he says. "Part of this religion class is to get students to step out of their comfort zone and try new things to get closer to God." †

### Heavenly advice from priests

"What is one piece of advice you have for a high school student to get into heaven?"

That's one of the questions that Tyler Mayer asked his freshman religion students to ask their parish priests after a weekend Mass.

Here are some of the answers that priests gave the students at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis:

- "Strive to live a life like Christ, and

to show true love to your God and neighbor through the sacraments."

- "Pray each day, more than just the Hail Mary or Our Father. Talk with God and thank him."

- "Keep going to Mass and pray. Do the corporal works of mercy."

- "Love God, love your neighbor, be patient and trust in God."

- "Stay close to God, and be faithful to your religion." †



### The Catholic School Community of the South Deanery of Indianapolis Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

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317-783-7759

**Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School**  
Principal Mrs. Gina Fleming  
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**Nativity Catholic School**  
Principal Mrs. Peg Dispenzieri  
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**Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic School**  
Principal Mr. Kent Clady  
317-881-1300

**Roncalli High School**  
President Mr. Joe Hollowell  
Principal Mr. Chuck Weisenbach  
317-787-8277

**St. Barnabas Catholic School**  
Principal Mrs. Debbie Perkins  
317-881-7422

**St. Jude Catholic School**  
Principal Sister James Michael Kesterson  
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**St. Mark Catholic School**  
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# IMPROVEMENTS

continued from page 3B

the school's president.

Cardinal Ritter has committed to a multi-stage plan that aims to add classroom space, a new chapel and possible improvements to athletic facilities.

The first phase calls for a new wing to be added to the school that will include new classrooms, a new media center, a band room and art suites. At the same time, a new separate chapel that will accommodate about 135 people will be built.

"The chapel is an outward sign of our Catholic identity," Lockard says.

School officials want to have the groundbreaking for the wing and the chapel started by April. Completion is scheduled for Christmas break, with the hope that students will start using the new facilities during the second semester of the 2008-09 school year.

"I see these improvements continuing our mission of spiritual development for our students," Lockard says.

## Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School

Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison recently completed a total renovation of its library.

"The reaction to the new library has been amazing. Use of the library has increased," explains Marta Belt, the school's director of development and marketing.

The project was possible thanks to \$2.5 million from anonymous donors.

Some of the money went to Shawe's main feeder grade school, Pope John XXIII School in Madison, but the majority went to Shawe to improve technology and the entire look of the

library.

The technology improvements include laptop computers for every teacher, and new desktop computers in the library and some classrooms. The changes to the school's appearance, including new furniture, have been just as extensive.

Belt recognizes the significance of this renovation.

"We're the smallest high school in the archdiocese so there's always a tight budget," Belt says. "But our donors really came through, and none of this would have been possible without them."

## Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School

Vice principal and teacher John Hegarty walks through Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis with pride.

"Last summer, we started a renovation plan that completely remodeled a set of classrooms," Hegarty says. "The hope is that we are able to continue renovating classrooms over this summer."

The classroom renovations include air conditioning, new desks, new carpeting, lighting and paneling, and dry-erase boards that replaced chalkboards.

Foreign language teacher Diane Knight, whose classroom was recently remodeled, thinks the renovations have enhanced the learning environment.

"I see students now treating the

classroom space in a much more respectful manner," Knight said. "The students have made the learning environment better for themselves and for myself."

## Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School

President Joan Hurley knew Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville needed renovation.

"Providence High School had not gone through any major renovation project since the school opened in 1951," Hurley says.

In the past few years, improvements have included renovations to the track-and-field facility, laptop computers for teachers in every classroom, air conditioning in the classrooms, new ceiling panels and lighting for the hallways, and a new performing arts center.

Hurley believes that Providence will continue to succeed because of these renovations, and the generosity of alumni, parents and supporters.

"All things are done in prayer," Hurley says. "Whatever we do through this school, we do through Our Lady."

## Roncalli High School

Roncalli High School in Indianapolis opened a new fine arts facility in 2006. Roncalli also renovated and added new science labs and improved their football facilities.

"We recently put in new bleachers on the home and visitor sides, doubling capacity," says the school's president, Joe Hollowell. "This also has allowed us to let other schools, such as

Cardinal Ritter and various CYO football teams, to use the facility."

Roncalli also is finishing the building of a second gymnasium.

"We were the largest school in Indiana without a second gym," Hollowell says.

All of these improvements have been the result of a decade-long push to raise money.

"We'll have raised around \$16 million [in] the past 10 years through these improvement projects," Hollowell says. "The generosity of the alumni, parents and community has been remarkable."

## Seton Catholic High School

The Richmond Catholic Community is in the midst of a major capital campaign to raise money to build a community center that would also be used as a gymnasium by students at Seton Catholic High School. †



Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis opened a new activity center in the fall of 2007. The center serves as a second gymnasium and a place that can draw large, youth-oriented programs, including the Archdiocesan Youth Rally.



Remodeled classrooms are part of an ongoing renovation program at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis.



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein delivers his homily during an Oct. 3, 2007, Mass in the performing arts center at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville. The center opened in 2006.

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# Striving to succeed

## English as a New Language prepares students for a better life

By Mary Ann Wyand

Jon Alexander and his family moved to Indianapolis from their homeland of Nicaragua a few weeks ago.

In January, his parents enrolled him in the eighth-grade class at St. Philip Neri School, where 93 percent of the 172 students are Hispanic and bilingual.

He couldn't speak any English on his first day of school, but his new teachers, a student-partner and other classmates are helping him make the transition from a Latino culture to life in America.

Some people would describe Jon as an immigrant, but at St. Philip Neri School he is simply welcomed as a new student—regardless of his birthplace—and taught English as a New Language along with other required classes.

Hispanic Catholics who live on the near-east side of the city are helping increase St. Philip Neri's enrollment by recommending the East Deanery grade school to new Latino families.

Providence Sister Therese Whitsett teaches English as a New Language (ENL) at the school and provides faculty support in the classrooms. Seven teachers and the school secretary are bilingual. Spanish-speaking interpreters translate for faculty members who need help conversing during parent-teacher conferences.

"We are able to welcome and help Hispanic children feel comfortable in their transition here because we have such a large bilingual staff," Mary McCoy, campus director, explained. "We are able to communicate with their parents, who are Spanish-speaking. I think that puts them all more at ease and helps make them feel much more comfortable coming into an unfamiliar environment. The children are

very respectful. ... It's our goal that they will grow up and succeed in society."

Sisters of Providence have taught at St. Philip Neri School since it was founded in 1910, and Sister Therese is proud to carry on their tradition by ministering to the language needs of Hispanic students.

"I help where needed," she said. "Some days I help 15 students and some days I see four students. I work in small groups. I work with the teachers. I help students in the classrooms who are at various levels of learning English.

"The child may be sitting in the classroom smiling at you, and you think he understands what you are talking about," Sister Therese said. "Then you give him a test and he can't even read the directions. We have to start with the basics to help them understand the meanings of words and how to use them in context."

The Woodcock-Muñoz language scale helps teachers determine the level of English skills of new Hispanic students.

"There are five levels of learning English," Sister Therese explained. "A child who has been here perhaps two or three years may be stuck on Level Three, meaning that he understands what you are talking about, but may struggle to verbalize it and may have difficulty reading English. Another child at Level One is at the picture stage—learning words and phrases through pictures."

She emphasized that a student's ability to speak English does not correspond with his or her level of intelligence.

"The children are very intelligent if they are able to only speak English when they are in school and only speak Spanish when they are at home," Sister Therese said.

"They are living in two cultures."

Last year, she said, a new fourth-grade



St. Philip Neri School fourth-grader Anthony Calix talks with Providence Sister Therese Whitsett during his English as a New Language class on Jan. 10 at the Indianapolis East Deanery school. School officials said 93 percent of the students qualify for free and reduced-price meals. Last year, the school's ISTEP test results indicated that students who did not achieve Level Four or Level Five in English proficiency on the Woodcock-Muñoz language scale also did not pass the ISTEP test.

student from Mexico cried every day for the first six weeks of school and often sat with his head down on his desk. Gradually, ENL class changed his life.

"He had never been to school," Sister Therese said. "Now you should see him. He is happy. He is talking in English—still at a very basic level—but he's comfortable, he's welcomed and he's achieving in the classroom."

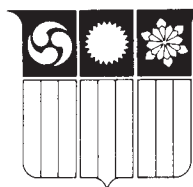
Hispanic students remain with their peers in the classroom most of the school

day, she said, and also receive separate tutoring in English, reading and math.

Father Carlton Beever, pastor of St. Philip Neri Parish, has completed several language immersion courses in Guadalajara, Mexico, in recent years. He celebrates Mass in Spanish, and is able to converse easily with Spanish-speaking parishioners and students.

Administrative assistant Maria Lomeli is from Mexico, McCoy said, and does an

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# 'A whole new world'

## Haitian students find a home at Central Catholic School

By Mary Ann Wyand

"A R Star" is printed in bold letters on the front of his T-shirt.

Central Catholic School third-grader Cedric Georges is proud to wear his Accelerated Reading Award shirt at the Indianapolis South Deanery grade school.

It signifies that he earned the most points of all the third-grade students at the school in the reading and comprehension skills program for the month of December.

That's quite an accomplishment for Cedric, who couldn't speak or read a word of English when he came to the U.S. from Cape Haitian, Haiti, with his older sister, Sabrina, last August to live with their mother, Rose Georges, in Indianapolis.

Math is his favorite subject, Cedric said during the lunch break on Jan. 10. He also likes to read, especially if the books are about dinosaurs. His favorite sport is soccer.

Cedric and Sabrina, who is a fifth-grader, smile often and have many friends at their new school.

Sabrina also had to learn English and is doing very well in her studies. She enjoys math, and likes to teach French words and phrases to the eighth-graders and girls in her own class during recess.

"First I go to Atlanta and then I come here on Aug. 15," Sabrina explained during her English as a New Language (ENL) class. "Here I came into fifth-grade again. I know a lot of things I didn't know when I was in Haiti. Here we have more teachers."

It's truly remarkable that Sabrina and Cedric are doing so well in just five months at Central Catholic School, their teachers said, but they are intelligent children who like to study and their mother helps them with homework.

"Sabrina and Cedric were very well-educated in Haiti," campus director Sara Browning explained. "They already had a love of learning when they came to us, and we've been able to accomplish a lot with them using the Accelerated Reading program. They have a self-instilled desire to learn."

On their first day at Central Catholic School, all the students were "so open and welcoming," Browning said, and the teachers were excited about this unique opportunity to experience a new culture and language.

Resource teacher Missy Marsh teaches English as a New Language to Hispanic students and found that the curriculum also works well for French-speaking children.

"We really have grown and learned together," she said about the opportunity to teach the Haitian children.

"They have flourished in the Catholic school environment," Marsh said. "They're very respectful and they cherish the fact that they get to come to a Catholic school. It's a miracle that they have been able to do so well."

Marsh attributes part of their success to their mother.

"She puts a lot of time into helping them," Marsh said. "She takes them to the Shelby Library and makes sure they have books to read. She quizzes them on their writing in the English language. It's very important to her for her children to succeed here. She has said numerous times that she is glad her children are here."

In only five months, Marsh explained, Sabrina and Cedric can read and speak English, and even understand some slang words. They enjoy watching TV and continue to adapt well in a new culture.

"They have been able to educate some of our other students about their culture," she said. "They bring in pictures and give reports and speak in French. It's very interesting to have them bring a part of themselves to Central Catholic School. Our Hispanic students do the same thing. They work hard to bring a part of their [Latino] culture to the other students who were born and raised in the United States."

