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CriterionOnline.com

May 2, 2008

Vol. XLVIII, No. 29 75¢

A way to say thanks Celtic cross honors Christ and commemorates former pastor's service

By Mary Ann Wyand

DANVILLE—Carrying his oxygen pack, Father Charles Chesebrough walked outside Mary, Queen of Peace Church in Danville after Mass on April 27 to admire an ornately carved Celtic cross created to honor Christ.

The 7-foot Irish cross also commemorates Father Chesebrough's 12 years of service to the Indianapolis West Deanery parish.

"It's beautiful," Father Chesebrough said of the Bedford limestone cross after Father Bernard Cox, pastor of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, dedicated it in gratitude to God, the former pastor and the donors who helped build the church.

Father Chesebrough served at the Danville parish from 1983 until 1995, and supervised the construction of the parish's fourth church when its rapidly growing membership needed a larger worship space a decade ago.

"We wanted to do something for Father Charlie, and I thought it's more important that we do something for a priest while he's alive," Father Cox said. "He's been a great influence in my life, and I felt it was the very least we could do."

Father Cox said he is grateful for the generosity of Gary Evans, one of two brothers who own Architectural Stone Sales



Above, stonecutter Matthew Bruce of Bedford, left, poses for a photograph with Father Charles Chesebrough, center, and Father Bernard Cox on April 27 outside Mary, Queen of Peace Church in Danville. Bruce works for Architectural Stone Sales in Bedford. Both Father Chesebrough and Father Cox have served as pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford and Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Danville.

Right, stonecutter Matthew Bruce of Bedford uses more than 100 chisels and a pneumatic air hammer to carve intricate details into this limestone cross.



in Bedford.

Both Father Chesebrough and Father Cox have served as the pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford, so the

limestone cross is a connection to their former parish home and the parishioners.

"The cross has had a lot of impact on a lot of different

lives, and I'm glad that we could do this," Father Cox said. "Now it's blessed, and we hope that a lot of people are blessed who look upon

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Impact of pope's visit goes beyond his six-day stay, say observers

WASHINGTON (CNS)—When Pope Benedict XVI left New York on April 20 after his six-day visit to the United States, Catholics were catching their breath from the whirlwind tour and many were trying to figure out what kind of impact the visit would leave in its wake.

The trip—anticipated since last November—prompted a fair amount of guesswork about what the pontiff would and wouldn't say. Pope Benedict, not swayed by hearsay, frequently reiterated that the theme of the visit was "Christ Our Hope" and stressed his optimism that the visit would prompt "a time of spiritual renewal for all Americans."

Whether he was addressing international or interreligious leaders, educators, priests and religious, bishops, youths or baseball stadiums full of Catholics, the pope stuck with that message of hope in Christ throughout his various stops.

Overall reviews of the papal visit were positive and then some.

"In general, the visit was a terrific success. He hit a home run every time he went up to bat," said Jesuit Father Thomas Reese, senior fellow at Woodstock Theological Center in Washington.

Pre-trip speculation about whether Pope Benedict would address the clergy sex abuse crisis was put aside from the start when the pope spoke on the plane ride to Washington of being "deeply ashamed" about the scandal. He followed those comments with several other references to the abuse scandal and then a personal meeting with abuse victims.

The pope did "exactly what American Catholics needed and wanted to see" from the person with the highest authority in the Church, Father Reese said, adding that the directness will have a positive impact on the Church.

"He took the issue seriously, knowing that apologizing once wasn't going to do it," the priest added.

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75 percent of Americans surveyed read Bible passage in last year

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In a survey conducted in nine countries in anticipation of the October world Synod of Bishops on the Bible, 75 percent of U.S. residents interviewed said they read a Bible passage in the previous 12 months.

In Western and Eastern Europe, the percentage of Bible readers ranged from a low of 20 percent in Spain to a high of 38 percent in Poland.

The study, commissioned by the Catholic Biblical Federation, began with 13,000 interviews in the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Poland, Russia, Spain and Italy in November 2007.

The president of the federation, Italian Bishop Vincenzo Paglia of Terni, Narni and Amelia, presented the initial results of the survey on April 28 during a Vatican

press conference and said a second stage of the survey was being conducted in Argentina, South Africa, the Philippines and Australia.

The majority of people in the first nine countries—including 90 percent of Polish respondents—said the Bible is an important source of truth, but more than 50 percent of those interviewed in each country said the Bible was difficult to understand.

Bishop Paglia said, "Despite secularization and little openness to religious experience ... the sacred Scriptures are looked upon with great respect by everyone."

But the fact that the majority defined the Bible as difficult to understand challenges the Church to help people learn to read it and see how it applies to their

lives, particularly through improved homilies, the bishop said.

Luca Diotallevi, the Rome sociologist who coordinated the survey's working group, said that, while the study found the Bible to be important in the lives and cultures of those interviewed, there was a huge difference between Bible reading in the United States and in the other countries.

The most relevant factor in promoting Bible reading, he said, was having a Bible in one's home; 93 percent of the U.S. residents interviewed said they had one and 56 percent said they had given someone a Bible as a gift.

He said he was struck particularly by the elements that seemed to predict a higher level of individual reading of and

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that cross and remember how much Christ suffered that we might have eternal life. That's the whole point of it. It's also our way of saying thanks to Father Charlie and that we love him."

Stonecutter Matthew Bruce of Bedford attended the dedication ceremony with his wife, Carrie, and son, Mason. He has worked for Architectural Stone Carving in Bedford for 15 years.

Carving the limestone cross resulted in an amazing conversion experience, Bruce said, which left him feeling humbled by God's presence in his life and work.

"It took me about six months to carve the cross," he said. "I probably had 250 hours in it. They gave me a one-foot model. Our draftsman at the mill took digital photographs of it, and then I actually took that piece [of stone] to my garage and worked on it at home."

As the hours of work carving the ornate cross added up, Bruce said he began to resent the amount of time that the project took away from his family life and hobbies.

"This cross really became a pain to me," he admitted. "I'm a deer hunter, and I couldn't do that or all the other things I wanted to do. I couldn't ride horses. My friends would call and I'd say, 'I've got to work on this cross.' So I started cursing the cross in my garage.

"One night, while I was working on it," Bruce recalled, "I've never heard voices or

anything like that, but I was startled by the words, 'My son, all you have to do is carve this cross. I had to hang from it.'

"And then my eyes welled up with tears," he said. "I finished the cross in about a week after that happened. I shamefully finished it. It really humbled me. I don't speak eloquently, and for these words to come [to me] it had to be divine. He saw me, and he was right. All I had to do was carve it. Can you imagine having to be nailed to it? And only so I can be forgiven, and I've had a lot of shortfalls."

Bruce kept the cross at his work station at the mill from December until it was installed at Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in April. The cross stands more than 7 feet high and weighs 156 pounds per cubic foot. It took four men to load the cross by hand into a truck for delivery to the parish.

"There really is no artistic ability in me," Bruce said as he marveled at the intricately detailed scrolls on the stone cross gleaming in the afternoon sunlight.

"I had a model and I just followed the design," he explained. "I use a pneumatic air hammer, and I have hundreds of chisels. People have said, 'Oh, you've got such a talent.' I have no talent. But God lets me do this work. Usually, if I'm doing something that's really going to be tough, I'll pray right there on the mill floor, and ask him to please let me do this to the satisfaction of the owners and the satisfaction of the customer. And he's never failed me, not yet. Now the cross is here at the church, and I miss it." †

Photo by Mary Ann Wyand



Indianapolis 500 Gordon Pipers founder and pipe major Wallace Gordon Diehl of Brownsburg plays the bagpipe on April 27 as he leads Mary, Queen of Peace parishioners outside for the dedication of a Celtic cross made of limestone. Father Bernard Cox, the pastor, and Father Charles Chesebrough, the former pastor, concelebrated the Mass.

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Thomas Groome, director of the Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry at Boston College, called the pope's visit a "resounding success," where he "did and said all the right things."

In an e-mail to Catholic News Service, Groome said Pope Benedict offered Catholics and other Christians of this country a "new apologetic" for their faith that he described as "one of persuasion rather than legislation," where he encouraged people to follow the "way of Jesus" to find freedom, truth and happiness.

The pope also reached out to young people, making reference to them in homilies and meeting with them on the grounds of St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., on April 19.

Mike Hayes, associate director of Paulist Young Adult Ministries in New York and managing editor of the Paulist online site BustedHalo.com, said the immediate impact

of Pope Benedict's visit might not necessarily be a flood of new vocations despite encouragement in that direction. Instead, he said, more young people will be "interested in connecting with what it means to be Catholic in today's world."

To those who wondered how Pope Benedict would fill Pope John Paul II's shoes, especially with youths and young adults, Hayes has this perspective: "Where [Pope] John Paul was a rock star, [Pope] Benedict might be the audiobook."

Simply put, people came to be with Pope John Paul and they came to listen to Pope Benedict, he told CNS on April 24.

Pope Benedict is "very direct, telling people, 'This is where we need to be,'" Hayes said, noting that even though the pope is "not a sound-bite guy" his directness is "something that young people really connect with."

And they weren't just thrilled to see him for the moment either, because, as Hayes pointed out, many young adults have read Pope Benedict's two encyclicals on hope and love and now, of course, they can read his

CNS photo Gregory A. Shemitz



Crowds wave white and gold kerchiefs outside St. Joseph's Church in New York on April 18 prior to Pope Benedict XVI's arrival at the church. The pope presided at a prayer service at St. Joseph's Church.

various messages to the U.S. Church.

Reading material is certainly one thing Pope Benedict left behind with papal texts available online at www.uspapalvisit.org, and in a special issue of *Origins*, the CNS documentary service. As Father Reese pointed out, the pope's substantive speeches and homilies will "require reading and rereading."

The pope also left behind an improved image of himself among U.S. Catholics. Just two weeks before his arrival, only 18 percent of the general public and 37 percent of Catholics said they knew a lot about Pope Benedict.

If the poll were redone now, Father Reese said, "the pope's approval rating should skyrocket." †

BIBLE

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praying with the Scriptures; reading, reading books with a religious theme—including fiction—participating in religious services and being involved in a Church-related group were the most predictive factors.

Praying often, believing the Bible

contains important truths and identifying oneself as Christian did not correlate as closely with reports of actually reading the Bible on one's own, he said.

The differences, Diotallevi said, "indicated that reading the Bible is a habit one acquires through imitation," rather than simply conviction.

In the nine countries, he said, "the sense that God is near is anything but extinct and religious practice is anything but marginal.

"The Bible is seen by the vast majority of the population as a source of truth, as the source of a message that has something to do with one's life," he said.

The other interesting thing, he said, is that those who took a "fundamentalist" approach to the Bible, affirming that it is the "direct word of God" and must be taken literally, were not those who knew the Bible best.

And, Diotallevi said, the U.S. residents

who reported reading the Bible most often did not have a significantly greater knowledge of its contents than those who did not read the Bible often.

Biblical knowledge was tested by asking these questions: Are the Gospels part of the Bible? Did Jesus write one of the books of the Bible? Was Paul or Moses a figure from the Old Testament? Which of the following wrote a Gospel: Luke? John? Paul? Peter? †

The Criterion

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The Criterion • P.O. Box 1717 • Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717

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

1400 N. Meridian St.
 P.O. Box 1717
 Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717
 317-236-1570
 800-382-9836 ext. 1570
criterion@archindy.org

Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN.
 Copyright © 2008 Criterion Press Inc.

POSTMASTER:
 Send address changes to:
 Criterion Press Inc.
 1400 N. Meridian St.
 Box 1717
 Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717

The Criterion

Phone Numbers:

Main office:317-236-1570
 Advertising317-236-1572
 Toll free:1-800-382-9836, ext. 1570
 Circulation:317-236-1425
 Toll free:1-800-382-9836, ext. 1425

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

Postmaster:

Send address changes to *The Criterion*, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206

Web site: www.CriterionOnline.com

E-mail: criterion@archindy.org

Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January. Mailing address: 1400 N. Meridian St., P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717. Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2008 Criterion Press Inc. ISSN 0574-4350.

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New agency director is embracing Church's mission of helping others

By John Shaughnessy

From the first day, Mark Casper knew that he had made the right decision in taking his new job.

"My first day on the job, a young couple picked up a baby they were adopting," Casper recalls. "All you have to do is see that and you know the work you're doing is rewarding. You see a baby go to a good home and a young couple happy, and you know it's been a good day."

Since that memorable start on April 7, the other days have also been going well for Casper, the new agency director of St. Elizabeth-Catholic Charities in New Albany. Among its many missions, the agency offers a residence and counseling to women who are experiencing crisis pregnancies. It's also a licensed adoption agency in Indiana and Kentucky.

"It's critical that the quality of our services be top-notch," Casper says. "We're dealing with a whole lot of people who are our future. Children are our future. They're the ones you want to make sure you're helping and protecting first."

Working in a setting marked by young mothers, babies and diapers is a change for the 47-year-old Casper. He

previously spent most of his career in the area of manufacturing management. Yet his connection to St. Elizabeth kept growing deeper and deeper during the year he served on the advisory council for the agency that also provides counseling and supported living for



'Being a Catholic isn't just about going to church on Sunday. It's about taking the gifts God gave you and using them to help others.'

—Mark Casper

developmentally disabled people.

"I was looking forward to doing something different than manufacturing and this was a good fit," he says. "The mission appealed to me. The work we do here is great work—helping others who are less fortunate and often can't help themselves."

It's an approach to life that Casper learned from his parents. It's an approach to life that he and his wife,

Cindy, try to model for their 14-year-old twin daughters, Katie and Kassie.

"I was born and raised Catholic, one of nine children," Casper says. "My parents were very active in the Church and the community. We lived in a house where we were shown to give back

Christ Renews His Parish," Casper says. "It was a good time to step back and see what you were doing with your time."

A key part of his time now as agency director is trying to raise funds and making the most of the funds the agency does raise, especially during today's challenging economic times.

"We want to be good stewards in using the resources we get," he says.

He already recognizes his staff as the most valuable resource he has.

"You can see the passion they have for the work they do," he says. "They care about people. It makes all the challenges of raising funds worthwhile."

Casper will make a difference as agency director, according to David Siler, executive director of the archdiocese's Secretariat for Catholic Charities and Family Ministries.

"He knows the agency," Siler says. "He knows the opportunities and the challenges ahead of him. He brings an experience in fundraising that's a much needed asset of the job."

Casper realizes he's at a time and a place in his life where his work and his faith are united.

"Being a Catholic isn't just about going to church on Sunday," he says. "It's about taking the gifts God gave you and using them to help others." †

Nearly 600 students to graduate at Catholic colleges in archdiocese

Criterion staff report

Students, families and educators will join in the celebration as the three Catholic colleges in the archdiocese hold their graduation ceremonies in May.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College

A survivor of the Holocaust, Eva Mozes Kor will share a message of hope and forgiveness when she delivers the commencement address at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College on May 3.

