

The

Criterion

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Father Carlos Juan Himenez Lewis, from left, Father Ernesto Guillermo Pacheco Lopez, Catholic Relief Services staff member Susan Kadota of Baltimore, Mercedes Cristina Acevedo Rivero and Ana Delia Perez Perez talk with Patty Colbert, co-director of the Catholic Social Services Crisis Office, during a Nov. 17 tour of archdiocesan agencies at the Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis.

Cuban Catholics tour Archdiocese of Indianapolis to learn and share faith

By Mary Ann Wyand

The historic nine-day visit by five Cuban Catholics from the Archdiocese of Camagüey to learn about Church ministries in central and southern Indiana has strengthened the spiritual partnership between the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and its "partner diocese" in Cuba.

Their Nov. 15-23 visit was coordinated by Catholic Relief Services in Baltimore through its Global Solidarity Partnership.

Four years ago, CRS arranged this archdiocesan partnership project with the archdioceses of Camagüey and Indianapolis in response to the C.U.B.A. 2000 and Beyond program initiated by St. Barnabas and St. Luke parishioners in Indianapolis and members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County in 1999.

Since that time, members of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish and other archdiocesan parishes have participated in the diocesan partnership.

"C.U.B.A." stands for "Community Understanding By Action." Committee members worked with the archdiocesan Catholic Charities director and



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein greets Father Ernesto Guillermo Pacheco Lopez, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Camagüey, Cuba, during a Nov. 20 reception at the Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center.

Mission Office staff to build a relationship with Catholics from Camagüey and plan four mission trips to the Caribbean country in conjunction with Catholic Relief Services and Caritas Cuba.

Last month, the delegation of Cuban Catholics were invited to visit Church ministries providing social services, religious formation, sports programs, semi-

nary formation, and health care for sick and elderly people during tours of archdiocesan agencies, several parishes and the St. Augustine Home for the Aged in Indianapolis as well as Saint Meinrad School of Theology in southern Indiana.

Delegation members included Padre Ernesto Guillermo Pacheco Lopez, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Camagüey, and Padre Carlos Juan Himenez Lewis, director of Religiosidad Popular in the archdiocese and pastor of Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje in Camagüey.

Other members of the delegation were Mario Ricardo Gonzalez Teijeiro, director of Caritas in the archdiocese; Mercedes Cristina Acevedo Rivero, director of catechism for the archdiocese and coordinator of the Center of the Formation Integral; and Ana Delia Perez Perez, a catechist, parochial council member and treasurer of Caritas in the deanery of Esmeralda.

Father John McCaslin, associate pastor of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis, welcomed members of the Cuban delegation during a Nov. 16 Mass then reminded parishioners and

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World AIDS Day draws support from Catholic Church

WASHINGTON (CNS)—From Washington to Dakar, Senegal, Catholic bishops joined in marking World AIDS Day on Dec. 1 with promises of support for those with HIV/AIDS and encouragement to change behaviors that lead to the spread of the disease.

In Rome, Pope John Paul II and the head of the Vatican office for health care encouraged Catholics to join them in praying for people with HIV/AIDS and to care for those with the disease.

And across Asia, Catholic organizations worked on AIDS prevention in China, India, Myanmar and Nepal.

In Dakar, the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar, which represents the bishops in Africa, issued its first collective statement on the topic of HIV/AIDS. It proposes a plan of action that involves work with parishes, other faiths, medical institutions and religious formation programs. It focuses on changing behavior and accepting responsibility for tackling the complexities of the problems brought on by HIV and AIDS.

"We have also come to realize that poverty goes hand in hand with HIV and AIDS," they said. "It concerns us that our already fragile economies should be further weakened with much of the trained labor force lost to HIV and AIDS. Poverty facilitates the transmission of HIV, makes adequate treatment unaffordable, accelerates death from HIV-related illness and multiplies the social impact of the epidemic."

More than 11 million children in Africa under age 15 have been orphaned by AIDS, according to UNICEF. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, as many as 28 million people have HIV/AIDS, according to UNAIDS.

In Washington, two committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a joint letter urging their fellow bishops to help mobilize the Catholic community and the general public to fight the HIV/AIDS crisis.

Baltimore Auxiliary Bishop Gordon D. Bennett, chairman of the Committee on African-American Catholics, and Bishop James A. Tamayo of Laredo, Texas, chairman of the Committee on Hispanic Affairs, said more than half of all new HIV/AIDS cases in the United States are among African-Americans, with 61 percent of those cases among teens. Hispanics account

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Pope calls for increased efforts for peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In the face of new violence in the Middle East, Africa and around the globe, Pope John Paul II said the world's major religions should unite their efforts in a fresh push for peace.

The pope made the appeal at a noon blessing from his apartment window above St. Peter's Square on Nov. 30, the first Sunday of Advent. Speaking in a strong voice, he said preparations for Christmas should remind the world that the "Prince of Peace" is coming.

"Preparing for Christmas means reawakening in us and in the entire world the hope of peace. Peace above all in hearts, which is accomplished by putting down the weapons of resentment, of vengeance and of all forms of selfishness," the pope said.

"This world has great need of peace! I am thinking especially with deep sorrow of new episodes of violence in the Middle East and on the African continent, as well as those registered in daily news reports in so many other parts of the world," he said.

"I renew my appeal to the leaders of the great religions: Let us unite our efforts in preaching nonviolence, forgiveness and reconciliation," he said.

The pope prayed to Mary so that the whole world can receive "the inestimable gift of peace."

The pope did not list specific acts of violence in his brief talk, but in previous days there were reports of continuing guerrilla attacks in Iraq, including the ambush slaying of seven Spanish

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AIDS

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for 20 percent of the total reported AIDS cases, they said. And 78 percent of all cases of women with HIV/AIDS are either African-American or Hispanic.

African-Americans make up 12 percent of the U.S. population. Hispanics account for 14 percent.

A report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates between 700,000 and 800,000 people in the United States are infected with HIV or have AIDS.

The letter from the two committee chairmen accompanied a packet of material sent to parishes nationwide encouraging priests to preach on the topic, suggesting that prayers address HIV/AIDS and asking Catholic communities and individuals to become active in organizations that care for people with AIDS.

In Memphis, Tenn., Bishop J. Terry Steib released a statement talking about his recent trip to visit five African nations where he "learned firsthand about the extent, severity and impact of the AIDS pandemic."

He told of meeting a young man and his grandmother who had been ostracized because of AIDS and of his visits to clinics where Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency, helps provide medical care for people with HIV/AIDS.

"AIDS requires us to open our eyes and not to dismiss this disease as 'someone else's issue,'" Bishop Steib said. "How can we as Church allow a sister or brother to suffer alone because of the stigma and discrimination associated with this disease? Only by confronting the stigma and the discrimination will the fight against HIV/AIDS be won."

CRS planned its first event to mark World AIDS Day with a program aimed at raising awareness planned for Baltimore's Walters Arts Museum. Among the guests expected for the event were actor Wendell Pierce of the HBO series "The Wire," who recently visited CRS-supported HIV/AIDS programs in Zimbabwe.

A group of religious leaders in Washington held a prayer vigil outside the U.S. Treasury building to link the spread of HIV/AIDS with crushing debt in some poor nations. Leaders scheduled to participate were to include Oblate Father Seamus Finn, vice chair of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, representatives of Jewish, Baptist and Methodist churches and the National Council of Churches.

An exhibit "Signs of Hope, Steps for Change," featuring artwork from more than 23 countries about the stigma and discrimination felt by people with HIV or AIDS

Official Appointment

Rev. Steven Schaftlein, pastor of St. Mary Parish, Greensburg, appointed pastor of St. Michael Parish, Charlestown, and St. Francis Xavier Parish, Henryville. Effective Jan. 7, 2004.

These appointments are from the office of the Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., Archbishop of Indianapolis.

opened in the visitors lobby of the United Nations in New York. It was co-sponsored by U.N. agencies as well as various Church organizations.

Father Robert J. Vitillo, president of the National Catholic AIDS Network and head of the bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development, was to be among speakers addressing how faith groups are challenged to speak out against AIDS-related discrimination and stigma.

In Rome, the pope used his midday Angelus address on Nov. 30 to "pray for those struck by this plague," and to "encourage all those in the Church who provide a priceless service of welcome, care and spiritual accompaniment to these brothers and sisters of ours."

Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers, issued a special message on Dec. 1 expressing the Church's love for people with AIDS and their families and suggesting ways to fight the disease.

He also called for wider access to generic medicines to fight the opportunistic diseases that kill patients weakened by AIDS and to medicines that help control the disease.

"The scandalous death rate in poor countries," where AIDS drugs are priced beyond the reach of most governments and patients, "cries to God for vengeance," he said.

UCA News, an Asian Catholic news agency based in Thailand, reported a series of stories about work being done by Church organizations to fight HIV/AIDS in Asia.

- In northwestern China, a team of five nuns works on AIDS prevention in Xi'an, capital of the Shaanxi province. Sister Wu Gaiqin, superior of the Sacred Heart of Jesus convent in Xi'an, said AIDS is not a serious problem in the region, but "it is important to prevent its spread."

The Chinese Ministry of Health estimated in September that 840,000 people in the country were infected with HIV. However, unofficial estimates are much higher. In China, the disease is primarily transmitted through intravenous drug use, or among people who sell their blood, UCA News said.

- The Catholic Church in India now runs at least 32 centers to care for and support those infected with HIV. They range from hospices to care for those who are dying to drop-in centers for medicine and counseling.

PEACE

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intelligence agents and two Japanese diplomats.

A telegram sent in the pope's name to Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar called the ambush on Spanish agents in Iraq an "appalling terrorist attack" and said the Spaniards had lost their lives "in the generous fulfillment of their mission of peace."

The telegram was signed by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state.

"His Holiness John Paul II reiterates his firm condemnation of this new act of



A nurse cares for an AIDS-infected patient at a hospital in Guangzhou, China, on Nov. 30. The country has stepped up its battle against the disease. On the occasion of World AIDS Day, Pope John Paul II called for prayer and education to prevent the spread of the pandemic disease.

Indian news media say the majority of AIDS cases in India are the result of sexual transmission. The Indian government estimated there were 600,000 new cases in 2002, added to a 2001 total of just under 4 million cases. The U.N. estimates India has between 7 million and 8 million infected people.

- The Multan Diocese in Pakistan has continued to run an AIDS awareness program for women, working around cultural barriers about discussing sex, UCA News said.

AIDS seminars held around the diocese have reached more than 4,000 people. The Pakistani government estimates the country has about 1,700 cases of HIV and 231 of AIDS, in a nation with a population of 150 million. Activists estimate that as many as 70,000 people are infected in Pakistan.

- Archbishop Charles Maung Bo of Yangon in Myanmar, the head of the nation's Catholic bishops' conference, released a pastoral letter calling for compassion toward those afflicted with HIV/AIDS. He said the Church must unconditionally care for those who are infected, and work to make sure they are not ostracized. He instructed priests, bishops and religious to learn more about HIV/AIDS.

UNAIDS estimates that 500,000 of Myanmar's 48.3 million people are infected with HIV and 46,000 have developed AIDS.

- In Katmandu, Nepal, the Adoration sisters share their home with nine women and four children who are infected with HIV. The three Indian nuns operate an HIV/AIDS awareness program in the area. The World Health Organization estimates Nepal has about 60,000 people with HIV or AIDS. †

unjustifiable violence, which adds to the many cruel deeds perpetrated in that tormented nation," the telegram said.

It said the pope was praying for the victims and their families, and that he encouraged all those working in the region to create as soon as possible the conditions for normal and peaceful life.

In the Holy Land, Israeli soldiers killed several unarmed Palestinian civilians and a Palestinian policeman over the Thanksgiving weekend.

In Uganda, an Italian missionary, Comboni Father Guido Cellana, was wounded and a 15-year-old boy traveling with him was killed in a rebel ambush on Nov. 28. Church personnel frequently come under attack in the region. †



Palestinian Christians light candles at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity on Nov. 30. The day was the first Sunday of Advent, the season of preparation that precedes the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas.



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Archdiocese working to welcome Catholic immigrants from Africa

By Brandon A. Evans

Over the next year, 93 Somali Bantu refugees will be coming to the archdiocese—and how they will be welcomed will make a big difference in their lives.

The archdiocese's Refugee Resettlement Program is already working to prepare for them, and to help them become self-sufficient in their new American home.

Similarly, how immigrants of all countries and denominations are welcomed by their faith community will play a large part in whether or not those immigrants keep the faith.

Thus, it is the responsibility of all Catholics to welcome Catholic immigrants, said Sister Marypaul Asoegwu, a Daughter of Divine Love and the coordinator of Ethnic Ministries (African and Caribbean Apostolates) for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Office of Migration and Refugee Services.

She will be coming to the archdiocese on Dec. 7 for a "Gathering for Catholics from Africa" that is being hosted by the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry at 3 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish in Indianapolis.

The day will offer a chance for African Catholics, and anyone else interested, to participate in a multicultural liturgy and to hear what Sister Marypaul has to say.

Catholics relocating from Africa to the archdiocese have many needs, and more needs to be done to make people aware of

them, said Father Kenneth Taylor, director of that office and pastor of Holy Trinity Parish. Still, even he isn't sure just what might come out of this gathering, but he's interested in finding out.

Father Taylor also said that the needs of African Catholics can easily be forgotten.

"I think they're getting lost in the overwhelming numbers coming from Latin America," he said.

Sister Christine Nantaba, a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Reparatrix and a computer teacher at Holy Angels School in Indianapolis, said that the gathering "will bring us together." She is originally from Uganda.

"We haven't had some common ground," she said of African Catholics, to share with each other and worship in the ways familiar to them.

The Mass during the gathering will be in English, but will have African songs and drums. Sister Christine is also trying to get some authentic African food ready for the event.

Sister Marypaul also said that one of the first goals of the gathering will be to bring together African immigrants.

"It's good to come together and experience that oneness and universality of the Church," she said, adding that there is also plenty of diversity within the many countries of Africa and many reasons why immigrants have come here.

She also said that the gathering will be one way for African Catholics to start



Sister Marypaul Asoegwu of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services, helps Sudanese youth Elizabeth Nyakuoth, right, register to speak at a lobbying session on Capitol Hill on July 9. The Sudanese youth was in Washington for the National Migration Conference co-sponsored by MRS and its legal aid program, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., known as CLINIC.

making a connection with the archdiocese, and vice versa.

"People know they are there," Sister Marypaul said, but this will be the first formal gathering in this archdiocese. She said that it's a good start for helping African Catholics.

Another good way of helping them, she said, is for Catholics to live their faith, to emphasize the universality of the Church, to help all immigrants—and if African Catholics and others see this, then they will be bolstered in knowing that the Church is what it claims to be.

While it may be the responsibility of the archdiocese and of all Catholics in central and southern Indiana to make welcome these Catholics from Africa, the immigrants themselves have much to offer the local Church.

They have, she said, their own forms of

devotion and liturgy and other such things that can be used to enrich the Church.

Father Taylor said no one knows the exact number of Catholics from Africa that have settled in the archdiocese, but he does know that they're spread out geographically.

With all the Somali Bantu refugees coming—even if they are not Catholic—this gathering is timely.

Joyce Overton, the director of the archdiocesan Refugee Resettlement Program, said that the upcoming event is a good thing. In the last couple of years, she said, most of the refugees she has worked with have come from Africa.

(For more information or to register for the gathering, call Father Kenneth Taylor at 317-236-1562 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1562, or 317-631-2939.) †

Civitas Dei apostolate adjusts format and prepares for growth

By Brandon A. Evans

Civitas Dei began its fifth year by renewing itself and branching out past the Indianapolis area.

The organization, which strives to help Catholic businessmen and businesswomen to live the Gospel through their work and bring Christ into the world, is planning to start a chapter in Atlanta while continuing to increase its membership in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Its next monthly meeting will be something special. The third annual Thomas E. Burnett Jr. Heroic Leadership Award will be given to Thomas S. Monaghan, the former owner of Dominos Pizza and chairman of the Ave Maria Foundation, during the group's Christmas Celebration on Dec. 17.

