Cardinal Tobin looks to bridge chasm between faith, life in anxious world

NEWARK, N.J. (CNS)—The chasm between faith and life is the greatest challenge facing the Catholic Church today, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin said at his installation Mass to become the new archbishop of Newark, N.J.

During the Mass on Jan. 6, he urged the Church to be salt for the Earth so that the presence of Christ does not become “a comforting, nostalgic memory.”

In his homily, Cardinal Tobin said he wanted to head off “a growing trend to get by” the rest of the week. Cardinal Tobin said his appointment reminded him “that stakes are incredibly high.”

He recalled how the Church is “the place where believers speak and listen to each other, and it is the community of faith that speaks with and listens to the world. The Church senses a responsibility for the world, not simply as yet another institutional presence or a benevolent NGO [non-governmental organization], but as a movement of salt, light and leaven for the world’s transformation. For this reason, our kindness must be known to all.”

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idea of a comforting, nostalgic memory.

He's an advocate of the Women's Care Center in Indianapolis because of the way “it supports pregnant women, and encourages them to learn more about the gift of life while providing resources to help raise their child.”

He’s also been a longtime member of the Serra Club of Indianapolis, promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life. At his parish, his significant involvement includes coordinating trips to Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad for students at St. Luke School.

“Besides trying to be a good child of God and a good husband and father, my next most important work is support of vocations,” says Spencer, the father of two grown children. “I’ve always had a love for the priesthood and religious life.”

That love shined through in his friendship with the late Father Thomas

Cardinal Tobin smiles while speaking to the congregation at the end of his Jan. 6 installation Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, N.J. (CNS) By John Shaughnessy

Three pieces of wisdom guide Tom Spencer’s life and faith, starting with the advice that his mother gave him as a child.

“One of the things she taught me in life was that you’re always practicing to become a better Catholic,” says Spencer, a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.

That approach marks the lives of many people at St. Luke, including Spencer, who has been involved in the parish’s life for nearly 50 years.

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Murphy during the time the archdiocesan priest and fellow University of Notre Dame graduate battled Parkinson’s disease. “He was the priest I would never become,” says Spencer, who is also a member of Legatus of Indianapolis, an organization for Catholic business leaders. “He had high expectations for me, and I didn’t want to let him down. Everyone can change the world—if only he were a priest and he changed my world.”

So has Spencer’s wife of 36 years, Gayle. “She is a very devout woman, and she’s been generous in sharing me with so many other Catholic entities,” says Spencer, a 1972 graduate of Lafayette Central Catholic High School in Lafayette, Ind. “She’s my life mate, my best friend, and she enables me to be a good child of God. I hope I’ve done the same for her.”

Those words lead to the third foundation of Spencer’s life and faith, the foundation he has expanded the Special Religious Education (SPRED) program for adults with special needs at his current parish, Holy Spirit in Indianapolis. “It’s that thing I love about the SPRED participants is they’re non-judgmental, and they take every day as the gift it is,” he says. “It’s one of those things where you get more out of it than you give. It’s powerful.”

Johnson is also on the board of directors at Seccina, serves as vice-chairman of the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Commission, and is a member of the Knights of Columbus. And his community involvement reflects concern for the homeless and children who live in struggling economic areas. “I feel like Jesus came here to show us love and compassion. That’s what’s called to do. I try to do my little part in the process. I fail often.”

The one area where he’s sure he has succeeded is in his choice of life partner, Lori—a relationship that dates back to their high school days together at Little Flower and Seccina. “She has been the rock,” Johnson says about his wife of 35 years. “She’s always been supportive of my very busy career while also being involved in the communities and parishes. Honestly, I feel if I’m getting this award, she should be, too. She’s involved as much as I am. She’s proud of Catholic Church and what it means to the world. We’ve had the love and support of a lot of people.”

Kathy and Van Willis’ key to happiness

For Kathy and Van Willis, their lives, their family and their marriage are all centered on the power of “example.”

When Kathy was 5, her father died, leading her mother on a journey that would take her back to school to earn a degree in education, become a teacher and eventually set model for her four children the importance of “Catholic service, faith and love.” “She instilled that ethic in you that you served,” Kathy says. When Van met Kathy Willis when they were both in law school, he saw how much her Catholic faith meant to her and chose to become a Catholic, too. He also viewed his choice as a way the two of them would eventually follow the example of his Benin Baptist parents—going to church as a family and “helping people wherever you can.”

Now married for 28 years, Kathy and Van have tried to set that example of “Catholic service, faith and love” for their four children—through their extensive commitment to their southern Indiana community and parish, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in New Albany.

Kathy’s involvement at their parish has included serving on its school commission, the liturgy committee and the faith formation commission while also leading retreats, helping with funeral meals, and writing and editing the parish newsletter. She has also served on the board of directors at St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities. Van has served the parish as an usher, a lector, president of its pastoral council, and a volunteer at its soup kitchen. He is currently the president of the board of trustees at Our Lady of Providence Jr/Sr High School in Clarksville.

Archdiocese will celebrate World Marriage Day with special Mass on Feb. 12 in cathedral

In honor of World Marriage Day, the archdiocese will celebrate a special Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, at 10:30 a.m. on Feb. 12. Recognition will be given to the couples in attendance married the longest and shortest amount of time. After the Mass, a reception will be held in Assembly Hall at the archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St.

Due to limited space, registration for the Mass is required. For an online registration form, log on to www.archindy.org.

To register by phone or for more information, call 317-236-1521 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1521. Registration is first come, first served, and closes when maximum capacity at the cathedral is reached.

If you would like your 50th, 60th, 70th or 75th anniversary anniversaries placed in The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/criterion/local/forms/lavivisermon_form.html. Click on 1/25/15 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1585.

Tickets are available for 21st annual Celebrating Catholic School Values program

The 21st annual Celebrating Catholic School Values reception and awards program for the archdiocese will be held on Feb. 9 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Indianapolis.

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The reception will begin at 6 p.m. in the hotel’s Grand Hall of Union Station. The awards program will follow at 7 p.m.

The event raises money for scholarships that help low-income families enroll their children in the Catholic school of their choice. Tickets may be purchased for $75 at www.archindy.org/criterion/purchases/17.

For information about the event, contact Lori Repa at 317-236-1444 or 1-800-382-9836, ext. 144. †

His community involvement has also included working with the Floyd County Head Start program, Goodwill of Southern Indiana, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and Hope Southern Indiana—an organization of about 35 churches that provides financial assistance and job training to the neediest people in the community.

As a couple, the two full-time attorneys also now serve as co-chairs of a capital campaign at their parish. They’ve also seen the impact that their example has had on their children. “One is a teacher, one is a nurse, one is studying to become an occupational therapist,” says Van, noting that their youngest is a junior at Providence High School.

“I started taking them to the soup kitchen at a young age. It shows them that a lot of people don’t have the advantages they have. And it’s the right thing to help other people. You can tell them things, but if you show them, it means a lot more.”

Kathy adds, “I’ve really tried to teach them that you have to involve God in the day-to-day decisions of your life—that you have to take it to prayer.”