The commencement for more than 160 members of the graduating class will begin at 2 p.m. in the Cecilian Auditorium of the college's Conservatory of Music.

Kor is the founder and executive director of CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Terre Haute,

which provides education about the Holocaust to school children and adults. A survivor of the concentration camp at Auschwitz, she will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the college.

The college will also honor Donald E. Smith with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. He has served as president and as a member of the Alliance for Growth and Progress and the Greater Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce.

This will be the 167th commencement ceremony for the college.

Marian College

More than 380 students are expected to graduate when Marian College holds its 71st annual commencement at 10 a.m. on May 10 in the Alan Whitehill Clowes

Amphitheater on campus.

The commencement address will be given by the Mexican ambassador to the United States, Arturo Sarukhan. Three people will receive honorary degrees from Marian College.

Sarukhan will receive an honorary Doctor of International Relations degree.

Marian College will also present honorary degrees to William A. Cook and Mary McNulty Young.

Cook is the chief executive officer of Cook Group Inc. in Bloomington. He will receive an honorary Doctor of Business degree.

Young will receive an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. A retired Indianapolis attorney, she is an alumna and a trustee of Marian College. She is also a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.

Commencement week activities will begin with a visit and a talk by U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) on May 4 on campus.

Saint Meinrad School of Theology

Forty-six students are expected to receive master's degrees when Saint Meinrad School of Theology holds its commencement at 2 p.m. central time on May 10.

The ceremony will take place in the archabbey's St. Bede Theater, where graduates will receive degrees that include Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Arts in Catholic Philosophical Studies, and Master of Arts in Catholic Thought and Life.

The commencement address will be given by Bishop R. Walker Nickless of the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa. †

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Editorial



People listen as Pope Benedict XVI addresses the United Nations General Assembly in New York on April 18.

The natural law

Pope Benedict XVI has spoken frequently lately about the natural law.

He spoke at length about it in an address last October to the Vatican's International Theological Commission, again in his World Day of Peace message on Jan. 1, returned to the subject on Jan. 7 in his annual address to the diplomats accredited to the Holy See, and mentioned it in his talk at the United Nations in New York on April 18.

What is the natural law? Perhaps St. Paul expressed it most simply when he wrote to the Romans that even those who have not heard of the law of Moses, the Ten Commandments, still know what is right and wrong because "what the law requires is written on their hearts" (Rom 2:15).

In his address at the United Nations, Pope Benedict said something similar when he said that human rights "are based on the natural law inscribed on human hearts and present in different cultures and civilizations."

It's the standard by which human beings know, by the use of their reason, what actions are right and what actions are wrong. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "The natural law expresses the original moral sense which enables man to discern by reason the good and the evil, the truth and the lie" (#1954).

The *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* adds, "Through our human reason, we can come to understand the true purpose of the created order. The natural law is thus our rational appreciation of the divine plan. It expresses our human dignity and is the foundation of our basic human rights and duties. This law within us leads us to choose the good that it reveals" (p. 327).

Back in the 1940s, when the Anglican apologist, professor and novelist C. S. Lewis was putting together broadcasts that eventually became his masterpiece *Mere Christianity*, he began with a discussion of right and wrong. His first broadcast, and later first chapter in the book, was titled "The Law of Human Nature." He said, "This law was called the Law of Nature because people thought that everyone knew it by nature and did not need to be taught it."

He pointed out that, although civilizations sometimes had different

moralties, "these have never amounted to anything like a total difference. If anyone will take the trouble to compare the moral teaching of, say, the ancient Egyptians, Babylonians, Hindus, Chinese, Greeks and Romans, what will really strike him will be how very like they are to each other and to our own."

It's true that some of those civilizations practiced human sacrifice to their gods, which seems contrary to natural law (as do suicide bombings today), but generally all societies have condemned murder, adultery, robbery and injustices of all types.

All this might seem obvious to us, but, unfortunately, there always seem to be people who deny that humans share a common morality—which, of course, is why Lewis began his teachings about Christianity by talking about the natural law. Today, some prominent leaders assert that morality is completely subjective and it's up to each individual to come up with his or her own sense of morality. That's the false philosophy of moral relativism that Pope Benedict has been combating even before he was elected pope.

He told the theologians in that address last October, "Today's civil and secular society is in a situation of confusion. The original evidence for the foundations of human beings and of their ethical behavior has been lost, and the doctrine of natural moral law clashes with other concepts that run directly contrary to it. All this has enormous consequences in civil and social order."

To be clear, we cannot rely solely on the natural law when it comes to doctrines of our faith. We cannot reason our way to the truths of our faith that have been revealed by God—the Trinity, Incarnation and Redemption, for example, or belief in Jesus' presence in the Eucharist.

The natural law applies to morality rather than to revealed doctrine. Furthermore, Catholics believe that Revelation through Jesus both transcends and fulfills the natural law.

Nevertheless, Pope Benedict has repeatedly proposed natural law in and of itself as a common ground where peoples of various faiths or no faith at all can come together to order society and its laws in such a way as to best serve the common good.

—John F. Fink

Parish Diary/Fr. Peter Daly

Pope Benedict's visit: It was very Catholic!

In my first parish, there was an elderly lady who always stopped on her way out of Mass to give me her evaluation of the liturgy.

If she liked it, she said, "That was Catholic!"

The night before the papal Mass in Washington, I didn't much feel like going. I was tired from a cold and allergies. But I figured that if the 81-year-old successor of St. Peter could come all the way across the Atlantic to visit us, the least I could do was go 50 miles up the road to say hello.

I am very glad that I did.

This was not my first papal liturgy. I was in Washington in 1979 when a young Pope John Paul II arrived like a rock star and celebrated Mass on the National Mall.

As a seminarian in Rome in the early 1980s, I saw many a papal liturgy. Later, as a student priest, I assisted with Communion at papal Masses. I have been to World Youth Day twice. But seeing the pope is always a thrill.

My parishioners at St. John Vianney Parish were very excited. We had 175 tickets distributed by lottery. When we boarded the buses at dawn, they were chatty. I was sleepy. On the way up, we prayed the rosary.

I perked up at the stadium. It was the music that got me going.

The sight lines from my seat in left field were poor. The canopy over the altar platform blocked my view of the jumbo TV. I could barely see the pope between the heads in front of me, but the sound system was great, and the choirs were just to my left.

The music was perfect. It was a mixture of styles and tempos. It ran the spectrum of liturgical music from Gospel to Gregorian chant, meringue to Mozart. Its variety reflected the diversity of the Catholic Church in America.

Letter to the Editor

Restoring priorities will help the Church move forward in its mission

During his recent visit to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI showed us what it means to stand on principle and speak the truth in love.

Though he radiated joy and inspired millions with his quiet charisma, he didn't hesitate to express his most urgent pastoral concern. Quite simply, he wants no more priestly sex scandals.

Summing it up for reporters, he said, "I am deeply ashamed, and we will do what is possible so this cannot happen again in the future."

He also made it clear that, as Catholics, we are all in this thing together. So we are faced with a question: What steps should we take to honor the Holy Father's wishes?

So far, we have relied on and, it would seem, plan to continue with what strategists call the "juridical" approach.

Some, for example, are recommending changes in canon law to give victims more opportunities to come forward. Others are asking for more sophisticated law enforcement.

To be sure, these are important steps, but are they enough? More to the point, whatever happened to the "preventative" approach?

Let's not kid ourselves. Our clergy did not fall from grace because administrators were incompetent or even because the world intruded itself and

In Washington, we have a large African-American Catholic community. The Gospel choir started us off with the great spiritual "Plenty Good Room in My Father's Kingdom." They were right. There was plenty good room for every race, nation, people and tongue.

The liturgy was basically Pentecost. There were lots of Holy Spirit songs, including several versions of "Veni Creator Spiritus" ("Come Holy Spirit").

The best rhythm was at the preparation of the gifts when the choir sang in Spanish "Ven Espiritu Santo" by Jaime Cortez. It had a complicated Afro-Caribbean-Latin drum beat. Even an aging Irishman like me could not sit still.

As the bishops entered, the choir sang "Ave Verum" by Mozart. I always cry when I hear it. This time was no exception.

The pope entered the stadium to the great German hymn "Grosser Gott," known to us as "Holy God We Praise Thy Name."

Everybody sang. With 45,000 voices, the Spirit was definitely "in the house."

After Communion, Placido Domingo sang "Pani Angelicus." The stadium fell silent. Priests around me welled up with tears. Even the pope stood and gave Domingo an ovation and blessing.

The pope struck exactly the right tone in his homily. He was encouraging and correcting, pastoral and probing. His mention of the victims of child abuse by the clergy was necessary. It was an important step toward healing an open wound.

The fact that he spoke in Spanish as well as English was an appropriate recognition that the U.S. Catholic Church is increasingly Latino.

When I walked out of the stadium, I was transformed. Even the weather was perfect.

I thought of that elderly lady from my first parish and said, "That was Catholic!"

(Father Peter Daly writes for Catholic News Service.) †

its perverse values on an otherwise innocent Church.

It happened because the vast majority of Catholics, including a sizable number of lukewarm bishops, either ignored or de-emphasized the Church's teaching on sexual morality. To put it bluntly, we allowed chastity to take a back seat to social justice.

If misplaced priorities are the problem, then restored priorities are the cure. That is why we should worry less about managing the effects of this crisis and more about confronting its causes—less about imposing bureaucratic initiatives after the fact and more about establishing a culture of chastity before the fact.

An ounce of faithful teaching in our homes, schools, churches and seminaries is worth a ton of zero tolerance policies.

That should not surprise us. We are, after all, supposed to be in the business of saving souls and building saints.

If we can rededicate ourselves to that noble mission, we will have little cause to worry about sex scandals.

Stephen L. Bussell
Indianapolis

(Editor's Note: For more information about what the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is doing to protect children, log on to <http://archindy.org/abuse>.)

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



SEEKING THE FACE OF THE LORD

BUSCANDO LA CARA DEL SEÑOR

Fifth-graders' study of holy orders leads to lots of questions

Last week, I wrote about religious vocations with a focus on priesthood. This week, I have before me a collection of letters from fifth-graders from St. Simon the Apostle School in Indianapolis, who are studying about holy orders.

They have questions they want me to answer, many of them focusing on my being a bishop. The students said they are praying for my recovery from cancer. Two students mentioned that their mothers have cancer, too.

Alan started his letter by asking, "How are you feeling?"

I am doing OK, and I'm glad because soon I will have completed the chemotherapy treatments. Then, daily for a month, there will be radiation and full recovery. Thanks for asking, Alan.

Seth asked, "How often do you pray?"

Your question goes to the heart of the matter, Seth. Unless we pray, we don't know what God wants us to do during life. I pray every day, an hour in the morning and another half-hour in the evening. But all during the day, I also say short prayers asking God to help me do what I need to do.

Elise asked, "How did you find out you wanted to devote your life to God?"

There are a couple of ways, Elise. First, as I mentioned above, I prayed for guidance. I also talked to a priest, and I observed what a priest does and decided

that I wanted to do that.

Maddie asked, "How old were you when you decided to devote your life to God?"

Maddie, when I finally decided I was 21, but I started in the seminary a few years before that.

Erin asked, "Why did you choose to be a priest?"

I became a priest because I believed strongly that God wanted me to be a priest as my way of loving him, helping other people spiritually and serving those in need. Erin, I wanted to serve God and other people because I love the Church.

Olivia asked, "Did you always know you were going to be a priest?"

Even when I was very young, I thought I wanted to do that. But, Olivia, it took a few years for me to be sure that was what God and the Church wanted me to do.

Madison asked, "Did you hear God calling to you to become a bishop?"

Madison, a priest is called to be a bishop by the pope. When Pope John Paul II asked me to become a bishop, I believed God was calling me through him. I was surprised, but I figured it was God's will.

Natalie asked, "Did you have to study or go to a special school to become a bishop?"

Once you are ordained a priest, school is not required to become a bishop, Natalie.

Nick asked, "How long does it take to receive holy orders?"

If you are ready to start in a seminary college, it takes four years of theology after

you graduate from college. If you begin priesthood studies after regular college, it takes six more years. Nick, it takes all this time because there is so much to learn, and because you have to become personally and spiritually mature.

David asked, "How many times can you receive holy orders?"

David, like baptism and confirmation, we can receive holy orders only once. Ordination to the priesthood joins one to Christ in a special way that is unrepeatable.

Kelly asked, "Why did you decide to become a bishop?"

I really didn't make that decision on my own, Kelly. When I was appointed by Pope John Paul II, I was surprised but decided it must be what God wants at this time in my life.

Rachel asked, "When you were little did you want to be a bishop?"

To be honest, Rachel, no. I never would have thought I would be named a bishop by the Holy Father.

Sam asked, "Did it take you more than a year to become an archbishop?"

Sam, after I was ordained a priest, I served 23 years before the Holy Father asked me to become the bishop of Memphis. Then, after five years of serving

as a bishop there, he asked me to become the archbishop of Indianapolis.

Corbin asked, "Once you are better, do you plan to be a cardinal or maybe a pope?"

No, I don't plan on that, Corbin. Nor is it at all likely.

Meehan asked, "Have you ever met the pope?"

I have met both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI several times. Meehan, they were and are very down-to-earth and easy to meet.

I want the rest of you fifth-graders to know I enjoyed your questions, too. I pray that all of you will ask God what he wants of you in life. †

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 May

Seminarians: that they will be faithful to prayer and study, and persevere in their desire to serve God and the Church as priests.

El estudio del Orden de los alumnos de quinto grado genera muchas preguntas

La semana pasada escribí sobre las vocaciones religiosas, haciendo énfasis en el sacerdocio. Esta semana tengo delante de mí una colección de cartas de los alumnos de quinto grado de la escuela St. Simon the Apostle en Indianápolis, quienes están estudiando el Orden Sagrado.

Tienen preguntas que quieren que responda; muchas de ellas se concentran en mí como obispo. Los estudiantes me cuentan que rezan para que me recupere del cáncer. Dos mencionan que sus madres también tienen cáncer.

Alan comienza su carta preguntándome: "¿Cómo se siente?"

Estoy bastante bien y contento porque pronto habré terminado mi tratamiento de quimioterapia. Luego de eso recibiré radiación diariamente durante un mes y empezará mi total recuperación. Gracias por preguntar, Alan.

Seth pregunta: "¿Qué tan frecuentemente reza?"

