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‘Greatest … of all solemnities’
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The “Risen Christ” is depicted in a 15th-century painting by Sandro Botticelli. Easter, the chief feast in the liturgical calendars of all Christian churches, commemorates Christ’s resurrection from the dead. Easter is on April 16 this year. (Chidorigafuji Images)
Love Jesus in all who suffer, pope says on Palm Sunday

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Jesus does not ask that people only contemplate his image, but that they also recognize and love him concretely in all people who suffer like he did, Pope Francis said.

Jesus “is present in our many brothers and sisters who today endure sufferings like his—own—they suffer from slave labor, from family tragedies, from diseases. They suffer from terrorism, from interests that are armed and ready to strike,” the pope said on April 9 as he celebrated the Palm Sunday Mass of the Lord’s Passion.

In his homily, the pope said that the day’s celebration was “bittersweet.”

“It is joyful and sorrowful at the same time,” because the Mass “marks the account of his passion and death on the cross. Jesus accepts the hosannas coming from the crowd, but he “knows full well that they will soon be followed by the cry, ‘Crucify him!’” the pope said.

Jesus “does not ask us to contemplate him only in pictures and photographs or in the videos that circulate on the Internet,” but to recognize that he is present in those who suffer today, including “women and men who are cheated, violated in their dignity, discarded.”

“Jesus is in them, in each of them, and, with marred features and broken voice, he asks to be looked in the eye, to be acknowledged, to be loved,” the pope said.

“We have no other Lord but him. Jesus, the humble King of justice, mercy and peace. Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem as the true Messiah, who is a servant of God and humanity, the pope said. He is not a dreamer peddling illusions, a “new age” prophet or con man. He takes on the sins and sufferings of humanity with his passion. Jesus never promised honor and success would come to those who follow him, rather, the path to final victory requires picking up the cross and carrying it every day, Pope Francis said.

“Let us ask for the grace to follow Jesus faithfully, not in words but in deeds. Let us also ask for the patience to carry our own cross, not to refuse it or set it aside, but rather, in looking to him, to take it up and to carry it daily,” he said.

Egypt’s attacks won’t stop pope’s visit for peace, says Vatican official

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Despite recent reported terrorist attacks against Egypt’s minority Christian communities, Pope Francis will not cancel his visit to Egypt.

“The pope’s trip to Egypt proceeds as scheduled,” Greg Burke, Vatican spokesman, told Catholic News Service (CNS) by e-mail on April 10. The pope is scheduled to meet governmental and interfaith leaders during an April 28-29 visit to Cairo.

“Egyptians are looking forward to Pope Francis’ visit, although the current atmosphere is not heavy,” Father Rafic Greiche, spokesman for the Egyptian bishops, told CNS on April 10.

“The pope’s mission is to be beside Egyptians in their tragedy, their pain, their anxiety and hope and hope to the Egyptian people as a whole and to the Christians of the East, in particular,” Father Greiche added.

He said people were uneasy entering churches with metal detectors and other security measures.

“It’s not like going to a normal church. But we need these measures to keep people safe,” he said.

He said after the attacks, he celebrated a Mass with 2,000 people.

People knew already about the attack in Tanta, but they did not want to be afraid. In the evening, they also came for the prayers of the Holy Week,” Father Greiche said.

Coptic Orthodox Pope Tawadros II was in the Cathedral of St. Mark in Alexandria on April 9 for the Palm Sunday service when an explosion went off outside the church. Security footage appeared to show a security officer direct a man who was seeking entry into the cathedral to go through a metal detector. The man took a step under the detector then backed up a step, followed by a huge explosion that cut off the camera feed.

Earlier, a bomb exploded 70 miles away inside the Church of St. George in Tanta, 30 miles north of Cairo, during its Palm Sunday service. Estimates say at least 44 people were killed and more than 100 people were wounded, making it one of the deadliest against the nation’s Christians in decades.

From the CBC news website, the earliest day for Christians in decades and the worst since a bombing at a Cairo church in December killed 30 people.

Pope Tawadros told the Italian national network RAI News on April 9 the attacks were a “bomb that targeted that the lies of innocents.”

Retired Coptic Catholic Bishop Antonios Mina of Giza, Egypt, said the incidents were an attack against the country’s unity, its Coptic Christians, “to remind them that they have no rights, and against all Christian minorities of the country that anxiously await Pope Francis.”

“Despite it all, we will never lose hope. These atrocious gestures make us firmer in the faith and stronger,” he said.

One Catholic leader highlighted his country’s failure to address the real causes behind the Palm Sunday massacres.

Speaking “to the officials and the wise of this country,” Coptic Catholic Bishop Boreas Fahim Awad Hanna of Minya said that “you don’t fight terrorism with words or slogans, nor with security or armies alone.”

“What have you done for social, economic, health, political and human justice? What have you done for the poor and downtrodden? What have you done to reform thought, expression and religious discourse?”

In a posting on his Facebook page, Pope Francis holds palm fronds as he celebrates Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican on April 9. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)
By John Shaughnessy

Picture a mother who has tried to do everything she can to make her children’s lives better.

Focus on the extra efforts of a teacher and a principal whose goal has always been to help students become the best they can be.

Then consider this third scene: a woman showing her deep faith as she makes time for eucharistic adoration at the parish church.

All these moments help capture the essence of Nancy Buening, a mother of five and a longtime educator at St. Mary School in Greensburg.

New, another special scene of her life will be featured on April 18—the day she will receive the 2017 “Lead, Learn, Proclaim Award” from the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

From more than 150,000 Catholic teachers and administrators across the United States, Buening is just one of the 42 people this year who will receive this honor “for dedication and commitment to excellence” during the association’s national conference in St. Louis.

“A couple years ago, I remember Nancy talking about why she loves being a Catholic school principal,” says Janna Stonebraker, principal of All Saints Catholic Academy in Guilford.

“She showed her own commitment by attending numerous building meetings and being part of the design team for the school. She also “applied for and received multiple grants which helped relieve the building budget.” In the summer of 2012, she also led a team effort of teachers, staff members and volunteers from the parish that “moved the school by our own hands, something more that she saw when her students connected with God, something more she felt when she observed a child experiencing the Catholic faith while learning, the something more that reassured her that she along with her parishioners to realize that what we were building was not just a school, but a space where the foundation for future generations would be formed.”

She also works to deepen the faith of students by showing them the example of her faith. She sings as a cantor at parish Masses, prays regularly in the parish’s adoration chapel, serves as an extraordinary minister of holy communion, and volunteers as a confirmation sponsor for high school students.

“The capital campaign to build a new church and school had already begun,” she recalls. “Initially, we only raised enough money to begin building the school. I feel I was a big part in helping the parishioners to realize that what we were building was not just a school, but a space where the foundation for future generations would be formed.”

She also led a team effort of teachers, staff members and volunteers from the parish that “moved the school by our own hands, to our new location about one mile south of the old school.”

“I love my community and my family connections. I have strong roots and a passion for the place and the people here. When you pour your love into it and people see that, they want to be part of it, too. The people of St. Mary’s are so wonderful. They give so much to the school and the parish.”

—Nancy Buening, principal of St. Mary School in Greensburg

St. Mary School now has 311 students—an increase of 44 percent in eight years—after adding a pre-school, a seventh grade and an eighth grade in recent years. The parish also opened its new church last summer.

“He’s definitely here in all of this. The spirit is alive. People have told me they feel that presence at the school—and I feel it, too. That’s why I’m so passionate about the school and what I do.”

As the principal of St. Mary School in Greensburg, Nancy Buening always enjoys the times she gets to spend with students—just one of the qualities that have earned her the 2017 “Lead, Learn, Proclaim Award” from the National Catholic Educational Association. (Submitted photo)

As for the national honor, Buening has the same approach as she does with her life and her faith—to share it with all the people who have graced her journey.

“I always felt God was continuing to call me to be in this place—and to be better at it through the years.”

