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Loving as Christ loved

By Fr. Eric Johnson

Director of the archdiocesan Office of Priestly and Religious Vocations



Fr. Eric Johnson

"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:12-13).

These familiar words come from the final discourse that Jesus gave to his disciples at the Last Supper. He had just washed his disciples' feet and commanded them to do the same.

Now, as he faced his own Passion, Jesus issued this final commandment to love. "Love one another" (Jn 13:34) were his parting words.

Although this commandment to love is well known to us, in our language and culture love can mean many things. So often, love can be ambiguous or abstract to us, an ill-defined feeling that is hard to apply to the concrete relationships and circumstances of our daily lives.

Jesus qualifies the commandment to love in clear terms, however. He tells his disciples to love as *he* loves.

In his love, Jesus emptied himself of the glory of his

divinity and humbly embraced our humanity.

In his love, Jesus spoke the truth with charity, proclaimed glad tidings to the poor and set prisoners free.

In his love, Jesus looked with compassion on the crowds, healed the sick, forgave sinners and gave life.

Finally, Christ's love found its ultimate expression when he laid down his life so that you and I might live.

The command of Jesus reminds us that if we love him, then we will love *what* he loved and we will love *how* he loved. This is our call and the essence of all Christian vocations. At its heart, it is a love that involves a decision to will the good of other people. To love as Christ loved means responding concretely, in sacrifice and service, to the needs of others.

This love rejoices in the truth and speaks it with charity. It nourishes the goodness of others, challenges and consoles. It is manifested when we enter into other people's joys, sufferings, hopes, fears and longings.

This annual Religious Vocations Supplement contains the stories of men and women who have responded to God's call by embracing vocations to the priesthood, the permanent diaconate or the consecrated life. As in years past, these stories offer us an opportunity to remember gratefully those who have served among us in these unique ways.

Most of all, I believe that these stories remind us that vocations to the priesthood, the permanent diaconate and the consecrated life, like all vocations, are ways of living out Jesus' call to love as he loved.

Priests, deacons, and religious brothers and sisters live and minister among us in a wide variety of ways. They serve as teachers and catechists, administrators and pastors, counselors and confessors.

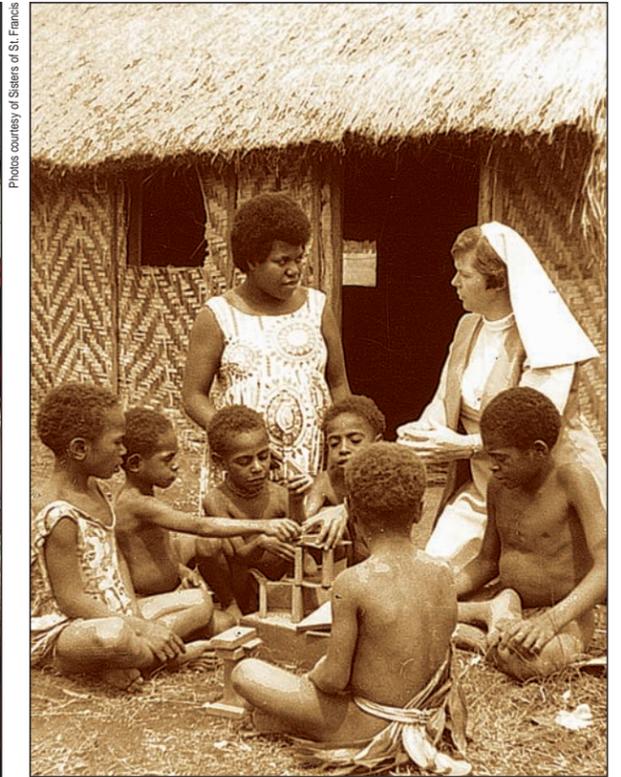
In their lives and ministry, they proclaim the Gospel, care for the sick, serve the poor and comfort the dying. They lead us and keep us in prayer, celebrate the sacraments and call us to holiness. They stand with us in the midst of life's challenges, joys and tragedies, and point to the presence of Christ that stands with us as well.

Behind all of this is Christ's commandment to love as he loved, manifested in a lived commitment, and animated by lives of generous sacrifice, service and joy. This witness provides us with a unique image of Christ's own love. It invites us to consider how we are to live out Christ's commandment in our own unique vocational call.

For this, we can be grateful. In our gratitude, may we nurture and support this gift of loving as Christ loved.

May we also encourage those who choose to live out the call to love as priests, deacons, and religious brothers and sisters. †

The power of sharing the Gospel



Above, in this file photo from the mid-1960s, Franciscan Sister Ruthann Boyle ministers to children in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea.

Left, New Guinea women dressed in grass skirts and tribal head-dresses present a pig to Sister Barbara Piller, second from right, and Sister Maureen Mahon, right, during their visit to Mendi in October to mark the Oldenburg Franciscans' five decades of missionary service in Papua New Guinea.

Franciscans serve as missionaries in Papua New Guinea for 50 years

By Mary Ann Wyand

OLDENBURG—As five Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis visited in the parlor at their historic motherhouse on Dec. 9, their thoughts were far from southeastern Indiana.

Their conversation centered on the Oldenburg Franciscans' five decades of educational and pastoral ministries in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea, a remote and mountainous South Pacific island nation, from 1960 to 2010.

Now retired, the former missionary sisters enjoyed sharing fond memories about how they and 21 other Oldenburg Franciscans helped the Capuchin Franciscan priests and brothers bring the Catholic faith to the indigenous people.

After their arrival in Papua New Guinea 50 years ago, the Oldenburg Franciscans founded primary and secondary schools in Mendi, Tari and Kagua to educate illiterate women and children as well as a convent for the religious formation of the native Franciscan Sisters of Mary.

They also taught the people about hygiene, basic health care and equality.

Sister Kate Holohan, one of the four founding sisters, served in Papua New Guinea from 1960 to 1982.

Two of her sisters from Streator, Ill., were also Oldenburg Franciscans and missionary sisters. Sister Cecilia Holohan ministered in Papua New Guinea from 1969 until 1985, and Sister Doris Holohan began her missionary service in 1965 and is still serving there 45 years later.

"We went as teachers," Sister Kate recalled. "I began teaching and had experience as a practical nurse so I did a lot of nursing. Then I got involved with the educational system. ... My role was to visit our schools, and keep them in line with the government regulations and rules. After that, I was asked by the bishop to start the native community of sisters."