Third-grade teacher Rachel Brubaker said she marvels at the fact that Cedric learned to understand English so quickly.

"He goes to the ENL class and also has [federally funded] Title I tutoring," Brubaker said. "His [Accelerated Reader] goal was 12 points, and he earned over 29 points in the second quarter by reading books and taking quizzes on the books. He is reading a little below his grade level, but understanding and passing the comprehension tests is a huge feat for him."

Cedric has a positive attitude and always works hard in class, she said. "Even when he doesn't do his best, he still has a smile on his face because he took a test and tried hard to get an 'A.' He is a competitive student in his own way."

As a teacher, Brubaker said, "it is fulfilling to be a part of his education and see his progress, and to know that he has gone above and beyond what is expected of him. He is ahead academically and socially as well. He has lots of friends."

Veteran teacher Lynn Scheetz enjoys having Sabrina in her fifth-grade class, and has learned some French words and phrases from her Haitian student.

"Teachers have 'light-bulb moments' with kids," Scheetz explained. "Every day, with Sabrina, we have many 'light-bulb moments' because it's exciting to see a whole new world open up to her and see how she has integrated herself with her friends. ... She's working so hard."



Central Catholic School third-graders Cedric Georges, left, from Cape Haitian, Haiti, and Avery Cook, center, participate in a lunchtime guessing game on Jan. 10 with their teacher, Rachel Brubaker, right, and classmates. Cedric and his older sister, Sabrina, moved to Indianapolis from Haiti with their mother, Rose Georges, last August. Haitians speak French, and the children did not know any English when they immigrated to the U.S. five months ago. The family attends the traditional Latin Mass at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis.

For the first week, Scheetz used two French-English dictionaries to communicate with Sabrina in class.

"Within the next week, Sabrina was really trying to use English," Scheetz said. "Occasionally, I would use a French word to help her translate a little bit, but she had the desire [to learn English]. They're very intelligent kids, and their mom has been the perfect parent. She gives extra-special attention to their homework."

The other fifth-grade students like to help Sabrina as peer tutors, Scheetz said, and occasionally will use the French-English dictionary to try to figure out what she needs to say. They also have taught her about American culture.

When Scheetz asked her what she likes to eat, Sabrina said "pizza." And when asked what kind of music she likes, Sabrina responded, "Hannah Montana." †



New Central Catholic School fifth-grader Sabrina Georges from Cape Haitian, Haiti, works with Missy Marsh, who teaches English as a New Language classes, on Jan. 10 at the Indianapolis South Deanery grade school. Sabrina enjoys teaching French words to her classmates.

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# Welcoming newcomers

## Hispanic outreach program serves needs of families

By Mary Ann Wyand

Educating Hispanic children also means helping their Spanish-speaking parents and other family members with English as a New Language (ENL) instruction. Margarita Solis Deal, program coordinator of Hispanic outreach for the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education, has created a series of bilingual classes to help Latino adults acclimate themselves to a new language and culture.



Margarita Solis Deal

These evening classes held at Catholic schools with a large number of Hispanic students involve the parents in their children's learning environment and help build community among Latino adults who are newcomers in the parish.

"They want to learn English," Solis Deal said. "Although there are other [English language] courses available throughout the city, they feel much more comfortable coming to the school to get that resource."

This family support is especially important for student performance. Many Spanish-speaking parents express concern about not being able to help their children with homework assignments.

Terri Rodriguez, the principal at St. Philip Neri School in Indianapolis, said the school's ISTEP (Indiana Standard Testing for Educational Progress) test results last year indicated that students who did not achieve Level Four or Level Five in English

proficiency on the Woodcock-Muñoz language scale also did not pass the ISTEP test.

Elizabeth Berkshire, the Catholic Charities Indianapolis social worker assigned to St. Philip Neri School, also works with Latino parents to help them understand the benefits of computers and dangers of the Internet as well as other cultural issues of concern to any parent with school-age children.

Solis Deal began her bilingual ministry five years ago at center city grade schools in Indianapolis—which are now called the Mother Theodore Catholic Academies—with initial program funding through Project EXCEED.

At the time, she coordinated English as a New Language instruction for Latino students in the schools.

Now that many archdiocesan schools with a significant number of Hispanic students have added an ENL teacher to their staff as well as bilingual teachers, Solis Deal has been able to network more with school staff members throughout the archdiocese as an administrative resource.

"That was the time in which we were getting more and more Hispanic families into the Catholic schools," she explained, "so the archdiocese started this position to look at how we respond to the needs of the families. That essentially was my task."

Five years ago, she said, St. Philip Neri School's enrollment was about 25 percent Hispanic and St. Anthony School's enrollment was about 17 percent Hispanic.

"Currently, those school enrollments have exploded in terms of the percentage of Hispanic families," Solis Deal said. "St. Philip Neri School is now 93 percent Hispanic and St. Anthony School is now



St. Philip Neri School students pose for an informal class picture on their way to lunch on Jan. 10 at the Indianapolis East Deanery grade school. Campus minister Mary McCoy stands in the hallway behind them. This year, 93 percent of St. Philip Neri's students are Hispanic. Five years ago, that figure was about 70 percent. English as a New Language programs and bilingual teachers are helping Latino students and their families acclimate to a new language and culture.

about 70 percent Hispanic."

Recently, Solis Deal worked with staff members at Holy Name School in Beech Grove, St. Ambrose School in Seymour and St. Louis School in Batesville to help them with educational services for Hispanic students. She also talked with the principal at St. Lawrence School in Indianapolis about specific needs there.

Solis Deal presents a teacher orientation session titled "Welcoming the Latino Student into Your School: Things to Consider."

"I will go out and do workshops and training sessions," she said, "or work with the principals to see how they are getting their schools ready to support the Latino families."

"We're finding that the size of religious education programs increases tremendously in terms of working with the Hispanic population," Solis Deal said, "but many of the schools are still very limited [in resources]. The center city schools [in Indianapolis] receive financial support, but many schools in other areas [of the archdiocese] are challenged by the needs of Hispanic families."

The former English as a Second Language program was renamed a few years ago, she said, to reflect the fact that many newcomers who immigrate to the U.S. already speak two or more languages.

"Someone from Guatemala speaks Spanish and may also know their Mayan dialect, their native language," she said. "Now they are learning a third language here."

It's also important to recognize cultural differences among Latinos who are English language learners, Solis Deal said. "We have

people moving here from Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador. All these different people bring their own cultural traditions, and we need to be cognizant of that. We also work with the teachers on cultural awareness."

Last year, she developed six workshops for administrators and educators about teaching strategies for English language learners that also address cultural issues experienced by Latino families.

She said Hispanic parents who know very little English struggle with the language barrier when raising their bilingual children and that creates stress in the home. Many parents also are working two jobs and have very little time to participate in English classes.

"That's a struggle that many [Latino] families face, especially when families come into the country with older students," Solis Deal said. "Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students come here and fit into their new culture quickly. They pick up the language and other new ways, and their parents don't understand how they do that."

Families who immigrate to the U.S. do so to seek better opportunities, she said. "They're coming here to make a living and support their kids to give them a better life. They want to put food on the table."

Because Latino cultures are very family-oriented, Solis Deal said, "when you accept an Hispanic student you also accept their family. It's really important to connect with the parents so they feel included in their children's education." †

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## SUCCEED

continued from page 8B

excellent job communicating with parents and students in the school office and on the telephone.

Lomeli also prepares written materials, which are printed in English and Spanish. Because she understands the Latino culture so well, she is able to help other staff members bring religious traditions that are cherished by Hispanic Catholics into the school environment and build community among school families.

Teachers also prepare the Catholic students to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and first Eucharist, McCoy said, which helps Latino parents as well.

Monthly meetings for Spanish-speaking parents help them learn about their children's life at school, and cover educational topics ranging from how to help with homework to understanding the benefits and dangers of technology.

"We do not have a school bus," Sister Therese said. "Many of the parents escort their children into the school [in the morning], and they are picked up by their parents or family members. The teachers go

out on the playground so it's a great opportunity to get to know the parents and communicate with them on a daily basis."

Principal Terri Rodriguez said St. Philip Neri School's strengths include its diversity of Hispanic, African-American, biracial and white students.

"We test all of our students with the Woodcock-Muñoz language scale," Rodriguez said. "... We know their level of English proficiency. They may be functioning below their grade level, not because of an academic disability but because of a language problem. Our goal is to get them all up to language Level Five because that is proficiency in conversational English as well as the technical English we use in instruction.

"Our teachers are aware of the children's language levels, and they use that [information] for the grouping of students within their classrooms," she said. "Every class is taught in English, and we use the instructional strategies that have been proven to be effective with the English language learner. Our ISTEP (Indiana Standard Testing for Educational Progress) results are on the rise, and we're very proud of the improvement that we've made in the past year." †

# Pressing the point

## Coach's biggest win is life of faith and hope

By John Shaughnessy

Every coach has a reason why he or she dedicates so much time and effort to a team of players.

Sometimes it's to share their knowledge of a game they love. Or to get their fix of competition and glory. Or to make a difference in the lives of young people.

Often, it's a combination of those elements. For Bill Boyd, coaching is a way to promote Catholic education and honor the memory of a teenager he used to know, a teenager who was angry and bitter about losing the best fan he ever had—his father.

It's part of the story of Boyd's life. "My dad was my idol," he recalls. "He was very strong—6-foot-2 and 240 pounds. Just seeing my dad and knowing my dad, he was invincible. I couldn't wait to get off the school bus to see him and do things with him. I always looked forward to after basketball practice because he drove the car pool."

Boyd sighs and continues, "I was 14 when he died. He battled colon cancer for three years. At the end, I'd lift him out of bed so he could get dressed. He was 80 to 90 pounds when he passed away. I started to get angry and bitter. I started to lose my faith."

Thirty-six years have passed and now the 50-year-old Boyd coaches the boys' junior-high basketball team at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville. He still sees himself in those youths. He's still trying to give back for how a Catholic education helped him through that part of his life.

"The junior high years hit home with me, how important that time is," Boyd says. "It's a difficult time for adolescents. They

are trying to find who they are, what they are and what they want to do. A lot of times, at that age, there's difficulty communicating with their parents and teachers. They're looking for a mentor, someone to talk to and look up to."

So Boyd has a different approach when he coaches his players.

"I tell them it's about basketball and improving their skills, but it's more about life lessons," he says. "I tend not to be the coach who is black and white, who is into Xs and Os. I talk to these kids. I try to bond with them. I try to relate to them my story."

After sharing the chapter of his father's death, Boyd shares the chapter of his rebellion against everything. In his most telling memory, he notes that three of his friends from his days in a junior high public school ended up ruining their lives with alcohol. He then tells how his mother, squeaking by on a bookkeeper's salary, sacrificed to send him and his older sister to Providence High School.

"My mom made the smartest decision of my life," Boyd says. "I'm not sure where I would be if I hadn't gone to Providence. It probably saved my life. What Providence gave me was just this huge family. I got involved in theater, and I played basketball my junior and senior years. Providence helped heal the bitterness, the anger. Through religion classes, I started to get that spiritual bond back that I had lost when my dad passed away."

"I still to this day don't even have a clue how my mom was able to put my sister and me through Providence. We weren't Catholic. The tuition was double that of a student from a parish."

Becoming a Catholic is the next chapter

in Boyd's story. It happened about five years after he graduated from Providence in 1975. He formed a close relationship with a strong Catholic family. He went to Mass with them, shared their spirituality and decided he wanted to become a Catholic, too.

Since then, he has also become a leading advocate of Catholic education. Besides coaching at Providence, he's on the school's board of directors and their marketing committee.