“I love my community and my family connections. I have strong roots and a passion for the place and the people here. When you pour your love into it and people see that, they want to be part of it, too. The people of St. Mary’s are so wonderful. They give so much to the school and the parish.”

—Nancy Buening, principal of St. Mary School in Greensburg
Christ indeed rose from the dead

We find it amusing that some people doubt that Jesus Christ really rose from the dead. They think that the resurrection is just a religious belief rather than a historical fact. Why would they think that?

Well, undoubtedly because they know that humans can’t come back from the dead. So these stories in the Bible about Jesus rising from the dead must be fiction. The early Christians just made up the stories to help spread their religion.

But in reality, the opposite is true. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain” (1 Cor 15:17). The resurrection came first, then the Christians’ faith. If Christ hadn’t indeed risen from the dead, why would the Apostles keep preaching their religion, even dying for it? If they knew that it didn’t really happen, wouldn’t it have made more sense for them to just think that it had been a great three years with Jesus, but now it was time to return to their former lives?

Actually, we know that the Apostles didn’t believe in it either, at first. They weren’t willing to take one for the team just for an idea that there was nothing to it. Christ’s resurrection wasn’t for the Apostles, it was for the world. Mary Magdalene thought that someone had moved the dead body. It wasn’t the Apostles who were able to see Jesus, they were only able to see His wounds. It happens in the story of our lives, too, when we are caught up in the trials and tribulations of our existence.

In that letter, Paul reminded his readers what he had preached: “that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised to life; that he appeared to the apostles.” The only requirement is faith.

Jesus was the first person that ever conquered death. He rose from the dead, rose from the grave. After that, He appeared to the apostles and then to the 500 believers. And He rose again, right in front of the people who were there.

There’s also the hallucination theory: the Apostles only thought that Jesus appeared to them, it was all a hallucination. Sure. They all had the same hallucination, and that hallucination kept recurring for 40 days while he continued to appear to them.

But what about Jesus’ changed appearance? Sometimes, even the Apostles didn’t recognize him. He rose from the dead with a glorified body, one that could pass through the locked doors. When the Apostles saw him, they didn’t think that he might never win a major. Maybe that was what helped him be so calm during his duel on the back nine on Sunday at The Masters against Rose. Holding the lead early in the final round, Garcia saw it slip away in the middle as Rose made a charge.

Then at the 13th hole, part of Augustus’s family thought Cano had put his tee shot into a bush and took a penalty. It looked like his chance to win his first major was fading away like it had so many times before.

But he scrambled from there with two great shots and a great putt to save par. Perfection bad tee shot aside, when Garcia then birdied the 14th hole and scored an amazing eagle 3 on the par 5 15th hole. He and Rose were neck and neck for the rest of the round and into one extra hole before Garcia sank a 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th green to win the Masters’ coveted green jacket, awarded to the tournament’s champion.

The story of Garcia’s career and his play at the 2017 Masters are symbolic reminders of the importance of the virtues of perseverance and acceptance.

God calls each us to persevere with the help of his grace through the many small and sometimes large crosses that he allows to come our way, as we’ve seen with the footsteps of the horse which carried him cross and rose again for our redemption.

Our endurance of these trials in many instances is fueled by our vision of the goodness we’ll achieve on the other side of them. We might imagine the dream we’ll land after years of education and hard work, climbing the ladder of our career, or picture in our minds the good health we will experience after a serious illness.

But there are times when God has other outcomes in store for us, and the unfinished dreams of ours aren’t realized. At first, this can be a hard reality for us to accept. We pray and we trust in family and friends, though, we can come to not only accept our fate but, more importantly, to accept our fate with a true love of self, ultimately leading us to be for us what we already have imagined.

Sometimes we can only realize our greatest dreams after doing a great dying desire to reach them.

In our life of faith, God calls us to use the talents with which he has blessed us to the best of our abilities. But, in the end, salvation is his gift alone.

Paul Kachinski is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis, a reporter for The Criterion. He has worked in the world, started in 72 major tournaments and has won many tournaments around the world. Garcia’s victory shows value of perseverance and acceptance.
A bill to ensure safety for newborns deposited into “baby boxes” cleared a final hurdle on April 3 when it passed the Indiana House by a 92-4 vote. The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) supports the proposal.

Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Markle, author of Senate Bill 246, the “baby box” bill, said he brought the legislation forward as a way to fix a glitch in administering the “baby box” provision of Indiana’s Safe Haven Law.

Holdman said two years ago the Indiana General Assembly passed a proposal giving authority to the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) to promulgate rules governing the use of newborn safety incubator devices, commonly referred to as “baby boxes.” A “baby box” is a device where a parent could anonymously place his or her unwanted infant without fear of arrest or prosecution. As long as there are no signs of intentional abuse of the baby, no information is required of the person leaving the baby. The Indiana Department of Child Services takes the baby into custody through Child Protective Services and places the child with a caregiver.

Parvonay Stover, legislative director for the Department of Child Services, said Children’s Commission reviewed the Safe Haven Law and did not recommend statewide use of the “baby boxes” due to concerns about child safety associated costs and potential liability. Two “baby box” devices are operational at fire stations in northwest Indiana, and will be permitted to continue, but new “baby boxes” would be located at hospitals or hospital-affiliated facilities. Cathie Humbarger, executive director of Allen County Right to Life, who testified in support of the legislation, said even with the publicity and education regarding the two boxes already in place—including one available in Allen County—not a single newborn has been deposited. Humbarger said since March of 2016 the publicity has generated nearly 1,000 calls to the baby safe hotline that have been answered by trained volunteers. There have been 142 pregnancy resource center referrals, four confirmed adoption referrals and six confirmed face-to-face surrenders.

Glen Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, who serves as the public policy spokesperson for the bishops in Indiana, also testified in support of the bill. He said even though Indiana’s Safe Haven Law allows a parent to relinquish an unwanted infant to medical or public safety personnel, too many infants are still abandoned and left to perish.

“It is not clear why a parent would not take the infant to a place where proper care for the child could be provided,” said Tebbe. “If there is a problem due to not wanting to be identified as abandoning the child, the newborn safety incubator is an answer, if anonymity is necessary.

“The program has had an impact and has helped parents in need seek and find assistance for the child and the family. While concerns were raised about the safety of children in the baby safe device, Senate Bill 246 addresses the safety concerns by requiring them at hospitals where staff can provide immediate care.”

The Children’s Bureau, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, issued the Child Welfare Gateway Information report in February 2013 on safe haven laws in the United States. Thirteen states and the District of Columbia provide parent anonymity. In 34 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, parents retain criminal immunity when a baby is relinquished to a safe haven.

State lawmakers are expected to complete their legislative business and to finalize a state budget in less than two weeks. For a status update on priority legislation the ICC is following, go to the 1-CAN Update at www.indianacc.org.

(Brigid Curtis Ayer is a correspondent for The Criterion.)
### April 18
St. Simon the Apostle Parish Life Center, 8155 Oaklandon Road, Indianapolis. Seasons of Hope Bereavement Support Group, six consecutive Tuesdays, noon (or evening sessions begin on April 20 at 7 p.m.). Information, registration: Mona Lime, 317-371-8993 or monoline@comcast.net

### April 18-23
Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Birthright is a pregnancy support group to help guide adults through their decisions in the event of divorce, six consecutive Tuesdays, 3:30 includes book. Register at www.archindy.org/pdf/ministries/divorce.html. Information: 317-236-7566 or gmaelear@archindy.org

### April 19

### April 20-23
Archbishop Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, 812-357-6585 or provctr@saintmeinrad.edu. For more information, call 812-537-2931.