Tu pregunta toca la esencia del asunto, Seth. A menos que recemos, no sabemos qué quiere Dios que hagamos en la vida. Rezo todos los días: una hora en la mañana y otra media hora en la noche. Pero a lo largo del día también rezo pequeñas oraciones pidiéndole a Dios que me ayude a cumplir con mis deberes.

Elise pregunta: "¿Cómo se dio cuenta de que quería dedicar su vida a Dios?"

De dos formas, Elise. Primero, como mencioné anteriormente, rezaba para obtener orientación. También hablé con un sacerdote; observaba lo que hacían los sacerdotes y decidí que yo quería

hacer eso.

Maddie pregunta: "¿Cuántos años tenía cuando decidió dedicar su vida a Dios?"

Maddie, cuando finalmente me decidí tenía 21 años, pero comencé en el seminario unos cuantos años antes de eso.

Erin pregunta: "¿Por qué eligió ser sacerdote?"

Me hice sacerdote porque creía firmemente que Dios quería que lo fuera como mi forma de amarlo, ayudar espiritualmente a otras personas y servir a los necesitados. Erin, yo quería servir a Dios y a los demás porque amo la Iglesia.

Olivia pregunta: "¿Siempre supo que iba a ser sacerdote?"

Aún desde muy joven pensaba que quería serlo. Pero me tomó varios años, Olivia, para estar seguro de que eso era lo que Dios y la Iglesia querían que hiciera.

Madison pregunta: "¿Escuchó que Dios lo llamaba a convertirse en obispo?"

Madison, el Papa llama a los sacerdotes para que se conviertan en obispos. Cuando el Papa Juan Pablo II me pidió que me convirtiera en obispo creí que era el llamado de Dios por medio de él. Me sorprendió, pero me figuré que era la voluntad de Dios.

Natalie pregunta: "¿Tuvo que estudiar o ir a una escuela especial para convertirse en obispo?"

Una vez que uno se ordena como sacerdote no es necesario ir a la escuela para convertirse en obispo, Natalie.

Nick preguntó: "¿Cuánto tiempo toma recibir el Orden sagrado?"

Cuando se está listo para comenzar en una universidad seminarista, toma cuatro años de teología después de graduarse de la

universidad. Si comienzas los estudios de sacerdocio después de la universidad regular, toma seis años más. Nick: toma todo este tiempo porque hay demasiado que aprender y porque tienes que madurar espiritualmente y como persona.

David preguntó: "¿Cuántas veces se puede recibir el Orden sagrado?"

David, al igual que el bautismo y la confirmación, sólo podemos recibir el Orden sagrado una vez. La ordenación en el sacerdocio nos une a Cristo de una forma especial que es irreplicable.

Kelly pregunta: "¿Por qué decidió convertirse en obispo?"

En realidad yo no tomé esa decisión por mi cuenta, Kelly. Cuando fui nombrado por el Papa Juan Pablo II, estaba sorprendido pero decidí que eso debía ser lo que Dios quería en ese momento de mi vida.

Rachel pregunta: "¿Cuando era pequeño ¿quería ser obispo?"

Para ser honesto, Rachel, no. Nunca habría pensado que el Santo Padre me nombraría obispo.

Sam pregunta: "¿Le tomó más de un año hacerse arzobispo?"

Sam, luego de ordenarme como sacerdote, serví durante 23 años antes de que el Santo Padre me pidiera que me convirtiera en el obispo de Memphis.

Después de servir allí durante cinco años como obispo, me pidió que me convirtiera

en el arzobispo de Indianápolis.

Corbin pregunta: "¿Cuando esté mejor, ¿planea hacerse cardenal o tal vez papa?"

No, no planeo eso, Corbin. Ni tampoco es probable.

Meehan pregunta: "¿Se ha reunido alguna vez con el papa?"

Me he reunido varias veces tanto con el Papa Juan Pablo II, como con el Papa Benedicto XVI. Meehan, son personas muy sensatas y es fácil reunirse con ellos.

A los demás alumnos de quinto grado quiero que sepan que también disfruté sus preguntas. Rezo para que todos ustedes le pregunten a Dios que desea de ustedes en la vida. †

¿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 Indianápolis
1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

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

La intención de vocaciones del Arzobispo Buechlein para mayo

Seminaristas: ¡Que ellos sean fieles a la oración y estudien, y continúen en su deseo de servir a Dios y la Iglesia como sacerdotes!

Events Calendar

May 2
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, Sean Gallagher, reporter and columnist for *The Criterion*, "Seeking Holiness in the Workplace," presenter, \$10 members, \$15 guests. Information: 317-919-5316 or e-mail LumenDei@sbcglobal.net.

St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. **Mass for vocations and blessing of the "Run for Vocations" team running in Mini-Marathon**, 6 p.m. Information: 317-236-1490 or e-mail sburris@archindy.org.

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana (CCRCI), First Friday Mass, teaching, 7 p.m., Mass, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-592-1992 or e-mail ccrci@inholyspirit.org.

May 3
Meridian Hills Country Club, 7099 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. **Second annual Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land's Indiana fundraising dinner**, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Vatican Ambassador to the United States, speaker, 6-10 p.m., \$200 per person. Information: 866-905-3787 or e-mail info@ffhl.org.

May 4
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **Monte Cassino Pilgrimage**, "Mary's Remembrance of Things Past," Benedictine Father Germain Swisshelm, 2 p.m. Information: 800-682-0988 or

e-mail news@saintmeinrad.edu.
MKVS, Divine Mercy and Glorious Cross Center, Rexville, located on 925 South, .8 mile east of 421 South and 12 miles south of Versailles. **Confession, 1 p.m., Mass, 2 p.m.**, on third Sunday holy hour and pitch-in, groups of 10 pray the new Marian Way, 1 p.m., Father Elmer Burwinkel, celebrant. Information: 812-689-3551.

May 6
Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Adult Fellowship, Indy Chapter, informational meeting**, 7-8:30 p.m. Information: 317-876-5425 or e-mail nshoefer@themoreiknow.info.

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., Indianapolis. **"Catholics Returning Home,"** six-week series, 7:30-9 p.m.

Information: 317-291-5376.
May 7
Ritz Charles, 12156 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **"Hats Off to Spring" style show and luncheon**, benefits Little Sisters of the Poor and St. Augustine Home for the Aged, social, 11:30 a.m., lunch, noon, \$35 per person. Reservations: 317-843-0524.

St. Mary Parish, 317 N. New Jersey St., Indianapolis. Solo Seniors, **Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles 50 and over**, single, widowed or divorced, new members welcome, 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-897-1128.

May 8
St. Francis Heart Center, 8111 S. Emerson Ave., Indianapolis. **"Heart Matters: What Every Woman Should Know About Heart Disease,"** Dr. Babu

Doddapaneni, presenter, 6:30 p.m., no charge. Registration: 317-782-4422.

May 10
St. Joseph Church, 312 E. High St., Corydon. **Pentecost Day of Reflection**, Passionist Father Bernie Weber, presenter, light lunch, no charge. Information: 812-738-2742.

St. Roch Parish, Family Center, 3603 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **"Single Seniors" meeting**, 1 p.m., age 50 and over. Information: 317-784-1102.

May 11
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana (CCRCI), Pentecost Mass of Renewal**, 2:30 p.m., wear red clothing. Information: 317-592-1992 or e-mail

ccrci@inholyspirit.org.
St. Barnabas Parish, House of Joseph, 523 Fabyan Road, Indianapolis. **Evening for Divorced/Separated and Widowed Singles of the South Deanery**, 6:15-8 p.m. Information: 317-919-8186 or e-mail indykress@yahoo.com.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **Monte Cassino Pilgrimage**, "Mary's Maternal Journey of Faith," Benedictine Brother Zachary Wilberding, 2 p.m. Information: 800-682-0988 or e-mail news@saintmeinrad.edu.

May 12
St. Francis Hospital, 8111 S. Emerson Ave., Indianapolis. **Workshop for women with cancer**, "Look Good, Feel Better," noon-2 p.m. Registration: 317-782-4422. †

Retreats and Programs

May 2-3
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **"Men's Golf Retreat,"** Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail center@oldenburgosf.com.

May 2-4
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **"Simplicity Retreat Revised: A Way of Life,"** Benedictine Father Noël Mueller, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or e-mail MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mount St. Francis. **"Serenity Retreat,"** Passionist Father Francis Cusack, presenter. Information: 812-923-8817.

May 4
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Pre Cana Program,"** marriage preparation program for engaged couples. Information: 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

May 6
Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mount St. Francis. **"Mary and the Eucharist—New Ark of the Covenant,"** Conventual Franciscan Father Troy Overton, presenter, 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Information: 812-923-8817.

May 9-10
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"The Blessings of Motherhood,"** Benedictine Sister Paula Hagen, presenter, \$75 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima.

May 9-11
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **"The Journey, the Battle and the Marriage: The Three Great Metaphors of the Spiritual Life,"** Benedictine Brother Christian Raab, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or e-mail MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

May 11
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Mother's Day Mass and Brunch,"** Mass, 10 a.m., breakfast,

\$15 per person, children 5 and under no charge. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima.

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

May 16-18
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Tobit Weekend,"** marriage preparation program for engaged couples. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima.

Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mount St. Francis. **"Women's Retreat with Sister Margarita,"** Information: 812-923-8817.

May 18
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Pre Cana Program,"** marriage preparation program for engaged couples. Information: 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"The Gospel of John 101,"** Father Keith Hosey, presenter, 7-9 p.m., free. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima.

May 19
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Day of Reflection, **"The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary,"** Father Keith Hosey, presenter, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$35 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima.

May 30-June 1
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **"Aging Gracefully (Revised): A Retreat for 60s and Over,"** Benedictine Father Noël Mueller, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or e-mail MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

May 31
Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center, 8210 W. State Road 48, Bloomington. **Vocation retreat for young men, "The Call to the Religious Life in Priesthood,"** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-825-4742 or e-mail ffivocations@bluemarble.net.

June 6-8
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Tobit Weekend,"** marriage preparation program for engaged couples. Information: 317-317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima.

June 8
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Pre Cana Program,"** marriage preparation program for engaged couples. Information: 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

June 9-11
Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Sixth annual **"Garden Retreat: Finding Your Secret Garden,"** 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$45 per person includes breakfast, lunch and dessert. Information: 317-788-7581 or e-mail benedictinn@benedictinn.org.

June 13-15
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **"When Joy Abounds,"** Benedictine Father Noël Mueller, presenter.

Information: 800-581-6905 or e-mail MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

June 18
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Silent non-guided reflection day**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$25 per person includes breakfast and lunch. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima.

June 20-22
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **"The Church after Vatican II: Discover the Buried Treasure,"** Benedictine Father Jeremy King and Benedictine Father Benet Amato, presenters. Information: 800-581-6905 or e-mail MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

June 22-28
Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **"A Monastic Community Retreat: Living the Benedictine Spirit in our World—Values, Relationships and Prayer,"** Father Noah Casey, presenter, \$425 per person, \$50 fee for registration due June 13. Information: 317-788-7581 or e-mail benedictinn@benedictinn.org. †

Christian unity prayer services to be held in Indianapolis

The Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis is sponsoring a week of prayer for Christian unity in early May during the days leading up to Pentecost.

Prayer services will be held each night from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on May 5-9 at churches in Indianapolis.

Each prayer service will focus on different issues around which Christians from various traditions can find common ground.

On May 5, the prayer service will focus on education, educators and students, and take place at Covenant Christian Church, 5640 Cooper Road, in Indianapolis.

On May 6, families and at-risk children and youths will be highlighted during the

prayer service at the Church of Acts, 3740 S. Dearborn St., in Indianapolis.

On May 7, the prayer service will focus on poverty and take place at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, 963 N. Girls School Road, in Indianapolis.

On May 8, prayers about peacemaking will be offered during a service at St. George Orthodox Church, 4020 N. Sherman Ave., in Indianapolis.

The services will culminate on May 9 with a prayer service focusing on Christian unity at St. Mary Church, 317 N. New Jersey St., in Indianapolis.

For more information about the week of prayer for Christian unity, call 317-926-5371 or send an e-mail to churches@churchfederationindy.org. †



Catholic chaplains' conference

Bishop Randolph Calvo of Reno, Nev., episcopal liaison to the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, greets newly certified chaplains and clinical pastoral education supervisors during a Mass as part of the April 5-8 conference held in Indianapolis. Catholic chaplains from throughout the U.S. formed the choir led by Carey Landry, a chaplain at St. Vincent-Carmel Hospital in Carmel, Ind., for conference liturgies.

Former St. Barnabas pastor to celebrate 50th anniversary

Retired Father Joseph McNally will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination on May 3 at St. Barnabas Parish, 8300 Rahke Road, in Indianapolis.



Father McNally served as pastor of St. Barnabas Parish from 1989 until his retirement in 2002.

The festivities will begin at 5 p.m. with Mass at the parish church. A reception will follow at

Sciarras Hall. Since the celebration will have an

Irish theme, people are encouraged to wear green.

People who are unable to come but would like to honor Father McNally can send him a card at 219 E. Eagle Drive, Nineveh, IN 46164. †

Correction

In the April 25 issue of *The Criterion*, the date for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Father Harold Ripperger's priestly ordination was incorrectly listed as May 18. His anniversary celebration is scheduled on May 17. †

Teenager creates commemorative DVD for parish's 150th anniversary

By John Shaughnessy

When they hear the story of what 17-year-old Ben Doll has done for his parish, nearly everyone views it as a remarkable example of the way many teenagers today use their gifts for their faith.

Just don't expect that reaction from Ben.

Blessed with a sharp sense of humor, Ben uses that approach to downplay anything special he has done. Instead of emphasizing his story, he prefers to focus on the stories he captured and recorded while creating a tribute to a faith community that has lasted 150 years.

The reality is that both sides of the story are special.

Like most American teenagers, Ben lives in an age where cell phones and computers are considered to be necessary and vital parts of life.

"Walking around with your cell phone, you're never separated from the world," says Ben, a senior at Batesville High School.

Yet, beginning in late 2006, Ben was asked to help with a project intended to make a deeper connection—a connection that would cross time and generations for a heartfelt story of faith.

In 2006, St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Morris in the Batesville Deanery celebrated its 150th anniversary. As part of the celebration, parish leaders wanted to create a DVD that would capture and preserve the history of the parish.

It was an effort that required a range of responsibilities, from copying photos from the parish's past to recording interviews with many of the older members of the parish.

Parishioners turned to Ben, a teenager known for his talents in computer technology. He completed the project earlier this year.

"He accepted a huge responsibility and he never disappointed us," says Joanne Schrimpf, the chairperson for the 150th anniversary celebration of the parish. "Ben scheduled multiple interviews with parishioners. He was gathering a unique and clear picture of Catholic Indiana history as told to him by his fellow Hoosiers."

He also edited the photos and videos, put them to music and worked with computer companies to get the DVD created.