"Bill is a living witness to the power of Catholic education," says Joan Hurley, the president of Providence High School. "Through his Catholic education, he was able to become deep in his faith and he lives it out every day now."

Hurley shares the story of how Boyd has led a fundraising campaign to help pay the medical expenses of a child who has been diagnosed with leukemia. She also says that Boyd is a generous donor to the school's financial-aid program.

"You can't put a price tag on Catholic education and that experience," says Boyd, a self-employed businessman. "Part of my testimonial when I talk about Catholic education is the importance of continuing it from elementary school to junior high and high school. Parents sometimes tell me after their kids finish elementary school, they have the foundation of faith they need. I tell people, 'You have no idea in the junior high and high school ages how important it is to have that spiritual faith and structure.'"



As a coach, Bill Boyd stresses a game plan for life, including the foundation of a Catholic education.

Boyd knows. He's lived it. Now, his life has come full-circle this season as one of his players is a seventh-grade student whose father died in the past year.

"I pulled him aside at the first practice and told him I lost my father when I was almost the same age as him," says Boyd, a member of St. Joseph Parish in St. Joseph Hill in Clark County. "He's become a special project for me this year."

Boyd pauses and says, "The ultimate compliment I've ever been given was three years ago. I had a young boy who had been home-schooled. We convinced his mother and father he needed to come to Providence for all it has to offer. At the end of the basketball season, I got a card from his mom and dad. It wasn't about basketball. It was about how they saw him develop his personality and his happiness and his acceptance in the high school."

"I still have that card. That means more to me than any championship trophy. I'll keep that all my life." †

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# A trip to remember

## Students join teacher on cyber-pilgrimage to Italy

By Patricia Happel Cornwell  
Special to *The Criterion*

CLARKSVILLE—When first-grade teacher Jacquelyn Singleton and her husband, Tony, recently went on an 11-day pilgrimage to Italy, she didn't leave her students at St. Anthony of Padua School behind. Singleton wrote a daily Web log that her substitute teacher shared with the children.

The Nov. 26-Dec. 6 pilgrimage was led by Father Paul Beach, pastor of two Kentucky parishes. The group toured numerous Italian cities, and Mass was celebrated daily in Latin. Singleton's favorite stops were Assisi and San Giovanni Rotondo.

"Everything I expected Italy to be I found in Assisi, not Rome," she says.

"Everything we do in St. Anthony [of Padua] Parish is Franciscan, so Assisi was important to me."

During World War II, Singleton's grandfather was stationed in Italy and attended Masses said by St. Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo.

"He took Jeep-loads of soldiers to see Padre Pio," she says. "He even got to touch the wounds on Padre Pio's hands."

Before she left on the pilgrimage, Singleton showed her students maps and talked about time changes, languages and the saints whose cities she would visit. Her laptop only worked in Assisi, but all of her hotels had Internet connections so she was

able to send photos and comments every day. Singleton hopes to incorporate material from the pilgrimage into her religion curriculum.

"I took pictures of everything," Singleton says, "because the kids were fascinated. Their favorite thing was Siena. They loved the picture of St. Catherine's head."

In her Web log, she wrote to the children, "When St. Catherine died, she was buried in Rome. The people of Siena wanted her back in their city so they went and took her head for their church. Today, we saw her head—

we'll see her body when we get to Rome."

Concerning her teacher's adventure, student Cameron Tyler, 7, said, "The neatest thing was that she got to see a saint's head at a tomb. I can't remember who, but she was a good saint."

Cameron said you can be a saint "if you follow what Jesus tells you."

Classmate Alex Cox, 6, said, "What was really neat were the things they ate. We hadn't heard of them."

Singleton ate veal for the first time, and her husband tried wild boar.

"In my spare time, which is non-existent," Singleton says, "I would love to write a book about saints. Kids love to hear their stories because they're real people, and they're living testaments to our faith."

Singleton attended St. Anthony of Padua School and Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School, both in Clarksville. She received her bachelor of science and master of science degrees in elementary education from Indiana University Southeast and is

*'In my spare time, which is non-existent. I would love to write a book about saints. Kids love to hear their stories because they're real people, and they're living testaments to our faith.'*

—*Jacquelyn Singleton*



St. Anthony of Padua School first-grade teacher Jacquelyn Singleton looks at photos of Italy on her computer with students, from front, left, Lillyann Sparks, John Harris, Braxton Troutman and Chloe Treat. Singleton and her husband, Tony, toured Italy from Nov. 26 to Dec. 6.

pursuing a doctorate in curriculum at the University of Louisville. She has taught at St. Anthony of Padua School for six years.

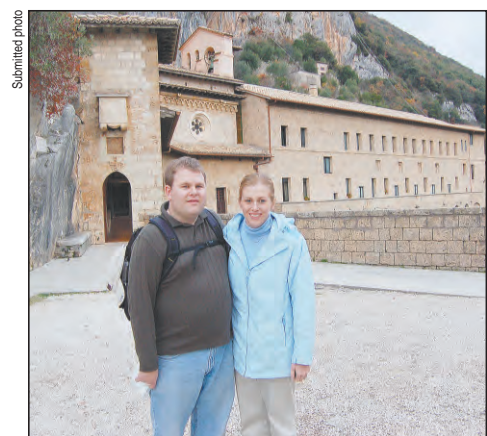
Singleton and her husband, Tony, an insurance agent and volunteer fireman, have two sons, Andrew, 4, and Aidan, 3.

The pilgrims arrived home at night, and Singleton was back in the classroom the next morning.

She says her first-graders were "fascinated by the six-hour time difference. The children kept asking me, 'What time do you feel like it is now?'"

Jet lag set in that night.

"I had never been out of the country before," says Singleton. "Italy and Rome have always been my first choices for travel just because I'm Catholic." †



Tony and Jacquelyn Singleton visit St. Benedict's monastery in Subiaco, Italy, during their 11-day pilgrimage.

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# High school students reap benefits of SMART technology

By Sean Gallagher

Students in high school today have grown up in a time when computers and other digital equipment have been highly developed and have been a part of nearly every aspect of their lives.



Joan Hurley

So it's not unusual for high school instruction in the archdiocese to adapt to this reality.

Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr.

High School staff members in Clarksville did this at the start of this academic year by installing self-monitoring, analysis and reporting technology (SMART for short) and software in four classrooms with plans to add it to more classrooms each year into the near future.

Other high schools' staffs in the archdiocese, including Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison and Bishop Chatard High School, Cathedral High School and Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, all in Indianapolis, have either already installed this technology in some or all of the classrooms or have plans to do so in the coming months.

SMART technology gives several advantages to teachers and students. It allows teachers to integrate videos, still images imported off the Internet or illustrations created by the teachers themselves and sound recordings into their classroom presentations.

Additionally, the technology allows teachers to make notes on images that are projected in the classroom.

"It's old-time lecture gone high tech," said Virginia Shirley, who uses SMART technology in her science classes at

Providence High School.

Providence sophomore Patrick Gillenwater likes the usual classroom presentations enhanced with the SMART technology.

"I think it's better for the students because you don't just have the same old boring lecture," Patrick said. "You get to actually do something else that involves learning, but with technology. I think it's easier for the students."

But more than simply allowing students to be passive consumers of an admittedly technologically dynamic lecture, SMART technology also lets them interact with teachers and take tests in a new way.

Each student has what is commonly referred to as a clicker that can help teachers quickly know if their students comprehend a particular point in a lecture.

"If I just want to see if the kids all have it, every child in class has the opportunity anonymously to input an answer—right or wrong—without fear of criticism," Shirley said.

Students can also take tests with their clickers and know their grade immediately. Questions are projected on a screen and students can input their answers on their handheld wireless device.

For Providence sophomore Alyssa Hendershot, such quickness in learning how she did on a test is a relief.

"If I take a really big test, I'll be stressed out, wondering what I got on it," she said. "It's definitely a lot easier because you don't have that extra stress worrying about what grade you got and whether you did a good job or not."

In addition to providing teachers and

students with immediate test results, SMART technology also analyzes them according to several sets of criteria.

*'It's old-time lecture gone high tech.'*

—Virginia Shirley

"There are about 20 different reports I can print out and look at for that data that is collected," said Shirley. "It can be distributed by class, by individual students, by topic. I can link it to the standards for the state. It's phenomenal."

Joan Hurley, Providence's president, said that the generosity of many supporters of the New Albany Deanery school, including some

of its alumni, is responsible for the addition of SMART technology.

She said that such support is a sign of Catholic stewardship that makes Providence's educational mission possible.

But more than simply bringing Providence High School into the 21st century, Hurley said that SMART technology helps maintain the school's Catholic identity.

"Catholicism, from its roots, has always been about learning, about questioning, about seeking truth," Hurley said. "And if all of those are true, then we should be using this technology to do that because it expands our world." †



Alyssa Hendershot, a sophomore at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville, holds a wireless device commonly known as a clicker that allows her to interact with classroom lectures and take tests. It is an element of SMART technology in four classrooms at Providence. Alyssa's science teacher, Virginia Shirley, stands in the background and holds several more clickers.

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# 2007-08 facts about Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

## Archdiocesan Administration

The Secretariat for Catholic Education and Faith Formation of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis includes the Office of Catholic Education (OCE), the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and St. Mary's Child Center.

The Office of Catholic Education oversees and assists the Catholic schools, parish faith formation, evangelization and youth ministries for 151 parishes and missions in 11 deaneries throughout a 39-county area of central and southern Indiana comprising some 13,757 square miles and serving 230,086 Catholics.

Special programs operating under the auspices of OCE are "A Promise to Keep," a peer-mentoring sexual abstinence program sponsored by St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, and SPRED, the Special Religious Education program serving developmentally disabled parishioners.

The Office of Catholic Education was founded in 1974 when the former school office and office of religious education were formed into one of the first offices of "Total Catholic Education" in the nation.

Under Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and in consultation with the Archdiocesan Education Commission (AEC), the OCE utilizes a team management approach in support of the teaching mission of the local Church—"learning, teaching and sharing our faith."

In 2002, youth ministry was added to the OCE mission. In 2003, evangelization ministries were added.

Support for site-based programs is provided through direct service, resources, consultation, training, community-building, and collaboration with constituents in the parishes and schools in conjunction with other

archdiocesan agencies.

The OCE received a historic \$10 million challenge grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. for school improvement in Marion County for 2002-06. The challenge was met with more than \$5 million in matching gifts from generous corporate and individual donors and grants.

Project EXCEED has focused on a new set of the "three R's" in our Catholic schools:

- Recruit, retain, reward and develop the best school teachers and administrators.
- Raise the level of students' performance and report their progress.
- Reach out to special populations with advanced capabilities or special needs.

Results of the initiatives under this project have been impressive. It is hoped that many programs begun under Project EXCEED can be sustained and replicated through the Legacy for Our Mission capital campaign, grants and other sources.

Major constituencies of the Office of Catholic Education include pastors, principals, parish administrators of religious education, youth ministers, and members of school and faith formation commissions and high school boards.

Constituents are involved collaboratively in projects to design and develop curriculum, policies, provide inservice training, produce manuals and guidelines, carry out studies and participate in professional development. For more information, please visit the OCE Web site listed below. †

## Office of Catholic Education

1400 N. Meridian Street, P.O. Box 1410  
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317-236-1430 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1430  
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E-mail: [indyoce@archindy.org](mailto:indyoce@archindy.org)  
Web site: [www.archindy.org](http://www.archindy.org)

<b>Catholic schools:</b>	<b>71</b>
Elementary schools:	60 (28 in Marion County)
High schools:	11 (seven in Marion County) (four private high schools)
Preschool programs:	44 (Pre-K programs for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds)
Extended care programs:	58 (Pre-K-8, before and after school care or both)

**Professional staff: 1,989 (Pre-k-8, full-time and part-time)**

### Enrollment 2007-08 (Unofficial Oct. 1, 2007, enrollment):

<b>Total pre-school-12:</b>	<b>23,166</b>
Preschool:	1,713
Elementary (K-8):	15,784
High school (9-12):	5,669

<b>Religious composition:</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>High school</b>
Catholic:	87%	90%
Non-Catholic:	13%	10%

NOTE: Approximate demographic figures for seven Indianapolis center-city schools are: 74% minority, 47% non-parishioners and approximately 78% qualified for Federal Lunch Program.