#### Retreats and Programs

**For a complete list of retreats as reported to The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/retreats**

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<th>Retreats and Programs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center</td>
<td>200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad</td>
<td>April 20-23</td>
<td>Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. Biblical Wisdom, Presented by Siro’s Chic Boutique, 6:30-30 p.m., local cuisines, family games, prizes vary, carry out available. Information: 812-623-2964.</td>
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<td>White Violet Center for Ecovision</td>
<td>St. Joseph Church, 125 E. Broadway St., Shelbyville.</td>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Tony Melendez concert. 5:30 p.m. Information: 205-252-7803 or melendezusa.com.</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Violet Center for Ecovision</td>
<td>Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad</td>
<td>April 24-25</td>
<td>Fall River Center, 6000 E. 86th St., Columbus. Turtle Soup Supper: Turtle soup, chicken noodle soup, fish and pulled pork sandwiches, homemade desserts, family games, prizes vary, carry out available. Information: 812-623-2964.</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Violet Center for Ecovision</td>
<td>St. Nicholas Parish, 7410 N. Eiteljorg Drive, Brownsburg.</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Spring Bingo Fundraiser. 2-4 p.m., doors open at 1:15 p.m., $10 bingo only, $20 bundle packs, snacks and beverages available. Information: 702-802-4410 or <a href="mailto:alturfest@stmarysindy.org">alturfest@stmarysindy.org</a>.</td>
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### April 22

### April 23
St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1547 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. St. Patrick’s Day Dinner and Silent Auction, dinner begins at 7 p.m., followed by auction, raffles and music, socializing and auction checkout reception available, 4-8 p.m. Information: 317-823-9415. |

### April 23
Dr. Ray Guarendi to speak at Lumen Christi dinner fundraiser on April 28

For its parish mission, St. Joseph Parish in Corydon will host international retreat director, speaker and author Father Philip Scott of the Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Malaldonado, Peru, as he presents on the topic of “The Father/Mother Wound” at St. Joseph Church, 312 E. High St., in Corydon, at 7 p.m. on the evenings of April 20-22.

The presentation addresses how, while every child is meant to be loved, cherished, nurtured and cared for, it is not always what a child receives. The wounds inflicted can remain for a lifetime, affecting a person’s relationship with self, family, spouse and children. Father Phillip will explore the effects of these wounds, and the hope and healing that are possible.

The April 22 session will be held after the 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass, with refreshments to be included. Father Phillip will also lead a Divine Mercy Sunday celebration at 3:00 p.m. on April 23.

All are invited to join in the parish mission and the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration.

For more information, call Kathleen Santoro at 317-596-1413 or e-mail parish.office@catholic-community.org.

### April 24
Dr. Ray Guarendi will be the guest speaker at the 45th Anniversary of the St. Augustine Guild, which supports the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Indianapolis. The cost is $50 per person, and opportunity for confession, admission and a special gift will be awarded for a lifetime, affecting a person’s relationship with self, family, spouse and children. Father Phillip will explore the effects of these wounds, and the hope and healing that are possible.

The April 22 session will be held after the 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass, with refreshments to be included. Father Phillip will also lead a Divine Mercy Sunday celebration at 3:00 p.m. on April 23.

All are invited to join in the parish mission and the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration.

For more information, call Kathleen Santoro at 317-596-1413 or e-mail parish.office@catholic-community.org.

### April 28
Dr. Ray Guarendi to speak at Lumen Christi dinner fundraiser on April 28

National radio and television host and psychologist Dr. Ray Guarendi is the guest speaker at Lumen Christi Catholic School’s “Light in the City” dinner and auction fundraiser at The Widows on Westfield, 6729 Westfield Blvd., in Indianapolis, from 6-10:30 p.m. on April 28.

The evening starts at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception and silent auction. Dinner begins at 7 p.m., followed by music, socializing and auction checkout from 8-10 p.m. Auction items are currently available for bidding by logging on to www.lumenchristchool.org. Items include dinner for six with Mgr. Joseph Schaeckel, one week of summer camp at an elegant Indianapolis venue, a weekend break for two to Kings Island, golf outings, Indianapolis Indians game tickets, signed sports gear, museum passes and much more.

The deadline for registering to attend the event is April 23. Tickets are $75 per person. Sponsorship tables for 10 persons are $1,000 and include recognition in the event program (if received in time) and two VIP reception tickets. For more information or to purchase tickets, log on to www.lumenchristschool.org.
Good Friday sorrow is sure path to Easter joy

Pope Francis knows that the Christian life, the via crucis (way of the cross), is in fact a journey that the pope tells us that our journey to heaven will not be like a smooth carriage ride. It will be more like riding in an old bus over rocky terrain with many obstacles in the road that require frequent detours.

The prime example, he says, is Christ himself. Our Lord’s journey to the joy of resurrection took many sorrowful twists and turns. It involved abandonment by his friends, rejection of him by the people he loved, and unspeakable pain, humiliation and tortures. In order to rise, our faith tells us, Jesus first had to die cruelly and then descend into hell. So, when he invites us to “take up your cross and follow me,” he is not describing a vacation cruise but a tortuous journey filled with discomfort and danger.

When he addressed the crowds gathered in St. Peter’s Square just prior to Ash Wednesday, Pope Francis described this liturgical season as a time of penitence and mortification that is actually a journey of hope which directs us on the path toward resurrection. Good Friday is a symbol of Christian life—a difficult journey paved with crosses that leads to ultimate joy.

To better understand what this means, the pope says, we must refer to the fundamental experience of the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, in which the chosen people journeyed toward the promised land—through spiritual discipline and the gift of the Law—learned the love of God and neighbor. Sacred Scripture tells of a tempestuous journey that lasted 40 years, the time span of a generation, and that difficulties and obstacles represented continuous temptations to regret leaving Egypt and to turn back. But, the pope says, the Lord stayed close to his people who finally reached the promised land guided by Moses. Their journey, he explained, was undertaken in hope, and in this sense it can be seen as an “exodus” out of slavery and into freedom.

According to Pope Francis, “Every step, every effort, every test, every fall and every recovery makes sense within God’s design for salvation, because he wants life—not death—and joy—not pain—for his people.” The pope says that Easter is Jesus’ own exodus, a paschal event and journey in which we participate through our rebirth in baptism. By following Christ along the way of the cross, we share in his victory over sin and death.

In order to open this passage for us, Jesus had to cast off his glory, he had to humble himself, and he had to be obedient unto death on the cross. But Pope Francis is quick to point out, “This doesn’t mean that he did everything, and we don’t have to do anything. It doesn’t mean that Jesus went through the cross, and we will go to heaven in a carriage. That is not how it works. It’s true that our salvation is Jesus’ gift, but it is a gift of love that requires our ‘yes’ and our participation.”

As St. Paul teaches, “If we have died with Christ, we will rise with him. (2 Tim 2:11). The pathway to life is death. The joy of the resurrection can only come by way of the cross.”

So Pope Francis teaches, “The moments of darkness, of failure, and also of sin can be transformed and announce a new path. When we have reached the base of our crosses, we have reached the steps in which we participate through our rebirth in baptism. By following Christ along the way of the cross, we share in his victory over sin and death.”

The pope congratulated the committee on the 25th anniversary of its founding, and encouraging members in their work for society and the care of creation.

Scientists, he said, are called to “know” and to “know how” to make responsible decisions, and avoid the risk of “misusing the power that science and technology places in our hands.”

“When the intertwining between technological power and economic power becomes closer, interests may condition lifestyles and social orientations in the direction of profits of certain industrial and commercial groups to the detriment of peoples and the poorest nations,” the pope said.

Humility, courage and openness, he added, are crucial in creating harmony between social, scientific and political bodies so all may work together for the common good and the sustainable development of the “common home.”

Science and technology, Pope Francis said, “are made for man and the world, not man and the world for science and technology.”

“They may be at the service of a dignified and healthy life for all in the present and in the future and make our common home more habitable and marked by solidarity, more cared for and preserved,” the pope said.
Who are the important role models in your life of faith?

My mother June Cord, who is 95 and still volunteers several days a week; my wife, Gwen; my sister, Jane Crady; Fathers Clement Davis, Daniel Stanbfirl, Jeffrey Godecker and Martin Peter; Deacon William Jones, Thomas Hill, Steven House, Michael East, Kerry Blandford and Patrick Bower; Becky Blandford and Lynn Bower.