Her years as a missionary sister "were like a dream come true," she said. "The people were so welcoming. The Capuchin Franciscans had been there for five years. The trust and the confidence

they had acquired with the people were automatically turned over to us.

"As missionaries, we went as guests to the country and were well received," Sister Kate said. "The call [to missionary work] kept increasing and empowering my own gifts. ... To share the Good News of Jesus was so powerful there. I had opportunities to be a part of the birthing of a nation, the birthing of the local Church, the birthing of an education system and the birthing of a community of native sisters there."

Sister Noreen McLaughlin, a native of St. Mary Parish in New Albany, also was a founding missionary sister in Mendi.

She served in primary and secondary education as well as health care ministries from 1960 until 1989.

"We were useful and needed in so many different ways," Sister Noreen said. "We were brought over mainly to help get the women into the schools because up to that time there had hardly been any opportunities for them. ... In 1969, I was

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'... To share the Good News of Jesus was so powerful there. I had opportunities to be a part of the birthing of a nation, the birthing of the local Church, the birthing of an education system and the birthing of a community of native sisters there.'

—Sr. Kate Holohan, O.S.F.

Academically talented seminarian loves life, serving the Church



Seminarian Danny Bedel, center, sings during a Dec. 9 Mass at the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad.

By Sean Gallagher

When Daniel "Danny" Bedel graduated in 2006 from North Decatur High School in Decatur County as the valedictorian of his class, he could have studied at many first-class universities in fields that would be financially lucrative and socially prestigious.

But Bedel instead chose to become a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. If, God willing, he is ordained a priest in a few years, he won't earn a large salary. Nor will he be seen as a mover and shaker in society.

When Bedel shared his decision to enter the seminary with others during his senior year in high school, a friend of his, who also excelled academically but was a self-avowed atheist, was astonished.

"He was like, 'Why? Why are you going to throw that talent away?'" recalled Bedel, 22, a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in

Enochsburg. "I just told him, 'Well, I believe that I'm going to be doing much more good for people with this than I could with any other profession I could choose.'"

Although many people and events led him to discern a possible call to the priesthood, Bedel came to peace with it while praying in his parish church before school one day during his senior year.

"It just hit me like a ton of bricks," he said. "This is what I want to do with my life."

"What other life could compare with this? That moment of a deep sense of fulfillment has always kind of kept me going, even before I joined the seminary. And that fulfillment really hasn't ever sputtered out."

Bedel is in his first year of graduate theological studies at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad.

He is the oldest child of Tom and
See BEDEL, page 14

Greenwood pastor seeks to make a difference in people's lives

By Sean Gallagher

GREENWOOD—"In anything that I do as a priest, my number one goal is to make a positive difference in the life of the people around me."

This is how Father Vincent Lampert summarizes the meaning of his priestly life and ministry.

He has ministered as a priest in the archdiocese for nearly 20 years. For the last eight years, he has served as the pastor of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood.

The number of people in that Indianapolis South Deanery parish has increased dramatically during his tenure there, growing from some 600 households to approximately 1,300 households.

Father Lampert is a relatively young priest. But not in his parish.

"This is a very young parish. The average age [of parishioners] is 35. I'm 47. That makes me above average," said Father Lampert with a laugh.

Rob Richardson, the president of SS. Francis and Clare School, which is growing as quickly as the parish that sponsors it, gives much of the credit to his pastor.

"It's been because of his spirituality, because of his ability to relate [to people]," Richardson said.

Although Father Lampert wants to make a positive difference in the lives of all his parishioners, he pays special attention to youths.

"You look around and the teenage population, for the most part, is not here," he said. "You wonder, if that generation is not here, are their children going to be here? So how do you reach out [to them]?"

To do that, he has served for the past eight years as the chaplain of the football team at nearby Center Grove High School.

In interacting with the players and other high school students, Father Lampert has seen some of them come to church that hadn't been doing so in the past.

"It's a way to go to where the young people are," he said. "If they're not coming here, how do you go to where



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, left, and Father Vincent Lampert, center, exchange the sign of peace during an Aug. 8, 2010, Mass at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Church in Greenwood. Father Lampert is the pastor of the Indianapolis South Deanery parish. Deacon Ronald Reimer, who ministers at SS. Francis and Clare, stands at right.

they're at?"

His interest in people has taken him far beyond a local public high school. One of Father Lampert's favorite pastimes is traveling.

For a man who grew up in the 1960s and 1970s in Holy Trinity Parish on the near west side of Indianapolis—arguably at the time the epitome of an ethnic neighborhood parish—Father Lampert has gone far in his travels, touring countries throughout Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and North Africa.

He has also crisscrossed the United States, visiting more than half of the approximately 400 parks and memorials operated by the National Park

Service. His favorite is Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah.

"It's about how we see the face of God around us—whether it's in other people or in the beauty of God's creation," said Father Lampert. "That's kind of what I strive to do [in my travels]."

In turn, Father Lampert seeks to bring the face of God to those to whom he ministers, especially those who face trials in life.

"As a priest, you encounter people who are struggling," he said. "How do you take the face of Christ to them to give them a sense of hope in the midst of whatever they're going through?"

Father Lampert does this by reaching out to youths, who often face many

challenges in making the transition to adulthood, as well as to Catholics who seek a declaration of nullity on a previous marriage, and even—in his ministry as the archdiocese's exorcist—to those who believe that their lives may be especially burdened by the influence of the devil.

Earlier in his life, however, it was a pastoral approach taken to him by a teacher and how he faced his own challenges that led him to the priesthood.

When Father Lampert was in the fifth grade at the former Holy Trinity School, he got high marks one day on a religion test. That caught the eye of his teacher, Franciscan Sister Ramona Lunsford, who died in 2007.

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Sisters of Providence show love in mercy, justice and service

By Dave Cox

Special to The Criterion

Love flourishes with the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. It has to. It is part of the congregation which, as is expressed in its mission statement "...devot[es] itself to works of love, mercy and justice in service among God's people."

It flourishes through Providence Sister Regina Gallo, who ministers as a chaplain and spiritual care coordinator at Bethany Terrace Nursing-Rehabilitation Center in Morton Grove, Ill.



Sr. Regina Gallo, S.P.