The award is named after one of the passengers of United Airlines Flight 93 who helped wrestle control of the airplane from terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001. The plane crashed into a Pennsylvania field, killing all aboard.

The award is given annually to a man or woman—a member or eligible non-member—who best exemplifies the Catholic faith and models courageous action and heroic leadership.

Burnett's widow, Deena Burnett, will be

the keynote speaker and WTHR Channel 13 Indianapolis news anchor Anne Ryder will be the master of ceremonies.

Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general, will preside at Mass before the dinner, and Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will offer the homily.

The cost of the event is \$50. It is open to the first 150 people who register.

The Mass will begin at 5:45 p.m. in the Marian College Chapel in Indianapolis, and the reception and dinner will follow at 6:30 p.m. in the Allison Mansion.

The monthly meetings for Civitas Dei are now held in the evening instead of early in the morning over breakfast.

Shawn Conway, a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Diocese of Lafayette, and founding chairman of the group, said the change in the meeting times is designed to make it easier for members to bring their spouses and also provides members a chance to build the important friendships "that are critically important to a business person's ... success in each area of their life."

As well, spouses of members will no longer attend meetings as associate members, but now as full members.

Any faithful Catholic business person, single or married, is eligible to join the group.

Civitas Dei, which is Latin for "City of God," sees itself as a lay apostolate striving for the "new evangelization" spoken of by Pope John Paul II and in line with the Second Vatican Council.

"Civitas Dei is important to the Catholic world because we help Catholics in the field of business understand that they have a vocation—business—as well as an identity—they're Catholic," Conway said.

"Words mean things and a 'vocation' is more than a job—it's a calling," he said. "And being Catholic brings responsibilities—responsibilities given to us via our baptism and confirmation. These responsibilities are summarized in the documents of Vatican II as the call to holiness and the call to proclaim."

"Civitas Dei helps Catholic business people see the practical connection, the application, between their calling and responsibilities to their faith."

He said that the group has helped him to grow both professionally and spiritually—he works for Meridian Real Estate Services as a director of the office advisory team.

Marigrace Bailey of Indianapolis has been involved with Civitas Dei for about a year and a half.

She said that members "are challenged and supported as we aspire to live our

authentic Catholic lives in our personal and business lives."

Conway said that the social aspect of the organization is fundamental to its success. The group is unique, he said, in its tight focus on Catholic business people. It is also simple in its format, and it adds value into the lives of the members.

Since Civitas Dei began in 1999, the membership has fluctuated, at times reaching 70 members. The bylaws of the organization, which is an established lay apostolate in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, call for there to be at least 25 members in the chapter.

Now there will be a new chapter in Atlanta, and hopefully more chapters in future years around the Midwest and the country.

Conway said that seeing the group spreading "means that the concept is credible and duplicatable, and that the changes recently made to an evening format were the correct updates for the long-term viability/growth of the guild."

(For more information about Civitas Dei or to make reservations for the Christmas Celebration, call Marigrace Bailey at 317-253-1678 or e-mail mgbmable@aol.com or log on to www.civitasdeiguild.org) †

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Editorial



The Catholic Church defends vigorously the human rights of all persons who have a homosexual orientation. The Church does not support same-sex marriage. For Catholics, marriage is a sacrament. It is not simply a social contract or an arrangement whereby people who live together qualify for economic or health-care benefits.

Gay rights—and wrongs

Unless you've been living on a desert island, cut off from the world, you have probably noticed that the topic of "gay marriage" has moved to the top of our contemporary culture's list of hot topics. Where does the Catholic Church stand on this issue? To understand Church teaching on this subject, it's important to focus on three things: 1) the dignity of the human person, 2) the importance of human sexuality, and 3) the meaning of marriage.

The human person

The Catholic Church defends vigorously the human rights of all persons who have a homosexual orientation. This includes all of the rights and responsibilities that extend from every human being's status as a child of God made in the image and likeness of the Creator. Under no circumstances can we engage in attitudes or behaviors that would denigrate or abuse the fundamental dignity and human rights of women and men who identify themselves as lesbian or gay.

As noted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#1931), "Respect for the human person proceeds by way of respect for the principle that everyone should look upon his neighbor [without any exception] as another self, above all bearing in mind his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity." Every human being is entitled to his or her human rights and dignity. "Gay bashing" and all other forms of discrimination or disrespect for homosexual persons are wrong.

Human sexuality

Catholic teaching celebrates human sexuality as a gift from God that has a profound influence on the personal development of individuals and on the characteristics of human culture. Sex is a mystery that is never totally understood or completely controlled by human beings. Although every man and woman is called to maturity and self-mastery in his/her sexual development (above all through the virtue of chastity), there remains something unplanned and uncontrollable in everyone's experience of sexuality. This creative sexual tension in every human being can be self-destructive or it can be directed toward what is good. Sexual intercourse between a man and woman

who are bound to one another for life through marriage, and who are truly open to one another and to the possibility of children, is good. All other forms of sexual activity (whether heterosexual or homosexual) are ultimately self-destructive and, therefore, wrong.

Marriage

For Catholics, marriage is a sacrament. It is not simply a social contract or an arrangement whereby people who live together qualify for economic or healthcare benefits. Marriage involves an exclusive lifelong commitment of the whole person—body, mind and soul—to one other person. The purposes of sacramental marriage extend far beyond the wants and needs of the woman and man who marry. The love that they give to each other is intended to reach beyond them—to their children and to society as a whole. Thus, marriage and the family are recognized as the fundamental principles underlying true human community. The sacrament of marriage is reserved for men and women who are free (with the help of God's grace) to make this kind of exclusive lifelong commitment of their whole selves for their own good and for the good of human society. Analogous social contracts or unions (whether they involve homosexuals or heterosexuals) may serve some other social purpose, but it is wrong to call them "marriages" or to assign them equal status.

The next time you hear a radio talk show host engage in "gay bashing," remember that the Catholic Church unhesitatingly defends the human rights and dignity of men and women who have a homosexual orientation. But when you see a TV personality championing the cause of "gay marriage" keep in mind that the Church also defends its essential teaching on the authentic expression of human sexuality and on the meaning of marriage. Gay marriage is not a fundamental human right. It is also not in the best interests of individuals or society as a whole.

— Daniel Conway

(Daniel Conway is a member of the editorial committee of the board of directors of Criterion Press Inc.)

Letters to the Editor

Media bias and the Catholic Church

The Nov. 12 editions of two daily metropolitan newspapers reported on the submissions of surveys by Roman Catholic dioceses on sexual abuse within their jurisdictions. The difference between the two accounts validates regular reading of more than one daily newspaper.

The headline on this story in *The Indianapolis Star* was "Most dioceses reported on sex abuse." The headline in *The New York Times* was "Catholics lag on responses to a survey on abuse."

The Associated Press story that appeared in *The Star* stated, "Anna Burke, an Illinois appellate judge who is acting chairwoman of the National Review Board, said about 80 percent of U.S. dioceses had reported by mid-September, a response rate she called remarkable for such a complex report."

The New York Times story said, "Nearly one-fifth of Roman Catholic dioceses in the United States have failed to respond to a survey on the extent of the sexual molestation of minors by priests, a church-appointed monitor said Tuesday, but she added she was confident all would respond in time for sweeping reports on the abuse crisis to be released Feb. 27."

Both stories quantify the data differently—*The Star* by emphasizing that 80 percent of dioceses submitted surveys and *The New York Times* by focusing on the 20 percent that have not. Either depiction being correct, why were the stories given a different emphasis?

Every newspaper has an agenda. Fine. The agenda of *The New York Times* and its sister-paper, *The Boston Globe*, I am free to believe, may be to disturb the Roman Catholic Church's influence in America, and if not in all America, at least in New York and Boston. Its cause is akin to tilting at windmills—not only an effete endeavor, but without nobility.

Joseph M. Mucha, Indianapolis

Terri Schiavo and the right to live

As a former hospice R.N. for seven years, I wish to comment on the Terri Schiavo case. There is a distinct difference between removing a feeding tube when a person is actively dying versus removing a feeding tube from a person that is not actively dying.

During the dying process, a person loses the ability to assimilate food and eventually fluids because the body is shutting down and preparing for death. The dying person will usually first refuse solid food and eventually refuse fluids. If they have a feeding tube in place, removing it at this stage will not cause discomfort because they are no longer hungry or thirsty.

When a person's body is still healthy as Terri Schiavo's appears to be, removing a feeding tube and causing her to starve to death and die of dehydration would subject her to a painful dying process.

Where in the Constitution does it state that we have a right to starve to death people we decide are living a useless life?

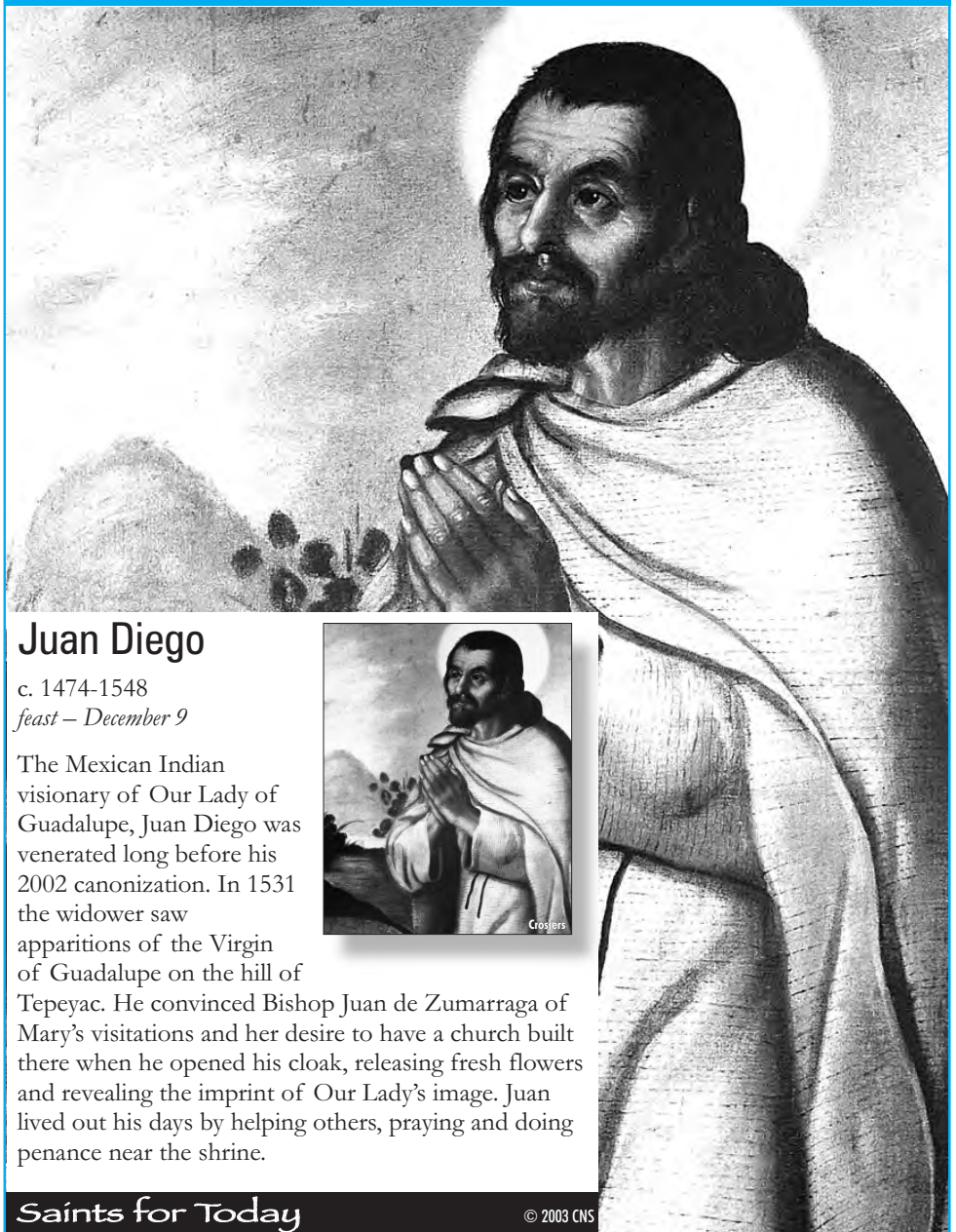
Causing a patient to die is a far cry from allowing a person to die of natural causes. As long as Terri Schiavo is able to absorb her tube feedings, one can safely assume that she needs them and that she is not ready to die.

Hitler's goal before he began the extermination of the Jewish people was to rid the country of all the German people who were eating food and not producing i.e., "useless eaters." We all know the horror that occurred because of his "master race" mentality. Are we to follow in those footsteps?

God bless Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and the legislators who have been instrumental in re-establishing Terri Schiavo's inalienable "right to life."

Linden Prann Vauiso, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Church Facts



Juan Diego

c. 1474-1548
feast — December 9

The Mexican Indian visionary of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Juan Diego was venerated long before his 2002 canonization. In 1531 the widower saw apparitions of the Virgin of Guadalupe on the hill of Tepeyac. He convinced Bishop Juan de Zumarraga of Mary's visitations and her desire to have a church built there when he opened his cloak, releasing fresh flowers and revealing the imprint of Our Lady's image. Juan lived out his days by helping others, praying and doing penance near the shrine.

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



SEEKING THE FACE OF THE LORD

BUSCANDO LA CARA DEL SEÑOR

Our duty to defend human life in all its stages

Last week, I invited us (during Advent) to seek the grace of a deeper life of prayer—time for our relationship with Jesus in the silence of our hearts.

This week, I invite us to look outward to assess the state of our society and our role in it as we approach a new year. Recall how we looked toward the beginning of the third millennium with great hopes and expectations. We prayed that we might reclaim a culture of life for our human family. I believe that in claiming this world for God, our greatest challenge continues to revolve around the need to reclaim the dignity of human life in all its stages.

We marked a notable step forward a couple of weeks ago when President George W. Bush signed a bill passed by both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives to ban the horror of partial-birth abortion. Immediately, several federal judges blocked the enactment of the ban. Once again, the courts will determine the fate of human life in our culture.

During his pastoral visit to the U.S. in 1995, Pope John Paul II said: “Your country stands upon the world scene as a model of a democratic society at an advanced stage of development. Your power of example carries with it heavy responsibilities. Use it well, America!” He also said: “At the center of the moral

vision of the [American] founding documents is the recognition of the rights of the human person. The greatness of the United States lies especially in its respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life in all conditions and at all stages of development.”

The pope affirmed those in our country who struggle for social justice and equal opportunity for the disadvantaged. He also had in mind those who struggle to disseminate the pro-life message in defense of the voiceless and most vulnerable. He said: “Both as Americans and as followers of Christ, American Catholics must be committed to the defense of life in all its stages and in every condition.”

In a 1998 letter, *Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics*, we bishops of the United States wrote: “As Americans, as Catholics and as pastors of our people, we write, therefore, today to call our fellow citizens back to our country’s founding principles, and most especially to renew our national respect for the rights of those who are unborn, weak, disabled and terminally ill. Real freedom rests on the inviolability of every person as a child of God. The inherent value of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance, is not a sectarian issue any more than the Declaration of Independence is a sectarian creed.

“In a special way, we call on U.S. Catholics, especially those in positions of leadership—whether cultural, economic or political—to recover their identity as followers of Jesus Christ and to be leaders in the renewal of American respect for the sanctity of life.”

Recently, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith released a statement entitled: *Doctrinal Note on Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life*. The statement points out: “[The Church] does not wish to exercise political power or eliminate the freedom of opinion of Catholics regarding contingent questions. Instead, it intends—as is its proper function—to instruct and illuminate the consciences of the faithful, particularly those involved in political life, so that their actions may always serve the integral promotion of the human person and the common good” (#6).

Just a couple of weeks ago, the Administrative Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops released a statement, *Faithful Citizenship, A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*.