Their approach has done more than help their parish, their community and their children. They say it’s also strengthened their marriage. “Van and I are pretty like-minded,” Kathy says. “We try to share our time, talent and treasure in the ways we can. Everything I do is related to my faith. I just feel like I want to share my faith. When you have something that is so important to you, you want to share it.

“I feel that is the key to happiness. I love to serve. It brings a joy to my life that I want to share with others.” †

Christian Unity—That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord’s teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

(Reader’s note: Starting in 2017, the Holy Father will present only one prepared prayer intention per month, rather than the two presented before this year. He plans, however, to add a second prayer intention each month related to current events or urgent needs, like disaster relief. The urgent prayer request will help mobilize prayer and action related to the urgent situation. The archdiocese will publish these urgent prayer intentions on this website as soon as it receives them from the Vatican.)

(To see the pope’s monthly intentions, go to www.apostolispopeprayer.org/2017_intentions.html) †

Moving? We’ll be there waiting if you give us two weeks’ advance notice!”

Name: __________________________
E-mail: _________________________
New Address: _______________________
New Parish: _________________________
Effective Date: ____________________

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Pope: Jesus amazed others because he was humble, helpful, not a hypocrite

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Jesus astonished people with the way he taught and interacted with others because he wasn’t aloof, domineering or hypocritical, Pope Francis said in a homily.

“Jesus wasn’t allergic to people. Touching lepers, the sick did not disgust him, whereas the Pharisees—who strolled around in fine clothes—looked down on the people and considered them ignorant,” he said during a Mass on Jan. 10 at the papal summer residence in Castelgandolfo, south of Rome.

The pope’s homily centered on the day’s Gospel reading (Mk 1:21-28) in which Jesus command, you obey.” The Criterion  Friday, January 13, 2017  page 3

Nominations for 2017 Spirit of Service Awards are due on Jan. 20

Catholic Charities of Indianapolis is seeking nominations for its annual adult and youth Spirit of Service Awards. Candidates will be individuals who, through the giving of their time, talents and treasures in a volunteer capacity, have made significant contributions to our community (i.e., business, health care, communications, education, family, arts, human services, religion, science, government, athletics, youth development or other service fields).

Please also consider any individual(s) who is a current or former client of Catholic Charities Indianapolis programs, and is now significantly contributing to our community.

The lives of the candidates will reflect the highest ethical standards, and their work will be consistent with the values of Catholic Charities Indianapolis: justice, diversity, self-determination, respect, stewardship, action and personal growth.

For nomination forms for both the adult and the youth awards, log onto www.archindy.org/cc/indianapolis/index.html. Nominations are due by Jan. 20.

For questions or more information, contact Valerie Sperka at 317-592-4072 or vsperka@archindy.org.

Vigil for Life is Jan. 25

The final archdiocesan event of the solemn prayerful observance of the Roe v. Wade decision is the archdiocese’s second Vigil for Life on Jan. 25, sponsored by the archdiocesan Secretariat of Pastoral Ministries. It will take place at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral from 6:30-9 p.m. While the event is designed for youths, young adults and families, all are welcome.

The event takes place the week of the national March for Life in solidarity with all those gathering in Washington, D.C. The vigil will include music by Matt Faley; a keynote address by Ennie Hickman of Adore Ministries; a reflection, eucharistic procession, adoration and Benediction led by Father John Hollowell, pastor of Annunciation Parish in Brazil and St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle; and an opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation from 6:45-8:45 p.m.

The event is free. However, participants are asked to bring donations for Birthline, a ministry that provides material support for pregnant women and mothers of infants in need. Items most in need are diapers (sizes newborn-5), baby wash, diaper wipes and clean, gently used or new clothes, sizes newborn-2T. Although registration is not required, it is encouraged and is available by logging on to www.vigilforlife.eventbrir.com.

Parking will be available at the Catholic Center.

Marian University is celebrating its 80th anniversary.

Join us for a special screening of A Sign of the Cross, the never before told story of the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana, founders of Marian University.

Thursday, January 18, 2017
6 p.m. | Marian University Theatre
3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46222

Visit www.marian.edu for more information.
Encountering our migrants

The U.S. Catholic bishops have designated this week, Jan. 8-14, as National Migration Week. It has celebrated this week for nearly 50 years to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking.

The theme for this year’s observance is “Creating a Culture of Encounter.” It’s a response to Pope Francis’ emphasis on encountering others because, as the pope said, “faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others.”

The U.S. bishops’ website says, “With respect to migrants, too often in our contemporary culture we fail to encounter them as persons, and as the way of their lives. We do not take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, but remain aloof to their pain, suspicious of their intentions. During this National Migration Week, let us all take the opportunity to engage migrants as children of God who are worthy of our attention and support.”

It seems to us that our attitude toward migrants should be identical with our attitude toward anyone else. It’s embodied in the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” (Mt 7:12; Lk 6:31).

In fact, that’s precisely what Pope Francis told the members of the U.S. Congress during his address in 2015. He urged legislators to follow the example of more than 70 colleges and universities, which called, if such legislation is necessary, for protecting these Dreamers, as they’re called, from deportation.

We hope, in particular, that President Trump won’t rescind President Obama’s executive order, issued in 2012, that has kept an estimated 740,000 young people from being deported. These are young men and women who were brought to the United States as children, and have grown up here like any other American children. If deported, they would be going to countries and cultures they have never known. Many of them may have great contributions to make to the country.

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It’s encouraging that Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina has said that he will introduce legislation protecting these Dreamers, as they’re called, if such legislation is necessary. And a statement signed by the presidents of more than 70 colleges and universities, released by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, supports the Dreamers.

Trump says that he still wants to build a wall between the United States and Mexico, giving the impression that millions of Mexicans are coming into the country illegally. He must know that that is no longer true, and hasn’t been true since 2008, according to a November 2015 Pew Research Center analysis of government data. Since then, more Mexicans have left the United States than have entered.

Those who have entered, though, did so for the same reasons that our ancestors moved to the United States, most of them before there were limits on the number of migrants permitted to enter. Let’s treat them as we would like to be treated.

However, the theme for this special week concerns encountering migrants. We can do that in our parishes where numerous migrants worship, some more than others. In Indianapolis, for example, St. Monica Parish has an especially large number of Hispanics.

John F. Fink

Festive, familial spirit marks Cardinal Tobin’s installation

Festivities for the installation of Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin as the sixth archbishop of Newark on Jan. 6, 2016, included an elegant buffet luncheon at Nanina’s in the Park, high tea for the cardinal’s family and friends, along with the apostolic nuncio and a large delegation of cardinals, archbishops, bishops and priests attended.

The presence of Cardinal Tobin’s mother, Marie Terese, and so many members of his large family made the celebration seem more like a family gathering than a formal occasion. The Tobins are like that. They are warm, outgoing and welcoming. Even when they are guests, not the hosts, they go out of their way to make sure that everyone feels at home.

It’s unlikely that Cardinal Tobin had time to read Mary Nannie’s summertime outlook. He was too busy going from table to table during the meal greeting family, friends, priests, bishops and archbishops. As always, his warmth and gracious hospitality made everyone feel welcome, and as he engaged in brief conversations with literally hundreds of people, each one was made to feel as though he or she was the only person in the room.