"The love comes from one human heart reaching out and touching another. As a chaplain in a nursing home, I walk with people in the final miles of their life's journey," said Sister Regina. "I sit with them in their fear, pain, sorrow and sometimes joy as they prepare to see their God face to face.

"Love comes from sitting in the mystery of God's presence, asking to step out of the way to allow God to do God's work, and being a channel of God's love, hope, healing, mercy and compassion."

It flourishes through Providence Sister Dina Bato, a mission novice.

"When I was at Providence Cristo Rey [High School in Indianapolis], I was awed by the faculty and staff who work with the students," she said. "Some work very long hours toward providing a quality education for the students. Being a part-time theological studies graduate student, love looks like passion exuded by students and faculty working together to grow in knowledge and understanding of spiritual matters—matters that, to me, are missing links to wholeness in our society."

Sister Regina and Sister Dina are among eight women

currently in initial formation or who have professed temporary vows with the Sisters of Providence.



Sr. Dina Bato, S.P.

Sister Regina is a temporary professed sister in her tertian year, and Sister Dina is in her canonical mission year.

Love also flourishes through Providence Sister Jenny Howard, the congregation's vocation director.

"In my ministry, love takes on many facets. It flourishes in relationship with God, with others, and with the Earth," she said. "I definitely see it in the women [that] I journey with as they discern God's call. I am able to witness God's tender and unconditional love for each of the women as God lures them to become most fully the person each is called to be."

"In a broken, violent and shattered world, love comes at times when we least expect it," Sister Regina said. "Love will come when complete strangers begin to help each other. Love comes when we respond to each other, not with a glare of anger and frustration, but



Sr. Jenny Howard, S.P.

with the eyes of compassion. Love comes when we choose to act and respond in a loving way with our words, thoughts and deeds."

Sister Dina emphasized the role of companionship, especially in times of need, to demonstrate how love flourishes.

"In the public around me, love looks like camaraderie one expresses to another in assisting him or her in a time of need," she said. "Love also looks like the number of people willing to journey with others desiring to enter into full communion with the Church."

Sister Jenny, speaking about all of the women in the congregation's formation program, and those who are in discernment or might be considering discernment, reflected on how love reveals itself through a spiritual connection.

"I see in their hearts the longing and desire to come to know God more deeply and, in response to that love, to use each one's own unique gifts as a witness and messenger of God's love, mercy and justice in our world," Sister Jenny said. "These women desire to be part of something greater than themselves, to connect with others who share that same passion and vision for a better world for all of God's people, and for the Earth itself."

Explaining how she lives out Christ's call for unconditional love, Sister Dina said, "I try to follow Jesus' words of love for others by trying to understand and respect where they are coming from while trying to stay true to myself. Every single person has within himself or herself an indomitable spirit destined for holiness, and that spirit cannot exist independently of others. A level of trust and openness must be honored in order to live honestly and lovingly."

Sister Regina agrees.

"It first and foremost begins with my relationship with Jesus. It begins with my asking the questions and praying for the grace to be open to answers. When I focus on my relationship with Jesus, when I look at how he lived his life, in his humanity, I am given glimpses of how I am called and challenged to live my life in order to truly love one another as he has loved me/us. It is not always easy."

To bring to life the commitment of flourishing love within her community, Sister Jenny invoked the spirit of St. Theodora Guérin, the congregation's foundress, who was canonized on Oct. 15, 2006. "She once said to her sisters, 'Love all in God, and for God, and all will be well.' Our life as Sisters of Providence calls us to do just that."

(For more information about the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, log on to www.spsmw.org.) †

Deacon candidate learns how to serve from life experiences

By Sean Gallagher

As a youth, deacon candidate Brad Anderson faced the challenge of a troubled family life.

But he overcame many obstacles through the loving care offered to him by his grandmother, an older brother who took him into his home and members of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, who taught him at a Catholic school in his hometown of Peru, Ind.

He raised a family of three children with his wife, Kathy, and developed a successful small business.

Anderson, 54, a member of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, is on his way to being ordained a deacon and to be of service to others as so many people had served him early on in his life.

Part of this desire to serve others came from his work for more than 20 years in outside sales for the company in which he is a partner, the Indianapolis-based Carbide, Cutting Tools, Abrasives, Inc. In this position, Anderson often drove through neighborhoods in the city marked by a high crime rate.

He saw many youths and young adults standing on street corners who reminded him of his years growing up.

"That was me," Anderson said. "I wanted to learn how to reach out to help those kids."

After he was accepted into the archdiocese's deacon formation program in 2008, he was eventually assigned to minister at Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis, where he thought he would have a mentor to teach him how to minister in center-city neighborhoods.

"I didn't get a mentor. I got a community," Anderson said. "The people at Holy Angels—they know how to get from point A to point B. Their motto is to be a 'beacon of light.' And they are that. It's an entire community that's several generations deep. And they're highly effective.

"They're my home base. They're my foundation. I went to them as a student. And they've taught me a lot."

They have taught him a lot, in large part, because he felt so welcomed by a faith community that is quite different from his home parish.

Holy Angels is an urban parish comprised

of 250 households and made up mainly of black Catholics.

With 1,695 families, St. Bartholomew Parish is more than six times the size of Holy Angels. It is located in a mid-sized city in south central Indiana, and is largely made up of white Catholics.

"I've never been welcomed like that—in any arena," Anderson said of his ministry at Holy Angels Parish. "They receive visitors in a way that you'd hope that Jesus would receive us some day, you know? I was bowled over. I was humbled."

He and his wife felt so welcomed that Kathy accepted an invitation to join Holy Angels' Gospel choir, and she helped organize a concert by the choir at St. Bartholomew Parish on Oct. 2.

"It was like two families meeting each other and coming together as one," said Kathy, who continues to work as an administrative assistant at St. Bartholomew School.

One member of Holy Angels Parish who traveled with the choir for the concert, Essie Thomas, ministers with Brad in her parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society conference.

"The people were so receptive to the music," Thomas said. "It was just mind-blowing. It really was."

This meeting of two Catholic communities marked by two distinct cultures is something that the Holy Angels pastor, Father Kenneth Taylor, hoped would be a fruit of Anderson's ministry in the parish.

"It's important for the larger Catholic Church to know what's happening within the black Catholic world," said Father Taylor. "It's also important that we stay connected to the wider Church. We're not just an independent Catholic Church all here by ourselves. We're part of the archdiocese, part of the universal Church. And we need to stay connected."