We said: “For Catholics, the defense of human life and dignity is not a narrow cause, but a way of life and a framework for action. A key message of the Vatican statement on public life is that Catholics in politics must reflect the moral values of our faith with clear and consistent priority for the life and dignity of the human person. This is the fundamental moral measure of their service.

“The Vatican statement also points out: ‘It must be noted also that a well-formed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program or an individual law which contradicts the fundamental contents of faith and morals. The Christian faith is an integral unity, and thus it is incoherent to isolate some particular element to the detriment of the whole of Catholic doctrine. A political commitment to a single isolated aspect of the Church’s social doctrine does not exhaust one’s responsibility to the common good’” (#4).

Let us pray that all of us meet our moral responsibility in support of all of human life. †

Archbishop Buechlein’s intention for vocations for December

Catholic Grade Schools: that they may teach our children the Catholic faith and assist them in hearing and answering God’s call to service in the Church, especially as priests or religious.

Nuestro deber de defender la vida humana en todas sus etapas

La semana pasada hice una invitación (durante la temporada de Adviento) para que buscásemos la gracia de una vida más profunda de oración en nuestra relación con Jesús en el silencio de nuestros corazones.

Esta semana los invito a que miremos hacia afuera para evaluar el estado de nuestra sociedad y nuestro papel en ella a medida que nos acercamos hacia un nuevo año. Recordemos cómo aguardábamos el comienzo del tercer milenio con grandes esperanzas y expectativas. Orábamos porque pudiésemos recuperar una cultura de vida para nuestra familia humana. Creo que nuestro mayor reto al tratar de reconquistar este mundo para Dios continúa siendo la necesidad de recuperar la dignidad del ser humano en todas sus etapas.

Dimos un importante paso adelante hace un par de semanas cuando el presidente George W. Bush firmó una ley que fue aprobada tanto por el Senado de los Estados Unidos como por la Cámara de los Representantes para prohibir el horror del aborto parcial. Inmediatamente varios jueces federales bloquearon la promulgación de la prohibición. Una vez más los tribunales determinarán la suerte del ser humano en nuestra cultura.

Durante su visita pastoral a los Estados Unidos en 1995, el Papa Juan Pablo II dijo: “Su país es visto en la escena mundial como modelo de sociedad democrática en una etapa avanzada de desarrollo. Su poder para dar ejemplo lleva consigo grandes responsabilidades. ¡Úsalo bien, América!” También dijo: “En el corazón de la visión moral de los

principios constitutivos está el reconocimiento de los derechos del ser humano. La grandeza de los Estados Unidos yace especialmente en su respeto por la dignidad y la santidad de la vida humana en todas las condiciones y en todas las etapas de su desarrollo.”

El Papa apoyó a todos aquellos que en nuestro país luchan por la justicia social y la igualdad de oportunidades para los menos aventajados. También tenía en mente a aquellos que luchan para divulgar el mensaje en pro de la vida y en defensa de los que no tienen voz y son más vulnerables. Él dijo: “Los americanos y los seguidores de Cristo, los católicos americanos, deben estar comprometidos en la defensa de la vida en todas sus etapas y en todas las condiciones.”

En una carta de 1998, *Viviendo el Evangelio de Vida: Reto a los católicos americanos*, nosotros, los obispos de los Estados Unidos escribimos: “Como americanos, como católicos y como pastores de nuestro pueblo, hacemos un llamado en este día, a todos nuestros ciudadanos a observar los principios y fundamentos de nuestro país y especialmente a renovar nuestro respeto nacional por el derecho de aquellos que aún no han nacido, que son débiles, inválidos o en etapa terminal de una enfermedad. La verdadera libertad descansa en la inviolabilidad de cada persona como hijo de Dios. El valor inherente de la vida humana en cada una de sus etapas y en toda circunstancia no es una cuestión sectaria, de la misma manera que no es un credo sectario la Declaración de Independencia.

“De una manera especial hacemos un llamado a los católicos americanos, especialmente a aquellos que están en posiciones de liderazgo, bien sea cultural, económico o político, para recuperar su dignidad como seguidores de Jesucristo y para que sean líderes en la renovación del respeto de los americanos por la santidad de la vida.”

Recientemente la Congregación Vaticana para la Doctrina de la Fe emitió un comunicado cuyo título es: *Nota doctrinal sobre algunas preguntas relacionadas con la participación de los católicos en la vida política*. El comunicado destaca: “(La iglesia) no desea ejercer poder político o eliminar la libertad de opinión de los católicos en relación con preguntas nimias. En vez de ello, trata (como es su función adecuada) de instruir e iluminar las conciencias de los creyentes, particularmente aquellos que están involucrados en la vida política, de modo que sus acciones puedan siempre estar dirigidas al fomento integral del ser humano y el bien común” (No. 6).

Hace un par de semanas el Comité Administrativo de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos emitió un comunicado, *Ciudadanos creyentes, un llamado católico a la responsabilidad política*. Dijimos: “Para los católicos, la defensa de la vida y la

dignidad humanas no es un asunto de poca monta sino una forma de vida y un marco de acción. Un mensaje clave de la declaración del Vaticano sobre la vida pública es que los católicos que estén en cargo políticos deben reflejar los valores morales de nuestra fe con prioridad clara y consistente con la vida y la dignidad del ser humano. Esta es la medida moral fundamental de nuestro servicio. El comunicado también destaca:

“También debe tomarse nota de que una conciencia cristiana bien formada no permite que se vote por un programa político o una ley individual que contradiga los principios fundamentales de la fe y los valores morales. La fe cristiana es una unidad integral y por ello es incoherente aislar algún elemento particular en detrimento de la doctrina católica como totalidad. Un compromiso político con un aspecto único y aislado de la doctrina social de la iglesia no exime la responsabilidad personal hacia el bien común” (No.4)

Oremos porque todos nosotros podamos cumplir con nuestra responsabilidad moral en apoyo a la vida del ser humano. †

Traducido por: Language Training Center, Indianapolis

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en diciembre

Escuelas primarias católicas: que ellos puedan enseñar la fe católica a nuestros niños y puedan ayudarles a oír y contestar la llamada de Dios para ser vir en la Iglesia, sobre todo como sacerdotes o religiosos.

Check It Out . . .

The eighth annual **Solemn Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe, "Patroness of the Americas,"** will be celebrated by Msgr. Mark Svarczkopf at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 12 at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian, in Greenwood. The Mass will include the Knights of Columbus paying tribute to the Blessed Virgin and a procession of parish ministries presenting roses to Our Lady followed by the flags of the Americas and children in costumes. All attending are invited to bring a fresh red rose(s) for the altar. A reception will follow. For more information, call the parish office at 317-888-2861.

A **Christmas bazaar and luncheon** will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 6 at Mount Saint Francis Retreat Center in Floyds Knobs. Starting at 11 a.m., there will be a variety of homemade soups, turkey dumplings and desserts provided by the Ladies Guild. There will be unique, homemade gift items and various homemade foods. For more information, call 812-923-8817 or e-mail mtstfran@cris.com.

Roncalli High School, 3300 Prague Road, in Indianapolis, will offer a **placement test** from 8 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. on Dec. 13. The cost is \$10. For more information, call the guidance office at 317-787-8277. The high school alumni

association will hold its annual **"Breakfast with Santa Claus"** from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Dec. 13 in the school cafeteria. There will be a breakfast, face-painting, coloring, cookie decorating, letters to Santa and games. The cost is \$4 for children and \$5 for adults. Children under age 2 are free. For more information, call the Roncalli alumni office at 317-787-8277, ext. 242.

Oldenburg Academy in Oldenburg will offer an **entrance exam** for those who wish to enroll in the Class of 2008 from 8 a.m. to noon on Dec. 13. The cost is \$15. For more information or to register for the exam, call Annette Hunger at 812-934-4440, ext. 231.

There will be an **Advent prayer service** for the dismissal of anxieties at 7 p.m. on Dec. 21 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 5333 E. Washington St., in Indianapolis. It will be an opportunity for participants to dismiss the anxiety in their hearts and be open to the joys of the Christ Child. For more information, call the parish office at 317-356-7291.

"Poetry and Prophecy" is the theme for a one-day retreat from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 24 at the Providence Center at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods as part of the SpiritPro

series. The retreat will be led by Christian Brother Barry Donaghue and Providence Sisters Marie McCarthy and Rosemary Nudd. It will focus on poets as those who often first read the signs of the times with metaphoric language. There will be time to read and write poetry as well as relieve stress and tension, and resolve conflicts and dilemmas. The cost is \$20 per person and includes lunch. For more information, call the Providence Center at 812-535-3131, ext. 161, or e-mail spiritpro@spsmw.org

Faculty, staff, students and friends of Cathedral High School, 5225 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, will present a **living nativity** from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Dec. 21 on the campus of the high school. There is no cost and all are welcome. The Cathedral Choir and the "Pride of the Irish" Band will also perform during the evening. For more information, call the high school at 317-542-1481.

The Catholic Choir of Indianapolis will present a **Christmas Concert** at 3 p.m. on Dec. 14 in the O'Malia Performing Arts Center at Cathedral High School, 5225 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis. Admission is free, but seating is limited to the first 625 guests. There will be no reservations. For more information, call the high school at 317-542-1481. †



Blue Ribbon principals

Donna Frances Matusky, from left, principal of St. Paul School in Sellersburg; Providence Sister James Michael Kesterton, principal of St. Jude School in Indianapolis; Michael Amrhein, principal of St. Louis School in Batesville; and Charles Weisenbach, principal of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, stand with the award that their respective schools earned as 2003 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools. The principals gathered in Washington, D.C., for a ceremony on Oct. 31 to receive the award. The U.S. Department of Education announced in September that 214 public and private schools in the nation were to be honored this year.



Care packages

Members of the Daughters of Isabella, the St. Ambrose Youth Group and the class of confirmation candidates from St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour work on "We Care" packages to be sent to college and military youth from the parish on Oct. 8. Cookies, cards, letters from the pastor and candy were put into the boxes, which were also decorated. A self-addressed stamped postcard was included for the youth to send back prayer intentions.

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U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting movie ratings

Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (Universal)

Rated **A-II (Adults and Adolescents)** because of minimal mildly crude humor and innuendo.

Rated **PG (Parental Guidance Suggested)** by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA).

Gothika (Warner Bros.)

Rated **L (Limited Adult Audience)** because of some gory violence and flashes of shadowy nudity as well as an instance of rough language and occasional crude language and profanity.

Rated **R (Restricted)** by the MPAA.

The Haunted Mansion (Disney)

Rated **A-II (Adults and Adolescents)** because of some frightening scenes, brief violence and a few instances of crass language.

Rated **PG (Parental Guidance Suggested)** by the MPAA.

The Missing (Columbia)

Rated **L (Limited Adult Audience)** because of recurring graphic violence, an implied sexual encounter, a suicide, as well as sporadic crude language.

Rated **R (Restricted)** by the MPAA.

Timeline (Paramount)

Rated **A-III (Adults)** because of intense battle violence and some crude language.

Rated **PG-13 (Parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.)** by the MPAA. †

Advent penance services are scheduled in archdiocese

Parishes throughout the archdiocese have scheduled communal penance services for Advent. The following is a list of services that have been reported to *The Criterion*.

Batesville Deanery

Dec. 7, 2 p.m. at St. Maurice, Napoleon
 Dec. 10, 7 p.m. at St. Magdalene, New Marion
 Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg
 Dec. 14, 2:30 p.m. at St. Joseph, St. Leon
 Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at St. Louis, Batesville
 Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at Holy Family, Oldenburg
 Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County
 Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Rock,
 St. Mary-of-the-Rock
 Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Greensburg
 Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross,
 Bright
 Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. Peter, Franklin County

Bloomington Deanery

Dec. 9, 7 p.m. at St. John the Apostle, Bloomington
 Dec. 11, 3-5 p.m. at St. Paul Catholic Center,
 Bloomington
 Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at St. Agnes, Nashville
 Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Martin of Tours, Martinsville
 Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington

Connersville Deanery

Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at St. Anne, New Castle
 Dec. 11, noon at St. Mary, Rushville
 Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at St. Michael, Brookville
 Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth, Cambridge City
 Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at Holy Family, Richmond

Indianapolis East Deanery

Dec. 10, 7 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle, Fortville
 Dec. 15, 7 p.m. for St. Therese of the Infant Jesus
 (Little Flower) and Our Lady of Lourdes at Our
 Lady of Lourdes
 Dec. 17, 7 p.m. for Holy Cross, St. Mary and
 SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral at SS. Peter and Paul
 Cathedral
 Dec. 17, 1 p.m. at St. Philip Neri

Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m. at St. Rita

Indianapolis North Deanery

Dec. 7, 1:30 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc
 Dec. 9, 7 p.m. at Christ the King
 Dec. 9, 7 p.m. at St. Matthew
 Dec. 10, 7 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas
 Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary
 Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Luke
 Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Lawrence
 Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Andrew the Apostle
 Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. Pius X

Indianapolis South Deanery

Dec. 7, 2 p.m. for Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Patrick,
 Holy Rosary and Good Shepherd at Good Shepherd
 Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at St. Ann
 Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at St. Jude
 Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at St. Roch
 Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Mark
 Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
 Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m. at St. Barnabas
 Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Greenwood,
 Greenwood

Indianapolis West Deanery

Dec. 10, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph
 Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at St. Malachy, Brownsburg
 Dec. 14, 2 p.m. at Holy Trinity
 Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel
 Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at St. Thomas More, Mooresville
 Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Monica
 Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at Mary, Queen of Peace, Danville
 Dec. 21, 2 p.m. at St. Anthony

New Albany Deanery

Dec. 7, 2 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Starlight
 Dec. 9, 7 p.m. for Sacred Heart, Jeffersonville, and
 St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, at St. Augustine
 Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs,
 St. Mary-of-the-Knobs
 Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul, Sellersburg
 Dec. 13, 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs,
 St. Mary-of-the-Knobs
 Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at St. Michael, Charlestown

Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Starlight
 Dec. 21, 7 p.m. at Holy Family, New Albany

Seymour Deanery

Dec. 6, 10 a.m. at American Martyrs, Scottsburg
 Dec. 7-10, 8:15 p.m. for Most Sorrowful Mother of God,
 Vevay, and Prince of Peace, Madison, at Prince of
 Peace, each evening after parish retreat
 Dec. 9, 7 p.m. at St. Ambrose, Seymour
 Dec. 10, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, North Vernon
 Dec. 14, 2 p.m. for St. Rose of Lima, Franklin, and
 Holy Trinity, Edinburgh, at Holy Trinity
 Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. at St. Ann, Jennings County

Tell City Deanery

Dec. 6, 4 p.m. at Holy Cross, St. Croix
 Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at St. Mark, Perry County
 Dec. 13, 4:30 p.m. at St. Isidore, Bristow
 Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m. for St. Martin of Tours, Siberia;
 St. Boniface, Fulda; and St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, at
 St. Meinrad
 Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. Augustine, Leopold

Terre Haute Deanery

Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart, Clinton
 Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle, Greencastle
 Dec. 11, 1:30 p.m. deanery service at St. Ann,
 Terre Haute
 Dec. 11, 7 p.m. deanery service at St. Joseph University,
 Terre Haute
 Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Rockville
 Dec. 14, 6 p.m. at St. Patrick, Terre Haute
 Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m. at Holy Rosary, Seelyville †



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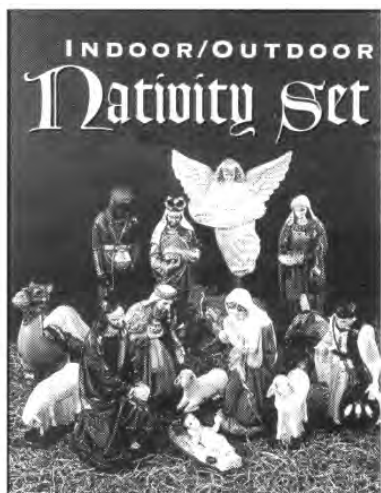
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ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS
Blessed to be a Blessing

Interfaith prayer service offers thanks to God

By Mary Ann Wyand

The fourth annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 25 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis is a visible witness that trust, respect and love can exist among people of many faiths and cultural backgrounds, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein told 400 people gathered for the prayer service.