**High school graduation rate, 2006-07: 97%** (using new IN four-yr. cohort method)

**Percent of graduates entering college, 2006-07: 94%**

NOTE: All figures above this line include four private high schools.

<b>Average tuition rates, first child, (estimated):</b>	<b>Catholic</b>	<b>Non-Catholic</b>
Elementary schools:	\$3,205	\$4,404
Interparochial high schools:	\$6,072	\$8,126

NOTE: Elementary tuitions are set at the parish level and vary greatly. Schools receive parish subsidies except for private high schools (not included).

### Estimated operating costs of Catholic schools in the archdiocese FYE 2007:

Elementary schools estimated cost-per-pupil:	\$4,563
Interparochial high schools estimated cost-per-pupil:	\$9,972
<b>Total operating cost of archdiocesan schools:</b>	<b>\$113.5 million</b>
(Pre-12 enrollment excluding private high schools and capital costs— Grade 7 and 8 students counted in 7-12 high schools)	

**Annual savings to Indiana taxpayers (estimate): \$209 million**

(@ aggregate public school FYE 2005 K-12 composite expenditure per-pupil of \$10,976 x Catholic school K-12 enrollment of 19,032 pupils (excluding private high schools))

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# Students continue to improve their ISTEP scores

Special to *The Criterion*

In September 2007, 13,064 third- through 10th-grade students from 71 Catholic schools in the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis took the Indiana Statewide Test of Educational Progress (ISTEP+).

For the last seven years, students have shown and been able to maintain growth in their language arts/English and mathematics proficiency on the Indiana academic standards compared to the state of Indiana.

The average of archdiocesan students at each grade level passing both the language arts/English and mathematics is

above both the non-public and Indiana state averages.

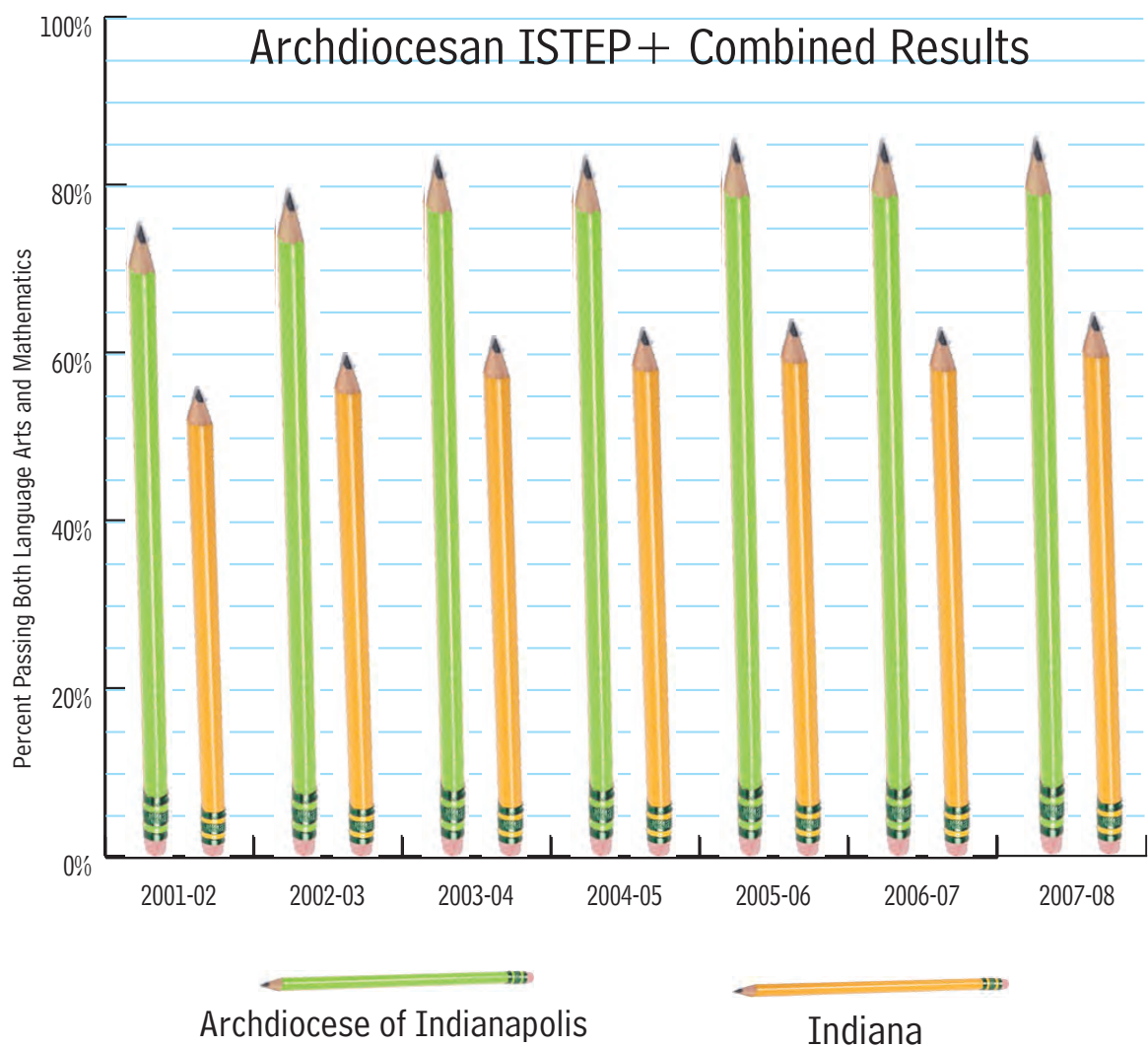
The archdiocesan percentages range from 87 percent at third grade to 92 percent at 10th grade. The trend this year continues past student performance. Simply stated, the longer a student is in archdiocesan schools the greater the growth in student proficiency. †



Photo by Mary Ann Wyland

## All-school senior Mass

Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School senior Tim Bennett, left, who is a member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, and Roncalli High School senior Eric Knott, who is a member of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis, carry candles as they process into SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on Dec. 10 for the Senior Mass celebrated by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein. Seniors from private and interparochial Catholic high schools in the archdiocese gathered for worship with the archbishop and a number of diocesan priests. Some of the students assisted with the liturgy as acolytes, lectors, gift bearers and musicians.



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Principal: Terri Rodriguez  
Campus Director: Mary McCoy



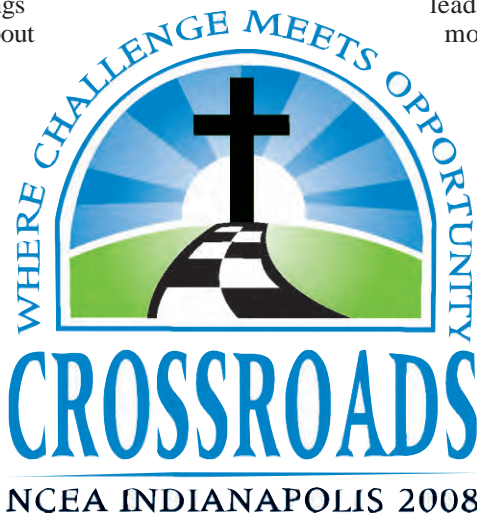
## National convention in March showcases Catholic education

By John Shaughnessy

For the first time, the archdiocese will host the 2008 National Catholic Educational Association's annual convention on March 25-28 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

Here are five things you should know about the convention, according to Kathy Mears, an associate director of schools for the archdiocese:

- About 10,000 people from across the country are expected to attend the convention.
- About 1,500 Catholic school administrators, teachers, students and volunteers from central and southern Indiana will be needed to have the convention run smoothly.
- The theme of the convention is "At the Crossroads: Where Challenge Meets Opportunity."
- "We really believe that the work of our catechists, teachers and administrators makes a difference in the lives of children, parents, our world and the Church," Mears says.
- The convention is committed to a "green" theme, recognizing the integrity of the Earth.



"This is one of the great challenges facing our Church and the world, and we want our teachers to understand and learn different ways to help make our students more environmentally aware," Mears says. "As Catholics, we want to make sure that we are leading the way in modeling how to be good stewards of the Earth."

• One of the convention's special events will include a trip to Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods, the home of St. Theodora Guérin, one of eight Americans to become a saint. "We have few opportunities in this country to walk where saints have walked," Mears says. "It is really important that people coming to our convention are made aware of St. Theodora's life. We are planning to share more about St. Theodora during a general session so that a very large audience will become more aware of her life."

(For more information about the NCEA convention, visit the Web site, at [www.archindy.org/ncea](http://www.archindy.org/ncea).) †

## Top 10 ways parents can observe Catholic Schools Week

Special to *The Criterion*

Catholic Schools Week is not just for school children. Here are 10 ways for parents to participate in the annual celebration of Catholic education, according to the National Catholic Educational Association:

- Write a note of appreciation to your children's teachers. Thank them for the attention and energy they give your children every day, and for their dedication to Catholic education.
- Donate books or other learning materials to the school library. Ask the librarian if the school needs books on certain subjects or for particular grade levels.
- Volunteer to help plan and carry out Catholic Schools Week activities, even if you only have a short time to contribute.
- Write a thank you note to that special teacher from your own Catholic school days who had a significant impact on your life.
- Set aside time for family prayer for all those who contribute to the success of your children's school, including

students, teachers, staff members and volunteers. Add a prayer for vocations to continue the Catholic education tradition in your community and across the country.

- Join in the fun.

Gather the entire family—from younger siblings to grandparents—and participate in the week's events at your children's school.

- Write a letter to your parish priest, thanking him for supporting the Catholic school.

- If through your work or volunteer activities you learn of a need in the community that students at your children's school can

help fill, recommend a service project for Catholic Schools Week or beyond. Better yet, volunteer to organize it.

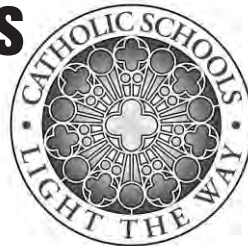
- Extend a special invitation to your school's open house and other Catholic Schools Week events to friends and neighbors who might want to learn more about the value of a Catholic education.

- Write a letter to your representatives in the U.S. Congress and the Indiana legislature to let them know why Catholic education is important to you and your community. †



## West Deanery Schools

CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2008



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Mrs. Cindy Greer, *Principal*  
317-636-3739

### Holy Angels Catholic School

Mrs. Cindy Greer, *Principal*  
317-926-5211

### St. Christopher School

Mrs. Barbara E. Leek, *Principal*  
317-241-6314

### St. Malachy School

Mrs. Mary Sullivan, *Principal*  
317-852-2242

### St. Gabriel School

Sarah Watson, *Principal*  
317-297-1414

### St. Michael School

Mr. Steven Padgett, *Principal*  
317-926-0516

### St. Monica School

Mr. Tim Weaver, *Principal*  
Michelle Boyd, *Assistant Principal*  
317-255-7153

### St. Susanna School

Mrs. Tina Davis, *Principal*  
317-839-3713

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Mary Jo Weaver, Ph.D.