Father Taylor said that Anderson has helped his parish stay connected by showing the members who collaborate with him in various ministries how those programs relate to the wider Church.

Currently, Anderson assists at Holy Angels Parish with its Men's Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and various liturgical ministries.

But the ministry that really fires



Above, deacon candidate Brad Anderson, center, leads a Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) class on Dec. 9 at Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis. Listening to Anderson are, from left, RCIA candidates Marie House and Moe Edwards.

Right, deacon candidate Brad Anderson, right, smiles while watching a Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) ritual during a Dec. 5 Mass at Holy Angels Church in Indianapolis. Anderson helps lead an RCIA class at the parish.

Anderson's imagination is reaching out to those who live in the neighborhoods surrounding Holy Angels Church and School, often through the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

"I'm able to move in and out of the apartments, the projects, the neighborhoods," he said. "I've gotten to know these folks, their neighbors [and] some of their family.

"The world within Holy Angels is extremely positive. One hundred paces off that campus, the world changes dramatically. That's something that I'm praying my way through, that I'm thinking my way through."

In reaching out to the people, Anderson has two goals in mind—sharing the word of God with them and helping them learn how to help themselves.

"A lot of the people in that area—and in any economically challenged area where you have multiple generations of poverty—often don't understand their own worth," Anderson said. "Until you get there, they're not going to understand the worth of their neighbor or anyone else.

"It's really what the nuns at St. Charles

[School in Peru] taught me. You are somebody. You are a child of Christ. You're worth something. They relentlessly [taught] that."

After helping people recognize their own dignity, Anderson hopes to put his business skills to work to give them the desire and capability to help pull themselves out of poverty.

Anderson and his 16 classmates in the current permanent deacon formation program have about 18 months before they are ordained.

Until then, Anderson hopes that he continues to learn how to be a better servant.

"From the beginning, as I began on this path, I felt that the diaconate would make me a more effective servant of the Lord," he said. "And, obviously, I hope that happens.

"It better happen. If it doesn't, I don't have any business being a deacon."

(For more information about the archdiocese's deacon formation program, log on to www.archindy.org/deacon.) †

Woman gives up her computer career to serve the elderly poor

By Mary Ann Wyand

Love for God and the elderly led Amy Love to her religious vocation as a Little Sister of the Poor.

"When I was growing up, I had a sense that I had a vocation to religious life," Sister Amy Marie of Jesus explained during a Dec. 8 interview at the St. Augustine Home for the Aged in Indianapolis, her first mission assignment.

On the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, approximately 2,650 Little Sisters of the Poor renewed their profession of vows during Masses at their 199 homes for the elderly poor in 32 countries throughout the world.

The Little Sisters prepare for this feast day liturgy and their annual renewal of vows by spending Dec. 7 in prayer during spiritual retreats at many of their homes.

Sister Amy professed her temporary vows on July 17, 2010, at the congregation's St. Ann Novitiate in



Postulant Amy Love, front left, and several Little Sisters of the Poor pose for a photograph with then-President George W. Bush and then-first lady Laura Bush on Dec. 18, 2007, at the Jeanne Jugan Residence in Washington, D.C. Currently, the Little Sisters of the Poor have nine novices and five postulants in formation in the United States.

Queens Village, N.Y.

She was in formation at the novitiate when St. Jeanne Jugan, the foundress of the international religious order for women, was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on Oct. 11, 2009, at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

"The novices and the community at the novitiate all got up in the middle of the night at about 2:30 a.m. to watch a presentation about her life on EWTN," Sister Amy recalled. "We prayed the Office of Readings together then watched the [canonization] Mass on TV. Some of our novices and sisters got to go to Rome so we were united with them in prayer."

Learning about St. Jeanne Jugan's ministry to the elderly poor in France from 1839 until her death in 1879 confirmed Sister Amy's decision to join the Little Sisters of the Poor.

"St. Jeanne Jugan was older when she discovered what God wanted for her," Sister Amy said. "It took some time. She said, 'God wants me for himself,' and I think that's how I felt about my own call to religious life. I liked the advice that she would always give to the novices. She would say, 'Jesus is waiting for you in the chapel.'"

The fifth of seven children, she grew up in Oklahoma City, attended Catholic schools and thought she would become a teacher.

After earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education, she decided to continue her studies and complete a master's degree program in computing information systems.

"Soon after I graduated," she said, "I got a job working with computers as a server administrator at Boeing."

But her heart continued to feel restless while she worked at the aerospace company's facilities near Oklahoma City for seven years.

"I felt a sense of holy restlessness," she said.

"I was working for Boeing when I found out about the Little Sisters while doing research [about religious vocations] online and read about their vow of hospitality. I was 34 when I entered the congregation."

Sister Amy attributes her religious vocation to St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower, as well as Pope John Paul II.

A few months after her paternal grandmother's death, she also mourned the deaths of Pope John Paul on April 2, 2005, and Terri Schindler Schiavo, a 41-year-old woman with profound brain damage who was legally denied nutrition and hydration for several weeks before she died on March 31, 2005, in Florida.

Provisionally, on the first anniversary of the pope's death, she participated in a vocations retreat at the Jeanne Jugan Center, the Little Sisters' home for the elderly poor in Kansas City, Mo., and felt God's call to join the congregation.

"I was so impressed with the home," Sister Amy recalled. "The sisters were happy, the residents were happy and the employees were happy. By the atmosphere and cleanliness at the home, you could see that they take very good care of the residents. After that, I spent some time with the Little Sisters at the St. Joseph Home in Palatine, Ill. While I was there for another retreat over my Christmas vacation in 2006, I asked to enter the congregation."

During her postulancy at the Jeanne Jugan Residence in Washington, D.C., she met then-President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush, who visited the Little Sisters and residents on Dec. 18, 2007.

It is a special gift to know what God wants you to do with your life, Sister Amy said, and it is a joy to serve God as a Little Sister by caring for the elderly poor.

"The Little Sisters see Christ in those whom we serve," Sister Amy said. "We see Christ in the poor. We try so hard to provide the best quality of care for them and to give them their dignity because we believe that Christ is present in every person. ... We count on the help of our benefactors and volunteers. We're very grateful for all the good that people do for us and for our residents."