The interfaith service is "an expression of our commitment to God's love," the archbishop said, expressed in prayer and gestures of peace.

Catholics, Episcopalians and members of a number of Protestant denominations joined representatives of the Jewish, Sikh, Hindu and Islam faiths to offer gratitude to God and pray for peace.

Methodist Bishop Woodie White of Indianapolis offered a reflection on gratitude during the service and noted that "deep faith is never diminished when it meets other faiths."

Bishop White recalled his family's friendship with Jewish neighbors and said their lives were greatly enriched by this longtime relationship.

Even in the midst of adversity, he said, awareness of a sense of gratitude inspired our forebears to bring into being a day devoted to giving thanks to God.

"If faith is indeed so big, it starts flowing out," he said, in expressions of gratitude and a willingness to help others.

During this interfaith prayer service, he said, "we gather together seeking to express as best we know how, in whatever language, accent and ethnicity, this profound sense within the human consciousness of gratitude to the one we call God, who is the source of all love, hope and faith."

Shoaib Baig of Indianapolis assisted

with the recitation of the Islamic prayers and said later that he was honored to participate in the interfaith prayer service in the cathedral.

"We are living for peace," Baig said, explaining that he spent many hours memorizing passages from the Quran for the prayer service and the holy month of Ramadan.

"I decided that every day I would recite one chapter by heart," he said. "Arabic is not my language, but I am learning it six days a week. I take one day off only."

After the prayer service, Baig planned to celebrate Ramadan with his family and friends.

During a reception in the Cathedral Parish rectory, Dr. Edward L. Wheeler, president of the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, said he thinks the annual interfaith prayer service is "a tremendous affirmation of our unity ... and a reminder that we are one."

It's important to offer thanks to God, he said, even though it is a difficult time for many people throughout the world.

"There's a lot of poverty and a lot of pain," Wheeler said. "There are people who have lost their jobs. There are people who are mourning the loss of loved ones in a war in Iraq, and no matter how you feel about that, there is always a sense of tragedy when human beings are in violent conflict with one another."

"But there is, I think, an opportunity even in the adversity, as Bishop White pointed out, to rejoice that, in the midst of all that is going wrong, even our gathering tonight is a testimony," he said. "Whether or not you agree with all the policies of our nation, what a great statement it is about our country that we are able to come together across so many denominational, racial, ethnic and cultural



Photo by Mary Ann Wyand

Methodist Bishop Woodie White, left, and Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein pray during the fourth annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 23 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. Bishop White offered the reflection. Laudis Cantores, the principal choir of the cathedral, and the Indianapolis Children's Choir provided music for the service.

lines and worship together."

Although poverty, pain and homelessness are serious problems in our country, Wheeler said, "one cannot help but think that we are still blessed as a people because the overwhelming majority of our people, even the poorest, are wealthier than two-thirds of the [people in the] rest of the world."

"While we ought not take that lightly and ought not dismiss the pain of others," he said, "those of us who are blessed with jobs, those of us who are blessed with material possessions, need to be more mindful that we are blessed to be a blessing to others. In this time of thanksgiving, those of us who have been blessed in overwhelming ways ought to be willing and enthusiastic about sharing that which we have with those who have less than us while we work for a world that is more just."

Father Rick Ginther, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish, said the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was

inspired by a similar prayer service in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas.

"Tonight's service was very prayerful," Father Ginther said. "You didn't have to understand all of the words that were being either sung or chanted or said in various languages or in various faith traditions. You just had to close your eyes and be thankful and let that permeate you. I could sense that same prayerful feeling of thankfulness taking place in the entire cathedral because it was so quiet between the prayers."

Cathedral music director Ed Greene, who also directs Laudis Cantores, the principal choir for the cathedral, has coordinated the prayer service for four years.

"The prayer service is intended to make the cathedral a center for worship in Indianapolis," Greene said, "and to bring attention to the cathedral as the mother church for the archdiocese. The prayer and music are uniting elements. All of us experience that melody of praise in one way or another." †

DENTAL STUDY FOR PERSONS WHO WEAR PARTIAL DENTURES

Researchers at the Oral Health Research Institute (IU School of Dentistry) are currently looking for people who wear partial dentures to participate in research studies to test dental products. These studies have been conducted with partial denture wearers since 1981 but now more participants are needed to fill the ever-growing study needs.

Needed are persons age 18 to 75 who wear upper or lower partial dentures and are generally in good health.

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Three Catholic high schools celebrate football titles

By Mary Ann Wyand

Three football titles. Three shut-outs. Students at Bishop Chatard, Cardinal Ritter and Roncalli High Schools in Indianapolis are celebrating Indiana High School Athletic Association football championships that set state records in the RCA Dome in Indianapolis last weekend.

Bishop Chatard's Trojans and Roncalli's Rebels tied Ben Davis High School in Indianapolis with seven all-time IHSA state football titles by winning the Class 3A and Class 4A championships on Nov. 29.

The Trojans rushed to a 49-0 victory over Northwood High School for their third consecutive state title and the Rebels triumphed over unbeaten East Noble High School in a 17-0 contest last Saturday.

Cardinal Ritter High School's Raiders

defeated Seeger High School 28-0 in the Class A championship game on Nov. 28 for their first state football title since 1977, when head football coach Jim Boswell was a freshman watching on the sidelines.

Boswell said the Raiders "praise each other" and started the season on a positive note by volunteering at the Cathedral Kitchen in Indianapolis, which serves meals to homeless people.

Bishop Chatard head football coach Vince Lorenzano said the school's seventh state gridiron title is "a tribute to the parents, coaches, teachers, students and all those involved with the school."

Roncalli head football coach Bruce Scifres said the Rebels overcame a number of adversities to claim the title, which was "a direct result of their hard work and great attitudes." †



Photos by David Brake courtesy Cardinal Ritter High School

Above, Cardinal Ritter High School senior Devon Moore runs for a touchdown during the IHSAA Class A championship game against previously undefeated Seeger High School on Nov. 28 at the RCA Dome. The Raiders won the state title with a 28-0 victory.



Photos by Dan Frederick courtesy Bishop Chatard High School

Above, Bishop Chatard High School sophomore Todd Leone carries the ball along the 20-yard line while junior Matt Tyner blocks Northwood High School defenders during the Class 3A championship game on Nov. 29 at the RCA Dome.



Left, Cardinal Ritter head football coach Jim Boswell calls plays from the sidelines during the Raiders' Class A state title game last Friday.

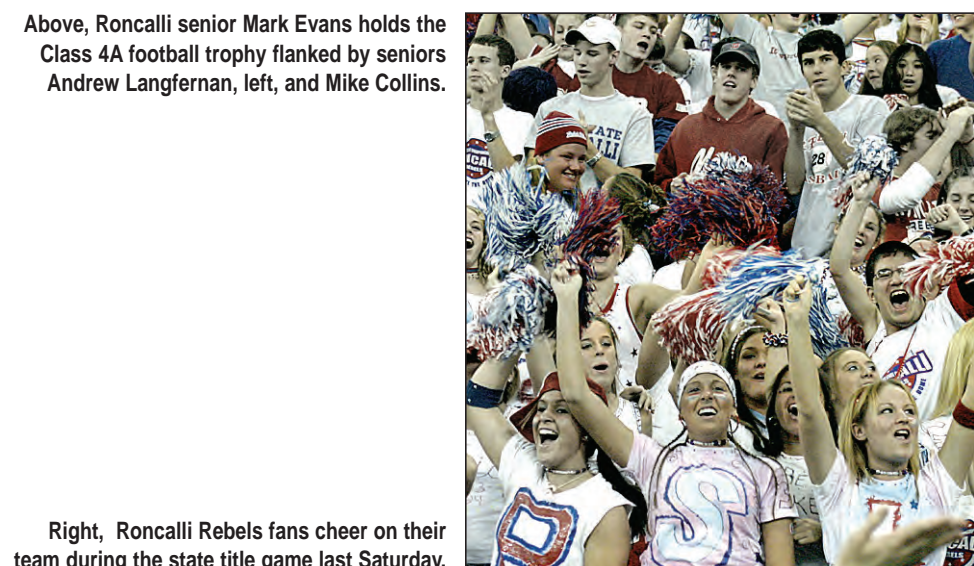


Right, Chatard seniors Derek DiSalvo and Ryan Baker celebrate the Rebels' Class 4A state title. Ryan is ranked in the top 100 players in the nation. Junior Dray Mason scored 49 touchdowns and rushed for more than 2,600 yards this season.



Photos by Kory Means courtesy of Roncalli High School

Above, Roncalli senior Mark Evans holds the Class 4A football trophy flanked by seniors Andrew Langfernan, left, and Mike Collins.



Right, Roncalli Rebels fans cheer on their team during the state title game last Saturday.

"Let Mercy Triumph."

The Rule of St. Benedict

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CUBA

continued from page 1

guests that their visit serves as a powerful reminder of the way our faith connects us.

"We're reminded by [the presence of] our brothers and sisters from Cuba that we ought not take our faith for granted," Father McCaslin said. "Let's think about the fact that we are allowed to worship and give our hearts to the Lord."

After the Mass, Father Juan told the assembly that the Cubans were "very happy to be here" and that they came "to learn from each other" and promote solidarity in the universal Church.

Catholic Relief Services staff member Susan Kadota of Baltimore translated brief interviews with Mercedes Acevedo Rivero and Ana Perez Perez during a reception at the south side parish.

Kadota said the Camagüey group is very grateful for this opportunity to get to know Catholics in the archdiocese and to learn about the Church's religious formation, seminary formation, health care and social services ministries.

Translating for Perez, Kadota said she was excited about visits to the St. Augustine Home for the Aged, Indiana University Medical Center and Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, which would enable delegation members to discuss Church and community-based care for the elderly and children with Down's syndrome.

Kadota said Perez explained that the Camagüey archdiocese arranges for youth to visit with elderly people, and the delegation members were pleased to see young people participate in the liturgy at St. Barnabas Church.

Translating for Rivero, Kadota said "it was important for them to see how youth are included in the community and are active in different Church ministries."

St. Luke parishioner Bill Spangler of Indianapolis, who has visited Camagüey, said it was "good to see our friends again" and recalled how the Cubans "had welcomed us into their homes and into their hearts when we went there.

"I think we have so much to learn from them in terms of their faith," Spangler said. "It's a real inspiration to see how strong their faith is, and we want to develop ways to share each others' faith and to pray for each other. The relationship comes first, and then the programs will come as a result of mutually defined needs."

St. Barnabas parishioner Michele Wessler of Indianapolis, who visited Camagüey twice, said it was "a tremendous joy to have my [Cuban] friends celebrate Mass here, which brings home so much of what Catholic social teaching means and what our Holy Father has told us. It's Jesus Christ at work. It's been a blessing."

While visiting archdiocesan agencies, the delegation toured St. Mary's Child Center in Indianapolis, which serves Latino children. About 13 percent of the children there are Hispanic. They also visited Holy Cross Central School in Indianapolis and learned about educational programs for Latino students.

At Saint Meinrad, they toured the seminary facilities and met with Benedictine Father Mark O'Keefe, president-rector; Benedictine Father Justin DuVall, provost-vice rector; and Ursuline Sister Shirley Ann Warner, director of field education.

Delegation members also observed one of the regularly scheduled school conferences given by Father Mark, and discussed spiritual formation and education of priests with Benedictine Father Jonathan Fassero, director of enrollment for the School of Theology.

The delegation also visited the Monte Cassino Shrine and participated in eucharistic liturgies, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction with the monks and students.

During their Saint Meinrad visit, Father Ernesto Lopez, vicar general, said "it has given us the opportunity to see very close-up where formation of priests takes place."

Delegation members said they were



Photo by Mary Ann Wyard

Above, Father Carlos Juan Himenez Lewis and Father Ernesto Guillermo Pacheco Lopez from the Archdiocese of Camagüey sit with Father Kenneth Taylor, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish and director of the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry, and Father Joseph Rautenberg, archdiocesan consultant on ethics/bioethics and sacramental minister for St. Mary Parish in Mitchell, Our Lady of the Springs Parish in French Lick and Our Lord Jesus Christ the King Parish in Paoli, during a Mass of Thanksgiving on Nov. 20 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.



Photo by Charles J. Schiela

Left, Benedictine Father Jonathan Fassero of Saint Meinrad explains artwork in the Archabbey Church during a Nov. 18 tour of the Benedictine monastery for members of the Cuban delegation.

Below, Mario Ricardo Gonzalez Teijeiro and Mercedes Cristina Acevedo Rivero, right, talk with Little Sister of the Poor Lourdes Marie Miranda during a Nov. 22 visit to St. Augustine Home for the Aged in Indianapolis.



Photo by Charles J. Schiela

especially pleased by the opportunities they had to talk with seminary students, especially those who speak Spanish, and with administrators and formation directors at the School of Theology.

Father Ernesto noted some similarities in that Saint Meinrad gives attention to the same aspects of priesthood formation as the Camagüey seminary.

The biggest difference between the seminaries is their size, with Saint Meinrad's enrollment of 82 seminarians much larger than that of the Cuban seminary, which has 15 seminarians in a pre-theology and first-year theology program. After completing the program, the Cuban seminarians then enroll in a seminary in Havana.

The following day, the delegation attended Mass in the Archabbey Church with the Benedictine monks and visited with Benedictine Archabbot Lambert Reilly. It was the first time they had been to a monastery and prayed with monks.

Mario Teijeiro said he was "very happy that we had the opportunity to come here and enjoy your warm hospitality."

Delegation members met Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general, and agency

employees on Nov. 20 then participated in Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral and a Thanksgiving luncheon at the Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center.

Offering their thanks to Archbishop Buechlein, the archdiocese, the C.U.B.A. 2000 committee and Catholic Relief Services in written remarks translated by Kadota, Father Ernesto, Father Juan and Teijeiro said, "In the different liturgical celebrations that we have participated in and those that the two priests have celebrated, we have felt that the celebrations are like ours with much participation of the people. We believe the only difference is the language."

They said Pope John Paul II's 1998 visit to Cuba was "a confirmation in the apostolic faith and a testament to the faith and fidelity of the Cuban Church."

The pope's visit also was "a confirmation to the silent testimony of so many Christians in earlier decades as well as being a sign of hope that, in the words of Pope John Paul II as he parted Havana, 'Cuba opens itself up to the world and the world opens itself up to Cuba.'"

During their visit to the archdiocese, the delegation members said they "met with many of our counterparts and have been blessed to be able to exchange ideas

for work in our shared ministries. We would like to be able to keep having the opportunities for exchanges of experiences by visiting each other."

As a result of their visit, delegation members said they will "evaluate our partnership and efforts to date and find ways to increase the perspective of our work. Perhaps we could work together in the areas of outreach to the aged and in the work of child catechesis."

As a result of the diocesan partnership, "we have started a youth project," they said. "There has also been some initial steps to help in the construction of an archdiocesan seminary."

"It is through visits like this that we are reminded of the communion we share between local Churches," they said. "We feel extremely satisfied to share this experience from our faith, helping us to experience firsthand the body of Christ as we, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Archdiocese of Camagüey, are both united by the same ocean and are under the same sun. We are grateful for the support and guidance of CRS for making this a reality."

(Mary Jeanne Schumacher, director of communications for Saint Meinrad School of Theology, contributed to this story.) †

Faith *Alive!*

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Advent is a good time to take a spiritual inventory

By Fr. John W. Crossin, O.S.F.S.

“Know thyself.”

This ancient Greek admonition, often used by such Christians as St. Francis de Sales, is very difficult to practice when it comes to taking inventory of our spiritual journey.

We sometimes can see others’ spiritual progress rather clearly. Our own growth is more difficult to discern. So we often rely on spiritual friends and mentors to help us see the light.

Yet too much introspection is not so good. St. Francis de Sales urges us not to think of ourselves too much—a yearly self-inventory is sufficient.

A prayerful season of preparation such as Advent or an annual retreat is the ideal time to take stock of our spiritual state of mind and heart. In solitude, or with the help of a spiritual friend or a confessor, we can take inventory of our past year’s spiritual journey.