Priests from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis who travelled to Newark for the installation joked that the security guards posted in every corner of the grand hall were there to prevent the guests from Indianapolis from kidnapping the cardinal, and bringing him “home” to Indiana in an extra large suitcase. But that was the only hint of the Hoosier delegation’s liaison with the Tobins, as far as we could see. The evident joy expressed by everyone in Newark who hosted the gathering made the occasion a genuine celebration for Cardinal Tobin’s “episcopal motto: “Gaudeite in Domino” (“Rejoice in the Lord”).

The installation liturgy which followed the luncheon was extraordinarily beautiful and inspiring. The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart is unquestionably one of the most spectacular churches in North America. Still filled with what seemed like thousands of poinsettias, magnificent Christmas wreaths and other floral decorations, the basilica’s gothic splendor was “warmed” by the cheering spirit and festive joy of the celebrants.

No one does “pomp and circumstance” quite like the Catholic Church, and the liturgy and conviviality of the celebratory festivity once the trumpets sounded and the organ filled the church with majestic beauty, the grand procession began. Hundreds of priests, bishops, archbishops and cardinals were joined by ecumenical and interreligious representatives, knights and ladies of various Catholic fraternal orders and other dignitaries in solemn procession through the basilica, whose 2,000 seats were filled to overflowing.

As soon as all were assembled, the formal installation of the new archbishop took place at the front doors of his cathedral church. As Cardinal Tobin kissed a cross, he blessed those nearby with holy water, the cathedral choir sang a 15th-century canticle, Gaudeite in Domino, in celebration of their new shepherd.

Once in the sanctuary, the cardinal was welcomed by his predecessor, Archbishop John J. Meyers, now Emeritus Archbishop of Newark. He was then officially installed by the pope’s representative, Archbishop Christoph Schönborn, the apostolic nuncio to the United States. The nuncio read the formal procuration signed by Pope Francis on Nov. 7, 2016, transferring Cardinal Tobin from Indianapolis to Newark.

Afterward, as is customary, the cardinal showed the procuration to Archbishop Myers and to all present—walking the entire length of the Cathedral Basilica with the document held high for all to see.

It was a powerful moment. A humble priest and bishop, a missionary from a large Catholic family, a dear friend of brothers and sisters from many different corners of the globe, Cardinal Tobin showed all present the power of faith and the hope of the grace we have received from the one who has given us everything.

“I am comforted by the words Paul wrote to his beloved friends in Philadelphia: “Rejoice in the Lord always, I say it again, rejoice! ... Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God” (Phil 4:4–7).

The installation of Cardinal Tobin was a grand day of rejoicing. It was a festive, family-friendly occasion with prayers recited and sung in English, Spanish, Korean, Polish, Creole, Ibo, Portuguese, Tagalog and Italian.

It was a day made warm and welcoming by the humility and humor of the man who was himself being welcomed and initiated as the 11th bishop and sixth archbishop of Newark.

May God bless Cardinal Tobin and grant him great joy!

(Daniel Conway is a member of The Criterion’s editorial committee.)

Doctrine of faith says Mary experienced no pain at the birth of Christ, reader says

In reference to Sean Gallagher’s Christmas column “Reflecting on childhood can draw us closer to God” in the Dec. 23 issue of The Criterion, we should point out that it is a defined doctrine of the faith that the Virgin Mary did not experience pain at the birth of Christ.

Since from her conception she was free from original sin, she did not suffer this result of it (Council of Trent: Session III).

David F. Kublaik

Holy Name Parish

Indianapolis

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are welcome and should be informed, relevant, well-expressed, concise in tone, courteous and respectful.

The editors reserve the right to select and edit the letters based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content. Letters must be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld. Send letters to “Letters to the Editor.” The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202, 2367. Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.

Page 4 The Criterion Friday, January 13, 2017

Editorial

Encountering our migrants

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The theme for this year’s observance is “Creating a Culture of Encounter.” It’s a response to Pope Francis’ emphasis on encountering others because, as the pope said, “faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others.”

The U.S. bishops’ website says, “With respect to migrants, too often in our contemporary culture we fail to encounter them as persons, and as the way of their lives. We do not take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, but remain aloof to their pain, suspicious of their intentions. During this National Migration Week, let us all take the opportunity to encounter migrants as children of God who are worthy of our attention and support.”

It seems to us that our attitude toward migrants should be identical with our attitude toward anyone else. It’s embodied in the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” (Mt 7:12; Lk 6:31).

In fact, that’s precisely what Pope Francis told the members of the U.S. Congress during his address in the Capitol in Washington on Sept. 24, 2015. He urged legislators to follow the Golden Rule to protect life at all stages, aid immigrants and the poor, nurture the good of the biological family, and care for the poor.

Moreover, during the consistory at which Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin was made a cardinal, the pope warned against judging someone as “an enemy because of who they are, for instance, because they come from a distant country, or have different customs. An enemy because of their skin, their language, or their religion.”

He added, “An enemy because of what they believe that all people are made in God’s image, and God loves them. Not an enemy because of who they are, but a friend because of who God is. A friend because of who God is.”

As both Catholics and Americans, we say that we believe that all people are created equal and deserve equal rights. Furthermore, our Catholic ancestors from a wide variety of countries have historically benefited from the American values that prompted the creation of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Greg A. Orehlik, Associate Publisher

Mike Krook, Editor

John F. Fink, Editor Emeritus

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Parish remembers Vietnamese martyrs, honors Blessed Mother
By Victoria Arthur (Special to The Criterion)

From the martyrs who died for their beliefs to the Virgin Mary who comforted their faithful at a time of great persecution, Vietnamese Catholics have a rich history to remember and revere. And hundreds of them in central Indiana did just that recently, gathering at St. Joseph Church on the west side of Indianapolis for important events that recall the past while looking to the future.

One of those events was the annual Holy Vietnamese Martyrs’ Mass, where many generations of Vietnamese Catholics assembled to recognize the foundations of their deep faith.

“Our ancestors are everything to us, and our Vietnamese martyrs—who are saints now—are our heroes,” said Chau Kachelmyer, a longtime member and leader of the archdiocesan Vietnamese Catholic Congregation, which has been based at St. Joseph Parish in Indianapolis for years. “They are the source of the biggest pride for us, and it is our tradition to acknowledge them.”

“Every year,” continued the Carmel, Ind., resident and mother of two, “we repeat the history and the traditions of these martyrs to keep their memories alive.”

The Nov. 27 Mass, preceded by an outdoor procession marked by traditional drums and punctuated by colorful costumes, was a vibrant celebration in stark contrast to the dark history of Catholic persecution in Vietnam.

Since the time that Jesus and Dominican missionaries introduced the faith to the country in the 18th century, Catholics in Vietnam have been subjected to wave after wave of often brutal oppression. Today, Catholics there remain a persecuted minority under the officially atheistic Communist government.

In 1988, Pope John Paul II canonized a group of 117 Vietnamese martyrs who are a representative sample of the estimated 150,000 to 300,000 Catholic faithful in Vietnam who gave their lives for their faith over the centuries.