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Spirituality and Pastoral Counseling  
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You'll have coaches and directors who will ask for 110 percent every time you take to the field, the court, or the stage. Just when you think you can't possibly give more, you'll be encouraged to reach your personal best.

And as it has been for nearly 90 years, you'll be asked to live your faith and honor God through daily acts and deeds that may often go unnoticed, or through service projects (required for graduation) that exemplify Cathedral's Catholic foundation and commitment to service for the greater community.

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## Fast Facts

**1,285**

Enrollment in Grades 9-12 for the 2007-08 school year.

**120**

Schools represented in the Cathedral student body.

**99**

Percent of seniors who attend colleges and universities

**80**

Different co-curricular clubs, groups or organizations

**34**

AP and IB classes

**27**

IHSAA or club sports

**19**

Average students per class.

**17**

College scholarship dollars, in millions, earned by the Class of 2007

**15**

Percentage of the multicultural population at Cathedral.

**13:1**

Student to teacher ratio.

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East Deanery parishes and schools.  
We appreciate their  
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- Scecina has served more than a half-century as the East Deanery's secondary school.
- School's highest ISTEP+ scores achieved in 2007.
- More than 16,000 hours of community service are given each year by SMHS students.
- Kara McCarthy recently named both *Indiana All State* and *All Academic Volleyball player*.

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Principal: Terri Rodriguez  
TO ENROLL: Call 638-9068

### **HOLY SPIRIT**

Pastor: Father J.J. Riedman  
Principal: Rita Parsons  
TO ENROLL: Call 352-1243

### **LITTLE FLOWER**

Pastor: Father Robert Gilday  
Principal: Kevin Gawrys  
TO ENROLL: Call 353-2282

### **OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

Pastor: Father J. Nicholas Dant  
Principal: Cara Swinefurth  
TO ENROLL: Call 357-3316

### **ST. MICHAEL'S-GREENFIELD**

Pastor: Father Severin Messick, O.S.B.  
Principal: Theresa Slipher  
TO ENROLL: Call 462-6380

### **ST. PHILIP NERI**

Pastor: Father Carlton Beever  
Principal: Terri Rodriguez  
TO ENROLL: Call 636-0134

### **ST. SIMON THE APOSTLE**

Pastor: Father Paul Etienne  
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TO ENROLL: Call 826-6000, ext. 4

## **OTHER EAST DEANERY PARISHES**

### **ST. BERNADETTE**

Pastor: Father J. Nicholas Dant

### **ST. MARY**

Pastor: Father Michael O'Mara

### **SS. PETER & PAUL CATHEDRAL**

Pastor: Father Julian Peters, O.S.B.

### **ST. RITA**

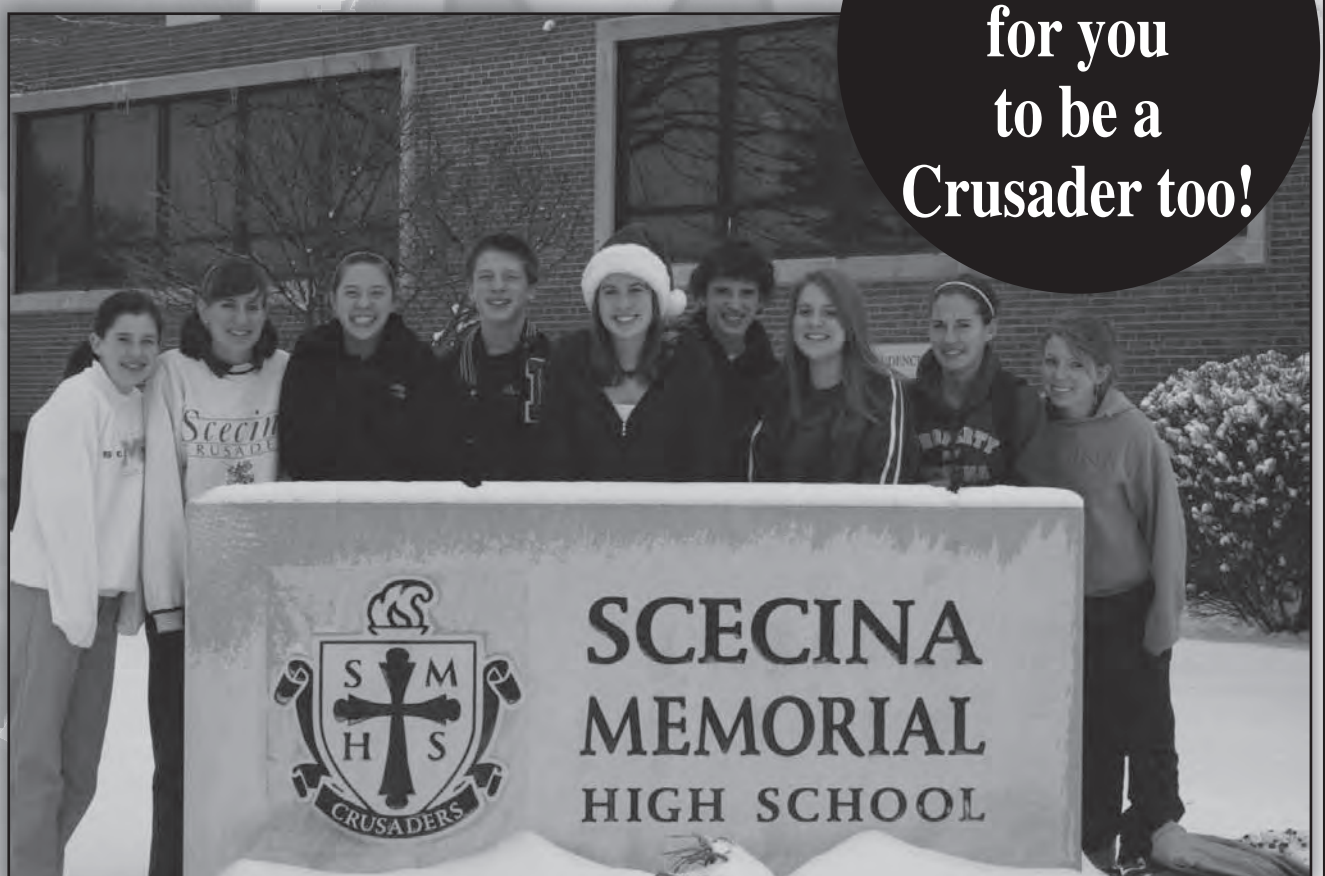
Students attend  
*St. Andrew & St. Rita Catholic Academy*  
Principal: Ruth Tinsley  
TO ENROLL: Call 549-6305

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Eusebius Mbidoaka

### **ST. THOMAS - FORTVILLE**

Pastor: Father Joseph Pesola

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for you  
to be a  
Crusader too!**



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# Faith Alive!

A supplement to Catholic newspapers published by Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. All contents are copyrighted © 2007 by Catholic News Service.

## Pope says disregard for environment threatens all life

By Fr. Herbert Weber

In a September 2007 letter to the symposium of the Religion, Science and Environment Movement, Pope Benedict XVI made some bold statements.

He wrote that disregard for the environment would be a threat to humanity, and “betray human dignity and violate the rights of citizens.”

In addition, the pope connected the ecology of the human person with the ecology of nature.

What the pope basically stated was that, as humans are called to respect each other and the common good of all people, this cannot happen unless the environment is also respected.

The quality of people’s relationships with each other and with their environment also influences their relationship with God, the Creator.

Several important points in the pope’s letter must be noted:

- People truly form a global village. What happens in one country affects others. With rapid and instant communication, international trade and corporations, and frequent interaction with people of other ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds, most people are becoming aware of the rest of the world in a way never known before.

- The sense of a planetary unity elicits a need to pay attention to other people and nations, and to be aware of the responsibilities that people have for each other. This can also be a providential opportunity for building a healthier world, where natural resources are shared more justly and equitably.

There are still those, of course, who either deny global warming or want to relegate it to a minor role, thus assuming it has little to do with them. However, such responses do not change the reality of global warming and its impact on the environment.

Last year, I traveled to Alaska and visited ice fields and glaciers. Hearing the glaciers creak and groan as they moved made me think they were talking to me. I admit I wondered what they might be saying, especially as I saw posted signs that indicated where the glaciers had been five, 10 or 20 years ago. The distance they had receded was a clear notice of change.

More recently, there have been news stories about ice melting in Greenland and Antarctica losing its ice mass, which threatens polar bears, penguins, seals and other arctic life forms. These stories are real, but—as the pope indicated—it is up to people to admit there is a problem, one that will have serious consequences for all humanity.

“Preservation of the environment, promotion of sustainable development and particular attention to climate change are matters of grave concern for the entire human family,” Pope Benedict said.

Human response cannot be based on political popularity or corporate financial gains. Rather, dealing with global warming is an ethical issue that goes beyond any one person.

How people use resources, support environmentally sound enterprises and sacrifice for something greater are



Pope Benedict XVI connects the ecology of the human person to the ecology of nature. An osprey lands at its nest on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. The image is included in a book of nature photos by Tom Lorsung, who retired as director of Catholic News Service in Washington in 2004.

the new issues.

Among those embracing these issues wholeheartedly are Beth and Doug, a couple in our parish. As we met and discussed their values when planning their marriage, they spoke about their concern for the well-being of the planet to be inherited by any future children.

While many young people express concern for the environment, theirs was not a passing fancy. Doug was finishing a doctorate in environmental science and planning to teach at a college. Beth just completed graduate work in environmental education.

Both made a commitment to protect the Earth. Together, they planned a life that would live out that commitment.

While planning the wedding liturgy, Doug and Beth looked at all the options through a lens of gratitude for God’s gift of creation.

They wanted their marriage ceremony to reflect God’s ongoing covenant with humanity, thus readings about creation, God’s call for unity and reverence, and inclusion of all people were selected.

Among their songs was a version of St. Francis’ “Canticle of the Sun” and a well-known version of the prayer of peace.

Not every couple connects their marriage ceremony or their married life to a relationship with the environment.

And certainly not everyone realizes the depth of the interconnection between human life and the life of the planet that humans live on.

Yet more and more Christians and other people of good will are being called to make that connection.

In Genesis, God says to the first humans, “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth” (Gn 1:28).

Sadly, there have been times when this passage was used to justify the destruction of the Earth and its animal or plant life.

In the context of the same story, however, humanity is also created in the image of God, who is the source of life with a tremendous love for the world, which God finds to be good.

The moral response from humans, therefore, is to share in the creative force that God has begun, a force that works to maintain the health of our planet.

(Father Herbert Weber is the founding pastor of Blessed John XXIII Parish in Perrysburg, Ohio.) †

### Discussion Point

## People need to respect all life forms

### This Week’s Question

What can an individual and/or community do to express care for the Earth?

“My first reaction is to say we need to protect our most valuable natural asset—human life. By nurturing and protecting human life, we can then move on to protecting the environment. Every recycling project and forest clean-up takes humans to carry out so we should focus on the common denominator.” (Colleen Chappell, Tampa, Fla.)

“One of the things we do at school is have kids do tree planting. They water them and raise them like [they are] their babies. Many who didn’t care before [about trees] now can see their beauty and how they add to the campus.” (Cecilia Torres-Ruvalcaba, San Jose, Calif.)

“We can conserve water, recycle, have respect for the public places like parks, and not vandalize like people do with the cactus around here. The saguaro cactus takes

75 years to grow one arm, but people will [use them as targets and] shoot holes in them.” (Evelyn McLenna, Tucson, Ariz.)

“I’m all for recycling and ‘green’ things ..., but we should consider if our efforts don’t use more resources, energy, time and money. For example, the big trucks using fuel to collect recyclables. We should look at the big picture and the greater good, not just what is politically correct.” (Dominick Pastore, St. Clair Shores, Mich.)

### Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Describe the approach to a biblical book by a small group in which you participated.

To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to [cgreene@catholicnews.com](mailto:cgreene@catholicnews.com) or write to *Faith Alive!* at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. †



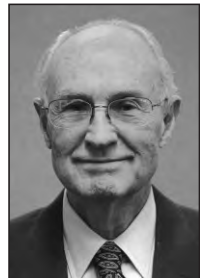
CNS photo/Mike Crupit, Catholic Courier

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

## Biblical women: The story of Sarah and Tobiah

*(Twenty-fourth in a series)*

Sarah had been married seven times, but each time, on her wedding night, the demon Asmodeus had killed her husbands.



Now she was to be married again, this time to Tobiah, who had just arrived with a man named Azariah, and had claimed her for his wife because he was her nearest relative.

The love story of Tobiah and Sarah in the Book of Tobit is a religious novel set during the time after the fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel to Assyria.

Tobiah has traveled from Ninevah, in modern Iraq, to Media, in modern Iran, to get some money that his father, Tobit, had left with a man named Gabael.

Azariah, Tobiah's companion, is really the archangel Raphael, sent by God in answer to prayers said at the same time by Tobit and Sarah. Both had prayed for death.

In Sarah's case, it was after a maid had accused Sarah of strangling her husbands. In great distress, she went to her room intending to hang herself. But realizing the pain this would cause her father, Raguel, she begged God to let her die.

As Tobiah and Raphael traveled to Media and neared Ecbatana, Raphael told Tobiah that they would stay with Raguel that night. He also told him about Sarah, Raguel and his wife, Edna's only child, and Tobiah's closest relative. Raguel would know that, according to the Book of Moses, Tobiah had the right to marry his daughter.

They arrived at Raguel and Edna's home, introduced themselves and were welcomed joyfully.

During dinner, Tobiah told Raphael to ask Raguel to let him marry Sarah. Raguel answered that Tobiah had the right to her, but he should understand that she had been wed seven times and her husbands never survived their wedding night.

Tobiah said that he still wanted to marry her so Raguel called Sarah and gave her to Tobiah. Edna brought a scroll and the men drew up a wedding contract.

That night, Sarah awaited her new husband in the bedroom.

When Tobiah arrived, he brought with him the liver and heart from a fish he had caught during his journey. He placed them on burning embers and the horrible odor repelled the demon Asmodeus, who had been awaiting Tobiah. The demon fled to the desert of Egypt. Raphael pursued him, bound him hand and foot, and then returned.

Before going to bed, Tobiah and Sarah prayed together, calling for God's mercy on them and asking him to allow them to live together to a happy old age.

Raguel, expecting the worst, had his servants dig a grave for Tobiah. Then he sent a servant in to see how the couple was. The servant reported that they were sleeping peacefully. Raguel had the servants fill in the grave.

Tobiah and Sarah returned to Ninevah and lived happily ever after. They had seven sons. After the deaths of Tobit and his wife, Anna, they returned to Ecbatana and were living there when they learned about the destruction of Ninevah. †

Cornucopia/Cynthia Dewes

## Heard any good jokes lately? Don't forget to laugh

Among all the many traits which humans display, I'm beginning to think a sense of humor is the most important one of all.



Finding the incongruity or silliness in almost any event or action that confronts us can save us from despair. In that sense, it's almost a religious imperative.

Just think about the continuing international political and cultural wars or the poverty and ignorance which plague too many parts of the world. Think about the presidential campaigns going on, and on and on. If we didn't laugh about some of this stuff, we'd cry non-stop.

Of course, what strikes one person as funny leaves another one wondering what the joke is. Depending upon the individual, humor can be sophomoric or scatological or dark. It can be profane or tender or even physically demanding. It ranges from slapstick to elegant repartee, from pratfalls to sophisticated wit.

Humor seems to run in families. For example, my mom's family included several great comedians. My Uncle John was a riot, drunk or sober, although I'm

sorry to say it was more often when drunk. He would dress up his dog in a fedora and jacket, and pretend it "talked" to me when I was 3 years old. Of course, I was enchanted.

My mom was witty. She could produce a snapper at the perfect moment, squelching nastiness or just commenting cleverly on something ridiculous. Her twin sister was equally funny, and together they needed no one else to amuse them. In fact, they amused each other most of the time.

On the other hand, Dad's family was serious. Not that they had no sense of humor, they just weren't funny people. Sometimes what they did or said was terrifically funny, but not because they intended it that way. Naturally, this made them fair game for people like Mom and Uncle John.

Humor can defuse a bad situation. I've seen bristling confrontations turned into pleasant exchanges by the proper use of humorous comments from a bystander. Kindly joshing by an uninterested party can do wonders to soothe people in the throes of an argument, and lessen the embarrassment of onlookers at the same time.

Sometimes people offend others by joking. There was a time—and maybe still is in some places—when ethnic or racial jokes were tolerated even by those who disliked them. We may have gone too far in political correctness these days, but it's good that that

kind of humor is no longer publicly acceptable.

Humorous television shows and movies have always provided entertainment for us, sometimes inadvertently. I mean, if things like "The Jerry Springer Show" weren't so painful to watch they could be considered hilarious. But then, not everyone relaxes when they see the Three Stooges or Charlie Chaplin, either.

The trick to appreciating humor, I think, is to consider its source. Wit born of meanness is never amusing, nor is cruel teasing or making fun of another a desirable way to entertain.

On the other hand, poking a little fun can be OK, as in the following joke about various households' attitudes toward Christmas toys: Atheist—There is no toy maker; Polytheist—There are many toy makers; Evolutionist—The toys make themselves; or Existentialist—Toys are a figment of your imagination.

Some days we don't feel like laughing, and some events seem too horrendous for us to find a way to tweak them. That's when we need to work on our God-given sense of humor.

*(Cynthia Dewes, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †*

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

## Even as January wanes, make resolutions

Anyone who has a computer and Internet access knows how annoying countless, useless e-mails can be.



However, some are exceptions. I don't mind weeding out the superfluous messages because I usually find some that are inspiring, genuinely funny, clever, educational or just

plain interesting.

In mid-January, a neighbor sent a light verse that captures how many of us feel after the holidays.

With credit to an anonymous poet, I share here only a few lines from the lengthy piece so you, dear readers, can understand the verse's premise:

" 'Twas the month after Christmas and all through the house, nothing would fit me, not even a blouse. The cookies I nibbled, the eggnog I tasted at holiday parties have gone to my waist. When I got on the scales, there arose such a number;

when I walked to the store, it was more like I lumbered ... "

The writer then lists in rhyme the delicious foods and drinks enjoyed through the holidays, realizing that what the scales said afterward necessitated better control over what would be eaten from then on—until the scales reported a reasonable loss of pounds:

"I won't have a cookie, not even a lick. I will chew on long celery sticks. I won't have hot biscuits or cornbread or pie. I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry: I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore; but isn't that just what January's for? Unable to giggle, life's no longer a riot. Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!"

Silly, yes, but usually true.

However, for some reason, for the first time in many years I did not gain a pound during the holidays.

I wish I could explain why because I thoroughly enjoyed everything during the Advent preparation and the Christmas season itself with its bountiful food and goodies.

My husband, Paul, and I also visited with all three of our daughters and their families—and we learned that our youngest daughter became engaged to a fine young man on Christmas Eve.

We were also in e-mail contact with extended, out-of-state family members, learning through technology all the blessings they were enjoying.

The holidays, although perhaps too busy and often rushed, are a magical and spiritual time of year for most of us.

Perhaps January does demand rest and diets, but it is also an opportunity to put our lives into proper perspective.

If January provokes "the blues" because we miss the glitz and the goodies of the holidays, then we should promise ourselves more happy times with others every month.

As January wanes, let us try harder to extend peace and good will in joyful, interactive ways from now on.

*(Shirley Vogler Meister, a member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †*

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

## Children teach us about gratitude

My son, Raphael, recently celebrated his third birthday. Grandparents,



godparents and a few uncles, aunts and cousins were present for the occasion.

Little Raphael was excited with each gift he opened. He even liked getting clothes. When I was little, I enjoyed getting toys. But opening a box

with pants or a sweater was almost a disappointment. Truth be told, I'm still a little like that today.

But not Raphael. He just smiled and beamed throughout his birthday party. But he is like that on ordinary days, too.

Recently, I came home from the grocery with a jug of orange juice in one hand. As soon as Raphael saw it, he came running over, saying, "Orange juicy!" (He often puts a "y" on the ends of words when he's excited.) He even gave the jug a little kiss.

All of this is cute. It's adorable. It's just what a 3-year-old does—at least when he is being good.

But if you look at this behavior through the eyes of faith, you may see a deeper meaning in it.

Even if Raphael wouldn't be able to name it, he is being grateful in all of these instances. He is grateful for the toy tool set he got on his birthday. But he is also thankful for a simple jug of juice.

We adults tend to take gifts both big and small for granted. Perhaps it's because we think we deserve gifts. There was certainly no air of self-congratulation in Raphael's reactions.

But perhaps more importantly, we adults might not recognize gifts when they come to us. And they're coming to us all the time. Ultimately, everything that we have, including our very life, is a gift from God. Do we recognize the giftedness of our life and everything else in it?

Perhaps we don't because we adults think that the state of our life as it is here and now is the result of our own hard work. Now God certainly wants us to work with the grace that he gives us. But all of our work wouldn't amount to a hill of beans if God's grace wasn't there to begin it all and to bring it to fruition.

Raphael knew at a basic level that he didn't do any work to receive those birthday presents or that jug of orange juice. He knew they were gifts, and he responded with gratitude.

Raphael was also not afraid to show that gratitude. We adults might be a little embarrassed to show our heartfelt thankfulness. If we did, it just might puncture that little bubble we're living in where we think we provide everything for ourselves.

Raphael's gratefulness is one aspect that we can see in our everyday lives of what Jesus taught his disciples when they asked him who was the greatest in the Kingdom of God.

In response, Jesus called a child to him and said: "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 18:3-4).

We adults need to do the kind of turning that Jesus describes. We need to give ourselves over to the grace of that continuing conversion in our day-to-day lives that will help us be more like little Raphael, and grow to recognize more clearly and be more wholly grateful for all of the gifts that God gives us each day.

I want to learn more and more from my young son. I want to be more like him in his gratefulness. Hopefully, I'll be able to return the favor and help him hang on to that humble perspective on life as he grows up. †

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

# The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008

- Isaiah 8:23-9:3
- 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
- Matthew 4:12-23

The Book of Isaiah supplies this weekend's first reading. It offers us a powerful lesson.



Isaiah lived in a time when God's people were skating on thin ice. They still had their independence, at least after a fashion. Hebrew kings still reigned in the kingdoms of Judah and Israel.

The religious, social and political structures all still gave lip service to the ancient religion, and to the holy covenant between God and the Chosen People.

However, all this was at risk because devotion to the covenant, and obedience to God's law, was at low ebb.

Isaiah loudly warned that disaster was just around the corner. He also said that the people could rescue themselves by returning to religious faithfulness and by obeying God, as the prophets had taught the people.

All of this implied a certain potential within the people. They did not sin because they were helpless in the face of temptation. Rather, they were weak because they ignored God. If they were determined, they could be virtuous.

For its second reading, the Church has chosen a selection from St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians.

Paul obviously loved the Corinthian Christians. He yearned to see them saintly and eternally with the Lord.

On the other hand, they troubled him because they seemed so attracted to the many vices of their great, worldly and wealthy city, and they seemed so vulnerable to the feelings of competitiveness that vex all humans if not checked.