First, we might look to the goal: holiness.

This is not perfection, for perfection in life’s details is impossible. Yet, we are to set no bounds to our love—however imperfect it may be.

The key to spiritual development is growth in love in relationships with God and others.

This growth in love is a pure gift. God’s generosity touches our lives. We are the beneficiaries of divine abundance.

And our response to this gift is to give thanks.

Holiness is not an achievement. It is a gift.

We have been greatly blessed. It is always good to count our blessings.

We give special thanks to God at the Eucharist as we pray with and for others. In praying the Mass together, we share a little foretaste of heaven. Here on Earth, we have a prelude. In heaven, we will have a full symphony of love.

We never really arrive at the goal on Earth. We never love as much as we might. Yet we often have a sense of whether we are moving forward or backward.

If we look at our relationships, we can see whether we have changed. Are we spending more time with God or less? Are we valuing our neighbor more or less? Do we show strangers hospitality? Do we forgive enemies?

Some general signs of spiritual progress might be noted when we take inventory of our spiritual journey.

- We begin to show more concern for others and less for ourselves.

This is difficult in an individualistic culture that makes money the central value. Advertising tells us every day that we will be “fulfilled” by having “stuff.” We are not immune to this message. We will know we have matured when the thought of giving things away does not frighten us!

- We commit ourselves to service.

One valuable thing we have is time. To commit ourselves to a particular service—perhaps to something that stretches us beyond our comfort zone—can be a sign of growth.

Recently, I committed myself to serve as chaplain to the regional Engaged Encounter Movement. This involves a lot of meetings in distant places. (I will let you know how it goes! I hope to practice what I write.)

- Doing good becomes second nature.

One thing we notice about those who are becoming holy is that a gentle concern for others is evident. I think that people who have come this far do not even realize the kindness they show. They are quick with a kind word, a supportive gesture and a small good deed.

- We bear our burdens patiently.

We may suffer on occasion—and the root of our suffering may have a message for us about our lives. But most often, we have the daily difficulties of living. As we grow spiritually, we realize that we will always have burdens, and sometimes this will mean suffering.

- Joy is evident.

St. Francis de Sales contends that love gives us an inner serenity. Holiness is attractive. Some people I have known over the years radiate a sense of peace. It seems to surround them. I wish that I could “hold on to it” when I leave them. Afterward, I have it for a while, and then it disappears.

- A willingness to dialogue with others.

When we are secure in our beliefs, we are willing to learn from others who are different from us. These may be Catholics who hold different points of view on the issues of the day.

I have also seen this in my ecumenical work with the Washington Theological Consortium. As we are more spiritually mature, we are less fearful and more open to learning from the grace that God has given to our Protestant and Orthodox colleagues.

I believe that a deeper, inner conversion to the spiritual life is essential to Christian unity. Only insofar as we are radically open to the Spirit will we grow into the unity that Christ demands and grow in holiness.

(Oblate Father John W. Crossin is executive director of the Washington Theological Consortium.) †



Holiness is not an achievement. It is a gift from God. Some people radiate a sense of holiness and peace that seems to surround them.

Personal growth happens in many ways

By Frederic Flach, M.D.

As a doctor, I witness personal growth in many patients. With few exceptions, they come to me with distress that signals a need for change and personal growth.

I’ve seen people grow by acquiring new ways to manage hurt and angry feelings. Husbands have become better husbands, wives better wives and parents better parents. Old age is filled with opportunities for growth, especially spiritual growth. Many older people participate in daily Mass because they still want to grow spiritually.

I’m amazed at how many insights come to mind at Mass. One day, as the congregation recited “Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,” it occurred to me that God doesn’t need this adulation. The ritual adoration we

offer is for our sake, not God’s. He knows we need this. He always has known our needs.

During Lent, it occurred to me that while the primary reason Christ became man, died on the cross and was resurrected was to atone for our sins, there could be additional reasons.

Maybe Christ wanted to experience the best and worst of the human condition. Maybe God realized that, through Jesus’ personhood, we would be able to relate to him not just with fear and awe, but also with loving friendship.

(Dr. Frederic Flach practices psychiatry in New York City and is the author of *The Secret Strength of Depression and Resilience* and other books.) †

Discussion Point

Faith grows via life experiences

This Week’s Question

Describe one significant way that your life or your understanding as a Christian has changed or developed over the past decade.

“In the past decade, my children have gone through sacramental preparation classes, and parents were asked to attend. I was born and raised Catholic, but I hadn’t gone to church for a long time. Getting back in touch with my faith by attending [religious education] classes with my children has been life-altering.” (Marleen Lansing, Phoenix, Ariz.)

“Going from a layperson to a permanent deacon has changed my life tremendously. I lost my father, and both my mother and my wife became ill—all in a year’s time. Now I have a very sick brother, feeling the effects of layoffs due to the economy in our community. If not for my strong Christian belief, I would

not be surviving these crises.” (Deacon J. E. Bushnell, Lake Charles, La.)

“There are so many demands put on us from every aspect of our lives ... that it can be overwhelming to maintain a proper balance among them all. Over the past few years, it has become increasingly important to realize that only by putting God first and maintaining strong faith and convictions rooted in truth and honesty can that proper balance be met.” (Andy Ferraro, Arlington, Va.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: What is your definition of human progress?

To respond for possible publication, write to *Faith Alive!* at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. †



CNS photo by Karen Callaway, Northwest Indiana Catholic

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Catholic patriots: Archbishop John Hughes (I)

Eighth in a series



One day in the 1860s, Archbishop John Hughes of New York entered the royal chambers of Emperor Napoleon III of France. He had been sent by President Abraham Lincoln to France to present the cause of the North in a favorable light. The Civil War had begun and it was known that England, because she needed cotton for her factory looms, looked favorably upon the South. It was important to the North, therefore, that France and the rest of Europe be kept neutral.

Napoleon was interested in knowing about the effectiveness of the blockade of the southern ports. He realized that the economy of the South depended on the sale of cotton and that the South probably would be unable to keep up the war if revenue from the sale of cotton were cut off. However, he had heard from his advisers that the blockade-runners were

increasingly successful.

Archbishop Hughes, well prepared for his mission, was able to dispute the claims made by southern sympathizers among the emperor's advisers. He felt heartened that Napoleon listened to him carefully and nodded his head several times in apparent agreement.

After meeting with Napoleon III, Archbishop Hughes went to Rome, where he had private talks with Pope Pius IX. The pope stated his wish that a European nation or nations might be able to mediate the American Civil War and volunteered any help he could give to end the bloodshed.

President Lincoln and his Secretary of State, William Seward, thought that Hughes's mission to France had been a success. The secretary gave a banquet in Washington in the archbishop's honor to give public governmental recognition to his services. Historians credit Hughes with success in preventing France from giving official recognition to the Confederacy even though sympathy in France was running high for the South.

But why was it felt that Archbishop Hughes would be the Union's best

spokesman in Europe? Simply because he had already earned for himself a reputation as a great patriot as well as a great archbishop. In his deep love for the United States, he believed that no issue was great enough to imperil the unity of the nation.

Hughes had been a staunch supporter of Lincoln. Perhaps his support stemmed in part from Hughes's friendship with Seward, but mainly Hughes could see the potential greatness in the tall, lanky gentleman from Illinois.

After the war began, Hughes was in frequent communication with Seward, and Seward showed many of the letters to President Lincoln. Lincoln at one time wrote to the archbishop to thank him for the "kind and judicious letters" he had written to Seward, "which he regularly allows me both the pleasure and profit of perusing."

Lincoln particularly liked a letter in which Hughes counseled forbearance in victory and urged that the rebel leaders be treated in defeat with patience and consideration. "Conquest is not altogether by the sword," he had written. "Statesmanship may have much to do with it." †

Cornucopia/Cynthia Dewes

The Advent of the Good News of Christ

My parish was privileged recently to host a mission given by Father James Farrell, pastor of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. Unfortunately, we were only able to attend one evening. But after that session, we wished we could've been present for the entire mission because we heard such Good News.



We enjoyed a homemade chili dinner and then celebrated a Mass whose centerpiece was the homily on evangelization delivered by Father Farrell. If evangelization was not our "thing" before this, it certainly was afterward!

Father Farrell began by recognizing the embarrassment that most Catholics feel at the very thought of sharing their faith with others. At least, out loud. Many of us tend to think of evangelization as something done by wild-eyed loonies, ranting on street corners about hellfire and brimstone.

We tend to think of our faith as a private thing between God and us. It's not that we don't want to share it with others; we're just not sure how. And, while some of us

have been lucky enough to find Bible studies, prayer circles or other groups in which we're encouraged to enrich each other's convictions, many have not.

In contrast to that approach, Father shared stories of the evangelizing thunderbolts which folks have zapped him with over the years in his ministry to hospital patients. These experiences occurred in a place and at times he never expected, since he was supposed to be the person ministering to the others.

He told of the man who'd just learned that he was terminally ill. When Father Farrell went into his hospital room to comfort him, he said, "Well, John, how are you?" And the man replied "Father, we have to die in order to live."

He spoke of the elderly man whose beloved wife of many decades was dying. When Father, a callow young priest barely out of the seminary, wondered what to say to this man whose dear wife was about to leave him, he expected to hear, "Poor me, what will I do without her?" Instead, the man said, "Think how much God must love her, because I know he loves her even more than I do."

The profound faith of the dying was an angelical message, which constantly surprised Father Farrell. He cited as

another example Msgr. Ray Bosler, former editor of *The Criterion*, who told the priests gathered about his deathbed, "I can't wait to see what God has in store for me on the other side."

When we think about it, what is evangelization but the sharing of the Good News brought to us by Christ? Father Farrell reminded us of the power of this message, which is simply that good always will triumph over evil, joy over grief and healing over pain. It's the support we need for living and dying well, a gift we should accept gracefully and share with others.

Scripture says, "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, what God has ready for those who love him." Father Farrell has learned that the faithful, even in the face of death, remain not only hopeful but also joyful at the prospect. They know the Good News is the only news that's not too good to be true.

Father Farrell's hospital folks heard the Good News brought by Christ, and believed it. Maybe, during this Advent of opportunity, we will do the same.

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

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

Putting faith into action through missions

One rainy, dreary morning at home alone with my two snoozing cats, I felt at loose ends. Household chores and writing projects beckoned, but I instead watched a video from Catholic World Mission. Then I listened to a CWM CD. During those moments, I was no longer at odds with myself. A sense of purpose came over me, much as it did when discovering something extraordinary as a young girl.



The video explained Catholic World Mission's exemplary work. Founded five years ago by Legionary of Christ Father Thomas Moylan (together with enterprising laymen), CWM works toward long-term transformation of poverty in body, mind and spirit through education, the Gospel, and spiritual and practical support to those in need in Latin America.

CWM supports more than 10,000 poor children, 900 lay missionaries in

thousands of communities, plus diocesan priests and deacons who need assistance. Together, they live this motto: Conquering poverty with the richness of our Catholic faith."

The beautiful promotional video I watched first—opened and closed by CWM executive director Ken Davison—shows what's being done. It reminded me of my childhood dream to be a missionary. Through CWM, I can still do this, vicariously.

The CD reminded me of the radio programs that stimulated me creatively as a child in the days before television. Such CDs are already perfect additions to many Catholic radio stations and are enjoyed by families and in schools. These moving, vocally dramatized stories featured the patroness of first communicants, Blessed Imelda, as well as St. Juan Diego's role in the devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Weeks earlier, I read two CWM coloring books with the same stories. I knew immediately I'd mention them in a column. What's particularly special about them? They're done in English and Spanish!

CWM has a series of such coloring-storybooks. Some are already in print introducing St. Theresa of Lisieux, the saints of the Knights of Columbus, and St. Joseph; and more are being developed. Since the feast of St. Nicholas is Dec. 6—and the good Bishop of Myra is the legendary forerunner of Santa Claus—I recommend that St. Nick eventually be featured, too.

The books' prose and artwork are done by professional writers and artists donating their talents for the promotion of truths in our Catholic faith. Readers interested in lending their expertise can contact Catholic World Mission via information on the back page of this *Criterion* or at www.catholicworldmission.org.

Most of us can't be out and about in the mission field, but supporting Catholic World Mission helps us personally participate in evangelization and the work of God.

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

Looking Around/

Fr. William J. Byron S.J.

Faith, state and fatherhood

This could be considered a Fathers' Day story, but it's worth telling now to get parents thinking about spending time with their children at Christmas.



Former Pennsylvania Governor and U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh was the dinner speaker at Princeton Theological Seminary during a

recent seminar on "Faith, Ethics and the Law." Panel discussions earlier in the day encouraged participants to reflect on the relevance of their religious faith to a variety of ethical challenges in life and law. Thornburgh's speech was titled "The Role of Faith in Decision Making."

His thoughts were influenced by the launch that evening of his autobiography, *Where the Evidence Leads* (University of Pittsburgh Press). Written originally as a narrative to be shared with his children and grandchildren, the writer received encouragement to publish it for a broader audience. Many will be glad he did.

Politically, he had to deal with the Three Mile Island disaster in his first year as Pennsylvania's governor. He said his faith influenced his decision-making in that unprecedented moment of crisis.

Personally, he had, at age 28, to deal with the death of his 26-year-old wife, Ginny, in an automobile crash, minutes after she and their three young sons had delivered their dad to his law office for what would otherwise have been an ordinary day's work. The boys were not yet school age; the youngest, Peter, was just 4 months old. The two older boys, John and David, survived the crash without serious injury; Peter, who suffered multiple skull fractures, nearly died. Faith kept this family together.

Thornburgh spoke movingly of Peter that evening at Princeton and spoke with gratitude to God for Ginny Judson, who, three years after that tragic day in 1960, became the second Ginny Thornburgh. The boys had a new mother; she formally adopted them one year later. Not long after that, she and Thornburgh presented the boys with their new baby brother, Bill.

Peter, whose mental capacity remains limited as a result of the brain trauma he suffered in the accident, became, said Thornburgh, "the conscience of the family, somehow bringing out our very best.

Through him, we learned to be more tolerant and appreciative of diversity and more committed to the general welfare of persons with disabilities."

When his parents moved into the governor's home in Harrisburg, Peter, age 19, and his other brothers moved in with them. Dick and Ginny soon noticed that the attentive house staff and the friendly and ever-present state troopers, there to provide security and transportation, were doing so much for the likable Peter that his self-reliance skills began to erode.

Trusting in God, they decided it would be best to move Peter into supervised living in a nearby group home, where he would share common facilities with other clients and participate in some kind of protected workshop employment.

Peter, now 43, tells people that he "works for the poor," a reference to his regular volunteer service at the Community Food Bank in Harrisburg. Occasionally, he spends weekends with his parents in Washington. And that brings me to the point of the story.

Father and son spent time together recently at the Washington Zoo. At the end of the day, Dick, with elephants, tigers and giraffes in mind, asked Peter, "What did you like best?" Peter looked at his dad and said, "Being with you."

Amen, everybody!

(*Jesuit Father William J. Byron is a columnist for Catholic News Service.*) †

Second Sunday of Advent/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Dec. 7, 2003

- Baruch 5:1-9
- Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
- Luke 3:1-6

The Book of Baruch is the source of the first reading for this Second Sunday of Advent.



Actually, "Baruch" is not a proper name. Rather, it is a title. In Hebrew, it means God's "beloved."

Supposedly, this book was the work of the secretary, or scribe, of Jeremiah, the great Hebrew

prophet whose writings provided the first reading in last weekend's liturgy.

Actually, research indicates that this book was written centuries after the period in which Jeremiah, and his contemporaries, lived. The date of the book's composition is unimportant. What is important is its message.

Set in that dismal part of Hebrew history when God's people languished in Babylon, the book recognizes the misery of the people and reassures them that, in the end, God's mercy and protection will prevail. God will lead them home, away from Babylon, and from the unhappy lives they endured in Babylon.

Incidentally, Baruch is among the deuterocanonical, or apocryphal, books of the Old Testament. Older Protestant versions do not include it.