"He was a one-man production team, acting as producer, director, editor, writer and overall equipment lugger," Schrimpf says.

Ben just describes the whole experience as "cool"—a great way to hear stories from a world that he has never known.

In his interviews with the oldest members of the parish, Ben learned that they had grown up in a time when a telephone operator had to place a phone call for people. He also learned that they lived in a time when huge blocks of ice were used to refrigerate food.

Their insights into their faith experience also

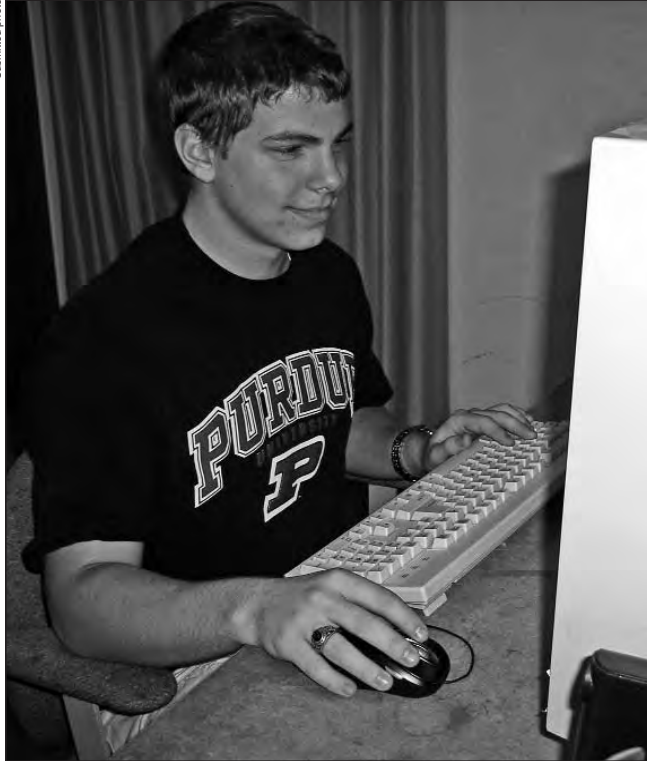
intrigued him. They told him about a time when Mass was regularly celebrated in Latin, when Catholic schools were led by religious sisters, when faith connected people at every turn in their lives.

"Faith seemed to be a larger part of their lives back then," Ben says. "It was the focus of their lives. Everything happened at the church. If someone's house burned down, if someone needed help in the fields, people helped each other out. They didn't hire a contractor.

"They talked about the church picnic. And how everyone dressed in their Sunday best when they went to church. And no one walked out of Mass after Communion."

Ben's mother, Carolyn Doll, noticed the impact the project had on her son.

"He'd talk about the people and what they said and did," she recalls. "You know how you know people in your parish. You talk to



Ben Doll, a member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Morris, spent plenty of time at his computer to produce a DVD marking the parish's 150th anniversary.

them, but you don't hear their stories of growing up. It was wonderful for him. When he

got to interview these people, he'd come home and say, 'Mom, this is so cool.'"

Ben especially remembers talking to some of the Sisters of St. Francis who taught at the parish school.

"They talked about how they enjoyed being at St. Anthony's, how they were inspired by God to do his work," he says.

Ben shares that same sense of faith.

"Everything comes from God," he says. "I think people are forgetting that today. They're forgetting who gave them their gifts. That's where I get my ability for technology. The biggest thing is to keep God in your mind."

He also credits the faith influence of his parents, Jake and Carolyn Doll. They set the example for putting their faith into action. He tries to follow it.

"I serve at Mass. I help at the festival. I help whatever way I can," says Ben, the oldest of six children. "We scraped sidewalks when there was ice. It's the things that keep a parish running."

As for the DVD, it runs

2 ½ hours long, offering a view of a small parish in a small town that has left a large impact on its parishioners, past and present. Every parishioner has received a free copy.

Schrimpf says Ben "has made a wonderful contribution to the preservation of the American Catholic experience."

Ben prefers to give the credit to all the people who have contributed to the faith life of the parish for 150 years and counting.

"We wouldn't have anything if it wasn't for the hard work of the people from our past," he says. "We think it's important to preserve this piece of history. We're looking back 150 years. It's something we want to be around forever."

(The DVD about the history of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Morris costs \$8. Those interested in purchasing a DVD should call the parish office at 812-934-6218.) †

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ST. FRANCIS CANCER CARE SERVICES

White House summit examines plight of urban, faith-based schools

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Educators, school lobbyists, and business and government representatives gathered at a White House summit on April 24 to examine ways to reverse the trend of faith-based schools being closed in U.S. cities.

Although the term “faith-based schools” was used throughout the summit on a variety of religious schools were present, the majority of attendees represented Catholic schools, and many of the presentations focused on the benefit these schools provide, the reality of their closing and steps already taken to keep them open.

The White House Summit on Inner-City Children and Faith-Based Schools included several panel discussions and an address by President George W. Bush, who told the group of about 250 participants at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington that faith-based schools in America’s cities are “a critical national asset.”

“We have an interest in the health of these institutions,” the president said, noting that he hoped the summit would highlight the problem and let people know “it’s in the country’s interest” to help these schools stay open.

According to the National Catholic Educational Association, enrollment in Catholic elementary schools has dropped 15 percent nationwide since 2001-02, and more than 212 U.S. Catholic schools were closed or consolidated during the 2006-07 school year. White House officials noted that from 2000 to 2006, nearly 1,200 inner-city faith-based schools closed, displacing about 425,000 students.

In his half-hour address, the president outlined ways that the federal and local governments could help faith-based schools, and also stressed the need for community and business support.

He mentioned a program that he proposed in his State of the Union address in January that would provide \$300 million in scholarships to “children trapped in failing public schools.”

Bush said the program, called Pell Grants for Kids, would be similar to grants offered to college students. He stressed the importance of continuing the federally funded school choice program in Washington, which requires reauthorization by Congress in 2009. The president also

called attention to tax credits, particularly Pennsylvania’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit, a program in which businesses can contribute to school scholarship programs for low-income students.

The president also highlighted innovative Catholic school programs already in place, such as Cristo Rey schools, which provide a work-study program where high school students help pay their tuition; Jubilee Schools in Memphis, Tenn., where eight Catholic schools that had been closed have recently reopened; and the University of Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education, known as ACE, which places college graduates as volunteer teachers in Catholic schools.

At panel discussions later in the day, representatives from these programs said they were glad to get recognition and further explained the work their programs have done.

When asked by a moderator how they would explain their success, Mary McDonald, superintendent of Catholic schools in the Memphis Diocese, said donors came forward to help Catholic schools in Memphis because they remembered what Catholic schools had done years ago to help children in cities and they “want them to do it again.”

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis continues to serve the educational needs of children in the center-city of Indianapolis through the six schools that make up the Mother Theodore Catholic Academies (MTCA): Central Catholic School, Holy Angels School, Holy Cross Central School, St. Andrew & St. Rita Catholic Academy, St. Anthony School and St. Philip Neri School.

Connie Zittman, director of the MTCA, attended the White House summit. Zittman said she came away from the summit encouraged because both Bush administration and congressional leaders “understand the struggle that we are in, not just here but across the United States, to remain in



President George W. Bush delivers remarks during a White House summit on inner-city education and faith-based schools on April 24 at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington.

urban areas,” and are “aware and have done extensive research into the success that we have had with our children in the urban setting.”

B.J. Cassin, founder and chairman of the Cassin Educational Initiative Foundation, a major supporter of Cristo Rey schools, noted that there is “a reservoir of people” who are willing and “ready to invest” in schools that help students in inner cities.

“Every school has a story behind it,” he said of the 19 schools that are currently part of the Cristo Rey Network, including Providence Cristo Rey High School in Indianapolis, re-emphasizing the “wellspring of people” supporting the endeavor.

While some focused on the need to tap into other funds either through businesses or private philanthropists, Holy Cross Father Timothy Scully, founder of Notre Dame’s ACE program, likened the work of finding creative alternatives to keep Catholic schools open to a spiritual quest.

“The Holy Spirit will not be thwarted,” he said to applause. “People will always be hungry for God.” †

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New parish hall is dream come true in Harrison County

By Patricia Happel Cornwell
Special to *The Criterion*

CORYDON—On April 13, a dream of two decades became reality during a groundbreaking ceremony at St. Joseph Church in Corydon. A long-awaited parish hall is finally being built to serve the Harrison County tri-parish Catholic community.

Despite the cold and rain, 200 people were on hand to see the first symbolic shovelfuls of dirt turned. Father Daniel Atkins, pastor, said completion is expected by the end of 2008.

“We have witnessed major growth in our parish in the past five years,” said Joe Shireman, parish hall project manager. “Our families today are more active than ever in fellowship and faith-sharing.”

The tri-parish includes 388 families at St. Joseph, and 75 families each at St. Peter Parish in Harrison County and Most Precious Blood Parish in New Middletown, missions of St. Joseph Parish since 1916.

The new building will accommodate 40 ministries from Bible study groups, funeral meals and committee meetings to religious education, youth ministry and school activities. Active ministries have more than tripled in the tri-parish in recent years. Most evenings find several groups meeting, some seated at tables in the church narthex for lack of space.

In 1896, St. Joseph’s first church was erected at the corner of East High and Mulberry streets in Corydon. The small clapboard structure has served as a meeting room and school cafeteria since St. Joseph’s modern brick church was built in 1986. The old church will be demolished when the hall is completed.

When the present church was dedicated, the need for a hall was already being considered. Finally, in December 2004, a planning group was formed. The committee estimated that

the project would cost \$1.4 million.

“Unfortunately,” Shireman said, “inflation and major increases in the costs of copper, steel and other building commodities have pushed our project total to \$1,812,000. However, the decision has been made not to postpone the project any longer.”

In addition to individual contributions, funds were raised through spaghetti dinners, style shows, Mardi Gras lip-sync shows, card tournaments, a book sale and a golf tournament.

Ironically, most of these events had to be held in other facilities in Corydon and Lanesville because of the lack of space at St. Joseph. For several years, even luncheons following funerals at St. Joseph have been held at a Methodist church a mile away.

Mike Bennett, a member of the fundraising committee, told the jubilant crowd, “Turn to the person next to you and thank them because everyone here made this happen.”

Parishioners’ sacrificial giving has been sufficient to finish the building, but they need to raise \$300,000 more for new kitchen equipment, bleachers and an elevator. The hall will have four multipurpose meeting rooms with retractable walls, a kitchen, storage areas, handicap-accessible restrooms and a gymnasium.

The new facility will connect the parish school and church. St. Joseph School principal Heidi Imberi said, “The children are excited because now they will be able to go to church or to lunch without wearing coats.”

Joining Father Atkins on a rainy Sunday to turn the first clumps of sod were Shireman, Bennett, Imberi, parish finance chairman Ed Hoehn, parish council president Teresa King, fundraising committee member Ron Casabella and architect Larry Timperman.

Father Atkins has returned to



St. Joseph parishioners join Father Daniel Atkins, pastor, at the groundbreaking for a long-awaited parish hall in Corydon on April 13. The group who broke ground included project manager Joe Shireman, left; architect Larry Timperman (hidden); fundraising committee members Ron Casabella and Mike Bennett; Father Atkins; parish finance chairman Ed Hoehn; parish council president Teresa King; and Heidi Imberi, the principal of St. Joseph School.

Guadalajara, Mexico, where he is studying Spanish and serving as a sacramental minister until July.

One parishioner told him as he left, “When you get home, you won’t recognize this place!” †

Pope praises Vatican prayer project to encourage priests and vocations

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI has praised a Vatican initiative to encourage eucharistic adoration for the holiness of priests, and recruit “spiritual mothers” to pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. In an undated letter sent to the Vatican’s Congregation for Clergy, which is promoting the initiative, the pope said he is “grateful for the thoughtful gesture” and for suggestions the congregation has put forward.

In the letter, posted on the congregation’s Web site, the pope said he hoped “the love and devotion to the eucharistic Jesus and devotion to Mary ... may give new fervor” to the life and apostolate of priests.

The clergy congregation released to journalists on April 22 a letter addressed to the world’s priests from Cardinal Claudio Hummes, congregation prefect, and Archbishop Mauro Piacenza, congregation secretary. The letter details the intentions of the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests on May 30 as well as some prayers that priests have been invited to say.

The project, launched on Dec. 8, 2007, aims to highlight the link between the Eucharist and the priesthood as well as Mary’s special role as the mother of every priest.

Cardinal Hummes and Archbishop Piacenza had said that as part of a wider effort to address the challenges which priests are facing today, they wanted to

promote perpetual eucharistic adoration “for the reparation of faults and sanctification of priests.”

That includes the spiritual reparation for the damage caused by the sexual abuse of children by priests and to uphold the dignity of the victims, the cardinal said in a Jan. 4 interview with the Vatican newspaper, *L’Osservatore Romano*.

One of the prayers released in mid-April invokes God’s support so that the priest’s commitment to celibacy is “a joyful and happy affirmation and a total dedication of myself to others.”

Another prayer calls on Jesus, “the most powerful doctor of souls,” for healing, “so that I may not fall back into evil, that I may flee from every sin” and “preserve my chastity unstained.”

A daily prayer asks sinning priests to show remorse and “weep bitterly over the evil we have done.”

Catholics are asked to pray for priests, that they may speak God’s words, be courageous in service and do good for all people.

The Vatican’s clergy office emphasized the importance of prayer and eucharistic adoration in being able to live in “full configuration to Christ.

“We cannot live, we cannot look at the truth about ourselves without letting ourselves be looked at and generated by Christ in daily eucharistic adoration,” said the letter.

The letter highlighted Mary’s special role as the mother of every priest and said priests “cannot do without a spiritual motherhood for our priestly life.”

It called on the support of all Catholics, and encouraged married, single and consecrated women to become “spiritual mothers” and pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. †



Pope Benedict XVI



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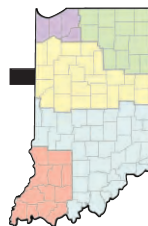
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Architectural plans are unveiled for St. John Vianney Parish in Fishers

By Caroline B. Mooney
The Catholic Moment

FISHERS—If prayers are answered, 109 acres that are now an empty field will become home to a magnificent church and campus complex over the next 20 years.

St. John Vianney Parish, established in 2005, unveiled architectural plans at an evening celebrating the parish vision on April 19.

A medieval-style church building and parish life center joined by cloistered walkways, a youth center, pre-kindergarten through grade-eight school, a high school, rectory, convent and athletic complex are part of the plans revealed to 260 parishioners and supporters of the parish. The site is at State Road 238 and 126th Street in Fishers.