Their feast day is Nov. 24, which this year fell on Thanksgiving. Fittingly, thankfulness was at the heart of the Martyrs’ Mass held three days later, followed by a bountiful reception in the parish hall to raise money for a large statue of the Virgin Mary that parishioners have been praying the rosary every day at dusk. In 1798, the Blessed Mother appeared to encourage the Virgin Mary, people who were suffering hardships, including sickness from contaminated water. The faithful were reportedly cured of their illnesses after Mary instructed them to boil leaves from the plentiful jungle vegetation.

“This shrine will be a beautiful reminder of what Our Lady did for the Vietnamese people,” said Father Duong, who ministers to the approximately 150 Vietnamese families who call St. Joseph Parish home. “Father Duong is a priest of the Diocese of Quinhon in Vietnam ministering in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Masses in Vietnamese are celebrated at St. Joseph twice every Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Like Chau and Nguyen, Vietnamese people come from all over the area to the church to celebrate and share theirtraditions with others.”

“We see the community grow every day,” Nguyen said. “I feel very much at home here.”

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Le Bao Uyen, left, and Chau Kachelmyer enjoy a reception following the Vietnamese Martyrs’ Mass on Nov. 27 at St. Joseph Parish in Indianapolis. Both are actively involved in the parish, which is home to the archdiocese’s Vietnamese Catholic Community.

Le Bao Uyen, left, and Chau Kachelmyer enjoy a reception following the Vietnamese Martyrs’ Mass on Nov. 27 at St. Joseph Parish in Indianapolis. Both are actively involved in the parish, which is home to the archdiocese’s Vietnamese Catholic Community. (Photos by Victoria Arthur)
January 14  

January 18  
Chris the King Church, 5884 N. Cridderen Ave., Indianapolis. “Being a Catholic in a Virtual World,” nationally recognized Catholic motivational speaker Mike Phillips Jr., who will share his family’s story, 7-9 p.m., $7. Information: 317-255-8660, rfmacius@ckch.org.

January 21  

January 22  
Saint Jude School, 5375 W. 30th St., followed by an all-school Mass at 8:30 a.m. at St. Michael the Archangel Church. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Mass at 5:45 p.m. The Life of Peace Cemetery, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. Memorial Mass, 2 p.m., Information and registration: 317-255-7488, www.whitevioletcenter.org.

January 25  

February 1  
Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Solo Seniors, Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced. New members welcome. 6 p.m. Information: 317-243-0777.

February 3  
St. Patrick Church, 1807 Poplar St., Terre Haute. Catholics Returning Home. 7-week program to welcome inactive Catholics back into the community led by returning Catholics. 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. beginning Feb. 1, free. Information and registration: Donna Wesnup, 815-232-8518 or Donna.wesnup@archindy.org.

February 14  
Schwab, St. Thomas Aquinas pastor; Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation Senior Rabbi Brett Krichiver; and Nahal Abraham Synagogue of Indianapolis Resident Imam Michael “Mikal” Saahir. All are invited to attend this interfaith gathering.

VIPS
Frank and Margaret (Caradonna) Lori, members of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville, will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on Jan. 18. The couple was married in St. Mary Church in New Albany on Jan. 18, 1947. They have three sons and one daughter, and six grandchildren. They have attended the West Coast March for Life for more than 10 years.

Help your marriage at Retrouvaille retreat on Feb. 24-26 in Indianapolis
A Retrouvaille (pronounced “re-tro-vale”) retreat for troubled marriages will be held at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, on Feb. 24-26. Retrouvaille is a worldwide program that offers tools needed for hurting couples to rediscover a loving marriage relationship. For more than 30 years, the program has helped hundreds of thousands of couples heal their hurting marriages. To get confidential information about the program or to register for the Feb. 24-26 weekend/post-weekend sessions, log onto www.retrouvaille.org or call 317-489-6811 for confidential registration information.

Crusaders for Life to join in Service for the Unborn on Jan. 22 in Indianapolis
The public is invited to join Right to Life of Indianapolis and a board of students from Crusaders for Life in Chicago in prayer for the annual Memorial Service for the Unborn at the Indiana War Memorial, 431 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, at 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 22 in commemoration of the 44th anniversary of the tragic Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision. The keynote speaker is Antiochian Orthodox Father Josiah Trenham, speaker at the West Coast March for Life in 2016, followed by the Memorial Rose Ceremony, commemorating the lives lost to abortion each year since 1973. Immediately following the memorial service, there will be a peaceful march from the War Memorial to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

All are invited, and students are especially encouraged to join with the Crusaders for Life. For more information, call 317-582-1526 or log onto www.rtifindy.org.

**Note:** The article was extracted and reformatted for clarity and readability. The events and programs listed cover a variety of topics, from religious and educational activities to community services and social events. The text includes details about locations, times, and contact information for further inquiries. The events range from weekly gatherings to special occasions, highlighting the diverse activities available in the community. The information provided is intended to assist readers in finding events that align with their interests and needs. **(Image description added for additional context, if applicable.)**
New series to reflect on teaching of Pope Francis

By Daniel Conway

(El rostro de la misericordia/Daniel Conway

Nueva serie de reflexión sobre las enseñanzas del papa Francisco

By Daniel Conway

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—At the start of a new year, Pope Francis laid out a laundry list of suggested resolutions for religious and political leaders for making a joint commitment toward building peace.

No conflict exists that is “a habit impossible to break,” the pope said, but he underlined that kicking such a habit requires greater efforts to rectify social injustice, protect religious freedom, jump-start peace talks, end the arms trade and cooperate in responding to climate change and the immigration and refugee crises.

In a 45-minute speech on Jan. 9 to diplomats accredited to the Vatican, the pope underscored what he saw as the real “enemies of peace,” and the best responses that could be made by today’s religious and political leaders.

“One enemy of peace,” he said, is seeing the human person as a means to an end, which “opens the way to the spread of injustice, social inequality and corruption.”

The waste, “greedy exploitation” and inequitable distribution of the world’s resources provoke conflict, he said, and human trafficking, especially the abuse and exploitation of children, cannot be overlooked.

Another enemy of peace, the pope said, are ideologies that exploit “social unrest in order to foment contempt and hate” and target others as enemies to be eliminated.

“Under the guise of promising great benefits,” such ideologies instead leave a trail of poverty, division, social tensions, suffering and, not infrequently, death,” he said.

What peace requires, he said, is “a vision of human beings capable of promoting an integral development respectful of their transcendent dignity,” as well as the courage and commitment to seek to build peace together every day.

Religious are “called to promote peace,” he said, appealing to “all religious authorities to join in reaffirming unequivocally that one can never kill in God’s name.”

“The fundamentalist-inspired terrorism” that has been killing so many innocent people the past year is “a homicidal madness which misuses God’s name in order to disseminate death in a play for domination and power.”

Fundamentalist terrorism is the fruit of deep “spiritual poverty” that does not connect a pious fear of God with the mandate to love one’s neighbor. Often it also is linked to deep social poverty, which demands action including on the part of government leaders.

Political leaders must guarantee “in the public forum the right to religious freedom,” and recognize the positive contribution religious values make in society, he said. They must promote social policies aimed at fighting poverty and promoting the family as well as invest heavily in education and culture so as to eliminate the sort of “terrain” that spreads fundamentalism.