In language almost poetic, and certainly expressive, this weekend's reading looks ahead from Babylon to a bright new day of peace and justice in God's own city of Jerusalem. The faithful eventually return to Jerusalem because God will lead them.

As its second reading, this weekend's Advent liturgy offers us the Epistle to the Philippians.

This epistle, addressed to the Christians of Philippi, a city of military importance, but renowned for particular loyalty, is lavish in extolling Jesus. The author associates his own deep love for the Christians of Philippi with the love of Jesus.

All who love the Lord can look forward to the day when the Lord will return to Earth. This expectation of the Lord's triumphant return was quite important to

early Christians.

St. Luke's Gospel provides the last reading.

It prepares us for the great story of Christmas, reporting the census ordered by the Roman emperor of all the populations under Roman governance.

When the story is told several weeks from now, the census will be given as the reason why Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem rather than Galilee at the time that Jesus was born. Joseph's roots were in Bethlehem, so he went there to be enumerated.

This quick explanation of the Holy Family's presence in Bethlehem sweeps over a fact profoundly noted by the early Christians, and hardly overlooked by the Evangelist Luke.

Bethlehem was the city of David, the king of Israel, but he was much more than a political ruler. He was God's instrument, present among the people to lead them to God and away from peril.

The birth of Jesus indicated that the Lord had inherited this role from David, the king from long ago.

Actually, however, this reading directly is associated with Zechariah, the husband of Elizabeth. Their son, born shortly before the birth of Jesus, was John the Baptist. He foretold the coming of the Redeemer.

As the reading continues, it quotes Isaiah's promise of a savior. Isaiah predicted the coming of the great Messiah as John predicted. Both were God's messengers.

Reflection

The Church is excited in its expectation of Jesus. The first reading, from Baruch, and the second reading, from St. Luke's Gospel, express this excitement. The Lord is coming!

The second reading, from the Epistle to the Philippians, gives the reason for this excitement. This reading is marvelous in that it captures the profound faith in, and love for, Jesus that typified the first Christians.

It was a love that called for imitation of the Lord's own love. Christians must love all others as Jesus loves all.

When the love of Christ imbues all, and when all imitate Christ's love in contacts with others, in thoughts about others, then genuine peace and justice will prevail. †

Daily Readings

Monday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Genesis 3:9-15, 20

Psalms 98:1-4

Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12

Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 9

Juan Diego, hermit

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 96:1-3, 10-13

Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 10

Isaiah 40:25-31

Psalms 103:1-4, 8, 10

Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday, December 11

Damasus I, pope

Isaiah 41:13-20

Psalms 145:1, 9-13ab

Matthew 11:11-15

Friday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zechariah 2:14-17

or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

(Response) Judith 13:18bc, 19

Luke 1:26-38

or Luke 1:39-47

Saturday, December 13

Lucy, virgin and martyr

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11

Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 14

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

(Response) Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

Civil law and canon law govern property ownership

Q Is it true that all Catholic Church property is owned by the bishops?



If so, isn't this total ownership dangerous in case of lawsuits? Shouldn't the people own the churches? (Missouri)

A Church legislation and practice concerning the ownership and administration of Church property is lengthy and highly complex, even more so as it intersects with civil laws, which, of course, vary from country to country and state to state.

So, without going into great detail, I will limit my response to your direct question.

Under canon law, the owner of any Church property is the juridic (legal) person who legitimately acquired it (Canon #1256).

Parishes, for example, are juridic persons, as are dioceses and provinces of religious orders. And there are others.

Thus, both by civil and canon law, normally when a parish acquires property it belongs to the parish, not to the diocese or the bishop.

Some dioceses and archdioceses in the United States have been historically structured as a corporation sole. This means that nearly all Church property is owned by a single corporation, of which the bishop is the only member.

There are some advantages to this arrangement, but it can also be dangerous, especially for reasons of liability, which you mention.

For a long time, the Vatican has urged American bishops to avoid corporations sole in favor of structures allowing ownership by parish corporations where this is possible under civil law. But some corporations sole still exist in our country.

While parishes and other public juridic persons within a diocese may own the property, however, the local bishop is still responsible for supervision of the administration of these properties (Canon #1276).

The bishop may, for example, within the limits of law, establish regulations for observance of civil laws, for

obtaining insurance and for accountability procedures (such as annual reports) to assure that pastors and other property administrators carry out their responsibilities competently and honestly.

Local bishops also have the right and responsibility to impose moderate taxes, establish special collections and prescribe other donations necessary for the healthy functioning of the diocese and the universal Church.

This is a bare-bones response to your question. As you can see, usually the bishop does not own all property. He is responsible, however, for assuring that whatever properties the Church does own are used properly for the good of everyone.

These regulations are found basically in the Code of Canon Law, #1254-#1310.

Q My widowed sister married her present husband out of the Church. They now have an 8-year-old son.

She talked with a priest about the annulment of her husband's previous marriage, but he refused to cooperate at that time. Her son is being raised Catholic, and she desperately desires to return to Communion.

She asked me to write this letter seeking your advice on what steps she must take. (Ohio)

A Many people write to me requesting assistance involving a previous marriage. Often, I can offer information that may help, and I am always willing to speak with them.

But to pursue a personal case and find a spiritually profitable solution, they always need to work with a priest where they live.

Please ask your sister to do that. From what you have told me, there is a good chance that she can receive the help she needs to return to the sacraments.

(A free brochure describing basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651. Questions for this column should be sent to the same address or by e-mail in care of jjdietzen@aol.com.) †

My Journey to God

Nothing Happens Without You

God, my heart is empty
when you are not there.
I try to pray,
but only voices and visions
run through my mind.

In the name of Jesus,
my God,
do not forsake me,
but have mercy on me.

I look at the birds
fly too and fro,
and the trees and grass
bend in the wind,
and dust lifts up
then falls back to the ground.

Nothing happens without you, God.
Pick me up, Lord,
that your will be done in me.
Amen.

By Robert Ferguson

(Robert Ferguson is a member of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis.)



CNS photo by Julie Denebra

The Active List

The Criterion welcomes announcements of archdiocesan Church and parish open-to-the-public activities for "The Active List." Please be brief—listing date, location, event, sponsor, cost and time. Include a phone number for verification. No announcements will be taken by telephone. Notices must be in our office by 10 a.m. Monday the week of (Friday) publication: The Criterion, The Active List, 1400 N. Meridian St. (hand deliver), P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206 (mail); 317-236-1593 (fax), mklein@archindy.org (e-mail).

December 5

Michaela Farm, Oldenburg. Day of prayer, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. EST. Information: 812-933-0661.

St. Lawrence Church, 6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis. Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Mass and healing service, teaching 7 p.m. followed by praise and worship, Mass and healing service. Information: 317-927-6709.

December 5-7

Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Charismatic retreat, "The Fruits of the Holy Spirit," Father Thomas Forrest, presenter, \$145 for individual or \$270 for couple. Information: 317-545-7681.

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. "Advent Silent Retreat," \$140 for resident or \$110 for commuter. Information: 317-788-7581.

December 6

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. "Gloria Deo," concert, donations benefit parish ministry programs. Information: 317-634-4519.

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. "Advent Family Retreat," 9 a.m.-3 p.m., \$25 for adult, \$10 for child grades 1-8, age 5 and under free. Information: 317-788-7581.

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. "Introduction to Centering Prayer," 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$60 per person includes lunch and materials. Information: 317-788-7581.

Mount Saint Francis Retreat Center, 101 Anthony Dr., Mount St. Francis. Christmas bazaar and luncheon, homemade soups, turkey dumplings, desserts, gift items, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Information:

812-923-8817.

Bishop Chatard High School, 5885 N. Crittenden Ave., Indianapolis. Placement test for 2004-05 freshman class, 8:30 a.m., arrive 15 minutes early. Information: 317-251-1451.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Chorale and Madrigals, "An Advent Service of Lessons and Carols," 7 p.m. Information: 812-535-5237.

December 6-7

St. Bernadette Parish, 4838 Fletcher Ave., Indianapolis. Christmas bazaar, Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., free breakfast with Santa, 8-10:30 a.m., crafts, baked goods. Information: 317-356-5867.

December 7

Holy Trinity Church, 2618 W. St. Clair St., Indianapolis. Archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry, gathering for Catholics from Africa, Mass, 3 p.m., meeting, meal. Information: 317-236-1562.

Sacred Heart Church, 2322 North 13 1/2 St., Terre Haute. Archdiocesan deacon formation program, Benedictine Father Bede Cisco, presenter, 1 p.m. Information: 317-236-1491.

St. Maurice Parish, 8874 Harrison St., Napoleon. Live Nativity, 4-8 p.m. Information: 812-663-9774.

Mary's King's Village Schoenstatt, Rexville (located on 925

South, .8 mile east of 421 South, 12 miles south of Versailles), "Schoenstatt Spirituality," 2:30 p.m., Mass, 3:30 p.m., with Father Elmer Burwinkel. Information: 812-689-3551 or e-mail frburwink@seidata.com or log on to Schoenstatt Web site at www.seidata.com/~frburwink.

December 8

St. Francis Hospital-Indianapolis, 8111 S. Emerson Ave., Indianapolis. "Freedom from Smoking," seventh of seven weekly classes developed by American Lung Association, 6-8 p.m., \$50 fee, \$25 due at first class then \$5 each week. Information or reservations: 317-782-7999.

Mary's King's Village Schoenstatt, Rexville (located on 925 South, .8 mile east of 421 South, 12 miles south of Versailles), "Family Faith Talks," 7 p.m., Mass, 8 p.m., with Father Elmer Burwinkel. Information: 812-689-3551 or e-mail frburwink@seidata.com or log on to Schoenstatt Web site at www.seidata.com/~frburwink.

December 10

Holy Rosary Parish, Catholic Youth Organization Center classroom, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. "Four Advent Meditations on the Incarnation: The Only Begotten Son," Mike Luther, presenter, 7-8 p.m. Information: 317-236-1521.

Mount St. Francis Retreat Center, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mount St. Francis. "Advent Retreat Day," 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., "brown bag lunch," free-will offering. Information: 812-923-8817 or e-mail mtstfran@cris.com.



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December 11

Cordiafonte House of Prayer, 3650 E. 46th St., Indianapolis. Joyful mysteries of the rosary, prayed in slow meditative way, 7-7:45 p.m. Information: 317-543-0154.

Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. "Charismatic Retreat and Reflection Day on Healing," Father James Farrell, presenter, \$30 per person includes lunch. Information: 317-545-7681.

December 11-13

Marian College, Allison Mansion, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. "Christmas at Marian," 6 p.m. Wassail reception, 6:30 p.m. Madrigal dinner, \$25 per person, \$20 seniors, students and groups of 10 or more. Reservations: 317-955-6206.

December 12

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. Eighth annual Solemn Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe, Msgr. Mark Svareczkopf, celebrant, 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-888-2861.

St. Francis Hospital-South Campus, 8111 S. Emerson Ave., Indianapolis. The Couple to Couple League of Indianapolis, Natural Family Planning (NFP), 7-9 p.m. Information: 317-865-5554.

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, 10655 Haverstick Road, Carmel, Diocese of Lafayette. The Couple to Couple League of Indianapolis, Natural Family Planning (NFP), 7-9 p.m. Information: 317-228-9276.

December 12-14

Mount St. Francis Retreat Center, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mount

St. Francis. "Christmas Family Retreat." Information: 812-923-8817 or e-mail mtstfran@cris.com.

Kordes Retreat Center, 841 E. 14th St., Ferdinand. "Exploring the Psalms—Encountering a Maze of Prayer," 7 p.m. Friday until 1 p.m. Sunday, \$147 double/\$177 single. Information: 812-367-2777 or 800-880-2777.

December 13

Roncalli High School, 3300 Prague Road, Indianapolis. Placement test for 2004-05 freshman class, 8:30 a.m., \$10, arrive 10 minutes early. Information: 317-251-1451.

Roncalli High School, cafeteria, 3300 Prague Road, Indianapolis. "Breakfast with Santa Claus," 8-11 a.m., \$4 children, \$5 adults, children under two free. Information: 317-787-8277, ext. 242.

Oldenburg Academy, Oldenburg. Entrance exam for freshman students, 8 a.m.-noon, \$15. Information or registration: 812-934-4440, ext. 231.

December 14

Cathedral High School, O'Malia Performing Arts Center, 5225 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Christmas concert, Catholic Choir of Indianapolis, 3 p.m., free admission, limited seating, no reservations. Information: 317-542-1481.

Monthly

First Sundays
St. Paul Church, 218 Scheller Ave., Sellersburg. Prayer group, 7-8:15 p.m. Information: 812-246-4555.

Fatima Knights of Columbus, 1040 N. Post Road, Indianapolis. Euchre, 1 p.m. Information: 317-638-8416.

First Mondays
Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Guardian Angel Guild, board meeting, 9:30 a.m.

First Tuesdays
Divine Mercy Chapel, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Confession, 6:45 p.m., Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, 7:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Church, 2605 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. Holy hour for religious vocations, Benediction and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 7 p.m. Mass.

Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, 2801 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. Indiana Autism and Sertoma Club meeting, 7-9 p.m., child care provided. Information: 317-885-7295.

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The Active List, continued from page 14

First Fridays

St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1723 "I" St., **Bedford** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8:30 a.m. Mass-9 a.m. Sat. morning, reconciliation, Fri. 4-6 p.m., Sat. 8-9 a.m., "Children of Hope" program, Holy hour for children. Information: 812-275-6539.

Holy Name Church, 89 N. 17th Ave., **Beech Grove**. Mass, 8:15 a.m., devotions following Mass until 5 p.m. Benediction. Information: 317-784-5454.

St. Peter Church, 1207 East Road, **Brookville**. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8 a.m. until Communion service, 1 p.m.

Holy Guardian Angels Church, 405 U.S. 52, **Cedar Grove**. Eucharistic adoration after 8 a.m. Mass-5 p.m.

SS. Francis and Clare Church, 5901 Olive Branch Road, **Greenwood**. Mass, 8 a.m., adoration, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Sacred Heart Chaplet, 8:30 a.m., Divine Mercy Chaplet, 3 p.m. Information: 317-859-4673.

Christ the King Church, 1827 Kessler Blvd. E. Dr., **Indianapolis**. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 7:15 a.m. Mass-5:30 p.m. Benediction and service.

Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., **Indianapolis**. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after 5:45 p.m. Mass-9 a.m. Saturday. Information: 317-636-4478.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 5333 E. Washington St., **Indianapolis**. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer service, 7:30 p.m.

St. Anthony Church, 379 N. Warman Ave., **Indianapolis**. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 5:30 p.m. Mass, hour of silent prayer and reflection followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

St. Joseph Church, 1375 S. Mickley Ave., **Indianapolis**. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 4 p.m., rosary, 5 p.m., Benediction, 5:30 p.m., Mass, 5:45 p.m. Information: 317-244-9002.

St. Rita Church, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., **Indianapolis**. Sacred Heart devotion, 11 a.m., holy hour, 6-7 p.m. Information: 317-632-9349.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 1530 Union St., **Indianapolis**. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7:30-10:30 a.m., Mass, 6:30 a.m. Information: 317-638-5551.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 1752 Scheller Lane, **New Albany**. Adoration concluding with confessions at 6 p.m. Benediction, 6:45 p.m.

St. Joseph Church, 113 S. 5th St., **Terre Haute**. Eucharistic adoration, 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Benediction, rosary, noon, Mass, 5:15 p.m. Information: 812-235-4996.

First Saturdays

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., **Greenwood**. Devotions, Mass, 7:30 a.m., sacrament of reconciliation, rosary, meditations following Mass.

Holy Angels Church, 740 W. 28th St., **Indianapolis**. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 11 a.m.-noon.

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church, Chapel, 4720 E. 13th St., **Indianapolis**. Apostolate of Fatima holy hour, 2 p.m.

St. Anthony Church, 379 N. Warman Ave., **Indianapolis**. Reconciliation, 7:45 a.m., Mass, 8:15 a.m. followed by rosary.