What are your favorite Scripture verses, saints, prayers and devotions?

My favorite Scripture verse is 1 John 3:16-18, which spells out with daily Mass readings and readings from the Office of Readings in the Liturgy of the Hours.

Deacons often minister to others in the workplace. How have you experienced that?

I have been blessed that many of my co-workers are Christian. We often pray together and discuss world problems from a Christian viewpoint. I have several who e-mail or call me asking me to pray for them or a loved one. As a part of my job, I get to travel to many places around the world. It is always interesting to see the reactions and hear the conversations of the people when they see these on my card. I have had many conversations with underground Christians in China, Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims and other religions in these encounters.

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

I am not sure I fully understand the “why” of the call. I do feel as if my life has been a preparation for this time. As I enter more fully into outreach ministries and the marginalized, I can see how my previous experiences have helped me to grasp more fully the needs of those who have struggled in their lives.

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

For the past few years, the time required for deacon formation and service has placed a bit of a burden on my wife and family. I am hoping that after I retire I will have more time, and can better organize our schedules around ministry needs.†

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

My parents have been my role models in my life of faith. I have always felt that they regard other people as children of God. They are always helping others with whatever available resources they have.

What are your favorite Scripture verses, saints, prayers and devotions?

My favorite Scripture verses are Romans 14:7–9. “None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself,” and Matthew 23:12, “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” My favorite saints are St. Jude Thaddeus, St. Martin de Porres and St. Lorenzo Ruiz. In my prayer, I always try to follow the “ACTS” pattern—adoration, contrition, thanksgiving and supplication. I have a special devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

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

I have been doing informal counseling in the workplace by openly discussing what deacons are doing and showing how deacons bring a ministry of pastoral orientation since I got involved in the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, a Catholic ministry whose advocacy was to bring Jesus Christ to the marketplace.

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

It will inspire the people in my sphere of influence to serve others willingly and joyfully.

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

I hope to identify and facilitate the removal of hindrance to the growth of people who are poor spiritually, socially, physically, morally, leading to genuine social justice.†

Roman Missal calls Easter Vigil ‘mother of all vigils’ for a reason

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The Catholic Church pulls out all the stops for the Easter Vigil, the Mass celebrated on Holy Saturday.

The Roman Missal, which spells out specifics of how the vigil is to be celebrated, describes it as the “mother of all vigils,” and says it is the “greatest and most sublime rite of the Church.” It is to be unique in every single church.

That quote, “mother of all vigils,” comes from St. John’s Gospel 20, which is pretty old, since the saint died in the year 430. In other words, the tradition of the Easter Vigil, and support for it, goes back far in the Catholic Church.

But even before Vatican II, the move to revive the Easter Vigil began with Pope Pius XII in the 1950s. It was to revive the celebration to the Saturday night before Easter and making additional changes. Father Merrill said documentation of the ancient Church celebrating the Easter Vigil in Syria and North Africa notes that the sacraments of initiation—baptism, confirmation and first Communion—took place in a separate area while the congregation listened to words from Scripture, and then the newly baptized were brought out to the congregation.

“Very early,” Father Merrill said. “If you wanted to see the risen Christ, you saw him in the newly baptized.” And that symbolizing. Bishop after Easter. For the next eight days, the newly baptized were required to wear their white baptismal gowns to daily Mass where the bishop would give instructions about the meaning of baptism.

And even though the newly initiated no longer wear their baptismal gowns for a week, baptisms remain a key part of the Easter Vigil.

“In fact, a vigil where no one is going to be initiated kind of falls flat,” Father Merrill said. “It misses the point.”

Catholic News Service (CNS) on April 5, noting that all the readings lead up to the liturgy of the Easter Vigil itself and the symbolism. It must take place after sundown and begins with the lighting of a fire outside. The Paschal candle, whose light is passed on to individual candles held by worshippers. There are eight Old Testament readings telling the salvation history, sung responses between readings and a sung proclamation called the Exsultet.

The Mass also includes the baptism, confirmation and first Communion of catechumens who are joining the Church, having prepared for this moment through the RCIA. Candidates, who are already baptized, are a protection of faith and receive confirmation and first Communion at the vigil to enter into the full communion of the Church.

Paulist Father Larry Rice, director of the University Catholic Center at the University of Texas at Austin, said the idea of the Easter Vigil, by its nature, means “standing up through the night waiting and watching for the Lord’s resurrection.”

He said the first part of the vigil, gathering around the outdoor fire, is reminiscent of being around a campfire and telling stories, which in this case are the stories of salvation history. The congregation is “not waiting, shivering cold in dark,” but is reminded by the fire that “God has always come to our aid.” And then during the Mass, the readings contain this story, from creation to the Israelites’ flight from Egypt and the message of a messiah from the Old Testament prophets.

When Father Larry hears people say the Easter Vigil is just too long, he says it doesn’t matter if it’s two or three hours because it is so rich.

Part of the reason so many people love the Easter Vigil, he said, is that it “hits us on a primal level.” Today, people rarely keep watch through the night, nor do they tell stories. He also said the vigil is a sensory experience with the smell and the cracking of the fire, the music between readings and the stark images of darkness and light.

Father Merrill said the congregation at the Easter Vigil “is not the same as the packed church on Easter Sunday.” Father Larry said Easter Vigil experience came from “a student dressed in Easter finery” and is not the same as the packed church on Easter Sunday. Father Larry said the students generally don’t have the Mass “doesn’t draw an enormous crowd,” but he said once people have experienced it, they usually want to come back because Easter Mass in comparison can “feel like the after party, not the actual party.”

A vigil Mass that stands out the most for him is one he celebrated in Santa Susanna in Rome, an ancient church with no windows or emergency exits signs that light up in the dark. Mass began, he said, in complete darkness, but the light of the single flame was “enough to illuminate the entire church.”

“Spoke to me so powerfully of the power of light to drive out darkness,” Father Larry said, in a way that he hadn’t experienced before or since.

Father Merrill’s most profound Easter Vigil experience came from a student. When he was teaching at Boston College, the priest assigned his students to attend and write about two Sunday Masses or one Easter Vigil. One student wrote a 10-page paper about his experience at the Vigil where he felt his broken life was renewed and he was given new hope.

The student was moved right from the start with the symbolism of the fire lighting the darkness. Then he felt the readings were not just about what God evens to illuminate entire church.

Father Merrill saved the paper and has kept in touch with the student. He said it is one of his favorite pieces of the experience, he would still “thank God for the privilege” of leading one person there that night.†
Pastor, St. Monica parishioners ‘grateful’ to be back in church

By Natalie Hofer

Like Catholics around the world, the members of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis processed into their church on Palm Sunday to commemorate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in the days prior to his passion. But for those who worship at the northern side church, the procession was a bit of a personal triumphal march as well. Palm Sunday marked the first time that the members worshipped in their church since Sept. 9, 2015.

On that date, the church’s narthex was destroyed by an accidental electrical fire. Smoke and water further damaged the interior of the church, rendering the worship space unusable.

Consequently, for the last 19 months, parishioners have worshipped in the St. Monica Parish gymnasium, which was dedicated solely to that purpose after the fire.

“I think we made the best of it we could,” says Father Todd Goodson, the parish’s pastor. “For what we had, it worked very well for Sunday Mass.”

It wasn’t so ideal for funerals and weddings, though, he says. “I feel like it was designed to look.”

For the most part, he says, you’re really celebrating a special moment of someone’s life, you’re like, ‘This isn’t as good as it could be. This is the hard part for me about being in the gym,” he admits.

Despite the challenges, Father Goodson sees some positives that came about as a result of the fire.

“In a positive way, it rallied us around a large renovation project,” he says. “We’ve all had to sacrifice to get into the church and to be where we are. That’s brought us a little closer.”

“I also think in terms of our ability to do ministry, we have not slowed down.”

Another positive outcome he notes is “how generous and kind people were while we were out of the church.”