(For more information about the Little Sisters of the Poor, log on to www.littlesistersofthepoor.org. For more information about the Little Sisters' ministry at the St. Augustine Home for the Aged, log on to their new website at www.littlesistersofthepoorindianapolis.org.) †

Pray, play, study and community

A day in the life of Bishop Bruté Seminary

By Sean Gallagher

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein established Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary just six years ago.

But in that relatively short time, it has moved from its first home in St. Francis Hall on the campus of Marian University in Indianapolis to the former Carmelite Monastery of the Resurrection, approximately one mile south of Marian.

It has grown from a handful of college seminarians for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to an enrollment of some two dozen seminarians from eight dioceses. In the process, it has filled its current home to capacity.

The seminarians take classes in philosophy and theology at Marian University, and receive human, spiritual and pastoral formation at Bishop Bruté.

Father Robert Robeson has served as Bishop Bruté's rector since its founding. He is currently assisted by vice rector Father Patrick Beidelman; director of spiritual formation, Jesuit Father Thomas Widner; and associate director of spiritual formation, Benedictine Father Jonathan Fassero.

The seminarians' busy days often begin with Mass and Morning Prayer. Breakfast usually follows. And then, Monday through Friday, most seminarians are off to Marian for classes.

But life at Bishop Bruté isn't just praying and studying. The seminarians take turns doing kitchen duties. And when they have free time, they will sometimes play a pick-up game of football on the seminary's spacious grounds at 2500 Cold Spring Road.

Although Bishop Bruté has grown steadily over its six-year history, it will need additional housing in future years to allow it to continue to grow.

At a recent meeting of the board of directors of the Catholic Community Foundation, vicar general, Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, announced that archdiocesan leaders are starting to discuss ways that such an expansion could be funded.

(For more information about Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, including ways to contribute to its growth, log on to www.archindy.org/bsb.) †



Above, with seminarians listening, Father Robert Robeson, the rector of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, preaches a homily during a Mass in the seminary's chapel on Dec. 1.

Left, Sean Wilson, a seminarian for the Cincinnati Archdiocese, practices juggling in his dormitory room on Dec. 9 at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. He is a senior at the seminary.

Photos by Sean Gallagher



Above, Tyler Tenbarge, left, a seminarian for the Evansville Diocese, talks with Philip Frederick, a seminarian for the Cincinnati Archdiocese, on Dec. 1 at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. Tenbarge is a junior at the seminary. Frederick is a sophomore.



Right, Joseph Cole, a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, kneels in prayer during a Mass on Dec. 1 at the chapel of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. Cole, a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford, is a freshman at Bishop Bruté.



Above, Vincent Jansen, left, Father Robert Robeson and Peter Jansen have a conversation over breakfast on Dec. 1 at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. The Jansens, who are brothers, are a freshman and junior at the seminary. They are seminarians for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and members of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood. Father Robeson is the rector of the seminary.

Right, Jeremy Goebel, a seminarian for the Evansville Diocese, cleans a stove after breakfast on Dec. 1 in the kitchen at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. Seminarians take turns doing chores around the seminary. Goebel is a senior at Bishop Bruté.



Left top, Father Robert Robeson, right, rector of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, teaches a class on Catholic beliefs and practices on Dec. 1 at Marian University in Indianapolis. Most of the students in the class are seminarians. Marian provides the intellectual formation for Bishop Bruté's seminarians. Human, spiritual and pastoral formation for the seminarians takes place at the seminary.



Left bottom, Jeff Stegbauer, left, prepares to punt a football during a Dec. 1 pickup game on a cold, snowy day at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. Joining him in the game are Sean Wilson, center, and Vincent Jansen, right. Stegbauer and Wilson are seminarians for the Cincinnati Archdiocese. Jansen is a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

FRANCISCANS

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asked to teach at the first high school in our province. I helped with whatever was needed. ... I had the privilege of being in charge of the health care of the students."

Even as the sisters began ministries, she said, "we were always very much aware that we went there to work ourselves out of our positions and to help the people learn how to help themselves."

She also served in religious education and later in religious vocations.

"We had grade school and high school girls as boarders for years," Sister Noreen said. "We enjoyed their culture. We were very pleased as the Church was formed and the people became active ministers. We were happy when students were baptized and received first Communion. Seeing the faith of the people was humbling. You could see the Lord working there. It was a great delight."

Sister Lorraine Geis, who grew up in St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville, served in Papua New Guinea from 1961 to 2001.

"I loved teaching," she said. "I left Mendi and went to Tari. That was the beginning of the school there with the sisters. The Capuchin priests started it. I was teaching the first grade and my students were ages 6 to 26. ... It was a different language than in Mendi. They were very fast at catching on to English."

Sister Lorraine taught at the grade school in Tari for seven years then went to Kagua high school to teach mathematics and agriculture for three years.

"They didn't know English and we didn't know their language," she said. "But they learned and we learned. ... The women would crawl on their hands and knees into church in their grass skirts because they couldn't be above the men so we began to have the girls come in the classroom before the boys."

"We were with the boarders day and night," Sister Lorraine said. "They were our family and lived with us. When I got to the high school in Kagua, our students came from more than 200 miles away. We had seven languages, but they had learned English in grade school. They were very interested in learning about the world."

Sister Ruthann Boyle, who grew up in Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove, served in Papua New Guinea from 1963 until 2001.

"When the sisters went there, they were the first white women that the people in the Southern Highlands had ever seen," Sister Ruthann said. "Life was so different. I enjoyed walking to the villages with the children, ... and learning their customs. ... At the beginning, the girls were not allowed in the classrooms, but we said that we wouldn't accept the boys unless we could accept the girls. We also taught their mothers to read and write."