Never willing to be passive or indifferent, he loudly called the Christians in this community to be true to their identity with Christ.

He taught a basic message. Earthly reward will pass, more quickly than anyone might

realize. Earthly wisdom is only folly. True wisdom is to understand the meaning of the cross, and this understanding requires grace, available only to those who earnestly follow the Lord.

St. Matthew's Gospel supplies the last reading.

It is situated in Capernaum, the fishing village located at the northern tip of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus is there, having left Nazareth. His public ministry has begun.

As a center of commerce, albeit very modest commerce, Capernaum saw many people come and go. Jesus used this coincidence as an opportunity to encounter many people. He called them to fidelity to God. He repeated for them the admonitions of the Hebrew prophets.

In this place, Jesus met Andrew, and then Andrew's brother, Simon, whom Jesus renamed Peter. These brothers became the first of the Apostles in the sequence of calling.

In time, Christianity was to grow from, and build upon, the Apostles.

It is interesting that the Gospels, such as the case in this reading, refer to these Apostles so specifically. They give their names. There is no doubt about their identity. It was vital in the early Church that the teachings of the genuine Apostles be kept intact and be followed.

## Reflection

These readings remind us of how blind we humans can be, and also of how powerful humans can be.

In the first reading, Isaiah criticized the people for their religious listlessness, but he also presumed that, if they wished, they could repair their wayward hearts and turn again to God.

In essence, the same message was in the second reading from Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians.

Paul boldly denounced the Corinthians' sins and quarrels. However, by calling them to conversion, he presumed that they had the power within themselves to be holy.

We are sinners, but we need not be sinners. We can be free. Sin binds us. We can be free if we empower ourselves by disdaining sin and by being one with Christ. We encounter Christ by hearing and following the Apostles, whose works live on yet today in the Church. †

## Daily Readings

Monday, Jan. 28

Thomas Aquinas, priest and doctor of the Church  
2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10  
Psalm 89:20-22, 25-26  
Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday, Jan. 29

2 Samuel 6:12b-15, 17-19  
Psalm 24:7-10  
Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday, Jan. 30

2 Samuel 7:4-17  
Psalm 89:4-5, 27-30  
Mark 4:1-20

Thursday, Jan. 31

John Bosco, priest  
2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29  
Psalm 132:1-5, 11-14  
Mark 4:21-25

Friday, Feb. 1

2 Samuel 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17  
Psalm 51:3-7, 10-11  
Mark 4:26-34

Saturday, Feb. 2

The Presentation of the Lord  
Malachi 3:1-4  
Psalm 24:7-10  
Hebrews 2:14-18  
Luke 2:22-40  
or Luke 2:22-32

Sunday, Feb. 3

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13  
Psalm 146:6-10  
1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
Matthew 5:1-12a

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

## Many legal problems prevent secret marriages in the U.S.

Q Is there any way that a Catholic can be married in the Church, but not have the marriage registered with the state?



My husband died and I have been raising our three children on an annuity from his former employer. But the annuity ends when I remarry.

I have become friends with a fine man who wants to marry me, but he is on a low income. We would need my annuity for the children.

Could we get married without having it "official" with the state? (Indiana)

A Any person licensed to officiate at marriages—clergyman, judge, etc.—is legally required to notify the proper state office of any marriage that she or he performs.

This is normally accomplished through completing the marriage license that a couple must acquire before they can be legally married.

As you might guess, this question arises often in states like Florida and Arizona, where a high number of retired couples live. When one spouse dies, the other may wish to marry someone else, but penalties—such as the loss of pensions or Social Security—would affect their income.

Several years ago, a tribunal official in one of the Sunbelt states asked the Vatican representative to the United States to help resolve the dilemma, noting that in his state a marriage without a license would be valid, but the official performing that marriage could be fined hundreds of dollars and face imprisonment.

Canon law #1130 allows for a secret marriage when a "serious and urgent reason" is present. Would that law be applicable in this circumstance?

The response of the apostolic pro nuncio, Archbishop—later Cardinal—Pio Laghi, was thoughtful and sensitive to all the issues. Both canon and civil law, he said, strive to protect people from abuses that can accompany secret marriages—polygamy, scandal, fraudulent deprivation of property acquired in common and other concerns.

It is also true that public knowledge of a marriage may on occasion cause serious inconvenience or harm. An instance

would be when civil law imposes an impediment which canon law would not allow, such as making an interracial marriage a crime.

One consideration, wrote Archbishop Laghi, is: Does the loss of retirement benefits so constitute a grave injustice that the common good should be set aside in this instance?

Another consideration is the matter of penal sanctions imposed on the officiant of a secret marriage.

If the officiating person was just negligent in returning the license after the marriage—many clergy and magistrates sometimes just forget to do this—the penalty may be slight.

If it can be proven, however, that he or she conspired to defraud the federal government, the punishment could be much heavier.

Rather than circumventing civil law and asking people to bear the emotional scars that may accompany such activities, Archbishop Laghi said, it may be more prudent for the Church to attempt to change the law if it appears to be unjust.

The final decision in each diocese is subject to the judgment of the local bishop, but I know of no bishop in the United States who gives this permission.

The process would obviously be "secret," but such happenings usually do not remain a secret very long.

Finally, there is the moral consideration of the common good: respecting tax laws that are meant to equitably divide the tax burden.

Some who desire a secret marriage do not have even your responsibilities of still raising children.

If fraudulent undercutting of one's civic responsibility in this way became common, it could unjustly place a heavier burden on others.

The correspondence with Archbishop Laghi is recorded in the 1989 issue of *Roman Replies and CLSA (Canon Law Society of America) Advisory Opinions*.

If you still have questions, it would be best to consult with your attorney.

(A free brochure answering questions that Catholics ask about Mary, the mother of Jesus, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address or by e-mail in care of [jjdietzen@aol.com](mailto:jjdietzen@aol.com).) †

## My Journey to God

### The Bosom of Jesus

When it became apparent  
No miracle was coming  
(At least, none such as our earthly hearts  
desired)  
They stopped the chemo  
And she came home  
To die.

Between hospital and home  
We spoke on the phone.  
After assuring me she was "good,"  
(She was always "good")  
She inquired, typically, how I was.

Oh, I said, shakily, "I'm sad."  
"Why are you sad?" she gently asked.  
"I'm sad because my friend is sick,"  
I answered, through tears.  
"Oh," she said. "Don't cry. It'll be OK."

"No, it won't," I had to say.  
"I'll miss you so much!"  
"I know," she replied. "I'll miss you, too."  
"No, you won't," I accused.  
"You'll be in the bosom of Jesus!"  
"I know," she agreed (and you could hear  
her smile).  
"I was just trying to make you feel better."

(Linda Abner is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis. She wrote this poem in memory of her friend, Our Lady of Lourdes parishioner Mary Teresa Schwering, who died on Dec. 24. A depiction of the Sacred Heart of Jesus adorns a gravestone at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester, N.Y.)



CNS photo/Mike Crupi, Catholic Courier

She always made us feel better.  
Rest, friend, sister, dear one  
Who never despaired.  
We had the miracle before us  
All along.

Your body died, but  
Your spirit soars: beloved  
In the bosom of Jesus.

By Linda Abner

# 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.

**ALTHOFF, Leroy P.**, 83, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, Jan. 10. Husband of Evelyn Althoff. Father of Ruth Dickerson, Margaret Lyles, Sandy Montgomery, Karen Mountjoy, Jane Murphy, Daniel, Mark and Steven Althoff. Brother of Mary Ann Robards, Kathleen Taylor and Bernard Althoff. Grandfather of 18. Great-grandfather of two.

**ANGCAO, Jose**, 67, St. Gabriel the Archangel, Indianapolis, Jan. 1. Husband of Gregoria Angcao. Father of Angelita Areola, Myra Penafiel, Josephine Soliven, Mario and Reynoldo Angcao. Brother of Lilia, Nemencio and Nestor Angcao. Grandfather of seven.

**APSLEY, Robert L.**, 77, St. Michael, Brookville, Jan. 7. Husband of Rita (Ortman) Apsley. Father of Sherry Haynes, Lynn Sams, Dave, Don and R. Kent Apsley. Brother of Vivian Moles, Marilyn Scaggs, Norma Jean Skinner, Nedra Smith, Nancy Webb and Alton Apsley. Grandfather of 19. Great-grandfather of two.

**BLADE, Lowell**, 62, St. Mary, Richmond, Jan. 6. Brother of Janice Jennings.

**CARROLL, Lucille A.**, 90, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, Jan. 6.

**CARTON, Veronica**, 94, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Dec. 26. Mother of Debbie, Sheila and John Carton. Sister of Rosemary Welch. Grandmother of two.

**CHAPMAN, Mary Antoinette**, 96, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Dec. 16. Mother of Judith Proctor, James, John and Joseph Chapman. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of six.

**DEDE, Edmund Joseph**, 86, St. Benedict, Terre Haute, Dec. 19. Brother of Roselyn Coverstone and Maryanna Swinford. Uncle of several.

**DeGUGLIELMO, Rose**, 91, Holy Name of Jesus,

Beech Grove, Dec. 16. Wife of Joseph DeGuglielmo. Mother of Mary Daniels, Elizabeth Griffith and Frank DeGuglielmo. Sister of Frank and Michael Mascari. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of nine.

**FALKNER, Constance**, 95, St. Paul Hermitage, Beech Grove, Jan. 14. Mother of Benedictine Sister Carol Falkner, David, Paul and Richard Falkner. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of four.

**GLENNON, Rosalie**, 94, St. Anthony, Indianapolis, Jan. 7. Mother of Annette McKimmie, Jeannie Robinson, Mary Rose and Jim Glennon. Sister of Mike Quinn. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of 14.

**HAYES, Colleen Theresa**, 49, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Jan. 5. Daughter of Michael and Margaret (McLafferty) Hayes. Sister of Erin Ellis, Shawn Gann, Shannon, Brian, Casey, Kelly and Michael Hayes.

**HEADY, Mary F.**, 78, St. Matthew, Indianapolis, Jan. 5. Mother of Deborah Evans, Martha Messman and Dave Heady. Sister of Gertie Schmitz. Grandmother of three.

**HEYOB, Mary Jane (Doll)**, 88, St. Michael, Brookville, Jan. 5. Mother of Martha Cagley, Eva, Richard and Thomas Heyob. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of eight.

**HILL, Maria Eleanor**, 89, Our Lady of Lourdes, Indianapolis, Jan. 11. Mother of Timothy Hill.

**JOHNSON, Agnes A.**, 72, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, Jan. 10. Mother of Marita Burton, Veronica Cooney, Rhonda Fowler, Rose Johnson, Angela Schroer and Virginia Schrougham. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of nine.

**JONES, Mildred**, 95, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Jan. 8. Sister of Rosa Evelyn Smith. Grandmother of one. Great-grandmother of two.

**KENNEY, David B., M.D.**, 79, St. Matthew, Indianapolis, Dec. 20. Husband of Mary Ann (Wilhelm) Kenney. Father of Kathleen Malarney, Mary Bridget Marsh, Sheila McNelis, Ann Unversaw, Philip and Vincent Kenney. Grandfather of 19.

**KESLER, Helen M.**, 84, St. Mary, New Albany, Dec. 18. Mother of Michelle England. Grandmother of one. Great-grandmother of three.

**KINKER, Edward J., Sr.**, 100, St. John the Evangelist, Enochsburg, Jan. 10. Father of Theresa Eckstein, Phyllis Martin, Anthony, Carl, Dennis, Edward, John and Thomas Kinker. Brother of Theresa Mauer. Grandfather of 26. Great-grandfather of 40.