In particular, he notes the assistance of the Indianapolis West Deanery parishes, members of St. Monica Parish, and the local community and churches surrounding the parish.

“One of the wonderful things to see was how generous and kind people were while we were out of the church,” he says. “This one kid—he wasn’t even Catholic—saved money in his piggy bank and donated it to us.”

As for the reason it took 19 months to return to the church space, Father Goodson has an explanation: “The pastor’s incompetence!” he says with a laugh. It was his first building project in almost 15 years as a priest. “There are a lot of iron in the fire when building a church. I learned a lot in the process.”

The process was complicated by the simultaneous projects of restoration from the fire—with damages costing more than $1.5 million—and renovations to the sanctuary and narthex as part of a $1.9 million capital campaign that was on the verge of starting.

Between the fire and the capital campaign, several changes have been made in the sanctuary and narthex of the church.

The biggest impact is changing the lighting [in the sanctuary],” says Father Goodson. “We got rid of a hanging light grid. It’s really opened up the space. The original design was, I think, that your eyes are elevated to heaven by the angle of the roof. That’s accentuated by the new lighting.”

Another noticeable change is the relocation of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel from near the narthex to behind the sanctuary.

“That [move] was more for orientation, so that when you walk into the church, [the Blessed Sacrament] is more visible and more accessible to the altar,” Father Goodson explains.

Stained-glass windows separating the sanctuary from the Blessed Sacrament Chapel will be installed soon, he says.

The other obvious changes include the conversion of the former Blessed Sacrament Chapel into a shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe; an octagonal, partial-immersion baptismal font; and a lighting grid “in the sanctuary,” says Father Goodson. “It’s been a long time in coming.”

Her favorite new feature is “having the Blessed Sacrament [chapel] which it should be,” she says. She also notes that, “When we were in the gym, we weren’t able to have the precious blood]. That’s another really nice thing about being back in the church is having the blood of Christ.”

Formier parishioner Jason Hull, now a member of St. Louis de Montfort Parish in Fishers, Ind., in the Diocese of Lafayette, worshipped with his family at the 6 p.m. Sunday Mass.

“We’ve been to the ‘church-nasium’ several times,” he says. “It’s very nice to see home back in place.”

He says he appreciates the new use of the former Blessed Sacrament chapel as a shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe, noting that, “Where they had it before, it wasn’t very private. It will be a lot quieter now.”

Of the new features following the renovation and restoration, parishioner Marlon Alfonso says he is “so grateful for having the Blessed Sacrament [chapel] behind the altar—that’s where he really belongs, at the center of all things.”

Overall, Alfonso says being back in the church “is God’s blessing. I’m so happy. It looks really wonderful, and I thank God for all the people who helped rebuild St. Monica.”

Such gratitude was highlighted in an address Father Goodson delivered at the end of each of the parish’s seven Masses on Palm Sunday weekend.

“Living without a church building, while difficult, has helped us to understand in a more profound way, “he said. “Each time we celebrate Mass and worship together here in this place, my hope would be that we are being more deeply prepared to live in gratitude, to live as people who are transformed by what we celebrate every day in this space, the Eucharist, which means ‘thanksgiving.’”

Arizona governor lauded for signing legislation to expand school choice in state

PHOENIX (CNS)—The Arizona Catholic Conference hailed the expansion of an Arizona school choice program that will allow any kindergarten through 12th-grade student to use state funds to pay for private school or other educational expenses.

“Yesterday was a historic day for school choice in Arizona as we furthered our reputation as the national leader in school choice,” said the conference in an April 7 statement after Gov. Doug Ducey signed S.B. 1431.

The Arizona program will be one of the most comprehensive of its kind in the U.S. Because Arizona courts have already determined this kind of school choice would be the first program of its kind to be available to all children in a state,” said the Goldwater Institute, a Phoenix-based public policy think tank and advocate for educational choice initiatives.

Established in 2011, the state’s Empowerment Scholarship Account program had been limited to students with disabilities, foster children, those with special needs, students attending failing public schools, children of active duty military members and students residing on Indian reservations.

Parents who participate in the program receive 90 percent of what the state would spend on a student’s public school education in a special account. The funds can be used for a child’s education at private schools, including those operated by churches, for online education, private tutoring or future educational expenses.

About 3,300 Arizona students have been enrolled with an ESA account during the 2016-17 school year. The greatest participation is in the Tucson Unified District with 305 ESA students.

The expansion law caps the number of new enrollees each year to a half percent of the total number of students enrolled in public school districts and charter schools. Arizona’s Catholic bishops have advocated for school choice measures for decades. Many Catholic school students have long relied on state tuition tax credits, said Ron Johnson, executive director of the Arizona Catholic Conference.

He said the number of Catholic school students utilizing the scholarship accounts is lower because the program is new and had been available to only certain students.

The Phoenix and Tucson dioceses currently have 562 students with the accounts in Catholic schools, Johnson said.

Critics of expanding the scholarship account program said it will hurt public schools by siphoning more funds from them. They said it will only benefit the wealthy, who could secure state tax dollars to pay for private schools their children are already attending.

The Arizona Catholic Conference is the public policy arm of the bishops of the state’s dioceses of Phoenix, Tucson and Gallup, N.M., and the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix. Parishes in northeastern Arizona are part of the Diocese of Gallup.
WASHINGTON (CNS)—After he was sworn in for the U.S. Supreme Court in a public ceremony at the White House Rose Garden on April 10, Justice Neil Gorsuch said he would be a "faithful servant of the Constitution" and of the laws “of this great nation.”

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, for whom Gorsuch once clerked, administered the oath to the court’s 11th justice. At 49, the former federal appeals court judge from Colorado is the youngest justice to serve on the court in 25 years.

Earlier in the day, Chief Justice John Roberts administered the constitutional oath in a private ceremony inside the Justices’ Conference Room at the court.

President Donald J. Trump praised Gorsuch, saying he “will go down in history as one of the truly great justices in the history of the U.S.” He said his now-confirmed nominee to the court will render his judgments “not on his personal preferences, but based on a fair and objective reading of the law.”

Gorsuch, who also clerked for the late Justice Byron White, a fellow Coloradan, fills the seat left vacant by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia last year.

According to news reports, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents on April 5 picked up Maribel Trujillo Diaz at her brother’s house. Her four children, ages 3, 10, 12 and 14, are all U.S. citizens. Her 3-year-old daughter is a special needs child and suffers from recurring seizures.

Trujillo has been reporting regularly since then to ICE for periodic reporting, while her immigration case is pending.

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct by a person affiliated with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, contact the archdiocesan victim assistance coordinator.

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Catholic advocates urge feds to suspend deportation of mother of four

CINCINNATI (CNS)—The Archdiocese of Cincinnati and a Catholic immigration advocacy group near Washington called on the Trump administration to suspend the deportations of an Ohio woman they said is a devoted wife and mother and an “outstanding member of her church and community.”

According to news reports, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents on April 5 picked up Maribel Trujillo Diaz at her brother’s house. Her situation is now being reviewed by the Sixth Circuit Court in Cincinnati.

The archdiocese in an April 6 statement said Trujillo fled Mexico in 2002 and has been living in the United States since then without legal authorization. It said she currently has a pending asylum case “based on the situation that her family has been targeted by Mexican cartels because they have refused to work for them.”

“Maribel has made a life in Ohio based on positive contributions to her church and her community,” the statement said. “She is a lay leader at her parish, whose members are surrounding her with prayers that she be permitted to remain with them and her family.”

She is an active member of St. Julie Billiart Parish in Hamilton. Her four children, ages 3, 10, 12 and 14, are all U.S. citizens. Four-year-old daughter is a special needs child and suffers from recurring seizures.

The statement noted the Trump administration “has repeatedly announced that its approach toward immigration enforcement would focus on public safety and removing criminals from our communities,” and that Trujillo is not a criminal.