Christians, whose divisions “have endured too long,” also must heal past wounds and journey forward together with common goals since many of those conflicts have threatened social harmony and peace, the pope said.

Peace, he said, entails greater justice and mercy in the world, especially toward foreigners, migrants and refugees.

“A common commitment is needed,” one focused on offering them a dignified welcome, he said. In many recognizing people have a right to emigrate and take up a new residence without feeling their security and cultural identity are being threatened. Immigrants, however, also must respect local laws and cultures, he added.
Archbishop Pierre told Cardinal Tobin, "We are confident that in imitation of the Good Shepherd, your episcopal ministry will be both hospitable and welcoming." The nunric read the apostolic mandate from Pope Francis to the Newark Archdiocese's college of consultants to authorize Cardinal Tobin's appointment as the new archbishop of Newark. The letter noted that Cardinal Tobin carried out his episcopal responsibility to his flock in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for four years "with prudence, decision-making and much learning." It also commended him to the protection of St. Patrick and St. Elizabeth, patrons of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Carrying the unfurled scroll with the mandate raised high in front of him, Cardinal Tobin walked down the main aisle and was greeted with sustained applause in the cathedral that was filled to capacity. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and his wife, Mary Pat, as well as Sen. Robert Menendez were among the civic representatives. About 40 members of Cardinal Tobin's extended family were also at the installation Mass. So were about 30 people from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

"I had a great sense of gratitude during the Mass that we had him for four years and what a blessing he's been," said Msgr. William F. Stumpf, a close friend of Cardinal Tobin and now the administrator of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. "But there was also that real sense that he's not going to be here anymore and he doesn't belong to us anymore."

"It just reminded me again of how much I miss him, and we'll all miss him. It was very emotional."

Yet, Msgr. Stumpf also realizes why Pope Francis called Cardinal Tobin to lead Newark, an archdiocese that celebrates Sunday Mass in 20 languages and has about 1.5 million members, compared to the 224,000 Catholics in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

"It's so important that somebody of that talent and experience is now the head of a major diocese that has so many immigrants," Msgr. Stumpf said. "That's critical, particularly at a time when we're struggling around issues about immigration, and there are fears around immigrants.

The installation Mass also was a "bittersweet experience" for Annette "Mama" Pfeifer, the close friend of Cardinal Tobin and chancellor of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

The basilica came to life—beautiful music, Christmas flowers, a full house, and great participation and spirit," Lentz said about the liturgy, "It gave me a sense of peace for him. His homily was one of being thankful for the gift of grace."

Lentz showed a similar gift of grace as she considered the future of Cardinal Tobin in Newark.

"I hope that God will give him the courage and grace to move forward," she said. "Making his needs known to the Father, he will succeed, without a doubt. He has much to do, but he has the will with which to make it happen."

The installation took place during the Christmas liturgical season. "O Come, All Ye Faithful" was the opening hymn. "Angels We Have Heard on High" was sung as the cardinal accepted greetings from representatives of clergy, religious, and laity of the Archdiocese of Newark, ecumenical and interreligious groups and civil authorities.

The responsorial psalm was a version of Psalm 98 commissioned for the occasion from Pedro Rubalcava. "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem," "Joy to the World," "The First Noel" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" rang out in the church decorated with red poinsettias and evergreen wreaths.

Ethnic diversity in the Archdiocese of Newark was represented by prayers of intercession in Spanish, English, Korean, Polish, Creole, Ibo, Portuguese, Tagalog and Italian.

At the end of Mass, Cardinal Tobin thanked "all those families to which I belong, beginning with the one that put up with me for 64 years," specifically his mother, 12 brothers and sisters, in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles who were present. He said his family taught him how to love and share while growing up in a one-bedroom house with eight sisters.

The cardinal extended thanks to his Redemptorist family and "bishops in episcopal service in Indiana and New Jersey." When he thanked Archbishop Meyers for his welcome and "the care you've given to this archdiocese for 15 years," the congregation offered sustained applause.

Thanking the people in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for all they taught him and now mean to him, Cardinal Tobin said, "I showed up there unexpectedly four years ago, and I was a little embarrassed to be parachuted in on top of these unsuspecting Hoosiers."

The installation Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, N.J., was also attended by Sen. Robert Menendez, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and his wife, Mary Pat, as well as about 30 people from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and his wife, Mary Pat, as well as Sen. Robert Menendez were among the civic representatives. About 40 members of Cardinal Tobin's extended family were also at the installation Mass. So were about 30 people from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.
Catholic conference gears up for state legislative session

By Brigit Curtis Ayer

The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) is gearing up for state legislative action as 150 lawmakers returned to the Statehouse on Jan. 3 in Indianapolis to craft a $31.4 billion biennial budget by the April 29 adjournment deadline.

The ICC, which celebrated the 50-year anniversary of its founding in 2016, represents the Catholic Church in Indiana on national and state matters of public policy.

“The ICC communicates the value and dignity of the human person from the image and likeness of God to state legislators and public policy makers,” said Glenn Tebbe, executive director, who serves as the public policy spokesperson for the bishops in Indiana.

“It is my job and the job of the Church through the ICC to share our theological perspective and practical experience with state public servants to assist them in making sound public policy to benefit the common good,” said Tebbe. “Our work and policy statements reflect an application of the consistent life ethic as it relates to proposed legislation, current and future public policies. We shed light on the value and dignity of the human person from conception until natural death.”

The ICC classifies issues into a few broad umbrella categories, including: life, education, families and children, and the common good. Tebbe has identified seven priority issues upon which he will take action or keep a watchful eye this year.

In the category, Tebbe anticipates legislation to be introduced banning the death penalty for those with serious mental illnesses.

“The Catholic Church’s efforts to abolish the death penalty are long standing,” he said. “Our ICC will support legislation to ban the death penalty for those suffering from serious mental illness if the bill gets a hearing.”

Other states have enacted statutes legalizing physician-assisted suicide. Here, state lawmakers’ interest in taking on the end-of-life issue has not materialized, Tebbe said. The Catholic Church opposes assisted suicide in all its forms, and Tebbe said if a bill to legalize it surfaces this year, the Church will oppose it. But at this point, the ICC executive director said he is unaware of any bill being introduced in Indiana this year.

In the area of education, school choice legislation emerges every year, and Tebbe expects state lawmakers to act on expanding state-funded preschool. “As the preschool expansion takes place, I will be advocating that religiously affiliated schools can participate and not be left out of the equation to improve opportunities for Hoosier children,” he said. The Indiana Choice Scholarship Program continues under scrutiny, and Tebbe says the issue often spawns a “point of contention” during legislative deliberation. During the session, Tebbe said he remains abreast and actively involved in discussions on possible tweaks to the plan, and offers suggestions and resources to improve access and delivery of the scholarship program as a whole.

Creating a new biennial budget lends itself to potential opportunities to promote the common good. Tebbe said he will work with others to ensure that programs to benefit the most vulnerable in society, including lower-income families and children or the elderly, are protected or enhanced.

One such issue that Tebbe said he will be working on includes help for those with opioid drug problems, and receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, commonly known as food stamps.