St. Thomas More Church, 1200 N. Indiana St., **Mooreville**. Mass, 8:35 a.m. Information: 317-831-4142.

St. Nicholas Church, 6461 E. St. Nicholas Dr., **Sunman**. Mass, praise and worship, 8 a.m., then SACRED gathering in the school.

Second Mondays

Church at **Mount St. Francis**. Holy hour for vocations to priesthood and religious life, 7 p.m.

Second Tuesdays

St. Pius X Parish, 7200 Sarto Dr., **Indianapolis**. Support Group for Separated and Divorced Catholics, 7 p.m. Information: Archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries, 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

Second Thursdays

St. Luke Church, 7575 Holliday Dr. E., **Indianapolis**. Holy hour for priestly and religious vocations, 7 p.m.

Second Saturdays

St. Agnes Parish, Brown County Public Library, **Nashville**. Brown County Widowed Support Group, 3 p.m. Information and directions: 812-988-2778 or 812-988-4429.

Third Sundays

Christ the King Church, 1827 Kessler Blvd., E. Dr., **Indianapolis**. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 2 p.m.-7 a.m. Monday, rosary, 8 p.m. Open until midnight.

Third Mondays

St. Matthew Parish, 4100 E. 56th St., **Indianapolis**. Young Widowed Group, sponsored by archdiocesan Office for Family Ministries, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

Third Wednesdays

Holy Name Church, 89 N. 17th Ave., **Beech Grove**. Holy hour and rosary, 6 p.m. Information: 317-784-5454.

St. Jude Church, 5353

McFarland Road, **Indianapolis**. Rosary, 6:15 p.m. Information: 317-783-1445.

Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., **Indianapolis**. Catholic Widowed Organization, 7-9:30 p.m. Information: 317-784-1102.

Calvary Mausoleum Chapel, 435 Troy Ave., **Indianapolis**. Mass, 2 p.m.

Third Thursdays

Our Lady of Peace Mausoleum Chapel, 9001 Haverstick Road, **Indianapolis**. Mass, 2 p.m.

St. Elizabeth's Pregnancy and Adoption Services, 2500 Churchman Ave., **Indianapolis**. Daughters of Isabella, Madonna Circle meeting, noon, dessert and beverages served. Information: 317-849-5840.

St. Joseph Church, 1375 S. Mickley Ave., **Indianapolis**. Adoration of Blessed Sacrament, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Mass, 5:45 p.m. Information: 317-244-9002.

St. Thomas More Church, 1200 N. Indiana St., **Mooreville**. Prayer for vocations, rosary, eucharistic adoration, Benediction, 6 p.m. Information: 317-831-4142.

Third Fridays

Marian College, St. Francis Hall Chapel, 3200 Cold Spring Road, **Indianapolis**. Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana, Mass and healing service, 7 p.m.

Third Saturdays

St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., **Indianapolis**. Helpers of God's Precious Infants monthly pro-life ministry, Mass for Life by archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life Activities, 8:30 a.m., drive to

Clinic for Women (abortion clinic), 3607 W. 16th St., **Indianapolis**, for rosary, return to church for Benediction.

Fourth Wednesdays

St. Thomas More Church, 1200 N. Indiana St., **Mooreville**. Mass and anointing of the sick, 6 p.m. Information: 317-831-4142.

Last Sundays

Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., **Indianapolis**. Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 11:15 a.m. Information: 317-636-4478. †

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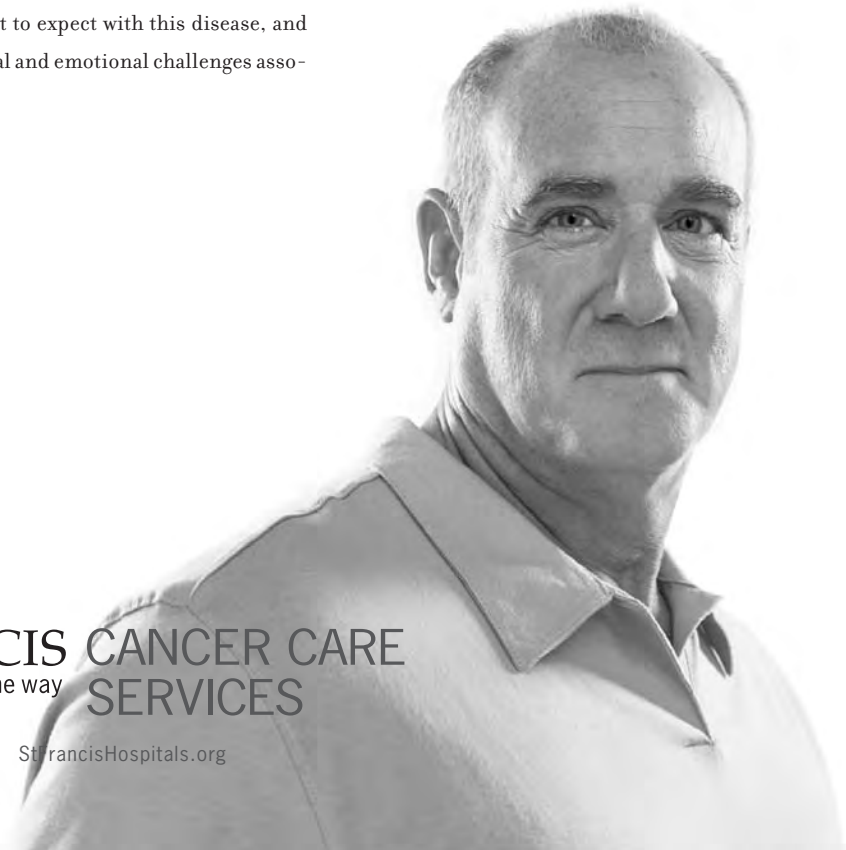
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Sisters of Providence honor 12 diamond jubilarians

Twelve Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods are celebrating their diamond jubilee and will be honored during a eucharistic liturgy at 11 a.m. on Dec. 8 in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse.

They are Providence Sisters Margaret Louise Bernard, Adrian Marie Conrad, Francis Edwards, Sheila FitzSimons, Michaela Galvin, Francine McGriffin, Mary Helen Neff, Ann Kevin O'Connor, Alice Louise Potts, Louise Schroeder, Margaret Sullivan and Mary Rosita Thewes.

Sister Margaret Louise Bernard, a native of Evanston, Ill., currently ministers in convent services in Venice, Fla.

She entered the congregation on Feb. 2, 1943, from St. Athanasius Parish in Evanston, and professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1950. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in education.

In Indianapolis, Sister Margaret Louise taught at the former St. Catherine School from 1945-46, St. Joan of Arc School from 1946-48, Holy Cross School from 1949-50, St. Philip Neri School from 1956-58, the former St. Anthony School from 1961-62 and St. Matthew School from 1962-63. She also taught at St. Paul School in Sellersburg from 1969-70 and at schools in Lafayette, Ind., and Hammond, Ind., and in Maryland, Massachusetts, Illinois, California and Florida.

Sister Adrian Marie Conrad is a native of Bicknell, Ind., and currently ministers as a volunteer in Los Angeles.

She entered the congregation on July 22, 1943, from St. Francis Xavier Parish in Vincennes, Ind., and professed

perpetual vows on Jan. 23, 1951. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in education then earned a master's degree in education from Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

Sister Adrian Marie taught at St. Mary School in Richmond from 1946-50, the former Chartrand High School in Indianapolis from 1968-70 and Sacred Heart School in Terre Haute from 1972-76. In Indianapolis, she served as principal at St. Jude School from 1965-68, campus director at the former Ladywood-St. Agnes School from 1971-72 and administrative secretary at Cathedral High School from 1976-78.

She also taught in Fort Wayne, Ind., and Vincennes, Ind., and was principal at a school in Illinois. She served as director of maintenance at Marywood in Orange, Calif.; director of Regina Hall Home for Juvenile Girls in Henderson, Nev.; pastoral associate for Guardian Angel Parish in Las Vegas; executive secretary for Grace Day Home and editorial assistant for *The Catholic Herald*, both in Sacramento, Calif.; and volunteer at San Clemente Mission in Bakersfield, Calif.

Sister Francis Edwards is a native of Oklahoma City and currently ministers as a volunteer in Los Angeles.

The former Sister Francis Bernard entered the congregation on Sept. 8, 1942, from Corpus Christi Parish in Oklahoma City and professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1950. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. She received a master's degree in mathematics from Indiana State University and

Sr. Margaret Louise Bernard, S.P.



Sr. Adrian Marie Conrad, S.P.



Sr. Francis Edwards, S.P.



Sr. Sheila FitzSimons, S.P.



Sr. Michaela Galvin, S.P.



Sr. Francine McGriffin, S.P.



Sr. Mary Helen Neff, S.P.



Sr. Ann Kevin O'Connor, S.P.



Sr. Alice Louise Potts, S.P.



Sr. Louise Schroeder, S.P.



Sr. Margaret Sullivan, S.P.



Sr. Mary Rosita Thewes, S.P.



a master's degree in library science from the University of Oklahoma.

In Indianapolis, Sister Francis taught at the former St. Catherine School from 1948-50, the former St. Anthony School from 1950-52, the former St. John Academy from 1952-55, the former St. Agnes Academy from 1959-66, the former Ladywood School from 1966-69 and the former Ladywood-St. Agnes School from 1971-72. She also taught in Vincennes, Ind., and Evansville, Ind., as well as in Illinois, Missouri and Oklahoma.

She served as a librarian at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods and at schools, seminaries or colleges in Oklahoma City; Panorama City, Calif.; Montebello, Calif.; Camarillo, Calif.; and Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Sister Sheila FitzSimons is a native of Indianapolis and currently ministers as a driver at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

The former Sister Marie Sheila entered the congregation on Feb. 2, 1943, from

St. Elizabeth Parish in Van Nuys, Calif., and professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1950. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in education then received a master's degree in reading from Loyola University in Los Angeles.

Sister Sheila taught at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis from 1955-56. She served as an adult education teacher for Providence Self Sufficiency Ministries in New Albany from 1999-2002. She taught at St. Charles School in Peru, Ind., and served as registrar at two high schools in California. She also taught and served as principal at schools in Illinois, New Hampshire and California.

Sister Michaela Galvin is a native of Melrose, Mass., and currently ministers as a member of the residential services staff at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

She entered the congregation on July 16, 1943, from Sacred Hearts Parish

Continued on next page

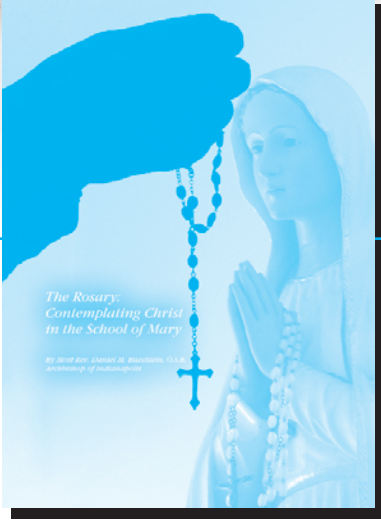
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in Malden, Mass, and professed perpetual vows on Jan. 23, 1951. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in English then received a master's degree in English from the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Ind.

Sister Michaela taught at Washington Catholic High School in Washington, Ind., and served as provincial councilor and director of Christian development for St. Raphael Province in Washington, D.C., and as campus director, facilities manager and substitute teacher at Mother Theodore Guerin High School in River Grove, Ill. She also taught and served as principal and assistant principal at schools in Illinois, Massachusetts, Texas and Washington, D.C.

Sister Francine McGriffin is a native of Linton, Ind., and currently ministers as a member of the residential services staff at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

She entered the congregation on Feb. 2, 1943, from St. Peter Parish in Linton and professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1950. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in social studies then received a master's degree in English from the University of Dayton. She also received training as a licensed practical nurse from the School of Practical Nursing.

In Indianapolis, Sister Francine taught at St. Thomas Aquinas School from 1950-54, the former Ladywood School from 1966-70 and the former Ladywood-St. Agnes School from 1970-72. She also taught at the former Schulte High School in Terre Haute from 1964-65 and for the Aspirancy Program at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods from 1962-64.

She also taught in Jasper, Ind., and served as a licensed practical nurse at Methodist Hospital Children's Pavilion, Upjohn Homemakers Co. and Americana Nursing Home, all in Indianapolis. She also served as a member of the adult education staff for United Southside Community Organization and as a chaplain at Methodist Hospital, both in Indianapolis. She served as assistant coordinator of St. Columbkille Alumnae Association in Chicago, and taught and served as a librarian at schools in Illinois and California.

Sister Mary Helen Neff is a native of Indianapolis and currently ministers in prayer at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

The former Sister Marie Anthony entered the congregation on Feb. 2, 1943, from St. Philip Neri Parish in Indianapolis, and professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1950. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in education then

received a master's degree in education from Indiana State University.

Sister Mary Helen taught at St. Patrick School in Terre Haute from 1955-56 and Our Lady of the Greenwood School in Greenwood from 1980-82. In Indianapolis, she taught at St. Michael School in Greenfield in 1979, the former St. Bridget School from 1956-59, the former St. Joseph School from 1964-67, St. Simon the Apostle School from 1969-72 and the former St. Francis de Sales School from 1979-80, where she also served as principal.

She served as a member of the Generalate Business Office staff, a driver and a Providence Hall aide from 1975-79, an administrative assistant in the Office of Congregational Advancement from 1989-92, and as a driver and companion from 1994-2001, all at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She also taught in Fort Wayne, Ind., and Jasper, Ind. She served as dean of attendance at a high school in Panorama City, Calif., and taught at schools in Illinois and Washington, D.C.

Sister Ann Kevin O'Connor is a native of Summit, Ill., and currently ministers in prayer at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

She entered the congregation on July 22, 1943, from St. Catherine Siena Parish in Oak Park, Ill., and professed perpetual vows on Jan. 23, 1951. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in education then earned a master's degree in education from Clarke College.

Sister Ann Kevin taught at St. Charles Borromeo School in Bloomington from 1954-55 and at St. Matthew School in Indianapolis from 1963-64. She also taught in Fort Wayne, Ind. At Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, she served as a secretary on the generalate staff, a staff member in the Office of Records, a staff member in the Office of Congregational Advancement, a member of the White Violet Center for Eco-Justice staff, and a member of the residential services staff.

She also served as office manager for St. Joseph Province in Chicago, student record coordinator for Mother Theodore Guerin High School in River Grove, Ill., and a development staff member, secretary, computer specialist and alumnae staff member at Trinity High School in River Forest, Ill. She taught and served as principal and

See JUBILARIANS, page 18

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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 archdiocese 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.

BLEDSON, Walter A., Jr., 87, St. Benedict, Terre Haute, Nov. 18. Husband of Katherine (Kunkler) Bledson. Father of Kimberly Asmundson, Katherine Allison Slack, Karen Smith and Walter A. Bledson III. Grandfather of four.

BOTTORFF, Raymond L., Jr., 57, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, Nov. 18. Husband of Vonda Bottorff. Father of Tammy Miller, Greg and Ray Bottorff. Son of Raymond L. Bottorff Sr. Brother of Patricia Franks, Marilynn Wilson, Jeanne Waterman and Jim McDowell. Grandfather of five.

BURNS, Donna K., 71, St. Benedict, Terre Haute, Oct. 12. Mother of Molly Liebermann, Dan, Mike, P. J. and Tim Burns. Grandmother of six.

DOLEN, Jo Ann (Doyle), 41,

St. Pius X, Indianapolis, Nov. 17. Wife of George W. Dolen Jr. Daughter of James and Muffy Doyle. Sister of Jamie Ismail, Debbie McCalley, Jenny Walker, Dan, Mack and Tim Doyle.

ENGLE, John, 71, Our Lady of Lourdes, Indianapolis, Nov. 16. Husband of Patricia (Emery) Engle. Father of Sharon Bair, Penny Butler, Michele Cole, Linda, Jeffery and John Engle. Brother of Calvin Engle. Grandfather of 14. Great-grandfather of five.