"I'm excited," said Al Atherton, a founding member of the parish. "This is a big milestone. The plans look great, like a lot of Catholic churches [that] I remember from when I was young."

When St. John Vianney Parish was established, people met in homes for weekday and Sunday Masses. The parish moved into a converted office building at 14500 E. 136th St. in December 2005, and Father Brian Dudzinski was formally installed as pastor on Jan. 8, 2006. There are 170 families currently registered.

At the celebration, Father Dudzinski said the parish vision is to do God's will.

"We want to build God's kingdom with God's Church," he said. "We started the campaign a year ago, and the building committee has met every two weeks for the last year.

"The architects have taken what the building committee said and all has been done through prayer and hard work," Father Dudzinski said. "We want to give honor and glory to God, and we want God to be proud. ... It's not really the building, it's the people, but the building will attract the people and be a true place of devotion, prayer and worship."

He said the time frame of the building plans is flexible and contingent on money and on the people. Plans are to first build a parish life center that will provide both a worship space and offices, and can accommodate 500 to 900 people at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million.

"We are ready to grow by leaps and bounds," Father Dudzinski said. "In the fall, we will have a kickoff campaign for the parish life center and our youth building.

... This is not just a pipe dream. It's a matter of being open and patient. It will take one to three years to raise the money and build the parish life center; the church goal is five to seven years. If we get the money sooner, it will help to facilitate the process."

Architects Mike Montgomery and Stuart Godfrey, both of K.R. Montgomery and Associates, Inc., an architecture and interior design firm from Anderson, spoke about the planning process.

"We had town hall meetings called 'Postcards from the Future,' on two different occasions," Montgomery said. "Parishioners were asked to think about visiting the parish for the first time, and then were to write down what they saw. All those ideas were grouped and looked at in the planning process."

"I have really been inspired by Father Dudzinski's faith, passion and commitment," Godfrey said. "The Catholic identity and presence will be strong as you enter the campus. The location of the church needs to be highly visible and reinforces the idea of entering into a state of worship. Plans include walkways with Stations of the Cross that will terminate into a grotto. We want to create an opportunity to have moments of reflection, spiritual thought and prayer."

Ethan Anthony of HDB/Cram & Ferguson, an architectural company from Boston, designed the proposed 1,500-seat church.

"The site plan concentrates on the church, it is the center around which everything else is formed," Anthony said. "The parish life center and the church will be connected by cloistered walkways that go back to early monastic architecture. The church design is in a cruciform, or cross shape, like that used during the medieval period. As you enter into the church, you are entering into the body of Christ."

The first time that Anthony went to the site of the new church with Father Dudzinski, "there was still a lot of corn there. Father Dudzinski pointed and said, 'There's where I want the church.' He wants to be sure that as you drive in from [State Road 238], the first thing you see is the church.

"We want a very high elevation—55-foot high vaulted ceilings will allow thoughts to go upward to heaven," Anthony said. "The traditional idea of the front of a church is a gate to heaven, and the church will have a sense of elevated space, a sense of the exalted."

The church plans include a circle of devotional chapels, an adoration chapel, a balcony and a lower level with a walkout to a lake, meeting spaces and a kitchen.



Parishioners Felix and Laurel Gorney look over the models unveiled for St. John Vianney Parish in Fishers on April 19. "You couldn't ask for more in a church," Felix Gorney said of the plans.

Parishioner and building committee member Al Solomito said the plans started with a good idea, "built around how we want to worship. We have a blessing in the architects—they are good Catholic architects. We knew what we wanted and it's been nice to talk to someone with a similar vision who can put it on paper. As Mother Angelica likes to say, 'If we have faith, the finances will come. If we are good stewards of our finances, and if it's God's will, it will come.'"

His wife, Michelle Solomito, saw the plans for the first time and thought they were amazing.

"I met Father about 10 years ago, and when he was moved to the new parish it was a natural progression for us to join—it was perfect," she said. "With the friendship we had before with him before we had him as a pastor, we have been blessed to follow him. We are blessed, too, that Bishop [William G.] Higi had the foresight to acquire this land before the parish was established. The diocese has been very helpful."

"I knew about Father [Brian Dudzinski] from following stories about him in *The Catholic Moment*," said parishioner Mary Beth Atherton. "I was excited when he came [as associate pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Carmel]. He seemed very holy and spiritual. We followed him when the new parish started, and had Sunday Masses in our home. The most we had was about 55 people. I still remember where the altar was."

Felix and Laurel Gorney became parishioners of St. John Vianney because they wanted to support Father Dudzinski at his new parish.

"Certainly, if we're going to see the culmination of the plans, this will be one of the most beautiful churches built in 20 years," Felix said. "The layout and design is phenomenal. You couldn't ask for more in a church—I hope it gets built like this." †

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Caring for the Earth

Serve God, Save the Planet author calls for action

By Mary Ann Wyand

If Jesus asked you to help take better care of the precious gifts of God's creation, what would you say to the Lord?

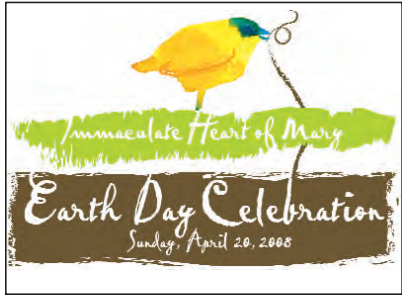


Illustration by Pam Lesley

How would you change your lifestyle to honor his request? Through Scripture, Christ continually calls people to protect and preserve the Earth's fragile natural resources, Dr. J. Matthew

Sleeth explained during an Earth Day program on April 20 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis.

Consider Psalm 24, verse 1: "The earth is the Lord's and all it holds."

Or the Apostle's Creed, written in the first century, which proclaims, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth."

Or the words of St. John of Damascus (675-749), who wrote in his *Treatise* that, "The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God."

See related story, page 18.

When his concern about the deteriorating environment overwhelmed him, Sleeth turned to the wisdom of Scripture for advice after he found a Gideon Bible while working at a hospital. The Gospels convinced the former emergency room physician and his family to courageously change their lives.

He told the hospital administrator that he was resigning as director of the emergency department and chief of the medical staff in order to "serve God and save the planet."

The Sleeth family sold their huge home on the coast of Maine, gave away many of their possessions and moved into a much smaller, solar-powered house in Wilmore, Ky.

The author of *Serve God, Save the Planet—A Christian Call to Action*, which is printed on 100 percent post-consumer paper, said he is sleeping better now that he is happily working to solve problems even though the planet is still dying.

Instead of just worrying about the environment, Sleeth said, he and his wife, Nancy, and their children, Clark and Emma, are doing positive things to care for the Earth and educate others about the critical need to protect its natural resources.

"Seeing a need and acting to meet it is the central theme of this book," Sleeth explained in his Earth Day talk mixed with sober facts and humorous anecdotes.

"The Earth is our ship, an ark for everything that lives," he wrote in his book. "It is the only vessel available to carry humans through the ocean of space, and it is rapidly becoming unseaworthy. God created the world to sustain all living creatures. ... He designed this elegant system to function naturally, but our ark of life is changing rapidly."

Our grandparents could drink water from a stream or lake without concern, Sleeth noted, and "the bounty of nature seemed inexhaustible."

Now, however, the water in rivers and lakes harbors dioxin and fish are contaminated with mercury, he wrote. The air we breathe is polluted, and there is an alarming increase in the number of people who are diagnosed with asthma and a variety of cancers.

"Our generation consumes five times more energy than my grandfather's," he noted in the book. "... How can I live a more godly, equitable and meaningful life? How can I help people today and in the future? How can I be less materialistic? How can I live a more charitable life? ... How can I become a better steward of nature?"

The Sleeth family answered those questions by moving into an energy-efficient home the size of their former garage, and significantly cutting their energy usage to lower their "carbon footprint" and reduce damage to the planet.

"Because of these changes, we have more time for God," he wrote. "... We have found his Word to be true. He has poured blessings and opportunities upon us. When we stopped living a life dedicated to consumerism, our cup began to run over. We have seen miracles. Today I preach about God and his creation. ... The Earth was designed to sustain every generation's needs, not to be plundered in an attempt to meet one generation's wants."

We can all help save the Earth's resources, Sleeth told Immaculate Heart of Mary parishioners, by educating ourselves about stewardship of the Earth and making dramatic changes in our daily lifestyle as consumers.

Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas read Sleeth's book then his family made environmental changes in their lives. The senator also invited Sleeth to speak on Capitol Hill.

"There's no blue pike in the Great Lakes, and that was the most numerous fish," Sleeth lamented. "Every year, we cut down an area of forest the size of Washington state. ... The Amazon [rain forest] is being destroyed. ... When I began [practicing] medicine, one in 19 women in the United States died of breast cancer. ... Now it's one in six [women]."

Sleeth said he "was really in turmoil" and "kept thinking about how the world is dying, how there is evil in the world." Then he "came to believe that only the Gospel, only Christ, had the answer to this ... scary problem."



Photo by Mary Ann Wyand

Dr. J. Matthew Sleeth of Wilmore, Ky., discusses ways to protect the environment during an Earth Day program on April 20 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis. He describes himself as an evangelical environmentalist. His daughter, Emma, is the author of *It's Not Easy Being Green—One Student's Guide to Serving God and Saving the Planet*.

Use Christ as the model for everything you do, he advised the gathering, and take a careful accounting of all the resources that you use in daily life.

"To believe in Christ is to act like Christ," Sleeth said. "... Mahatma Gandhi rewrote Matthew 7, verse 1, 'Judge not lest you be judged,' as 'Be the change you wish to see in the world.' That's sound advice for us all."

Read the Bible with a new focus on its environmental statements, Sleeth said, and you will be surprised.

"The tree of life is quite aptly named," he said. "No trees, no oxygen, no life. ... Trees are mentioned in the Bible more than any living thing other than people. ... Christ is mentioned in the Bible, in Isaiah, [as] 'a tender shoot that grows up.' ... He dies on a tree. ... When Christ is resurrected, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb and mistakes Christ as a gardener. This is not a mistake. He is a gardener. ... Christians, of all people, should be tree-huggers."

In his homily during the Mass before the Earth Day program, Father Robert Sims, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, urged parishioners to "do more to treasure the beauty of God's creation. ... If all of us make ... positive choices to cherish that creation, then the ripple effect does make a difference. ... The choices that we make can change the world."

(To order Dr. J. Matthew Sleeth's book or Emma Sleeth's book, log on to www.servegodssavetheplanet.org.) †

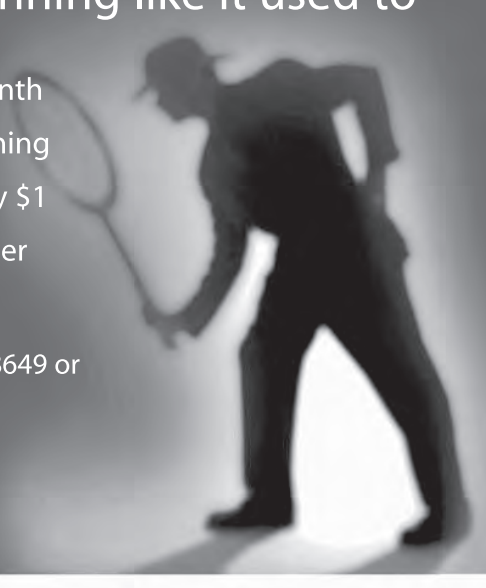


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Mooresville specialty hospital expands to full-service facility

Criterion staff report

People who travel on State Road 67 in Morgan County have noticed a significant change in the appearance of St. Francis Hospital-Mooresville over the past two years.

The hospital, originally known as a renowned specialty hospital, is completing the transition to a full-service community hospital with its largest-ever campus expansion.

The expanded facility opened to patients on April 21. Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general, and Father John Mannion, St. Francis Health Services' director of spiritual care service, assisted with the blessing and dedication ceremony on April 16.

As part of the \$42 million expansion, the hospital added a 34-bed orthopedic inpatient unit, a 26-bed adult medical-surgical inpatient unit, an eight-bed intensive care unit, six new operating rooms, a new laboratory and an on-site office for Indiana Heart Physicians for expanded cardiac services.

The hospital campus has grown from 258,000 square feet to nearly 400,000 square feet with this expansion.

"The expansion is the continuation of an eight-year investment in this hospital to address the health care needs of the growing northern Morgan, Hendricks and southwestern Marion counties," said Robert Brody, president and chief executive officer of St. Francis Hospital and Health Centers.

"Our goal with this expansion is to offer the best health care available right in this community," Brody said, "so the large number of area residents who have been leaving Morgan County to receive medical services get the care they need close to home."

The new orthopedic and adult inpatient nursing units offer private patient rooms, modern conveniences and the latest technology for patients and the medical team.

Physicians and medical staff members have access to wireless communication technology and bedside charting for improved caregiver communication and efficiency. Patient care stations are located outside patient rooms in addition to centralized nursing stations, enabling physicians and nurses to perform their responsibilities closer to the patient.

The hospital's current inpatient units will be converted into a convent for the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration.



Several St. Francis Hospital officials cut a ribbon on April 16 to officially open the expanded St. Francis Hospital-Mooresville in Mooresville. They are, from left, Keith Jewell, chief operating officer of St. Francis Hospital and Health Centers; Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration Jane Marie Klein, chairperson of the Sisters of St. Francis Health Services Inc. board of trustees, and Angela Mellady, her order's provincial superior; Dr. John Meding, medical staff president of St. Francis Hospital-Mooresville; Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Mediatrix Nies, the order's general superior; and Robert Brody, president and chief executive officer of St. Francis Hospital and Health Centers in Beech Grove, Indianapolis and Mooresville.

The building that formerly housed the hospital's operating rooms will be demolished this summer to create additional parking for the new medical office building under construction.

Six new surgery suites offer the newest developments in surgical technology, including a high-tech video and photography system in every operating room. The system is used for viewing X-rays during surgery; printing or copying photos to a CD, flash drive or patient chart for later reference; and teaching demonstrations as well as information-sharing with other physicians.

The operating rooms are equipped with laminar airflow

and ultraviolet light technology for sterilization, which is critical in preventing infection.

A major piece of the hospital's expansion is the development of an emergency department scheduled to open in October 2008.

"We realize community members are eagerly awaiting the opening of our emergency department later this year," said Keith Jewell, senior vice president and chief operating officer of St. Francis Hospital and Health Centers. "When St. Francis Hospital-Mooresville's emergency department opens later this year, it will provide community members [with] high-quality emergency care close to home as well as peace of mind." †

Nursing Home Section

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Volunteers honor women in nursing homes one flower at a time

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (CNS)—Maria Meneses has a vision, but in order to see it through she needs help.