Current Indiana law prohibits any person with a drug felony to be banned permanently from receiving food assistance through the SNAP program, even if they qualify based on income. Tebbe said evidence-based research supports that individuals who receive adequate access to good nutrition have improved odds of reforming their lives, and such a program reduces recidivism. He added he will also support adequate funding to alleviate the needs of families and children, including funding for education, both public and nonpublic.

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The religious makeup of the 115th Congress is significantly Christian—91 percent—with Catholics comprising one-third of the House of Representatives and about a quarter of the Senate.

Overall, there are six fewer Christians in the new Congress, at 485 members. But there are four more Catholics, who now total 168.

The high percentage of Christians in Congress is similar to the 87th Congress in 1961, when such information was first collected. At the time, 95 percent of Congress members were Christian.

The data on the religious makeup of the current senators and representatives was collected by Pew Research Center and announced on Jan. 3.

The Pew report notes that the large number of Christians in Congress has shifted in recent years with a decline in the number of Protestants. In 1961, Protestants made up 87 percent of Congress, compared with 56 percent today. Catholics, conversely, made up 19 percent of the 87th Congress, and now are 31 percent of the legislative body.

Looking at each party, two-thirds, or 27 percent, of Republicans in the new Congress are Protestant, and 30 Democrats and nine Republicans in the House, and 41 Republicans and nine Democrats serving in the Senate.

The ICC offers several resources on its webpage. People can stay up to date through legislative action reports, review position papers or by joining the Indiana Catholic Action Network (ICAN). Also as a part of its 50-year anniversary, the ICC produced videos to explain the role and importance of its involvement in public policy making. These videos and other resources are available at the ICC webpage at www.indianacc.org.

Crete, a correspondent for The Criterion.

CATHOLICS IN CONGRESS: ONE-THIRD OF HOUSE, QUARTER-OF SENATE

Of the 293 Republicans in the new Congress, all but two, who are Jewish, are Christian. Democrats in Congress also are predominantly Christian—80 percent—but they have more religious diversity among non-Christians.

The 242 Democrat Congress members include 28 Jews, three Buddhists, three Hindus, two Muslims and one Unitarian Universalist, in addition to one religiously unaffiliated member and 10 who declined to state their religious affiliation.

Overall, the new Congress has seven fewer Protestants than the last Congress. Baptists had the biggest losses—down seven seats—following by Anglicans and Episcopalians—down six seats.

Among non-Christian religious groups, Jews and Hindus had the biggest gains—an increase of two seats each. Jews now hold 30 seats in Congress. The number of Hindus rose from one to three, and the number of Buddhists increased from two to three.

The number of Muslims in Congress—two—remained unchanged.

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Guard the faith, make it grow, pope tells parents at baptism

WASHINGTON (CNS)—An emerging Catholic dialogue with Muslims aims to show public support for Islamic American communities.

The dialogue stems from concerns expressed by U.S. bishops in the wake of “a serious uptick in violence against American Muslims ... to make sure that they are sensitive to what is going on in the [Muslim] communities,” said Anthony Cirelli, associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The dialogue, underway since last February, will build on three already existing regional Catholic-Muslim dialogues, also overseen by the secretariat. Those gatherings have involved Muslim and Christian scholars and religious leaders, and have focused largely on academic discussions and comparisons of their respective religious texts, Cirelli said.

The regional dialogues—mid-Atlantic, Midwest and West Coast—have been effective in creating a better understanding among Muslim and Catholic leaders on a theological level, Cirelli explained. The national dialogue also will help Muslim leaders to better advocate for current concerns, “especially with the incoming [U.S.] administration,” said Cirelli, referring to calls by President-elect Donald J. Trump and others to monitor American Muslims and limit entry of Muslim visitors from abroad.

While our meetings will still have as a central component—the all-important theological conversation—right now there is an urgency to engage more in a kind of advocacy and policy in support of the Muslim community,” Cirelli told Catholic New Service (CNS).

Cirelli cited statistics documenting a higher number of anti-Muslim activities nationwide as well as a recent study by the Georgetown University research project on Islamophobia, claiming that Catholics who regularly obtained information from Catholic media were more likely to unfavorably view Muslims than those who did not.

The bishops’ priority at the moment is to listen to [Muslims’] concerns, their fears, their needs ... and so discern how we as Catholics can help them achieve their goals of full participation in their communities,” Cirelli said.

As the national conversation around Islam grows increasingly fraught, coarse and driven by fear and often willful misinformation, the Catholic Church must help to model real dialogue and goodwill,” Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of Springfield, Mass., chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, said at the time the dialogue started in February.

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago was designated as the dialogue’s Catholic chairman and assumed the position on Jan. 1. Cirelli said that he said that as part of the dialogue’s launch last February, Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego held a public discussion with Sayyid M. Syeed, national director of the Islamic Society of North America’s Office for Interfaith and Community Alliances.

During the widely publicized event at the University of San Diego’s Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, Bishop McElroy challenged U.S. Catholics to take an active role in combating “the scourge of anti-Islamic prejudice.”

The next dialogue is set for March 7-9 in Chicago. On March 8, Bishop McElroy will discuss the common good tradition in the Catholic Church. An Islamic scholar, who has yet to be named, will address the Islamic understanding of hospitality in the Quran.

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Parents are charged with guarding the faith given to their children at baptism and helping them become true witnesses by example rather than just words, Pope Francis said.

By asking the Church for faith for their children through the sacrament of baptism, Christian parents have the task of helping their children to grow so that they “may be witnesses for all of us: also for us priests, bishops, everyone,” the pope said during a Mass in the Sistine Chapel.

During the Mass on Jan. 8, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Pope Francis baptized 28 infants—15 boys and 13 girls.

“Faith is not reciting the ‘Creed’ on Sunday when we go to Mass: It is not only this,” the pope said. “Faith is believing that which is true: God the Father who has sent his Son and the Spirit who gives us life.”

The pope’s brief homily centered on the meaning of faith, which he described as a lifelong journey that “is lived” and leads to becoming a witness of Christ. Parents, he continued, must also teach through their example that faith “means trusting in God.”

While the pope spoke, the faint cries of a child echoed throughout the Sistine Chapel, causing a chain reaction of crying infants.

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Parishes, dioceses called to show care for people with mental illness

By Mike Nelson

“I remember sitting in the hospital,” said Kay Hughes, “huddled in a little group of about six, when one of us received a visit from her pastor. The rest of us sat there and related things like, ‘My pastor never visits me, no one from the Church visits me. I’ve never even received a card from my church, let alone visits or flowers.’ ”

The pastor was one of few who struggled with mental illness—and her faith community’s lack of awareness or action to address it begins “Welcomed and Valued: Building Communities of Support and Hope with People with Mental Illness and Their Families,” a 2009 publication of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) and its Council on Mental Illness.

The NCPD—a leader in actively addressing mental illness within the context of the Catholic faith—stresses that welcome and inclusion of such individuals is the only option for a Catholic community that promotes respect for life.

“People with mental illness have many gifts and talents that add to the life of a community of faith,” states “Welcomed and Valued.”

“Once we strip away the generalizations and distortions, we are better able to see people for who they truly are, individuals created in the image of God, our brothers and sisters.”