ESSLINGER, James Joseph, 52, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, Nov. 11. Father of DeDe Parry and Anthony Esslinger. Brother of Terry DeBruhl, Barb Hendrickson, Mary Montgomery, David, Denny, Gerry and Larry Esslinger. Grandfather of six.

FISCHER, Ray W., 92, St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute, Nov. 20. Husband of Catherine Fischer. Father of Sandra Morthland, Larry and Richard Fischer Sr. Brother of Alberta Lubbehusen and Wilfred Fischer. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of two.

GREENAWALT, Douglas L., 35, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, Nov. 17. Husband of Wanda (Henderson) Greenawalt. Son

of Frances (Schroeder) Greenawalt. Brother of Benedictine Sister Mary Kay Greenawalt, Kristin, Martin and Thomas Greenawalt.

HUDSON, Henrietta M., 86, St. Paul, Tell City, Nov. 15. Mother of Dr. Joseph T. Hudson. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of four.

HUMANN, Jane C., 76, Our Lady of Lourdes, Indianapolis, Nov. 17. Sister of Margaret Hadley and Louis Humann. Aunt of many.

KENT, Robert L., 95, Holy Angels, Indianapolis, Nov. 20. Father of Jyoti Hansa. Brother of Greta Bowyer, Marva Daniel, Loretta Jackson, Ann Jason and Juanita Williams. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of seven.

KRATZ, Alice L., 78, St. Anne, New Castle, Nov. 18. Mother of Sarah J. Leever. Grandmother of three.

PEAPER, Paul W., Sr., 81, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Nov. 16. Husband of Ruth E. Peaper. Father of Ruth Fillyaw, Mary Kocher, Helen Maupin, Patricia

McGuire and Paul Peaper II. Brother of Frederick Peaper. Grandfather of 10. Step-grandfather of one.

SEDAM, Harold J., 82, St. Gabriel, Indianapolis, Nov. 12. Husband of Molly Sedam. Father of Laura Brouillard, Debra Bishop, Sheila Hudgins, Maria Knapp, Colleen Lee, Rachel Silbernagel, Dawn Wheeler and William Sedam. Brother of Carol Domoleski and Lester Rees. Grandfather of 17. Great-grandfather of nine.

TOBY, Virginia, 77, St. Joseph Hill, Sellersburg, Nov. 18. Wife of Joseph Toby. Mother of Anthony and Douglas Toby. Sister of Viola Toby. Grandmother of three.

WHITE, Virginia, 86, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Nov. 16. Wife of Leo White. Mother of Barbara Roth, Mary Ann Smith, Thomas and William White. Sister of Barbara Elliott, Bill, Philip and Richard Bell. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of five. †

Providence Sister Clementina Snoblen taught in archdiocesan schools

Providence Sister Clementina Snoblen died on Nov. 16 in Mother Theodore Hall at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 98.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Nov. 19 in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse. Burial followed in the sisters' cemetery.

The former Florence Anna Snoblen was born in Kings Mills, Mich., on Nov. 3, 1905.

She entered the congregation of the Sisters of Providence on May 30, 1924, professed first vows on Aug. 15, 1927, and professed final vows on Aug. 15, 1932.

Sister Clementina taught in schools staffed by the Sisters

of Providence in Indiana, Illinois and California.

She ministered at St. Jude School in Indianapolis for 20 years, from 1971-91, with five of those years spent in parish ministry there. She also served at St. Philip Neri School in Indianapolis from 1932-42.

Sister Clementina also taught at the former Cathedral Grade School in Indianapolis from 1966-67 and at the former St. Ann School in Terre Haute from 1967-71.

She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Sisters of Providence at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. †

Holy Cross Brother Bennet Nettleton taught at Cathedral High School

Holy Cross Brother Bennet Nettleton died on Nov. 17 at Dujarie House in Notre Dame, Ind. He was 81.

A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated on Nov. 20 in St. Joseph Chapel at Holy Cross Village in Notre Dame. Burial followed in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

The former Thornton Nettleton was born in Baton Rouge, La., on March 7, 1922.

He joined the Brothers of Holy Cross in September 1941, pronounced his first vows in

1943 and made his perpetual vows on Aug. 16, 1946.

From 1946 to 1952, he taught history at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis.

Brother Bennet also briefly taught in Michigan before beginning a 50-year teaching assignment at St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, in 1953.

He took up residence at Dujarie House, the infirmary of the Brothers of Holy Cross, in January 2001 because of health concerns. †

JUBILARIANS

continued from page 17

assistant principal at schools in California, Illinois, Texas and Missouri.

Sister Alice Louise Potts is a native of Chicago and currently ministers as a chaplain at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

She entered the congregation on Feb. 2, 1943, from St. Mel Parish in Chicago and professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1950. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in education.

Sister Alice Louise taught at the former St. Ann School in Terre Haute from 1945-48, the former St. Joseph School in Indianapolis from 1950-53 and the former St. Leonard School in West Terre Haute from 1953-55. She also taught and served as principal at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Indianapolis from 1957-63. She also taught at schools in Whiting, Ind.; Newburgh, Ind.; and in Illinois.

She served as a provincial councilor for St. Joseph Province at St. Joseph Regional House in Galesburg, Ill., and served as co-provincial for St. Joseph Province in Park Ridge, Ill.

Sister Louise Schroeder is a native of Jasper, Ind., and currently ministers as a member of the residential services staff at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

The former Sister Edward Louise entered the congregation on Jan. 5, 1943, from St. Joseph Parish in Jasper and professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1950. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in education then received a master's degree in education from Indiana State University.

Sister Louise taught at St. Joan of Arc School in Indianapolis from 1959-62. She also taught at schools in Evansville, Fort Wayne, Whiting and Jasper, all in Indiana, and in Illinois and California. She served on the transportation staff, mailroom staff and phone room staff at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods from 1991-96.

Sister Margaret Sullivan is a native of Evanston, Ill., and currently ministers in prayer at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

The former Sister Joseph Andre entered the congregation on Feb. 2, 1943, from Our Lady, Help of Christians Parish in Chicago and professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1950. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics then received a master's degree in physics from the University of Notre Dame.

Sister Margaret taught at St. Mary School in Richmond in 1945, Holy Cross School in Indianapolis from 1946-49 and the former Schulte High School in Terre Haute from 1961-67. She taught at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College from 1968-69, 1970-79, 1980-87 and 1991-93. She served as professor at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College from 1991-93.

She also served as a tutor at the college from 1996-97 and as a teacher in the college's Women's External Degree program from 1999-2000. She also taught in Washington, Ind., and Evansville, Ind., as well as in Illinois, Texas and Florida. She was a member of the residential services staff at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in 2000.

Sister Mary Rosita Thewes is a native of Celestine, Ind., and currently ministers in prayer at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

She entered the congregation on Feb. 1, 1943, from St. Celestine Parish in Celestine and professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1950.

Sister Mary Rosita served as a cook and dietitian at the archbishop's residence in Indianapolis from 1968-92. She served as a cook from 1949-68 and as a member of the co-op staff from 1997-2000, both at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She also served as a cook at parishes and convents in Illinois and California. †

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News briefs

U.S.

Catholic-Reformed dialogue looks at issues of Eucharist, baptism

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Catholic and Reformed bishops and scholars took an in-depth look at the sacramental understanding of Eucharist and baptism as the seventh round of the official Catholic-Reformed consultation began. The two issues “lay at the heart of the Protestant Reformation” and “are considered to be at the heart of any progress toward eventual reunion,” said a Nov. 25 press release on the talks from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Reformed Churches taking part in the dialogue with Catholics include the United Church of Christ, Reformed Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Christian Reformed Church in North America. All trace their origins to 16th-century reformer John Calvin and his followers.

Polish-Roman Catholic group discusses matrimony, structures

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The sacrament of matrimony, the transfer of clergy and Church structures were among the topics at the fall session of the dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the Polish National Catholic Church. Roman Catholic Bishop Joseph F. Martino of Scranton, Pa., and retired Polish Catholic Prime Bishop John F. Swantek co-chaired the Oct. 29-30 sessions in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., according to a Nov. 25 announcement by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the USCCB Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, recently named Bishop Martino to the position. He succeeded retired Bishop James C. Timlin of Scranton, who had served as Roman Catholic co-chairman since 1994.

At infant baptisms, priests see a wide variety of names

PITTSBURGH (CNS)—Father Joseph Kleppner baptized 35 infants between January and September at St. Frances Cabrini in Center Township. Among the newborns were Audra, Nicholas, Brianna, Morgan, Mia, Grace, Mitchell, Matthew and Madison. They came with names as varied as those in the wider society, reflecting family tradition and parental favorites. In recent years, he baptized quite a few Codys, Travises, Brookes, Kaylies, Kylies and Cassidys. The name procession has changed a lot during his 30 years in the priesthood, reflecting successive waves of name popularity. “Madison is big,” said St. Frances Cabrini’s pastor. “So are Ashley, Nicole, Allison and Brandon.” But boys’ names are less subject to passing popularity, he noted.

Virginia parishioners pitch in to help couple with triplets

RICHMOND, Va. (CNS)—Thanks to their fellow parishioners at Holy Cross Church in Lynchburg, Joe and Katie Marotta have a lot of helping hands to assist them in caring for the newest additions to their family—triplets born on Oct. 31. The three babies, born a minute apart in a scheduled Caesarean section at Virginia Baptist Hospital in Lynchburg, are, in order of birth: Caroline Grace, 5 pounds, 5 ounces; John Joseph “Jack,” 6 pounds, 3 ounces; and Michael Cole, 5 pounds, 9 ounces. They came home from the hospital on Nov. 3 and joined older brother, Christopher, 2. The couple, both 29, learned they were going to have triplets in May.

WORLD

French bishops face tough task educating a secular society

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope John Paul II told French bishops they face a tough task educating their faithful in a society increasingly marked by secular values and hostility to the Christian message. With fewer priests and strained resources, dioceses should consider uniting some

programs of religious instruction or priestly formation, the pope said on Nov. 28. The bishops were on their *ad limina* visit to the Vatican, a series of consultative sessions made every five years.

African bishops pledge to increase resources in fight against AIDS

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS)—Africa’s bishops said they will increase their resources dedicated to fighting AIDS. “It concerns us that our already fragile economies should be further weakened with much of the trained labor force lost to HIV and AIDS,” said the statement, released by the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar, which represents more than 600 bishops. Noting that poverty “goes hand in hand” with AIDS, the bishops said that “poverty facilitates the transmission of HIV, makes adequate treatment unaffordable, accelerates death from HIV-related illness and multiplies the social impact of the epidemic,” the bishops said. The statement, “Our Prayer Is Always Full of Hope,” was signed on Dec. 1.

Clergy congregation encourages stronger defense of family

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Widespread acceptance of artificial birth control, divorce and legal recognition of same-sex unions have eroded individual and societal commitments to supporting traditional families, said speakers during a Vatican videoconference. The conference, sponsored by the Congregation for Clergy and broadcast over the Internet on Nov. 28, emphasized the role Catholic priests must play in educating Catholics about the importance of marriage and family life. “The family, since it is not humankind’s invention or the result of an ideology, cannot be modified in its nature by any authority on earth,” said Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, prefect of the clergy congregation. “Unfortunately, numerous political doctrines and schools of thought continue to instigate a culture that wounds human dignity, ignoring or jeopardizing to various degrees the truth about marriage and the family,” he said. †

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CATHOLIC WORLD MISSION

'Living Stones' will pay for half your house... but, yes, there is a catch!

An ambitious project is uniting Catholics from around the world to rebuild the broken lives of children while providing the opportunity for families to, at last, permanently lift themselves out of poverty. Fundamental to the project is a matching program to enable poor families to afford a dignified home in a community that offers a new parish church, a school, a clinic, job training, water and sewage treatment, basics that have been unavailable in rural areas. "We are applying a proven model, based on two other communities we have built in the aftermath of natural disasters," said Fr. Pedro Pablo Elizondo, LC, President of *Catholic World Mission*. "The 'Living Stones' community has been embraced by the Church hierarchy and the local and federal governments as the best hope to truly transform the poverty of body, mind, and spirit which crushes the hopes of so many."

The disaster

In January and February 2001, three large earthquakes in just 40 days devastated El Salvador, the largest registering 7.6 on the Richter Scale. Ten thousand aftershocks followed. Massive landslides followed the earthquakes, destroying homes and the coffee fields that were the only source of income to so many manual laborers. Thousands of people were killed or seriously injured.

It's estimated that one million homes were destroyed in a country of only six million people. A third of the Catholic Churches were destroyed.

Survivors lost everything and were left in abject poverty.

The situation today

And the world, distracted by other issues, has now turned away. Two years later, homes still lie in rubble. An El Salvadoran government official said, "We received international aid for the initial emergency two years ago, to feed and clothe survivors—but not enough to actually reconstruct. It has taken us two years to rebuild less than 25% of what was destroyed in just two minutes."

In fact, the world has forgotten the people here—families forced to live without shelter in blistering heat, torrential rain and mosquito-filled nights. People are living in cardboard boxes, plastic bags, falling down shacks. Disease is rampant as children bathe and drink from dirty streams.

The chance for a dignified home, not a quick-fix shelter

After El Salvador's 1986 earthquakes, the government erected shelters measuring 35 square meters each and gave them free to the victims of the earthquakes... and in less than a year, these huts were overrun by gangs, drugs, and crime. Every single one of the families who had originally received the shelters had moved out to protect themselves.

Juan Jose Siman, an El Salvadoran businessman involved in the emergency relief efforts, noted, "I saw that the people we were helping weren't just survivors of the

earthquakes, they were survivors of life. My experience convinced me that we required a different approach to make a permanent impact on their lives: we required Jesus Christ. I approached *Catholic World Mission* to see what help could be offered to rebuild and break the cycle of poverty at the same time."

The response: apply the experience from rebuilding communities following two natural disasters in Mexico. Two communities were rebuilt—one near Mexico City after an earthquake, one near Acapulco after devastating mudslides three years ago. After 17 years, the community near Mexico City is vibrant and still growing—a proven model for long-term transformation of a community.

'Living Stones' A complete community

On a private donation of 17 acres, groundbreaking for the 'Living Stones' community took place in November 2002 after months of ground preparation to make it able to resist both earthquakes and hurricanes. Located in the municipality of Santiago Nonualco, the worst hit by the earthquakes.

Real Homes for the poor...

The Living Stones community is attacking the family housing shortage by constructing 232 cement and tile roof homes at a cost of \$7,000 per home (\$1.624 million dollars total). Rebuilding El Salvador will take years and cost billions, but these 232 homes will be a strong beginning.

These are not only shelters, but dignified homes. Twice the size of the typical house built with charitable aid, the 'Living Stones' homes are 70 square meters, with separate rooms for living, sleeping, and cooking—plus running water, toilet facilities, electricity, and telephone. Instead of cramming the entire family into one

immodest sleeping area, they have three bedrooms: one for the parents, one for the girl children, and one for the boys.

Plus what is needed for a healthy Catholic community...

On May 8th we opened a "Mano Amiga" ("Helping Hand") school—the 17th one Catholic World Mission will support—so area children will receive a top-notch Catholic education, offering them a bright future overflowing with opportunity. We also opened a small clinic, which will later become a hospital. Job training has begun to improve the skills for the breadwinners, and our new grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes attracts many in the area to give thanks and pray for God's continued blessings on the community.

Half-price homes... with a catch

The El Salvadoran government has guaranteed low-interest 20 year mortgages covering half the cost of the house—\$3,500. The residents will be expected to make payments on these mortgages and will eventually own a home for the first time in their lives!

The catch? To obtain these mortgages, *Catholic World Mission* must put up an equal amount of money—\$3,500 per house.

"We are offering generous donors from North America the chance to 'buy a home for half price,' explained Fr. Elizondo. "With a gift of \$3,500 to build one home for one family. Parishes and other groups of Catholics are pooling their funds to make this down payment, which will be matched by the El Salvadoran government—and more than matched by the gratitude and prayers of a new homeowner in the Body of Christ."

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