The vision: to deliver a rose to all female patients in nursing homes on Mother's Day. Her inspiration came from a desire to pay tribute to her late mother, Eneyda Meneses, who cared for a sick aunt in a nursing home for many years.

"I don't have a mom. How else can I celebrate?" said Meneses, a member of St. Patrick Parish in Miami Beach, who made an Emmaus retreat eight years ago.

One of the central themes of the retreat is service to others, and Meneses said that after she made her retreat she yearned to give something back to Jesus as a small token of thanks.

Like her favorite saint, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, also known as the Little Flower, "We change the world a little bit at a time," Meneses said. "A little flower makes a big difference because it touches somebody's life."

Meneses has been delivering flowers to a nursing home near her home for the past three years. She wants to inspire others to join in her effort. She hopes that others will agree that delivering flowers to forgotten moms one day a year is an ideal form of service.

"We need to be light-bearers," she said. "What a wonderful feeling to see Christ's light in others."

"People who give have a sense of joy which is unparalleled—what a gift and a special grace that is," said Meneses.

She said the world needs more random acts of kindness, anything from a simple smile to holding a door or allowing someone the right of way when you drive. Or giving a flower to a woman confined to a nursing home, many of whom are very lonely.

"I can't tell you the number of patients who remember me each year when I visit. They smile because they feel appreciated and loved. The world needs more love," Meneses said.

While no one needs to survive traumatic surgery to live

life with a sense of purpose, Meneses admits that a brush with death changed her outlook. After going through spinal-cord surgery at age 22 and emergency colon surgery more recently, she is acutely aware of her own mortality.

"I live [life] urgently and with purpose," she said. "I've always wanted to make a difference in the world, even if it is in some small way. So if I can get anyone ... to help out, that would be fantastic. More is better."

One good friend and fellow Emmaus participant, Juan Llarena, has been assisting Meneses with the purchase, preparation and distribution of flowers each year. Several women also help her distribute the roses each year.

"I've had mothers come out with their daughters, and to have that participation is beautiful to see," Meneses said.

She knows a vendor who sells the roses for about \$8 per dozen so the investment is minimal. The only labor involved is removing the thorns from the roses to make sure they don't prick anyone, and perhaps tying a ribbon around them.

Meneses cites the words of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta to express her feelings: "We will be your hands. We will be your feet. We will run this race for the least of these—the unwanted, the unloved. They are Jesus in disguise." †



Maria Meneses, a member of St. Patrick Parish in Miami Beach, Fla., poses at a Miami Beach flower shop on April 15. Meneses started delivering flowers to women in a nursing home on Mother's Day three years ago as a tribute to her late mother and out of a desire to serve others.

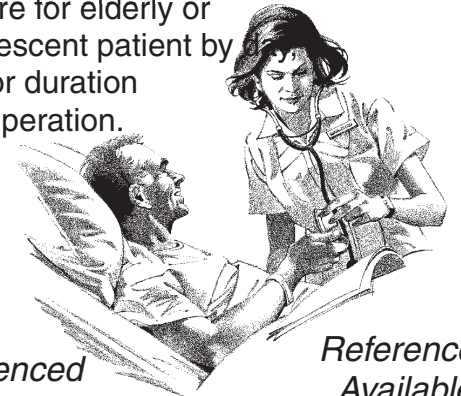
'We change the world a little bit at a time. A little flower makes a big difference because it touches somebody's life.'

—Maria Meneses

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On June 28, history will be made at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis when 25 men from central and southern Indiana will become the first permanent deacons ordained for the Archdiocese of

Indianapolis.

This week's issue of *The Criterion* continues a series of profiles of these men that will run in the weeks leading up to that important day. †

Bill Jones



Age: 57
Spouse: May
Home Parish: St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus
Occupation: Assistant General Manager, Mariah Foods

Who are the important role models in your life of faith?

My wife, May; my spiritual director, Father Larry Voelker; Father Clem Davis, the pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus; Kathy Davis-Shanks, St. Bartholomew Parish's director of religious education; the members of the parish's Rite of Christian Initiation team; and the members of my small Church community.

What are your favorite Scripture verses, prayers and devotions?

My favorite prayers are the Prayer of St. Francis and the Serenity Prayer. My favorite Scripture would be the Letters of St. Paul, and my favorite devotions or liturgies would be all the Holy Week services and the Easter Vigil.

Deacons often minister to others in the workplace. How have you experienced that already, and how do you anticipate doing that in the future?

By being more aware of the feelings and attitudes of all the employees, I

have become a better listener and more worried about the welfare of all the employees as individuals, not just the corporate outlook on things. It's more than just dollars and cents; it's about how we treat each other and how we conduct our business. I hope to be able to keep promoting a true sense of morality and justice in our business world.

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a deacon?

God has blessed me with so much in my life: my family, my faith, my friends and my sobriety. I feel God has called me to his service to help spread a message of love, hope, healing and reconciliation to all his children. I feel that answering God's call to becoming a deacon is who God has created me to be.

How will being ordained a deacon have an impact on your life and family?

It will have a positive impact in that it will be another step in our journey to God. The formation process has already brought us closer to God as a family, and united us on a more spiritual basis. †

Age: 54

Spouse: Susan

Home Parish: St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg

Occupation: Truck Driver



Dan Collier

Who are the important role models in your life of faith?

The important role models in my life have been my parents, Frank and Joan Collier; the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods; a former pastor in my high school days, Father Charles Noll; and, in the past five years, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein.

What are your favorite Scripture verses, prayers and devotions?

One of my favorite Bible passages is from Romans 12:3-6. This passage talks about how we are many parts in one body. I carry a prayer card that states we only pass through this life once, and ask God to decide how he wants to use me. As deacons, we are called to develop a prayer life centered around the Liturgy of the Hours. I have found it is a great way to start and end the day.

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a deacon?

I feel that God is calling me to be a deacon because so many people have stated that they think I would make a good deacon. Through all the interviews and classes we have been through, I just feel the Holy Spirit working

in me to do this. I have a life of service to my community. My Church and my family are behind me. And service as a deacon will be a continuation of all my previous experiences. It is something I pray about all the time.

How will being ordained a deacon have an impact on your life and family?

As a deacon, I feel my life will be changed forever because I will be held out as a man of the Church, the Church that I grew up with and am so proud to have served. I look forward to sharing this love of the Church and to preaching on the teachings of our Catholic faith. I look forward to serving the needs of the archbishop in any way.

How do you hope to serve through your life and ministry as a deacon?

I hope that I can serve faithfully and make a difference in other people's lives. We are called to serve the elderly, the widows and the less fortunate, and I feel I can do this with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and all of those who support me in this call to ministry. †

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The Holy Trinity is a perfect model for family life

By Joseph F. Kelly

Establishing goals is normal in all that we do in daily life, and the more important the goal—buying a house or founding a business—the more time and energy we devote to it.

For believers who understand that they are created in the image of God, major goals must include a spiritual element reflecting the value of faith. That is no easy task, but God provides help for many of us via our families.

The great theologian St. Augustine said that the persons of the Trinity are united in mutual love. As such, the Holy Trinity can be a model for the family—and the family can help us understand the Trinity!

“Trinity” comes from two Latin words—“*tria*” meaning “three” and “*unitas*” meaning “unity.” In the Trinity, the three are distinct, but indeed one.

The same is true for the family. All of its members remain distinct individuals, but their mutual love creates a greater reality than the sum of the individuals.

This may not be evident on a daily basis, but we certainly realize this during major holidays, celebrations and periods of mourning when family members go to great lengths to be together.

All kinds of families exist beyond the traditional family of parents and children. I know many couples whom God has not blessed with children, yet they radiate as much mutual love as many larger family units.

We all have specific goals, and there is a Catholic way to give value to even secular goals.

The motto of John Carroll University in Cleveland, where I teach, is “Women and men for others.” It reflects the Jesuit emphasis on social justice. This could be an appropriate goal that all Catholics can have since it can easily carry over into specific secular goals.

“Women and men for others” may make some readers a bit hesitant since it sounds like the university wants all its graduates to become social workers. But this isn’t so.

What it means is that parents should want their children to choose a satisfying profession, earn a good living and still benefit others by being ethical, honest and fair.

“For others” is an attitude, not a profession.

In recent years, Americans have seen

too many highly publicized instances of business people who, for their own profit, have callously bilked and cheated their customers and shareholders.

In contrast, a man or woman “for others” could be a business person who deals fairly with those customers and shareholders, genuinely wants to help them, and is satisfied knowing that his or her efforts have made life easier or more pleasant for them.

A man or woman “for others” can also choose traditional “helping” professions by becoming social workers, teachers or vowed religious.

Our faith reminds us that “for others” is an attitude, not a profession.

What about parents who have goals for themselves, and also for their children?

I know a physician whose son wanted to work as an automobile mechanic. The father, however, considered employment as a “grease monkey” undignified and unworthy of the son of a physician. The father and son fought constantly, and eventually became estranged from each other.

As a professional and father, I understand the physician’s attitude, but children need personally fulfilling goals even if those goals do not match their parents’ hopes for them.

Given modern society’s unshakable reliance on cars, a hardworking, honest mechanic could render valuable service to countless people. Such a person would likely be successful in the automotive business, which presumably would please his parents.

Does any parent really want a professionally “successful” son who resents his parents?

As Catholics, we can never separate our goals for ourselves and others from our faith. We must have goals that will build up mutual love in our family, bring happiness to its individual members, serve other people and help strengthen the body of Christ.

These are not impossible goals. We achieve them when we positively impact those with whom we come in contact—at home, in church or at work.

We also do this when we distinguish essential goals, such as mutual love, from secondary ones, such as the secular status of a profession.

(Joseph F. Kelly chairs the Department of Religious Studies at John Carroll University in Cleveland.) †



All the members of a family remain distinct individuals, but their mutual love creates a greater reality than the sum of the individuals. As Catholics, we can never separate our goals for ourselves and others from our faith. We must have goals that will build up mutual love in our family, bring happiness to its individual members, serve other people and help to strengthen the body of Christ.

Families need to discern God’s will

By Sheila Garcia

At some point, most families find themselves in a situation where members hold conflicting goals or expectations.

Sometimes the conflict is minor and easily resolved by compromise. In other cases, compromise won’t work. One goal must take priority over another.

Conflict between a husband and wife is particularly difficult. Marital conflict, especially if prolonged, can adversely affect the entire family.

Moreover, a healthy marriage is based on mutuality, with husband and wife as equal partners. When goals conflict and compromise is not feasible, one spouse seems to “win” at the other’s expense.

When these situations occur, family members might remember that conflicting goals are a normal part of healthy family life. Family members may be close to each other, but they remain individuals with their own dreams and aspirations.

People grow at different rates and, as they grow, they develop new goals. A change of career or a return to school can open new and exciting possibilities that a spouse or other family member may not share. Conflict develops as one person prepares to move ahead while another

prefers the status quo.

Family of origin also shapes goals.

When conflict occurs, family members need to keep open lines of communication. They may not agree with another person’s goal, but should consider the motivation behind it. Families might be able to delay rather than deny the achievement of a goal.

One couple, on their 50th wedding anniversary, observed that, “You can have it all. You just can’t have it all at once.”

With patience and a concrete plan, families can often achieve multiple goals.

Sometimes families with conflicting goals can benefit from counseling as they discern their goals. Discernment asks the question: What does God want us to do?

When families listen attentively to God’s will as he reveals it in prayer, Scripture, human and physical nature, and the insights of relatives and friends, they are able to find answers and move beyond self-centeredness to focus on what God is asking them to do and to become.

(Sheila Garcia is the associate director of the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.) †

Discussion Point

Seeking salvation is lifetime goal

This Week’s Question

What is one goal you have set for your family life?

“My ultimate goal for myself and my family is to attain the purpose of our creation: our salvation. It’s a lifetime goal.” (John Primeau, Providence, R.I.)

“To get my children to adulthood, where they are comfortable with who they are, where they have come from and where they are going. I want them to grow up—despite all the pressures of society—and succeed with their life choices as adults.” (Beth Yoncha, Elkridge, Md.)

“With my two grown sons, my goal was always that they would get a good education, follow the teachings of

the Catholic Church, and have good marriages and happy families.” (Jane Parker, Kitty Hawk, N.C.)

“The oldest of our four children is 9 so our goal right now is to eat dinner together every night. During dinner, we each talk about our day and I think [this time together] strengthens our family.” (Lisa Martinsky, Monroe, Conn.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: What miracles do you believe we are witnessing today?

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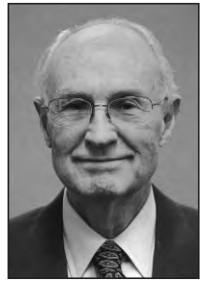


From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Biblical women: Witnesses to the Crucifixion

(Thirty-eighth in a series)

Who were some of the women mentioned by name who were present when Jesus was crucified—besides Jesus' mother, Mary, and Mary Magdalene? And who were those who went to the tomb on the following Sunday, planning to anoint Jesus' body?



We know, first of all, from Luke's Gospel, that those named were among the women from Galilee who traveled

with Jesus and the Apostles, and supported them out of their resources. Susanna was named by Luke as one of the women, but she is not specifically named at the Crucifixion so she might or might not have been there.

Matthew's Gospel names Mary, the mother of James (one of the Apostles) and Joseph, whom he also calls "the other Mary."

She is sometimes identified as the wife of Clopas, who might have been Joseph's brother and, therefore, the Blessed Virgin's

brother-in-law. Matthew's Gospel says that she went with Mary Magdalene to the tomb on Easter. They were told by an angel that Jesus had risen, went to tell the Apostles, and were met by Jesus on the way.

Mark's Gospel adds Salome, the wife of Zebedee and mother of the Apostles James and John, both at the Crucifixion and at the tomb.

We met Salome earlier, in Matthew's Gospel, when she approached Jesus with her sons and asked him to "command that these two sons of mine sit, one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom" (Mt 20:21). (Mark's Gospel says that the two Apostles themselves asked. We don't know why Matthew, who may very well have gotten the story from Mark, added Salome.)

Luke's Gospel doesn't mention any of the women present at the Crucifixion by name, saying only, "The women who had come from Galilee with him followed behind [while Jesus was being buried], and when they had seen the tomb and the way in which his body was laid in it, they returned and prepared spices and perfumed oils" (Lk 23:55-56).

However, Luke does identify those women when they went to the tomb on Sunday: Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary, the mother of James. It's the only mention of Joanna during the Crucifixion, but Luke earlier identified her as the wife of King Herod's steward, Chuza. We don't know anything else about her, but it's interesting that one of Jesus' close followers was connected to Herod Antipas.

All of these women probably were among those who remained with the Apostles in Jerusalem after Jesus' ascension and were present when the Holy Spirit descended upon them on Pentecost.