Such awareness and action is essential, given that mental illness is experienced by one in five U.S. adults each year, according to the American Psychiatric Association Foundation and the Mental Health and Faith Community Partnership in “Mental Health: A Guide for Faith Leaders.”

… The way we experience illness and disability is an index of the love we are ready to offer!”

In the U.S., promoting a culture of welcome, acceptance and inclusion for those with mental illness has been led by the Archdiocese of Chicago. Two decades ago, led by Deacon Tom Lambert of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, the archdiocese established its Commission on Mental Illness, with a membership that includes persons with mental illness and mental health service providers.

The commission annually coordinates and presents workshops, liturgies and parish-based, weekly “faith and fellowship” meetings for small groups of mentally ill people and parish volunteers.

Other dioceses, notably the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, and its Office for People with Disabilities, with resources that address how to welcome and include those with mental illness in parish life.

Amy Simpson, the author of Troubled Minds: Mental Illness and the Church’s Mission, suggests that the first step for any parish or individual wanting to address the issue of mental illness is to “talk about it,” noting that most who have mental illness do so “quietly and in shame.”

People who have mental illness, Simpson asserts, “need friends who will not abandon them when they’re symptomatic. And a faith community can’t be a source of friendship and support, who can?”

“How can it be,” Kay Hughes asks in “Welcomed and Valued,” “that a church is not a safe place—a sanctuary for those who need respect, dignity, affirmation, prayer and hope for recovery?”

“I remember sitting in the hospital,” said Kay Hughes, “huddled in a little group of about six, when one of us received a visit from her pastor. The rest of us sat there and related things like, ‘My pastor never visits me, no one from the Church visits me. I’ve never even received a card from my church, let alone visits or flowers.’ ”
Approach 2017 with an optimistic and peaceful heart

A few days before Christmas, my 9-year-old daughter was jubilant when she found a certain book in the children’s section at the library. She had never expressed such enthusiasm over a book before. She expressed herself as if she was finally coming to love reading. Then she explained the reason for breaking into this particular book in the middle of the young readers’ fiction section:

“My teacher is reading this book to us at school, and now I’ll be able to read ahead, mom!” she shrieked.

Each day she finishes reading to us, I’ll know that I’m living with the future next!” she added.

She gave me a content smile.

Later that same week, I sat down to fill out our calendar for the month of December. I take that time every year to review the previous year, and, with the coming of the New Year, to begin planning for the year to come, it gives me a chance to look back and reflect on the events of the past 365 days, which I had taken care to note in the calendar.

These are just a few of the events I had included:

• “Deanna’s 50th Birthday”
• “Pick up new puppy”
• “Take Meal to Anna’s Family (New Baby)”
• “Aunt Dolores’ Funeral”
• “Margaret’s 90th Birthday”
• “Children’s Christmas Party”
• “Sarah’s Second Annual Memorial SK”
• “Erin’s family visits from Seattle”
• “Go to church”
• “Henry’s first track meet”
• “Help Emmitt move”
• “Take meal to Mike’s family (Chemo treatment)”
• “Michael & Katie’s wedding”
• “Courtney’s surgery (Pray!)”
• “Family vacation to St. Petersburg”

The Criterion.) †

Catholic News Service
Father Eugene Hemrick writes for the diocese of Green Bay. Hemrick is also a contributing editor of SisterStory.org.

I am always struck in his looks and actions by his sense of humor and joy. He gives to us.

The pursuit of happiness in the new year

Don Currey was a 30-year-old graduate student when he cut down the world’s oldest tree. A brown-eyed, sun-tanned, 27-year-old student at the University of North Carolina, Currey was striking in his looks and his ambitions: to become the first person to use Ice-age glaciology by examining bristlecone pine, to claim the tree for himself in Nevada in the summer of 1964 amid a grove of bristlecones on Wheeler Peak Mountain when his tree corer got stuck in a tree.

Since it would not come out, a ranger helped him remove it by cutting down the tree. Don began to count its rings and eventually realized, much to his dismay, that his failed attempt was from 8,484 years old—what was then considered the oldest tree on the planet.

The tragic mistake advanced geographers’ understanding of longevity, which had been correlated with the size of trees, like Althaea Gibson, who estimated the Ice-burnished bristlecone pines, with their storybook swells on gnarled limbs—trees that peak at just 20 feet in height—out of some of the oldest trees in the world.

They’re able to live so long because, even if a large portion of a bristlecone is damaged by erosion or fire, small strips of living bark, which one researcher dubbed “life lines,” can function and keep the tree alive. The bark that might be only two inches wide can support all of the tree’s foliage.

I’m resolving to study this year and glean their stories and songs. I want to connect with some of those still living—the kind where I get out of the way and let them talk—and to read up on those still here.

Young adulthood may bring a sense of invincibility, throwing with novelty and thrill, but lately, I’m feeling blessed and strengthened by my history. I want to dig deeper.

So begins my reading Robert Ellsberg’s book The Saints’ Guide To Happiness, which frames that secular pursuit, an unalike American right, in spiritual terms, showing how the saints’ capacity for goodness and love, ultimately, made them happy.

My biggest takeaway is the book’s message about learning to see and learning to love. “Our whole business in this life is learning to love,” Ellsberg wrote. “...is to restore to health the eyes of the heart, whereby God may be seen.”

The Pope's itinerary took him to New York and then to Washington. I had received an invitation to the White House while the pope was there at the same time as Pope John Paul II was making his first visit to the United States, stopping in Ireland on the way. The Archbishop of Dublin had a reception for us the day before the pope’s arrival, and he couldn’t have been more gracious. More than that, he gave us front row seats at the Mass the pope was going to celebrate in Phoenix Park.

The greatest attention was paid to a segregated drinking fountain from the Bailey. It’s All Good/

It was All Good/Patti Lamb

TheCriterion.com/Fr. Eugene Hemrick

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My biggest takeaway is the book’s message about learning to see and learning to love. “Our whole business in this life is learning to love,” Ellsberg wrote. “...is to restore to health the eyes of the heart, whereby God may be seen.”

The Pope's itinerary took him to New York and then to Washington. I had received an invitation to the White House while the pope was there at the same time as Pope John Paul II was making his first visit to the United States, stopping in Ireland on the way. The Archbishop of Dublin had a reception for us the day before the pope’s arrival, and he couldn’t have been more gracious. More than that, he gave us front row seats at the Mass the pope was going to celebrate in Phoenix Park.

The greatest attention was paid to a segregated drinking fountain from the Bailey.
The Sunday Readings
Sunday, January 15, 2017

• John 1:29-34
• 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

The Book of Isaiah furnishes this weekend’s first reading from the Scriptures. Relief and joy uplifted the atmosphere. Hopes centered upon a bright future, all because of the fact that, after the humiliation, uncertainty and anguishes of being conquered by the Babylonians and then after generations of exile in Babylon for many, God’s People were entering a new day of return to their homeland and hopefully to lives of prosperity and security.

Lest anyone think this fortunate turn of events was the mere outcome of changing politics or luck, the prophet continually insisted that the plight of the people was improving because of God’s direct and merciful intervention into human affairs. God brought their relief. He promised to protect and sustain the people, despite the misfortunes that might befall them, and God was faithful.