Sister Ruth Greiwe, who grew up in

Photos courtesy of Sisters of St. Francis

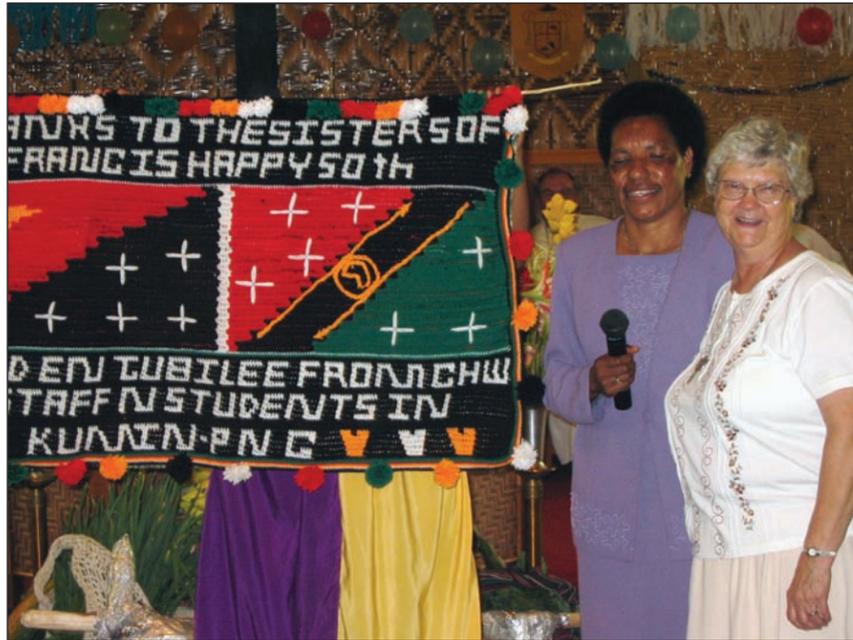


During the 50th anniversary celebration of the Oldenburg Franciscans' missionary service in Papua New Guinea in October, Sister Barbara Piller, second from left, the congregational minister of the Sisters of St. Francis, and Sister Susanna Helmes, second from right, pose for a photo wearing garlands of flowers given to them as welcome gifts when they arrived in Mendi.



Above, Franciscan Sister Ruthann Boyle, second from left, teaches three Franciscan Sisters of Mary how to use a sewing machine to sew their habits at their convent in Mendi, Papua New Guinea.

Right, Sister Barbara Piller, right, the congregational minister for the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in Oldenburg, accepts a handmade banner from a New Guinea woman during an October celebration in Mendi to mark the 50th anniversary of the Oldenburg Franciscans' missionary service in Papua New Guinea.



St. Mary Parish in Greensburg, served in Papua New Guinea from 1974 to 1994.

"I taught at the high school," Sister Ruth said. "It has been a tremendous blessing to go to a foreign country and meet people from different cultures."

"History was unfolding right before our eyes," she said. "In 1984, Pope John Paul II came to Papua New Guinea for the first time. He came up to the Southern Highlands, and that was a tremendous occasion. I will be

eternally grateful for the fact that we were a part of this ministry. Once you go to a foreign mission, especially to one as primitive and startling as the one we went to, you will never be the same. You will look at everything differently." †

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'Nun Run' participants to visit religious communities on Feb. 18-19



Sister Judith Meredith, a member of the Little Sisters of the Poor, left, speaks with Theresa Mills and Annie Girresch about her religious community on Feb. 27, 2010, at the order's St. Augustine Home for the Aged in Indianapolis. The visit was part of a "nun run" in which Mills, Girresch and three other women visited members of seven religious communities in Beech Grove and Indianapolis. Another "nun run" will take place on Feb. 18-19.

Vocations directors for the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Oldenburg, the Daughters of Charity, the Little Sisters of the Poor, the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods and the Sisters of St. Benedict of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove have organized a "nun run" that will take place on Feb. 18-19.

During that time, "nun run" participants will visit, pray and share meals with members of these religious communities who minister in Indianapolis and Beech Grove.

Women ages 18-45 who are interested in learning more about these religious communities can participate.

Transportation, meals and overnight accommodations are provided.

For more information or to register for the "nun run," call Daughter of Charity Theresa Sullivan at 812-963-7563 or send her an e-mail at Theresa.Sullivan@doc-ecp.org. †

Sister who made demands of God lives a life of service

By John Shaughnessy

Growing up with four older brothers who often teased her, Cathy Anne Lepore learned not to be intimidated—which may help to explain the four demands she made of God on the day that changed her life.

The day was Dec. 26, 1993, and Lepore was visiting Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, the home of the Sisters of St. Benedict.

Seventeen years later, she jokes about how she was “kidnapped” by a friend and taken to the monastery that day, but in her heart she acknowledges that it was the work of God that brought her there.

After all, she was 34 in 1993, and the journey of her life was already filled with interesting twist and turns.

She grew up in New England, had 141 first cousins, and believed her command of a curve ball and a sinker at 9 years of age meant she was destined to become a professional baseball player.

When reality dashed that dream, she went to college to become an athletic trainer and also taught at a high school before moving to Bloomington to earn a master’s degree at Indiana University.

All during those years, she was involved in youth and music ministry at the parishes where she was a member, including St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington.

And all during those years, there was the gnawing thought within her and the encouraging belief from others that God was directing her to a vocation as a religious sister—which leads back to her visit with the Benedictine sisters in the monastery and her four demands of God.

“During my visit, I left the sisters, who were older, went to the chapel and put four questions to God,” she recalls. “I told him, ‘First, I want to hear you call me by name. Second, I don’t want to be the only young person here. I need other people my age. Third, I’ve made mistakes. I need to know I’m forgiven. Fourth, I want to know in six months [if this is the life I should live].’”

Moments later, someone walked into the dark chapel and asked, “Cathy, are you here?”

“I was called by name, and it was by [a sister] who was younger than me,” she recalls.

Her third demand was answered later that day when she returned to the chapel just before leaving the monastery. As she walked into the chapel, choir members were practicing and the lyrics were, “The Lord is kind and merciful.”

“It’s the whole psalm of forgiveness,” she recalls. “My whole boat was rocking. Three months later, I knocked on the monastery door in March and said, ‘I would like to investigate living with you for the rest of my life.’”

So there is the essence of the vocation story of Benedictine Sister Cathy Anne Lepore. Seventeen years later, it continues as the story of how her life has changed and how she has changed the lives of others.

Since 1997, she has been a part-time religion teacher at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

“I think I have a defective gene. I really like teenagers,” she says with a smile. “Of course, I get to send them home.”

As part of her course, she even teaches the art of manners to her students, including the basics of “please,” “thank you” and “may I?”

“I don’t want them to get thrown out of restaurants. I want them to be able to go on dates, and I want them to help others in need,” she says with a smile.

For her, even good manners are a way of connecting with God.

Submitted photo



Since 1997, Benedictine Sister Cathy Anne Lepore has been a religion teacher at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, where she tries to help students have a positive experience of God.

“If we can be Christ in the little things, it’s easier to be Christ in the big things,” she says. “I want these kids to have a positive experience of God. I want to teach them to be able to be themselves and bring themselves into conversations with God.”