Before I finish writing about the women in the Gospels and move on to the Acts of the Apostles, I should mention Peter's mother-in-law. She appears very briefly in two verses in Matthew's Gospel and three in Mark's.

In Capernaum, Jesus went to the house of Peter and his brother, Andrew, where Peter's mother-in-law was ill. Jesus cured her so she could get up and wait on them (Matthew says "him"). It's probably best that I not say any more about that. †

For the Journey/Effie Caldarola

Spring in Alaska can be a time of gratitude

I can't say I wasn't warned—after all, I've lived in Alaska for 30 years, and I know that "spring" is a relative term.



Still, when nearly a foot of snow blanketed the city of Anchorage in early April, I wondered if the poet T.S. Eliot had been hiding here somewhere when he wrote, "April is the cruellest

month."

We're used to spring snowfalls. One St. Patrick's Day, we journeyed from pub to pub as a mammoth deluge fell around us. We were young then and we paused from our revelry only long enough to help dig out a couple of people whose cars were stuck so they could continue their revelry.

Anchorage is a winter city, and snowfall doesn't stop much of anything. With miles of city cross-country ski trails and a world-class downhill resort, we actually pray for snow in the fall and winter.

But for goodness sakes, I grouched, it's April! I thought about how we had already had our "break-up," and muddy puddles were disappearing. Now, we'd be back to shoe-devastating muck.

Springtime potholes—big, jagged chunks of missing street—are notorious

here, and just when the city had gotten most of them patched up after our first big meltdown, tire-wrenching havoc would return with the next melt.

Adding to my psychic woe, I had just returned from sunny San Diego, where I hadn't seen one pile of blackened, rotting springtime snow. And the cars were clean—not covered with mud and the detritus of street salt.

I felt no consolation when I heard the Dakotas had been blanketed as well. Nothing distracted my pity party.

Until, that is, we entertained a couple who were visiting from California to present talks at one of our parishes. They are an American Latino couple, he a native of Ecuador, she from Mexico City. Not much history of snow in their pasts.

"Oh, it's so beautiful," the woman exclaimed as the street lights illuminated big snowflakes as we left Mass for dinner. No matter that a passing car had just plastered us with ricocheting mud. She was looking up. I wasn't.

"This is like a winter wonderland," the man noted as swirling flakes filled the nighttime sky.

They spoke of how their children would love to see this.

That old cliché, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, certainly fits here, and maybe something else that I must constantly remind

myself: Gratitude, too, is in the heart of the believer.

Meister Eckhart, in a quote I love, said, "If the only prayer you ever say is 'thank you,' that will suffice."

Prayer, I remind myself, is not just what I "say" when I get up in the morning. It's what I live into and what I cultivate through my thoughts during a whole day.

My thoughts may wander from God, but God doesn't wander from me. I was a bit embarrassed to realize that in the midst of a happy, healthy, gifted day I was spending time internally complaining.

Now, God can't be surprised that we Alaskans were disappointed that spring took a detour this April. But in thinking about my negative snow thoughts, I remembered an April morning years ago. It was the morning my oldest daughter was born.

Very light flurries were drifting that morning against a leaden sky. But it wasn't disheartening to me in the least. That morning's pure, driven snow was the most beautiful sight, and the gray sky seemed to herald the springtime of my life, the beginning of everything.

Gratitude should never be far from my heart.

(Effie Caldarola is a columnist for Catholic News Service and Catholic Anchor in Anchorage, Alaska.) †

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

Holy sex!—God's blessed gift to married couples

A few years ago, I would not have written a column about sex. Traditionally, it seemed to be a taboo subject.



Why do so now? Because sex has been over-publicized, over-dramatized, trivialized and demeaned in so many areas of our society that God's plan for sex and procreation needs to be re-elevated

to the sacred level that it deserves.

Now there is a book which places sex at that level: *Holy Sex!—A Catholic Guide to Toe-curling, Mind-blowing, Infallible Loving* by Gregory K. Popcak.

Popcak (pronounced POP-chak) is a nationally recognized expert in pastoral counseling. He earned bachelor's degrees in psychology and theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, a master's degree in social work and clinical specialization at the University of Pittsburgh, and a doctorate in human services, with an emphasis on pastoral counseling, at Capella University in Minneapolis. He and his wife, Lisa, and

their three children live in Steubenville.

The easy-to-read, fascinating book is recommended by many experts, including Bishop Daniel Conlon of Steubenville.

There are four parts to the book: "Christianity's Best-Kept Secret," "The Five Great Powers of Holy Sex," "The School of Love" and "Overcoming Common Problems." The book ends with quizzes and exercises.

Strangely, non-Catholics often believe that the Catholic Church insists that married couples have large families, and many couples actually do.

Regarding this, Popcak quotes the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen, who once observed that, "Millions of people hate the Church for what they think she teaches. But there aren't 10 people who hate the Church for what she really teaches."

This book tells the truth about sex. Popcak promotes only what the Church teaches, including Natural Family Planning, an enriching holy goal that works well despite naysayers. I learned much more than expected.

I especially recommend the book for engaged and married couples. However, children would not be scandalized if they

see the book in their home. In fact, it could serve as an educational tool, even for pre-teens learning about the true purpose of sex.

The book includes a statement by Pope John Paul II from a July 1994 Angelus address: "Unfortunately, Catholic thought is often misunderstood ... as if the Church supported an ideology of fertility at all costs, urging married couples to procreate indiscriminately and without thought for the future. ... In begetting life, the spouses fulfill one of the highest dimensions of their calling: they are God's co-workers. ... They must not be motivated by selfishness or carelessness, but by a prudent, conscious generosity that ... gives priority to the welfare of the unborn child. ... Therefore, when there is a reason not to procreate, the choice is permissible and may even be necessary."

Holy Sex! is published by Crossroad Publishing Company. For more information, call 800-707-0670 or log on to www.cpcbooks.com.

(Shirley Vogler Meister, a member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †

Faith, Hope and Charity/David Siler

Holy Father's visit gives renewed sense of hope for all

I will count among the greatest privileges of my life as having had the chance to stand with thousands of other people of faith in the midst of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI.



The pope's visit to Washington, D.C., coincided with the annual gathering of Catholic Charities' executive directors from all over the country.

We were profoundly blessed to be among those to gather at the White House to help welcome Pope Benedict and to attend his Mass at Nationals Park on April 17.

We arrived at Nationals Park about two hours before the Mass, and I stood in the middle of the baseball field and watched in awe as the body of Christ assembled for a magnificent celebration of the sacrament that unifies us all.

I was struck by the immense diversity of the people as we gathered together—people of every skin tone in the world, the able-bodied, people in wheelchairs, veterans of wars, priests, nuns and religious wearing every imaginable habit, the young, the old.

Yes, we were gathering because the pope would be among us, but I think I was most awestruck by being assembled with what felt most profoundly like the body of Christ.

As I stood among my brothers and sisters in Christ in this baseball stadium transformed into a beautiful cathedral, I could feel the presence of God in such a profound way that I was moved to tears.

I felt a sense of hope and pride that lifted my spirit in a way that almost startled me.

I recalled the words that we heard Pope Benedict speak the previous day at the White House: "I trust my presence will be a source of renewal and hope for the Church in the United States." This member of the Church was among those renewed and filled with hope.

At the conclusion of Mass, the bishops processed out of the stadium and behind them walked the Holy Father. I rushed toward the center aisle when I realized that he would follow the bishops out of the stadium. I got to within about 10 feet of the pope as I witnessed people reaching out to him with hopes of a handshake or some small touch. The energy that I felt seemed as though it would lift me off the ground!

It occurred to me that what I had just witnessed was much like the story of a sick woman who reached out just to touch the cloak of Jesus—and by this simple act of faith she was healed. She reached out with just a bit of hope for healing and that hope was just enough to become whole again.

I think this is what the pope meant by his statement while in the U.S. that "the one who has hope lives differently."

My own hope is that no matter how close you were to the Holy Father during his visit that you, too, share a renewed sense of hope and that we will all be an even greater source of hope for those who have none.

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

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 4, 2008

- Acts 1:1-11
- Ephesians 1:17-23
- Matthew 28:16-20

This weekend, many dioceses in the United States—including the Archdiocese of Indianapolis—liturgically celebrate the feast of the Ascension of the Lord.



Other U.S. dioceses observe this weekend as the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

These reflections will refer to the

biblical readings for the feast of the Ascension.

The first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, is from the beginning of Acts.

As with the Gospel of Luke, the author addresses Theophilus, whose identity is unclear. Was Theophilus his actual name? Perhaps it was. Perhaps it was not. "Theophilus" is also a title, meaning "friend of God."

In any case, this initial form of address recalls that Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles are inseparably linked. Acts simply continues the story first given in the Gospel.

At some point, editors divided these books and placed the Gospel of John between them. This arrangement remains today in biblical translations.

This is important. It shows that in the mind of the holy author the process of salvation did not end with the Lord's ascension into heaven.

After the Lord went to heaven, salvation continued as the Apostles proceeded with the mission made perfect by Jesus and ordained long ago by God.

A lesson to be learned is how important the Apostles were in the daily life of the early Church. It is a lesson not presented subtly.

As Acts continues, the text clearly reveals that the first Christians greatly revered the 11 surviving Apostles, that Peter led these Apostles and spoke for them, that they performed miracles just as Jesus had performed miracles, and that they exercised the very power of Jesus in calling Matthias to be an Apostle.

Still, despite all these assertions as to

their dignity, they are only humans. They need the inspiration of God.

As its second reading, the Church presents a selection from the Epistle to the Ephesians.

This reading is a prayer that all Christians might find true wisdom. However, true wisdom reposes only in the Lord. Earthly wisdom can be faulty, and often it is faulty.

For the last reading, the Church gives us a lesson from St. Matthew's Gospel.

Again, the status of the Apostles is the point of the reading. They are with Jesus. They have seen and heard the Risen Lord. In this sense, they have experienced the Resurrection.

Jesus tells them to go into the world. They should exclude no one. They should bring all humankind into God's family by baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In this last instruction from Jesus is a clear and direct revelation of the Holy Trinity.

Reflection

The Church, having proclaimed the Resurrection, now calls us to look at ourselves and our times.

Christ still is with us, it declares emphatically. As the bond between Luke and Acts tells us, salvation—perfected in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus—still is on Earth.

Jesus is with us, even after the Ascension, and is with us now in the Church because the Church stands on the foundation laid long ago by the Apostles.

From them, it has received the message of Jesus. From them, it has received the commission to reach out to everyone with the blessings of salvation. From them, it has received the power to forgive sin and to bestow the new life of grace. From them, it has received the sacraments now offered to us.

The Church brings us to Jesus, and it brings Jesus to us.

However, we are not dragged kicking and screaming to Jesus. We must turn to Jesus willingly. We must humbly realize our need for Jesus.

As Ephesians tells us, only Jesus is the source of truth. He did not just live 20 centuries ago. He still lives. He still gives life, blessing us, forgiving us and taking us home to heaven. †

Daily Readings

Monday, May 5

Acts 19:1-8
Psalm 68:2-5acd, 6-7b
John 16:29-33

Tuesday, May 6

Acts 20:17-27
Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21
John 17:1-11a

Wednesday, May 7

Acts 20:28-38
Psalm 68:29-30, 33-36a, 35bc-36b
John 17:11b-19

Thursday, May 8

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
Psalm 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11
John 17:20-26

Friday, May 9

Acts 25:13b-21
Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20b
John 21:15-19

Saturday, May 10

Blessed Damien Joseph de Veuster of Moloka'i, priest
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
Psalm 11:4-5, 7
John 21:20-25
Vigil Mass of Pentecost
Genesis 11:1-9
or Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20b
or Ezekiel 37:1-14
or Joel 3:1-5
Psalm 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-30
Romans 8:22-27
John 7:37-39

Sunday, May 11

Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

God's will for people is written into his divine plan of creation

At the funeral Mass for a young father, the priest maintained that the man's death came at the time that God willed it.



It seems, if that is true, that God not merely knows, but actually determines when an individual will die.

On abortion, however, the Church seems to say the opposite. The fact that these children could be saved suggests that God does not decide when life will end.

Was the priest right? (Mississippi)

Theoretically, God's will could work in different ways. He could decide everything on the spur of the moment, choosing whatever seems likely to make someone happy or at least less unhappy.

That would make all creation rather haphazard and unpredictable, but I suppose that it's possible.

In the real world that actually exists, however, God's will is most manifest in the way that God created this universe, and how from scratch he makes it "work."

Every movement of every galaxy and every subatomic particle and everything in between takes place within the framework of God's creative order and harmony.

The inventor of the gasoline engine, for example, created nothing new. He merely discovered—or uncovered—something that was there all the time, but we didn't know it.

If you combine carbon atoms with atoms of other elements in a proper structure, put the results under pressure and ignite it, the mixture will explode and expand to move an engine's piston.

All creation is like that. Cancer cells and the AIDS virus are disastrous for us, but when they destroy parts of our bodies they are only acting according to their nature. Like gasoline molecules, they are doing what their created makeup says they should do.

Cancer research, in fact, is based on the expectation that specific molecules

and cells will act in a certain way. One avenue that scientists take is to find exactly what that way is then introduce other substances that will, they hope, attack and destroy the cancer. They have to rely on the fact that God will not intrude into his creation every so often to "fix his mistakes."

We're not accustomed to thinking about the Earth this way. But God's will for humans and everything else is written into the way the universe is created.

It may sound unfeeling to put it this way, but when a train hits a human person God does not step in at that moment and decide it's time for the victim to die. It's just reality—what happens when two such bodies collide.

As I said, God could involve himself in every event in creation, manipulating cancer cells, for instance, so they don't destroy one's liver or ovaries. However, if God did that routinely, it would destroy all predictability in nature, all possibility of knowledge and intelligent use of the things around us on Earth and beyond.

It seems to me that we need a lot of humility here. Personal tragedies and calamities cause us great anguish, but we can come to accept and believe that God's particular plan for placing equilibrium and harmony in this world, even when it causes pain, is for our greatest good and happiness while we are in this life and after we leave it.

What I have said points to the terrible evil behind all killing. Whether we speak of unborn infants, the old and the sick, or the convicted criminal, to deliberately and unnaturally end a human life is beyond arrogance.

It is a dreadful violation of God's providential will for each of his children. That divine will is not capricious or fickle. It permeates and is disclosed by the creation he has given us to live in.

(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.) †

My Journey to God

Thoughts on Prayer

Prayer I

In prayer
I come open, humbled
Powerless, like a child
Without formula or agenda
Unscripted
Entering it anywhere
Because of the Presence
Of an Everywhere God
Reaching Him
Through love.

Prayer II

Have you ever awakened,
been completely overtaken
by a strong need for God?