“While we urge that our elected and administrative officials exercise mercy for Maribel,” it said, “I don’t understand the reason to separate my family. I have no criminal record. I’m here working to support my family, so that my kids can study and have a better life for themselves.”

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Christ’s resurrection liberates people from darkness and despair

By David Gibson

Easter begins in the darkness and at night, when the great vigil Mass for this central Christian feast is celebrated. Yet Easter is all about daylight—a “new day” in time.

The resurrected Jesus is “the Morning Star,” according to the “Exsultet,” the ancient and remarkable hymn still heard during the Easter Vigil. Like the morning star shining at dawn, Jesus signals a new day’s arrival, with all the hopes attached to it. The “Exsultet” proclaims Jesus as “the one Morning Star who never sets.” So I need to be clear that calling Jesus the Morning Star was anything but that for our forebears.

Christ is the light; he illumines the world. His followers, like him, are called to carry his light and to assure that it shines brightly in the universe of all their activities. The resurrection is like the break of dawn. To state this is to reach into the very heart of Christianity, and to begin a conversation about the essentials of Christian living. Christ is light, just as he is life—new life.

Yes, Easter begins in the night darkness. But, in the words of the “Exsultet,” “this is the night of which it is written: The night shall be as bright as day” and “full of gladness.”

“Gladness,” admittedly, is not a word uttered often and take us by the hand to bring us out of our anguish.”

— Pope Francis

The glory of God revealed at Easter can inspire evangelization, transform lives

By Nancy De Flon

“Tom Conry’s “Roll Away the Stone” is arguably the most powerful Easter song to have been composed in English in recent years. Remarkable in its musical and textual simplicity, it answers the cynicism of unbelievers with the refrain, “Roll away the stone, see the glory of God.”

What is this “glory of God”? St. Paul tells us in one of the readings for the Easter Vigil: “Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life” (Rom 6:4).

Through our baptism, we share in the new life in what Christ was raised. The new life Jesus came to give us was evident already in the signs he performed, and in what he taught while on Earth.

These foretastes of our new life in Christ were fulfilled in the resurrection, which shattered life’s meaninglessness with its message that death does not have the final victory.

The Scripture readings for the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday highlight different aspects of living out that new life here on Earth.

In a hymnlike passage in his First Letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul exhorts us to “clear out the old yeast, and become “a fresh batch of dough” (1 Cor 5:7). Celebrate the feast “not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (1 Cor 5:8).

In other words, put away your former, sinful ways and replace them with new, authentic ones. We are fortunate in having a Lent to help us with that—40 days to practice replacing a bad habit with a good one.

When Easter shortly comes, Lent will have given us a good head start in our process of self-improvement. The responsorial psalm, with text from the gloriously exultant Psalm 118 that Christian tradition associates with the risen Christ, reminds us that our new life isn’t only for our own benefit. “I shall not die, but live,” announces the psalmist, “and declare the works of the Lord” (Ps 118:17,18).

The idea of sharing the good news of God’s favor to us appears frequently in the Psalms, and in some of the Gospel stories of Jesus’s miracles, the healed person goes off to proclaim the marvel that God has worked for them. Let us continue, at Easter and beyond, to “declare the works of the Lord” by the Christian joy that informs our living.

And so we come to the Gospel and the rolled-away stone. The risen Jesus who suddenly appeared to the disciples in the tightly secured upper room without having to enter through the door did not need to roll away the stone to exit the tomb.

The stone was rolled away for the benefit of the disciples who came to the tomb on the first Easter morning and for our benefit—so that they and we could look inside the empty tomb and see what is possible when we open ourselves to new life.

So we can answer those who embrace despair and defeatism: “See the glory of God.”

(Nancy De Flon is an editor at Paulist Press and the author of The Joy of Praying the Psalms.)

A depiction of the risen Christ appearing to his disciples is seen in a mosaic at the shrine in Lourdes, France. St. Paul tells us in one of the readings for the Easter Vigil: “Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life” (Rom 6:4). (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)
Celebrating Holy Week in Jerusalem 20 years ago

The Jesuit Volunteer Corps was young—and so was I—when I arrived at a remote Alaskan village to teach at a Jesuit boarding school for Native Alaskan students as a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. There were no cell phones or Internet. But the village of St. Mary’s, a commercial hub, had an airport a few miles away where jets landed a couple of times a week, weather permitting, bringing mail and supplies. No road system existed, and still didn’t serve for most of Alaska’s Bush.

When our contingent of volunteers arrived, a Jesuit brother met us at the airport and loaded us on a flatbed truck for the bumpy trek to St. Mary’s. I grew up on a Midwest farm, so this was both loneliness and stretchy fields of look like. But nothing prepared me for miles of treeless tundra with no evidence of human habitation.

Looking Around
Fr. William J. Byron, S.J.

Family’s journey of faith goes from China to Philly

My friend Paul Lin, a retired Chinese-American neurosurgeon, has lived a long and remarkable life. Now 90, he is feeble and resourceful enough to get his youngest brother Tim out of China just as the rock of agony is in front of the main altar. The stone in the pavement is also a Greek word, meaning “dinner.” It must be emphasized, though, that the present building did not mean “dinner.” It must be emphasized, though, that the present building did not

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Looking Around
Fr. William J. Byron, S.J.

Family’s journey of faith goes from China to Philly

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The Sunday Readings
Sunday, April 16, 2017

- Colossians 3:1-4
- John 20:1-19

The Church celebrates the greatest day of its year this Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord.

These readings are proclaimed at Masses during the day on Easter itself.

On Holy Saturday, the day preceding Easter, the Church will have celebrated the Easter Vigil, a highly expressive liturgical moment. The first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, a source that will be featured frequently as the season of Easter progresses. These readings, and certainly this reading, will give us a glimpse into life in the early Church in Jerusalem and into the lives of the 11 surviving Apostles after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus.

It is apparent that the words of Jesus, the risen Lord, were fresh in the minds of the Apostles and the other members of the Church. Strong also was the wish to follow the Lord’s instructions and example.

In what today is called evangelization, the Apostles were committed to making the mercy of God in Jesus known. Here, Peter is the spokesman for the Apostles. Indeed, throughout Acts, Peter appears as the head of the Apostles and of the Church in general.

For its second reading, the Church gives us a passage from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Colossians. According to Paul, Christians also have been raised to new life. Their new life is in the resurrected, living Christ. As Christ is in heaven, so Christians also have been raised to new life in the early Church in Jerusalem and into the lives of the 11 surviving Apostles after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus.

The second reading is from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Colossians. According to Paul, Christians also have been raised to new life. Their new life is in the resurrected, living Christ. As Christ is in heaven, so Christians also have been raised to new life in the early Church in Jerusalem and into the lives of the 11 surviving Apostles after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus.

Reflection

These readings are powerful in their message. The centerpiece, of course, is the Gospel passage, highlighting the experiences of Mary Magdalene, Peter and the Beloved Disciple as they find the Lord’s tomb empty.

The Gospel is remarkably detailed. The reactions of the principal figures are understandable. In an age so dismissive of religion, how authentic is the message of the Church and the Gospels that Jesus rose? Was the Lord’s body taken? It is hard to believe. Other readings say that soldiers guarded the tomb specifically to safeguard the body from being taken. A heavy stone sealed the entrance. Secondly, in John’s account, the burial cloths were neatly folded. No thief would have taken the time for such care.

Very convincing is the fact that all four Gospels, while written at different times, in different places and by different authors, all agree that Jesus rose from the dead. Furthermore, it was the constant view among the first Christians.

In this reading, the Beloved Disciple alone seems to understand what the empty tomb reveals. He already has been presented as a model of faith. It reminds us that faith opens our eyes.

Essential in our own coming to believe that the Lord lives is faith. It is more than accepting an intellectual proposition, however verified. It is the acknowledgement that Jesus is the Lord of life, the source of life, and the Son of God. Realizing that the Lord lives forever in all these roles is the ultimate wisdom.

traditionally thought to have been the Apostle John but never actually identified as such in the Gospel, and Peter then hurried to the tomb themselves. The disciple arrived first, but he waited for Peter, another indication of Peter’s status.