In turn, the Hebrews, God’s people, human instruments on Earth of the divine will, bearing witness, were improving because of God’s direct and merciful intervention. For many, God’s People were entering the first century.

Reflection
At Christmas, the Church excitedly told us that Jesus was born. Son of Mary, Jesus was a human, as we are. The shepherds adored Jesus, representing all humanity. At the Epiphany, the magi found Jesus after searching for God. To assist them, God led and protected them. In Jesus, they found God.

At the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, the Church introduced us to Jesus as the Savior of doomed humanity. In Jesus, humans would have access to eternal life.

Now, continuing the process, John the Baptist, so reliable and so insightful in his holiness, proclaimed Jesus as the Lamb of God. In all these settings, the Church carefully puts before us the person of Jesus the Lord and tells us about Jesus. It invites us to follow Jesus. It invites us to know Jesus. He is one of us. He spoke to us. He died for us. We must only wish to know the Lord. †

My Journey to God
Flight
By Frances Huff

To Egypt, evil escalating
No camels, one mule
Clearing cliffs, desert, water
Returning when evil lessened
Not to Bethlehem
To the quietude
Of Nazareth

(Frances Huff is a member of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. Men portraying the Three Kings prostitute themselves before parishioners portraying the Holy Family during a Spanish-language Mass on Jan. 15 marking the feast of the Epiphany at St. Hugh of Lincoln Church in Huntington Station, N.Y.)

(CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic)

Daily Readings

Monday, January 16
Hebrews 5:1-10
Psalm 110:1-4
Mark 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 17
St. Anthony, abbot
Hebrews 6:10-20
Psalm 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c
Mark 2:23-28

Wednesday, January 18
Hebrews 7:1-15, 17
Psalm 110:1-4
Mark 3:1-6

Thursday, January 19
Hebrews 7:25-8:6
Psalm 40:7-10, 17
Mark 3:7-12

Friday, January 20
St. Fabian, pope and martyr
St. Sebastian, martyr
Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14
Psalm 85:8, 10-14
Mark 3:13-19

Saturday, January 21
St. Agnes, virgin and martyr
Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9
Mark 3:20-21

Sunday, January 22
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 8:23-9:3
Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14
1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
Matthews 4:12-23
or Matthew 4:12-17

Question Corner

Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Some saints known for helping with specific needs, but all can intercede

In the new parish where we are members, roughly half of the congregation stands throughout the consecration while the other half kneels. Our family follows our old habit of kneeling, but this lack of uniformity feels awkward to us.

In other parishes we have attended in our new area, everyone seems to be kneeling at this time of the Mass. What is your opinion? (New York)

The answer to your question is marked on the back of the Bulletin. The “General Instruction of the Roman Missal” says that “in the dioceses of the United States, they [i.e., the congregation] should kneel beginning after the singing or recitation of the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) until after the amen of the eucharistic prayer, except when prevented on occasion by ill health, or for reasons of lack of space, of the large number of people present or for another reasonable cause” (483).

The common position of the congregation is a symbol of a community at worship united by faith, and it fosters a sense of unity. It is true in many parts of the world the congregation does stand for most of the eucharistic prayer (except for the consecration, when everyone kneels), but the bishops of the U.S. felt that kneeling is regarded by Americans as the most reverent posture, and is therefore the one most suitable for the entire eucharistic prayer in ordinary circumstances.

Readers may submit prose or poetry for possible publication in the “My Journey to God” column.

Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions.

Send material for consideration to “My Journey to God,” The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2307 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org.
Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in The Criterion. Members of religious orders and sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are veterans of the archdiocese or have other connections to it. Those obituaries are on separate pages.


KUNKEL, Dorotha S., 103, Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876. †


MARO, John, 50, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, Dec. 7. Father of Francesca Olson, Bradley Herman, Antonio, Emily, Nicole and Jacob Maio. Son of Michael and Mary Ann Maio. Brother of Florence Abbott, Antonio Batture, Mary Batture, Theresa Minock, Michelle Seng, Kathleen Houston and Patricia Maio. Grandfather of two.


ORTHOEFE, Marcella, 84, St. Vincent de Paul, Shelbyville, Dec. 16. Great-granddaughter of several.


RINGLE, Mark, 76, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Richmond, Dec. 22. Son of Anna Sharpe and Frank Ringle. Great-grandfather of three.


Meeting the pope

Pope Francisco greets young people during his weekly audience on Jan. 4 in Paul VI Hall at the Vatican. (CNS photo/Tony Gentile, Reuters)
St. Thomas Aquinas School interviews Cardinal Tobin

By Natalie Hoefer

Since being named a cardinal and being assigned as archbishop of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J.—where he was installed as shepherd on Jan. 6—Cardinal Tobin has been sought by dozens of major media outlets for an interview, including the National Catholic Register, The New York Times, the Gulf of Mexico. Meet Indpls. couple seeking a room, and the questions began. For about 20 minutes Miles Barth, a seventh-grade student who just welcomed these people into the parish. Candidates must be able to plan, lead, and facilitate the liturgical and sacramental life of the parish. The Coordinator of Latino Outreach will develop strategic relationships between Latino community organizations and schools to advance recruitment efforts and to build a portfolio of potential service providers. Collaboration within the archdiocese and with others doing similar work in other dioceses is essential. The Coordinator will visit Catholic schools to assess progress toward their school planning goals as defined by the plans’ established metrics. The student is really great stuff for me to put in my article.” †

To apply, please e-mail a cover letter, resume, and list of references, in confidence, to: 

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1-400 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
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WASHINGTON (CNS)—Urging Americans to look at their families for stories of immigration, the president and vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) called attention to the hardships and contributions of immigrants to American society as the U.S. Church observed National Migration Week.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston and Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles also said in a statement that the week is “an opportunity to embrace the important work of continuing to secure the border, to welcome the stranger and serve the most vulnerable” as components of “a humane immigration policy.”

National Migration Week was observed on Jan. 8-14.

“This year, we are invited to create a culture of encounter where citizens old and new, alongside immigrants recent and long-standing, can share with one another their hopes for a better life,” said the statement marking the observance, which began 25 years ago as a way to reflect on how immigrants and refugees have contributed to the Church. “Jesus, Mary and Joseph knew life as refugees, so let us also begin this encounter within our very own families.”

The prelates said migration is “an act of great hope,” and those who are forced to leave their homelands “suffer devastating family separation and most often face dire economic conditions to the point they cannot maintain a very basic level of living.”

War and persecution force refugees to leave their homelands, they said. They urged Catholics to seek stories from their families about how their parents, grandparents or great-grandparents left their homelands.

“We let us remind ourselves of those moments when our loved ones were forced to seek the mercy of others in a new land,” the statement said.

Though the United States has a great national heritage of welcoming the stranger, “fear and intolerance have occasionally tested that heritage,” the statement said, adding that “whether immigrating from Ireland, Italy or countless other countries, previous generations faced bigotry. Thanks be to God, our nation grew beyond those divisions to find strength in unity and inclusion.”

How will U.S. policy affect Middle East’s Christians in 2017?

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A wide variety of issues, both domestic and foreign, have been raised during the presidential transition. One that hasn’t received much notice is the situation of the beleaguered Christian community in the Middle East.

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Bishops cite immigration in National Migration Week statement