**KLEINE, Martin B.**, 89, Holy Family, Oldenburg, Jan. 12. Brother of Mildred Brackman and Caroline Duerstock.

**KOCHERT, Marlene R.**, 66, Holy Family, New Albany, Jan. 14. Wife of Lester Kochert. Mother of Kara Borlace, Shana, Kevin and Todd Kochert. Grandmother of seven.

**LAKER, Edna A.**, 87, St. Mary-of-the-Rock, St. Mary-of-the-Rock, Jan. 12. Mother of Barbara Glaub, Bernice, Jerome and Leroy Laker. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of five.

**LEPPER, Michael**, 72, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Indianapolis, Jan. 1. Husband of Candace Lepper. Father of Theresa Moore, Mary Anne Pain, Christopher and Michael Lepper II. Brother of Catherine Dudenhoeffer and Veronica Nees. Grandfather of six.

**MANLIEF, Marlene M.**, 64, Immaculate Conception, Milhousen, Jan. 2. Wife of George Manlief. Mother of Debbie Butz, Paula Scheidler and Michael Herbert. Sister of Mary Ann Holt, Janine Stauffacher, Dale and Vernon Herbert. Grandmother of six.

**MELLO, Paula Jean**, 63, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Jan. 2. Wife of Lawrence Mello. Mother of Kristin Crisp. Sister of Kristie Gill. Grandmother of two.

**MICK, Irma Marie**, 92, St. Mary, North Vernon, Jan. 15. Mother of Mary Ann Laman, Joanne Miller, James and Thomas Mick. Sister of Edith McElfresh. Grandmother of 17. Great-grandmother of 49. Great-great-grandmother of nine.

**MORLEN, Mary Margaret**, 94, St. Mary, New Albany, Dec. 29. Aunt of several.

**OSBORN, Helen**, 77, Holy Family, Richmond, Jan. 8. Mother of Susan Burns, Julie Waltermann, Greg and Jeff Osborn. Sister of Rhonda Lakes, Betty Shafer and Don Bostick. Grandmother of 13. Great-grandmother of five.

**OWENS, Helen E.**, 95, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Dec. 1. Aunt of several.

**PAFFORD, Robert E., Sr.**, 74, St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis, Jan. 13. Husband of Esther Pafford. Father of Bradley, Bret and Robert Pafford. Stepfather of Amelia Batino, Olivia Davis, Erlinda Miller, Jeanette Willoughby and Romeo Jaranillo.

Son of Wanda Pafford. Grandfather of 13. Great-grandfather of 15.

**PARDO, James Eric**, 18, St. Andrew, Richmond, Dec. 23. Son of Neil and Sherry Pardo. Brother of Christopher and Nickolas Pardo. Grandson of Aaron and Gerri DiGenova and Jim and Betty Pardo.

**PARKER, Michael Anthony**, 63, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Indianapolis, Jan. 8. Father of Molly Breckenridge and Kelly Gianoli. Brother of Mary Kallok and Dr. George Parker. Grandfather of seven.

**PIECZKO, Josephine A. (Kiesel)**, 79, Holy Name of Jesus, Beech Grove, Jan. 1. Mother of Janet Davis, Mildred Debes, Beth Johnson, Mary Lou Kassenbrock, Linda Luckett, Susie Ketchem, Donna Stutler, Dave and Stephen Kiesel. Grandmother of 16. Great-grandmother of seven.

**POETZ, David J.**, 67, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Jan. 6. Father of Jackie Hagist, Jim, John and Michael Poetz. Brother of JoAnn Haendel, Geri Seal and Greg Poetz. Grandfather of nine.

**RAIMONDI, John David**, 47, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Dec. 6. Brother of Josephine, Anthony, Cosmas, Joseph, Mark and Michael Raimondi. Uncle of several.

**ROBERTSON, Donald J.**, 75, St. Mary, New Albany, Jan. 6. Husband of Sylvia (Schulzen) Robertson. Father of Gail Heaverin, Donna Lee Humble, Mark Cox, Ronald Matlock and Michael Robertson. Brother of Joyce Hood, Cliff and Paul Robertson. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of seven.

**SCHWERING, Mary Teresa (Redmond)**, 48, Our Lady of Lourdes, Indianapolis, Dec. 24. Wife of Bernard Schwering. Mother of Mary Rose and Edward Schwering. Sister of Anne Krachey, Bridget Schlebecker, Brendan, John and Tim Redmond. Aunt of several.

**SEXTON, W. Lawrence, II**, 44, St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis, Jan. 6. Nephew of several aunts.

**SULLIVAN, Donald J.**, 74, former member of Good Shepherd, Indianapolis, Jan. 6. Father of Patricia Covalt, Ian and Patrick Sullivan. Brother of Marilyn Pierce. Grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of seven.

**WILLIAMS, Lillian May**, 83, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, Jan. 5. Sister of Ruth Boling. Grandmother of one.

**WISSNER, Mary Elizabeth**, 96, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Dec. 17. Sister of Rita Randolph, Marie Walpole and Edward Hartman. Aunt of several. †

## Margaret Bonke was the mother of a priest and a Church volunteer

Margaret Bernadette (Raftery) Bonke, the mother of Father James Bonke, died on Jan. 19 in Indianapolis. She was 83.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Jan. 24 at Good Shepherd Church in Indianapolis. Burial followed at Calvary Cemetery in Indianapolis.

She was born on Aug. 3, 1924, in Indianapolis and was the oldest of seven children.

She graduated from St. John's Academy in Indianapolis in 1942 and married P. Robert Bonke on Aug. 21, 1943.

She worked as a secretary for the railroad for 43 years, including 35 years with Conrail, before retiring in 1985.

Margaret and Robert Bonke were charter members of the

former St. James the Greater Parish—now Good Shepherd Parish—in Indianapolis.

She was active in the former St. James Altar Society, National Council of Catholic Women, Our Lady of Fatima Retreat League, American Business Women's Association and Railway Business Women's Association.

Surviving are her husband, Robert Bonke; one son, Father James Bonke; four daughters, Mary Augsburg, Anne Keller, Peggy McNelis and Jeanne Wagner; a sister, Helen Henninger; two brothers, John Raftery and Frank Early; and nine grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be made to Good Shepherd Parish, 1109 E. Cameron St., Indianapolis, IN 46203. †

## Benedictine Sister Mary Patrick Lenges ministered for 51 years

Benedictine Sister Mary Patrick Lenges, a founding member of the Sisters of St. Benedict of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, died on Dec. 15 at St. Paul Hermitage in Beech Grove. She was 94.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Dec. 17 at the Our Lady of Grace Monastery Chapel. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery on the monastery grounds.

The former Catherine Lenges was born in Evansville, Ind., and was one of 12 children.

She entered the Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Ind., in 1935 and was a founding member of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove in 1960.

Sister Mary Patrick served 51 years as a teacher and in parish ministry in three states.

In the archdiocese, she ministered at St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour, St. Paul Parish in Tell City, Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis and St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish in

Floyds Knobs.

Sister Mary Patrick also taught at the former Our Lady of Grace Academy in Beech Grove, which was operated by the Sisters of St. Benedict.

She also served at parishes and parish schools in the Evansville Diocese as well as in Belcourt, N.D., and Glendora, Calif. She said her greatest joy was teaching children in special education—primarily at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish in Floyds Knobs—for nearly 25 years.

Sister Mary Patrick retired to Our Lady of Grace Monastery in 1983 and moved to St. Paul Hermitage in 1999.

She is survived by a sister, Florine Voll of Terre Haute, and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Sisters of St. Benedict Retirement Fund, Our Lady of Grace Monastery, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove, IN 46107 or by online donation at the Our Lady of Grace Monastery Web site at [www.benedictine.com](http://www.benedictine.com). †

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Don Rupprecht, ECIHS President, at 812-474-2943  
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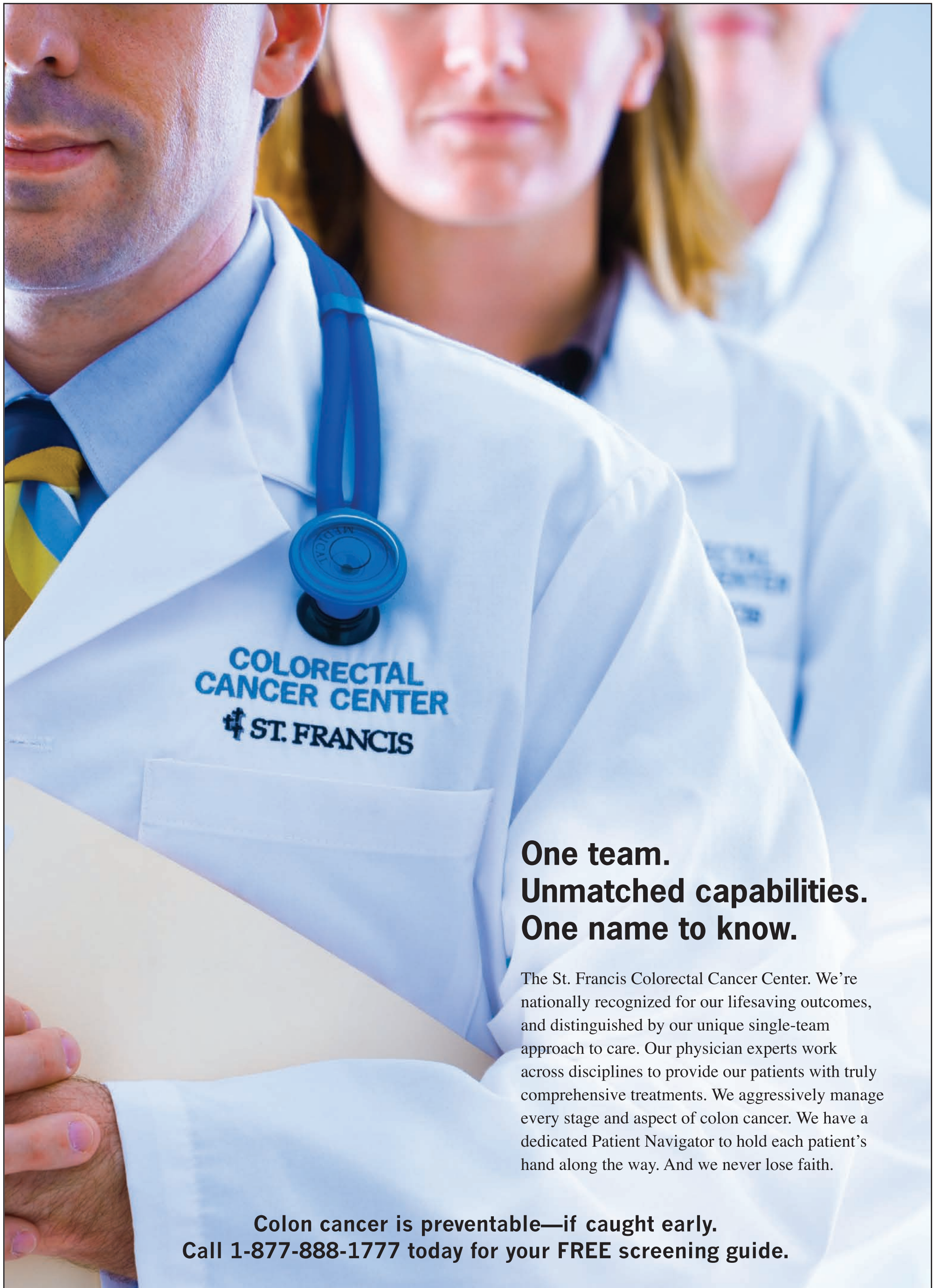
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