Peter entered the tomb, saw that it was empty, but evidently did not realize that Jesus had risen, although the Gospel does not say this. It does suggest that the other disciple understood what had occurred.

I am concerned as to whether a divorced and remarried Catholic can be an extraordinary minister of holy Communion? Here is a local situation with which I am familiar. The first lady is a Catholic who had been a widow for some years; then she married a man who had been married three times before; and they were married by a Protestant minister.

The second lady, a Catholic who had been divorced from her first husband, later married a divorced man who is not a Catholic. (They also were married by a Protestant minister.) Both of these women were extraordinary ministers of holy Communion before they remarried and still serve in that capacity today.

Is it wrong for them to continue to distribute Communion in a Catholic church? I don’t want to judge them, but it’s hard to ignore the situation. I have chosen not to receive Communion from either of these women. (Indiana)

My Journey to God

Easter Morning at the Tomb

By Benedictine Sister Susan Lindstrom

Long ago disillusioned, my hopes and dreams tightly sealed in the darkest recesses of my soul, destined for slow death, suffocated by anxiety and doubt. Stone sentry rolled aside, I find nothing within, not even a remnant of all that once enlivened my being.

Preparing to leave, a voice calls my name, whisper-gentle, then with attention-getting boldness. Just one word, a reminder of loving intimacy, Shatters my inner darkness, destroys the walled fortress around my heart, resurrects all the promise that once I claimed as my own. Alleluia!

(Sister Susan Lindstrom, OSB, is a member of the Sisters of St. Benedict Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove. Jesus greets Mary Magdalene after his resurrection in this life-size bronze statue depiction at the Shrine of Christ’s Passion in St. John, Ind., in the Gary Diocese.) (File photo by Natalie Hoefer)

Daily Readings

Monday, April 17

- Acts 2:14, 22-33
- Psalm 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11
- Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday, April 18

- Acts 2:36-41
- Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22
- John 20:11-18

Wednesday, April 19

- Acts 3:1-10
- Psalm 105:1-4, 6-9

Thursday, April 20

- Acts 3:11-26
- Psalm 8:2a,b, 5-9

Friday, April 21

- Acts 4:1-12
- Psalm 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a
- John 21:1-14

Saturday, April 22

- Acts 4:13-21
- Psalm 118:1, 14-15, 16-21
- Mark 16:9-15

Sunday, April 23

- Acts 5:1-16
- Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
- 1 Peter 1:3-9
- John 20:19-31

Question Corner/ Fr Kenneth Doyle

Hold off on judgments, talk to priest about ministers of holy Communion

I am concerned as to whether a divorced and remarried Catholic can be an extraordinary minister of holy Communion? Here is a local situation with which I am familiar. The first lady is a Catholic who had been a widow for some years; then she married a man who had been married three times before; and they were married by a Protestant minister.

The second lady, a Catholic who had been divorced from her first husband, later married a divorced man who is not a Catholic. (They also were married by a Protestant minister.) Both of these women were extraordinary ministers of holy Communion before they remarried and still serve in that capacity today.

Is it wrong for them to continue to distribute Communion in a Catholic church? I don’t want to judge them, but it’s hard to ignore the situation. I have chosen not to receive Communion from either of these women. (Indiana)

The necessary dispensations or permissions from the Catholic Church—is not, and should not be, allowed to serve as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion. (An extraordinary minister of holy Communion gives public witness to his or her fidelity to Church teaching.)

One of the things I’ve learned, though, is that I do not know everything about everyone’s personal life. Although probably not likely, it is at least possible that the necessary annulments were obtained to determine that the present spouses were free to marry each other, and it’s even possible that permission was granted for a Protestant minister to officiate (perhaps because of a long-standing relationship between the groom and the minister).

So I would hold off on making any judgments. Meanwhile, though, it would be wise for you to speak with a priest at the parish in question and tell him of your concern. He may be able to assure you that everything has been done properly—or he may be privy to the same information that you are, and would want to take action to avoid continuing this situation.

Mark the Evangelist

First century feast - April 25

According to the Acts of the Apostles, Mark’s mother owned the house where the first Jerusalem Christians prayed and where Peter stayed after his miraculous release from prison (Acts 12:1-19). The New Testament also notes that Mark traveled with Paul and Barnabas on their mission to Antioch and that he was associated with both Paul and Peter in Rome. He may have written his Gospel, based on Peter’s preaching, in Rome.

By tradition, he was the married bishop of Alexandria, Egypt, with his relics later carried to Venice by Venetian merchants.

CNS Saints
Rest in peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in The Criterion. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.


CLOUSER, Steven L., 45, St. Malachi, Brownsburg, March 30. Son of Silver and Jill Closer. Brother of Kelly Rose and Christopher Closer.Uncle of several.


Fuchs, Leo W., 90, All Saints, Fall Creek County, March 30. Father of Barbara Fuchs, Brian and Mark Fuchs. Grandfather of six. Great-grandfather of six.


Grandon of Doug and Jan Irvine and Stan and Karen Lemen.


Swanson, Marie (Manda), 95, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, March 24. Mother of Catherine, Christina and Mary Ann Swanson. Grandmother of five.


Петров, Даниил Иванович.

Providence Sister Rita Black ministered in Catholic education, health care

Providence Sister Rita Black died on March 30 at Mother Theodore Hall at St. Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 89.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 3 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse in St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Burial followed at the sisters’ cemetery.

Rita Marie Black was born on Dec. 18, 1927, in Terre Haute and grew up as a member of St. Patrick Parish there. She entered the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on July 22, 1945, and professed final vows on Jan. 23, 1953.

Sister Rita earned a bachelor’s degree at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, a master’s degree at Indiana State University in Terre Haute and received training at Indiana Vocational Technical School to serve as a licensed practical nurse.

During her 72 years as a member of the Sisters of Providence, Sister Rita ministered in education for 24 years in schools in California, Illinois and Indiana. After being trained as a licensed practical nurse, she served in health care for nine years, in rural health care in Alabama for 12 years and for 14 years at Connecting Link, a social service organization in West Terre Haute, and at St. Ann Clinic in Terre Haute. She dedicated herself entirely to prayer in 2010.

In addition to serving in health care in the archdiocese, Sister Rita served at St. Philip Neri School in Indianapolis from 1951-52, St. Charles Borromeo School in Bloomington from 1953-63, and in Terre Haute at the former St. Benedict School from 1967-70, and at the former St. Margaret Mary School from 1970-75.

She is survived by her sister, Mary Kathryn Powell of North Judson, Ind.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876.

Providence Sister Jane Bodine ministered in Catholic education, development

Providence Sister Jane Bodine died on March 30 at Mother Theodore Hall at St. Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 77.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 4 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse in St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Burial followed at the sisters’ cemetery.

Anna Jane Bodine was born on Sept. 9, 1919, in St. Mary-of-the-Woods and grew up as a member of St. Mary-of-the-Woods Parish. She entered the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on Jan. 9, 1937, and professed final vows on Aug. 15, 1945.

Sister Jane earned a bachelor’s degree in physics at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and a master’s degree in chemistry at the University of Notre Dame in northern Indiana.

During her 80 years as a member of the Sisters of Providence, Sister Jane ministered in education for 39 years in schools in Illinois and Indiana. She later founded the United Southside Community Organization Adult Education Program in Indianapolis and led it for eight years.

From 1978-84, Sister Jane served in leadership in the congregation and started its Office of Mission Advancement. Her work in development later expanded to helping other women’s religious orders learn about this field. She later worked with alumnae relations at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and the former Ladywood High School in Indianapolis.

In addition to serving in development work, Sister Jane ministered in the archdiocese at Our Lady of Providence Rts./St. High School in Clarksville from 1953-54 and 1957-62, and in Indianapolis at Ladywood High School from 1955-57, the former Latin School from 1970-72, and at the Hispanic Education Center from 1997-99.