Have no particular contrition,
intercession or petition or thanksgiving
to share?



CNS file photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic

Only to be with Him,
to know that He is there.

This,
This is prayer.

By Cathy Lamperski Dearing

(Cathy Lamperski Dearing is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. Elise Brogan, 7, a religious education student from SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Manorville, N.Y., prays the Lord's Prayer with students during a Mass at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, N.Y., on Nov. 18, 2007.)

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.

AUSTERMAN, Alice, 83, St. Andrew, Richmond, April 17. Mother of Ruth Alexandre, Marilyn Petty, Marjorie Schuck, Charlie, David, Fred, John and Raymond Austerman. Sister of Jane Johnson, Evelyn Williams, Carl, Edward, Elmer, Fred and Howard Turner. Grandmother of 14. Great-grandmother of 11.

BAKER, Frances (Wade), 87, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, April 24. Mother of Rita Berning, Elizabeth Georg, Kathleen Johnson, Mary Patricia Kiefer, Susan Kirschner, Theresa Romer, Maureen, Hugh Jr., John and Vincent Baker. Sister of Joan Baker and Joseph Wade. Grandmother of 24. Great-grandmother of 23.

BENNA, Mary, 79, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Terre Haute, April 14. Wife of John J. Benna. Mother of Anita Martin, Frank, John Jr. and Mike Benna. Sister of Wesley Hall. Grandmother of eight.

BLANFORD, Virginia, 83, Holy Family, Richmond, April 13. Mother of Ann Adams, Barb Easley, Teri Sundine, Sue Westernman, Bill, Larry, Ron and Ted Blanford. Grandmother of 14. Great-grandmother of four.

BRINKSNEADER, Vernon, 78, St. Paul, Tell City, April 19. Husband of Norma Jean Brinksneider. Father of Vickie Schaefer and Mark Brinksneider. Brother of Shirley Garrett, Marilyn Lawson, Virginia Ramsey and Marvin Brinksneider. Grandfather of four.

BRUNNER, Mildred A., 82, St. John the Baptist, Osgood, and St. Monica, Indianapolis, March 25. Mother of Janet Christie, Bonnie Sue Cornn, Mary Mathis, Tammy, David and John Brunner. Grandmother of 17. Great-grandmother of 39.

COX, Joyce Ann, 75, Sacred Heart, Jeffersonville, March 31. Wife of Phillip R. Cox. Mother of Mike and Tim Cox. Sister of Lynn Barnes, Gale Kelly and Dale Flynn. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of two.

CRAIG, Nadene, 71, Holy Family, Richmond, April 16. Mother of Kim Benton, Vicki Madow, Jenni Mosier and Gregory Craig. Grandmother of seven. Step-grandmother of one.

DATTILO, Myrna L., 70, Prince of Peace, Madison, April 13. Wife of Anthony Dattilo. Mother of Lisa Morgan, Anthony Jr. and Philip Dattilo. Daughter of Emma Wise. Grandmother of six.

DRAGA, Thelma Alice, 87, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, April 8. Mother of Edith Stevens and John Draga. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of one.

FELDHAKE, Mary Magdalene (Kelich), 88, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, March 28. Mother of Barbara Stiegemeier, Bob, Greg, Jerry, Rick and Steve Feldhake. Sister of Jerry, Joe

and Ted Kelich. Grandmother of 13. Great-grandmother of nine.

FOLKER, Edward J., 85, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, April 1. Husband of Mercedes Folker. Father of Craig and Gary Folker.

JOHNSTON, Juanita J., 81, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, March 22. Wife of Fred Johnston. Mother of Susan Barber, Sally White and Fred Johnston. Sister of Don and Jerry Nichols. Grandmother of six.

MALICOAT, Sondra, 69, St. Andrew, Richmond, April 13. Wife of Delbert Malicoat. Mother of Pamela Dill, Lisa Fitzwater, Cynthia Manning, Brenda Musselman, Angela Ozbun and Debbie Wilson. Grandmother of 13. Great-grandmother of three.

MARREN, Frank, 55, St. Jude, Indianapolis, April 14. Husband of Nancy (Kirch) Marren. Father of Jennifer Andrews and Kathleen Boone. Son of Frank Marren. Brother of Michael Marren. Grandfather of one.

MYERS, Marie Frances, 89, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, April 6. Mother of Eric Myers.

PARRISH, Steven Paul, 55, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Indianapolis, April 17. Father of Sara Durbin and Jessica Parrish. Son of Joan Gootee. Brother of Jennifer Boggess, Pamela Noblet, Janice Ramsey, Denise Smoot and Lori Young. Grandfather of six.

PINTO, Betty (Gibson), 81, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, April 15. Mother of Patricia Keiffner, Barbara Strassel and Charles Pinto Jr. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of two.

RICHTER, Frederick, 83, St. Andrew, Richmond, April 17. Husband of Shirla Richter. Father of Beth Bloomington, Linda Cohen, Marilyn Dann, Mary Johnson, Sandra Montgomery, John and P. Michael Richter. Brother of Joseph Richter. Grandfather of 17. Great-grandfather of five.

ROGERS, George, 88, Sacred Heart, Jeffersonville,

March 22. Husband of Dorothy Rogers. Father of Mark, Michael and Kevin Rogers. Brother of Edward Rogers. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of one.

SEABOLT, Arlie, 68, Holy Family, New Albany, April 17. Husband of Karen Seabolt. Father of four. Grandfather of four.

SMITH, Theodore, 50, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, March 17. Brother of Pat

Caskey, Sue Goodson, Barb Pellegrin, Bob, Danny, Donny, Phil, Rick, Steve and Tim Smith.

STEED, William Andrew, Jr., 82, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, April 15. Husband of Elaine Steed. Father of James, Dr. Joseph, Thomas and William Carpenter. Brother of Betty and Paul Steed. Grandfather of eight. Great-grandfather of three.

WERNER, Donald, 71, St. Mark the Evangelist,

Indianapolis, March 4. Father of Carol Fisher, Valerie Miller and Michelle Werner. Brother of Barbara DeMasie, JoEllen Forestal and Marilyn May. Grandfather of three.

WHITE, Marjorie Ann, 71, St. Louis, Batesville, April 15. Mother of Terry Harmeyer and Michael White. Sister of Patricia Woolf, David and Ronnie Abplanalp. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of two.

WHITE, Mickie, 85, Holy Family, Richmond, April 6. Mother of Dennis White. Grandmother of one.

WILGUS, Harold, 84, St. Joseph, Shelbyville, April 20. Husband of Mabel (Schmidt) Wilgus. Father of Linda Graves and Donald Wilgus. Brother of Mabel Craig and Charles Wilgus. Grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of five. †

Dorothy Joy Schaedel was the mother of the vicar general

Dorothy Joy Schaedel, the mother of Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general, died on April 24 at Forum at the Crossing in Indianapolis following a long illness. She was 87.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 28 at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Beech Grove. Burial followed at Holy Cross Cemetery in Indianapolis.

A graduate of the former St. John Academy in Indianapolis, Joy (Noone) Schaedel was the daughter of the late Dennis and Helen (McGinty) Noone and the widow of Joseph F.

Schaedel Sr.

She worked at the L.S. Ayres credit department in Indianapolis for 25 years and retired in 1982.

Surviving are a daughter, Jan Marten; two sons, Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel and John D. Schaedel; six sisters, Joellen Eckstein, Helen Gaspen, Mary Ann Grande, Betty Hoffman, Colette Philhower and Kay Woods; four brothers, Dennis, Francis, Stephen and Thomas Noone; and three grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be sent to Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove, IN 46107. †

Providence Sister Rose Marie Thole was a nurse and supervisor

Providence Sister Rose Marie Thole, formerly Sister Anthony Marie, died on April 20 at Mother Theodore Hall at the motherhouse in Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 70.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 26 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse. She donated her body to science, and burial will take place at the sisters' cemetery at the motherhouse at a later date.

Rose Marie Thole was born on Sept. 15, 1937, in Evansville, Ind. She entered the congregation of the Sisters of Providence on Jan. 5, 1955, and professed first vows on Aug. 15, 1957, and final vows on Aug. 15, 1962.

Sister Rose Marie earned a bachelor's degree in education at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and a bachelor's degree in nursing at St. Xavier University in Chicago.

During 53 years as a Sister of

Providence, Sister Rose Marie ministered in health care for 46 years in Indiana, Illinois and California.

Sister Rose Marie served 10 years as a surgical nurse at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Ill.; four years at the UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles; and 10 years at the Christopher Center in Evansville, Ind.

She ministered in health care at the motherhouse for 29 years, and served as supervisor and assistant director of nursing for 13 years. She ministered at the infirmary from 1959-65 and at Providence Health Care from 1987-88.

Surviving are a sister, Sally Kroener of Los Angeles, and three nephews.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876. †

Reduce carbon usage at home and work by reusing and recycling

To better care for the Earth, follow these suggestions:

- Reduce solid waste—Increase your recycling of glass, plastics, aluminum, Styrofoam and newspapers. Don't buy or use Styrofoam products. Purchase products made from recycled materials.

- Reduce hot water during showers—Install low-flow shower heads in bathrooms. Shorten your shower time to five minutes.

- Reduce water use in the kitchen—Cut back on the use of your electric dishwasher weekly. Don't leave

water running in the sink.

- Reduce clothes washing and drying—Wear clothes longer before washing. Use towels several times before washing. Hang clothes and towels outside on a clothesline to dry when possible.

- Reduce heating costs—Turn down the thermostat when gone and at night. Lower the heat setting to between 65 and 68 degrees when at home by wearing sweaters. Service the furnace yearly. Change the furnace filter regularly. Inspect and insulate ducts.

- Reduce electricity leaks—Turn appliances and electronics all the way off and unplug them when possible.

- Reduce air leaks—Put plugs in unused electric sockets. Seal leaks on windows and doors or install energy-efficient windows and doors.

- Reduce cooling costs—Replace or clean the air conditioner filter. Service the air conditioner yearly. Raise the air conditioner thermostat four degrees. Turn off the air conditioner and open windows with screens for fresh air in the house.

- Reduce gasoline usage—Plan your car trips and errands efficiently. Service your car regularly. Keep the tires properly inflated.

- Reduce use of packaged food—Buy fresh foods, which help you eat healthier.

- Reduce use of hot water—Set the water heater temperature at 120 degrees. Insulate the water heater. Wash clothes on the cold water cycle.

- Reduce electricity usage in lighting—Install compact fluorescent light bulbs, which last up to 10 times longer and use a quarter of the energy of incandescent light bulbs. Turn off lights when not in use.

- Reduce energy leakage—Insulate your home's outside walls and attic. Clean the refrigerator vents.

- Reduce chemical use in your home and yard—Use vinegar to clean windows. Pull weeds in the grass and garden instead of using pesticides. Use a push mower and leave grass clippings on the lawn, which adds nutrients to the soil. Compost garbage and use as mulch for your garden and flower beds.

- Reduce product use at work—Use a china cup or glass instead of disposable containers. Recycle all disposable containers.



Photo by Mary Ann Wiant

People can reduce electricity usage by installing compact fluorescent light bulbs, which last up to 10 times longer and use a quarter of the energy of incandescent light bulbs.

- Reduce energy use at work—Use heating and air conditioning moderately. Don't hold doors open.

- Reduce waste in the community—Educate others about caring for the Earth by sharing this environmental information with family, friends and co-workers.

(Environmental tips are excerpted from the Low Carbon Diet—A 30 Day Program to Lose 5,000 Pounds by David Gershon, published by the Empowerment Institute in Woodstock, N.Y., as well as product information brochures and several "green" Web sites.) †

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Positions Available

Music/Liturgy Director

Saint Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute, IN, an active parish of approximately 750 households and with a substantial campus ministry, invites applicants for the position of director of Music and Liturgy.

The successful applicant will be a person of strong faith; have a thorough understanding of Roman Catholic liturgy; and hold a Bachelor's degree in Music or Liturgical Music, or have comparable experience in liturgical music ministry. Compensation will be commensurate with education and experience.

Applicants responding by June 1st will be given preferential consideration though screening will continue until the position is filled. For a full description of the position expectations, duties and responsibilities; application requirements and additional information about the parish go to www.stjoeup.org.

Student Activities Coordinator

Bishop Chatard High School, the North Deanery Catholic high school of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, is seeking a Student Activities Coordinator to oversee all student clubs, organizations and activities not under the auspices of the Athletic Department or Campus Ministry.

Applicants for this position must possess a secondary education or religious education/youth ministry certification along with demonstrated experience in organizing youth activities. The successful candidate will possess a positive, pro-active attitude and a strong desire to work with students, faculty, administration and parents to enrich the overall experience of BCHS students.

Interested applicants are invited to e-mail or send a letter of interest and résumé to:

Elberta Caito, Bishop Chatard High School
5885 Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220.
E-mail: ecaито@BishopChatard.org
Phone: (317) 251-1451, Ext. 2234

Deadline for submission is May 16, 2008.

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Positions Available

Payroll Specialist

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking a full-time payroll specialist to work in a fast-paced, multi-tasked environment. Significant knowledge of payroll, excellent data entry skills (speed and accuracy), and customer service skills are essential. Please send cover letter, résumé, and list of references to:

Ed Isakson, Director-Human Resources
eisakson@archindy.org.

Director of Capital Development

Bishop Chatard High School, the North Deanery Catholic high school of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, is seeking a Director of Capital Development to coordinate and implement the school's capital, annual and endowment fund-raising initiatives.

Applicants for this position must possess a bachelor's degree. Demonstrated fund-raising experience through the identification and solicitation of donors is preferred. The successful candidate will possess a positive, pro-active attitude and strong desire to work with school alumni, parents and supporters to advance the mission of Bishop Chatard High School.

Interested applicants are invited to e-mail or send a letter of interest and résumé to:

Elberta Caito, Bishop Chatard High School
5885 Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
E-mail: ecaито@BishopChatard.org
Phone: (317) 251-1451 Ext. 2234

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Positions Available

Director of Business Operations

Bishop Chatard High School, the North Deanery Catholic high school of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, is seeking an experienced business manager to serve as its Director of Business Operations. Responsibilities of this position include property and risk management, payroll management and oversight of the accounting function, financial analysis for the sake of long-term planning, and preparing the annual budget. The person hired for this position will have excellent organizational skills, be able to work with a broad range of people and issues, have a firm foundation in reviewing and understanding financial data, and will have had success in serving in a similar capacity in previous employment.

Applicants for this position should possess a B.A. in business management or a related field. Interested applicants are invited to e-mail or send a letter of interest and résumé to:

Elberta Caito, Bishop Chatard High School
5858 Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
E-mail: ecaито@bishopchatard.org
Phone (317)251-1451, Ext 2234

Deadline for submission is May 16, 2008.

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