At Roncalli, she also helps as an athletic trainer, offering students and the school community a different view of a religious sister.

“She is a real role model for young women who might consider religious life, but also have aspirations to be involved in other areas of life,” says Chuck Weisenbach, Roncalli’s principal. “She’s also heavily involved in our pro-life issues. She goes to Washington, D.C., every year for the March for Life [with students].”

When her mornings at Roncalli end, Sister Cathy Anne returns to the monastery, where she provides physical therapy services for the sisters.

“Sister Cathy Anne loves the elderly, and it is a delight to see her with them during their time of physical therapy,” says Benedictine Sister Jennifer Mechtild Horner, the vocation director for the Sisters of St. Benedict at Our Lady of Grace Monastery. “She encourages them to keep going, and really takes time to listen to them. Many holy conversations happen during physical therapy time.”

Sister Cathy Anne savors that time. “It’s an amazing experience of having one on one time with the sisters,” she says. “I have a lot of energy, and I’m able to share that with them. When they feel that touch, a lot of healing takes place. We also focus on a lot of prevention [of injuries].”

Sister Cathy Anne enjoys her two roles because they allow her to use her different gifts to witness God’s love for people.

“I get to use my sense of humor, my organization and my love of teenagers,” she says. “I also get to use the healing arts, my sensitivity and my knowledge of the human body. Having both ministries creates a balance

Photo by John Shaughnessy



Sports have always been a part of life for Benedictine Sister Cathy Anne Lepore, and she also enjoys the opportunity to share her creative talents through needlework.

in me.”

At 51, she feels a peace that comes from knowing she is following God’s plan for her life.

“It’s definitely a journey,” she says. “It’s learning about facing yourself and facing God. I’ve learned he’s much bigger than I am. Nothing is impossible with God.”

She smiles and adds, “We have an idea of what we should be doing and then God says, ‘Yeah, that’s good, but I want you to look over here. Turn your gaze and look at me.’ When we do that, a door opens. Then the question is, ‘Will I do it?’”

Sister Cathy Anne has learned to say yes to God.

“God is in everything we’re doing—if we just turn and look.”

(To learn more about vocations at Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, log on to www.benedictine.com.) †

LAMPERT

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“She said, ‘You’d make a good priest one day,’” Father Lampert said. “That comment has always stuck with me. I can still hear that echoing.”

It echoed in a special way in his heart when he was a freshman at Indiana University in Bloomington in the early 1980s. At the time, his roommate was a friend that he had known since his childhood. Then his friend was diagnosed with a brain tumor, and died soon thereafter.

“It was my first dose of mortality,” Father Lampert said. “So then you ask the question at 19, ‘What is my life about? What is God asking me to do?’ That’s when I went back and heard the words of Sister Ramona Lunsford echoing again, ‘You would make a good priest.’”

Father Lampert soon became a college seminarian at the former Saint Meinrad College. He finished his priestly formation at the University of St. Mary of the Lake Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Ill.

Although he is steeped in the Church’s spiritual patrimony through his seminary training and his constant reading of the ancient Church fathers and the writings of Pope Benedict XVI, Father Lampert also has a firm understanding of how to keep the parish and school on a firm financial footing.

“I’ve often said to him on more than one occasion that

he would have made a great businessman as well,” Richardson said. “He doesn’t just get the spiritual side, but he [also] gets the other side of it.”

And although Father Lampert deals with many serious problems in the lives of his parishioners and other people beyond SS. Francis and Clare, he is a fun person to be around, says his friend, Father Kevin Morris.

“He’s a joy to be ... with,” said Father Morris. “He’s got a great sense of humor. He’s just absolutely hilarious.”

At the same time, the pastor of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield said that Father Lampert is a good model for priestly life and ministry.

“I think he’s a wonderful example of the kind of priest that you’d like to be like,” Father Morris said. “He’s fairly even-keeled. He knows what he’s talking about. He has a good perception of people and situations.”

With the many demands on his time and the difficult situations that he is confronted with on a regular basis, being that kind of priest is challenging. But Father Lampert is convinced that it is very possible to achieve—with God’s help.

“[If] God calls you to do something, God’s going to give you the wherewithal to do it.”

(To learn about a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, log on to www.HearGodsCall.com.) †

File photo by Sean Gallagher



Father Vincent Lampert, the pastor of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood, gives Communion to a young member of his parish during an Aug. 8, 2010, Mass at the parish’s church.

Father Vincent Lampert

- Age: 47
- Parents: Joseph and Sharol Lampert
- Home Parish: Holy Trinity Parish in Indianapolis.
- Favorite Scripture verse: “He must increase. I must decrease” (Jn 3:30). “What I do is not about me,” Father Lampert said.
- Favorite spiritual author: Hans Urs von Balthasar
- Favorite prayer or devotion: “Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner,” also known as the “Jesus prayer.” “I probably say that thousands of times a day. It’s always on the tip of my tongue.”

BEDEL

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Mary Bedel, and has four younger brothers and a sister. Faith was at the center of their life in their rural Decatur County home, which is less than a mile from their parish church.

“Our faith was always very important to us,” said Mary Bedel, who teaches at St. Nicholas School in Ripley County. “We prayed the rosary. We’d go to the Stations of the Cross during Lent. When he [Danny] was little, I’d read him stories from the Bible before he’d go to bed.

“Being a good person and being a good Catholic was what mattered the most. Being the smartest person or the greatest athlete or the most popular person isn’t what matters.”

Faith didn’t simply form the habit of prayer in the Bedel family. It also served as the ultimate foundation for a healthy and happy life in their family home.

“They’re my best friends,” Danny said of his parents and siblings. “I just love going home to visit my family. We play basketball together. We play paintball together. We watch movies together. We’re pretty close.”

“He enjoys life,” Tom Bedel said. “When he comes home for the weekend, it’s like a party atmosphere.”

Ben Lutterbach was a high school friend of Bedel and often joined in the fun. They shared similar interests in music, sports and books.