She is survived by her sister, Ruth Lamott of Terre Haute.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876.
Faith inspires artist to feature homeless in portraits of compassion

SHORELINE, Wash. (CNS)—Among Mary Larson’s challenging photography projects is a pictures is a small photo of a man with furrowed eyebrows and a full white beard. Larson knew him as “The Professor”.

The two met in 1995 when Larson was a volunteer nurse at Christ House in Washington, D.C., a medical respite center for the homeless. James was a patient there, tall, quiet and always carrying around a large double bass stuffed with sheet music. At lunchtime, he’d sit down at the center’s piano and make it come alive with exquisite music, Larson told Northwest Catholic, the news magazine of the Archdiocese of Seattle.

The professor, the story went, had once been an instructor at a prestigious college before a life event left him homeless. Larson’s photography is of all of our family photos because he will forever be special in my life,” Larson said.

“He’s just a reminder to me that you never know what’s going on in somebody’s life, and you never know what can happen in your own life.”

The Professor eventually became one of Larson’s first portrait painting subjects.

Larson has become known in the Seattle area and beyond for creating vivid portraits of her patients at Harborview Medical Center’s Pioneer Square Clinic.

All of her portrait subjects have been touched by homelessness, said Larson, the clinic’s assistant nurse manager.

The member of St. Luke Parish in Shoreline, Wash., said her faith has taught her that we are in this life together.

And a big part of it is helping each other and doing whatever little thing we can to make others’ lives a little better place. I’m hopeful that with my art that’s one of the ways that I am able to try and make it a better place.”

Larson grew up in an active Catholic family with a service mentality. Her uncle, Father Jan Larson, is a priest of the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Her parents were involved at Our Lady of Peace Parish in North Seattle, and she attended the parish school before going to Seattle University.

Her parents were involved at Our Lady of Peace Parish in North Seattle, and she attended the parish school before going to nearby Bishop Blanchet High School.

Her Catholic upbringing taught her to incorporate Gospel values into everyday life, she said. A particularly influential experience for her was when Bishop Blanchet’s campus ministry program made cheese sandwiches and took them to the St. Martin de Porres Shelter, which serves homeless men 50 and older.

A hospital must always carry out its mission, he said.

“More than a hospital, this is a family”

In the Paul VI audience hall on April 10, the pope met with patients, their family members and medical personnel from the Vatican-owned Bambino Gesù children’s hospital in Rome.

The children and young people spoke to the pope and gave him photographs and small gifts. He granted one young man to him on behalf of all the young patients, who thanked him for meeting with them “because you give us hope and courage for tomorrow.”

The pope told them he sensed that, “more than a hospital, this is a family,” because medical staff always introduced the children to him by their names, knew their life stories and only mentioned their illnesses last, like a side note.

He said he understands how young patients would be fearful and feel insecure.

“Going into a hospital is always scary. I see it when I go up to some kids, not all of them, but some—the little ones—those who see me dressed in white and they start crying. They think that I am a doctor.”

The pope said for a Catholic hospital to be “Catholic” it must first be “human,” and treat everyone as family and as being important.

Artist Mary Larson poses for a photo in front of portraits of the homeless displayed in a studio in her Shoreline, Wash., home on Jan. 25. (Oriol de Faveri/Northwest Catholic)

Most important and leastless medicine? Love, Pope Francis tells patients

Larson started her career painting portraits just for fun, but she quickly realized it was a calling.

“I think his photograph is out with that they are homeless.”

Without knowing the stories of the portrait subjects, the patients would tell her. “I was homeless once, and I can tell that they are homeless.”

Then some of the patients asked her to paint them. She has since completed more than 300 such portraits.

When Larson was getting ready to hang her first series of portraits at Starbucks in Seattle, it didn’t feel right to list them for sale for money. At the same time, the Pioneer Square Clinic needed new socks for its clients.

So Larson listed the portrait prices as several hundred pairs of socks. They quickly sold, and she has maintained this charitable bartering system for her work ever since.

Paintings have helped her and her husband stock cans of food, sandwiches, gloves, hats and other items needed at the clinic, area shelters, food banks and churches.

Larson asks each of her subjects to tell her one thing they want people to know about them and bases the painting’s backdrop on that detail.

She often works on a series of portraits all at once. The work goes in stops and starts around her full-time nursing job and life with her husband, Joe Mahar, and their 9-year-old son, Paddy.

Larson said she wants people to smile when they look at her work. Each subject should invite you in. Take Felton, a regular client and a former boxer. He casually grins at the viewer in front of a Wheaties logo, like the cereal box on which Muhammad Ali once appeared.

“He has the patience of a saint, he’s always been so long to me for finish,” Larson said of Felton’s portrait.

“I think that Felton, like so many people I paint, is a champion,” she said. “He’s gone through some of life’s most difficult times and still keeps his smile. He still keeps hope and happiness no matter how hard times have gotten. He knows that with this art he’s able to help people by lending his face to this project.”

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ROME (CNS)—On the eve of Palm Sunday, Pope Francis gave young people several missions: to ask their grandparents what their dreams were; to work to make those dreams reality; and to let their bishops and the pope himself know what they need from the Church.

Officially launching the youths’ preparation for the 2018 Synod of Bishops and for World Youth Day 2019 in Panama, Pope Francis gathered with youths and young adults for an evening prayer vigil on April 8 at Rome’s Basilica of St. Mary Major.

The 80-year-old pope surprised some people with two references to his own grandparents, speaking to their appeal that they return to his own praying, “at my age we are preparing to go.” The young people present objected loudly. “No!” the pope responded. “Who can guarantee life? No one.”

Later, returning to his appeal that they speak to their grandparents, the pope said, “I don’t know if it will be me, but the pope will be in Panama and he will ask you, ‘Did you speak with your elders?’”

Pope Francis arrived at the basilica with a prepared text, but as a Franciscan sister and a young man who survived a terrible accident shared their stories, the pope took notes, eventually setting aside the text.

The theme of the world Synod of Bishops, which will meet in October 2018, is: “Young people, faith and vocational discernment.”

“The world today needs young people who have moved away from the Church or are questioning the Church or are preparing to leave, and we all want to hear them,” including priests, sisters, bishops and the pope. We need to hear you.”

Young people must harness their energy and ideals and set out, “one alongside another, but looking to the future,” he said. “The world today needs young people who go in haste,” like Mary went to her pregnant cousin Elizabeth.

Franciscan Sister Marialisa, 30, who shared her vocation story, is an example, the pope said.

The Italian nun told the young people she decided Church wasn’t for her after she was confirmed at the age of 13. A couple of years later, a friend asked her to join a project the parish youth group was doing, “and I accepted only because there were a bunch of boys who went, too.”

Sister Marialisa said her involvement grew, and she discovered a group of people who didn’t care what she looked like or what she wore, but cared about her. They helped her discover Jesus and his love.

Convinced she wanted to be an actress, she went to school in Rome, but she still had a nagging feeling something was missing from her life. She met the Franciscans, and decided she needed to find out if being a consecrated woman was the way she was to live “the vocation to love.”

Now she works with children in an area of southern Italy where the Mafia is strong.

Pope Francis said too often the world treats young people as “disposable” by not providing an adequate education or job opportunities. And, he said, “many young people must flee, immigrate to other lands. It’s harsh to say, but often young people are disposable material, and we cannot tolerate this.”

Life will be challenging and involve taking risks, the pope told the young people, but they must have the courage to change the world and to start over when they fail.

And try to find the beauty in little things,” the pope said, pointing as an example to Pompeo Barbieri, who also shared his story with the young people.

The 23-year-old Barbieri recounted how, at the age of 8, firefighters pulled him from the rubble of his school in San Giuliano di Puglia after an earthquake in 2002. His teacher and all 27 of his classmates died when the school collapsed.

Injured and needing a wheelchair, Barbieri was told swimming would help, and now he is a top Paralympian, he said. “That suffering, this wheelchair, have taught me the beauty of little things and remind me each day of how fortunate I am.”