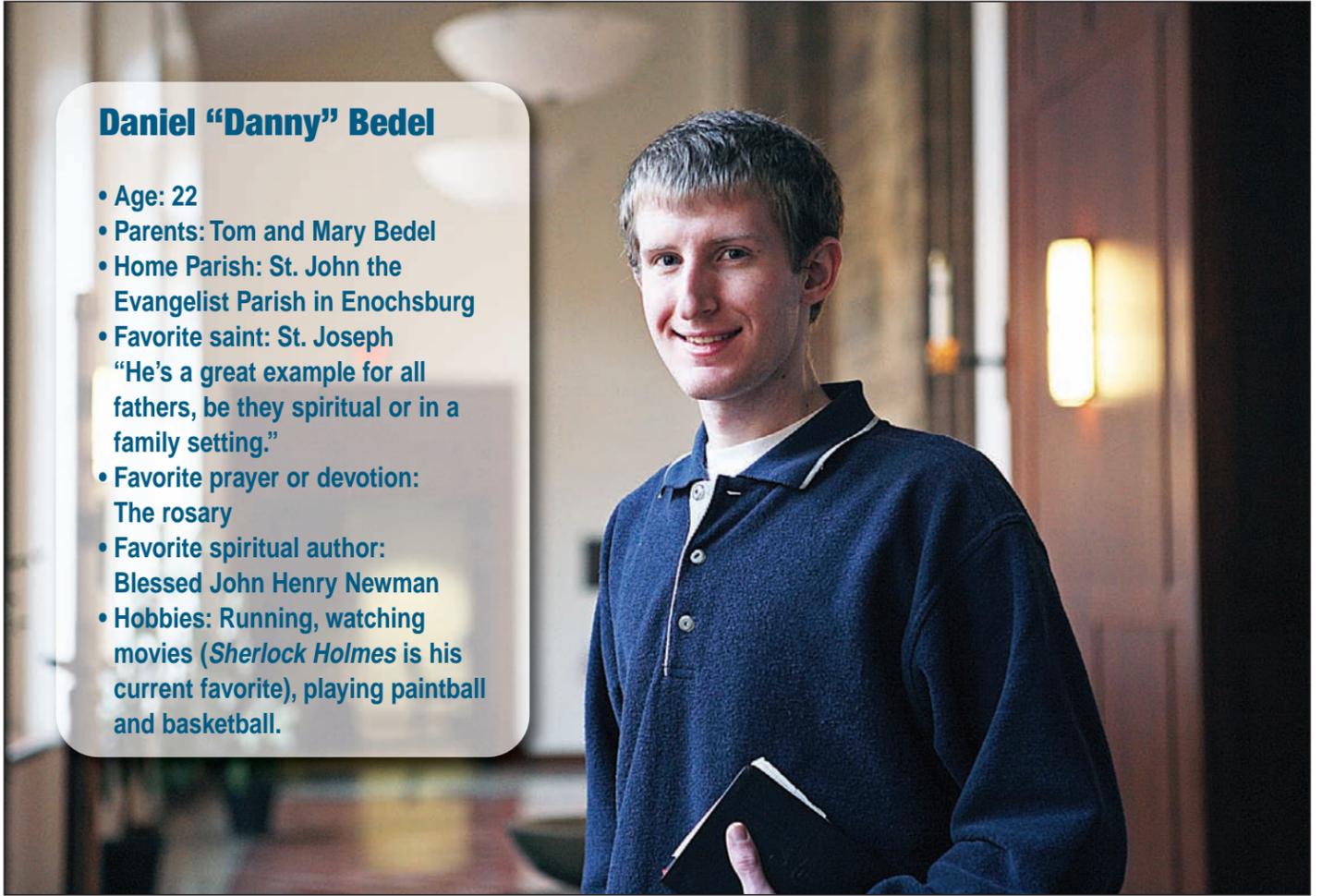
But they differed in matters of faith. In high school, Lutterbach was a Baptist. So they often had friendly debates about their religious beliefs.

“Just for fun, I’d take the devil’s advocate, just for the sake of good fun in having an argument,” he said. “We’d talk about a lot of stuff. And I actually learned a lot [from him], too.”

In part because of his friend’s good example, Lutterbach was received into the full communion of the Church in 2009.

“When Danny talks about Catholicism and the faith, he’s very positive, very happy,” Lutterbach said. “My wife [whom Danny knew while in high school] always put it really well. She says that he makes you want to know what he’s so happy about.”

Photo courtesy of Saint Meinrad Archdiocese



Daniel “Danny” Bedel

- Age: 22
- Parents: Tom and Mary Bedel
- Home Parish: St. John the Evangelist Parish in Enochsburg
- Favorite saint: St. Joseph
- “He’s a great example for all fathers, be they spiritual or in a family setting.”
- Favorite prayer or devotion: The rosary
- Favorite spiritual author: Blessed John Henry Newman
- Hobbies: Running, watching movies (*Sherlock Holmes* is his current favorite), playing paintball and basketball.

Seminarian Danny Bedel stands outside the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad on Dec. 9. Bedel, a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Enochsburg, is in the first year of his graduate theological studies at Saint Meinrad.

Bedel was also formed in his faith by the example of priests who served at his home parish. Father Patrick Commons, who died at age 86 last October, stood out among them.

“In a lot of ways, he was my spiritual grandpa,” Bedel said. “Whenever we would talk or get together, he would have all these stories he would tell of his experiences. They were fun to listen to, and very inspiring in a lot of ways.

“He was just such a happy [priest]. His smile would brighten your day.”

Father Robert Robeson, the rector of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, directed Bedel’s first four years of priestly formation when he was a student there from 2006-10.

He likes the fact that the former high

school valedictorian is putting his talents to the service of the Church.

“We need the best,” Father Robeson said. “We need the people who are talented as priests.

“Danny is a very, very talented young man. He could do whatever he wanted to do. The fact that he responded to the call to the priesthood is a sign that he’s cooperating with God’s grace in his life.”

While at Bishop Bruté, Bedel taught himself how to play the piano and organ in order to assist with liturgical music at the seminary.

“It was a desire [of his] to contribute to the community,” Father Robeson said. “He was always a good example for the other guys. He was somebody that the

other guys looked at as someone who’s authentically trying to live the life [of a seminarian].”

Bedel looks forward to continuing this life of service as a priest in a few years.

“Even though I feel fulfilled in the sense that I know that this is where I need to be right now, I almost wonder to myself how awesome is it going to be when I say that first Mass,” Bedel said. “How ecstatic is it going to be when I raise that host up and say, ‘This is my body.’ ”

(To learn more about seminarian Daniel Bedel, other seminarians of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis or about how to become a seminarian, log on to www.HearGodsCall.com.) †



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